



# CITY OF GILLETTE

## Administration

201 E. 5th Street • Gillette, Wyoming 82716  
Phone 307.686.5203 • Fax 307.686.1593  
www.gillettewy.gov

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Members of the City Council  
FROM: Patrick G. Davidson, City Administrator  
RE: General Information  
DATE: July 2, 2020

The following meetings are scheduled for the week of July 3 – July 10, 2020

#### Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday – City Offices Closed

#### Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

##### 6:00 p.m. City Council Pre-Meeting, Agenda Attached

- Introduction of New Citizen Advisory Board Members
  - Personnel Review Board
  - Mayor's Art Council
  - Regional Water Panel
  - Planning Commission
- Campbell County Health Update – Colleen Heeter, CEO
- Lodging Tax Resolution Discussion – Jessica Seders, Campbell County Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director
- Review July 7, 2020 Council Agenda
- City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room
- Dinner Served at 5:30 p.m.

##### 7:00 p.m. City Council Meeting

City Hall – Council Chambers

1. Attached please a **news release** regarding **City Offices Closed on Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>** dated **June 26, 2020** provided by **Communications Manager Palazzari**.
2. Attached please find a **news release** regarding **Gillette City Council Selects New Councilperson** dated **July 1, 2020** provided by **Communications Manager Palazzari**.
3. Attached please find a **news release** regarding **Street Closures** dated **June 27, 2020** provided by **Communications Manager Palazzari**.
4. Attached please find **information** regarding **Wyoming Economic Indicators** dated **June 2020** provided by the **State of Wyoming Department of Administration & Information Economic Analysis Division**.
5. Attached please find a **newsletter** regarding **First Carbon XPRIZE Team Arrives at ITC** dated **June 30, 2020** provided by the **Wyoming Integrated Test Center**.
6. Attached please find an **Economic Development Update** dated **July 2020** provided by **Energy Capital Economic Development**.
7. Attached please find **information** regarding **Welcome to Gillette Main Street** provided by **Gillette Main Street**.

PGD/adw



# CITY OF GILLETTE

Finance Department - City Clerk Division  
Cindy Staskiewicz, City Clerk  
201 E. 5th Street • Gillette, Wyoming 82716  
Phone 307.686.5210 • Fax 307.686.4081  
clerk@gillettewy.gov

**Pre-Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall – 2nd Floor Community Room**  
**Tuesday, July 7, 2020**  
**Dinner Served at 5:30 p.m.**

## Pre-Meeting Topic(s):

- Introduction of New Citizen Advisory Board Members
  - Personnel Review Board
  - Mayor's Art Council
  - Regional Water Panel
  - Planning Commission
- Campbell County Health Update – Colleen Heeter, CEO
- Lodging Tax Resolution Discussion – Jessica Seders, Campbell County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director
- Review July 7, 2020 Council Agenda

## News

### **City Offices Closed on Friday, July 3rd In Observance of Independence Day**

**Post Date:** 06/26/2020 4:00 PM

City offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day. This includes the City/County Animal Shelter.

Trash, yard waste, and recycling will not be picked up on Friday, July 3rd. Solid Waste crews will run a double route on Monday, July 6th to pick up Friday's and Monday's trash.

The City Pool will be open on July 4th.

Remainder - fireworks are not allowed in City limits. Have a safe Independence Day.

For more information, contact [Communications Manager Geno Palazzari](#) at (307) 686-5393.

[Return to full list >>](#)

## News

### **Gillette City Council Selects New Councilperson**

#### **Laura Chapman selected from field of 7 candidates**

**Post Date:** 07/01/2020 8:00 AM

The Gillette City Council has selected Laura Chapman to fill the vacant Ward 3 seat. Ms. Chapman was selected from a field of seven candidates that were interviewed at the June 30th City Council Work Session. She will be appointed and sworn in at the July 7th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Gillette City Council. Ms. Chapman will serve until January 5th, 2021 which is the the remainder of the unexpired term.

For more information, contact [Communications Manager Geno Palazzari](#) at (307) 686-5393.

[Return to full list >>](#)

## News

### Street Closures - 6/27/20

**Shoshone Avenue ~ Flying Circle Drive ~ 4th Street ~ 6th Street ~ Green Avenue ~ Kendrick Avenue ~ Carey Avenue ~ Brooks Avenue ~ Miller Avenue ~ 4J Road ~ Country Club Road**

**Post Date:** 06/27/2020 12:00 PM



[Street Closure Map](#)

The City of Gillette announces the following road and lane closures:

#### **Shoshone Avenue**

Shoshone Avenue will be closed from J Cross Avenue to Lexington Avenue from June 16th through June 30th. The reason for this closure is for asphalt repairs as part of the 2020 Large Patch Project funded by [Penny Power](#).

#### **Flying Circle Drive**

Flying Circle Drive will be closed from Jack Plane Lane to Shipwheel Lane from May 11th through July 10th. The reason for this closure is for street repairs associated with the 2020 Pavement Management Schedule project funded by [Penny Power](#).

#### **6th Street and Green Avenue**

6th Street will be closed from Highway 59 to Gurley Avenue from June 1st through June 30th. Green Avenue will be closed at the intersection of 6th Street. The reason for this closure is for installation of a new water main as part of the 2020 Water Main Replacement Project funded by [Penny Power](#).

#### **4th Street and Green Avenue**

4th Street will be closed from Highway 59 to Gurley Avenue from June 15th through July 17th. Green Avenue will be closed at the intersection of 4th Street. The reason for this closure is for installation of a new water main as part of the 2020 Water Main Replacement Project funded by [Penny Power](#).

#### **6th Street, Kendrick Avenue, Carey Avenue, Brooks Avenue and Miller Avenue - Extension**

6th Street will be closed from Kendrick Avenue to Miller Avenue from May 20th through August 21st. Osborne Avenue and Emerson Avenue intersections will be open with hard surfacing. The reason for this closure is for street repairs associated with the 2020 Pavement Management Schedule project funded by [Penny Power](#).

#### **4J Road**

The right-hand, southbound lane of 4J Road between Frontier Drive and Lakeway Road will be closed on June 30th from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The reason for this closure is for irrigation improvements in Sage Bluffs Park.

#### **Country Club Road**

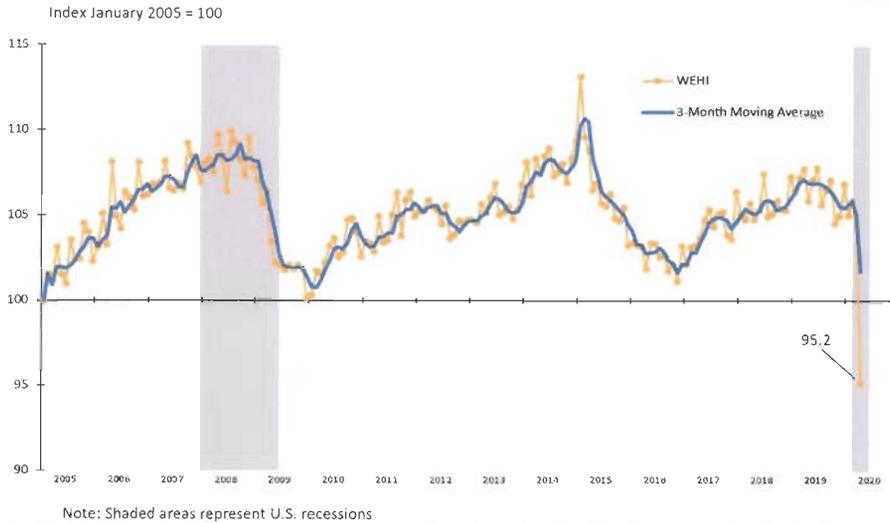
The eastbound lane of Country Club Road will be closed from Highway 59 east past the east entrance to Black Hills Urgent Care from Monday, June 29th through July 10th. The reason for this closure is for road repairs.

## EVENTS

#### **4th of July Parade**

2nd Street will be closed from Burma Avenue to Osborne Avenue on July 4th starting at 10:00 a.m. 1st Street and all side streets between 1st and 2nd in the staging area will be closed beginning at 6:00 a.m.

► Figure 1: Wyoming Economic Health Index as of April 2020

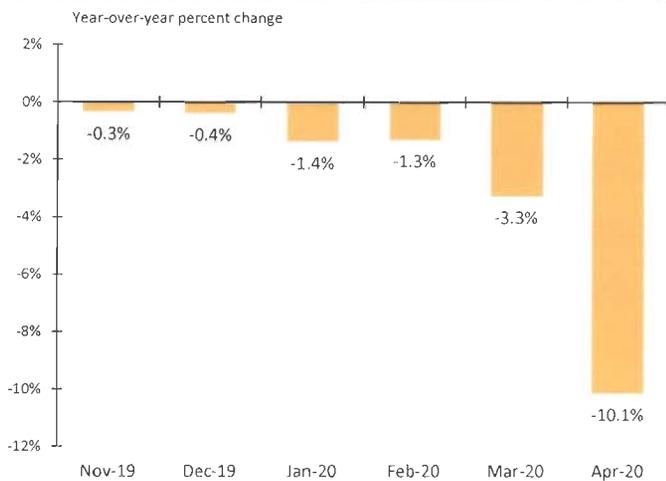


► SUMMARY: The Wyoming Economic Health Index (WEHI) reported an index value of 95.2 in April 2020 (see Figure 1), the lowest reported value of all months since the index was first measured in January of 2005. This value was significantly lower than the March 2020 value of 104.3 and the April 2019 value of 105.9. This large drop in the index from March 2020 was primarily due to a sharp increase in unemployment resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

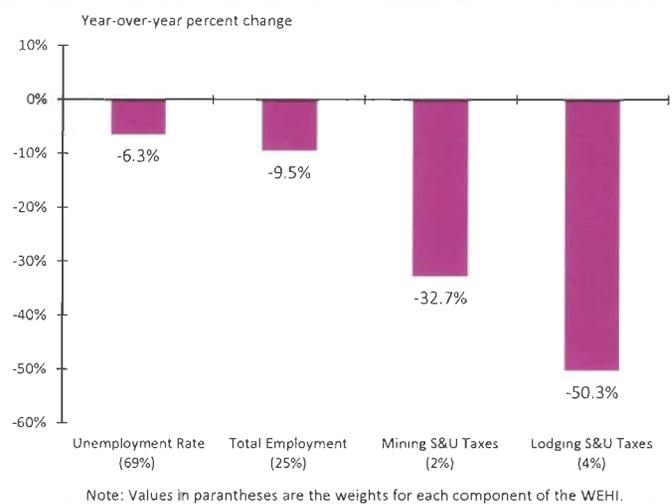
► NOTE: The Wyoming Economic Health Index combines four state-level economic indicators into one number in order to sum up the current economic conditions in Wyoming. The four economic indicators are (1) the monthly unemployment rate, (2) monthly total non-farm employment, (3) monthly sales and use tax collections from the mining sector, and (4) monthly sales and use tax collections from lodging. All data used in the WEHI are seasonally adjusted. Additionally, both tax collection indicators are inflation adjusted.

SOURCES: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (1), (2); Wyoming Department of Revenue (3), (4).

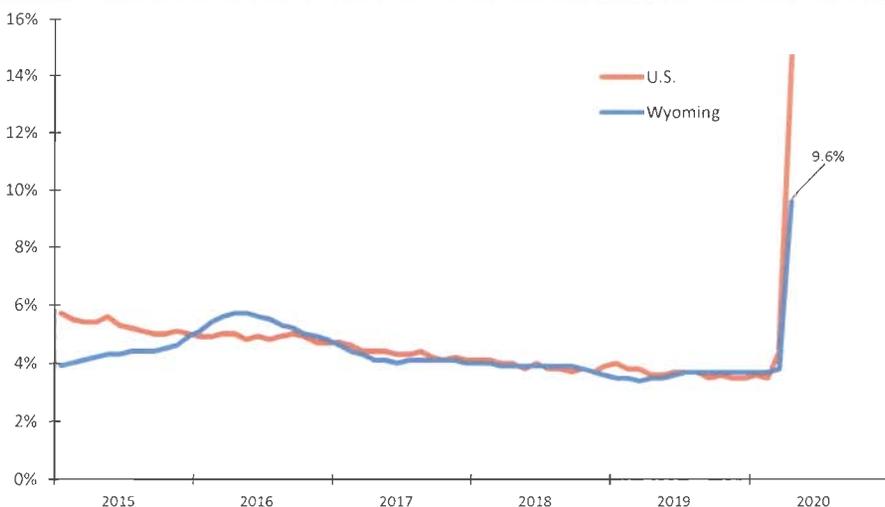
► Figure 2: Change in WEHI - Last 6 Months



► Figure 3: Change in Components of WEHI - April 2020



► Figure 4: Wyoming and United States Unemployment Rate

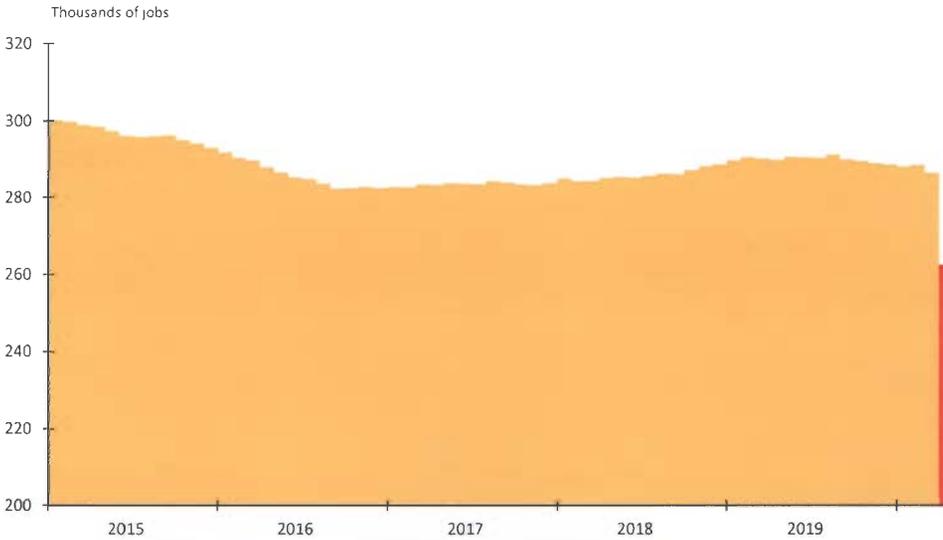


► For each of the last six months (November 2019 - April 2020), the WEHI reported year-over-year decreases, with the largest decline occurring in April at -10.1% compared to April 2019 (see Figure 2).

All four components of the WEHI were worse in April 2020 compared to April last year (see Figure 3). Sales and use tax collections for the state reported large year-over-year declines in April, with collections from the mining and lodging sectors falling by 32.7% and 50.3% respectively.

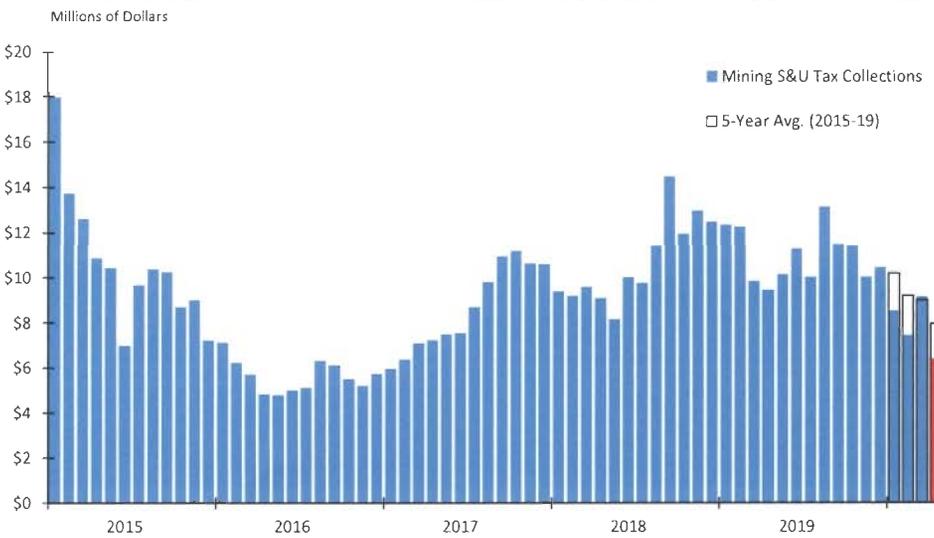
The unemployment rate for Wyoming in April was 9.6%, significantly higher than March 2020 (3.8%) and April 2019 (3.5%) but lower than the national unemployment rate of 14.7% (see Figure 4). This is the first month that business shutdowns and stay at home orders began to take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

▶ Figure 5. Wyoming Total Nonfarm Employment



▶▶ The total number of nonfarm payroll jobs in April 2020 was 262,400, lower than the March 2020 number by 24,200 and lower than the April 2019 number by 27,400 (see Figure 5). This is the lowest total employment amount since June 2005. This significant drop in employment is primarily due to the business shutdowns that occurred because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

▶ Figure 6. Wyoming 4% Sales and Use Tax Collections - Mining Sector (1-month lag)



▶▶ Wyoming's collection of the 4% sales and use tax from the mining sector was \$6.4 million in April 2020, \$2.7 million less than March 2020 and \$3.0 million less than April last year (see Figure 6). After four months of calendar year 2020 (January-April), total collections from the mining sector summed to \$31.4 million, \$5.0 million less (-13.7%) than the 5-year average sum over the same four months.

Note: May collections mostly reflect sales that occurred in April. Therefore, there is a 1-month lag implemented in order to accurately track sales activity in a given month.

▶ Figure 7. Change in Wyoming 4% Sales and Use Tax Collections - Lodging



▶▶ Wyoming's collection of the 4% sales and use tax from lodging was \$640,000 in April 2020, 50% less than April last year (see Figure 7). This 50% year-over-year decline ties the largest decline for any month over the past fifteen years. These large decreases in collections from lodging are not surprising because of the stay at home orders and lack of travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



## Wyoming Economic Health Index Addendum

The Wyoming Economic Health Index (WEHI) is a coincident economic indicator that is designed to provide a current assessment of the state's economy. There are four components of the WEHI. The first two components, unemployment rate and total nonfarm employment, are included to capture overall labor market activity for Wyoming. The third component, sales and use tax collections related to the mining sector, captures economic activity related to mineral production in the state. The fourth component, sales and use tax collections related to lodging, serves as a proxy for tourism activity in the state.

**Unemployment Rate:** The first component of the WEHI is the unemployment rate. This statistic measures the percentage of people in Wyoming who are actively looking for work, but do not have jobs. In the WEHI model, the employment rate (100% minus the unemployment rate) is indexed rather than the unemployment rate because an increase in the employment rate, similar to an increase in total employment, mining activity, and tourism activity, is considered to be a positive for the state's economy. The unemployment rate is available monthly, seasonally adjusted, from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Total Nonfarm Employment:** The second component of the WEHI is total nonfarm employment. This statistic measures the number of people who have wage or salary jobs in Wyoming. The total nonfarm employment is available monthly, seasonally adjusted, from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Mining Sales & Use Tax:** The third component of the WEHI is sales and use tax collections related to the mining sector (including oil and gas extraction). Because sales and use tax collections received by the state for a given month represent transactions that took place 4 to 6 weeks prior, the data is lagged one month in the WEHI model. This statistic is available monthly from the State of Wyoming's Department of Revenue. The data is adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data is also seasonally adjusted.

**Lodging Sales & Use Tax:** The fourth component of the WEHI is sales and use tax collections from lodging. Again, because sales and use tax collections received by the state for a given month of transactions represent transactions that took place 4 to 6 weeks prior, the data is lagged one month in the WEHI model. This statistic is available monthly from the State of Wyoming's Department of Revenue. The data is adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The data is also seasonally adjusted.

**Methodology:** Each series for the components discussed above are standardized starting in January 2005, resulting in a value of 100 for each component and the WEHI. As each component changes from month to month, the WEHI value changes. Next, the standard deviation of each component's standardized series values is calculated, followed by the calculation of the inverse of each component's standard deviation. Lastly, the individual inverse standard deviations are standardized, resulting in weights that sum to 1. The rationale for this weighting approach is that the components that are more stable over time will have a smaller standard deviation and thus, a larger inverse standard deviation and weight. A large shift in a typically stable data series would provide a better signal of a change in the economy than a large shift in a data series that typically has large fluctuations. Therefore, this weighting approach allows the WEHI to put a larger weight on the more stable components so that if they do experience a large shift, the WEHI's value will be affected more to represent the change in the state's economic conditions.



Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

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## Fwd: First Carbon XPRIZE Team Arrives at ITC

1 message

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ADMN ADMN <admn@gillettewy.gov>  
To: Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

Tue, Jun 30, 2020 at 8:40 AM

For GI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Integrated Test Center** <info@wyomingitc.org>  
Date: Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 3:30 PM  
Subject: First Carbon XPRIZE Team Arrives at ITC  
To: <admn@gillettewy.gov>

Newsletter from the Wyoming Integrated Test Center



### First Carbon XPRIZE Team Arrives at ITC



Earlier this month, the Wyoming ITC welcomed the first team of finalists competing for the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE. The CO2Concrete team includes researchers from UCLA

Samueli School of Engineering and experienced professionals in energy and environmental sectors. Professor Gaurav Sant leads the team's efforts towards the industrial realization of CO<sub>2</sub>Concrete, a process for CO<sub>2</sub> utilization by manufacturing a low-carbon concrete-equivalent material. Dr. Gabriel Falzone and Dr. Iman Mehdipour are responsible for technology development, including aspects of CO<sub>2</sub> processing and product performance. Ed Mueller and Stephen Raab provide their expertise in commercialization, economic analysis, strategy, and business development.

To learn more about CO<sub>2</sub>Concrete, click [here](#).

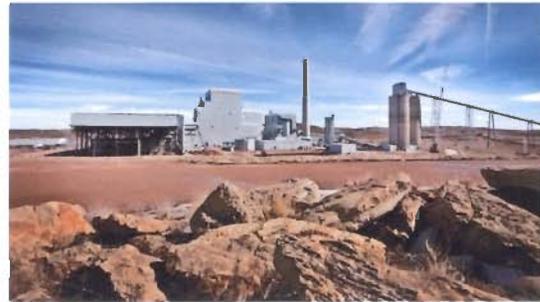
Additional teams competing for the Carbon XPRIZE will be arriving for testing at the ITC in the coming months.

## IN THE NEWS

### **Japanese Company Plans Carbon Dioxide Project in Wyoming**

*U.S. News & World Report*

A Japanese company has signed an agreement to use the Integrated Test Center near Gillette to test technology designed to capture carbon dioxide from gas produced by power plants.



[Click here to read more](#)

### **Treasury Department unveils long-awaited plans for carbon capture tax credits**

*Washington Examiner*

The Internal Revenue Service unveiled proposed rules outlining how it will oversee the carbon capture tax credit program, which was extended and expanded more than two years ago in a bipartisan budget deal. To date, the lack of definitive guidance has kept project developers waiting in the wings and investors on the sidelines, hesitant to commit capital without all the rules of the road spelled out.



[Click here to read more](#)

### **Rules to keep coal-fired power plants burning in Wyoming are expected soon**

*Casper Star Tribune*

Before retiring a coal-fired power plant in Wyoming, an owner must attempt to sell it and keep it burning. That's according to legislation signed into law last year by the governor. Since then, the state has been feverishly working to write up the rules both current owners and prospective buyers need to follow before a power plant is slated for decommissioning or sold.



[Click here to read more](#)

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### Wyoming Integrated Test Center

c/o Wyoming Infrastructure Authority

325 W 18th Street, Suite 1

Cheyenne, WY 82001

307-635-3573 or [info@wyomingitc.org](mailto:info@wyomingitc.org)

[www.wyomingitc.org](http://www.wyomingitc.org)

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Angela Williams <angelaw@gillettewy.gov>

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## July 2020 Economic Development Update

1 message

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Phil Christopherson <info@energycapital.com>

Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 10:30 AM

Reply-To: info@energycapital.com

To: angelaw@gillettewy.gov

Our Mission: To stimulate and facilitate a diverse economy through business retention, expansion and recruitment



Energy Capital Economic Development continues to work for the economic betterment of Campbell County. Here are some activities that we would like to share with you.

### Member Highlight: Visionary



Founded in a basement and headquartered in Gillette, Visionary has grown to become the largest and most geographically diverse ISP in a three-state region, providing more than 20,000 customers with Internet access via dialup, wireless, DSL, T1 and fiber.

Visionary's network provides the most thorough broadband coverage in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. Visionary provides services in 629 cities in those three states through relationships with more than a dozen telecom and cable companies, and delivers services over copper, fiber, and licensed microwave.

Visionary is the pioneering ISP in Wyoming, having started business in December 1994.

The purchase of Nonesuch, another Wyoming ISP, prompted Visionary to accelerate expansion into new markets. In 1997, Visionary merged with Coffey.com of Casper and in 1999 with Wavecom.net of Sheridan, expanding the company's footprint and broadening service offerings. Visionary purchased Global Advancement Technologies (GAT) in 2001, establishing a footprint in Southern Montana. Subsequent purchases in 2002 of Interquest, Wyoming Internet, Air Wave Technologies, and Cowboystate.net has allowed the company to offer service to more than 90 communities via more than 30 fiber hubs in Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming.

Visionary was the first to install broadband in rural communities like Buffalo, Cody, Dayton, Newcastle, Ranchester, Rawlins, Red Lodge, Sundance, Upton, and Wright and rolled out the first DSL service in Buffalo and Cody.

In 2013, Visionary acquired the VailNet operations in Avon, Vail, and Summit County, expanding its presence to the Western slope of Colorado. VailNet was the first company to roll out DSL services in Vail Valley and Summit County. Visionary also purchased an operation in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in 2014, and developed that location into a platform for a redundant, diverse route out of Steamboat. This included lighting dark fiber to Craig, Colorado, and ultimately Denver, Colorado.

Visionary is a privately-owned company, with the ownership residing within the service area. Each Visionary owner is on the same network as their customers, keeping them in touch with the customer experience.

## CEO Corner with Phil Christopherson



We are all in this together – the covid-19 pandemic, the downturn in the minerals industry, economic and social upheaval and more. In the past couple of months, we have all experienced some very tumultuous times. It is my sincere hope that you are personally doing well and that your businesses are surviving the chaos. The best way that I have found to get through tough times is to keep on moving forward with your eyes towards a better future. I

am certain that things will get better; the price of oil will go up, Covid-19 will decrease, our efforts to preserve the coal industry will succeed and we will be able to breathe easier. Coming out of these calamities we will have a better society, stronger economy, and businesses more resilient and solid. Difficult times are not fun to experience, but they do make us better and, especially for the people and businesses in Campbell County, I am optimistic that we will stay strong, stay the course and come out of this better.

Some good news to report: Our Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center (ACPIC) project is underway and making good progress. Two very important events have occurred this month on this project. First, the design has started. We are working with Arete Design Group who was awarded the bid for the design. The design kickoff was on June 6 and we are making steady progress. We expect the design to be completed later in the fall with

construction starting around the first quarter of 2021. That may have to speed up because of the second piece of good news. Our first tenant is lined up for the site. (see press release below) A Department of Energy (DOE) grant has been awarded to a National Engineering Technology Lab (NETL) project investigating extracting Rare Earth Elements from coal and coal byproducts. This multimillion-dollar grant is targeted to set up shop and do their critical work at the ACPIC starting sometime in 2021. We fully intend to have the facility ready for NETL and their project when they are ready to come to Campbell County. In addition, the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (UW SER) is planning on placing several of their projects at the ACPIC to develop coal to products projects. As a reminder the ACPIC project was started several years ago based on the idea that coal is a valuable raw material that can be used for better purposes than burning. ECED partnered with UW SER to develop a facility where lab level research can be transformed into commercializable products. Businesses, research institutions and others will have a place at the ACPIC to expand their projects and set up pilot plants to prove (or disprove) the commercialization potential of their products. Doing this will open new markets for coal beyond the thermal market and provide for a bright future for our coal industry.

Phil

## **VP Voice**

### **Vice President of Operations Curtis Burdette**

#### Set the Table Right

After six months at ECED, I've approached economic development with more humility than confidence. There's about 50 years of research on the study and application of economic development and most of the research could be thrown out the window on March 13 when COVID-19 changed how we do business in the U.S. Most of what we know about economic development teaches us that it must be adapted to the community and that it changes over time as the business and community needs change and industry-wide shifts.



Since mid-March I have personally witnessed a coalition of the willing as local government, businesses, non-profits, and community and business leaders came together to help each other cope, but also to look forward and plan ahead for what comes next. While some individuals and some of the organizations had competing interests, there's been a lot of teamwork to focus on helping businesses and individuals through the COVID-19 crisis. We've worked closely with the City, County, Chamber of Commerce, SBDC Network, Wyoming Business Council, and found more opportunities to collaborate and break down silos.

Moving forward there is an opportunity to find new ways to team up to help us work together to move forward. Campbell County is a place for hard work and

big ideas. The opportunities to grow jobs and make our community a better place are more important than ever and Campbell County citizens are up for the challenge.

## **ECED Board Member Profile: Rusty Bell**

Rusty was born and raised in Gillette, Wyoming. After graduating high school in 1992 from Campbell County High, he attended Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota, where he received his BA in Biology in 1997. After graduation, he worked as a wildland firefighter in, Chadron, Nebraska then on the Zig Zag Hotshots at Mt. Hood, Oregon. In 1998, while in Oregon he received an associate degree in Veterinary Technology before moving back to Gillette in 2001.



In 2001, Rusty substitute taught and coached ninth-grade boys' basketball at Sage Valley Jr. High before starting RB Services LLC, that manages the manufacturing of stock panels for the Coal Bed Methane industry in 2005. Rusty continued to not only coach ninth-grade boys' basketball but also coached girls basketball in the summer for the Gillette Force Basketball.

In the summer of 2008, Rusty attended Second Nature School of Taxidermy and turned a hobby of taxidermy into a business. He is currently the owner of Rusty's Taxidermy. Rusty's Taxidermy provides full-service commercial and custom taxidermy for both foreign and domestic customers. When elected he was the treasurer of the Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists, President of the Wyoming Sportsman's Group, and chair-elect of the Business Advocacy Committee for Campbell County Chamber of Commerce. Rusty is currently enrolled as a member of the 2018 Leadership Wyoming class.

Rusty currently serves as the co-chair of the Campbell County Impaired Driving Task Force and is a member of the Wyoming County Commissioners Association Executive Board. In 2017, Rusty was nominated to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Rusty and his wife Toni have been married 20 years and have two sons: Bowen and Blake. Their family hobbies include hunting, fishing, bow fishing, traveling and boy scouts.

## **Rare Earth Element project will be first tenant at the Energy Capital Economic Development Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center**

National Energy Technology Laboratory announced their commitment to create a pilot-scale production facility at the Energy Capital Economic Development Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center (ACPIC), now being designed in Gillette, and scheduled to open in 2021. The potential development of a new industry to extract rare earth elements from the ash of Wyoming's Powder

River Basin coal has taken a step forward with a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

“This project is an important step forward in diversifying and expanding Wyoming’s economy through value-added coal projects,” says Phil Christopherson, CEO of Energy Capital Economic Development. “We are very proud to host the NETL rare earth elements project at our Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center.”

Researchers at the NETL have developed technologies and methods to extract rare earth elements from coal ash. The NETL project aims to identify the most promising feedstocks in the Powder River Basin for the extraction of rare earth elements and critical metals; perform extraction experiments to demonstrate the efficacy of extracting those elements and metals in an economic manner; and lift NETL extraction technologies to a pilot scale for deployment in Campbell County.

“Recognizing that domestic sources of rare earths could ultimately be an economic development opportunity for Wyoming, and also provide national security benefits, I couldn’t be more excited about this project,” said University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources Executive Director Holly Krutka. “A special thanks goes to the CEGR team, Campbell County, the city of Gillette, Energy Capital Economic Development and NETL for putting forth this successful proposal.”

Rare earth elements are a series of chemical elements found in the Earth’s crust. Their unique chemical properties make them essential in many technologies including electronics, computer and communication systems, transportation, health care and national defense.

The project received an \$810,568 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Technology Commercialization Fund, which was created to promote the DOE national labs’ energy technology and work on the commercialization of those technologies. In addition to the DOE grant, the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources is contributing \$375,568, Campbell County and City of Gillette are contributing \$187,500 each and Energy Capital Economic Development is putting up an in-kind donation to support the project.

“We are delighted to have NETL and UW as partners in building and diversifying Wyoming’s and Campbell County’s economy,” said Campbell County Commissioner Rusty Bell. “This project will help strengthen our nation’s ability to supply our own rare earth elements, and Campbell County is proud to be a part of this project.”

The potential to recover rare earth elements from coal is significant for Wyoming, the nation’s No. 1 coal producer. Studies have shown that Powder River Basin coal ash has high extractable rare earth element content compared to other coal ash, likely due to the calcium content in the coal. This work has led to identification of specific coal ash stocks available in high volumes -- 270 to 690 tons per day for a single power station -- that exhibit elevated rare earth elements content along with other critical materials of interest to DOE.

"We are very excited that the Department of Energy has awarded the rare earth elements project this grant. Gillette and Campbell County have always benefited from the power of partnerships, and this project is another shining example," said Gillette Mayor Louise Carter-King. "We always knew this was the perfect site, and it is gratifying to know that others recognize the potential of the Powder River Basin to assist our nation."

The ACPIC facility represents an effort to diversify Campbell County's economy and utilize PRB coal to create products. The ACPIC coal-to-products project is led by Energy Capital Economic Development in partnership with Campbell County and the City of Gillette, and is funded by a \$1.5 million grant from Wyoming Business Council and a \$1.46 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. UW has expressed interest in moving three of their coal-to-products research projects to pilot plants at the ACPIC facility, and several private companies have made inquiries.

## Wyoming Women's Business Center is launching a COVID-19 Support Program

The Wyoming Women's Business Center is offering FREE resources for WY women-owned businesses to:

- Work with local B2B service providers to build and enhance your online presence at no cost
- Access capital to support pivoting business in this challenging time through crowdfunding and social media strategy
- Implement free automated accounting software and best practices to maintain accurate financials



# Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act makes it easier for PPP recipients to qualify for forgiveness

SBA, in consultation with Treasury, will promptly issue rules and guidance, a modified borrower application form, and a modified loan forgiveness application implementing these legislative amendments to the PPP.



SBA, in consultation with Treasury, will promptly issue rules and guidance, a modified borrower application form, and a modified loan forgiveness application implementing these legislative amendments to the PPP. These modifications will implement the following important changes:

- Extend the covered period for loan forgiveness from eight weeks after the date of loan disbursement to 24 weeks after the date of loan disbursement, providing substantially greater flexibility for borrowers to qualify for loan forgiveness. Borrowers who have already received PPP loans retain the option to use an eight-week covered period.
- Lower the requirements that 75 percent of a borrower's loan proceeds must be used for payroll costs and that 75 percent of the loan forgiveness amount must have been spent on payroll costs during the 24-week loan forgiveness covered period to 60 percent for each of these requirements. If a borrower uses less than 60 percent of the loan amount for payroll costs during the forgiveness covered period, the borrower will continue to be eligible for partial loan forgiveness, subject to at least 60 percent of the loan forgiveness amount having been used for payroll costs.
- Provide a safe harbor from reductions in loan forgiveness based on reductions in full-time equivalent employees for borrowers that are unable to return to the same level of business activity the business was operating at before February 15, 2020, due to compliance with requirements or guidance issued between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, related to worker or customer safety requirements related to COVID-19.
- Provide a safe harbor from reductions in loan forgiveness based on reductions in full-time equivalent employees, to provide protections for borrowers that are both unable to rehire individuals who were employees of the borrower on February 15, 2020, and unable to hire similarly qualified employees for unfilled positions by December 31, 2020.
- Increase to five years the maturity of PPP loans that are approved by SBA (based on the date SBA assigns a loan number) on or after June 5, 2020.
- Extend the deferral period for borrower payments of principal, interest, and fees on PPP loans to the date that SBA remits the borrower's loan forgiveness amount to the lender (or, if the borrower does not apply for

- loan forgiveness, 10 months after the end of the borrower's loan forgiveness covered period).
- In addition, the new rules will confirm that June 30, 2020, remains the last date on which a PPP loan application can be approved.

## **Wyoming, Japan Coal Energy Center & Kawasaki Heavy Industries sign MOU for Carbon Capture Test Project**



The State of Wyoming, Japan Coal Energy Center (JCOAL) and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to advance a Carbon Capture test project to be conducted at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center in Gillette.

The MOU signals Wyoming's intent to work with JCOAL and KHI on a joint project to test their novel solid sorbent capture technology at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC). KHI has been in the planning and design phases for this test since 2018, which included multiple trips to Wyoming. The project is now moving into the construction phase, with KHI expected to be onsite at the ITC in 2021.

The State of Wyoming and JCOAL have been working together since 2016, when former Wyoming Governor Matt Mead and Osamu Tsukamoto, President of JCOAL, signed an initial MOU committing to cooperation in coal research and development of technologies and coal trade.

JCOAL operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and is supported by more than 120 member coal-related businesses, including Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, Nippon Steel and Toshiba. The organization works to promote overall coal activities, from coal mining to the field of coal utilization, toward a stable energy supply, sustainable economic growth and the reduction of the global environment emissions.

## **State of Wyoming budget cuts**

In response to Wyoming's significant revenue shortfalls, Governor Mark Gordon has instructed state agencies to immediately take action to further reduce spending and prepare for deeper cuts in the coming months. The reduction plan requires agencies to prepare for more drastic scenarios and be proactive, since the revenue situation could further worsen. Already the state has taken the first step by imposing a hiring freeze and limiting large contracts.

Governor Mark Gordon has announced that Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) will close 10 rest areas located throughout the state as a way to reduce the agency's operational costs. The closures are effective

June 15 and were prompted by a need for WYDOT to reduce costs due to budgetary shortfalls. They were approved by the Wyoming Transportation Commission during its recent special meeting.

## New FUEL Director Needed



Energy Capital Economic Development is looking for an energetic, committed individual to serve as

the volunteer Director of the FUEL Business Incubator. This is a perfect opportunity for a retired executive or other person with strong business skills to make an impact in the community.

This volunteer works with the incubator Steering Committee to set policies and programs and manage the incubator. The incubator is home to a growing number of start-up businesses that need your help.

Visit our website



High-speed internet at the ECED Enterprise Center is provided by [Visionary Broadband](#).



- [Local man starts urban farm project in response to pandemic](#)
- [Wyoming Ranks in top 10 for rebounding unemployment rates](#)
- [Shop Smart Shop Safe campaign encourages safe return to retail](#)

## This Month's Featured Gold Members:



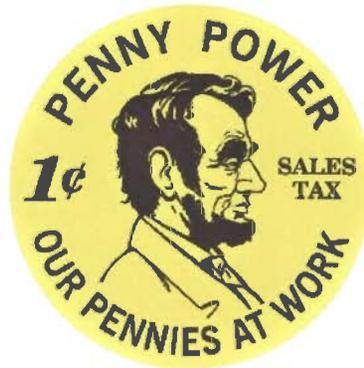
## This Month's Featured Silver Member:



## This Month's Featured Bronze Member:



# Community Sponsors:



Energy Capital Economic Development | P.O. Box 3948, 345 Sinclair, Gillette, WY 82718

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## OUR COMMUNITY IS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO!

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to rapidly evolve, we are facing difficult decisions balancing our in-person fundraising events and protecting the health of our community while still providing much needed support to our vibrant Downtown Gillette community. In response, Gillette Main Street (GMS) has created new opportunities for our businesses and community to engage through promotions and activities, both Downtown and online in comfort of their own homes.

As we continue through the COVID-19 situation, our community and businesses will need the support of GMS more than ever. For the past 6 years, GMS has brought our community together, fostering LOCAL pride in Downtown Gillette and we plan to use our momentum to get through this difficult time – with your help.

**Right Now,  
Gillette Main Street Needs YOU!**

If you have been to Downtown Gillette in the past 5 years, then you have seen first-hand what Gillette Main Street does for our community. This year, YOUR financial support is crucial to our survival...

### **Great downtowns don't just happen – they are created!**

Downtown Gillette is not only the heartbeat of our community – providing interesting, dynamic spaces for friends, neighbors and colleagues to interact with one another – but Downtown Gillette businesses also provide a far greater return on investment than typical box stores because revenue generated in Downtown Gillette STAYS right here in Gillette!

Now more than ever, we need to keep our money LOCAL! Making our community aware of all the shopping, businesses and activities available downtown, we can encourage community spirit and turn on our central engine of commerce. In addition to promoting Downtown Gillette year-round, GMS hosts over 25 events throughout the year to promote our downtown and entertain our community that you'll be a part of through your donation:

- Summer Concert Series (Planned for Summer 2020)
- Summer Festival & Car Show
- Brew Fest
- Boo-Fest and Trick-or-Treat Mainstreet
- Multiple Holiday Events: Winter Walk, Parade of Lights, Plaid Friday, Holiday Ice Festival

Your gift goes directly into the heart of our community – our downtown area – stimulating economic growth and beautiful public areas. 5 years ago, Gillette Main Street became a Certified Main Street Community and with your help through those 5 years, we've made the following lasting impact:

- **18 New businesses**
- **12,404 Volunteer Hours/\$298k Investment**
- **\$147k Grants/Contractual Funding**
- **\$1.7Mm WBC WMS Support**
- **58 New jobs**
- **\$145k in Fundraising**
- **\$136k in In-Kind Support**
- **26+ Events/Programs in 2019 ALONE!**

## 2 Ways To Give: Individual Giving & Business Sponsorship

### Individual Giving Levels

#### **Friend of Main Street**

Social Media Recognition  
(5,600+ followers)  
2020 Website Recognition

**Contribution: \$25**

#### **Silver Friend of GMS**

*Everything Previous, PLUS:*

1 VIP Ticket to Brewfest

**(A \$45 value, with free VIP invitation to Gillette Brewing Company Afterparty)**

**Contribution: \$50**

#### **Gold Friend of GMS**

*Everything Previous, PLUS:*

Recognition in the Gillette Main Street Annual Report

...And **Your Name**  
**Immortalized** With Your Very Own Downtown Plaza Paver

**Contribution: \$125**

### Business Sponsorship Levels

**Each Business Level Includes EVERYTHING From The Individual Levels PLUS:**

**\*Special Rates for Downtown Businesses: 1/2 OFF for any businesses located in Downtown Gillette\***

#### **Business Sponsor**

Premium Yearly Donor Decal  
Prominent Business Name  
Placement on our **Event Banner at Every GMS Event**

**Contribution: \$500**

#### **Silver Business Sponsor**

*Everything Previous, PLUS:*

**Premier Sponsorship** for an Event of Your Choosing  
(Includes Facebook Ads & Your Logo Prominently Displayed on Event Posters)

**Morning Radio Spot**

**Contribution: \$1,000**

#### **Gold Business Sponsor**

*Everything Previous, PLUS:*

**Premier Sponsor** of Brewfest  
(Includes 4 Free VIP Tickets and placement in Facebook Ads, Event Posters and all advertising)

Large Logo on Banner at All Events

**Contribution: \$2,000**

**Payment Plans Available:** Payments can be spread out over a 12-month period.

**Interested in giving more than money? What about your time and energy?** Every year Gillette Main Street makes the most out of nearly 2,000 volunteer hours. Contact [gillettemainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:gillettemainstreet@gmail.com) for more info!

### MAKE YOUR DONATION HERE

Select One

Individual Level:  Friend of GMS  Silver Friend of GMS  Gold Friend of GMS

Business Sponsorship Level:  Business Sponsor  Silver Business Sponsor  Gold Business Sponsor

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Gillette Main Street – PO Box 7256 – Gillette WY, 82717 – [gillettemainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:gillettemainstreet@gmail.com)