

Powell High School boasts high ACT score, graduation increase

BY BRADEN SCHILLER
Tribune staff writer

When you take a look at Powell High School's 2025 ACT scores, students' Panther pride is evident — Powell's students scored an average of 20.3, 1.2 points ahead of the state.

PHS also recorded an increase in its graduation rate. The ACT helps graduates move on to college and secure Hathaway scholarships.

"Last spring, our senior class did really well with the ACT," Powell High School Principal Tim Wormald said during an Oct. 14 board meeting. "As you can see, our numbers increased across the board. Having an average composite score of 20.3 is really pretty impressive."

Powell's scores are based on last year's junior class (the state also allows seniors to take the test.) Of the 1.4 million seniors across the nation who tested, the average score was 19.4, according to the ACT's data.

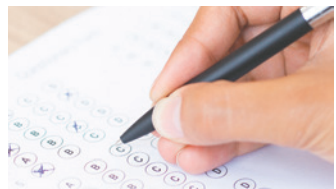
Using common sports competitors and similar sized districts, Wormald offered Cody (20.2), Douglas (18.7), Lander (19.9) and Worland (18.6) to the school board as comparison. Just across county lines, Lovell tied with Powell at 20.3.

Wyoming's composite score was 19.1, among the top two states that test all students, a release from the Wyoming Department of Education said. Three students in the state earned a perfect 36.

The number of public school students in Wyoming who met their benchmark increased 2% in English language arts and 1% in reading.

In addition to strong testing

See Scores, Page 3 >



| Composite ACT | |
|---------------|------|
| Powell | 20.3 |
| Lovell | 20.3 |
| Cody | 20.2 |
| Lander | 19.9 |
| Douglas | 18.7 |
| Worland | 18.6 |

| Graduation rates across the state: | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Powell | 90.1 |
| Worland | 89.5 |
| Lander | 88.8 |
| Cody | 85.1 |
| Douglas | 83.5 |
| Lovell | 82.1 |



In what organizers hope will be an annual event, the Heart of a Patriot Run/Walk and Bike event Saturday at Homesteader Park crosses the starting line to a path filled with flags, including one memorializing Charlie Kirk, who founded Turning Point USA prior to his assassination on Sept. 10. Tribune photo by Mark Davis

Run memorializes Charlie Kirk

NWC STUDENTS ORGANIZE TURNING POINT USA CHAPTER

BY MARK DAVIS
Tribune senior reporter

After Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk was assassinated Sept. 10 in Orem, Utah, Powell resident Emily Denney immediately began to mourn. The public shooting of the popular leader hit her hard.

"I knew I had to do something," she said.

Wanting to help ease the pain of friends and family and also ensure Kirk was never forgotten in her hometown, she decided to

start a race through the streets of Powell. But first she needed a date for the event.

Some may assume she picked Oct. 18 to compete with area "No Kings" marches, but that would be a mistake. With Kirk's 32nd birthday being Oct. 14, she wanted to celebrate his life publicly, but knew a weekend day would offer more opportunities for others to participate. She was undeterred when she chose this past Saturday, despite plans for millions of people across the country to march in protest.

"This was the closest weekend to his birthday and that's the significance of today's date ... so we could remember his life and his legacy; not just his passing, but of him as a man, father and patriot," Denney said.

So with very little time and experience, she went to work organizing the Heart of a Patriot 1K/5K/10K Walk/Run/Bike in Loving Memory of Charlie Kirk.

"I had a little bit of help along the way, but then Turning Point USA reached out to me," she said.

Due to the short notice, it was a minor miracle the race actually got off the ground. Yet, 26 runners and about as many volunteers, including representatives from the Post 26 Sons of the American Legion, and onlookers met at 9 a.m. for the memorial. Participants, some in their senior years, some with dogs, one on a bike and even a couple of toddlers in a stroller showed up on the crisp, beautiful morning dressed in red, white and blue to commune with others also mourning the senseless tragedy.

See Memorialized Page 2 >

Sheriff's office purchases four new Chevy trucks

BY ZAC TAYLOR
AND CJ BAKER
Tribune staff

The Park County Sheriff's Office is purchasing four new Chevy Silverado 1500 crew cabs to replace three higher mileage trade-in Chevys and one that was wrecked in a July crash.

The bid from Denny Menholt of \$138,660 after trade-ins came in under the sheriff's office's budgeted amount of \$150,000; Fremont Motors Powell had submitted a bid of four new F-150 crew cabs at \$151,516 after trade-in.

At a Sept. 16 Park County Commission meeting, Park County Sheriff Scott Steward said going with the low bid allowed for a double dose of savings, as transitioning to a newer version of the same vehicle type makes it more likely that all the existing equipment can be transferred to the new Silverados.

The county also received roughly \$16,000 from its insurer for the patrol truck that suffered more than \$20,000 worth of damage in a July 17 crash.

ATTEMPTED U-TURN

Steward said a deputy was east of the Shoshone River Canyon on U.S. Highway 14/16/20W and heading east when he spotted a driver speeding to the west.

The deputy turned off the highway and tried making a U-turn to pursue the speeder, Steward said. However, the deputy didn't see an eastbound

“The driver side rear took most of the hit. The drive train should be good. It has an engine and transmission.”

Scott Steward
County sheriff

dump truck coming up behind him, the sheriff said, and it hit the patrol vehicle. While the patrol truck was spun around, there were no injuries.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol, which handled the formal investigation, issued no citations.

The sheriff's patrol vehicle had more than 100,000 miles and was due to be traded in, Steward said, along with two other deputy trucks and a spare vehicle. Instead, Steward said "the carcass" of the vehicle is now in the department's garage.

Commission Chair Dossie Overfield suggested Steward see if it could be added to a county auction to at least get something for it.

"The driver side rear took most of the hit. The drive train

See Trucks, Page 3 >

Hundreds protest 'dictatorship'

PEACEFUL PROTEST IN CODY DRAWS CHEERS AND JEERS

BY MARK DAVIS
Tribune senior reporter

With handmade signs, American flags and a cheerful spirit, hundreds of area protest-

ers took to downtown Cody to let all passersby know they do not want a king leading the country.

Organized by the Park County Democrat Party and Wyoming Rising for the second No Kings

protest this year, protesters listened to prepared speeches and joined in impromptu songs before turning their attention to folks traveling through the county seat. There were a few

counter-protesters, but other than jeering during speeches the protest was more of a love-fest. Even as cars passed, unhappy with the event, protesters responded with "thank you" to help keep from causing heated exchanges.

The success of the protest in the deep red community comes from frustration people from all walks of life are feeling, said Ann Pasek, chair of the Park County Democrats.

"Issues coming out of D.C. that are concerning are so great that it feels overwhelming," she said. "People get frightened and discouraged. They're frightened about their financial future. They're worried about their employment, especially if they're federal employees. They're worried the IRS isn't going to function properly for lack of staff. They're worried that Social Security isn't going to operate like it should because of lack of staff. We just don't feel that the guidance coming out of Washington, D.C., is concerned at all with the people who are in the middle and the bottom, it seems like they're just looking at the 1% and the rest of us are not of interest," she said in an

See Protest, Page 2 >



'No Kings' protesters hold handmade signs and cheer on motorists who honked in approval Saturday afternoon in Cody. The protest was peaceful, though one man wearing three sidearms heckled the opening speeches, reportedly saying he brought his guns for protection because 'liberals killed Charlie Kirk' and singing 'Ice, Ice Baby.' Tribune photo by Mark Davis

The Wyoming State Shooting Complex Joint Powers Board (including Chair Glenn Ross, standing) hosted an open house Wednesday night at the Park County Courthouse to show off the conceptual design for the complex. Attendees crowded into just about every available chair in the room.



Tribune photo by Zac Taylor

Shooting complex design unveiled to public

BY ZAC TAYLOR
Tribune editor

The Wyoming State Shooting Complex's conceptual design, unveiled Thursday evening at the Park County Courthouse, features space for sporting clays, archery, rifle, action shooting, extreme long range, space for law enforcement training and more.

"The chosen site truly embodies the beauty of Wyoming

and the spirit of the west," said Glenn Ross, chair of the Wyoming State Shooting Complex Joint Powers Board.

He said once the current work on the county road is finished, work can begin on the site itself and will "start in earnest" in the spring of 2026 with planned opening spring of 2027 for the just under \$20 million project.

Thursday's meeting was all about the site, which has proved somewhat controversial as some

people have objected to the land being developed at all — it's frequented by mule deer and near sage grouse areas.

Ross said they're working with Game and Fish to develop a wildlife management plan and Director Angi Bruce and Commission Chair Ashlee Lundvall have been supportive of the process.

"Consideration of potential

See Complex, Page 8 >





Ann Pasek, chair of the Park County Democrats, opens the 'No Kings' protest, asking for kindness during the peaceful protest Saturday afternoon in Cody. Tribune photo by Mark Davis

Protest: Approximately 2,700 individual protests across the country Saturday

Continued from Page 1 >

interview prior to opening the protest.

There were 275 people who signed in at the protest and many who didn't, Pasek said. The vast majority of those joining the protest were from Park County and the surrounding area.

"The only people not from Park County or the surrounding areas were a family of three who were visiting but wanted to join a protest," Pasek said.

While the crowd size was similar to the first No Kings protest in June, most signs were calling for citizens to stand strong against authoritarianism or to save federal programs abandoned by the Trump administration. Wyoming Rising representative Renee Tafoya said the name "No Kings" is a direct reference to the American Revolution and a rejection of authoritarian rule.

"We came together to protest the policies and actions of the Donald Trump administration, in particular his tendency to act more like a monarch than an elected official," she said in her speech. "He is sending the National Guard and military into cities to intimidate Americans. He's using poorly trained and fully armed ICE agents to detain and disappear people —

even U.S. citizens and veterans are being caught in his dragnet."

Tafoya added her concerns that the administration is pushing the gerrymandering of voting districts in order to silence voters, changing rules about how and where to vote, is eliminating parts of the government, abusing power, and weakening Congress.

"This isn't politics — Republican vs Democrat. It's democracy versus dictatorship," she said. "Across America people came out into the streets to say, loudly, that we don't want to be ruled by someone who thinks he's above the law. This republic is a representative democracy. Our elected officials need to hear us."

After the speeches, they opened the microphone to anyone who had something to say. Two members of the crowd used song to help unite those in protest. Many joined in to sing "If I Had a Hammer" and "Cowboy Joe."

While the Trump administration and some GOP officials labeled No Kings protests as the work of "violent left-wing radicals" and as a "hate America rally," the rallies had surprisingly few acts of violence or arrests, according to national reports. In Denver, 12 people were arrested after the main

rally, when a smaller group ignored police orders to disperse. There were no arrests reported in Billings.

There were approximately 2,700 individual protests across the country Saturday, an increase of about 900 rallies over the June 14 event. Organizers estimate that nearly 7 million people participated nationwide.

"Americans across the country of all stripes — Democrats, Republicans and independents — are pretty unhappy about [the Trump administration behaving more like dictators than elected officials] and this has always been a representative democracy. We demand representation, but we don't feel like we're getting it," Tafoya said.

While the crowd was diverse in age, it appeared more protesters were Boomers rather than Gen Z. Glenn Borkenhagen of Cody carried a sign that read, "Nobody is paying me to exercise my right to protest."

"I see how the separation of powers is being destroyed by taking over the role of Congress of spending [tax] money and belittling the judiciary in a return," he said. "It has even caused the military officers with almost 40 years standing to resign because they feel the orders they're expected to carry out are illegal."

Memorialized: 'We've received a lot of support,' Jeffery said

Continued from Page 1 >

Denney was "100%" happy with the first-year turnout and a constant stream of support on her social media account. And she intends to start planning for next year.

"We want this to be an annual event," she said. "The violence needs to be set aside, and people need to come together. That's the biggest [thing] I want out of this."

Some participants, current students at Northwest College, came to set up an informational table about the new Turning Point USA chapter being organized on the Powell campus. When Powell High School graduate Abigail Jeffery, a sophomore occupational therapy student at NWC, mentioned her idea to start a local chapter to a fellow student, she got an earful. He told her it would be "the worst thing that we could do for the campus."

"That was kind of like the push I needed, because I don't like being told no," she said prior to the race.

There was a little concern

from an administrator who had seen in the past when groups organize after something big happens, many can't sustain the momentum through the years.

"Other than that, people have been very receptive. We've received a lot of support," Jeffery said.

The new organization had its first meeting last Wednesday and their event a few days later at the race.

"I think that if you have beliefs that you should advocate for them. Like, if there was a leftist group on the college campus, I would encourage them to do the same thing, because we live in a place where it's our right," she said. "I think it's our responsibility to preach what we believe in. I feel like the Lord has called me to spread his word. And like, just share my obviously conservative beliefs, but also my biblical beliefs. And I would encourage other people to do the same."

Jeffery was joined by students Trey Erickson and Brandon Diaz in founding the organization. Erickson said the group now has more than 20 members. After the run, some in the new

Turning Point group planned to join a counter-protest at the "No Kings" rally in Cody.

"We want to promote dialog and have conversations and discussions with people," Diaz said, saying there have been peaceful counter-protests in the past. "We intend to do the same thing today."

NWC freshman and Turning Point member Marli Novy looks forward to being a candidate for a leadership position in the future. She's excited to have a chapter at the college.

"Our goal is to promote awareness and make sure that it's known that Turning Point is here," she said. "We want to promote civil discourse, talking about our differences and reaching common ground, just like Charlie Kirk did."

New Life Church Pastor Tim Morrow, who was asked to address the inaugural race participants, said Charlie Kirk had inspired him prior to his death.

"I just loved his way of thinking. That was an inspiration to me," Morrow said. "We're here to honor him and carry on his legacy."



From left: Pam Casebolt (45), Martha Wutzke (44), Tiffany Wutzke (46), Candy Christiansen (41) and Tim Baxter (47) head west on Seventh Street during the Heart of a Champion race Saturday in Powell. Tribune photo by Mark Davis

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OBITUARY

Joyce Margaret (Schaefer) Bales

(Oct. 17, 1957 - Oct. 12, 2025)

Joyce Margaret (Schaefer) Bales, 67, of Cody, passed away on Oct. 12, 2025, in Murray, Utah.

Joyce was born on Oct. 17, 1957, to Leonard and Edna Schaefer of Powell, Wyoming. She was raised on the family farm west of Powell. Joyce attended school in Powell and graduated from Powell High School in 1976. Joyce obtained her AA in business from Northwest College in Powell.

On March 3, 1979, Joyce married Thomas Bales of Cody, Wyoming. Joyce became a ranch wife and a stay-at-home mother to her beloved children Jason, Kyle and Jennifer. She was very supportive of her children, especially their FFA, 4-H and athletic activities. Joyce returned to work in Cody once her children were grown, eventually finding

a career at Walmart in 2012 as a checker. Joyce greatly enjoyed visiting with her customers and considered many of her fellow coworkers her "Walmart Family." Joyce was known throughout town for her smile, ability to share a good story, and reassuring special moments with those her came across her path. Joyce had a special place in her heart for the children who came through her Walmart line and always made sure to offer a kind word (and maybe a few treats). Joyce was an extremely hard worker in all that she endeavored in all aspects of her life. She was extremely selfless, often putting her family and others before herself.

Joyce was preceded in death by parents Leonard and Edna Schaefer, brothers James and Lynn Schaefer, and sister-in-law Marjorie Schaefer.

Joyce is survived by husband Thomas Bales, adult children Jason Bales, Kyle Bales and Jennifer Tucker; grandchildren Caleb, Isabella, Carter, Aspen and Bear; sister Judi (Gary) Buckingham, brothers Allen (Connie) Schaefer, and Keith (Brenda) Schaefer. Joyce is also survived by many nieces, nephews and in-laws who were very close to her heart.



JOYCE BALES

A rosary will be prayed on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Cody. Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow at the church. Joyce will be laid to rest next to her parents at Crown Hill Cemetery in Powell at 2:30 p.m. that day.

Memories and condolences can be shared on Joyce's memorial page at BallardFH.com.

Whooping cough cases identified in Cody

Two children in Cody tested positive for whooping cough last week, Park County health officials say, marking the county's third and four cases of the year.

Formally known as pertussis, the bacterial illness is highly contagious. Pertussis can begin like a common cold but then bring coughing fits that worsen and last for weeks or month.

Children under the age of 1 are at the greatest risk for contracting the disease and developing severe complications, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC and medical providers recommend that all people get vaccinated against pertussis.

The children who tested positive last week, who are 5 and 6 years old, had not been vaccinated, Park County Public Health Officer Aaron Billin said

in a Facebook post. The two youth attend a parochial school in Cody, Billin said.

Across all of Wyoming, there have been more than 115 documented cases of pertussis so far this year — up from just 17 cases in all of 2024 and none in 2023, he said.

According to Billin, pertussis should be considered and tested for in individuals with a prolonged cough that lasts more than two weeks or with "paroxysmal symptoms" — that is, intense coughing fits that can include a "whooping" sound

when breathing in.

"Those with symptoms consistent with pertussis (or any other significant respiratory illness) should be seen by their primary medical provider for evaluation and treatment," he added.

Both those diagnosed with pertussis and their household contacts should be treated with antibiotics and stay home until those medications are completed, Billin said.

For more information about pertussis, visit cdc.gov/pertussis.

“Those with symptoms consistent with pertussis (or any other significant respiratory illness) should be seen by their primary medical provider for evaluation and treatment.”

Aaron Billin
Public health officer

Trucks: Board planning mid-October meeting to reveal design

Continued from Page 1 >

should be good," Steward said, adding, "It has an engine and transmission."

Meanwhile, the sheriff's department recently avoided damage in a more recent collision, in which a deputy hit a deer. In that case, the only damage was to the deer, Steward said at an Oct. 7 commissioners meeting.

Former Sheriff and current County Commissioner Scott Steward, who is Darrell's brother, said people questioned him when he first purchased grill

guards for office vehicles years ago, but said they've shown to be effective in keeping department vehicles on the road.

OFFICER-INVOLVED CRASHES

The sheriff's department isn't the only local law enforcement agency to have experienced a recent crash. Court records show a Powell Police Department vehicle suffered much less significant damage in an Aug. 18 collision on Gateway Drive.

According to information provided by the sheriff's office, the crash occurred when a 15-year-

old driver backed out of the parking lot for the Mountain Spirit Habitat for Humanity Restore and failed to see a police car driving by on Gateway Drive.

Sheriff's spokesman Monte McClain described the damage as a minor scrape on the rear passenger side door. Court records show the police department expected to spend \$4,858.16 on repairs.

The teen was cited for failing to start a parked vehicle without reasonable safety. She is set to appear in Park County Circuit Court in late November.

Scores: 'Last spring, our senior class did really well with the ACT'

Continued from Page 1 >

performance, more Powell High School students graduated last year at 90.1%, bucking a slight decline that began in 2019. Last year the average graduation rate in the state was 81.6%. Powell led the pack based on the given comparisons, while Cody's graduation rate was 85.1%, Douglas was 83.5%, Lander was 88.8%, Lovell was 82.1% and

Worland was 89.5%.

The increase equates to a couple students, Wormald said, "but obviously that's one or two students one way or the other, and that makes a big difference for those students that we work hard every day to try to ensure that students are moving forward and [we] try to support them the best we can."

Wormald said the school has worked over the last few years

to encourage students to pursue graduation, acknowledging that for some students it can be a struggle.

"I think we're seeing that pay off, our percentage of graduates is certainly higher than the state average, and so we're proud of that. [It's] still always an area of focus for us," Wormald said. "We want to keep those students in school and moving toward graduation."

Wyoming State Shooting Complex Request for **Excavation Services**

The Wyoming State Shooting Complex Joint Powers Board is seeking a highly qualified excavation contractor to provide earthmoving services during the construction of the Complex. The required work will include clearing and grubbing, mass excavation, shaping, grading, road and trail construction and trenching of the various features of the facility. Specific projects will be designed and quoted on an individual basis.

As the project proceeds, the Board will provide construction details on individual projects to the contractor seeking an estimated cost for the work. Each

project will be estimated and approved by the Board. The Board reserves the right to seek additional quotes, if warranted.

Respondents should expect that work will begin in November 2025 and continue through the Spring of 2027.

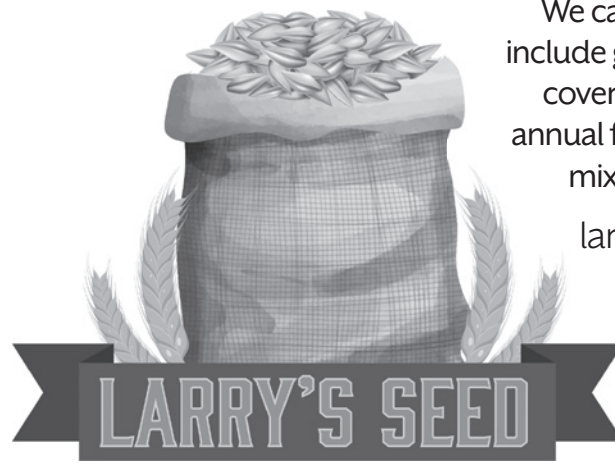
Companies interested in this project will submit a letter of interest; a listing of construction equipment available and hourly rates; a statement detailing the company's staffing and qualifications; and a list of no less than three references.

Responses are due via mail to

Wyoming State Shooting Complex - Attn: Excavation Services
PO Box 1387, Cody, Wyoming 82414
Questions may be directed to James Klessens at 307-250-7748.

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IN OUR OPINION

SHOOTING COMPLEX HAS HIGH POTENTIAL

The Wyoming State Shooting Complex south of Cody has the potential to be a special place that serves both area communities and brings everyone from professional shooters to families from all over the world.

It has the potential, but there's still a long road ahead to get to fruition, and the hope is the members of the Wyoming State Shooting Complex Joint Powers Board continue to listen to all those in the communities who are interested or concerned with various aspects.

It was good to hear at a Thursday night open house, once again, of the need to make the complex self-sufficient. That's possibly the most important goal that needs to be met before too many years after opening to really call this project a success.

However, this also can't be a place that caters solely to jet set travelers and professional shooters. This is still Wyoming's range and therefore should offer opportunities for locals as well. It should be an additional benefit, not a replacement, for the ranges in Park County's towns (in the interest of disclosure, I'm a member of the Heart Mountain Rod and Gun Club).

It was good to see the emphasis being placed on education (the plan is to include classroom space in the events center), as board member Danny Michael, firearms curator at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, said at the open house in front of a packed crowd at the county courthouse in Cody.

"That has been a clear and I think, well received message from the state, from the get-go, from members of the community: This has to promote education," he said.

Like the wonderful Center of the West, the complex should be both a magnet that brings people into the communities of Park County to provide more revenue for local businesses. And like the museum, it should be a place as welcoming to locals who may want to experience something a little different from their home range.

With the ability to hit gongs beyond a mile, and to experience incredible vistas while you're tracking a clay pigeon or lining up a shot at a 3D target with a bow, this complex can be that place.

Now, however, much more hard work needs to be done to ensure this vision, and these goals, match up with reality.

Zac Taylor

Powell Tribune editorials are signed by the writer. They are reviewed by the Powell Tribune Editorial Board, which includes Publisher Dave Bonner, General Manager Toby Bonner and Editor Zac Taylor.

Limited government: Local control

Leading up to the Revolutionary War, American colonists had a broad ability to levy taxes within their communities. For example, the Old North Bridge, where the Concord Militia turned back the Redcoats, was constructed with locally raised taxes. It was not until the mid-1760s when the Crown enacted the Sugar, Stamp and Townshend Acts that England's complete control of taxes became too much to bear.

At first, the people were not particularly bothered when they were taxed for local needs like roads and bridges, but they were mad when they were being taxed to support a runaway monarch without any representation. As England continued taxing the colonies, the people's frustration boiled over. This continued abuse developed into the mantra popularized by Massachusetts attorney, James Otis, who declared that there should be "no taxation without representation."

Because of the dangers posed by a distant government making decisions on what to tax and how much, many of us now believe that the most effective, responsible, and responsive government is the government that is closest to the people, and that the government that governs least governs best.

Today, we have more direct tax representation, but it is still frustrating to see our tax dollars spent in ways that we deem irresponsible or unnecessary. It is particularly frustrating to see an unbalanced federal budget with a deficit growing by trillions of

dollars. Unfortunately, once we notice that there is such large-scale federal waste, it is hard to not believe that the same level of waste occurs at all levels of government.

Because many are concerned about an out-of-control government, we tend to withdraw from the idea that the government at any level can do anything correctly. However, before condemning our state or local governments for operating in an irresponsible way, we have to first understand our state and local taxes.

When I looked into our state's tax structure, it appeared clear that there were two main groups of taxes. The first type is those that get collected by the state (such as sales and minerals taxes), the second type is the taxes that are collected locally (such as property taxes and sales taxes that are returned from the state).

Of the state's total revenue, roughly one-third comes from sales and use taxes, one-fourth comes from severance (minerals) taxes, and the remaining balance largely comes from federal dollars and investment earnings. This money is pooled and used to run the state. These funds are also paid to counties and towns in the form of sales tax distributions, which are primarily made up of the state returning about one-third of the sales taxes to the communities

that they come from.

For counties, the main source of revenue is property taxes. These taxes are collected locally and stay local. For example, last year, my property taxes were spent as follows: Local Schools — 57%; Park County General — 15.9%; City of Cody — 6.6%; Northwest College — 6.6%; County Fire — 4%; County Hospitals — 4%; Cody Cemetery — 3.3%; Cody Recreation — 1.3%; County Weed & Pest — 1.3%. Our counties and towns are only able to operate because of the property taxes they collect, and to a lesser extent, the distributions they receive back from the state.

Recently, I've heard a proposal that the Legislature should eliminate property taxes for all and instead raise sales taxes. At first this idea seems attractive — after all, I support low taxes and a limited government that is able to operate within its means, and I oppose government budgets that are unnecessarily large.

However, after considering the effects of eliminating property taxes and raising sales taxes, I cannot help but think about the effects this will have throughout our state. Because sales taxes are collected by the state and distributed back to the counties, this proposed tax structure would result in counties and towns having no ability to control their own taxes and would instead require them to

receive practically all of their revenue from the state. This process would necessarily result in a greater centralization of money and power in the state and a decrease in local control.

In addition to the increased size of state government and decrease in local control, eliminating property taxes and increasing sales taxes is necessarily regressive — that is to say, the individuals with the least money, who do not own property, and who cannot afford to travel to Montana to do their shopping, will be affected the most. It is further estimated that the sales tax rate would have to go up to between 15%-20% if property tax is eliminated.

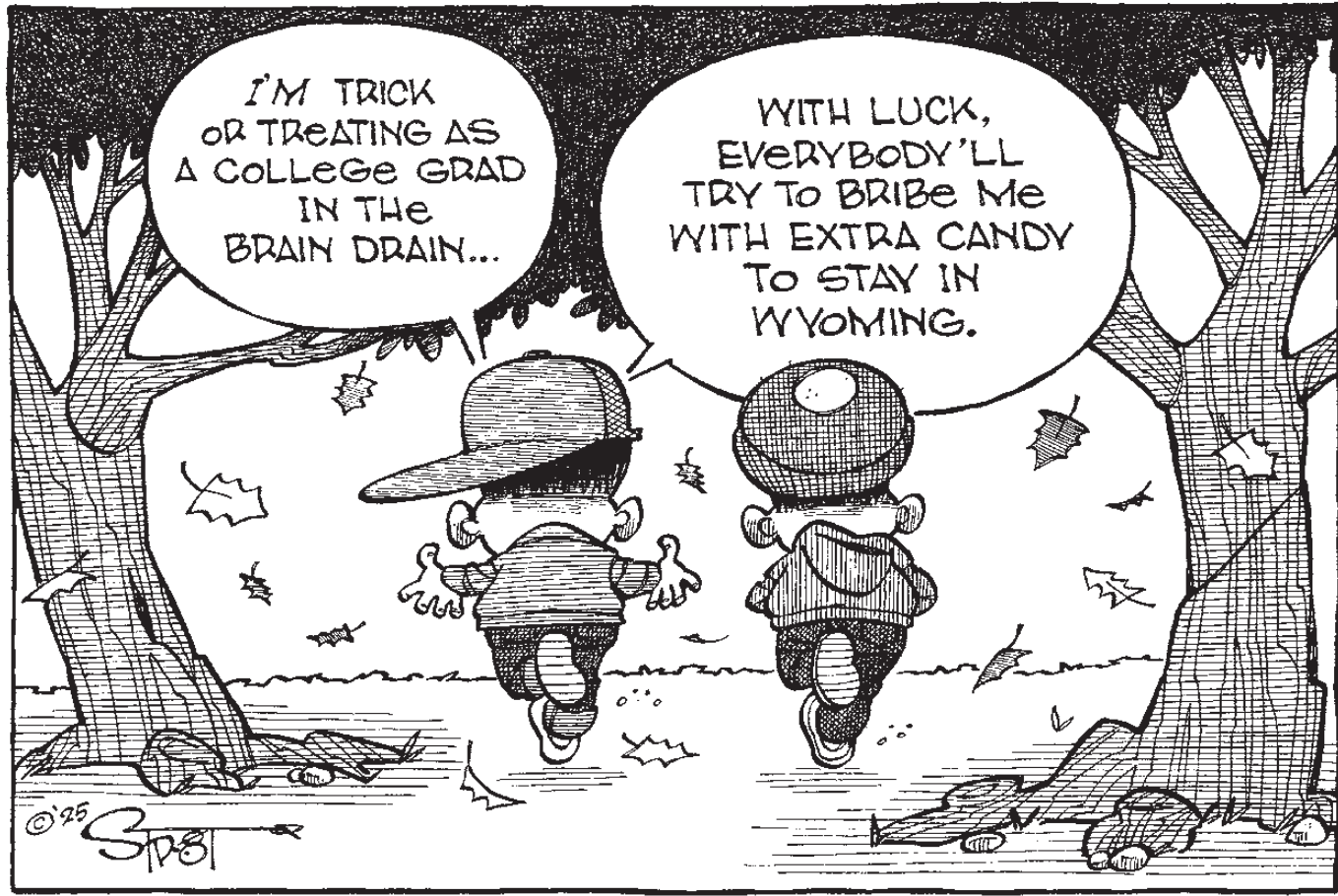
In Wyoming, all county and state budgets are available to the public. I encourage all those who are interested to learn about Wyoming's tax structure and what their taxes are used for.

Because I support small, local governments, and I oppose the centralization of power and money by the state or federal governments, I oppose any tax scheme that would merely shuffle money away from our counties and towns and towards the state. Let us honor our country's founders by supporting and protecting the governments that are closest to the people.

I believe we should reduce and eliminate taxes whenever possible, but if we are going to be taxed, we should keep taxes as close to the people as possible and not allow our leaders to continually change our tax structure to consolidate power.



DAVID HILL
Civics and Civility



Fear is no energy policy

If Wyoming were its own country, we would rank among the world's top energy exporters. We produce far more power than we use. Our coal, oil, gas, and uranium keep America's lights on and our military running. Energy isn't just an industry here; it's who we are. That is why it is hard to watch some in our Legislature walk away from the next wave of innovation, willing to ship off the fuel, the jobs, and the future that should stay right here in Wyoming.

Global energy demand is breaking records, and we all know the next chapter of energy development won't look like the last. Wyoming has been through significant shifts before. We helped build America's energy backbone from the oil fields near Lander to the coal seams of the Powder River Basin. Our reputation for energy leadership was built on grit, courage, and hard work, not on fear.

But lately, something's changed. Instead of leading with that same courage, the Freedom Caucus and their al-

lies have begun using fear as a reason to say "no."

Their latest target was a Casper project that could have put about 250 Wyomingites to work, paying each around \$80,000 a year. A good wage that would add a little over \$20 million annually to the local economy. And it wouldn't have stopped there. The welders, truckers, suppliers, and local shops would have felt that lift too.

It wasn't just another plant; it was a foothold in manufacturing tied to national defense. Now it is gone, and Wyoming didn't just lose a project; we lost a chance to lead and show we can still build what's next.

Many of the loudest "no" voices in that fight are newcomers to Wyoming. They don't understand our history, the generations who mined, drilled, and laid the foundation of our

energy economy. They fail to see what it took for Wyoming families to wrestle with tough conditions and still find a way forward.

The Freedom Caucus's campaign against nuclear innovation hasn't just chased off a company; it has damaged

Wyoming's credibility as a serious energy state. We can't talk about energy independence on one hand and turn away the very technologies that could secure it on the other.

When we tell the world Wyoming leads on energy, but let our loudest voices shout "Not in my backyard," investors hear that message loud and clear. We've slipped from setting the standard to sending opportunity packing.

Everyone knows the world needs more steady, base-load power. AI, data centers, and everything that keeps modern life running depend on energy you can count on, every hour of the day. If we are not building that

here, someone else will, and when that happens, they will be the ones setting the rules, not us.

Nuclear power isn't the scary headlines or barren wastelands. It is smaller, safer, and cleaner than it was a generation ago. It is the kind of practical innovation Wyoming has always backed.

And here is a plain fact: There's more radiation in the coal we burn and the basements we seal for radon than these new microreactors would ever emit. We have learned to mitigate both, but somehow we have forgotten how to manage fear.

Wyoming has never been afraid of hard work or new frontiers. We have faced every boom and bust with our sleeves rolled up and our eyes forward. We should do the same now.

Wyoming has a choice to make. We can let fear keep calling the shots, or we can lead. We can be the state that builds what's next, or the one that lets politics pull the plug.

(Sen. Ed Cooper represents Senate District 20 for Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie counties.)



ED COOPER
Guest Column

POWELL TRIBUNE

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In memoriam, Diane Bonner (1939-2001)

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Missing Sheridan man's remains found west of Cody

BY CJ BAKER
Tribune staff writer

More than seven years after a Sheridan man went missing, his remains were located west of Cody.

The Sheridan County Sheriff's Office announced Friday that remains found over the summer in Park County belonged to the late Kyle Ellis.

The sheriff's office said it appeared that Ellis — who went missing in January 2018 — likely died from exposure to the freezing temperatures. He was 29 at the time of his disappearance.

"We hope this brings closure to Kyle's parents, his family, friends and our community," Sheridan County Sheriff Levi Dominguez said in a statement.

Ellis was last seen and heard from on Jan. 8, 2018, when a woman reportedly gave him a

ride from a lodge in the Big-horn Mountains to Greybull.

Family members have told media outlets that Ellis, who suffered from mental health problems, sometimes took "religious journeys" that lasted for weeks, but that he always stayed in touch via Facebook. He enjoyed exploring the Bighorn Mountains and walking trails around Sheridan, his family wrote in an obituary.

"His walking journeys took him to Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and finally to Cody, [Wyoming,] where his journey ended," they wrote.

Despite public calls for information about Ellis' whereabouts, authorities and family members received no leads until August. That's when a crew

working to clear out vegetation on Bureau of Land Management property west of the Buffalo Bill Reservoir discovered a person's remains, said Park County Sheriff Darrell Steward.

The location is a couple miles north of U.S. Highway 14/16/20 (the Northfork Highway) and it appears that Ellis "just wandered up in there," Steward said.

Though it looked like Ellis had constructed a makeshift shelter, Steward said the temperatures in January 2018 were around zero degrees, which can quickly become deadly. There was no indication of foul play.

The sheriff suspected the remains might have belonged to Ellis because he was one of the only people missing in the

region and the clothing found at the location appeared to be a potential match. However, it wasn't until Thursday that the Wyoming State Crime Lab was able to conclusively determine through DNA testing that the remains belonged to Ellis.

In Friday's statement, the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office thanked all of the agencies and individuals involved in the investigation.

Ellis' family "has been nothing but supportive and patient throughout these years," Sheriff Dominguez added, "and our thoughts and prayers are with them through this time."

In the obituary, family members said that Ellis had read the Bible from cover-to-cover multiple times and had a deep faith in God.

"We find comfort knowing that Kyle is now where he wished to be — in Heaven," they wrote.



KYLE ELLIS

Tourism in late summer, early fall a 'pleasant surprise'

Tourism remained a pleasant surprise in September in Park County, especially around Cody and in Yellowstone National Park, as evidenced by the increase in lodging tax collections over last year.

Tax collections were up more than \$30,000 for September compared to last year.

At October's Park County Travel Council meeting, board members had specific or anecdotal evidence to back up a successful late summer season for tourism. Mike Keller, CEO of Xanterra, said Yellowstone was busy again in September as expected.

"You can't even tell we're in a shutdown right now," he said. "Everything is rocking and rolling right now."

He said the park remains busy halfway through October, with international travelers still making a big impact, especially with Indian, Pakistani and European tourists.

Board member and local hotelier Quintin Blair said numbers were slightly down from last year for the first part of the summer, but was consistent with last year's numbers later in the summer.

"We saw our demand level out and compete with last year almost equally," he said. "It was a bit of a pleasant surprise."

Board chair John Parsons said in talking to business owners around town there was a similar optimism, as while many said they didn't have quite the traffic they expected, those who did come spent more.

Blair noted even his retail business at the Holiday Inn/Comfort Inn/Bufalo Bill Village properties was up 5%, which was very unexpected.

— By Zac Taylor



Kyle Lash is stepping into the role of game warden coordinator for the Cody Region to replace longtime head Scott Werbelow, who retired after 33 years with the department. Lash will oversee game wardens across the Big Horn Basin and support law enforcement operations throughout the region. The Thermopolis native began his career with the department in 2009 as a damage technician in the Big Horn Basin. He later served as a game warden in Green River, Cheyenne, Kaycee and most recently, Jackson. Courtesy photo

LASH STEPS INTO GAME WARDEN COORDINATOR ROLE IN BIG HORN BASIN

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Cody Region has announced Kyle Lash as the new game warden coordinator. Lash stepped into the role last month, succeeding Scott Werbelow, who retired after 33 years of service to the department.

In his new position, Lash will oversee game wardens across the Big Horn Basin and support law enforcement operations throughout the region. Wyoming game wardens play a vital role in enforcing wildlife laws, addressing wildlife damage, collecting data and supporting wildlife management efforts.

Lash began his career with the department in 2009 as a damage technician in the Big Horn

"The Big Horn Basin is an incredible place, with an abundance of wildlife, beautiful country and some of the most passionate hunters and anglers in the state."

Kyle Lash
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Basin. He later served as a game warden in Green River, Cheyenne, Kaycee and most recently, Jackson. He holds a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Wyoming.

A Thermopolis native, Lash is excited to return to the region where his career began.

"The Big Horn Basin is an incredible place, with an abundance of wildlife, beautiful country and some of the most passionate hunters and anglers in the state," Lash said. "My family and I are looking forward to being part of the community again."

Lash now lives in Cody with his wife and their three children.

UW researchers upend big cat 'facts'

Previous studies have shown that mountain lions tend to shy away from feeding sites that have been disturbed by human presence. However, a group of University of Wyoming researchers has turned that conventional notion on its head.

Joseph Holbrook, an associate professor in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources, and Justin Clapp, a UW Ph.D. student from Riverton, headed a four-year study in the Casper area that revealed mountain lions showed resilience to human disturbance at feeding sites, staying longer at such sites and often returning multiple times to finish their meals.

"Our research essentially indicates that, contrary to prevailing discussions and insights within the scientific literature, mountain lions were extremely resilient to human disturbance at feeding sites — much more so than the current understanding would indicate," says Holbrook, who also is a faculty member in the Department of Zoology and Physiology.

The paper, titled "Large

carnivore feeding is resilient in human disturbance," was accepted and will be published in the near future in Proceedings of the Royal Society B, the Royal Society's flagship biological research journal that is dedicated to the publication and dissemination of high-quality research.

Clapp, a large carnivore biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Lander, was the paper's lead author. Other contributors were Justin Binfet with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Casper, and Cade Bowlin, a wildlife biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

During the study, the research team captured and monitored 26 mountain lions using satellite-compatible GPS radio collars during winter seasons that spanned from November 2019-March 2023. The group assigned human disturbances to mountain lion feeding sites, which included 26 direct encounters; 22 incidents when the mountain lion did not leave during the human disturbance; 58 disturbances within proxim-

ity of the feeding sites; 67 incidents when the mountain lion briefly left a source of food; and 348 incidents when no feeding disturbances occurred, according to the paper.

Opposite of predictions, human disturbance — researchers approaching mountain lion feeding sites on foot — did not reduce the prey handling times, the paper says. Rather, the mountain lions spent 87.1% longer in mean handling times compared with feeding events when there was no human disturbance. Mountain lions rarely abandoned their prey but, instead, waited for disturbances to end and resumed feeding activities, extending the time dedicated to feeding at the carcass.

Direct encounters between mountain lions and humans made up 24.5% of all disturbances, while proximity encounters comprised 75.4% of the remaining disturbances, according to the paper. Additionally, mountain lions often stayed put in areas where human disturbances occurred, but fled 17 of 26, or 65.4%, of direct encounters. However, the predators

returned to the feeding site 72% of the time (74% after proximity disturbances and 64.7% after direct encounters). The percentage rises to 80.2% overall when including incidents when mountain lions never left, according to the study.

Additionally, the study found the more times mountain lions experienced human disturbances at feeding sites, the more likely they were to return to feed — highlighting the adaptability of the felines.

"Our results highlight the resilience expressed by mountain lions to human disturbances in natural feeding environments, where these apex predators' intelligence, adaptability and unique life history strategies underlie their proliferation," Clapp says.

According to the paper, the study can prove valuable to wildlife managers who consider the effect of disturbances that may alter the fitness of carnivores, such as mountain lions, as well as alter the abundance of prey in natural wildlife systems.

The research was funded by UW, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the Knobloch Family Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management.

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Man may avoid drug case if he stays in Arkansas

BY CJ BAKER
Tribune staff writer

As long as he stays out of Wyoming, an Arkansas man likely won't have to answer to a pending felony drug charge in Park County. The 41-year-old absconded while his case was pending, and prosecutors have decided it's not worth the expense of hauling him back here.

William J. Griffin was originally arrested in April 2023, when Cody police allegedly found about 6 grams of meth and a small amount of THC in his vehicle. The Park County Attorney's Office changed him with one felony and one misdemeanor count of drug possession.

After 38 days in the detention center, Griffin made bail, and records indicate his court-appointed attorney later struck a plea deal with prosecutors. However, Griffin — who'd returned to his home in Hot Springs, Arkansas — failed to show up for a change of plea hearing in April 2024. District Court Judge Bill Simpson issued a warrant for Griffin's arrest.

He remained at large until early February, when authorities in Hot Springs took him into custody.

Park County authorities initially indicated they wanted to bring Griffin back to Cody, but Deputy County Attorney Larry Eichele said his office reversed course after learning the transportation could cost more than \$5,000. Eichele indicated that they changed the warrant to be limited to Wyoming only, and Griffin was soon freed from the Garland County, Arkansas, jail.

DOING THE RIGHT THING

Shortly after his release, he got back in touch with his court-appointed attorney, asking how he could take care of his still-pending case in Park County. Griffin explained that he'd wound up homeless while on bond and returned to Arkansas to get help from his family.

"I know I didn't go about it all the right way and I sincerely apologize for that but I do want to do the right thing," he wrote in a February email included in court records.

However, Griffin later changed tack, representing himself and submitting a motion in August to "quash" his prosecution. He argued police illegally searched his vehicle and the drugs actually belonged to a passenger in his vehicle.

To bolster his case, Griffin included screenshots from responses he'd received from Google's AI assistant. (The assistant apparently indicated that Griffin's version of events raised "significant legal concerns" while recommending he consult an attorney.)

Griffin later submitted another filing in which he alleged he'd been sexually harassed by his "ineffective" attorney and complained that he'd lost his vehicle and possessions to his ex-girlfriend after his arrest. (The woman Griffin identified as his ex is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence in Montana; KTVQ reported that the woman hit and killed a different boyfriend with her vehicle in Billings in August 2023.)

STAYING OUT OF WYOMING 'FOREVER'

To resolve his case in Park County, Griffin suggested the judge sign a "one-hitter quitter form" he had prepared, which said Wyoming won't extradite him from Arkansas. Eichele countered that the defendant should be required to reappear before the district court before his motions are addressed.

At a hearing last week, Judge Simpson agreed that the case should effectively remain suspended until Griffin is served with the revised warrant — and the judge indicated that probably won't happen unless Griffin returns to the state on his own.

Though a warrant remains active, "the State of Wyoming, I don't believe, feels it necessary to retrieve you from Arkansas and bring you back to Wyoming," Simpson said.

Griffin, who appeared by phone, said little at the brief Oct. 10 hearing. In his earlier motions, however, he swore he would "never enter the great State of Wyoming ever again, nor make the same mistakes as to passengers and contraband, and to stay away from the types of influences that the defendant was around (the passenger)."

Griffin said the events from April 2023 were "once in a lifetime" — and that he'd learned a valuable lesson he would never forget.

Simpson noted that the Wyoming warrant remains active.

VEHICLES COLLIDE ON COULTER



First responders assist with an Oct. 13 crash at the intersection of Coulter Avenue and Bent Street. Powell police said the 2017 Nissan Rogue (at left) ran through a red light while heading north on Bent Street and was struck by the eastbound 2013 Ford F-250 (center). The drivers were checked out by EMS personnel at the scene and released, said Police Lt. Matt McCaslin, while the vehicles sustained relatively minor damage and remained operational. He said the driver of the Nissan, a 39-year-old Powell resident, was issued a warning for failing to stop at a red light. Tribune photo by Mark Davis

CORRECTION

A story in the Oct. 16 edition of the Tribune, "Cody High School teacher pleads case," misstated the number of text messages sent: 1,300 text messages were exchanged, the Tribune regrets this error.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 10

- Carl Alexander Pate and Stephanie Brianna O'Donnell
- Tyrel Wayne Olson and Britany Alexus Deherrera
- Kenneth Ray Moore and Vicki Lee Nunn
- Darren Carl Snapp and Ruth Christie Hyma
- Rusty Lee Sandry and Shelby Leigh Lind
- Joshua Dale Betts and Jasmine Nicole Smith
- Brandon Lewis Rase and Angela Marie McIntyre
- Harold Colten Charlson and Samantha Lynn Speck
- Stephen Patrick O'Donnell Jr. and Melanie Jane Decker
- Eric John Bratrud and Kaitlyn V. Lechner
- Steven Escobar and Emma Caroline Poteat Brewer
- Oliver Alvarado Ambrosio and Susie Buhler Redekopp

SHERIFF'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 26

- 10:45 p.m. A deer was reported dead at MP 4 on U.S. Highway 14A in the Cody area. Assistance provided.
- 10:48 p.m. A gray Chevy was reported to be swerving all over the road at County Road 2AB/U.S. Highway 14A in the Cody area. The vehicle was not located.

SEPTEMBER 27

- 9:11 a.m. Deputies assisted with a bull on the road on County Road 2ABN in the Cody area.
- 10:19 a.m. A caller on Road 10 in the Powell area said her ex husband is threatening her. A case was opened.
- 10:58 a.m. A caller on County Road 1AF in the Clark area believes someone stole his pistol about a month ago. A case was opened.
- 11:45 a.m. A dark blue 4-Runner reportedly almost ran into a propane tank and employee on U.S. Highway 14/16/20W in the Cody area. The vehicle was not located.
- 6:43 p.m. A deputy assisted a motorist at MP 57 on U.S. Highway 14/16/20E in the Cody area.
- 10:43 p.m. A caller at Rolling Hills Drive/County Road 2AB in the Cody area said a gray vehicle was swerving all over the road and into oncoming traffic. The vehicle was not located.

SHERIFF'S INCIDENTS

OCTOBER 12-18

- Abandoned Vehicle -----1
- Animal Bite -----2
- Animal-Lost -----1
- Animal Call-Other -----4
- Animals on Roadway -----2
- Animal-Stray -----3
- Assist Other Agency -----10
- Attempt to Locate -----1
- Child Welfare -----1
- Civil Attempt -----36
- Civil Dispute -----1
- Domestic -----2
- Extra Patrol Request -----5
- Followup -----4
- Fraud Related -----2
- Miscellaneous Assistance ----5
- Motorist Assist -----5
- Motor Vehicle Crash Property Damage -----3
- NCIC/WCJIN Related -----2
- Patrol-Extra Officer -----16
- Prisoner Transport -----1
- Property Damage -----1
- Property-Found -----1
- Protection Order -----2
- Reddi Report -----2
- Road Hazard/Blockage -----2
- Sexual Assault -----1
- Sex Offender Registration ----4
- Sex Offender Reporting -----2
- Suspicious Activity -----3
- Search Warrant -----1
- Theft -----1
- Threats -----3
- Traffic Complaint -----5
- Traffic Stop -----41
- Training Duty -----1

- Trespass Complaint -----3
- USFS Patrol -----1
- Vehicle Inspection -----46
- Warrant Service Attempt ----1
- Water Use Violation -----1
- Welfare Check -----3
- Total Calls -----232

POLICE REPORT

OCTOBER 2

- 7:51 p.m. A rottweiler mix dog was reported running at large on North Ingalls Street, and an officer took the dog to the animal shelter.
- 8:10 p.m., 11:17 p.m. Drivers were warned for failure to maintain lane and failure to activate headlights after traffic stops on East Coulter Avenue.

OCTOBER 3

- 9:41 a.m. A caller on East Adams Street reported a cat stuck in their fence, possibly with a broken leg. The cat escaped and may have gone into a neighbor's garage, but it was not located.
- 1:37 p.m. A two-vehicle fender bender with property damage was reported on North Bent Street and the case is under investigation.
- 3:21 p.m. A resident on North Everts Street reported being bitten by a cat and was currently at the hospital. The case was put under investigation.
- 4:05 p.m. After a traffic stop at South Cedarwood Drive/Avenue E a driver was cited for speeding.
- 5:27 p.m. A resident on East Seventh Street reported a car running outside a neighbor's house for the last three hours. Officers contacted the owner, who accidentally left the car running.
- 8:36 p.m. A heeler-type dog was reported running after cars in the road on South Fair Street but the dog was not located.

OCTOBER 4

- 10:49 a.m. A driver at South Mountain View Street/West Coulter Avenue was warned for expired registration and no proof of liability insurance.
- 3:53 p.m. Officers were called to check the welfare of a resident on North Cheyenne Street but were unable to make contact with the person.
- 11:02 p.m. A one-vehicle motor vehicle crash with unknown airbag deployment or injury was reported at West Coulter Avenue/South Fair Street. Kasi Cantrell, aka Wassink, 46, of Powell, was arrested for driving while under influence and transported to the Park County Detention Center.

OCTOBER 5

- 8:34 a.m. After a traffic stop at South Bernard Street/West Coulter Avenue, a driver was warned for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.
- 3:27 p.m. Officers attempted to serve a warrant on a person on East Seventh Street but reported negative contact.
- 4:57 p.m. An officer responded to a report that a tall person, believed to be a male, was walking around the caller's apartment on North Beckman Street, picking up something on the ground and then leaving. The officer did not locate anyone in the area.
- 6:32 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a fight between two males on East First Street. After investigation, a 19-year-old Powell resident was cited for underage drinking.
- 7:27 p.m. A white/red mountain bike was reported lost on North Beckman Street.
- 9:39 p.m. A caller reported a possibly intoxicated person in the area of North Day/East Second streets. An officer responded, but did not locate the described person.
- 9:44 p.m. Officers attempted to serve a warrant on a person on East Seventh Street, but reported negative contact.
- 9:53 p.m. Officers assisted in serving a trespass order on a person on North Ingalls Street.

OCTOBER 6

- 7:34 a.m. An officer responded

to a report of a barking dog on Avenue E, but the owner could not be contacted at the time. The incident is under investigation.

8:46 a.m. A caller on North Bernard Street complained about construction going on in their neighborhood. An officer contacted the caller and noted there were no criminal violations occurring.

9:44 a.m. After a traffic stop at Avenue E/South Mountain View Street, a driver was cited for speeding.

12:22 p.m. A set of keys was reported lost on North Clark Street. The set consisted of four or five keys on a key-chain, including two identical keys.

12:56 p.m. An officer responded to a complaint of a white semi failing to maintain lane coming to Powell from Garland. The officer located the vehicle, but did not observe any traffic violations.

2:07 p.m. A caller on East Third Street requested an officer check a suspicious situation involving a vehicle, and would call back with more information. The officer noted the person never called back.

2:10 p.m. Officers responded to a report of a silver or white vehicle with no back plate, swerving all over the road and speeding at North Division/West Seventh streets. The officers searched for the described vehicle but it was not located.

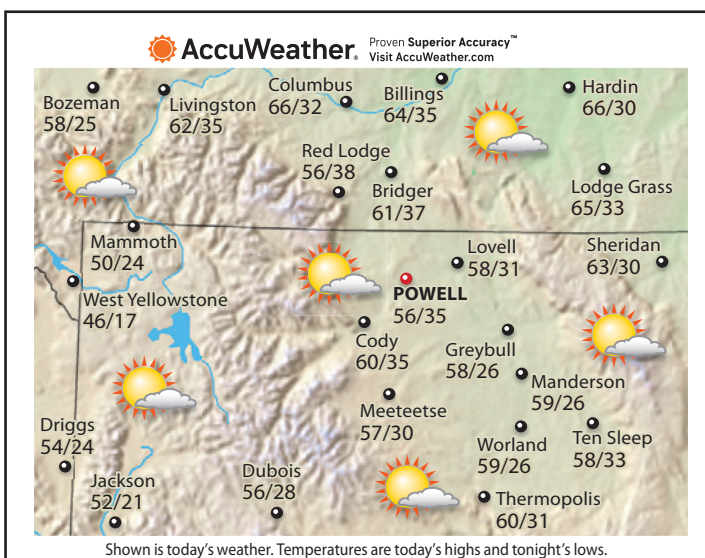
4:24 p.m. A caller on East Jefferson Street reported an adult male was yelling at their kids about five minutes previous. An officer contacted the male, who was listening to a podcast and repeating words out loud, not realizing anyone else was in the area. The male was advised to be more aware of his surroundings.

OCTOBER 7

- 8:24 a.m. A driver was cited for failure to yield to emergency vehicle after a traffic stop at East South/South Hamilton streets.
- 12:27 p.m. A caller on East Second Street reported a fraud where money was taken, and the case was put under investigation.
- 4:40 p.m. A possible fraud was reported on Oakwood Drive and the case was put under investigation.
- 7:32 p.m. After a traffic stop at North Gilbert Street/East Coulter Avenue, a driver was cited for suspended driver's license and warned for headlights required.
- 11:34 p.m. An officer initiated activity at South Edmonds Street/Avenue C where a vehicle was parked on the street. The occupant of the vehicle stated they were just packing the vehicle before leaving.
- 11:52 p.m. A driver was warned for headlights required after a traffic stop at East Coulter Avenue/North Hamilton Street.

OCTOBER 8

- 7:46 a.m. After a traffic stop at East Seventh Street/North Panther Boulevard, a driver was cited for speeding in a school zone.
- 8:33 a.m. A female Australian shepherd dog was reported lost in the Powell area after getting out of the back of a pickup truck returning home from hunting. The dog, merle in color, with a leather collar and no tags, was possibly limping on a front leg.
- 9:03 a.m. Medication was reported lost in the Powell area.
- 9:27 a.m. An officer contacted a caller who reported neighbors on North Hamilton Street harassing them. The officer advised the caller the events described were not criminal in nature.
- 10:40 a.m. An officer assisted in checking the welfare of a person at East Third/North Ingalls streets.



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5-day Forecast for Powell

Today
Mostly sunny
56° 35°

Wednesday
Times of clouds and sun
59° 41°

Thursday
Clouds followed by a brightening sky
60° 38°

Friday
Pleasant with intervals of clouds and sunshine
60° 42°

Saturday
Mostly cloudy
58° 34°

Weekly Almanac

Powell for the 7-day period ending Sunday
TEMPERATURES
High/low 64°/28°
Normal high/low 59°/30°
Average temperature 40.9°
Normal average temperature 44.5°
PRECIPITATION
Total for the week 0.16"
Month to date 0.86"
Normal month to date 0.41"
Year to date 6.96"
Snowfall for the week Trace"
Snowfall month to date Trace"
Snowfall season to date Trace"

Sun and Moon

Sunrise/Sunset 7:39am/6:20pm
Moonrise/Moonset 7:56am/6:06pm

New First Full Last
Oct 21 Oct 29 Nov 5 Nov 11

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2025

The State

| City | Today Hi/Lo/W | City | Today Hi/Lo/W |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Buffalo | 59/37/s | Jeffrey City | 58/34/s |
| Casper | 59/31/s | Kirby | 60/27/s |
| Cheyenne | 64/34/s | Laramie | 61/28/s |
| Gillette | 60/33/s | Rawlins | 57/31/s |
| Green River | 60/31/s | Rock Springs | 56/33/s |
| Greybull | 58/26/s | Shoshoni | 60/31/s |

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

What's Happening at the Senior Center:

Line Dancing

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Coffee & Cinnamon Rolls

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Thursday, October 23 PARMESAN CHICKEN, pasta, Italian veggies, carrot, celery salad, WW breadstick and fruity Jello.

Friday, October 24 SPAGHETTI with meat sauce, Key Largo vegetable, salad, pears and WW breadstick.

Saturday, October 25* MACARONI AND CHEESE with ham, steamed broccoli, salad, fruit and WW roll.

Monday, October 27 CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH on a croissant, 3 bean salad, fruit and chips.

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Above, Peyton Sullivan is held up by Jailee Stenulson (left) and Joriana Hine as the Panther cheer team showed off their pyramids to finish the show.

At right, Rowan Diaz (left-center) and Brady Harvey (right-center) hold up Noah Young to cheer on Panther volleyball during the victory over Worland on Thursday.

Far right, the PHS dance and cheer teams combined efforts to put on a halftime show during the Panther football game against Green River on Oct. 10. From left: Hagen Bradish, Ella Rasmussen (behind), Emma Christopherson, Brooke Talmadge, Frida Klarksov Reksten, Nyah Johnson and Fae McNair.



PANTHER PRIDE

Alexis Scott (left) and Alyson Morrow (center right) get ready to lift up Emma Christopherson while McKinzee Riedinger performs a flip as the halftime show neared its finale. Tribune photos by Seth Romssa



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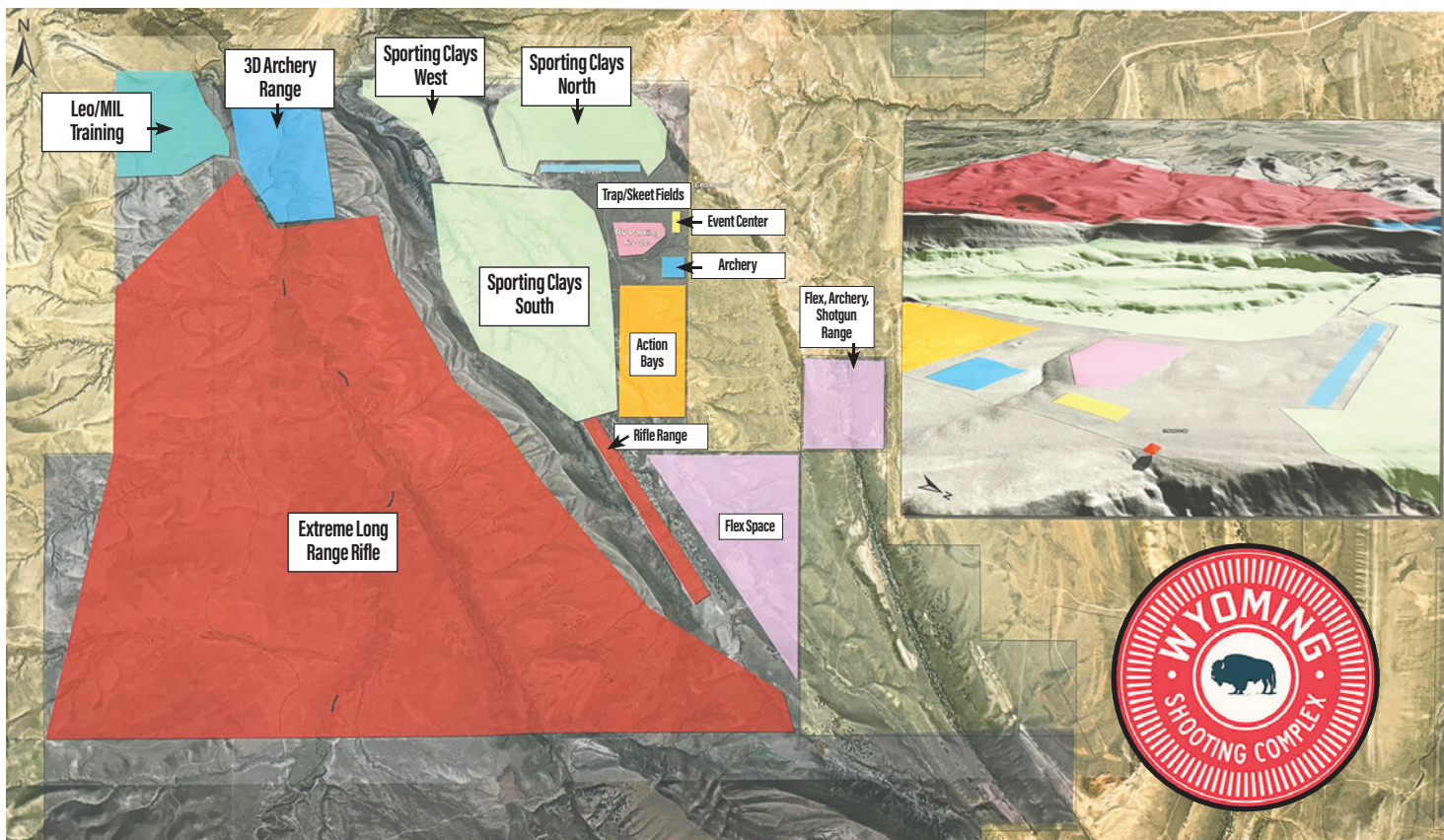
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POWELL TRIBUNE

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The conceptual design for the Wyoming State Shooting Complex includes space for a variety of disciplines capped off by the huge amount of space set aside for the complex's signature long range shooting area.

Complex: 'We have target capability out past 2,000 yards. We have plenty of space to do that'

Continued from Page 1

wildlife impacts during design, construction and future operations is a high priority for us," Ross said. "Along with the efforts to preserve the site's Wyoming landscape and native vegetation, both for wildlife and grazing purposes, we anticipate continuing refining the site design and then constructing water, electrical and complex road arteries throughout this winter." The \$19.835 million price tag includes building site, design, engineering, complex construction, contingency monies, startup working capital and reserves. The board recently received \$10 million from the state and legislators are working to get another \$5.5 million in the next session. The rest is planned to come from organizations, sponsorships and fundraising.

"This is a very worthy project, but with that said, we have our eyes wide open," Ross said. "Accomplishing a project of this magnitude takes much hard work and state and community collaboration." The site will feature an events center, which board member Danny Michael said will include space for 500-700 people as requested by the state, along with classroom space for educational opportunities and potentially even space for shooting small bore and archery inside, which could come in handy in

the winter months. Michael said the goal is to have better facilities than are seen at many competitive shoots. "We're envisioning a higher standard for our facility," he said. "We want this to have nice amenities to be fully modern, fit in with the space, but we envision, you know, a very modern facility ... we want to be able to host full service events." Beyond the building is roughly 2,000 acres of space to handle the many disciplines, which Ross said they're trying to bal-

ance, from shotgun and rifle to archery. But what the board wants to offer for the range south of Cody that few others can match is the long range opportunities in a scenic location. Board member Jim Saubier said the standard rifle range will go out to at least 1,000 yards and be protected from the wind on both sides by ridges that provide natural buffers as well as a backdrop. And then nearly half of the acreage reserved for disciplines is set aside for extreme long range shooting. "We have target capability out past 2,000 yards," Saubier said. "We have plenty of space to do that," adding that in some places they can reach 3,000 yards, "which, you know, is as far as any place in the country that I'm aware of."

"We want this to have nice amenities to be fully modern, fit in with the space, but we envision, you know, a very modern facility ... we want to be able to host full service events."

Danny Michael
Board member

'Hello Maggie!' Animator wins lifetime achievement award

Willie Ito, who was incarcerated as a child at the Topaz, Utah, incarceration site for Japanese Americans during World War II, received a lifetime achievement award for his career in animation from the SPARK ANIMATION festival in Vancouver, British Columbia, last month.



Willie Ito with animation historian Mindy Johnson at the SPARK ANIMATION festival. Courtesy photo

After returning to California after World War II, Ito began an animation career that included working for the Walt Disney Co., Hanna Barbera and Warner Brothers. His iconic images dominated the Disney classic Lady and the Tramp and multiple other cartoons.

Most recently, Ito created the images for "Hello Maggie!," an animated short adapted from the memoir by Shigeru Yabu, who was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain, Wyoming, incarceration site during World War II. Yabu, an emeritus board member of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, wrote the text for "Hello Maggie!" and Ito provided the images.

Hello Maggie! was funded by a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

The SPARK ANIMATION festival noted Ito's 70-year career that includes "Lady and the Tramp;" to "What's Opera Doc" with the Chuck Jones unit at Warner Bros.; Bob Clampett's "Beany & Cecil;" to Hanna-Barbera's Saturday morning stars of "The Flintstones," "The Jetsons," "Scooby Doo" and more.

In July, Ito appeared at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, where "Hello Maggie!" celebrated its world premiere. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is entering "Hello Maggie!" in a series of film festivals to be held around the world.

Federal employees receive free admission during shutdown

Effectively immediately, all federal employees will enjoy free admission to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center for the duration of the government shutdown. Free admission also applies to family members of federal employees living in the same household.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, in a release, announced it wants to express its solidarity with the federal employees who work in the Wyoming-Montana area as well as those around the country.

By design, the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and its facilities are part of the independent Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. The foundation's founders wanted to tell the story of the Japanese American incarceration without the involvement of the government that created the incarceration in the first place.

This independence also means that the center stays open if the federal government closes. That includes the Mineta-Simpson Institute, which was created to help perpetuate the values shown in public life by Secretary Norman Mineta and Sen. Alan Simpson, who first met as Boy Scouts at Heart Mountain during World War II.

"Mineta, a Democrat from California, and Simpson, a Republican from Wyoming, mastered the art of bipartisan comity and compromise during their extensive tenures in Congress and the Cabinet of two presidents," the foundation said in the release. "We encourage members of Congress of both parties to follow their example."



A light post outside the original barracks at the site of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. Photo courtesy Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation

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We are also seeking volunteers. From walking dogs and socializing cats to cleaning, administrative tasks, and outreach, PCAS relies on everyday heroes to keep its doors open and its animals thriving. Our Volunteer Orientation class is offered the first Wednesday of every month.

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PHS runners ready for state

CANCELED CONFERENCE MEET GIVES TEAM EXTRA REST

BY SETH ROMSA
Tribune sports reporter

After a successful home meet on Oct. 10 the Powell Panther cross country team was set to head to the conference meet in Lander on Thursday, but following road cancellations due to weather and a closure of the race location the Panthers had an extra week off to prepare for the state meet this weekend in Cheyenne.

Powell makes the long trek to the capital on Saturday for the cross country championships at the Little America Golf Course.

Participating for the girls' team will be Karee Cooley, Shelby Zickefoose, Anyston Keller, Melissa Merritt, Kaytee George, Eleasah Horsley and Kara Sanders, while Landyn Horsley will be the alternate.

"In the girls' team race, Cody has proven all year that they are the team to beat," coach Ashley Hildebrand said. "We know that anything can happen at state and after coming within two points of them at our home meet, our girls are excited and ready to race this weekend."

"We know that anything can happen at state and after coming within two points of them at our home meet, our girls are excited and ready to race this weekend."

Ashley Hildebrand
Coach

"We are looking forward to running in Cheyenne," she said. "We are running on the same course that we did last year, so most of our runners are familiar with it and ran really well last year. We will also preview the course on Friday afternoon to get a feel for it."

Hildebrand said she and the coaching staff are confident in the returning athlete's abilities, while the younger runners continue to improve with each passing race.

"We are confident that our returning state competitors will be able to improve upon what they did last year coming off of another year of racing experience," Hildebrand said. "Our younger runners keep getting better and better, and we look to them to race well as they have gained experience and confidence throughout the season."

Races start at 10:30 a.m. with the 4A boys and will go in descending order of classes, as the 3A boys are scheduled for an 11 a.m. race start and the girls are scheduled for a 12:30 p.m. start.

Those participating for the boys' team will be Korbyn Warren, Colin Walker, Nathan Varian, Channing Wenzel, Michael Stensing, Alex Werner and Troy Cheatham, while Ben Smith will be the alternate.

"Our boys' team has started putting up some really good times in the last few weeks and we think they are capable of being in the hunt for a trophy," Hildebrand said.

This will be the third consecutive year the state meet will be held in Cheyenne and the second straight year at the Little America Golf Course. Hildebrand is excited for the team to get out on the course once again.



The Powell Panthers celebrate after a late point by Autumn Kidd (1) against the Warriors on Thursday to help Powell secure a 3-1 victory. From left: Anai Torres, Kelsey Marchant (behind), Kidd, Maddie Valdez (behind), Ava Brewer, Ava Teten, Hali Hancock and Sam Edgell. Tribune photo by Seth Romsa

Panthers push past Warriors

HEAD TO CODY TODAY

BY SETH ROMSA
Tribune sports reporter

Returning home after a busy weekend at the conference duals, the Powell Panther volleyball team battled with a new energy on Thursday, defeating Worland 3-1 in an important 3A West matchup.

POWELL 3, WORLAND 1

Back home for a quick pit stop Thursday the Panthers (16-13-1 overall, 2-6 3A West) matched up with the Warriors (12-15-2 overall, 2-7 3A West) looking for an important win towards their postseason push.

Early on both teams exchanged points back and forth, with the Panthers holding a slight edge up 12-11 midway through the first set.

Worland took the lead and pulled ahead to a 15-12 advantage, before the Panthers rallied for four straight of their own and took the lead 16-15 on a Kindyle Floy kill and forced a timeout by the visitors.

The Warriors regained the lead at 18-17 before Powell pushed ahead again at 21-19 and forced a second Warrior timeout.

Powell didn't allow the visitors to regain the lead, and held on for a 25-23 win finished off by a Leah Graham kill.

In the second set the Panthers pushed ahead early, but were matched by the Warriors who came

back to tie the match at 11.

Powell responded, rebuilding its lead and making it 15-11 on another Floy kill to force a timeout by the visitors.

Graham helped extend the Panther advantage on another kill, as Powell continued pressing.

The Panthers finished out the set with a 25-15 win to take a 2-0 lead.

"I feel like we were able to get a good start. I liked the energy our team had even prior to

warmups," coach Anna Flitner said. "I am hoping that we can continue that this week and into the postseason."

Seeking their first three set sweep since Aug. 30, the Panthers went point for point again until the two teams were tied at 11.

Worland pushed ahead and built a 16-12 advantage after a block, forcing a Powell timeout.

That lead expanded to 20-14, forcing another Panther timeout after an ace.

Powell tightened the scoreline to end the set, but the Panthers fell 25-19.

The fourth set continued the trend, with the Panthers holding the advantage this time around with a 15-13 lead after a hit out by the Warriors.

Worland fought back and took an 18-16 lead on an ace, before the Panthers rallied and tied the score at 20 on a Kaedenze Carter ace.

See Volleyball, Page 12 >



Lincoln Crawford (right) runs away from a Bronc defender as Crawford again put up strong rushing stats with 205 yards and two touchdowns. Photo courtesy Pearl Spurlock, Jackson Hole News and Guide

PANTHER FOOTBALL FALLS IN JACKSON

HOST EVANSTON FRIDAY

BY SETH ROMSA
Tribune sports reporter

The young Powell Panther football team continued to show strides offensively in a 54-20 loss to Jackson, tying a season high in points but coming up short defensively in the defeat.

JACKSON 54, POWELL 20

Still searching for their first win of the season the Panthers (0-8 overall, 0-4 3A West) made the trip to Jackson to take on the Broncs (6-2 overall, 3-1 3A West).

Jackson got on the board first on a 1-yard touchdown pass, making it 6-0 with 8:17 left in the first quarter after a failed 2-point conversion.

On its next drive the Panthers threw an interception, but immediately got the ball back when Braxton Nelson intercepted the next pass in the end zone for a touch-back.

Powell then drove down the field and scored a touchdown of its own, as Lincoln Crawford raced towards the end zone from 18 yards out and made it a 7-6 game after an extra point — the first lead of the season for the Panthers.

"The first quarter was great," coach Chase Kistler said. Jackson responded, scoring

on a 26-yard pass to regain the lead just before the end of the quarter.

Powell fumbled on its next possession, and the Broncs took advantage early in the second with a 34-yard touchdown pass.

"Their two receivers are seniors, and they're fast," Kistler said. "They've got some great speed, and their quarterback was very accurate on the long ball and they committed to it. There were times that they were just throwing fade after fade and coming right back to

"I was really impressed, and we only had one penalty for 10 yards offensively. I saw a huge improvement."

Chase Kistler
Coach

See Football, Page 11 >

PHS swimming adds new qualifier

HOST CONFERENCE MEET THIS WEEKEND

BY SETH ROMSA
Tribune sports reporter

Swimming in their home pool paid off for the Powell Panthers, as the hosts finished third in a home quad while adding one new qualifier for the state meet.

That new qualifier came in the form of Brooke Brown, who finished third in the 100 butterfly in a time of 1 minute, 12.7 seconds.

"It was wonderful to see Brooke earn her state qualification time in the 100 butterfly," coach Bob Smartt said. "The week before at the Buffalo meet she was 1/10 of a second off the standard. She left absolutely no doubt at our home meet blasting the qualification time by 3.6 seconds."

Brown was also close to qualifying for the 100 backstroke, finishing sixth with a time of 1:15.65, just .05 seconds away from qualifying in that event.

"Brooke was our most improved athlete last year and she's continued to work very hard in practice, which has enabled her to swim so well in competition," Smartt said.

In the home quad the Panthers had one event winner, as Kaitlin Diver took the top spot in the 200 IM in 2:27.2 and the 100 fly in 1:04.96.

Patricia Christensen added a pair of second place finishes, taking second in the 200 free in 2:10.13 and the 100 back in 1:06.59.

Additional top eight finishes included Tempie Day, who took third in the 500 free (6:49.11); Lynea Christensen took fourth in the 200 free (2:19.48) and fifth in diving (170.25); Sophie Erkkila placed sixth in the 100 breaststroke (1:32.19); Daisy

Carpenter took seventh in the 100 free (1:07.28); Autumn Weckler placed seventh in the 500 free (8:10.92); Meredyth Giltner was seventh in the 100 breast (1:41.49); Claire Hultgren was eighth in the 100 free (1:11.14) and Leah Sockey was eighth in the 500 free (8:34.83).

"This week was

"This week was a season high for us with 18 personal bests."

Bob Smartt
Coach

a season high for us with 18 personal bests," Smartt said. "We have a fast pool and the athletes usually respond well to swimming at home. They're more comfortable with the starting blocks and the turns at our home pool. Also, long bus trips can be tiresome, so it's always nice to compete at home."

Powell had two relay teams also place second, as the team of Carpenter, Patricia Christensen, Diver and Brown took

See Swimming, Page 11 >



Brooke Brown rises out of the water during the 100 butterfly. Brown finished third in the event and secured a spot at the state meet in just a few weeks in Laramie. Tribune photo by Seth Romsa

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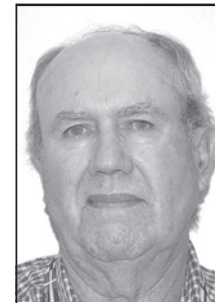
Nan Nofzinger
Route Driver



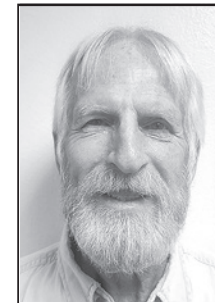
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Sub Driver



Melissa DeNagel
Sub Driver



Paul Vibe
Sub Driver



Lloyd Timmons
Sub Driver



Peggy Cheathan
Route Driver



Larry Gaisford
Route Driver



Tammy Kotar
Bus Aide



Dakota Kenney
Route Driver



Scott McKenzie
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Football: Panthers officially eliminated from postseason

Continued from Page 9 ▶

it until they actually completed it.”

Jackson added two more scores in the second quarter from 1 yard and then 68 yards out just before the halftime break as the Broncos led 33-6 going into the break.

“It was a good start, and then we just had that moment of, ‘oh no’ in the second quarter. Next thing you know we’re down 26-7 after only a few minutes of gameplay,” Kistler said.

In the third quarter the Broncos scored a touchdown on their opening drive with an 18-yard pass, before the Panthers finally got on the board again.

Tanner Seifert scored on a 3-yard quarterback keeper on a rollout to make it 40-14 with 3:43 left in the third.

Jackson quickly responded with a 47-yard touchdown pass, before Powell again started to drive.

The Panthers held the ball until the start of the fourth, before a turnover on downs started the final frame.

Powell got the ball back on a fumble recovery on the next play, and Crawford raced into the end zone from 15 yards out to make it 47-20 after a missed extra point.

Jackson got its final touchdown on a 31-yard rush with 7:47 left in the game to make the final score 54-20.

“We really improved big time offensively, had over 200 yards rushing and 175 yards passing, we scored 20 points and we left two opportunities out on the field that we were in scoring range that we left points out there,” Kistler said. “I was really impressed, and we only had one penalty for 10 yards offensively. I saw a huge improvement. Defensively, we’re still doing a great job of starting to stop the run, but our secondary gave up some big plays which hurts us in the long run.”

Crawford finished with 205 yards on the ground on 32 carries, while Seifert went 9-23 through the air for 171 yards.

Breckyn Kobbé hauled in two passes for 62 yards to lead Powell, while Nelson led with five tackles, three solo, along-

side Pratt Wambeke who also had five tackles, three solo.

FINAL GAME FRIDAY

With the loss to Jackson on Friday Powell was officially eliminated from postseason contention, leaving the Panthers hoping to end the season on a high note with a game against the visiting Evanston Red Devils (1-7 overall, 0-4 3A West) at 6 p.m. Friday.

“I just want our guys to play a complete game where offensively we move the ball and pick up first downs and put points on the board. And defensively, we stop their run,” Kistler said. “I want to see us get better for the last game, send our seniors out on a great note with a win and just play a complete game. I know we’ve seen bits and pieces of it, now we just want to play a whole four quarters.”



Braxton Nelson extends out to try and haul in a pass against a Jackson defender. Nelson and the Panthers host Evanston this Friday at 6 p.m. Photo courtesy Pearl Spurlock, Jackson Hole News and Guide

JACKSON 54, POWELL 20

Total tackles then solo tackles in ()

Passing — Tanner Seifert 9-23, 171 yards, 1 interception; Karcher Foley 1-2, 3 yards

Rushing — Lincoln Crawford 32-205, 2 touchdowns; Tyler Wenzel, 2-13; Rowan Diaz 1-0; Karcher Foley 6 for negative 1 yards; Tanner Seifert 2 for negative 11 yards, 1 touchdown

Receiving — Breckyn Kobbé 2-62, Braxton Nelson 2-50, Rowan Diaz 3-22, Broc Frank 2-19, Tyler Wenzel 1-21

Tackles — Braxton Nelson 5 (3), Pratt Wambeke 5 (3), Broc Frank 4 (1), Kamea Wisniewski 3, Karcher Foley 3, Dominik Bieber 3 (1), Lincoln Crawford 3 (1), Tyler Wenzel 3 (2), Brayden Benander 3 (2), Gabe McMillin 2 (1), Connor Farwell 2, Sean Lowe 1, Jonathan Hine 1, Jacob Christofalos 1, Weston Hull 1

Pass breakups — Tanner Seifert 1

Forced fumbles — Sean Lowe 1

Fumble Recoveries — Sean Lowe 1

Interceptions — Braxton Nelson 1

Swimming: Hope to show well against No. 3 seed Douglas

Continued from Page 9 ▶

second in the 200 medley relay (2:10.95) and the team of the Christensen sisters, Diver and Carpenter took second in the 400 free relay (4:13.49).

Powell was third as a team in points with 235 just ahead of Worland with 223, while Buffalo ran away with the team title with 355 and Cody was second with 291.

The Panthers will have two more chances to add qualifiers to their state team, the Absaroka Conference meet this weekend at home as well as the Last Chance Qualifier in Cody next Tuesday, Oct. 28.

“It was wonderful to see Brooke earn her state qualification time in the 100 butterfly.”

Bob Smartt
Coach

The conference meet this weekend is scheduled for a 2:30 p.m. start on Friday before gearing back up for finals at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Powell will be welcoming in Buffalo, Cody, Worland, Douglas and Newcastle for the meet.

“Buffalo should be a big favorite to win our conference meet, Cody will be the second seed,” Smartt said. “Douglas comes into the meet as the third seed, we would like to show well against Douglas.”



Panther diving coach Heather Christensen celebrates with Brooke Brown after she qualified for the state meet in the 100 butterfly, while PHS student Curtis Muecke (right) also shows his excitement after being a timer for Brown’s qualification. Tribune photo by Seth Rommsa

HOME QUAD

*Denotes state qualifying mark
Team scores — 1. Buffalo 355, 2. Cody 291, 3. Powell 235, 4. Worland 223
200 medley relay — 2. Daisy Carpenter, Patricia Christensen, Kaitlin Diver and Brooke Brown 2:10.95; 8. April Weckler, Lilly Pittman, Autumn Weckler and Meredyth Giltner 2:47.87
200 free — 2. Patricia Christensen 2:10.13*, 4. Lynea Christensen 2:19.48*, 9. Claire Hultgren 2:38.81, 11. Leah Sockey 3:17.07
200 IM — 1. Kaitlin Diver 2:27.2*

50 free — 9. Daisy Carpenter 31.11, 13. April Weckler 34.25, 15. Autumn Weckler 36.83
1-meter diving (six dives) — 5. Lynea Christensen 170.25*
100 fly — 1. Kaitlin Diver 1:04.96*, 3. Brooke Brown 1:12.7*, 9. Baylee Kraft 1:26.71
100 free — 7. Daisy Carpenter 1:07.28, 8. Claire Hultgren 1:11.14, 10. Lilly Pittman 1:11.88, 16. Sophie Erkkila 1:24.34, 17. Meredyth Giltner 1:27.78
500 free — 3. Tempie Day 6:49.11, 7. Autumn Weckler 8:10.92, 8. Leah Sockey 8:34.83

100 back — 2. Patricia Christensen 1:06.59*, 6. Brooke Brown 1:15.65, 9. Baylee Kraft 1:21.05, 10. Lilly Pittman 1:26.71
100 breast — 6. Sophie Erkkila 1:32.19, 7. Meredyth Giltner 1:41.49, 9. April Weckler 1:46.57
400 free relay — 2. Kaitlin Diver, Lynea Christensen, Patricia Christensen and Daisy Carpenter 4:13.49; 6. Baylee Kraft, Claire Hultgren, Brooke Brown and Tempie Day 5:10.25; 7. Lilly Pittman, Leah Sockey, April Weckler and Meredyth Giltner 5:50.12



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INSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS ARE RISING & FRONTIER COMMUNITIES ARE FEELING THE STRAIN

In Wyoming and other frontier states, rising health insurance premiums are hitting harder than ever. With fewer providers, limited competition, and long travel times to care, rural families, ranchers, and small-town workers face unique challenges.

In August of this year, Mountain Health Co-op announced it was leaving the Wyoming insurance market effective January 1, 2026. Some of their reasons for exiting the market was a combination of high cost of care; rural challenges such as a limited network and insureds. In addition, they mentioned the loss of federal support through subsidies, also known as the Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC).

What’s Driving the Increase? Health insurance premiums are rising across the country, but rural and frontier states are seeing sharper spikes. Several key factors are contributing:

- Limited competition: In many Wyoming counties, only one or two insurers offer plans, reducing consumer choice and driving up prices.
- High medical costs: Rural hospitals often operate with fewer resources and higher per-patient costs, which insurers pass on to consumers.
- Provider shortages: Fewer doctors and specialists mean more out-of-network care, leading to increased costs.
- Policy shifts: Changes in federal and state healthcare policy—such as adjustments to subsidies—can disproportionately affect rural residents.

The Impact on Our Communities: The rising cost of coverage isn’t just a number—it’s a daily reality for many Wyomingites:

- Families may skip preventive care or delay treatment due to unaffordable premiums and deductibles.
- Small businesses struggle to offer competitive health benefits, making it harder to attract and retain workers.



- Seniors and chronically ill residents face higher out-of-pocket costs, especially when forced to travel long distances for care.
 - Young adults and seasonal workers often fall through the cracks, unable to afford coverage or qualify for assistance.
- What You Can Do: While systemic change is needed, there are steps individuals and communities can take now:
- Compare plans carefully during open enrollment at Healthcare.gov or take the moment to read your current plan completely.
 - Check for subsidies and rural-specific programs, including telehealth support and sliding-scale clinics.

- Reach out locally: Your county health department or insurance navigator can help you understand your options.
- Need help understanding your health insurance options? You’re not alone. There are trusted resources available to guide you through the process:
- Enroll Wyoming (enrollwyo.org) offers free, expert assistance to help you explore, renew, or review your health care coverage. Their trained Navigators can walk you through your choices and ensure you understand your options.
 - Wyoming Department of Insurance provides valuable insights to help you make informed decisions. While they can’t rec-

- ommend specific plans, they can offer key considerations for selecting coverage and help you locate licensed agents in your area.
 - Links that can provide assistance:
 - o <https://content.naic.org/glossary-insurance-terms>
 - o <https://www.healthcare.gov/have-job-based-coverage/change-to-marketplace-plan/>
 - o <https://content.naic.org/article/not-all-products-are-health-insurance-health-care-sharing-ministries-discount-plans-and-risk-sharing>
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PHS coach Anna Flitner gives instructions to the Panthers during an early set against Worland, as the Panthers head into a challenging final week of the regular season.



Peyton Ott (12) high fives Kaedenze Carter after Ott came on in the fourth set and recorded two kills for the Panthers in their 3-1 win over Worland. Tribune photos by Seth Romssa

Volleyball: 'Most games at regionals will be a tough battle'

Continued from Page 9

"I think we did a much better job of controlling things on our side of the net during the match and our serves definitely helped with that," Flitner said.

Autumn Kidd's block gave Powell the lead, and a rotational error on the Warriors made it 22-20 and forced a timeout by the visitors.

Kidd once again pushed the Panthers closer to a win with a kill to make it 24-20 and force another timeout, and Powell finished with a 25-20 win after four hits by the Warriors.

Carter led the Panthers with 14 kills, 10 aces and added 15 digs. Graham led with 31 assists and added 12 digs, while Ava

Teten led overall with 16 digs. Floy also had 10 digs for the Panthers.

CHALLENGING FINAL WEEK

Powell now heads into the final week of the regular season, preparing for a number of challenges before the regional tournament next weekend in Pinedale.

The first test happens today (Tuesday) when the Panthers head on the road for a matchup against the Cody Fillies (28-2 overall, 8-0 3A West) at 6 p.m., before hosting Lovell (21-5-2 overall, 6-3 3A West) at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

"I think that our last regular season week will be a big challenge for us which will be nice to

prepare us for regionals," Flitner said. "The teams are all pretty close on this side and I think most games at regionals will be a tough battle for all teams."

POWELL 3, WORLAND 1

(25-23, 25-15, 19-25, 25-20)

Total blocks then solo blocks in ()

Kills — Kaedenze Carter 14, Hali Hancock 8, Autumn Kidd 6, Kindyle Floy 6, Ava Brewer 6, Leah Graham 3, Ava Teten 2, Peyton Ott

Assists — Leah Graham 31, Kindyle Floy 5, Abigail Visocky 2

Digs — Ava Teten 16, Kaedenze Carter 15, Leah Graham 12, Kindyle Floy 10, Abigail Visocky 6, Autumn Kidd 2, Ava Brewer 1, Hali Hancock 1

Blocks — Autumn Kidd 1, Kindyle Floy 1, Hali Hancock 1, Kaedenze Carter .5, Ava Brewer .5

Aces — Kaedenze Carter 10, Ava Teten 4, Kindyle Floy 1, Leah Graham 1

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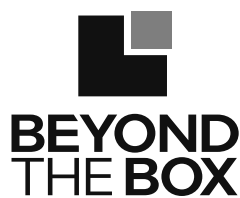
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Announcements

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Personals

NORMAL IS A BORE We're Lobster Thermidor! MikesNewsNet.com (84-84PT)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUP. Starting Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. and will continue to meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Crisis Intervention Services, 335 N. Gilbert St. For more information or to sign up, please email emily@cis-park.org or call 307-754-7959.

(73TF)
FAMILIES LIVING WITH PARKINSON'S will be meeting at 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at Rocky Mountain Manor basement, elevator available. Caregivers and patients are both welcome. Coffee and refreshments served. For information call 307-899-6093.

(08TFFT)
DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP - Demential specialists lend an experienced ear to offer you hope, humor, validation and coping strategies for living or working with someone with memory loss. Caregivers, family and friends are welcome! Third Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. at the Park County Library, 1500 Heart Mountain St, Cody. For more information and to RSVP call 406-281-8455.

(41TFFT)
POWELL AL-ANON is a fellowship of friends and families of alcoholics which meets on Tues. at noon and Wed. at 7:00 p.m., 146 S. Bent, Big Horn Enterprises north door. For more information call 754-4231 or 271-2556 www.wyomingal-anon.org

(75TFFT)
WELCOME TO POWELL! If you're new to the area, you get a FREE Park County Welcome Basket packed full of local business information, coupons, freebies, and more! Send an email to haleyj@wyomingwelcome.com or call/contact Haley Jones at 406-559-0355 for info on where to pick up your Park County Welcome Basket. You can also find a list of distributors on our Facebook page @ParkCountyWelcomeBaskets (45TFFT)

Personals

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EARN your high school equivalency (formerly GED)? We can help! For more information, call the Northwest College Adult Education Program at 307-754-6280. (15TFFT)

CODY OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS meets Thursdays at 11 a.m. at 725 19th Street, Cody. 12 step meeting for food addiction. Call 307-272-7211. (22TFFT)

POWELL VALLEY LOAVES and Fishes local food bank, Park County Annex, 109 West 14th St. Food distributed Monday thru Friday, 9-11:30 a.m. Please call for appointment, 307-754-8800. All non perishable, commercially processed food accepted. Please leave donations at local churches or receptacle barrels at local grocery stores. (09TFFT)

AMERICAN LEGION MEETING, 7 p.m., first Tuesday of every month at Post 26. (07TFFT)

SAL - SONS OF AMERICAN Legion meeting, 7 p.m., last Tuesday of every month at Post 26. (07TFFT)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS in Powell is meeting at 146 S. Bent St., Powell, Tues., Thurs. & Sun. at 7 pm and Sat. at 10 a.m. Virtual meeting information can also be accessed at urmna.org and virtual-na.org Call 307-213-9434 for more info. (21TFFT)

CODY NA MEETINGS - M,W,F at 7 p.m., 825 Simpson Ave., (Christ Episcopal Church). Virtual meeting information can be accessed at urmna.org and virtual-na.org Call 307-213-9434 for more info. (24TFThursT)

NA MEETS IN LOVELL, Mondays and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at 1141 Shoshone Ave., Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. Call 307-213-9434 for more info. (16TFFT)

AA MEETINGS, 146 S. Bent St., use north door in parking lot, all closed meetings, Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat., at 7 p.m. Women's AA meeting Sunday at 9 a.m. Open meetings last Monday and last Friday of the month. Call 307-250-2594 for further info. (103TFFT)

POWELL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meetings: Do you think you are an alcoholic? Meetings are Mondays at noon, at 674 N. Absaroka, Newman Center. Use the Seventh Street door. Call 307-272-4529 or 208-290-8460. (97TFFT)

BYRON AA, 35 S. Pryor St., Basement of Byron City Hall, Fridays, 7-8 p.m. (56TFFT)

Personals

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU know need help overcoming a problem with alcohol? AA Twelve Steps for Christians meets Thursdays 7-8 PM, 215 N. Ferris. Call 254-2283 for more information. (46TFFT)

"OUR KIDS" A SUPPORT GROUP for parents/guardians of children with special needs. 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, call for location. Free child care provided. For information contact: Brandon Douglas 254-2273, or Adrienne Harvey 754-2864. (85TFFT)

TOPS - TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY - Powell Chapter 0169 is meeting weekly on Thursdays at the Rebekahs & Oddfellows Lodge building, at 276 S. Douglas St., Powell. Weigh ins start at 5 p.m. with meetings following at 5:15. For more information contact 1-800-932-8677. (37TFFT)

PREGNANT? NOW WHAT? Free and confidential pregnancy medical clinic specializing in pregnancy diagnosis, options counseling, education and resources. Serenity Pregnancy Resource Center (307) 271-7166 in Powell. (61TFFT)

POST ABORTION HEALING GROUPS, Serenity PRC (307) 213-5025 (Cody). (52TFFT)

HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED? A free support group, "Hope and Healing," is held the first Tuesday of every month at YBHC, 2538 Bighorn Ave. in Cody from 6 to 7:30 pm. Call 587-2197. (17TFFT)

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS FOR children and adults are held at the Public Health Office at the Powell Annex. For appointment call 307-754-8870. (46TFFT)

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS of Wyoming is looking for adult mentors for youth between the ages of 5 and 17. If you would like to make a difference in a child's life, call (307) 213-3263 for more information. (98TFFT)

PARENTS WITH children who have developmental disabilities, needing information, support, or help of any kind, please contact Betty Carmon, Parent Coordinator, 754-3430. (42TFFT)

PREGNANT? WHAT am I going to do? How can I be sure I am pregnant? How should I tell my family? Can I continue school?...keep my job? Where can I live until my baby is born? Call Care Net of Billings Woman Clinic at 406-256-7038. Give life a chance and we'll help you every step of the way. (83TFFT)

Personals

ARE YOU PREGNANT and planning to breast-feed? If you want information or have concerns about breastfeeding, please call Park County Public Health at 307-754-8870. (37TFFT)

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES is your source of help with family violence and sexual assault. All services are free and confidential. Call toll free, 24 hrs 877-864-9688. (72TFFT)

Help Wanted

Join the Northwest College Team Make a Difference Every Day! Northwest College is looking for motivated, community-focused individuals to help shape the future of our students. Current openings include:

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At Northwest College, we take pride in fostering a supportive, student-centered environment where your work truly matters. If you're ready to join a team that values collaboration, growth, and community impact, we want to hear from you! Explore opportunities and apply today: <https://nwc.edu/jobs> EOE. (53fT)

BHB(84-87CT)

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BHB(82-85CT)

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WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR
Shoshone Municipal Pipeline is looking for a motivated and reliable individual to join our team as a Water Treatment Plant Operator in Cody, Wyoming. Preference will be given to licensed water operators, but entry-level applicants are welcome to apply. For a more complete job description and how to apply, please visit: www.smpwater.com

The Powell Tribune is seeking a **COMMUNITY JOURNALIST**
Wanting to join a winning team and have opportunity for advancement?

Located near Yellowstone National Park, the Powell Tribune in Powell, Wyoming, has an immediate opening for a dedicated general news reporter to join its staff of award-winning writers. The Tribune is a family-owned semi-weekly newspaper known for quality journalism. This position also includes the opportunity for advancement to a news leadership role. Preferred candidates must have a strong desire to report the news important to readers of a community newspaper, ranging from city council meetings to multicultural showcases at Northwest College. Reporters on a community newspaper staff are asked to juggle multiple beats and to assist with editing copy from staff and other sources. A knowledge of AP style would be helpful and photography skills are also preferred.

Beginning salary range — \$32K to \$35K d.o.e.
Health and retirement benefits package included.

Send resume, clippings and photo portfolio to General Manager Toby Bonner at toby@powelltribune.com.

POWELL TRIBUNE
128 S. Bent Street, Powell, WY • 307-754-2221

PUBLIC NOTICES

"Because the people must know"

Farnham probate

STATE OF WYOMING)
)SS.
COUNTY OF PARK)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT)
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT)
PROBATE NO. 2025-CV-0031218)
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
DONNA L. FARNHAM,)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Michael J. Gahagan, one of the claiming distributees of Donna L. Farnham, deceased, has filed with the District Court of Park County, Wyoming, Probate No. 2025-CV-0031218, an application for a decree setting over to Dean Allan Gahagan, Michael J. Gahagan, and Debra J. Bridges, in equal shares, the following described real property:

The East ninety-five feet of Parcel B-1 and the East ninety-five feet of the North forty feet of Parcel B-2 in Lot B of Block 75 of Kirchner Subdivision in the City of Powell, Park County, State of Wyoming.
If no objections are filed with the Court on or before thirty (30) days from the date of first publication of this notice, upon the 18th day of November,

2025 at 8:30 o'clock a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard at the Courtroom of the District Court in Park County in Cody, Wyoming, the Court will consider the application and may enter a decree establishing the right and title to the property.

DATED this 7th day of October, 2025
/s/ WILLIAM SIMPSON
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
First Publ., Tues., Oct. 14, 2025
Final Publ., Tues., Oct. 21, 2025

Name change

STATE OF WYOMING)
)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT)
)
)SS.
COUNTY OF PARK)
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT)
Civil Action Case No. 31221)
IN THE MATTER OF THE)
CHANGE OF NAME OF)
Jose Henrique Medierosde Andrade II)
Petitioner)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
You are hereby notified that a Petition For Change of Name, Civil Action No. 31221 has been filed on behalf of Jose Henrique Medieros de Andrade II in the Wyoming District Court for the 5th Judicial District, whose address is 1002 Sheridan Ave, Cody, WY 82414, the object and prayer of which is to change the name of the above-named person from Jose Henrique Medierosde Andrade II to Jose Henrique Andrade II.

Any objection must be filed with the District Court within 30 days following the last date of publication

of this notice, or an Order Granting Name Change may be granted without further notice.

DATED this 9 day of October, 2025
BY CLERK OF COURT:
DEBRA CARROLL
Clerk of District Court/Deputy
First Publ., Tues., Oct. 14, 2025
Final Publ., Tues., Nov. 4, 2025

Public hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
HEART MOUNTAIN ROOT CELLAR EXHIBIT SUP-279
WITH SITE PLAN REVIEW

At their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 9:50am, the Park County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing to consider the Special Use Permit (SUP) Application and Site Plan for the Heart Mountain Root Cellar Exhibit SUP-279 (Applicant: Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation). The applicants are proposing a major community use consisting of 12,000 sq. ft. existing root cellar. The use is proposed within an unaddressed three-acre parcel located approximately 9.6 miles southwest of Powell, southwest of the intersection of State Highway 14A and Road 19, on Vocation Lane. The parcel is described as Lot 1 of Jolovich SS-229. The property is in a General Rural-Powell (GR-P) zoning district and the Cody-Powell Rural Planning Area.

The hearing will be held in the Commissioners Meeting Room #105 in the Original Courthouse, 1002 Sheridan Ave., Cody, WY. Visit <https://parkcounty-wy.gov/planning-and-zoning/pzmeeting-calendar/>. Anyone wishing to comment on this matter

is encouraged to attend, or submit comments to the Planning & Zoning Department, 1002 Sheridan Ave., Suite #109, Cody, WY 82414 or email planning@parkcounty-wy.gov. For more information call 307-527-8540 or 307-754-8540.

First Publ., Tues., Oct. 21, 2025
Final Publ., Tues., Oct. 28, 2025

Meeting notice

The Powell Hospital District and Powell Valley Healthcare Board will meet Monday, October 27th, 2025.

The Meeting will be held in the conference room. The District Board meets at 5:00p.m. and the Powell Valley Healthcare Board meets once the District is adjourned.

First Publ., Tues., Oct. 21, 2025
Second Publ., Thurs., Oct. 23, 2025

Meeting notice

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING
DATE CHANGE

The regular meeting of the Board of directors of Park County Weed and Pest Control District scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. has been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Park County Weed and Pest Control District Office in Powell.

Josh Shorb, Supervisor
Park County Weed and Pest Control District
Publ., Tues., Oct. 21, 2025

