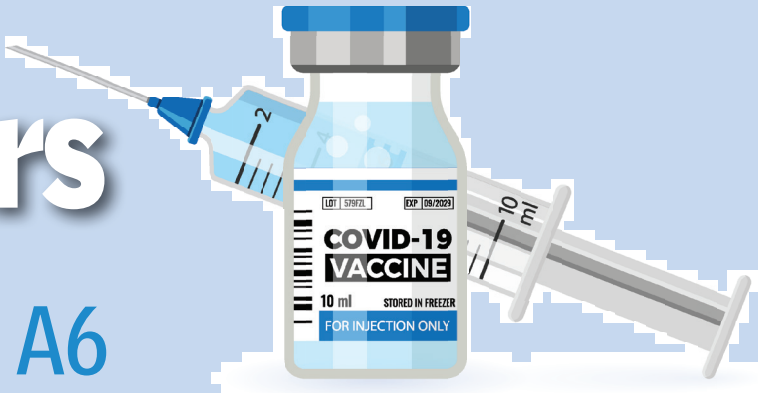


Misinformation hinders vaccination effort

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State bar charge filed against DA

By Hannah Black
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE – A formal charge against Laramie County District Attorney Leigh Anne Manlove was filed Friday with the Wyoming State Bar’s Board of Personal Responsibility, detailing what it called “incompetence and lack of professionalism.”

The 23-page charging document was filed by Special Bar Counsel W. W. Reeves, who said the state bar’s Review and Oversight Committee found probable cause to bring the charge against Manlove because of multiple professional conduct violations.

The charge stems from, in part, an “unprecedented” four-page letter signed by the four Laramie County District Court judges and the three Laramie County Circuit Court judges and sent to the state bar in December. The letter described “a broad range of misconduct,” according to charging documents.

“In short, we are concerned that Manlove’s personnel management and caseload management cause prejudice to the administration of justice in Laramie County.... We are also concerned for this community because it appears that there is a strong likelihood that Manlove’s continued tenure cannot provide our citizens with the representation in the District Attorney’s Office they deserve,” the letter reads, in part.

The Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to report questionable conduct by attorneys.

At a glance

The Wyoming State Bar filed a formal charge Friday against Laramie County District Attorney Leigh Anne Manlove, describing “incompetence and lack of professionalism” since her tenure began in January 2019. The charge stems from three separate disciplinary investigations: a letter signed by the all Laramie County District Court and Circuit Court judges, and two complaints from mothers of women who were victims of dangerous crimes in the county.

Two other issues addressed in the formal charge came from mothers of women who were victims of dangerous crimes “perpetrated by men whose return to the community (without the period of incarceration their crimes warranted) was later endorsed by Manlove.”

“Both cases demonstrate the public safety hazards posed to Laramie County residents by Manlove’s reckless conduct in failing to competently discharge the duties of her office,” the charge reads.

Manlove did not immediately respond to request for comment Wednesday afternoon.

The state bar has asked the Board of Professional Responsibility to hold a formal disciplinary hearing into the allegations outlined in the charge, directly impose or recommend the Wyoming Supreme Court impose disciplinary measures against Manlove, and order the district attorney to reimburse the bar for costs associated with the charge and hearing.

See DA, page A2

Local ranching families fear loss of way of life



Dalle Rutledge, a fifth-generation rancher, talks about her future at Donahue Spring on her family's ranch. Angus M. Thuermer, Jr./WyoFile via Wyoming News Exchange

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr.
WyoFile.com

HILLSDALE – Tim Rutledge says he’s already seen the damage large water wells can do to the Donahue Spring, a sweetwater fount that bubbles to the surface a short stroll from the front door of his ranch home.

A muskrat plays in the spring’s pool, which once supplied two houses and a corral with a steady flow of water. Cottonwood trees and willow bushes shade grassy banks, creating cool relief on the high-plains ranch.

The spring flows from an outcrop at the edge of the Horse Creek Basin, a sweeping, semi-arid 1,600-square-mile bowl that drops from higher ground around Cheyenne and tilts toward the North Platte River.

Rutledge, 78, orients visitors from his front yard, pointing past farming equipment to the spring as cow dogs Cora and Cricket sniff the newcomers.

“Sometime in the ’70s, probably the late ’70s, that spring diminished so we didn’t have enough to water the house,” he says. “It didn’t clear quit, but it pretty much did.”

Rutledge found another source of water for his home – a well on his property he developed for domestic use.

The loss of flow in Donahue Spring, however, coincided with another development, Rutledge says. “That was when they were pumping several wells to the south of us.”

Those high-capacity wells, used to irrigate ranch and farmland, were pretty deep, according to Rutledge, and they pumped up a lot of water. Donahue Spring was one of many features that changed.

See Family, page A5

President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin ended their meeting Wednesday with an agreement to return ambassadors to their posts and to plan to begin negotiations to replace the countries’ remaining treaty limiting nuclear weapons. Page A8



Congress OK’s bill to make Juneteenth federal holiday

The United States will soon have a new federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the nation.

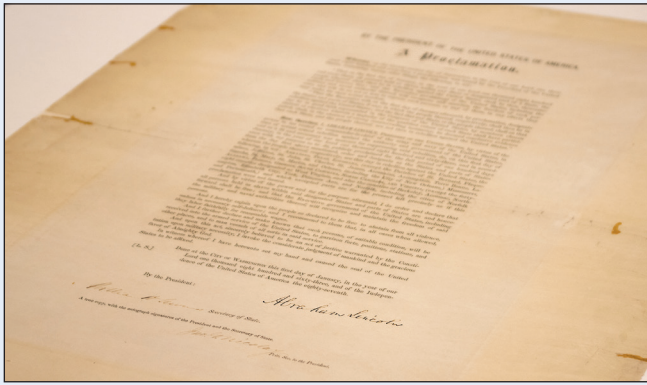
The House voted 415-14 Wednesday to make Juneteenth, or June 19th, the 12th federal holiday. The bill now goes to President Joe Biden’s desk to be signed into law.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn’t reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas. That was also about two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in the Southern states.

It’s the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983.

“Our federal holidays are purposely few in number and recognize the most important milestones,” said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-NY. “I cannot think of a more important milestone to commemorate than the end of slavery in the United States.”

Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, speaking next to a large poster of a Black man whose back bore massive scarring from being whipped, said she would be in Galveston this Saturday to celebrate along with Republican Sen. John



This updated handout photo provided by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on Tuesday shows a signed copy of Emancipation Proclamation. Associated Press

Cornyn of Texas.

“Can you imagine?” said the rather short Jackson Lee. “I will be standing maybe taller than Senator Cornyn, forgive me for that, because it will be such an elevation of joy.”

From wire reports