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BEST OF WYOMING WILL BE BACK ON JULY 22ND



CASPER Star Tribune

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Brody Cress is building toward a summer push

SPORTS, B1



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Thursday, July 9, 2026

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CASPER

Council hits pause on gaming expansion

The 7-2 vote gives city leaders time to review gaming regulations, though council members remain divided over the scope and its impact on property owners

HANNAH WARD
Casper Star-Tribune

For the next six months, the city of Casper has room to breathe in reviewing its zoning

regulations for gaming establishments. Casper City Council passed a six-month moratorium on gaming and gambling expansion within city limits, though

council members were divided on passing a measure with such a large scope.

Councilman Pat Sweeney, who was initially in favor of the moratorium, said testimony from business owners changed his mind.

"I do believe we do have a duty and a right to protect the public, but do we have a right to tell an existing owner of a property that has a full liquor license that they cannot sell

to a simulcasting/HHR operator if we preclude those operations in a certain area?" Sweeney asked.

Sweeney cited *Wyoming Downs v. Sweetwater County Commissioners*, pointing to an Illinois appellate ruling that found zoning should not be used to restrict competition.

Please see **GAMING**, Page A4

CASPER POLICE

Officials detail limited scope of TRULEO AI trial

Officers will use AI mainly for transcription, report summaries and searches, not vendor's broader features

DYLAN FARRELL
Casper Star-Tribune

After offering few details, the Casper Police Department is explaining its new AI trial, saying officers will use a much narrower set of tools than the company markets.

On June 27, the Star-Tribune reported concerns raised by an American Civil Liberties Union analyst about the use of AI in law enforcement and how it relates to Casper Police's AI partner, TRULEO.

Aside from a late-June news release, CPD has shared few details about its AI software trial. But on July 7, three months after the Star-Tribune first requested an interview, Capt. Jeremy Tremel sat down with the newspaper to explain why the department adopted the technology and how it says it will be used.

So why is the department moving to AI tech? Tremel offered a few reasons for the shift, but they largely centered around two issues: saving time and staying modern.

"From our perspective, we want to provide the best level of service to our community," Tremel told the Star-Tribune. "I think that digging our head in the sands and avoiding new technologies is problematic, and so trying to identify one that works within the constraints of security and privacy and all

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CENTRAL WYOMING FAIR & PRCA RODEO

SADDLE UP



ANDREW TOWNE, STAR-TRIBUNE

A young parade-goer gets a surprise splash of summer fun after being tagged by a water gun along the Central Wyoming Fair & PRCA Rodeo Parade route Tuesday, July 7, 2026. The playful moment added to the laughter, excitement, and community spirit filling downtown Casper during the annual celebration.

Rodeo spirit rolls through downtown Casper

STAR-TRIBUNE STAFF

Downtown Casper burst with energy Tuesday morning as the Central Wyoming Fair & PRCA Rodeo Parade transformed the heart of the city into a celebration of Western heritage, community spirit and hometown pride.

Colorful floats rolled down the streets in true cowboy fashion, and families lined the parade route to take part in one of the region's most anticipated traditions. The sights, sounds and smiles of the day captured the unmistakable spirit that makes Casper's rodeo week a cherished annual event.

Please see **RODEO**, Page A4



VIEW: Scan this QR code to view the full gallery and relive the moments that brought downtown Casper to life. **NEWSVU**

BAR NUNN

Fire chief announces departure

After rebuilding a department rocked by scandal, Zahara leaves behind a stronger team and steps into a statewide fire safety leadership position

DYLAN FARRELL
Casper Star-Tribune

After rebuilding a fractured Bar Nunn Fire Department in the wake of scandal, Chief Eugene "Sonnie" Zahara is moving on to a statewide leadership role as Nevada's next fire marshal. The Bar Nunn Town Council announced Zahara's

impending departure at its Tuesday meeting, and Zahara confirmed as much in a Wednesday morning phone call with the Star-Tribune.

Zahara said he will be stepping into the role of Nevada's state fire marshal.

Please see **CHIEF**, Page A4



ANDREW TOWNE, STAR-TRIBUNE

Bar Nunn Fire Chief Eugene Zahara poses for a photo inside the fire station on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025.

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The Grouch

Your integrity doesn't stand for anything. It just waits to see which side has better lighting.



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Mostly sunny and nice
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