

# Local and Wyoming

## CHEYENNE LCSD1 receives 16-to-1 waiver from state Education Department

Laramie County School District 1 was among the 19 school districts in Wyoming recently granted a waiver to the state's mandated ratio of 16 students to one teacher. The mandate covers kindergarten through third-grade classes.

"We are not 16 to 1 at every grade level," LCSD1 assistant superintendent of instruction Tracey Kinney said of why the district applied for a waiver.

Though, she added, the ratio across the district has been improving for some grade levels in some triads. The district has hired 46 teachers and tutors to help with the mandate, she said.

"The first thing we had to do was find every potential space in the district to open a classroom without compromising elective programs," Kinney said. "That, in combination with modulars, has opened up a number of different classrooms."

The district also is in the process of building several new buildings, she said.

## Arts Council accepts applications for two 2014 writing awards

The Wyoming Arts Council is accepting applications for the 2014 Blanchan and Doubleday writing awards. The postmark deadline is May 9.

The Neltje Blanchan Award of \$1,000 is given for the best poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction or script that is informed by a relationship with the natural world.

The Frank Nelson Doubleday Award of \$1,000 is given for the best poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction or script written by a woman author. Both categories are open to Wyoming residents only.

For a printable application, go to <http://wyoarts.state.wy.us/grants/fellowships/2014-blanchandoubleday-application/>.

For more information, contact Michael Shay at 777-5234 or [mike.shay@wyo.gov](mailto:mike.shay@wyo.gov).

## Lummis family ranch near Cheyenne has new owner

About 5,000 acres of ranchland and buildings owned by the family of U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis near Cheyenne has a new owner.

Joe Spiering, a spokesman for the Republican congressman, says the transaction involved a land exchange.

The Casper Star-Tribune reports that terms of the transaction were not released by Lummis' office or by the broker that was involved.

The property involved is the Lummis Ranch South Camp. It was a piece of the Arp and Hammond Hardware Co., of which Lummis has a minority interest. The property had been listed for \$8.1 million.

The ranch includes a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house with a detached garage. It also has a barn and corrals.

From staff and wire reports



WyomingTribuneEagle  
**Everyone gives, Everyone gains**  
 Helping you change your corner of the world by connecting you with those who need help.

We believe everyone can give something to those in need, and when that happens, everyone benefits. That's why we created "Everyone gives, Everyone gains," a continually updated, year-round list of ways you can help people here. For more on this and other ways to help, visit our blog at <http://blogs.wyomingnews.com/blogs/everyonegives/>. To add an item to the WTE's "Everyone gives, Everyone gains" list, email Managing Editor Brian Martin at [everyonegives@wyomingnews.com](mailto:everyonegives@wyomingnews.com) or send it to Everyone gives, Everyone gains, c/o Brian Martin, Wyoming Tribune Eagle, 702 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82001.

## To give your money

### Rummage sale to raise money for Relay for Life

**What:** Knights of Columbus Relay for Life team's annual rummage sale

**When:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, April 25, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 26; donations for the sale will be accepted from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, April 24.

**Where:** Knights of Columbus Hall, 508 W. 28th St., Cheyenne

**More information:** The Knights of Columbus are not accepting donations of clothing for this sale. There will be a bake sale at the hall during the sale as well.

The team is also selling raffle tickets until the day Relay for Life begins June 13. Tickets will be available at the rummage sale. First prize is a handmade blanket chest, second price is \$200, third prize is \$100 and fourth prize is \$50.

**For more information:** Call Terry Carlin at 635-4239, or Jerry or Lorraine Atkinson at 634-3242.

## Correction

A Community Sports Bulletin Board item on page B2 of Tuesday's Wyoming Tribune Eagle misspelled Val Cegelski McLeod's last name as McCleod. The mistake was due to reporter error. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle regrets the error.

# Opening up government

Capitol renovation could be the doorway to transparency, lawmakers say

By Trevor Brown  
[tbrown@wyomingnews.com](mailto:tbrown@wyomingnews.com)

CHEYENNE – The planned renovation of the Capitol could make state government more transparent and accessible to the public.

Lawmakers began preliminary discussions Wednesday to explore what types of technological changes they want to see once the historic landmark is retrofitted.

These options include installing wiring and other infrastructure that would allow electronic voting, gavel-to-gavel video coverage of legislative sessions and expanded audio or video streaming from committee rooms.

Tom Whetstone is a consultant on the project with HDR Architecture. He said some of these choices might have been too complicated or cost prohibitive for the Legislature to consider previously.

But since the renovation will overhaul much of the

## What's next?

The Capitol Building Restoration Oversight Group and several legislative committees will meet during the coming months to guide some decisions affecting the renovation. State officials hope to begin major construction on the State Capitol following the 2015 legislative session.

building's audio and visual capabilities anyway, lawmakers can use this as an opportunity to design the building to meet current or future needs, he said.

"This is part of the conversation about the Capitol that is very exciting," Whetstone said during Wednesday's joint meeting with the Legislature's Select Committee on Legislative Technology and Process and its Select Committee on Legislative Facilities.

"You are going to have a new building and a new way of working and engaging with the public that you haven't had before. Your

building needs to enable that."

Lawmakers passed a bill this past session that commits \$259 million over the next several years on what is being called the "Capitol Square Project."

That includes a major renovation of the State Capitol, a renovation and expansion of the adjacent Herschler Building and a widening of the underground connector between the two buildings.

One of the tentative plans is to create several new committee rooms.

In addition to providing more space for the public to attend meetings during legislative sessions, the new rooms also could be equipped to record and archive audio and video of the meetings.

Legislative staff in recent years has begun streaming and recording audio, which is posted online, from the Senate and House chambers and the Joint Appropriations Committee's second-floor meeting room.

But the smaller committee rooms, used by lawmakers during sessions, do not provide audio or visual capabilities.

Rep. Rosie Berger, R-Big Horn, said expanding recordings or streaming audio to these rooms would be beneficial to those who can't attend.

"That is where the public doesn't have the same access as we provide on the House or Senate floor," she said. "I know what we did (in streaming audio in the Appropriations Committee's room) has made a huge difference for our constituencies and also for our legislative members who have the ability to learn along with us as we receive testimony from agencies and work through the budget."

Another option is equipping the Senate and House chambers to allow legislators to cast their votes electronically and have their votes displayed on a digital screen.

See Open, page A5



## Sprucing up the place

Matt Martinez of Scotch Boy Landscaping digs a hole as he and other co-workers plant several bushes near the outer wall of the Laramie County Library near the southwest entrance Wednesday morning in Cheyenne. The bushes will be part of a landscaping project that will include a new sidewalk and a rocky surface. Blaine McCartney/staff

# Hospital lobby to close for remodeling project

**MORE SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED IN THE NEW LOBBY ONCE THE MAKEOVER IS COMPLETE.**

By Becky Orr  
[borr@wyomingnews.com](mailto:borr@wyomingnews.com)

CHEYENNE – Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's lobby will close early next month for extensive renovations.

The lobby will remain closed until December as part of a \$4 million makeover.

It should be ready for the public in January 2015, Jason Shenefield, CRMC vice president of strategy and its chief operating officer, said Wednesday.

Access for visitors, patients and employees will

## At a glance

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's lobby will close in early May for an extensive facelift. The renovation project will affect access for visitors, patients and employees. CRMC officials have set up several routes to make the changes during renovation as easy as possible. The project should be done by late December and ready for the public shortly after the start of 2015.



The exterior of the new lobby at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center will connect the emergency department with other areas. Courtesy

be affected by the renovation. The project will require rerouting of what people are used to, especially those who come from the south garage and go through the lobby to reach their destinations, he said.

These people are used to walking through the main

lobby to reach areas like labor and delivery, diagnostic imaging, same-day surgery, surgical services, admissions, diagnostic imaging and intensive care.

"We definitely recognize it is an inconvenience" and ask people to be patient, Shenefield said.

The renovation is the largest task in a multi-million-dollar building project for the local hospital. Other projects from this expansion included construction of a new emergency department, cancer center and north parking lot.

See CRMC, page A5