

Authorities say man killed cow before poaching nine deer

by CJ Baker Powell Tribune,
Via Wyoming News Exchange

A young Michigan man who allegedly poached nine mule deer in Cody over the summer is now facing more legal trouble, as investigators say they've also tied him to the killing of a cow last year.

Twenty-year-old Josh Wielhouwer was already facing 18 misdemeanor counts in connection with deer that were killed and left to waste in Cody in August and early September.

Last week, prosecutors added a felony count of property destruction for a cow that was killed north of the city in 2023. Like the deer, the domestic animal was apparently slain with some kind of bow and arrow, charging documents say.

Wielhouwer has been held in the Park County Detention Center since early September, unable to post a \$36,000 cash bond.

Following the new allegations, Park County Circuit Court Judge Joey Darrah upped that bail on Friday. He ruled that Wielhouwer must post a \$7,500 cash or surety bond on top of the \$36,000 if he wants to go free while the cases are pending.

"I do take into account that the defendant had previously turned

himself in, but now we have a felony charge," Darrah said. "It's a whole different ball game."

An unnatural death

The cow in question was found dead at a ranch on Rattlesnake Mountain on Sept. 13, 2023. Mooncrest Ranch personnel initially contacted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, believing the animal might have been killed by predators, charging documents say. However, a responding game warden instead "found holes in the carcass that appeared to be from an arrowhead."

An affidavit submitted by Park County Sheriff's Investigator Clayton Creel says the cow appeared to have been shot twice in the stomach; the animal made it about 300 yards before dying.

A ranch employee estimated the cow was worth anywhere between \$2,500 and \$2,800, which is above the felony threshold of \$1,000.

The employee provided descriptions of the vehicles he'd seen along Monument Hill Road that day, but the case went cold until this summer's killing spree in Cody.

Dead deer in Cody

Starting on Aug. 27 and continuing through Sept. 3, eight deer — does, bucks and a fawn — turned up dead

on the grounds of the Park County Complex and in the surrounding Cody neighborhoods.

Game wardens gathered security footage from surrounding businesses and residences, and concluded that their suspect was driving a silver sedan and bow hunting at night.

Then, while patrolling the area around the complex on the night of Sept. 4, game wardens Spencer Carstens and Grant Gerharter allegedly caught their man rehandling. In an affidavit, Carstens said they heard what sounded like an arrow being fired. They spotted a young man holding a compound bow and shining a light on the ground near the carcass of another dead mule deer doe.

The man escaped, but parked nearby, the wardens found the silver sedan they'd spotted on the surveillance footage; inside, they spotted an arrow that matched one found near one of the dead deer.

Meanwhile, Carstens was told by the vehicle's owner that Wielhouwer had been driving it, and the owner's description of Wielhouwer matched the young man the wardens caught sight of at the complex.

Multiple charges filed

Prosecutors obtained a warrant for Wielhouwer's arrest on Sept. 6,

filing nine counts of taking a game animal without a hunting license and nine of wanton destruction of a big game animal. He turned himself in three days later.

At his initial hearing in Park County Circuit Court, Wielhouwer pleaded not guilty, and Darrah set bond at \$36,000 to match the restitution he could potentially be ordered to pay for the dead deer.

Meanwhile, authorities continued investigating — including taking another look at the cow killing from a year earlier. Charging documents say a broadhead, or arrow tip, that was found in Wielhouwer's vehicle appeared to match a bloody one recovered from the Mooncrest Ranch.

Additionally, a search of Wielhouwer's iPhone turned up five photos that appeared to have been taken "near where the deceased was found" on Sept. 12, 2023 — the day before the carcass was discovered, Investigator Creel wrote in his affidavit.

A hunter who had been in the area of Monument Hill Road that day reportedly told authorities that he recalled seeing a silver Honda car with Michigan plates. Wielhouwer, who lives in Jenison, Michigan, owns a silver Honda and authorities say they know that he and his vehicle were in

northwest Wyoming around that time.

Put together, the new evidence prompted the Park County Attorney's Office to file the felony count tied to the dead cow on Thursday.

A flight risk?

After allegedly eluding the game wardens on the night of Sept. 4, Wielhouwer returned to Michigan.

Deputy Park County Prosecuting Attorney Larry Eichele has said the suspect at one point posted, "Catch me if you can" on Facebook — and he said Friday that Wielhouwer sent "several text messages to his friends indicating that he was considering fleeing the country."

Wielhouwer's defense attorney, however, emphasized that his client ultimately returned to Cody voluntarily on Sept. 9.

After learning the Game and Fish Department was pursuing charges and speaking with his attorney, Wielhouwer "jumped on a plane the very next day, flew back to Park County and turned himself in," his attorney Tim Blatt said.

Whatever Wielhouwer might have said to friends about fleeing the country, "obviously that is not very realistic for an individual of his age," Blatt said, suggesting his client was scared.

For his part, Eichele said it re-

mained "quite concerning" that Wielhouwer considered going on the run. The prosecutor asked Darrah to tack another \$5,000 cash bond onto the \$36,000 already in place while Blatt contended \$36,000 was sufficient to cover both cases.

Citing some concern about the texts, the judge opted to add the \$7,500 cash or surety bond. It requires Wielhouwer to either post that cash or hire a bondsman for roughly \$750.

Bond conditions

If he does post the two bonds, Wielhouwer will have to follow a series of conditions, including relinquishing any firearms, bows, arrows or broadheads. Darrah initially said the defendant would have to turn those items over to law enforcement if he makes bail, but at Blatt's request, the judge allowed Wielhouwer to instead provide those items to his defense attorney.

"I am concerned ... that order potentially would be asking him to turn over [to law enforcement] what could be evidence used against him," Blatt said, and Darrah said the point was well taken.

A preliminary hearing on the new felony property destruction charge is tentatively set for Nov. 19 while a trial on the 18 misdemeanors is slated for early February.

Public notices

NOTICE OF FINAL PAYMENT

Pursuant to Section 16-6-116 of the Wyoming Statutes, latest revision, Notice is hereby given that Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming has been advised that the work on the THERMOPOLIS – 2024 CHIP SEAL PROJECT has been completed according to the plans and specifications and rules set forth in the Contract between the Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming, the Owner, and Wild West Construction, the Contractor, and said Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore. All persons, firms or corporations who have any claims for work done or equipment/materials furnished on said work are hereby notified that final payment will be made to said Contractor in accordance with the terms of the Contract after the 41st day (12-11-24) following the first publication of this Notice. This Notice does not relieve the Contractor and the sureties on their bond from any claims for work or labor done or materials or supplies furnished in the execution of the Contract.

/s/ Town of Thermopolis

Pub. Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2024 No. 1742

NOTICE OF SALE TO FORECLOSE LIEN

By virtue of W.S. § 29-7-301, et. seq., the undersigned has a lien upon the following described personal property of Julie Logan: 1967 New Moon Mobile Home 122 Highway 20 South, Lot #9 Thermopolis, WY 82443 VIN # FH219455

The said lien is to secure payment of \$4,972.91 for accrued rent owed to the undersigned, plus expenses incurred in collecting and enforcing the obligation secured by said lien in the approximate sum of \$0, resulting in a total sum of \$4,972.91 due and owing the undersigned by the owner of the above-described property.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that at 11:00 a.m. on November 19, 2024, at the front door of the Hot Springs County Courthouse, Thermopolis, Wyoming, the undersigned will sell to the highest bidder at public auction, conducted by the sheriff for cash or certified funds the owner's right, title, and interest in the above-described property. All bidders need proof of funds to bid. The property will be sold as is, where is, subject to all tax liens. The property will not be at the sale, so anyone wishing to view the same prior to the sale should contact the undersigned.

/s/Virgil Nethercott

Virgil Nethercott, Lien Claimant and Managing Member GBM 55, LLC

Pub. Nov. 7 & 14, 2024 No. 1744

STATE OF) OFFICE OF THE
WYOMING) BOARD OF
OF) COUNTY
COUNTY OF) COMMISSIONERS
HOT SPRINGS) October 15, 2024

The Hot Springs Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Government Annex. Present were Commissioners Tom Ryan, Phillip Scheel, and Paul Galovich. Also present were County Attorney Jill Logan, County Clerk Becky Kersten, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners Connie Guntly. Chairman Ryan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – The Commissioners adopted the Agenda as printed.

Approval of Minutes – The Commissioners approved the minutes from October 1, 2024 meeting.

Approval of Revenue Expenditure Reports – The Commissioners approved all three signatures on the August and September 2024 Financial Reports.

Award of Feasibility Assessment for Former Airport Property Request for Proposals and Approval of Contract – The Commissioners awarded the Feasibility Study to Only Co., partnering with Ardurra, and for Chairman Ryan to apply his signature to the final contract with Only Co.

Discussion of Fair Board – Brayden Harvey presented an issue he has experienced with the Fair Board to the Commissioners. Mr. Harvey stated the Fair Board does not have set fee schedules for events and contracts are being treated differently for similar events within the contract requirements and costs. Mr. Harvey also stated when he does an event he does not have access to the entire facility, the cost is either extra or he has to bring in the amenities such as porta-potties. Mr. Harvey stated the Fair Board does not have By-Laws or standard operating procedures. Chairman Ryan stated the Commissioners do not have power to direct the Fair Board, however the liaison to the Fair Board is Commissioner Galovich, and he agreed to speak to the Board about these issues.

Fiscal Year End 6/30/24 Statement of Receipts and Expenditures – The Statements of Receipts and Expenditures for Fiscal Year End 6-30-24 was presented per state statute. The County Clerk and Treasurer present it to Commissioners and is a summary of what was submitted to the Department of Audit. The Commissioners approved Chairman's signature on the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 23-24.

Other Business – 1) Appointment of Travel and Tourism Board Member – The Commissioners received two applications for one opening on the Travel and Tourism Board. The Commissioners appointed Jess Weber to the Travel and Tourism Board per the ballots submitted. 2) Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Community Prevention Program and Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office – The Commissioners approved the MOU. 3) Request for Approval of Updated Point of Contact Information Form for the Community Prevention Grant – The Commissioners approved Chairman signature on the point of contact sheet for the Prevention Grant, changing the contact from Connie Guntly to Shawn Mohr. 4) Consideration of Request for Reimbursement No. 1 in the Amount of \$22,000 and Grant Closeout Report for the Airport Rescue Grant – The Commissioners approved Chairman's signature on the close out and expenditure reports for the ARPA grant for airport operations. 5) Discussion of State of Wyoming Department of Audit, Notification of Special Districts Failing to Report – County Clerk Kersten updated the Commissioners on the Special Districts stating: Library in compliance, Predator Management District in compliance, Hot Springs County Weed and Pest in compliance, North West Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services in compliance, the Recreation District had the documents completed, they are checking on the submission issue, and Owl Creek Water District has submitted their F-32 form. The County Clerk had not heard from Kirby Ditch Irrigation, The Town of Kirby, or Lucerne Water and Sewer at the time of this meeting. The Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District is dissolved, however needs to submit an F-32 form for FY 23-24, and Clerk Kersten let them know. 6) Request for Approval of Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting Room, Water Supply Evaluation Public Meeting – The Commissioners approved Chairman's signature on the Facility Use Form, Annex Meeting Room, for the Water Supply Evaluation Meeting on Tuesday October 29th at 6:30 p.m., presented by Wyoming Water Development Office.

Correspondence – 1) **Save the Date** – Learning Center Stakeholders Meeting October 17th 6:00 pm; 2) **Natural Resource Planning Committee Minutes** – September 2024

The Commissioners reviewed the forgoing correspondence. No further action was required.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners will be held on November 19, 2024 at 3:00 p.m., at the Hot Springs County Annex building, 117 N. 4th St. Thermopolis. The public is invited to attend in person or stream online. To be placed on the Agenda please email Connie Guntly, Administrative Assistant to the Board of County Commissioners at connie.guntly@hscounty.com. Per Wyoming Statute section 18-3-516 (f), County information can be obtained at the County

website <https://hscounty.com/> or by requesting a Public Records form from the County Clerk's office.

Attest

Thomas J. Ryan,
Chairman

Becky Kersten,
County Clerk

Pub. Nov. 14, 2024

No. 1745

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Raymond and Cynthia DeVries has requested approval of a preliminary plat for a minor subdivision dividing a portion of an approximant 8.5-acre parcel into five lots. The proposal also includes a Land Use Change from Agricultural to Residential for the 5 lots. The subject property is located in the Southwest Quarter(¼), Section 11, Township 42 North, Range 95 West

A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Board of County Commissioner in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Annex Building on November 19, 2024 at 3:05 p.m. Anyone requiring additional information should call the County Planning Office at 864-2961. Those unable to attend are invited to comment in writing to: County Planning, 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443, or by e-mail at planner@hscounty.net.

Pub. Nov. 14, 2024

No. 1746

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

(Issued November 6, 2024)

1. Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled regarding Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP or the Company) request for authority to increase rates to recover deferred Net Power Costs (NPC) under Tariff Schedule 95; and to increase rates pursuant to Tariff Schedule 93, Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) emission allowances. **The public hearing is set to commence on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room located at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.**

2. RMP is a division of PacifiCorp, an Oregon corporation, engaged in the business of supplying electric utility service to customers throughout its six-state service territory, including Wyoming. RMP is a public utility, subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112.

3. On April 15, 2024, RMP filed an Application requesting authority to revise rates pursuant to two different rate schedules. The Company proposes to increase its Tariff Schedule 95 Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ECAM) rates by approximately \$84.3 million to recover deferred NPC. On June 19, 2024, the Company filed an Errata Application which lowered the requested increase of Tariff Schedule 95 to \$81.8 million. The Company also proposes to increase its Tariff Schedule 93 REC and SO₂ Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (RRA) rates by approximately \$2.1 million to account for sales of RECs and SO₂ emission allowances.

4. Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC) and Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) intervened and requested a hearing. On June 25, 2024, the Commission granted interim approval of the proposed rates in the Errata Application, effective for usage on and after July 1, 2024, subject to further review, refund and hearing.

5. This is not a complete description of RMP's Application. You may review the Application and its supporting testimony and exhibits at the Commission's office during business hours or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17547).

6. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing which will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming

Administrative Procedure Act, Wyoming Public Service Commission Rules. All interested persons may appear and be heard, in person, by video or telephone conference, or through counsel appearing in person or by video or telephone conference.

Attend Zoom Meeting and actively participate at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933449233>

Or by dialing: 1 669-900-9128 Meeting ID: 993 344 9233

7. If you wish to attend the hearing and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 (Voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TTY) by dialing 711. Please mention Docket No. 20000-664-EM-24 in all correspondence with the Commission.

Pub. Nov. 14 & 21, 2024

No. 1747

November 6, 2024

To: Tom Jeunehomme, Greg Lea, and Mark Kalal,

This is to notify you that on November 5, 2024, the Hot Springs Conservation District held a polling place election to elect three positions to fill two (2) four-year terms and one (1) two-year term on the Red Lane Watershed Improvement District Board of Directors.

The canvass to certify the election results was held November 6, 2024, after the close of polls at the office of the Hot Springs Conservation District. The three candidates with the highest number of and were elected to serve are:

Four Year Term	Expiration
Tom Jeunehomme	2028
Greg Lea	2028

Two Year Term	Expiration
Mark Kalal	2026

In accordance with the Special District Elections Act 22-29-118, the newly elected directors shall within ten days after notification of election take the oath of office. I have enclosed the Oath of Office form and ask that Tom Jeunehomme, Greg Lea, and Mark Kalal arrange to take the oath of office with a notary public within the next 10 days and provide the Hot Springs Conservation District with a copy of that sworn oath.

If you have any questions of concerns, please contact Kathy at the Conservation District.

Sincerely,
Kathy Sorensen
District Manager,
Hot Springs Conservation District
601 Broadway, Suite A
Thermopolis, WY 82443
hotspringscd@gmail.com
(307)864-3488

Pub. Nov. 14, 2024

No. 1748

NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION WPH - COOLING AND SITE LIGHTING UPGRADE

Notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, State Construction Department has issued a certificate of substantial completion to Sheet Metal Specialties, Inc. for the work performed for the HVAC upgrade, PS#23-0309, at the Wyoming Pioneer Home in Thermopolis, Wyoming. The Department has accepted the work as substantially complete according to the contract and associated documents and therefore the contractor is entitled to payment of the full amount due under the contract, which will occur on December 25, 2024.

Pub. Nov. 14 & 21, 2024

No. 1749