



GRAND GESTURES



Tammy Tyson-Ryan, left, plays with her grandson, David, at Whitney Commons Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2016.

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A new camera system is mounted on the top of the press box at HomerScott Field Thursday, Aug. 3, 2018.

New cameras allow for live streams of SHS sports

BY RYAN PATTERSON

RYAN.PATTERSON@THESHERIDANPRESS.COM

SHERIDAN — New cameras at Sheridan High School will allow fans of the Broncos and Lady Broncos to watch games live on the internet at a small cost.

This fall, Sheridan will join an increasing list of Wyoming schools to offer live streams of sports occurring at the high school's main gymnasium or Homer Scott Field. The SHS booster club purchased two cameras at a total cost of \$8,500 to offer an additional option for supporters who can't attend a game in-person.

SHS assistant activities director Kasey Garnhart said the school has had conversations about purchasing cameras ever since high schools in Cheyenne installed some about two years ago.

SHS Booster Club Co-President Everett McGlothlin said serious discussion about purchasing the cameras began in the spring.

"It's a no-brainer," McGlothlin said. "There are people that can't attend athletic activities, and this is a way for the booster club to support the community ... If people don't want to travel to Rock Springs or Casper or wherever, they can access the various athletic games without traveling."

SEE CAMERAS, PAGE 6

Caregiver programs seek funding to support local families

BY ASHLEIGH FOX

ASHLEIGH.FOX@THESHERIDANPRESS.COM

SHERIDAN — In Wyoming, approximately 5,000 children are being raised by their grandparents or an older relative.

That number has remained consistent since 2010, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Although numbers have stayed relatively the same, poverty levels and number of children per grandparent and other relatives have increased.

The percentage of grandparents raising grandchildren, or "grand families," living below the poverty line increased from 8 percent in 2010 to 13 percent in 2018.

Local programs have seen those increases reflected in the care they provide to the community.

Stella Montano works as the family caregiver director at The Hub on Smith and runs the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.

SEE PARENTS, PAGE 2



Justin Ryan follows his grandson, David, up a ladder as they replace shingles on their roof Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017.

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Two candidates challenge Cheney for Republican House nomination

BY MICHAEL ILLIANO

MICHAEL.ILLIANO@THESHERIDANPRESS.COM

SHERIDAN — Wyoming Republicans will choose between very different philosophies when they select the party's nomination for the state's sole U.S. House of Representatives seat in the primary election later this month.

Incumbent Rep. Liz Cheney will face two challengers in the primary, Rod Miller, a Buford resident calling for a shift in Congress's priorities, and Blake Stanley, a Constitutionalist from Cheyenne.



Miller

Cheney, who is wrapping up her first term in Congress, said the platform she ran on aligned with the priorities of the Trump Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress and, as such, she is proud of much of the legislation Congress passed during her first term.

She points to the passage of the Republican tax bill, the repeal of the Dodd-Frank Act, which tightened regulations on the country's



Cheney

financial sector, and lifting regulations that have targeted the extraction of fossil fuels as achievements in her first term.

If re-elected, Cheney said she would continue to pursue a similar agenda by working to remove regulations on the energy industry and making permanent the tax cuts Congress passed for citizens last year, which are due to expire in 2027.

She also listed securing funding

for a border wall as one of her priorities going forward.

While Cheney is proud of many of the actions Congress took during her first term, Miller is running because he thinks Congress is broken and sees Cheney as part of the problem.

Miller said he decided to run primarily because he believes Congress has surrendered fundamental constitutional authorities and responsibilities to the executive branch. Over the past several decades, Miller argues, the United States' polices in areas like foreign

affairs, immigration and national security have increasingly been formulated by the president.

"Congress has demeaned itself by doing that, I think," Miller said. "I would like to see a lot stronger Congress take on these national issues that are so important, debate them, legislate them, as is their responsibility, and give that legislation to the president to carry out, which is his responsibility."

SEE RACE, PAGE 2



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The Sheridan Press
 144 Grinnell Plaza, Sheridan, WY 82801
 307.672.2431
 www.thesheridanpress.com
 www.DestinationSheridan.com

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Bill Crenshaw
 of Sheridan

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Pair charged in Sundance murder

BY SARAH PRIDGEON
SUNDANCE TIMES
VIA WYOMING NEWS EXCHANGE

SUNDANCE — Jessie Johnson and Marty Smith appeared in circuit court Friday morning for an initial appearance on charges related to the death of Sundance resident Doug Haar at the Sundance Travel Center in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

According to the affidavit of Chris McDonald of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, Sundance Police Chief Marty Noonan notified DCI of a possible homicide at the Sundance Travel Center at around 3:50 a.m. on Aug. 1. Noonan advised that two possible suspects had left the area traveling east in a black SUV and that the victim, Doug Haar, was deceased at the scene.

The two agents interviewed a witness and obtained video of the events as well as interviewing the two suspects who returned to the scene as the investigation was underway.

The video allegedly showed Johnson and Smith enter the store at around 2:13 a.m. and walk to the soda coolers. Haar enters soon after and a verbal altercation can allegedly be seen between Smith and Haar.

According to the report, the video shows the argument continues both inside and outside the store.

According to the time stamp on the video, Haar re-enters the store at 2:26 a.m. and approaches Johnson.

Smith allegedly pushes Haar and falls to the floor as he pushes her away.

The video allegedly shows Haar swing at Johnson but appear to miss, after which Johnson grabs him and puts him in a “head and arm” move and takes him to the floor at which time police were called. Johnson allegedly holds Haar in this position for around 90 seconds while Smith holds Haar’s arm down and lies on his legs.

At around 2:29 a.m., Johnson is allegedly seen changing his position to a chokehold. Haar can later be seen making motions towards his throat with his right hand; Smith allegedly grabs his hand and holds it down.

Approximately two minutes later, McDonald states in his report that Haar does not appear to be breathing.

At 2:36 a.m., Johnson is seen on the video standing up. He then helps Smith stand and assists her out of the door, allegedly waving at the store clerk as he leaves. An autopsy has determined the cause of death to be acute traumatic asphyxia.

Bond for both Smith and Johnson has been set at \$100,000, cash only. Johnson has been charged with murder in the second degree, felony counts of voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault and battery.

Both suspects are scheduled to appear again in Circuit Court on August 10 at 10 a.m. for a preliminary hearing.



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Justin Ryan, left, and his wife Tammy Tyson-Ryan, center, shoot baskets with their adopted grandson, Ryan, at their home Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. The Tyson-Ryan family adopted their three grandsons and raise them as their own.

PARENTS: Hopes for increased funding in future

FROM 1

Montano receives grant funding to help support her programming through the Wyoming Aging Division of the Department of Health. Although helpful, Montano feels constricted by the age limit set by the division and finds herself scraping by, wishing she could do more for the elderly relatives caring for young children.

Funding for the program is designated for adults 55 or older.

Sixty-two percent of grandparents raising grandchildren fall in the 30- to 59-year-old age range, and 63 percent of the total grandparent population participates in the workforce. Montano sees the strain on elderly relatives caring for grandchildren, but because of funding she cannot help them in the way she would like.

“My goal would be to be

able to provide some respite for the grandparents outside of Wednesday nights,” Montano said. “I feel that that respite is so important for them.”

Montano provides a dinner event every third Wednesday of the month in Sheridan. The families eat a complimentary meal and the older adults have a minute with other adults in their same situation while the children are supervised by volunteers. This month, Wyoming Guardians as Protectors will present information on past and upcoming legislation that may help grand families with custody situations.

Wyoming Guardians as Protectors runs out of Cheyenne but travels throughout the state to help inform grand families of legislative issues tying in with guardianship proceedings through the state justice system.

‘My goal would be to be able to provide some respite for the grandparents outside of Wednesday nights. I feel that that respite is so important for them.’

Stella Montano
Family caregiver director
at The Hub on Smith

“We continue to work closely with families, members of our communities, other influential organizations and with our legislative judiciary committee, who has taken up the ‘third-party custody’ issue as a priority for the next session,” said Annie McGlothlin, who works with the organization.

The organization’s count of children in the custody of a third party totaled 11,000 and did not include the children in the Wyoming Department of Family Services state custody or foster care.

Although Montano hopes for increased funding with the next round of grant distributions, the number of grand families is staying consistent and shaping into situations that need additional services and care.

The next event for grandparents raising grandchildren is Aug. 15 starting at 5:30 p.m. at The Hub located at 211 Smith Street. Children are asked to bring their swim suit and a towel for an activity while the adults listen to the presentation from McGlothlin.

The event is co-sponsored by Compass Center for Families, which also interacts with grand families on a daily basis.

RACE: Cheney, Miller have also advocated very different approaches on issues related to federal lands

FROM 1

Miller hopes he can be part of a new wave of legislators committed to changing the way Congress

functions. He said he believes there could be upwards of 100 new members of Congress after the mid-term elections and, if elected, hopes he can work

with freshman lawmakers from both parties to enact change.

“It’s not going to happen overnight; it’s taken decades for us to get to this point,”

Miller said. “But we’ve gotta start somewhere and I think, start with the new kids on the block. If we wanna drain the swamp, let’s drain the swamp, baby. Here’s how we do it.”

Cheney and Miller have also advocated very different approaches on issues related to federal lands in the state and health care reform.

According to his website, Stanley identifies as a “blue-collar conservative” who believes he will represent Wyoming’s residents better than a career politician. His campaign did not respond to an interview request.

Public lands

Though Cheney has not said the state should take control of the federal lands within its borders, she believes the authority to manage those lands should be given to local authorities.

“I think the key is how federal lands are managed and what we saw during the Obama administration in particular, and even back before that, is there has been real damage to our federal lands because of complete federal mismanagement,” Cheney said.

In addition, Cheney said she would like to see more wilderness study areas, a designation that requires the lands be managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congress decides whether to designate them as wilderness or to direct the Bureau of Land Management to manage them for other multiple uses, released from that designation.

Miller, though, criticized a bill Cheney introduced in

Congress in December that authorized more heli-skiing on a wilderness study area in Teton County as preempting local input on what to do with the land. He argues the bill went around efforts by the Wyoming County Commissioners Association and the Public Lands Initiative to review possible uses for the land.

“She stepped in and tried to impose a solution from Washington,” Miller said. “That kind of imposition of the will-of-Washington on our public lands really ruffles me.”

He also expressed concern about rhetoric coming from the “right-wing of the Republican Party” advocating the state takes control of federal lands. If that happens, Miller said the state’s constitution would require it sell the lands to the highest bidder, which could restrict public access to them. That course of action, Miller said, would be “idiocy.”

But Cheney insists there are no plans to sell off the public lands and calls the concern a “straw man argument.”

Health care

Cheney was a strong supporter of the American Health Care Act, a far-reaching bill that, broadly, would have repealed some programs established under the Affordable Care Act — such as Medicaid expansion — and relied on competition among private insurance companies to provide affordable coverage in their place, which went before Congress last year and passed in the House but failed in the Senate.

If re-elected, she said she

will continue to advocate for that plan and work to ensure any changes to health care would protect people with pre-existing conditions.

“Ultimately, the challenge for us is getting the kind of reform we need passed through the Senate; given the Senate rules, it’s been very challenging,” Cheney said. “We have to get more Republicans elected and I would advocate changing the filibuster rules in the Senate so that we can get legislation dealing with health care passed through the Senate as well as the House.”

Miller advocates taking a more gradual approach to reforming health care. He argues that one of the reasons so many plans to reform health care have failed is because they aim to be comprehensive and ultimately bite off more than they can chew.

Instead of pushing for an omnibus health care bill, Miller said he would like to see Congress focus on reforming individual aspects of health care.

To start, he would look to pass legislation that would reduce drug costs by making it easier for generic drugs to come onto the market and by placing stronger regulations on the pharmaceutical industry. If that succeeds, he said Congress could move on to legislation that would reduce hospital costs and eventually look at addressing insurance, which will likely be the most difficult area to reform.

Ultimately, these differences will be resolved by Wyoming’s voters.

The primary election will be held Aug. 21.



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