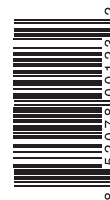


The Guernsey Gazette



Tuesday, February 4, 2025

\$1.50

Volume 125, Number 05

Governor Gordon listens to local input on wildfire recovery funds

By Maggie Mullen
WyoFile.com

WHEATLAND — Standing in the Platte County Agriplex on Monday afternoon, Bob Budd likened the governor's fire recovery plans to the easy exchange of cash for cattle between two ranchers.

"I want to buy your bull. You want to sell your bull," Budd said. "We agree, and I drive off with the bull."

Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust,

See **RECOVERY**
page 2



Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette

Governor Mark Gordon set aside an hour after his presentation to talk directly with the landowners, firefighters, public officials, and other members of the Wheatland Community about their ideas and concerns for the wildfire restoration and recovery program he is proposing in his supplemental budget to the state legislature. He and his panel emphasized the nature of aggressive invasives (such as cheatgrass) after last year's wildfires won't wait to try to take over the landscape. Once the invasive is established, it is almost impossible to get rid of it, and large swaths of cheatgrass pose another wildfire risk the people of Wyoming don't want to have. Gordon and Budd said it is essential for the success of the recovery efforts to structure the program quickly, but correctly in order for both short and long-term success.

Railroad history discussed by retired railroad man

This is the first in a two-part series

By Lisa Phelps
lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

HARTVILLE — History can be an interesting thing when you follow its tracks back to the origins of a topic, then trace the steps taken to the way things are today. Over time those events often have and are con-

tinuing to influence everyday life in your own local area. Over the years, Mark Russ of Hartville has followed his fascination with trains and unions — things that influenced his family for generations — to their roots. He has uncovered some fascinating stories he shared at the Jan. 20 SHAPPS (Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society) meeting in Hartville.

While showing a slide show

of photographs, he began with the fact the first railroad tracks in the country were laid during the lifetime of King George III of England — before the revolutionary war — in 1764.

"(King George III) died shortly before the railroad started running [full force] ... That is a connection to give you a historical picture of the timeframe," Russ said. "The first horses

See **RAILROAD** page 5



Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette

Mark Russ shows an early 1900s photo of Sunrise when it had a lot of train traffic, and the depot was still in standing and in operation (near where the 12-foot archaeological dig uncovering 15,000-year-old archeologic evidence dug last summer).

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FOR THE RECORD

RECOVERY

From page 1

used the example to describe a grant program developed by Gov. Mark Gordon to assist landowners dealing with the destruction caused by Wyoming's historic 2024 wildfire season.

Of the 810,000 acres burned across the state, about 70% were privately owned or state lands. As such, Gordon asked the Wyoming Legislature for \$130 million to help landowners restore grasses, replace fences and rebuild private structures, among other things.

Gordon, Budd and Jennifer Doering with the state's Office of Land and Investments traveled Monday to Wheatland, Gillette and Sheridan for informational meetings about the program.

"It shouldn't be a long, drawn-out process," Budd said at the Wheatland meeting, adding that providing the funds through grants was the path of least resistance.

Back at the Capitol, a different plan was brewing that involved loans. Rather than providing grants to landowners to bolster their recovery efforts, lawmakers want to spend less money and they want to be paid back.

Conflicting approaches

The Joint Appropriations Committee reduced Gordon's fire recovery funding recommendation last week to \$100 million, and voted to make the money available through loans rather than grants.

"I have grave concerns about a loan program for fire restoration and recovery," Gordon said in a Tuesday press release. "I understand the Legislature's intent with the proposal, but there is a lack of understanding of the circumstances on the ground. We need a program that is flexible and responsive to your needs. A loan program does not do that."

Meanwhile, supporters of the loan system say it ensures landowners have skin in the game.

Rep. Abby Angelos is a Freedom Caucus Republican from Gillette, near where some of the worst fires burned. She brought the motion to the Appropriations Committee to move the funding to a loan system.

"The loan is a way of recognizing that this is the people of Wyoming's money, and we are accountable to them for it," Angelos previously told WyoFile.

Senate President Bo Biteman, a Ranchester Republican, also told reporters last week that grants are "just giving money away." Sheridan County, where Biteman lives, was also hit hard



Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette

Wheatland rancher Pat Cullen took the opportunity to question the governor and his panel of experts about the ins-and-outs of potential state funding structures, and how that realistically relates to landowners. Overall, those openly speaking at the meeting were concerned, depending on how the wildfire restoration and recovery program (WRRP) is structured and funded, that a "patchwork approach" of landowners working to alleviate aggressive invasives like cheatgrass will not be effective. Bob Budd, executive director of the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, which is assisting with the governor's WRRP, agreed the only way the efforts could work is for large groups of neighboring landowners to participate in the program. Hence, part of why the governor is pushing for a form of grant rather than a loan framework for the state's model to assist landowners.

by the fires.

As outlined by the Appropriations Committee, the loan program would include a 2% interest rate with a maximum term of 20 years. It would be administered by both the Wildlife

and Natural Resource Trust and the Office of State Lands and Investments. The State Loan and Investment Board would be tasked with giving final approval of any loan.

See RECOVERY page 6

Correction

By Lisa Phelps

lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

GUERNSEY - In a Jan. 28 article titled "Guernsey Council hears planning updates," it was mentioned the Guernsey town planner is beginning discussions

with Guernsey Economic Development (not Platte County Economic Development) to determine if it is feasible to potentially purchase derelict homes to rehabilitate and re-sell in livable condition as low-income housing. The Guernsey Gazette apologizes for the error.

Town looks to partner with Guernsey Economic Development to address derelict home issue

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Ice-rescue training includes local responders



Photos courtesy of Cassie Wells

Emergency responders took advantage of 10-inch ice to practice an on-ice rescue, preparing them to properly respond to a call of someone falling through the ice in any of the waterways around Platte County.

For the Record-Times

GLENDO – With the need for continued training and experience for local emergency responders, Glendo Volunteer Fire and Rescue hosted a multi-agency ice-rescue training Jan. 25 – 26 put on by Wyoming State Parks.

The two-day class included a day of classroom training and discussion, then a day on the ice at Glendo State Park. Agencies attending the training included Glendo State Park, Guernsey State Park, Platte County Sheriff's Office, Wyoming Game and Fish, Camp Guernsey Fire Department, and Glendo Fire/Rescue. There were 12 students and three instructors, including lead instructor Ranger Mike Carlson of Glendo State Park.



Photos courtesy of Glendo Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Mike Carlson of Wyoming State Parks (top photo, l-r) and Kameron Hass of Camp Guernsey Fire Department give instructions before on-site practice of ice rescue strategies during a sunny day at Glendo Reservoir. Haas also taught how to access conditions of a victim in icy water (left).



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Photo courtesy of Melinda Kelley

Guernsey-Sunrise photo of the week...

Guernsey-Sunrise entrepreneurs, Chase Kelley and Lashea Dimas are working on new products for their business in their Entrepreneurship course.

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RAILROAD

from page 1

were out here (in the West) about the same time Louis and Clark made their trek in 1806. The first trails – the Overland Trail and the Platte River Road were used in the 1820s to 1830s. At that time there was not much else out there but rabbit trails, deer trails, and people following bison.”

At the time of the king’s death, railroads in the United States were just taking off; the first railroad charter in North America was granted to John Stevens in 1815, and in 1826 the Quincy railroad was surveyed and constructed in Massachusetts. In 1830, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad was the first to regularly carry passengers and freight.

A photo on the screen at Hartville town hall two weeks ago showed a variety of famous train engines, from “The Rocket” (the first locomotive not pulled by horses), the first train using coal, and a Baltimore and Ohio locomotive running on fuel rather than coal.

These railroads were in the East, and



Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette

A two-year-old Mark Russ takes in the size and power of a locomotive in the mid 1950s.

at that time distance travel was accomplished mostly by using wood for fuel, which would never have worked in much of the West. Russ said a geologist by the name of William Jackson Palmer found coal in Colorado, opening up the West for train travel with a viable fuel source. Wyoming’s coal beds were not far behind in being discovered, and the timing was fortuitous for President Abraham Lincoln’s vision of railroads connecting the country from coast to coast.

There were

here was a water tank called “Porter” where Russ said they filled the water tender for the locomotives twice a day in Guernsey and brought them up to Sunrise for municipal and industrial use.

three nationwide railroads surveyed with a northern route (Great Northern Railroad), southern route (Atkinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad), and central route (Union Pacific Railroad). “The railroad had a legal right-of-way every other square mile on either side of the track. When they were done laying all that track, they had all the land,” Russ said. “They found coal, minerals, etc., and they had a lot to sell after they took what they wanted, and people from all over the world were coming here.”

“That’s how the Mennonites came here from Prussia – or Russia. There was a guy who got this whole village and packed them on a ship in Europe and when he brought them to New York, he got separated from them. A Union Pacific recruiter kidnapped them and took them to Nebraska and convinced them they could grow wheat there like they did at home, so they stayed,” Russ said, adding to the

chuckles of the crowd, “So each of them had a can of wheat from their farms they scattered on their new farmland – and they had Russian thistle seed in there, too. So that’s where that

came from.”

Discussing a photo of the remains of Hartville Junction (off Wendover Road) taken long after the tracks and connective bridges were dismantled, Russ explained there was a “Y” at the bridge because the track came from the south, went across the bridge to the railbed. The abutments visible in the picture showed the “Y” where the trains could turn and go toward Casper or Cheyenne.

“The Wyoming Northern Railroad built the track, then it was purchased by Wyoming Southern Railroad. That’s where the Colorado-Wyoming Railroad connected and went to Sunrise. From there to Sunrise is 14 miles,” Russ said.

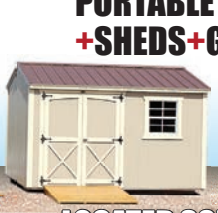
He showed multiple photos of the local area. There was a water tank called “Porter” where Russ said they filled the water tender for the locomotives twice a day in Guernsey and brought them up

See RAILROAD page 7




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RECOVERY

From page 2

The committee also voted to have the program cover all catastrophic natural disasters, not just wildfires.

Public meetings

“I’m inherently a little distrustful of grants,” Platte County Commissioner Ian Jolovich said at the Wheatland meeting. “But then, on the other hand, a loan is an interesting idea, but I can guarantee ya I’m not interested in it.”

Jolovich was one of about 50 members of the public at the meeting. Jaron Frederick, a rancher whose operation northeast of Guernsey was impacted by the Haystack Fire, also spoke up.

“There aren’t any better stewards of the land than the ranchers, because we care about our property and we want to ... be able to hand it down to a future generation,” he said. “So we want to do

the right thing.”

Frederick’s operation was also hit by the Tracer Fire in 2006, the effects of which are still being felt today with cheat-grass and fallen timber, he said.

“I don’t know any rancher that’s looking for a hand-out, but it’s nice to have resources available to help us,” Frederick said.

In Sheridan, more than a hundred people showed up, including Johnson County Commissioner Bill Novotny.

“There are members of the Appropriations Committee from heavily impacted fire communities. I hope they’ll go home over the [President’s Day] break and talk to their producers, because my producers do not want loans,” Novotny told WyoFile on Wednesday.

The House Draw Fire charred about 175,000 acres in Johnson County — about the same size as the cities of Denver and Salt Lake combined. And the local government has been in the process of exhausting all of the available federal assistance, Novotny said.

As currently drafted, Wyoming’s recovery

There aren’t any better stewards of the land than the ranchers, because we care about our property and we want to ... be able to hand it down

to a future generation.

– Jaron Frederick

funds would only be available once landowners have exhausted federal assistance.

But that process in Johnson County was upended this week, Novotny said, when about \$2 million in federal assistance was yanked out from under the county after the Trump administration paused disbursements appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Johnson County agricultural producers are simply not in a position to take out another loan, Novotny said.

“They cannot put themselves in second position with the state in first position,” he said. “These folks have already borrowed money for operating lines so that they can find additional pasture. They don’t have that ability right now.”

Both the Senate and the House will begin budget deliberations as soon as Friday, and Novotny is confident there will be an amendment to revert the program back to grants.

In the meantime, he said he’s grateful for his local lawmakers — Sen. Barry Crago and Rep. Marilyn Connolly, two Buffalo Republicans — who have both brought back-up bills to restore fire



Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette
Bob Budd of the Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust discussed the governor’s vision for recovery efforts from a practical conservation standpoint with local landowners at a public forum in Wheatland.

“I’m inherently a little distrustful of grants...But then, on the other hand, a loan is an interesting idea, but I can guarantee ya I’m not interested in it.”

– Ian Jolovich

suppression funding as well as the governor’s original request.

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

The Guernsey Gazette

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RAILROAD

from page 1

to Sunrise for municipal and industrial use. “That system was used until 1926 – 1929 when they found good water and didn’t have to haul it back and forth,” Russ said.

Russ shared a photo of him as a “little tike” in front of a train he remembers riding to Casper when he was around two years old. He showed a photo of the former roundhouse in Guernsey owned by Chicago, Quincy and Burlington where Russ said he “actually worked for one week before it closed down.”

There were photos of the Guernsey Depot from the 1960s, a location Russ had inspected a lot of locomotives out of as a journeyman machinist, and remnants of

the pilings of the original railroad crossing the North Platte River near Guernsey which had burned down in 1917. Somewhere around that time, Russ said, “The Chicago Burlington and Quincy cut three tunnels across the river between Guernsey and Wendover. Then the track to Hartville to here were abandoned and they started using the Colorado Southern track to go south.”

Then, Russ transitioned into a related topic of unions and how some national and international characters (like “Big Bill” Haywood and Charlie Siringo) made their mark on people in the local area.

See next week’s issue of the *Guernsey Gazette* for part two of this story.



Courtesy Photo

SHAPPS board members share their thanks for being chosen to receive a Wyoming Community Foundation endowment grant. Pictured are Ann Conner (l-r), Ray Mansoldo, John Voight, Bob Case, Ken Owens, Dennis Eisenbarth, and SHAPPS executive director Geri Zeimens.

More light to shine at the First YMCA in the State of Wyoming

Grant to help replace damaged windows in the historic YMCA building located in the historic abandoned mining town of Sunrise

For the Gazette

SUNRISE – Windows covered with plywood will show the light to the public in the first YMCA in the state of Wyoming. The YMCA is part of the town of Sunrise that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The YMCA is

currently used as a museum and research center for the history and archeology of the area. The building has also become a facility where folks can attend the numerous educational activities and, as a large building, serves as a community center for the area.

See **YMCA GRANT** page 11

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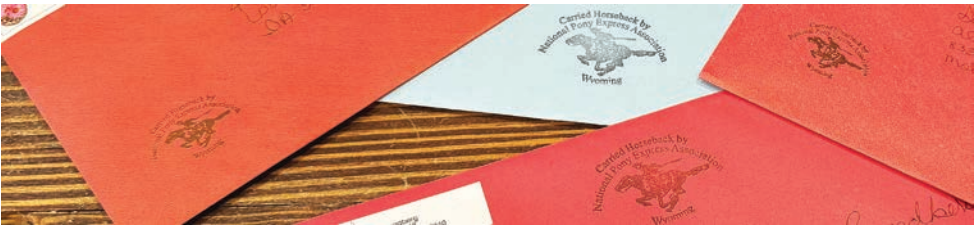


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Photos by Vicki Hood/Guernsey Gazette
After having been carried via Pony Express to the Hartville post office on Saturday, these pieces of mail (above) will bear the Pony Express stamp, and will later be stamped by the Hartville Post Office with the specially-designed 2025 Hartville cancellation (left) for the Valentine's Day season.



Courtesy graphic

Valentine Cancellation begins this Friday

By Vicki Hood
vhood@guernseygazette.com

HARTVILLE – The Friends of

Hartville Valentine's Postal Cancellation Stamp 2025 will be available beginning Friday, Feb. 7 and run through Friday, Feb. 21.

Anyone wishing to the stamp applied to their Valentine mail may bring their cards to the Hartville Post Office, pre-addressed with proper postage, or send them to:

Valentine Station Postmaster
P. O. Box 9988
Hartville, WY 82215

The cancellation can also be utilized until March 21, 2025, upon special request.

The Friends of Hartville group has been designing and coordinating the cancellation stamps since 1996. This year's stamp is the 25th edition. In past years, cards have been sent out to all 50 states and 23 different countries.

For more information, contact the Hartville Post Office at 307-836-2516. Office hours are 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday and 8 to 9:45 a.m. Saturdays.

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Photos by Vicki Hood/Guernsey Gazette
Pony Express riders (top photo, opposite page) carrying Valentines come off the trail and into Hartville Saturday morning. Nearly 20 riders participated in this year's annual event that brings mail to Hartville. Mail was gathered in special boxes in Platte and Goshen Counties that will now bear a special stamp that designates it was carried by the Pony Express and will also be sent on to recipients through the Hartville Post Office, which will stamp this year's 25th anniversary special Valentine's Day cancellation before delivery.

Wyoming Pony Express members Tim Heer of Dwyer (l-r) and Les Bennington of Glenrock, Wyoming's state president for the National Pony Express, were two of nearly 20 riders who carried Valentines to Hartville in the annual Valentine Card Ride Saturday morning. The group carried 349 cards that will travel on to recipients in 38 states, Guam, and the United Kingdom.



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Stay safe on the ice this winter

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CHEYENNE – With temperatures below freezing across much of Wyoming, ice fishing season has begun. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department urges anglers to practice safety before venturing out on the ice. Ice on many waters may not be safe, especially with varying temperatures and wind conditions throughout the state.

“Fluctuations in temperatures across the state can lead to unsafe conditions,” said Alan Osterland, Game and Fish chief of fisheries. “Anglers can have a fun and safe trip by just practicing a few ice fishing safety tips.”



Photo courtesy of Glendo Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Extraprecautions can keep you dry while ice fishing. Local rescue personnel recently conducted a rescue training (above) at Glendo State Park.

Ice fishing safety tips

Safe fishing ice should be at least four inches thick. Anglers should make special efforts to check the thickness of

the ice every 100-150 feet. Avoid fissures in the ice and significant-sized cracks that can emerge on a lake.

Clear ice is stronger than cloudy or white ice, which has frozen, thawed and refrozen. Cloudy ice is not always stable.

White ice can also be from air bubbles or frozen snow and is much weaker than clear ice. For white ice, double the recommended thickness in terms of being safe while fishing.

Changing water levels in reservoirs and wind can create dangerous ice conditions.

Be aware of recent weather condi-

tions and scout the lake you wish to fish for overflow, wet areas and open water. With variable ice conditions across the state and rapidly changing conditions, anglers are urged to call their regional Game and Fish office to inquire about ice conditions.

Prioritizing safety while ice fishing is key to preventing accidental drownings

“The best way to stay safe is being extra cautious — avoid driving a motorized vehicle on a frozen lake and ice fishing on rivers or on other moving water that has frozen over,” Osterland said.

Osterland also recommends anglers should not fish alone. They should always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device and carry an ice pick on their person. Packing extra clothes and hot liquids can prevent hypothermia if an ice fishing accident occurs.

Anglers venturing on fishing trips this winter should also remember the Fishing Regulations and Special Winter Ice Fishing Provisions.

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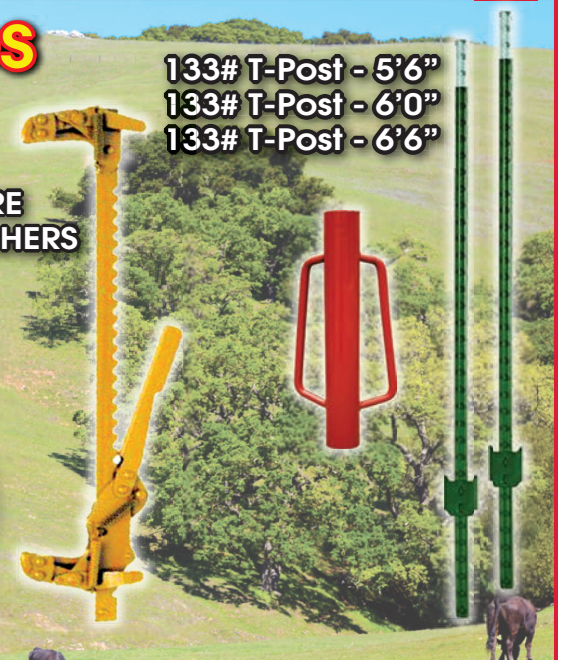


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YMCA GRANT

From page 7

Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHAPPS), owners of the YMCA will soon be able to replace some badly needed windows. It is suspected the windows were either broken due to vandalism or the elements since the mine was abandoned over 40 years ago. Some windows will be able to finally be replaced by SHAPPS due in part to a \$10,000 grant received from Woodrow & Glyda May Endowment Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation.

Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society is a nonprofit organization that works to preserve, protect, study and share the history and prehistory of Sunrise, Wyoming (located in Platte County) and the surrounding area. SHAPPS seeks to benefit the community and the public, while doing no harm to the environment.

"The SHAPPS projects and the work they are doing to restore the first YMCA in Wyoming is saving and bringing back to life a huge piece of the history of this

area. We get folks in our restaurant that tell us they came to see where their grandparents started when they arrived in America, because they heard so many stories about it. This historical tourism, as well as the archeology, is bringing more people to this area, which is great for the businesses here. We were excited to hear SHAPPS received a grant for new windows, as they will definitely help the progress of restoration by leaps and bounds," said Scott and Christine Harmon of Miner's and Stockman's Bar in Hartville. The Stockman's is the oldest bar in the state and is located on the

road leading into Sunrise.

To learn more about Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHAPPS) visit www.SHAPPS.org, shappsymca@gmail.com or contact 307-331-8810.

The Wyoming Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that works with donors to support the charitable causes they care most about. In 2023, the Wyoming Community Foundation granted over \$8 million to charitable causes across the state. For information call 307-721-8300 or visit their website at www.wycf.org.

Lawmakers say no to storing nuclear waste in Wyoming

Distrust over the federal government's ability to build a permanent repository played a critical role in committee's decision to kill controversial 'temporary' storage bill.

By Dustin Bleizeffer
WyoFile.com

WYOMING – Despite growing support for nuclear energy nationally and here in Wyoming, there are simply too many concerns to entertain the possibility of opening the state to the country's growing stockpile of spent nuclear fuel waste, some lawmakers say.

House Bill 16, "Used nuclear fuel storage-amendments," touted by its backers as a tool to initiate a larger conversation, died Wednesday morning in the House Minerals, Business and

Economic Development Committee.

In addition to being flooded with emails and phone calls from constituents opposed to warehousing the deadly, radioactive material, several lawmakers on the panel were not convinced that a "temporary" storage facility would, in fact, be temporary. They noted that the federal government has tried and failed for decades to establish a permanent nuclear waste repository that would give some legitimacy to the "temporary" storage concept.

"This appears to be a huge

game of hot potato," Gillette Republican Rep. Reuben Tarver said.

Reacting to several claims during the hearing that the storage of radioactive nuclear fuel waste poses no human health or environmental risks, Rep. Scott Heiner of Green River listed a litany of reported leaks from the same type of "dry cask" containers in other states that would come to Wyoming.

"They're still cleaning that up," Heiner said. "Multi-billion-dollar environmental cleanup — to take decades. So even though there's a lot of safety precautions

in place, we can't guarantee [storage is] 100% risk-free."

What was in the bill

The push to open the state to spent-nuclear fuel waste has persisted for decades, including a years-long effort in the early 1990s, which ended when then-Gov. Mike Sullivan vetoed a similar measure, noting that the issue was simply too divisive and fraught with unanswered questions.

Since then, Wyoming lawmakers have tinkered with state statutes, notably a few years ago to accommodate limited storage at the site of nuclear power

generation to help clear the way for TerraPower's Natrium nuclear power plant project near Kemmerer. But state law still prohibits high-level radioactive waste storage, as envisioned in HB 16, unless the federal government establishes a permanent repository.

House Bill 16 would have set the stage to remove that statutory barrier in anticipation of a permanent, federal waste storage repository, Lander Republican Rep. Lloyd Larsen said.

"That seems to be in the works now," he told committee

See NUCLEAR page 12

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NUCLEAR

From page 11

members.

The legislation also sought to change language throughout Wyoming law referring to radioactive material as “waste” to “used nuclear fuel” — an attempt to alter public perception, as well as promote the idea that the materials might one day be reprocessed for re-use.

In fact, former Republican Rep. Donald Burkhart Jr. of Rawlins, when he introduced the bill to the committee in July, said if Wyoming takes on temporary nuclear fuel waste storage it would prime the state to eventually win a lucrative industry in reprocessing.

“Currently, the United States



Photo courtesy of Dustin Bleizeffer/WyoFile
A barrel of radioactive waste is visible through a catwalk at the Smith Ranch-Highland in-situ uranium mine in Wyoming.

does not reprocess nuclear fuel,” Burkhart told committee members then. “I feel that within the next five years, that will change, and when it changes, wherever the fuel is stored is where they will do the reprocessing.”

Lack of public engagement
Burkhart’s rollout of the measure last year was also a major point of contention for the committee and several people who testified on Wednesday.

Burkhart, who did not run for another term, waited until the final minutes of a two-day hearing in Casper in July to introduce the draft measure to the Minerals Committee. He also forbade the Legislative Service Office from sharing the draft measure publicly until days before an October hearing, leaving scant opportunity for the public to digest the proposed law and research its implications.

“So many questions,” Gillette Republican Rep. Christopher Knapp said. “I think that part of this is because, although this

says it came out as an interim bill, you really didn’t discuss this during the interim. This came as a last-minute bill in front of us, and here we sit in a committee meeting that probably should last for days with questions to get this through.”

Lawmakers on the panel also expressed suspicions that longtime backers of nuclear waste storage already have potential locations in mind, including perhaps sites on or near the Wind River Indian Reservation — without consulting the tribal communities.

Minerals Committee members, and some members of the public who testified, also took umbrage with repeated notions from supporters that the public is overly influenced regarding potential dangers and don’t know enough about modernized radioactive waste storage protocols to be comfortable with it.

“It’s not the public’s fault that they’re confused and concerned,” Worland Republican

Rep. Martha Lawley said. “And we do need to address that.”

“There’s been a lot of comments today about [public] education,” Republican Rep. Mike Schmid of La Barge said. “Evidently, it’s not getting done, because I’ve got hundreds of emails, and not one is in support of the project or this idea.”

In voting down the bill, committee members agreed they’d recommend the idea for interim discussion later this year, adding that it may require years of discussion and extra efforts to engage with Wyoming communities.

Still on the legislative docket is Senate File 186, “Advanced nuclear reactor manufacturers-fuel storage,” which would allow for storage at a much smaller level and mostly falls in line with Wyoming’s existing statutes.

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DEADLINES:

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Regular Classifieds: \$16 per week for up to 15 words with a two-week minimum. Additional words cost 50 cents each. Garage sales: All ads are to be paid in advance. Cost is \$20 per week for all ads for up to 25 words. Additional words are 50 cents each.

TO RUN THE AD IN GROUP PAPERS: (Wheatland's Platte County Record-Times and Merchant, Torrington Telegram, Lingle Guide, Guernsey Gazette and Lusk Herald), the cost is \$29 per week with a two-week minimum. For any ad not paid in advance, there will be a \$2 charge for billing.

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PUBLIC NOTICES: Any public notices that require typesetting (ie faxed copy or a PDF that has to be retyped) will incur a \$10/page charge for typesetting. This is a one-time charge, so if the notice runs 4 times, the typesetting charge will only be applied once.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

901 Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Application for New and Transfer
Liquor Licenses for the Year 2025
Town of Guernsey

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applicants whose names are set forth below filed applications in the Office of the Clerk of the Town of Guernsey, Wyoming, for transfer of their liquor licenses for 2025. The names of said applicants and the description of the premise which the applicant desires to use as the place of the sale are set forth as follows:

Transfer of ownership Retail Liquor Licenses

- JW Perks, dba Ben’s Bar
39 N. Wyoming Ave
- Eaglecav, LLC, dba Lynn’s Superfoods
3435 West Main
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Bar and Grill Liquor Licenses

- JW Perks, dba Ben’s Bar
39 N. Wyoming Ave

Protests, if any, against the renewal of any of these licenses will be heard at a public hearing to be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, during the Town’s Regular Council Meeting in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 81 W. Whalen, Guernsey, Wyoming.

TOWN OF GUERNSEY
/s/ Hillary Dawson, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Public Notice No. 2102 published in the Guernsey Gazette on Janaury 28 and February 4, 2025.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

January 7, 2025
Town of Guernsey
Regular Meeting
Platte County, Wyoming

PRESENT: Mayor Delgado, CM Harris, CW Wells, CM Augustyn, CM Fields, CM Michaels
STAFF: J. Burfeind, H. Dawson, M. Fronapfel, Chief Harrison, Judge Conner
PUBLIC HEARING OF PROTEST-LIQUOR LICENSE- Mayor Delgado called for protests 3 times, with no protests during the hearing. The hearing was closed.
CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Delgado called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and was welcomed to the meeting.
REGISTERED GUESTS: Bob Case, Chelsea Henneman, Kirstin Cross, Jenny Davis, Kathy Anderson, Tresha Cancino, Shawna Reichert, Mack Hawkins, Lisa Phelps, Michael Brown
AGENDA: CM Michaels moved to approve the agenda. CW Wells seconded. The motion carried.
MINUTES: CM Harris moved to approve December 17, 2024 minutes as presented. CM Augustyn seconded. The motion carried.
OATH OF OFFICE: Jeremiah Fields and Dale Harris were sworn in as Council by Judge William Conner.
CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS: Mayor Delgado presented the vouchers for approval. CW Wells moved to approve the Considerations of Claims in the amount of \$105,379.14 seconded by CM Harris. The motion carried. Vouchers follow in their entirety: Absolute Solutions, \$500.00; Black Hills Holdings, \$1634.11; Bloedorn Lumber, \$67.93; Bob Ruwart Motors, \$239.73; Capital Business Systems, \$140.24; Caselle, \$643.00; CenturyLink, \$915.61; CPS Distributors, \$206.75; Crazy Tony’s Grub and Pub, \$703.00; Frank Jones, \$3,608.50; Guernsey Super Foods, \$71.43; Howshar Hardware,

\$695.56; Industrial Service Solutions, \$1,566.00; Knife River, \$1,260.52; Laramie Peak Motors, \$202.16; Masek Golf Car Company, \$130.95; Mobius, \$360.00; Sarah Mosley, \$400.00; Nebraska Printworks, \$202.95; Newcomb Heating and Cooling, \$80.00; One Stop Safety, \$78.55; O’Reilly Automotive, \$20.39; TDS, \$18,593.90; The Emblem Authority, \$343.00; USPS, \$315.28; Valley Motor Supply, \$237.39; Visionary, \$519.96;; Wheatland Automotive, \$83.76; Wheatland Garage Door, \$534.44; WY LGLP, \$1,000.00; WY Water Quality and Pollution \$90.00; Total Invoices, \$35,533.15; Payroll, \$51,778.13; Taxes/Benefits, \$18,067.86. TOTAL CLAIMS: \$105,379.14.
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Brown former town employee introduced himself and began using inappropriate language irrelevant and inappropriate for a townhall public meeting when speaking on the police Chief and Mayor, therefore he was asked to leave.
LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS: The council reviewed the liquor license renewal applications for the following establishments: JW Perks, DBA Ben’s Bar; Crazy Tony’s Bar; Kelley’s Bar, Inc; Lake Guernsey Post 4471. CM Wells motioned to approve Kelley’s Bar, Crazy Tony’s, Lake Guernsey Post 4471 and Ben’s Bar. Seconded by CM Harris. The motion carried.
RESOLUTION 2025-006-BANK DESIGNATION- CM Michaels moved to approve resolution, seconded by CM Fields. The motion carried.
RESOLUTION 2025-007-NEWSPAPER DESIGNATION- CW Wells moved to approve resolution, seconded by CM Harris. The motion carried.
WATER RATE STUDY: Water and Sewer rate study information packet handed out.
GUERNSEY STATE PARK: Mack Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent at Guernsey State Park asked about the use of the walking path. Mayor Delgado explained it’s public property and can be used by anyone. Mr. Hawkins handed out a map of the 2025 guided hikes trail challenge. The State posted signs for Register Cliff and The Oregon Trail Ruts, letting visitors know it’s only open from sunup to sundown.
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS: The Chamber of Commerce CEO Tresha Cancino reported on the 30% increase in memberships and increased participation from the community. The town was invited to the AG Banquet on February 8th.
DEPARTMENT REPORTS: The police vehicles are having issues, probably due to their lack of use says Chief Harrison. Officer Breon and Taylor are doing well and Taylor will be registered for the Academy.

Chief Harrison handed out a proposal for council to consider regarding holiday time. J. Burfeind had a meeting with Ag flyers out of Torrington, they were here gathering information on the airport. Continued research on resolutions and the nuisance Ordinance. J. Burfeind addressed the continued nuisance, reports and complaints regarding dog droppings on the golf course. M. Fronapfel, updated council on the waterline completion and the start of the new public works shop. Judge Conner gave his annual report and there were only 30 cases to report and that’s the lowest it’s been in his 35 years as judge for the town. The Judge expects there to be more than 30 cases this next year. H. Dawson gave the 6-month financial statement to Council and the FY24 Financial Audit has been completed. The town’s annual vet clinic is coming up in February.
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT: CM Michaels was pleased that Public Works is taking care of the streets by sanding the intersections covered in snow. CM Fields announced that he is happy to be here. CM Harris thanked Kellie Augustyn and welcomed CM Fields. CW Wells voiced her concern at the lack of tickets announced by the Judge. CW Wells has a hard time believing we haven’t had any speeders or laws being broken in town. Mayor Delgado thanked Kellie again for the things he’s done for the town and thanked CM Fields and CM Harris for running. Banner meeting for the ambulance is scheduled on January 16th to discuss our options.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: January 21, 2025, Next Council Meeting. Please remind your neighbor to let their water run with the colder temperatures. CM Michaels asked if we would be closed on January 9th and Mayor announced that the town will remain open.
EXECUTIVE SESSION: CW Wells motioned to enter executive session for personnel after a short break. Seconded by CM Harris. The motion carried.
REGULAR SESSION: The Council returned to regular session at 7:28 with decisions made. Decisions have been made in executive session to close the Wyoming Labor Board case and to approve the Police Department wages and salary pay schedule; adding it to the Policy and Procedure Manual.
ADJOURNMENT: CM Michaels moved to adjourn. Seconded by CM Harris. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:
Eddie Delgado, Mayor
Hillary Dawson, Clerk/Treasurer
Public Notice No. 2103 published in the Guernsey Gazette on February 4, 2025.

national cancer prevention month

Lady Vikings play with heart on home court

*A. Dimas on
leaderboard
for 1A east
conference*

By Sally Nichols
Contributing Writer
GUERNSEY – The Guernsey-Sunrise Lady Vikings varsity team competed against 1A rival, the Hulet Red Devils, this past weekend.

It was a close game, with the Vikings falling by a score of 30-27. Coach Daeh recapped the game, “Liberty White Bird had the biggest game of the year, with 21 points, three rebounds, five steals, and one

block. The girls played with hearts of champions, only losing by three points.” In the game, the Guernsey-Sunrise team had the fewest turnovers this year at 13, and the most steals

with 21. Whitebird, Jordan Atwood, and Alyssa Nyquist, led the team in steals and rebounds. AllyAnn Dimas is sixth in blocked shots for the 1A east conference part of the state.

Vikings stay on heels of Red Devils

Collar on leaderboard for 1A east conference

By Sally Nichols
Contributing Writer

GUERNSEY – The Vikings played Hulet this past Saturday and fell short by a score of 39-23, putting them 4-9 for the season.

“The kids played hard the whole game,” coach Steve Zimmerman commented on the game. “Going into the fourth quarter we trailed by five within striking distance. Hulet increased the pressure defensively with their press, [but] we were unable to sustain our level of play. Throughout the game we had foul trouble, but in hindsight wasn’t bad for us as our intensity and physical play improved greatly from last week.”

Mason Collar is sitting fourth in the state for the 1A east conference for rebounds per game at 8.9 rpg.



File photo by Lisa Phelps/Guernsey Gazette
Julian Rodriguez (50, above) steals the ball to prevent a score. AllyAnn Dimas (22, right) eyes focuses on the ball as she calculates a move. Dimas is ranked sixth in blocked shots for 1A east conference.



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“

Going into the fourth quarter
we trailed by five within
striking distance.

–Coach Steve Zimmerman

”

SPORTS

Dymond Dimas (3, right) initiates contact to pull down the board while Taylor Niquist readies to defend.

**File photos by
Lisa Phelps /
Guernsey Gazette**



Taylor Niquist (11) recovers a loose ball and prepares to pass to Liberty Whitebird (10) as Banner County Wildcats defense aims to steal the ball.



Mason Collar (10) looks to score on the weak side as his teammates, Marcus Swingholm (14, left), Mario Garcia (30), and Conner Bristow (12) are there to rebound if needed. Collar is ranked fourth in the state for rebounds per game.