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SCSD3 nixes contract with principal

BY MIKE DUNN
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CLEARMONT — Principal Christy Wright will end her tenure at Arvada-Clearmont School in June.

The Sheridan County School District 3 Board of Trustees voted unanimously during its Wednesday meeting to approve Superintendent Charles Auzqui's recommendation that Wright's contract be allowed to expire at the end of the current

school year.

No new contract will be issued for the coming year.

The board made the decision after a more than two-hour executive session in which community members, parents, teachers and students voiced their opinions on the matter. Those who spoke were asked to limit their statements to three minutes.

Auzqui told The Sheridan Press that he and the board elected to hear comments from

the public on Wright's contract in executive session because matters concerning personnel are allowed by law to be in closed session. He also said it was a chance for community members, teachers and students to speak freely with the board.

More than 25 people chose to speak prior to the board's vote. "This is a very hard decision for us as a board," board member Barry Bauer said in a written statement on behalf of the

board prior to its vote. "...We respect your opinions and comments brought to us tonight. We have taken them into consideration in this matter."

The statement also indicated that while board members agree that Wright has a good working relationship with students, "there is more to the principal's job than just being good with kids."

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JUSTIN SHEELY | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

Mark Weitz replaced Andrew Gast to represent Sheridan on the governor's Outdoor Recreation Task Force.

Task force identifies opportunities in outdoor economy

BY CHELSEA COLI
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SHERIDAN — Gov. Matt Mead's Outdoor Recreation Task Force met last week in Cody, bringing it closer to identifying problems and opportunities that face Wyoming's recreation economy.

The task force, which is made up of 26 representatives from entities that range from the oil and gas industry to conservation groups, will develop policy recommendations for expansion and improvements in the outdoor recreation industry for the governor to consider.

"Every member of the task force has been exceptional," said Nephi Cole, policy advisor to the governor. "Everybody's pulling in the same direction on this and they're all doing a fantastic job."

Sheridan's member of the task force, Mark Weitz, represents recreation sports. He said according to the Outdoor Industry Association, Wyoming ranks dead last of the 11 Rocky Mountain states for its outdoor recreation economy.

While Weitz said the ranking is discouraging, he added that it's an opportunity for Wyoming to develop its "cleaner palette."

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Soaking in the sun

Eight-year-old Emmelyn Schasteen slides on the playground Wednesday at Kendrick Park. Sheridan residents enjoyed the extra hour of sunshine and a high temperature of 74. While Thursday and Friday temperatures are expected to be cooler, the National Weather Service out of Billings, Montana, has forecast a high near 75 degrees for Saturday.

Gov. Mead vetoes government-meetings gun bill

CHEYENNE (AP) — Gov. Matt Mead vetoed a bill Wednesday that would have allowed people to carry concealed firearms into government meetings and signed another that will allow teachers and other school officials to carry guns at school.

The guns-in-meetings bill is murky and could have allowed concealed weapons into local government meetings but not state legislative meetings, Mead wrote in his veto message.

Proponents said the measure was needed as a safety measure to protect against people who would start shooting at a govern-

ment meeting.

Lawmakers decided against changing the bill to allow local officials to decide whether or not they wanted concealed firearms in their meetings. Mead sided with those who opposed the bill because local officials would have had no say on the issue.

The Wyoming Association of Municipalities opposed the bill and particularly the loss of local control, he pointed out.

"We place great value on government closest to the people, in cities, towns and counties," Mead wrote.

He urged lawmakers to consider studying the issue over the interim.

Wyoming's constitution is clear that gun ownership is a right and the veto sends a message that state officials don't trust the voters, bill supporter Republican Rep. Anthony Bouchard, of Cheyenne, said.

"There are 18 states that are now allowing open-carry in public meetings," Bouchard said. "We're just taking a step backward."

The guns in schools law would allow school boards to decide if they wanted school officials to carry or have close access to guns in school to protect against shooters. The gun would need to be carried by the school official at all times or kept in a locked container within the designated official's control.

First confirmed grizzly bear sighting in Yellowstone

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK (AP) — Yellowstone National Park has confirmed its first sighting of a grizzly bear to have emerged from winter hibernation.

The National Park Service said the bear was spotted early Wednesday by a park employee in an area between Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower-Roosevelt in the northern part of the park.

Later in the morning, park staff saw two more grizzly bears scavenging carcasses in the northern part of the park.

Grizzly bear tracks have been observed in Yellowstone since Feb. 22 but no bears have been seen until now.



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 of Sheridan**

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