

# Local and Wyoming

## More Inside

- Major gas leak forces evacuations Wednesday **A6**
- Councilman part of Russian exchange program **A7**

### CHEYENNE CFD Old West Museum offers free admission for Museum Day

The Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum will celebrate International Museum Day on Sunday, May 18 with free admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Museum Day was created in 1977 to provide a reminder to governments and the general public of the special role museums play in preserving cultural heritage. The Old West Museum is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 778-7290 or email Kristin.custis@oldwestmuseum.org.

### LARAMIE Flood watch posted for Laramie River Valley

The National Weather Service has posted a flood watch through Saturday for the Laramie River Valley in southeast Wyoming. The river at Laramie has risen to less than a foot from flood stage because of melting snow and rain. Crews in Laramie on Wednesday began building a berm along a portion of a recreation trail as a precaution. Albany County Emergency Management coordinator Aimee Binning says the berm was scheduled to be built later this week but it was moved up because of the flood watch being posted. Binning tells the Laramie Boomerang that no more than minor flooding is expected but the city has a supply of sandbags and other equipment at the ready just in case.

### JACKSON State cites Jackson surgery center over problems

Officials at Teton Outpatient Services say they have fixed problems at a surgery center after being cited by health inspectors over an outdated surgical suction system. The suction system is used to help doctors see what they are doing. Inspectors found the problems in February while responding to a complaint. Surgeries for patients who could be at risk were canceled or rescheduled. Teton Outpatient Services Administrator Joanne Robichau said in an email sent to the Jackson Hole News & Guide the problems found by inspectors were all fixed and the work cleared by the government.

### EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL. Accused bank robber pleads guilty in Illinois

An unemployed Washington state restaurant worker faces September sentencing after admitting in federal court Thursday that he robbed banks in Wyoming, Illinois and Michigan. Carl Frederick Kieffer, 49, of Spokane, Washington, pleaded guilty Thursday to federal charges involving holdups weeks apart in Illinois, Michigan and Wyoming before his arrest last October two hours after making off with \$3,300 from a bank in O'Fallon, an Illinois suburb of St. Louis. Federal officials handling the prosecution of the robberies last Aug. 26 in Lusk, Wyoming, and Oct. 9 in Charlotte, Michigan, where authorities say Kieffer absconded with about \$4,700, agreed to let their cases be consolidated with the Illinois heist to resolve those crimes. In a financial affidavit filed with the court, Kieffer has said he last worked in August for a Jack in the Box restaurant in Spokane, where he earned \$900 a month. Kieffer said his debts included \$480,000 to one hospital and \$120,000 to another, though he did not specify his health issues. The FBI has said Kieffer also admitted he robbed other banks last summer, including in Ohio's Tipp City and Bolivar, and Illinois' Farmersville. It was not immediately clear Thursday if those alleged holdups produced charges. When sentenced Sept. 4, Kieffer faces up to 20 years in prison, as much as \$250,000 in fines in each of the holdups, and possible restitution. He remains jailed without bond.

From staff and wire reports

### Correction

A jump headline on page A2 of Thursday's Wyoming Tribune Eagle contained an error. The headline stated, "Archer: How city will fund project is unclear." The county is responsible for funding the project, not the city. The mistake was due to editor error. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle regrets the error.

# Local kids' faces will decorate "hole" fence



WTE'S MICHAEL SMITH WILL SUPPLY 200 PHOTOS FROM HIS "OUR FACES" PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM SITE.

By Becky Orr  
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CHEYENNE—The Cheyenne Downtown Development Authority/Main Street voted Thursday to pay \$27,724 to build a new fence in front of the downtown "hole" for the future Children's Museum of Cheyenne. Amy Surdam, president of the museum's board of directors, made the proposal to the DDA/Main Street board. Several members of the museum board and supporters attended the meeting. The 10-foot-high fence will be decorated with 200 photographs of faces of area children. Photographs will be taken by Michael Smith, photo editor at the Wyoming Tribune Eagle, who is currently involved in a year-long portrait project called "Our Faces: Portraits of Laramie County." The Children's Museum of Cheyenne will be built at the "hole." The space has been empty for nearly 10 years, ever since a fire in December 2004 destroyed a building that once stood there. "Our goal is to have the fence in place by Cheyenne Frontier Days," Surdam said. The fence will remain during construction. Organizers plan to open the museum in the

### At a glance

The Cheyenne Downtown Development Authority/Main Street board will give \$27,724 to the Children's Museum of Cheyenne to build a fence across the Lincolnway side of the downtown vacant lot known as the "hole."

spring of 2016. The museum board recently closed on three-quarters of the property at the "hole." It bought the land for \$225,000. The city of Cheyenne owns the remaining quarter of the land there. The museum board is working closely with the city to acquire the entire space, she said. Cheyenne Mayor Rick Kaysen earlier suggested the fence idea that DDA proposed several years ago, she said. "What a great idea on so many levels," Surdam said. The fence will provide security, she said. The "beautiful images of our children" will be a representation of what the museum is about—the community's children, Surdam said. It also will help market the new museum. Parents and relatives will want to see their children's faces at the fence, she said. It will bring them downtown to eat and shop. The idea for a children's museum officially took shape last September. Supporters formed a nonprofit group and bought the "hole." The group has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars.

See Hole, page A8



### Giving their time

Kianna Hess, 16, with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, fills a box of donated items with help from youth leader Walt Gasson during "The Future is Alive--Youth Kickoff to the Day of Giving" at the Kiwanis Community House in Lions Park on Thursday. Almost 100 youths from various local organizations helped to collect and organize 4,000 pounds of food and personal care items during the inaugural event. People interested in donating items such as nonperishable foods, medical supplies, hygiene products and cellphones can drop donations off at the community house today between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Miranda Grubbs/staff

# Capitol renovation planning underway

STATE LEADERSHIP IS CONSIDERING THE LAYOUT OF THE CAPITOL AND WHO WILL OCCUPY IT.

By Trevor Brown  
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CHEYENNE—State leaders are moving closer to determining how the State Capitol will look after a planned historic renovation. A new oversight group met for the first time Thursday to review several preliminary models and floor plans for the renovation of the State Capitol and the adjacent Herschler Building.

The committee, which is made up of legislative leadership and a representative from the governor's office, did not take any action during the four-hour meeting. But they did review several broad conceptual ideas in advance of a meeting next month, when they will begin making some of the layout decisions. Tom Whetstone, a consultant with HDR Architecture, said this will include generally carving out who will stay in the Capitol and what offices will be moved to the Herschler Building. "First and foremost is to figure out how to satisfy the needs of the Legislature and the governor," he said. "And then we can start see-

### What's next?

The Capitol Building Restoration Oversight Group is expected to meet again next year.

ing where the seams are so we can begin to accommodate the other interests in the Capitol, and also to push the envelope to see what is possible and to make sure you make an informed decision of how you use the State Capitol." Lawmakers passed a bill earlier in the year that commits up to \$259 million for what is being called the "Capitol Square Project." The centerpiece of that is the long-awaited renovation of the State Capitol.

That project will overhaul or modernize the outdated heating, cooling, plumbing, fire suppression and smoke filtration systems of the National Historic Landmark. The renovation will also cause the state to reassign many of the office assignments in the Capitol, since the overall usable office space in the building will be reduced following the work. Deciding which legislative staff and offices of the five statewide elected officials will be in the Capitol after the renovation has been a point of contention since lawmakers began the renovation discussions several years ago.

See Renovation, page A4

# Shanor heads to Russia with exchange program

HE'LL TRAVEL WITH U.S. POLITICIANS TO LEARN ABOUT RUSSIAN POLITICS.

By Lucas High  
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CHEYENNE—Cheyenne City Councilman Dicky Shanor hopes a trip to Russia will help make him a better public servant back here at home.

Shanor is traveling to Moscow today on a 10-day trip as part of an American Council of Young Political Leaders delegation. Shanor and the other delegates—about a dozen political figures under the age of 40 from across the country—will meet with Russian politicians as part of a cross-cultural exchange.

Shanor

"I'm really looking forward to learning about their government and the processes over there," Shanor said. Shanor was nominated to participate in the trip by former Cheyenne state legislator Bryan Pedersen. "I'm just really flattered that he nominated me and I was chosen for this opportunity," Shanor said.

### At a glance

Cheyenne City Councilman Dicky Shanor is traveling to Russia today to participate in an American Council of Young Political Leaders exchange program. He will meet with Russian politicians and learn about the country's political system.

Pedersen said, "I think (Shanor) is a great representative of our state, of our country and our city. He takes pride in Wyoming, and I want that type of enthusiasm reflected when he goes to another country."

Pedersen participated in ACYPL exchanges in 2005 and 2012.

In 2005, Pedersen traveled to India. Later that year, he hosted a delegation from India and Pakistan here in Wyoming. He hosted a delegation from Vietnam in 2012.

Shanor spoke to the Vietnamese delegation about the presidential nomination process in the U.S.

"Just from that experience alone, I can already see the merits of what I am about to embark on," Shanor said.

Pedersen said, "The idea of the program is for you to experience other cultures so you see that the world is indeed round and not flat.

"You'll learn that differ-

ent countries have different cultural ideas, different political views, and it will help your policy decision-making in the future."

He added, "Maybe the people in the delegation will eventually be a senator or a governor, and they will be responsible for serious policy decisions.

"And maybe their counterpart in the other country will be in a position of political power, and their experience will help inter-country relations."

Pedersen called the program a "very high-level exchange."

"I'm sure (Shanor) will get the chance to meet (Russian) parliament members, although it might be a bit of stretch to get to meet (Russian president Vladimir) Putin."

Shanor said, "I will definitely take the knowledge and experience I get over there back to my work here on the City Council."

It is a particularly interesting time for Shanor's trip to Russia, given the ongoing conflict in the Ukraine.

"I asked (the trip organizers) if we are still going forward with the trip, even with a possible invasion of Ukraine impending," Shanor said.

"And they said the State Department and the U.S. embassy in Russia have both said it's all clear for us to go, so I'm ready!"

# Renovation: Work planned to be done by 2018 legislative session

Continued from A3

But the bill that was passed during the last session also instructs planners to first identify space for legislative needs, needs of the governor's office and security requirements of the Capitol.

After those needs have been met, it will be studied to determine if any of the four other elected officials—the secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and superintendent of public instruction—will have room for offices in the Capitol.

But it is likely that many of the elected officials and their staff will be moved to the Herschler Building, which is undergoing its own renovation and expansion as part of the Capitol Square Project.

Whetstone said one proposal is to relocate many of the elected offices to the four-story expansion that is planned for the north end of the Herschler Building. Speaker of the House

Rep. Tom Lubnau, R-Gillette, who is a member of the oversight group, said he was worried about the quality of these offices under this scenario.

"One of the questions I had... are the executive offices in the Herschler Building being designed to such as standard that it is commensurate of the top elected officials in the state of Wyoming?" he asked.

Whetstone responded that the offices will "befit the stature and the meaning of the offices."

Much of the planning decisions need to be made

in the coming months, since the state is planning to start the construction on the Capitol immediately following the 2015 session.

And some of the work on the Herschler Building will need to start before then, since many of the Capitol workers will be relocated to a retrofitted Herschler Building while the work is being done on the Capitol.

Under this timeline, all of the work is targeted to be completed in 2017 so the State Capitol could be reopened in time for the 2018 legislative session.

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