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WOMEN'S MARCH
Casperites organize event for the second year in a row.
CASPER & THE WEST, A2

TROJAN BORDER WAR
Kelly Walsh wrestling hosts teams from Wyoming, Nebraska, Idaho, Montana and South Dakota this weekend. **SPORTS, B1**



 **MOSTLY CLOUDY 36 • 15** FORECAST, A12 | **FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018** | trib.com

Penalties may increase

Legislators look to strengthen domestic violence, stalking laws
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A package of proposed bills would increase penalties for domestic and family violence in Wyoming and bring them in line with punishments for drug and property crimes. As Wyoming's statutes are now

written, felonies are typically punishable by 10 years imprisonment. Aggravated felonies can warrant even longer prison sentences. But domestic and family violence crimes can result in far less prison time, said former prosecutor Brett Johnson. The three bills, which Tara Nethercott, R-Cheyenne, said were born of a "holistic review" of Wyoming's criminal statutes as they pertain to such crimes, were considered by the Joint Judiciary Committee in November. The legislation the commit-

tee came up with would increase some domestic violence, stalking and strangulation penalties. "The goal is to try to make the laws more uniform," said Sen. Liisa Anselmi-Dalton, D-Rock Springs, who helped craft the bills in committee. Last spring, a bill that would have rewritten domestic violence laws failed in committee following concerns that the bill's language wasn't consistent with the rest of the state's statutes. Following the session's wrap-up, the Legislature's Man-

agement Council then charged the Judiciary Committee with studying domestic and family violence issues, Anselmi-Dalton said. After months of work with lawyers, judges and victim services advocates, the committee met in November to hash out language in the proposed legislation. At the same time, the committee worked on legislation that would rewrite laws to lower speeding fines and simplify the fine structure, expand the path to exoneration for wrongly convicted people and close loopholes

in marijuana laws. The committee proposed one bill that would expand the definition of stalking to include actions that would make a reasonable person fear for their own safety, that of another person or for the safety of their property. Although the bill's language initially did not require a victim to testify to those impacts, it was changed in committee to require that prosecutors show someone was affected, Anselmi-Dalton said. **Please see VIOLENCE, Page A13**



JOSH GALEMORE, STAR-TRIBUNE

Sandwich Ministry volunteer Keith Rouse helps people sign in Dec. 23 at King's Corner in downtown Casper. The group provides a free lunch each Saturday for anyone in need, along with warm clothes during the winter months. Wyoming was recently awarded about \$292,000 in federal funding for homelessness programs.

State receives less money

Wyoming homeless grant is the smallest throughout country
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Despite having a homeless population roughly equivalent to at least three other states, Wyoming received far less federal grant money for its programs aimed at helping those experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development announced Thursday that Wyoming would receive \$292,329 in federal money for programs across the state as part of a nationwide grant competition. While that money is approximately the same amount the state has received for the past three years, it is the least amount in the country and falls short of other states with similar homeless populations. According to HUD's 2017 Point-In-Time Count, 873 people were homeless in the Cowboy State during one night

in January 2017. A similar count found 943 homeless people in South Dakota, 994 in Delaware and 1,089 in North Dakota. While the count is not all-encompassing, it is the measure the federal government uses to mark changes in the homeless population across the country. Despite the similar number of people experiencing homelessness, South Dakota received more than \$1.2 million in federal grant money — more than four times the amount Wyoming received. Delaware received \$7.9 million, approximately 27 times

more money than Wyoming. If broken down by the homeless population recorded in the point-in-time count, Delaware received approximately \$8,000 for every homeless person while Wyoming received approximate \$334. The reason for the discrepancy? The federal grant program does not take into account a state's homeless population when divvying up the money. Instead, the department considers a number of factors **Please see HOMELESS, Page A13**

Elk case heads to D.C.

Solicitor General to address appeal on elk shot out of season

BRETT FRENCH
For the Star-Tribune
A Crow tribal member's legal battle, claiming 150-year-old treaty rights allowed him to kill a bull elk on national forest land in Wyoming in 2014, has made its way to the U.S. Solicitor General's office. Solicitor General Noel Francisco is the No. 3 official in the U.S. Department of Justice. As solicitor general he represents the United States before the U.S. Supreme Court.



On Monday, Francisco was "invited" by the Supreme Court justices to write a brief regarding Montana resident Clayvin Herrera's request for a review of a lower court's decision. Herrera was found guilty in a 2016 jury trial of killing an elk outside the state hunting season on the Bighorn National Forest. His appeals of that judgment have been upheld or dismissed by subsequent state and federal courts. "As gatekeeper for the Court, the Solicitor General plays a sometimes delicate and difficult role," wrote Stephen Wermiel on the SCOTUSblog. "The Court relies on the Solicitor General for an honest assessment of when a question of federal law or sometimes of constitutional rights really merits the Court's attention." A review by the U.S. Supreme Court is Herrera's last chance to argue that Crow tribal members' right to hunt on unoccupied federal lands, guaranteed in an 1868 treaty with the federal government, are still valid. The high court accepts only about 100 to 150 of the more than 7,000 cases that it is asked to review each year, according to the United States Courts website. **Please see ELK, Page A13**

Trump slurs countries while addressing immigration

ALAN FRAM AND ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — In bluntly vulgar language, President Donald Trump questioned Thursday why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa rather than places like Norway, as he rejected a bipartisan immi-

gration deal, according to people briefed on the extraordinary Oval Office conversation. Trump's contemptuous description of an entire continent startled lawmakers in the meeting and immediately revived charges that the president is racist. The White House did not deny his remark but issued

a statement saying Trump supports immigration policies that welcome "those who can contribute to our society." Trump's comments came as two senators presented details of a bipartisan compromise that would extend protections against deportation for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants

— and also strengthen border protections as Trump has insisted. The lawmakers had hoped Trump would back their accord, an agreement among six senators evenly split among Republicans and Democrats, ending a **Please see IMMIGRATION, Page A13**

The Grouch
I've got a border war with the neighbor's dog.


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