

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on the second day of the 2023 General Session of the 67th Legislature. Today, I had the privilege to sit with President Driskill and preside over a joint session as we welcomed Governor Gordon to hear his State of the State message. We also heard from Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Kate Fox who gave the State of the Judiciary address. In the afternoon, we voted on bills for introduction.

Governor Gordon reported on the strength of Wyoming and focused on five areas during his speech:

- Wyoming's people: folks who serve our communities and those military members who protect our freedom and way of life
- Wyoming's natural resources: a highlight of the state's innovative solutions and leadership in deploying carbon capture technology as well as the development of rare earth minerals and hydrogen production. The Governor also spoke in favor of requests to expand predator control and control invasive species, protect Wyoming's water, and measures to address brucellosis
- Wyoming's budget: a brief discussion of the surpluses as a result of energy markets and federal government largess
- Wyoming's economy: our state is more diverse than it has been for 50 years
- Wyoming's youth: ensuring Wyoming kids receive a world-class education and stay here to live and work

During State of the State speeches, Governors typically recognize ordinary Wyoming people who have risen to the occasion for their fellow Wyomingites. Governor Gordon followed that tradition, highlighting a number of exemplary Wyoming citizens. They included Jason Perry of Hulett, who led an effort to get each of the Hulett EMTs certified as paramedics to ensure a high level of emergency medical care in that community. The Governor also recognized Cheyenne Central High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) team, which placed first in Wyoming and placed fourth nationally out of 34 teams when debating the Biden Administration's *America the Beautiful* program.

I was also pleased to hear from Chief Justice Fox that five district courts have been equipped with an e-filing system. A great benefit for Wyoming citizens, this process will help to modernize our court system and prove to be a more efficient method for clerks of the court to store documents and data.

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