



Duties suspended for Wyoming GOP secretary

Wyoming Republican Party Secretary Charles Curley has had his duties suspended following an allegation of assault on February 23.

According to a press release from the party, the Wyoming Republican Party Executive Committee met via teleconference on March 7. The committee is comprised of the state party officers plus seven State Central Committee (SCC) members from around the state.

The Executive Committee followed Robert's Rules of Order to conduct the meeting. Two motions were made. The first was a motion to suspend the duties, powers, and

responsibilities of party secretary Charles Curley. The second motion directed Chairman W. Frank Eathorne to set a meeting of the SCC for the purpose of removing Curley from position of party secretary. Both motions passed. Party bylaws prescribe a 10-day notice before a full SCC meeting. The date is pending feedback from SCC members as to the earliest date the majority are available to attend the in-person meeting. It will be a closed session. Once the outcome of the meeting is determined, a press release will follow.

This action comes after an allegation of assault against Curley which apparently

happened following the Laramie County Republican Party's Lincoln Day on February 23. It has been reported Curley and Wyoming GOP Executive Director Kristi Wallin had a disagreement following the dinner and Curley allegedly grabbed Wallin, shook her and tore or dislodged her shirt from her shoulder.

"It is the goal of the Wyoming Republican Party to resolve this matter expeditiously with all due respect and dignity to its many members and the public" states a release issued by the Wyoming GOP.

The incident is being investigated by the Cheyenne Police Department.



photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Fastball and the furious

Members of the Thermopolis Police Department came Friday afternoon to Thermopolis Middle School to assist with the lock late activities. Ethan Crow winds up to test his speed while Sergeant Pat Cornwell uses a radar speed gun to measure the velocity of the thrown tennis ball. Each student participating had an opportunity to best their speeds with three tries.

Legislature wrapping up

Excellent working partnership developed

by Mark Dykes and Cindy Glasson

Monday afternoon, State Representatives Nathan Winters and Wyatt Agar visited the Thermopolis Independent Record and spoke about this year's Legislative session.

Winters said he, Agar and Mike Greer have developed an excellent working partnership that has been apparent on the floor of both the House and the Senate, particularly with the discussion of the bill concerning privatization of the Wyoming Pioneer Home and Wyoming Retirement Center.

"We had a real team effort with this bill," Winters said. He and Agar put in the extra time to ensure both facilities had funding for the biennium (two years).

"Now we need to really start thinking about their future," he added. "We have to get a community thought process going to determine how the Pioneer Home is going to function in the future because this is going to come up again. These two years give us a little time to put something into place."

Agar added a tactical move from those driving the conver-

sation was to start the bill on the Senate side, thinking they could walk over him because he was a freshman senator, but there were two members of Appropriations who voted against the bill before it started.

As a community, Agar said, there needs to be some planning so we are not at the whims of the Wyoming Health Department should the conversation come back. Agar noted the community really did well in reaching out to senators and explaining the impact to the Big Horn Basin.

Regarding the budget bill, Winters said, "There were multiple battles going on with the budget bill. Our delegation worked hard to create coalitions and teamwork in both the house and the senate, crossing party lines."

It was Agar's first budget session, though he pointed out it was not as hectic as last session because in that session they tried to jam a budget session and general session into one.

Agar also spoke to a bill he brought, SF92 regarding electronic logbook enforcements, and many people said it was

preemptive. Though he didn't expect the governor to sign it, he wanted to make a statement about how commerce is being affected. In the third reading, the Federal Motor Carriers Office in Washington, D.C. was listening to the live feed, and in the two days following the bill's passing out of the Senate there were emergency stakeholders meetings during which almost every exemption asked for in the bill was passed.

"What I learned from this session," Agar said, "is it's not necessarily the legislation you pass but the stand you takes that counts."

Another bill that really draws the Big Horn Basin into it is the Ag ENDOW bill. When looking at the ENDOW bills, Agar said, there are some driven by market and others by speculation. There is a huge demand for Wyoming products in in Taiwan and as soon as the Ag ENDOW bill passed, their trade ambassador was standing in the chambers stating he wanted to do business with Wyoming. The bill mainly puts a trade rep-

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Breaking the wall

Fire and emergency personnel, along with law enforcement, respond to an accident at the retaining wall in Hot Springs State Park.

Driver runs speeding van into wall

by Mark Dykes

Friday evening, law enforcement and emergency personnel responded to a one-vehicle accident in Hot Springs State Park, at the three-way stop intersection of Park and Buffalo.

Wyoming Highway Patrol Trooper Regina Schulmeister reported a white van belonging to the Set Free Church and driven by John Welch was travelling eastbound in the west-bound lane. While travelling across the bridge leading into the state park, the van struck the barrier between the street and sidewalk.

The vehicle continued to travel into the park,

doing at least 60 miles per hour, Schulmeister said. Welch did not hit the brakes and blew through the stop sign, striking the retaining wall at the intersection. Airbags did deploy, she noted, and Welch was wearing his seatbelt.

Welch was arrested for alleged reckless driving and driving while impaired. Schulmeister said the impairment was due to inhalants from a can of compressed air.

Welch was later released and is scheduled for a preliminary appearance in circuit court this Friday. Investigation into the crash is continuing.