



Grant awarded

SC receives \$1 million from Dept. of Labor

From Sheridan College

The Northern Wyoming Community College District has been awarded a \$975,881 U.S. Department of Labor grant to help create a new associate degree program in mining technology, Sheridan College announced today.

NWCCD is composed of Sheridan and Gillette colleges plus SC's Buffalo extension campus. The first students in the new program are expected to be enrolled in fall 2009.

"Alleviating the energy crisis is a top priority for our college district every day,"

NWCCD President Dr. Kevin Drumm said. "This federal grant will advance efforts within a year that would otherwise take us several years to achieve. "We are so very thankful for



Kevin Drumm
NWCCD President

this High Growth Job Training Initiative grant. Wyoming will now be even better able to help the nation develop energy independence."

An SC news release adds: "For this grant opportunity, the Department of Labor requested proposals where the new awardee would model a program after one that had already been funded.

"NWCCD chose to replicate the Mining Technology program at Pennsylvania State University-Fayette, Eberly Campus to fit the surface mining operations in northeast Wyoming.

"Academic year 2008-2009 will be used for planning — modifying curriculum used at Penn State Wyoming mining operations. ... Arch Coal and Foundation Coal West helped develop the concept and provided letters of commitment for the application, but other employers will be invited to participate.

"The program is open to all students interested in the field. Classes will be open to students at both Sheridan and Gillette campuses. Videoconferencing technology will be used regularly to connect students on both campuses and periodically to host guest lecturers from the University of Wyoming and Penn State."

According to the Department of Labor Web site, projects that won funding are located in 11 states. Awards ranged from \$394,933 to \$1,151,287.

Today's awardees were chosen from among 171 candidates entering a competitive solicitation for grant applications that opened Jan. 23.

On Track For Construction



The Sheridan Press/Michael Sullivan

Pam Treu (left) and Gwen Buckingham, both of Sheridan, walk on the track at Sheridan Junior High School this morning. According to SJHS Principal Mitch Kraft, the track will not be available for use while crews install a rubberized, all-weather surface. Construction begins this week and should be complete by mid-September.

Officials: Rancher would gain little by slaughtering herd

LANDER, (AP) — Ranchers and livestock officials say a western Wyoming rancher who has seen more than 20 of his cattle test positive for brucellosis would have much to lose and little to gain by slaughtering his entire herd.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is pushing the rancher, who hasn't been named, to slaughter the animals. That would wipe out years of breeding work by the rancher.

If he doesn't slaughter, Wyoming would lose its federal brucellosis-free status — assuming that no other herds test positive, in which case Wyoming would lose its brucellosis-free status regard-

less of the rancher's decision.

Loss of that status would mean additional testing requirements for Wyoming cattle. But ranchers throughout western Wyoming must already submit cattle to additional testing because they're in a brucellosis surveillance area.

"We have to test in order to sell breeding livestock," said Lynda Vickrey, a Daniel-area rancher. "We are not the same as the rest of the state. We are currently under restriction, and we don't have the same rights as everybody else in the state."

State Veterinarian Walt Cook has asked the federal government to extend its slaughter deadline

until later this fall, when the 11 other herds that have had contact with the infected herd can be tested. The USDA rejected Cook's initial request for an extension, and he has appealed that decision.

Another Daniel-area rancher, Charles Price, said that by refusing to extend the deadline for the rancher to make his decision, the federal government is pressuring the rancher to slaughter his breeding cattle.

"They're trying to force him. They're trying to make it so bad he'll have to slaughter," Price said. "The guy's worked on those cows for years. It's a high-altitude herd. These cattle have been acclimated

to this area. So why should he have to start all over again? He's choosing between two evils."

Livestock officials point out that the rancher could preserve some of that breeding effort through "test and slaughter" — testing his cattle and killing only those that test positive.

The program would take at least one year to complete. In the meantime, Wyoming would lose its brucellosis-free status.

Randy Stevenson, a Wheatland cattle rancher, said he would support the rancher if he decided not to slaughter his breeding cattle, even though that would add a burden to his own operation.

State 12th in nation for volunteerism

CHEYENNE (AP) — From Old Bill's Fun Run in Jackson Hole to Frontier Days in Cheyenne and AmeriCorps assignments across the state, people in Wyoming volunteer at a higher rate than the national average.

A report out Monday by the Corporation for National and Community Service said that roughly 35 percent of Wyoming residents volunteer each year, the 12th highest rate in the nation. The national average is 27 percent.

The Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit corporation oversees

domestic volunteer programs including AmeriCorps, which enlists long-term volunteers for nonprofit programs, as well as Senior Corps, which enlists people over 55 for mentoring and other types of volunteering.

"Wyoming has always been a state where people care about their community and volunteer quite a bit," said Patrick Gallizzi, Wyoming program director for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"It goes back to the whole idea of Wyomingites being independent and

also wanting to help our neighbors. We care about our communities. We're small, so Wyoming's like a small neighborhood."

Wyoming residents dedicate 17 million hours of service a year, according to the corporation, which said the result is an economic benefit equivalent to about \$332 million.

That works out to just under \$20 an hour — an amount calculated by Independent Sector, a nationwide coalition of about 600 charities, foundations and other types of nonprofits.

The largest portion of people

who volunteer in Wyoming, about 30 percent, volunteer through religious groups. The second-largest portion, 26 percent, volunteer for educational causes, such as tutoring. Volunteering for social services (14 percent), health (7 percent), civic causes (6 percent), and sports and the arts (6 percent) rounded out Wyoming's profile.

In Jackson, about 300 volunteers are needed every year for the Old Bill's Fun Run, which raises money for about 200 local nonprofits through the Jackson Hole Community Foundation.

Fanciers freshen felines for fair

By Kristen Salamon

Staff reporter

Bathing, brushing, cleaning and clipping are all things children who participate in the Sheridan County Fair cat show must do before competition day.

And those are only to prepare the cat. "The baths don't take too long to do because the cat gets angry, so we have to do that fast," said Katelyn Kayser, 9, of Sheridan.

Katelyn competed in Monday's cat show for the first time with Jazzmine, her 2-year-old domestic shorthair cat.

She won the champion junior cat showman award Monday.

According to Katelyn, grooming can take a couple of hours and includes various brushes for the cat's fur, a soft cloth to clean around the ani-



The Sheridan Press/Kristen Salamon

Brody Bard, 12, of Sheridan waits with his cat Shaggs for the next division in the cat show at Monday's Sheridan County Fair. Brody won the champion intermediate cat showman award, the champion shorthair cat award, and the grand champion cat award.

mal's eyes and ears, and keeping the animal out of any dirty areas.

Twelve-year-old Brody Bard is a veteran at the fair cat shows. This is the fourth year he has competed, and he won three awards this year with his cat Shaggs — grand champion cat, champion intermediate cat showman, and champion shorthair cat.

"It's just a good feeling to get the overall award," Brody said. "I've gotten reserve champion twice, but this was a good feeling."

Brody credits his cat's behavior for the prize. "Shaggs was a lot nicer this year," he said. "The first year I competed, he tore me up pretty good."

Cats are not the only things being judged. According to Monday's cat show judge, Kellie Olson of Casper, dress and poise of the animal owners are just as important as their cats' performance.

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Candidate forum

Councilor won't take part, claims organization bias

By Josh Mitchell

Staff reporter

Should political candidates who are members of organizations that sponsor candidate forums take part in those forums, or would that be biased?

Ward 2 City Councilman John Bigelow said he will not participate in an Aug. 13 candidate forum

sponsored by the Sheridan Downtown Alliance because his opponent in the race, George Carter, is the SDA secretary.

"I think it's very inappropriate,"

Bigelow said. "He has a vested interest in the organization sponsoring the forum in that he's an officer. It's not impartial."

Bigelow added, "Viable forums are sponsored by impartial organizations."

Carter said his participating in a forum sponsored by his organization is no different from state representative candidate John Patton, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs Committee, participating in the Chamber of Commerce forum on Aug. 11 and 12.

Patton confirmed that he will participate in the chamber's forum. Carter said he does not see a problem with him and Patton participating in their organizations' forums.

"It's not unusual for candidates who are members of business organizations to participate in the organizations' events (even if the events are political forums)," Carter said.

He added, "I think John Bigelow is making a whole lot out of nothing."

For Bigelow to say that the SDA is biased and not say anything about the chamber is "hypocrisy," Carter said.

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John Bigelow
Sheridan City Councilman



George Carter
City Council Candidate

New Sculpture at SC



Courtesy photo

A work crew installs "Aurora Ascends," a sculpture funded by the Sheridan College Foundation, on the front lawn of Sheridan College on Monday. The sculptors, Tony Higdon and Erika Strecker, both from Kentucky, will discuss their work at this weekend's Big West Arts Festival at SC. The festival runs Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. with live music continuing until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.