

# News briefs from around the state

From Wyoming News Exchange newspapers

## Fifth shooting victim dies

CODY (WNE) — Olivia Blackmer, 7, the sole survivor of the February 10 murder-suicide carried out by her mother that left her three sisters and mother dead, died Saturday.

According to a Gofundme page organized for Olivia's father and step-mother, Olivia was life-flighted to a neurology department in Salt Lake City after the events of February 10. She received extensive treatment over the course of multiple days in an attempt to save her life.

However, Olivia succumbed to her injuries at 3:44 p.m. on Saturday, according to an update posted by Katelynn Blackmer, Olivia's step-mother, to the Gofundme page.

"Her body and brain had been through too much, medication helped but we reached a point where medical options were exhausted and her body only continued to get worse," Blackmer said in the posted update. "We want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and support for our family."

The incident began on February 10 when first responders were dispatched to the 200 block of East Shoshone Street in Byron after receiving a call from Tranyelle Harshman. She told dispatch that her four children had been shot, before

hanging up and shooting herself, according to a statement by the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office.

When officers arrived, they found the four girls aged 2-9 and their mother had all sustained gunshot wounds to the head. Two of the children were already dead when law enforcement entered the residence.

Harshman, 7 year-old Olivia, and one of the 2 year-old girls still showed signs of life. The 2 year-old girl died on scene shortly after first responders arrived and Harshman would pass away in the hospital the following afternoon.

## Former Smith's employee sentenced for stealing thousands of dollars from store's self-checkout machines

GILLETTE (WNE) — The woman who pleaded guilty to stealing from Smith's while she worked there will avoid prison time for now, but she must pay back tens of thousands of dollars in restitution.

Katheryn Cranmer, 39, was sentenced Feb. 3 for felony theft, to which she pleaded guilty on Nov. 18.

District Judge Stuart S. Healy III sentenced Cranmer to three to five years in prison, suspended for five years of supervised probation.

Cranmer also must pay \$56,609 in restitution to the

Smith's corporate office.

On July 11, Smith's reported that Cranmer had stolen \$43,000 over the past six months while she was a manager at the store.

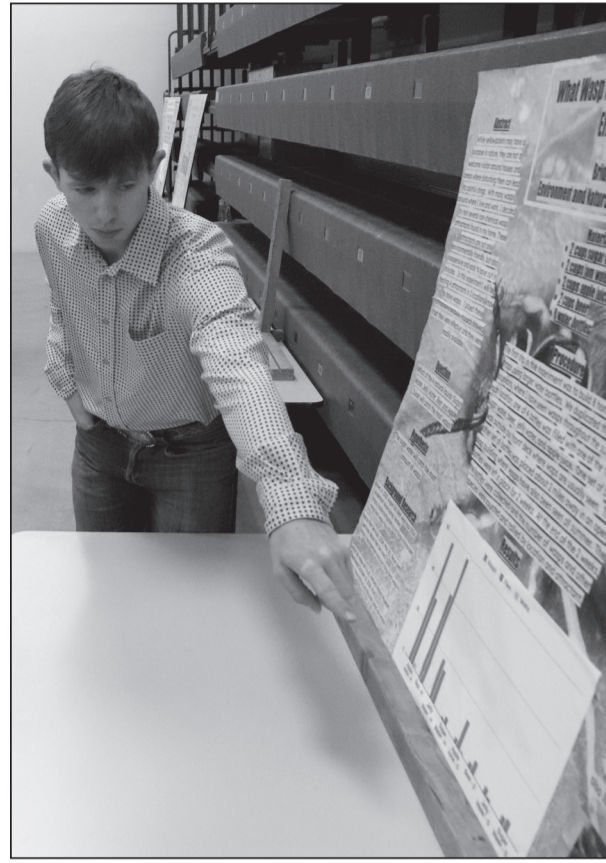
Another manager told police that Smith's loss prevention staff had an open investigation due to the store "coming up short in the drawer" for multiple months in a row. One of these employees said the investigation began in March, and it was determined that the shortages started in January.

From watching video footage and looking at logs, employees identified Cranmer as the suspect. She was a manager at the store and had access to multiple financial tools in the store, including a loan machine that requires fingerprint access, according to court documents.

Loss prevention staff estimated that Cranmer stole \$43,000 from January to June. When she was confronted about this, she admitted to taking \$5,800, but was adamant that she didn't take \$43,000.

She agreed to speak with police, and said that, since January, she was tasked with refilling the self-checkout kiosks with cash once a month. She used the loan machine to withdraw cash for the kiosks, according to the affidavit.

She started taking no more than \$100 on top of what cash was required to refill the kiosks. She admitted to doing this until June, and believed she had stolen \$5,800 this way.



## Agriscience Fair

Local FFA Chapters held their annual Agriscience Fair at the high school February 12. Thermopolis Middle School Big Springs Chapter members, top, Brooklyn Piles and William Hensley describe their research project in animal systems division 2 to judges Jon Anderson, Dawn Peil and Sash Moline. Left, Thermopolis High School FFA Chapter member Bridger Peil explains his project. The Wyoming State FFA Agriscience Fair is set for Monday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m. at the Worland High School. Winners will be announced during the FFA State Convention in April.

photos by Jurri Schenck

# Public notices

## Public Notice HIGH PLAINS POWER DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Directors of High Plains Power, Inc. has selected a nominating committee. The committee will place in nomination prospective members desiring to run for election at the annual meeting to be held on April 19, 2025, at the Fremont Center Building in Riverton, Wyoming.

The members of the nominating committee and their represented districts are as follows:

- District 1 – Rebecca Gullion  
Jeffrey City, WY
- District 2 – Frederick Tammany  
Lander, WY
- District 3 – Patrick Poppe  
Dubois, WY
- District 4 – John Sharp  
Crowheart, WY
- District 5 – Bruce Westlake  
Kinnear, WY
- District 6 – Justin Crimm  
Riverton, WY
- District 7 – Josh Longwell  
Thermopolis, WY
- District 8 – Dale Link  
Worland, WY
- District 9 – Karen Heath  
Medicine Bow, WY

The Director Districts holding elections are as follows:

- District 1 – Jeffrey City, Hudson Areas
- District 2 – Lander
- District 3 – Dubois

Any member residing in these districts interested in serving on the High Plains Power Board should contact a member of the nominating committee. The committee will meet on February 28, 2025.

Pub. Feb. 20, 2025 No. 1787

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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 its retail electric service rates by approximately \$123.5 million per year or 14.7 percent, to establish an Insurance Cost Adjustment (ICA) rider, to revise the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ECAM), to approve the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), and to approve a voluntary Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program. **The public hearing is set to commence on Monday, March 10, 2025, 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 August 2, 2024, RMP filed an Application requesting authority to increase

its Wyoming retail electric utility service rates by 14.7 percent, or \$123.5 million per annum; establish an ICA rider to recover excess liability insurance premium costs and support a self-insurance mechanism; revise its ECAM to develop separate cost categories and implement a symmetrical sharing band of 85/15 for Category 1 costs and 95/5 for Category 2 costs; implement a WMP; and implement a voluntary REC program. RMP has requested an effective date of June 1, 2025, for all requests except the proposed revisions to the ECAM, which has a requested effective date of January 1, 2025.

4. Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC) and the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) petitioned to intervene in this matter, which the Commission granted by Order issued on August 26, 2024.

5. The Commission held virtual Public Comment hearings on October 29, 2024, and January 28, 2025.

6. 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. 17659).

7. 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

8. 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. 20000-671-ER-24 in all correspondence with the Commission.

Dated: February 11, 2025.

Pub. Feb. 20 & 27, 2025 No. 1788

### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on February 4, 2025, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Tony Larson, John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes, and Dusty Lewis. Also present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Jim Jeunehomme, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Public Works Director Basil Sorensen, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett and Town Attorney Marshall Keller.

**AGENDA:** Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:** Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve

the Council meeting minutes from January 7 and 21st, the work session from January 21st and the executive session from January 21, 2025.

**BILLS:** Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the General, Enterprise and Special Fund bills for January 2025. Hughes abstained on her mileage reimbursement.

**APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE:** Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the mayor's appointment of Jerry Williams as the municipal court judge through 2026.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: MAIN STREET THERMOPOLIS: BREWFEST:** Dorman Sr., made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to allow Broadway between 4th and 5th street to be closed on June 7, 2025, from noon to 10pm for Brewfest. Permission was also granted to use the west bay of the old fire hall for the band. Meri Ann Dorman also invited the mayor and council to attend the Chamber of Commerce meetings.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** The following reports were available for review: police, engineering, streets and alleys, water, wastewater, sanitation and landfill. Sorenson noted the Circle Drive water line break was caused by a split in a cast iron pipe. Further repairs will be needed on the fire hydrant hit by a UPS driver. Barnett noted WYDOT has granted the use of WYDOT property for a road to the transfer station. The transfer station funding application will be submitted to the state by the end of the month. There will be a zoom meeting on the operation and management of a transfer station on May 6th.

**TOWN ATTORNEY: AMENDING 24HR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE APPLICATIONS & SALES: SECOND READING:** Keller reviewed two wording changes. Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the second reading of the ordinance.

**ADMINISTRATION: EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 7:13 pm Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried, to enter executive session, as allowed under state statute 16-4-405 (a)(ix). At 7:46 pm the executive session ended. Estenson noted the town would like to begin reviewing the police department and town personnel policies. Lewis made a motion and Hughes seconded to allow the mayor and assistant to sign an engagement letter with Pence MacMillan to review personnel policies. Estenson noted the wages and benefits sections would not be included. Motion carried.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL:** At 7:54 pm, Dorman made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to adjourn. The next council meeting is February 18, 2025, at 7pm.

**BILLS:** 71 Construction, Cold Mix, \$17,791.25; A & I Dist., Oil, \$770.71; AFLAC, Insurance, \$363.12; American Welding, Welding Gases, \$83.85; Arlene Nitschke, Utility Refund, \$29.45; BCN, Phone, \$81.39; Big Horn Water, Rental & Bottled Water, \$147.50; Big Horn Heating & Cooling, Service, \$517.63; Brenntag, Lime, \$10,239.85; Carquest, Supplies \$1,961.08; Caselle, Support, Software \$804.00; Counter Strike, Uniforms, \$353.00; D&S Express, Parts, \$385.50; Discover Thermopolis, Supplies, \$1,297.50; Energy Labs, Service, \$2,959.00; Engineering Assoc., Service, \$17,989.94; Grainger, Parts, \$42.76; Great West Trust, Retirement, \$840.00; Hach, Chemicals, \$483.75; Hawkins, Rental, \$20.00; High Plains Power, Service, \$372.51; Holiday Inn, Lodging, \$1,100.00; Hopper Disposal, Tires, \$656.00; HSC Fire District, Snow Removal, \$660.00; HS Vet Clinic, Contract,

\$955.00; HSCSD#1, Municipal Court Reimbursement, \$297.00; HSC Treasurer, Tax Commission, \$284.79; HUB, Consulting Fee, \$7,000.00; Rachel Hughes, Mileage, \$412.58; IR, Legal Ads, \$998.20; Inland Truck, Parts, \$916.80; Insurance Trust, Premiums, \$40,252.00; Jadeco, Service, \$6,851.77; Keller Law, Service, \$4,400.00; Laird Sanitation, Service, \$100.00; Merchant McIntyre, Retainer, \$8,000.00; Murdoch, Diesel, \$1,965.51; Napa, Parts, \$551.59; NCPERS, Life Ins., \$224.00; One Call, Locates, \$7.50; O'Reilly, Supplies, \$608.12; Pitney Bowes, Lease \$163.83; Postmaster, Postage, \$718.29; Range, Service, \$1,301.44; Ridgecrest, Badges, \$645.20; Road Runner, Parts, \$262.05; Rocky Mt. Power, Service, \$18,196.05; SW Equip., Parts, \$425.46; Staples, Supplies, \$469.90; Stryker Medical, Batteries, \$300.00; Suzanne Leiva, Utility Overpayment, \$95.00; Tegeler, Insurance, \$61,179.00; The Office Shop, Copier Fees, \$178.73; Thermopolis Hardware, Supplies, \$523.09; Thermopolis PD, Postage, \$42.00; TOT General, Streets Labor, \$3,325.00; TOT, Depreciation & Utilities, \$78,494.75; Traveling Computer, Service, \$133.50; Tumbleweed Propane, Service & Propane, \$1,242.70; Unum, Life Ins., \$245.10; Verizon, Phone, \$472.66; Visa, Supplies, \$2,239.29; VSP, Insurance, \$310.34; Western Flags & Banner, Flag pole, \$8,151.50; Williams Law Office, Service, \$900.00; Chase Workman, Fuel reimbursement, \$47.02; Workforce Services, Workers Comp, \$4,356.20; Wyoming Circuit Court, Garnishment, \$255.17; WY Gas, Service, \$3,060.11; WY Public Health Lab, Fees, \$72.00; WY Retirement, Retirement, \$29,484.34; WY.Com, Service, \$210.00; WyoNet, Service, \$486.00; Youth Alternatives, Services, \$500.00; Payroll, \$114,673.85; Payroll Taxes, \$37,686.70.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer Adam R. Estenson, Mayor

Pub. Feb. 20, 2025 No. 1789

## WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHEYENNE, WYOMING NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AND FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR HIGHWAY WORK

Notice is hereby given that the Wyoming Department of Transportation has accepted as completed according to plans, specifications and rules governing the same work performed under that certain contract between the State of Wyoming and **Mountain Construction Company, The Contractor**, on Highway Project Number **PEG2351 in Park and Hot Springs Counties**, consisting of **aggregate stockpiles** and the Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore; that the Director of the Department of Transportation will cause said Contractor to be paid the full amount due him under said contract on **March 19, 2025**.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is **February 6, 2025**.

Pam Fredrick  
Senior Budget Analyst  
Budget Program  
Wyoming Department of Transportation

Pub. Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2025 No. 1785