



**PROGRAMS PROVIDING MOST SIGNIFICANT
TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY ISSUES**

Today in Wyoming	Monday-Friday	5:30-7am
News 13@ Noon	Monday-Friday	12pm
News 13@ 5	Daily	5pm
News 13 @ 6	Monday-Friday	6pm
News 13 @ 10	Daily	10pm

Regular NBC Network News Programming		
Early Today	Monday-Friday	5am
The Today Show	Monday-Friday	7am
The Today Show	Saturday	6am-7:30am
The Today Show	Sunday	7am-8am
NBC Nightly News	Daily	5:30pm
Meet the Press	Sundays @ 8am	
Examines issues of National and International importance.		

Additionally, KCWY airs several recurring segments on public safety and health. They are:

- Guns & Hoses --- (safety issues with police and firefighters) Thursdays @ 6:50am on Today in Wyoming
- Crimestoppers ---Noon Thursdays



QUARTER 4, 2017, ISSUES & PROGRAMMING COVER SHEET

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS PROGRAMMING

Northern Ag Report – The Northern Ag Network, the most powerful voice of agriculture in the northern Rocky Mountains, airs at 4:30 segment Monday through Friday during the first half hour (5:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.) of ***Today in Wyoming***. Also, a condensed version, a 1:05 segment, airs Monday through Friday on ***News 13 @ Noon***.

Healthline 13 – A 3:00 to 3:30 segment that airs during ***News 13 @ 5*** weekdays and covers health topics that mean the most to you and your family, and keeps you up to date on medical advances and health issues.

The Digital Fortress – Airing during ***News 13 @ 6*** on Mondays, The Digital Fortress is a 1:00 segment that gives viewers information to keep themselves safe in the digital age, online and off. From social networking to social engineering, VPNs, LANs and scams, Gary Trapkus from Hilltop National Bank offers the latest in digital news and information.

Community Calendar – Placed twice in ***Today In Wyoming*** (5:30 am-7am), the Community Calendar is a segment that airs written notifications of non-profit events that are submitted by viewers via our website, submitted via the mail as well as by telephone.

Healthier You – A 3:30 segment that airs Tuesdays at 6:50 am during ***Today In Wyoming***, bringing the latest news from the world of health and medicine and the best medical experts from around Wyoming and around the country to clear up questions about diet and exercise, medical procedures, pharmaceuticals, new advances and old wives' tales.

From The Ground Up – A 1:30 segment that airs Fridays during ***News 13 @ 10*** helps you get the most from your gardening efforts both indoors and out. Written and produced by specialists from the University of Wyoming Extension offering information on topics like pesticides, defensible space, tree planting, composting and container gardening.

Exploring the Nature Of Wyoming – A :70 segment that airs during ***News 13 @ 10*** on Sundays, "Exploring the Nature of Wyoming" is a snapshot of the many wonders and natural resources in Wyoming. Produced by the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, the segments cover rangelands, forests, coal, water, and much more.

Christian Worship Hour – Airing Sundays @ 9:00 am, this is a 58:30 segment providing worship, scriptures, song, hope and encouragement to Christians across America.



GardenStyle with P. Allen Smith – Airing Sundays at 6:00 a.m., this is a show about some unique ways to grow, cook and design your world.

Mom's Everyday - We know what a tough job moms face, that's why Mom's Everyday Minute tackles everything from parenting news, to everyday issues. This is a timely show made by moms, for moms. The half-hour version on Wednesdays following *News 13 at Noon*, probes deeper into the issues of parenting. Mom's Everyday makes moms' lives easier.

The Jefferson Awards – In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard established a Nobel Prize for community service --The Jefferson Awards. This national recognition system honors those who give unselfishly through public and community service, those people who go out of their way to make a difference.

During the fall of 2004, KCWY-TV News 13 embarked on a campaign to honor ordinary Wyoming people who do extraordinary acts of community service without any expectation of recognition or award. Together with our community business partners we are able to show how one person can really make a difference in their community and our state. Each year we have saluted four special people with the annual Wyoming Jefferson Awards. Each November it's time to begin this outstanding and exclusive statewide program to honor these "unsung heroes" through a call for written nominations on-air.

The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. News 13 enlists community partners to help recognize and honor these individuals on the local level and to help select four Wyoming Jefferson award winners. From these winners, the Jefferson Awards Board of Selectors will chose one to represent Wyoming in Washington, D.C. during the National Jefferson Awards 2015 Banquet. Every year News 13 airs the stories of the four Wyoming winners and shows our viewers clips of the local banquet as well as some coverage of the Wyoming representative at the National Jefferson Awards Banquet.



The stories below ran between :60 and 2:00.

QUARTER 4, 2017, ISSUES & PROGRAMMING QUARTERLY ASCERTAINMENTS

STATE ECONOMY

10/6/17

GOVERNOR MATT MEAD'S "ENDOW" COUNCIL MEMBERS ADVANCE EFFORTS TO HELP WYOMING'S ECONOMY DIVERSIFY. THEY TOURED DOWNTOWN CASPER AND SPOKE WITH BUSINESS OWNERS, GETTING FEEDBACK ABOUT SUCCESSES AND STRUGGLES THEY FACE.

THEIR DOWNTOWN TOUR IS ONE OF SEVERAL TRIPS THEY'VE TAKEN TO VIEW LOCAL BUSINESSES ACROSS WYOMING. ALONG THEIR TOUR THEY STOPPED AT SEVERAL BUSINESSES SUCH AS GAS LITE SOCIAL, URBAN BOTTLE AND FRONTIER BREWING COMPANY.

DOWNTOWN CASPER IS FULL OF HISTORY SO THEY WERE ABLE TO HEAR THE STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS BUILDING SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES. FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK THEY RECEIVED FROM BUSINESS MANAGERS ALSO GAVE THEM AN IDEA TO FOCUS ON A COMMON ISSUE.

Jerad Stack, ENDOW "One of the things we keep hearing is workforce issues where people have struggles hiring, skilled laborers, and people that have specific skills of what they're looking to do to be able to grow their business."

SAM

ENDOW COUNCIL MEMBERS WRAP UP THEIR CASPER VISIT TODAY WITH A PUBLIC MEETING. THEY'LL DISCUSS "PRIORITIZING SECTORS", OR AREAS IN THE ECONOMY WHERE DIVERSIFICATION IS NEEDED MOST.

10/10

SAM

OVERALL TAX REVENUES ARE STILL DOWN, BUT CASPER RECEIVED A BUMP DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST FROM THE ECLIPSE. NEWS 13'S FRANCES LIN SPOKE TO A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ABOUT THE CITY'S INCOME. FRANCES, HOW MUCH DID THE CITY COLLECT?

FRANCES

SAM, DURING AUGUST REVENUES WERE A LITTLE MORE THAN 14-PERCENT ABOVE THE CITY'S PROJECTION AND THE NUMBERS COME IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES.



Bob "I'm kind of thinking it looks like, our retail would be up considerably, because of the events that occurred during the eclipse. But the rest, probably the industrial sales taxes are probably not coming up quite as up as we like.

BUT WE DID BEAT OUR ESTIMATED NUMBERS BY OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS. AS OF AUGUST 31-ST, CHEYENNE RANKED NUMBER ONE IN CITY TAX REVENUE, BUT IF YOU PUT TOGETHER CASPER AND OUR NEIGHBORING TOWNS, BAR NUNN, EVANSVILLE AND MILLS TOGETHER, THAT'S ABOUT 11-PERCENT HIGHER THAN CHEYENNE IN TERMS OF TOTAL TAX MONEY. SAM.

SAM

THANKS FRANCES. FRANCES WILL BREAK DOWN THE REVENUE CATEGORIES ON OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS LATER AT SIX.

10/25

SAM

WYOMING INCOME IMPROVES, HOWEVER THE LATEST STATE REVENUE FORECAST STILL PREDICTS LESS MONEY COMING IN THAN A FEW YEARS AGO.

MARELLA

I SPOKE TO A STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND CASPER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ABOUT THE LATEST PREDICTION AND WHAT THIS WILL MEAN FOR WYOMING.

EVERY OCTOBER AND JANUARY, THE CONSENSUS REVENUE ESTIMATING GROUP, OR "CREG", RELEASES REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR THE STATE.

Bob Hopkins - Casper City Council Member "When they come out with a new report we always want to take a peek at it and see where we're looking. It gives us an idea of what we're gonna be facing. Because essentially all the cities and towns get all of the revenue at the behest of the legislature."

THE CREG REPORT DOESN'T GIVE ANY BREAKDOWNS BY COUNTY, TOWN, OR CITY, BUT OFFICIALS STILL LOOK AT THE REPORT AS A GUIDELINE.

"It looks better than what might be expected."

THE LATEST REPORT PREDICTS REVENUE FOR 2017-18 WILL REACH OVER 2 BILLION DOLLARS, 195 DOLLARS MORE THAN THE JANUARY ESTIMATE.

Rep. Steve Harshman - Wyoming House District 37, Natrona County "I'm optimistic, I think. It's all good news. It's not the absolute best, but it's certainly good news."

A POSITIVE SIGN NOT ONLY FOR THE STATE, BUT FOR CASPER, AS SALES TAX REVENUE ESTIMATIONS THIS YEAR HAVE BEATEN PREVIOUS ESTIMATIONS.



"Probably the biggest concern from the city standpoint is sales-tax revenues. And they're estimating sales tax revenues up as I recall, about five percent for the year and that will be helpful to the city of Casper. "

HOPKINS SAYS... SO FAR THIS YEAR CASPER IS ABOUT 679,000 DOLLARS AHEAD. BUT HE SAYS THEY DON'T WANT TO BE TOO OPTIMISTIC.

"We'd like to see that trend continue and if we do, basically, we're four or five months into the year, we're hoping that that will help us out quite a bit for the year."

HOWEVER, COMPARED TO 2013-14, THE STATE IS STILL LOOKING AT AN ALMOST 20 PERCENT DECREASE IN REVENUE.

"The big difference is probably the price of oil. That has a huge effect on the revenues for Casper and especially the state of Wyoming."

A DROP IN NATURAL GAS PRICING AND COAL PRODUCTION HAS HURT THE STATE, RELYING HEAVILY ON ENERGY AS THE MINERAL INDUSTRY PROVIDES MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF WYOMING'S REVENUE.

"We're moving in the right direction, particularly with oil and I think that's really the big story on the CREG report."

HARSHMAN SAYS IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT REVENUE BUT WHAT'S BEEN CUT TOO.

"We've cut nearly 400-million with general fund, 325 million, school's we've cut 75 million. 275 positions at the state level have been eliminated and we've used nearly 700 million in savings the last three years."

HE HOPES WITH ALL THOSE CUTS COMBINED THE LEGISLATURE CAN MEET IN THE MIDDLE AND COME CLOSE TO THEIR BUDGET.

"I mean we still have some problems, no doubt, but Wyoming's in an extremely strong position, I mean we have zero debt... we have money saved in the bank that we been using"

ADDING MONEY CAN'T BE SAVED IN REVENUE CHALLENGED TIMES.

"The legislature has done tough work with this thing. And you're seeing it in local governments... local school boards. These are tough decisions cause budgets are people and it's a hard deal"

HARSMAN SAYS WHILE HE IS KEEPING HIS GUARD UP, HE BELIEVES THE LEGISLATURE WILL FIND A BALANCE THROUGH REDUCTIONS, REVENUE INCREASE, AND A *USE* OF SAVINGS WHICH HE SAYS IS THE REASON WHY *MONEY* IS SAVED. MARELLA PORTER NEWS 13 CASPER

MARELLA

HOPKINS SAYS CITY COUNCIL HAS ALSO CONSIDERED DOING A LOCAL VERSION OF THE CREG GROUP TO CREATE A CITY SPECIFIC REPORT.

12.8



MARELLA

AN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY COULD COME TO SHERIDAN BRINGING BIG BUSINESS TO THE CITY, AND MORE MONEY TO THE STATE. WEDNESDAY, FIVE "BUSINESS READY COMMUNITY" GRANT AND LOAN RECOMMENDATIONS WERE CONSIDERED BY THE WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

AMONG THE REQUESTS IS A GRANT FOR OVER 12-MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE SHERIDAN ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY JOINT POWERS BOARD.. OR "SEEDA." SEEDA MEMBERS WANT TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING IN THE SHERIDAN HIGH-TECH BUSINESS PARK, WHICH IT WILL OWN AND LEASE TO AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED BRAND.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY'S OFFICIALS WANT TO RELOCATE THEIR CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS AND MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS TO SHERIDAN. BUSINESS COUNCIL STAFF ESTIMATED THE 20-YEAR LIFE CYCLE OF THE PROJECT WOULD GENERATE:

OVER SEVEN-MILLION DOLLARS IN ADDITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL TAXES, 124-MILLION IN HOUSEHOLD SPENDING, OVER 198-THOUSAND IN LODGING TAX FOR VISITORS AND CLOSE TO 21-MILLION DOLLARS IN ANTICIPATED REVENUE AND STATE AND LOCAL TAX INCREASES.

10.13

SAM

WYOMING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADE JOBS DECLINE, ACCORDING TO TRADE PROFESSIONALS. BETWEEN 2008 AND 2016, AROUND 20 THOUSAND JOBS WERE LOST IN INDUSTRIES LIKE CONSTRUCTION, ACCORDING TO THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES .

FACULTY AT PATHWAYS INNOVATION CENTER IN CASPER SAY BOTH WYOMING'S ECONOMY, AND WORKERS STAYING AT THEIR JOBS LONGER ARE THE REASONS. HOWEVER THEY SAY A BOOST IN THE JOB MARKET IS AROUND THE CORNER AND THEY PREPARE THEIR STUDENTS FOR A TURN IN THE ECONOMY.

TROY CORSON* PATHWAYS INNOVATION CENTER "We try to prep students to where if they want to roll in to an entry level position in the industry or if they're looking to going to post-secondary education they wanting to further their education in the automotive industry."

TRADE CONSULTANTS AGREE THE LOCAL ECONOMY IS TO BLAME FOR THE DROP IN TRADE JOBS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH TO HIGHLIGHT THE TRADES AS A CAREER OPTION. YOU'LL HEAR MORE FROM PATHWAYS INNOVATION FACULTY AND TRADE CONSULTANTS TONIGHT AT SIX.

10.18

LEGISLATORS AND STATE OFFICIALS AIM TO REDUCE COSTS AND INCREASE STATEWIDE SERVICES, DESPITE A BUDGET SHORTFALL. GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSIONERS MET, REVIEWING A NEW DRAFT FOR IMPLEMENTING SAVINGS. THE PROJECT OVERVIEW EXAMINES SEVERAL TOP STATE DEPARTMENTS. THEY INCLUDE ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND REVENUE. THE GOALS THEY WANT WOULD HELP SAVE MONEY AND KEEP IMPORTANT SERVICES RUNNING FARTHER.



Sen. Drew Perkins "It's a process that would take a number of years to put in and realize it all if we did it, but there's some things we can do that create immediate savings that would obviously would help in this time of tight budget."

SAM

PERKINS SAYS THE PROCESS COULD TAKE AROUND 18 TO 24 MONTHS. HE SAYS STATE OFFICIALS WOULD SAVE AROUND 100 TO 300 *MILLION* DOLLARS.

10.27

MARELLA

STATE LEGISLATORS PROPOSE A BILL CHANGING TAX DISTRIBUTIONS FROM SEVERANCE TAXES. NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK HEARD FROM LEGISLATORS ABOUT USING THE STATE'S ONE PERCENT SEVERANCE TAX MONEY ELSEWHERE.

OIL AND GAS IS STILL A HUGE PART OF THE WYOMING ECONOMY. A BUDGET SHORTFALL SPURS LEGISLATORS TO DEBATE CHOICES REDIRECTING THE SEVERANCE TAX INCOME.

"There are some things that we just need to do as far as cleaning up that process."

A STATE REPORT SHOWS SEVERANCE TAX NUMBERS DROPPED NEARLY 169 MILLION DOLLARS WITHIN A YEAR. A PROPOSAL WOULD LET LEGISLATORS MAKE TWO CHOICES; PUT COLLECTED TAX MONEY BACK INTO THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND, OR USE IT FOR EDUCATION MAINTENANCE.

ONE REPRESENTATIVE WANTS IT SPENT ON SCHOOLS, ESPECIALLY WITH DEEP CUTS HITTING SCHOOL SYSTEMS.

Rep. Sue Wilson "It's painful for us to have to make cuts in a hard time, but if we disregard future generations and say 'well, it's too hard of a problem, we'll just pay for ourself now and the heck with him', that's not the direction I want to go."

OTHER LEGISLATORS WERE SPLIT ABOUT USING THE MONEY ELSEWHERE. A SENATOR WANTS IT FOR THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND.

Sen. Bruce Burns "For the foreseeable future, we're going to need this money because of the shortfall."

BUT REPRESENTATIVE SOMMERS SAYS IT'LL HELP EDUCATION.

Rep. Albert Sommers "We have to face up to this at some point. 'How we fund major maintenance for K-12 education."

LEGISLATORS BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON THE CHANGES, BUT WILL DEBATE THIS BILL AGAIN IN DECEMBER. TYLER WAGGENSPACK, NEWS 13. CASPER.

MARELLA



THE ONE PERCENT MONEY HAS BEEN PUT INTO THE GENERAL FUND FOR ROUGHLY TWO YEARS. BEFORE THEN, IT WAS PLACED IN THE STATE'S PERMANENT FUND ACCOUNT.

ASH ST. REDEVELOPMENT

12.11

THE OLD PLAINS FURNITURE BUILDING HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN ARCHITECT'S DELIGHT AND CASPER CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUE FIGURING OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT. THROUGH EXCAVATING, ARCHITECTS CAME ACROSS PHOTOS OF THE OLD NOLAN CHEVROLET. THE HOLES AND SCRAP SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING DISPLAY THE OLDER STRUCTURE. BECAUSE OF THE HISTORY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUE THOROUGHLY EXAMINING THE BUILDING.

Bob "council's got a decision to make of which way we're going to go on it, because when we did purchase it, we honestly didn't know the treasures we had."

STRIPPING AWAY THE FACADES ASSISTS IN MAKING A DECISION, AND COUNCIL MAN POWELL SAYS WHATEVER THE NEXT MOVE IS IT WILL BENEFIT CASPER. COUNCILMAN POWELL SAYS COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE RECEIVING MANY PROPOSALS FOR ADJACENT BUILDINGS...AS WELL AS THE OLD PLAINS FURNITURE BUILDING.

12.19

MARELLA

THE FUTURE OF THE ASH STREET PROPERTIES IN CASPER HAS BEEN DECIDED.

SAM

CITY COUNCIL CHOSE TO APPROVE BIDS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS.

MARELLA

NEWS 13'S FRANCES LIN HAS MORE ON ARGUMENTS PRESENTED AT TONIGHT'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

MANY IDEAS WERE PROPOSED FOR WHAT TO DO WITH THE ASH STREET PROPERTIES IN A GREAT TURNOUT AT TUESDAY'S CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

Humphrey "They came forward at about the same time, wasn't quite as coordinated as we would've liked it to be, but what council's really trying to do is hear all the options before making a decision."

SOME HAD BID ON THE PROPERTIES WANTING TO USE THE LAND FOR LOCAL BUSINESS.

Kirstin Bott / Frosted Tops Owner "I think that we can be a catalyst in other development of other small business. And I'm all for like I said, small business."



Scott Cotton / 1890 President "I think that showing our community and our young entrepreneurs that you can go and try to live out your dreams and you're not going to be shut down by other governments, and the big guy you know, the little guy needs to win too."

David Kelley / Ashby Construction President "Local businesses is what we want to see. Local businesses drive our economy when it's slow, so we would like to see small businesses down there."

OTHERS WANTED COUNCIL TO WAIT AND REJECT THE BIDS TO BUILD A CONVENTION CENTER.

Brandon Daigle / RVB Architect "I think that there's a higher and better use for the sites that they have, the city bought that land with an opportunity to redevelop downtown, and had they wanted to sell it to the private sector, they should have left it in the private sector."

OTHERS DON'T BELIEVE A CONVENTION CENTER TO BE A GOOD FIT FOR THE AREA.

William Conte / Casper College Theater History & Literature Instructor "It will irredeemably change the character of the neighborhood for one thing. It will be a monstrosity that is so out of place, given the character and texture of that neighborhood, it would be obscene and a on this community for generations to come. This convention center will out-live its usefulness, rather, within a decade."

AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN WAS PRESENTED, TO HOLD OFF ON THE DECISION DUE TO A LACK OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

Kevin Hawley / Downtown Development Authority Executive Director "There's just so many unknowns out there with what the city's doing with the potential partial demo of the plains furniture side of David Street, not knowing a plan with that, from the city and selling a very valuable asset immediately behind it is concerning."

**BUT CITY COUNCIL ULTIMATELY VOTED TO APPROVE THE BIDS WITH FIVE "YES" VOTES AND THREE "NO'S".
FRANCES LIN, NEWS 13. CASPER.**

12.20

SAM

THE ASH STREET PROPERTIES HAD CASPER RESIDENTS ITCHING TO BUY AND OWN A HISTORIC SECTION OF DOWNTOWN.

MARELLA

A BIDDER FROM TUESDAY NIGHT'S COUNCIL MEETING IS ALREADY MAPPING OUT PLANS FOR THE OLD KALARKS (KAY-LARKS) GYM.

SAM

NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK CAUGHT UP WITH THE BIDDER AFTER PLACING 300-THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THE PROPERTY. TYLER, WHAT DID HE SAY?



T. WAG

SAM/MARELLA, THE 1890 BUSINESS OWNER SCOTT COTTON IS EXCITED ABOUT HIS PURCHASE.

A LONG PROCESS FOR BOTH CASPER CITY OFFICIALS AND RESIDENTS BUT NOW THREE ASH STREET PROPERTIES ARE CLAIMED.

"We've been looking for a new space for a few months prior to that."

TUESDAY NIGHT, COUNCIL APPROVED THREE BIDS FOR THE ASH STREET PROPERTIES, INCLUDING THE OLD KALARKS GYM, LIVERY STABLE AND MILO'S TOYOTA BODY SHOP.

Liz Becher "I believe the Casper City Council did a bold, very positive move last night and supporting the young entrepreneurs."

SCOTT COTTON PLACED A 300-THOUSAND DOLLAR BID HIMSELF ON THE OLD KALARKS GYM.

Scott Cotton "Once we walked through it we felt like it really resinated space wise with our expansion plan."

COTTON'S BUSINESS "1890 INCORPORATION" CONTINUES GROWING AND MUCH OF HIS STAFF WORKS IN TWO DIFFERENT BUILDINGS. THE OLD GYM PROVIDES HIM THE NECESSARY SPACE.

"It's going to give us the opportunity to have everything under one roof and be just more productive."

COTTON STILL WANTS TO KEEP THE OLD GYM FOUNDATION IN TACT. HE HOPES PRESERVING IT KEEPS "THE HISTORY" BEHIND THIS HISTORIC BUILDING. MEANWHILE CITY OFFICIALS RECEIVE PLENTY OF CALLS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE CITY AFTER THE DECISION TUESDAY NIGHT.

"I am excited and I've already started getting calls today by other businesses that are wanting to come forward and talk to city administration about what else is going on down there."

CITY OFFICIALS WILL MEET WITH THE ASH STREET PROPERTY BIDDERS AROUND NEW YEAR'S TO DISCUSS FUTURE USE OF THE LOCATION. TYLER WAGGENSPACK...NEWS 13...CASPER.

SCHOOL BUDGET TROUBLES

10/7

T. WAG

MILLS TOWN OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE AGAINST CLOSING THE TOWN'S LAST REMAINING SCHOOL.

FRANCES

MILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS APPROVED A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CLOSURE OF MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY. THEY CAME UP WITH THE RESOLUTION, AFTER GETTING EMAILS AND PHONE CALLS FROM ANGRY RESIDENTS.



LAST WEEK, NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THEIR CONSIDERATIONS FOR CLOSING MOUNTAIN VIEW. UNIVERSITY PARK, WILLARD ELEMENTARY, FRONTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL ARE THREE OTHERS SCHOOLS THAT COULD ALSO CLOSE NEXT YEAR.

IN AN EMAIL FROM N-C-S-D OFFICIALS THEY SAID MOUNTAIN VIEW SITS AT LESS THAN HALF CAPACITY. THE EMAIL ALSO STATES THAT THE DISTRICT HAS 970 EMPTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEATS. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD WILL VOTE ON CLOSURE RECOMMENDATIONS AT THEIR OCTOBER 23 MEETING.

10/13

ELIZABETH

EDUCATORS URGE LEGISLATORS TO ADD COMPUTER SCIENCE TO THE STATE'S EDUCATION PROGRAM AND TEACH IT THROUGHOUT WYOMING GRADE SCHOOLS. NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK HEARD FROM BOTH EDUCATORS AND LAW MAKERS ABOUT STRUGGLES THEY FACE IMPLEMENTING IT.

COMPUTER SCIENCE MAY NO LONGER BE CONSIDERED AN ELECTIVE. EDUCATORS HOPE THEY CAN TEACH IT AS A MAIN COURSE IN THEIR CURRICULUM.

"I think that's something a small district can offer."

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND SPEAKERS APPROACHED LEGISLATORS WITH THE IDEA. WYOMING DOESN'T HAVE A STATEWIDE CURRICULUM ON COMPUTER SCIENCE BEING A MANDATORY CLASS. EDUCATORS BELIEVE IT WILL PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITY.

Diana "If I have a handful of seniors unable to get a course that they want, we have a lot of flexibility to focus on that handful."

BUT A STRUGGLE THEY FACE IS FINDING PROPER FUNDING AND CERTIFIED TEACHERS WHO CAN RUN THOSE CLASSES.

Charles Auzqui "Where do you put programs in? We take another program, we take away an opportunity. We have shared staff in a K-12 building. You have one science teacher, so there's certain opportunities within a schedule where that certain class can be offered."

LEGISLATORS FEEL UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE LENGTHY PROCESS IT WOULD TAKE TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY ON IT.

Sen. Dave Kinskey "Usually by the time it makes its way into that institution it's irrelevant to what's really going on."

"How do we know it's going to be a curriculum that A: we find the teachers, B: is relevant and not stale by the time it gets there? and C: is it actually going to engage the students."

EDUCATORS BELIEVE THE COST OF INTEGRATING COMPUTER SCIENCE AS A MAIN COURSE WOULD BE MINIMAL. TYLER WAGGENSPACK, NEWS 13. CASPER.



ELIZABETH

LEGISLATORS WILL CONSIDER ADDING COMPUTER SCIENCE TO THE STATE EDUCATION PROGRAM TODAY.

10/13

SAM

STATE LEGISLATORS CONSIDER CHANGES TO FUNDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN CASPER TODAY. EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN EXAMINING COST EFFICIENCIES DUE TO DECLINING STUDENT ENROLLMENT

THE IDEA IS BASED UPON A THREE-YEAR-AVERAGE MODEL, WHERE SCHOOLS RECEIVE MONEY BY COST PER STUDENT. LEGISLATORS SAY THE COMPLICATION IS SHIFTING STUDENT POPULATIONS WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS. THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD SAVE ROUGHLY ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS IF THE MODEL CHANGES SOON.

Rep. Nicholas "What we're really doing is we're increasing part class sizes and instead of compensating teachers, so how do you incorporate that into cost savings?"

SAM

LEGISLATORS ALSO CONSIDER CHANGES TO STATEWIDE TEACHER HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS. EDUCATORS VOICED CONCERNS ABOUT BLOCK GRANT MONEY GETTING CUT, WHICH PROVIDES THAT INSURANCE. LATER TONIGHT NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK HIGHLIGHTS MORE RESPONSES FROM EDUCATORS AND LEGISLATORS ABOUT THESE CHANGES.

10.23

RUMORS POURING INTO NEWS13 OF ALTERNATE HIGH SCHOOL STAR LANE CENTER CLOSING. NATRONA COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALS CAN NOT CONFIRM OR DENY THE ACCUSATIONS. NEWS13'S BOBBY POITEVINT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THE STORY ALL MORNING AND JOINS US LIVE. BOBBY...WHAT ARE N-C-H-S STAFF SAYING?

MARELLA

A 50-MILLION DOLLAR BUDGET CUT...COULD BE ON ITS WAY TO NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOLS. HOWEVER N-C-S-D OFFICIALS SAY IF IT HAPPENS, THEY ARE PREPARED. NEWS13'S BOBBY POITEVINT SPOKE TO N-C-S-D STAFF AND FOUND OUT HOW THIS WILL IMPACT STUDENTS. BOBBY WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

BOBBY

MARELLA, STRATEGIES TO FIT A SMALLER BUDGET WERE PRESENTED. IDEAS INCLUDED COMBINING CLASSROOMS, ELIMINATING TRANSPORTATION, EVEN CHOOSING NOT TO WATER LANDSCAPE. SCHOOL OFFICIALS SAY THEY WANT TO GIVE EVERYTHING A DOLLAR AMOUNT TO SEE WHERE POTENTIAL CUTS CAN BE MADE.



RAYMOND CATELLIER* NCS D BOARD OF TRUSTEE "almost three years now. we've seen it coming we've been doing everything we can from closing schools to reducing positions and eliminating positions anything we can to save a dollar we've been working on doing so we don't have to start cutting teachers so we don't have to start cutting programs."

N-C-S-D OFFICIALS WANT TO STRESS THE IDEAS ARE NOT THINGS HAPPENING NOW JUST IDEAS ON THE TABLE OFFICIALS SAY THEY WILL NOT KNOW OF STATE EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS UNTIL SPRING OF NEXT YEAR. N-C-S-D STAFF SAY THEY HAVE EVEN LOOKED OUTSIDE OF WYOMING FOR IDEAS. THEY TELL ME RIGHT NOW, THEY HAVE AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF 200-MILLION DOLLARS. MARELLA

MARELLA

THANK YOU BOBBY. BOBBY WILL HAVE PARENTS REACTIONS TONIGHT AT 10.

10.24

MARELLA

A SEPTEMBER PROPOSAL WOULD CLOSE FOUR SCHOOLS IN THE NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT. MONDAY, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED TO DO THAT.

FRONTIER MIDDLE SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY PARK, MOUNTAIN VIEW, AND WILLARD ELEMENTARY WILL CLOSE NEXT YEAR. ENROLLMENT AND MONEY ARE FACTORS IN THE CLOSURES. BOARD MEMBERS SAY DOING THIS COULD SAVE AROUND TWO-AND-A-HALF MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. AFTER LAST NIGHT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AREN'T HAPPY ABOUT THE NEWS.

Skeeter Robertson / Willard Elementary School Parent "It's sad to see Willard go, because I went to this school, All through my elementary school. So it's sad to see me when I grow up, I've already been passed this era, and now my kids are having to go through it all."

MARELLA

THEY SAY THEY HAVE ALREADY CUT 4 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BUDGET, AND EXPECT TO CUT ANOTHER 8 MILLION IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. SOME ARE ASKING ON SOCIAL MEDIA ABOUT LOTTERY FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS. THE LOTTERY NEEDS TO CROSS A SIX-MILLION DOLLAR THRESHOLD IN A FISCAL YEAR BEFORE THAT TRANSFER OCCURS.

THE LAST LOTTERY STATEMENT SHOWED JUST UNDER FOUR-AND-A-HALF MILLION DOLLARS RETURNED TO THE STATE.

10.25

MARELLA

MORE SCHOOL DISTRICTS AROUND THE STATE, BESIDES NATRONA COUNTY, FEEL A PINCH OF THE EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS. NEWS 13'S HEATH BRADBERG GOT INFORMATION ABOUT HOW SOME COUNTIES ARE DEALING WITH THIS GROWING EPIDEMIC.



AS SCHOOL FUNDING CONTINUES TO GET CUT, SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS AROUND THE STATE ARE FORCED TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS ON HOW TO UTILIZE WHAT MONEY THEY *DO* GET MOST EFFECTIVELY.

Dr. Paige Fenton Hughes "Seeing if we could close a building was one of the options we talked about but it didn't come to the top when we started prioritizing the way that we would look at reducing our budget."

CONVERSE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS IN DOUGLAS ARE DOING WHATEVER THEY CAN TO GIVE CHILDREN THE MOST EFFECTIVE EDUCATION.

"We're taking a look at how we do business and trying to be that much more efficiently and looking for way that we can maximize the dollars that come to us."

WITH AN EXPECTED EIGHT MILLION DOLLAR TOTAL CUT IN EDUCATION EXPECTED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, PRIORITIES ARE REASSESSED ALL WHILE TRYING TO MAINTAIN QUALITY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS.

"I think we all agree that we want to keep cuts as far away from our students and as far away from the instruction as we can. But that's becoming more and more difficult."

CONVERSE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY REDESIGNED THEIR SCHOOL SYSTEM FROM PREVIOUS CUTS AND HOPE TO AVOID CLOSING THEIR SCHOOLS. HEATH BRADBERG, NEWS 13. DOUGLAS.

MARELLA

NEWS 13 ALSO REACHED OUT TO JOHNSON AND CARBON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS. JOHNSON COUNTY HAS NOT HAD ANY SCHOOL CLOSURES AS OF NOW. CARBON COUNTY OFFICIALS WERE UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

10.27

MARELLA

STATE LEGISLATORS PROPOSE A BILL CHANGING TAX DISTRIBUTIONS FROM SEVERANCE TAXES. NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK HEARD FROM LEGISLATORS ABOUT USING THE STATE'S ONE PERCENT SEVERANCE TAX MONEY ELSEWHERE.

OIL AND GAS IS STILL A HUGE PART OF THE WYOMING ECONOMY. A BUDGET SHORTFALL SPURS LEGISLATORS TO DEBATE CHOICES REDIRECTING THE SEVERANCE TAX INCOME.

"There are some things that we just need to do as far as cleaning up that process."

A STATE REPORT SHOWS SEVERANCE TAX NUMBERS DROPPED NEARLY 169 MILLION DOLLARS WITHIN A YEAR. A PROPOSAL WOULD LET LEGISLATORS MAKE TWO CHOICES., PUT COLLECTED TAX MONEY BACK INTO THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND, OR USE IT FOR EDUCATION MAINTENANCE. ONE REPRESENTATIVE WANTS IT SPENT ON SCHOOLS ESPECIALLY WITH DEEP CUTS HITTING SCHOOL SYSTEMS.



Rep. Sue Wilson "It's painful for us to have to make cuts in a hard time, but if we disregard future generations and say 'well, it's too hard of a problem, we'll just pay for ourself now and the heck with him', that's not the direction I want to go."

OTHER LEGISLATORS WERE SPLIT ABOUT USING THE MONEY ELSEWHERE. A SENATOR WANTS IT FOR THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND.

Sen. Bruce Burns "For the foreseeable future, we're going to need this money because of the shortfall."

BUT REPRESENTATIVE SOMMERS SAYS IT'LL HELP EDUCATION.

Rep. Albert Sommers "We have to face up to this at some point. How we fund major maintenance for K-12 education."

LEGISLATORS BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON THE CHANGES, BUT WILL DEBATE THIS BILL AGAIN IN DECEMBER. TYLER WAGGENSPACK, NEWS 13. CASPER.

MARELLA

THE ONE PERCENT MONEY HAS BEEN PUT INTO THE GENERAL FUND FOR ROUGHLY TWO YEARS. BEFORE THEN...IT WAS PLACED IN THE STATE'S PERMANENT FUND ACCOUNT.

10.30

SAM

LEGISLATORS SEARCH FOR MONEY TO REPAIR AGING SCHOOLS. NEWS13'S BOBBY POITEVINT ATTENDED TODAY'S (**MONDAY**) MEETING AND HEARD REACTIONS FROM LEGISLATORS.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES SAY BUILDING NEW SCHOOLS IS NOT FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE. MONDAY, MEMBERS OF THE 'SELECT COMMITTEE FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES HEARD SCHOOL LEADERS' PROPOSALS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE. THEY SAY MAINTAINING EXISTING SCHOOLS IS CHEAPER THAN BUILDING NEW FACILITIES.

SENATOR BILL LANDEN "we've got to move more into an asset preservation mode, simply because the resources are so tight. For a long time we had luxury of building several brand new schools now it's our job to make sure we take care of them."

LANDEN IS A SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER WHO SAYS SOME OF THE HIGHER-PRIORITY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS ARE IN CHEYENNE AND JACKSON. LANDEN ADDS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DISTRICTS GET THE NEEDED MONEY.

"Component funding where talking about roofs and parking lots and HVAC systems things that dispirits cannot afford on their own."

SENATOR HANK COE SAYS ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WITH FUNDING AGING SCHOOLS IS FINDING THE FUNDS.



SENATOR HANK COE "we don't have any money. We don't have any extra money and that's gonna be the question where we can find money to possibly fund this budget."

COE SAYS COAL LEASE BONUS MONEY PREVIOUSLY HELPED FUND CONSTRUCTION FOR K-12 SCHOOLS. HOWEVER COE SAYS THREE-BILLION DOLLARS ARE GONE, AND ONLY A FEW FUNDING OPTIONS REMAIN.

"Figure out a way through the general fund, if we take some of the moneys out of the Isra legislatives stabilization reserve account, our rainy day fund whatever we do. So we'll be considering all of that and it just depends how we proceed but there is not a dedicated revenue stream right now for school cap con."

LANDEN SAYS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL MAKE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOVERNOR MEAD. HE ESTIMATES THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. BOBBY POITEVINT NEWS13 CASPER.

SAM

LANDEN SAYS NATRONA COUNTY SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S BUDGET CHANGES.

11.14

SAM

A STATE COMMITTEE MET IN CASPER TODAY (**TUESDAY**) DISCUSSING ADJUSTING DISTRICTS' HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS AND THE POSSIBLE BUDGET IMPACT. FOUR BILLS AIMED AT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS...WERE CONSIDERED.

THE STATE HAS A 'BLOCK GRANT MODEL' IN PLACE NOW WHERE EACH DISTRICT CAN TAKE EITHER THE STATE PLAN OR CHOOSE THEIR OWN PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES. ONE OF THE LEGISLATORS' CONCERNS, MANY DISTRICTS PAY FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES' HEALTH INSURANCE COSTING THE STATE MONEY.

OPTION ONE, PUTTING ALL THE TEACHERS, DISTRICT STAFF AND STATE EDUCATION EMPLOYEES ON THE STATE PLAN WHICH WOULD ALMOST DOUBLE THE ENROLLEES ON THAT PLAN, ACCORDING TO LEGISLATORS.

THE SECOND OPTION ALLOWING DISTRICTS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN PLANS, WITH EMPLOYEES REIMBURSED FOR THE ACTUAL COST UP TO THE STATE-FUNDED PLAN. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THESE BILLS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE TABLE SO MORE DISCUSSIONS ARE AHEAD, NOW LEGISLATORS SEE BOTH OPTIONS TO BE VIABLE.

Chris "To me each district having its own plan is probably not a good long term solution, there are inefficiencies in that approach, however putting everybody in the statewide pool as it exists now can lead to some other problems."

SAM

THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED SOME DIFFERENT HEALTH CARE OPTIONS AND DIFFERENT MODELS...ALL AIMED AT HELPING TO SAVE MONEY.



11.15

MARELLA

STATE LEGISLATORS DRAFT NEW BILLS CUTTING EVEN MORE OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET. NEWS 13'S TYLER WAGGENSPACK SPOKE WITH THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT...WHO BELIEVES THESE CUTS ARE ONLY SMALL CHANGES.

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS REMAIN UNTIL THE 2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION. AS DAYS NARROW DOWN UNTIL JANUARY, LEGISLATORS MOVE FORWARD WITH IDEAS AFFECTING THE BUDGET.

Jillian Balow "The best predictors are watching what the interim committees are doing for the legislature."

TUESDAY, JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS DRAFTED SEVERAL BILLS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION NEXT YEAR.

"There's nothing in the cuts that were proposed yesterday that give me alarm that we're getting too close to students."

THEY INCLUDE THE STUDENT ENROLLMENT CALCULATION MODEL WHICH LEGISLATORS BELIEVE IS FLAWED. THE REASON WHY, IS BECAUSE IT COUNTS STUDENTS MORE THAN ONCE. IT'S BASED OFF OF A THREE YEAR AVERAGE TRACKING STUDENTS IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS.

LEGISLATORS BELIEVE THIS MAKES FUNDING HARD SINCE STUDENT POPULATIONS CAN SHIFT AT ANY TIME. CUTS ALSO INCLUDE SCALING BACK ON STATEWIDE TESTING DOLLARS AND MAINTENANCE WORKER FUNDING.

"Of course all those need to go through the gauntlet of the legislative session, but I would anticipate additional cuts for education, but it would be difficult to put a number on that."

AND THOSE NEW CUTS TOTAL 16 MILLION DOLLARS. THEY'RE "SMALL CHANGES" THAT EDUCATORS BELIEVE WON'T AFFECT STUDENTS.

"Keeping those cuts as far away from the classroom as possible."

THE LAST BILL IMPLEMENTS COMPUTER SCIENCE AS A SUBJECT TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS.

Sen. Chris Rothfuss "So really emphasizing that future skill set and prioritizing as we move forward."

BALOW ALSO HOPES THAT BILL PASSES. SINCE 2015, SHE WANTED COMPUTER SCIENCE TO BE TAUGHT STATEWIDE. TYLER WAGGENSPACK, NEWS 13. CASPER.

MARELLA

SCHOOL MAINTENANCE IS INCLUDED IN THOSE CUTS.

12.2



FRANCES

QUESTIONS ARE BEING RAISED ABOUT NEWLY CREATED UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN THE MIDST OF BUDGET CUTS. IN THE LAST BUDGET REDUCTION, 370 POSITIONS WERE ELIMINATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY. IT'S SOMETHING U-W PRESIDENT DOCTOR LAURIE NICHOLS SAYS WAS NOT AN OPTION AS STATE OFFICIALS ASKED THEM TO REACH A *42-MILLION DOLLAR* REDUCTION. RECENTLY, SOME HAVE QUESTIONED WHY NEW ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS ARE BEING CREATED WHEN SO MANY EMPLOYEES WERE LET GO.

Laurie Nichols - University of Wyoming President "We did lose a number of positions, they were in both faculty and staff and quite honestly there were a few administrative positions given up in that budget reduction as well.

FRANCES

NICHOLS SAYS THOSE POSITIONS OPENED UP...AFTER THE BUDGET REDUCTION. SHE SAYS THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE JOBS WERE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR PROGRESSION WITHIN THE SCHOOL.