

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Buffalo-Johnson County Recycling Center Joint Powers Board**  
**March 11, 2019, 5:15 pm, Recycling Center**

**Call to Order:** Bill at 5:20 pm

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Bill Ostheimer, Member Phil Gonzales, Secretary Dean Knauer, Forman Don Verger, Treasurer Marv Majerus, and Vice-Chairman Julia Bettinger excused.

**Visitors:** Bob Fox and David Iverson, Solid Waste District

**Review and approval of Agenda:** Phil motioned to approve, Marv seconded, motion passed.

**Review and approval of February 11, 2019 minutes including the January 2019 Treasurer's Report.** Bill motioned to approve, Marv seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report for February 2019 Discussion:** Based on a average monthly expense of \$12,500, the checking account will hit zero in 4.3 months, almost a month short of the next fiscal year. This projection does not include income from sales of recycled product; however, markets are way down, so the expectations for income are low. See below for a copy of the report to be approved at the next meeting.

**Foreman's Report:** Sent out a load of cardboard and expect a return of \$20 per ton after shipping costs are deducted. This is very, very low.

**New Business:**

1. Combining miscellaneous recycled materials with Sheridan's materials to reduce trucking costs. See email below.

Don talked to Paul, Sheridan Recycling Center. They have a horizontal bailer that can bail mixed paper to be able to get more weight per volume than we can using Gaylords. We might get 8 ton on a semi where they can get 20 ton. Don did not think it would be cost effective to ship our mixed paper to them to bail. They would also charge a fee for bailing.

2. Not printing Minutes for handout at meetings. I propose that the Board members review the past month's Minutes before you come to the meeting to save paper by not printing 7 copies each month. There is always the option of viewing it on a smart phone. The Minutes will be emailed once when written for your review; changes can be made at that time. They will again be emailed with the Agenda.

No objections heard.

3. Coordinate with the City and County regarding recycling options during the Johnson County cleanup days during May. Discussion, but no decisions made.

4. Coordinate Hazardous Waste Day with CCCD.

No decisions made.

**Old Business:**

1. Status of glass recycling payments from Coors Brewing. Marv Still working toward getting our sales receipts.

2. Update on Solid Waste Mill Levee proposal. Bob See #6 below.

3. Status of recycling some useable construction materials deposited at the Landfill. Status of revision to the City Construction Permit rules regarding recycling usable waste construction materials. Bob and Dan No discussion.

4. Status of using crushed glass at the Landfill to layer/isolate solid waste as required monthly. Bob said he could use recycled glass; working on a plan.

5. Union Congregational Church would like recognize the work of the Recycling Center. Visitors will be Kathleen McPhee (217-1455 and others. Dean is the contact.

6. Discuss meeting date and agenda between Solid Waste District, City of Kaycee, Commissioners, City of Buffalo, Clear Creek Conservation District & Powder River Conservation District. General theme: What should Johnson County Recycling look like in the future? Tabled.

From February meeting, Bill will talk to Julie, City Clerk, about setting up a meeting with the City, County, Solid Waste District, Kaycee, Clear Creek Conservation District, Powder River Conservation District and the Recycling Center to discuss the future of the Recycling Center in Johnson County and it's inclusion in the 2020 Solid Waste Mill Levee proposal. Postponed.

Instead the Board thought it was time to begin working on a cooperative agreement between Solid Waste and Recycling Boards before taking a ground up proposal to the County and City as the 2020 Solid Waste mill levee proposal progresses. Both Boards plan to meet April 8 at the Recycling Center at 5:15 pm.

7. Update on Policies and Standard Operating Procedures. Bill. Tabled

8. Recycled material prices down. (see email below)

9. List of safety items to be addressed. (See list below)

10. Review and update Jobs to be Done List. (See List below)

**Other Information:**

1. Buffalo Bulletin article reflecting on slight drop in annual recycling weights. See below.

**Next Meeting (date, place and time):** Recycle Center, April 8, 2019 at 5:15 pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:40 pm

**Minutes submitted by and date:** Secretary Dean Knauer,

### **LIST OF JOBS TO BE DONE**

The Board wants digitized records of Secretary's Minutes to be filed with the County, City & the Recycling Center.

Construct/purchase/add additional dry storage building or enlarge existing building to store bales of recycled material and unused Gaylords.

January 2016: Commissioners Hicks and Greenough believe the time is right for the board to start planning to bring a permanent district to the ballot in the next few years to help finance solid waste and recycle efforts in Buffalo and Kaycee. Need further information (strategy or plan) before discussion can commence.

Purchase a scale when needed and affordable.

Funding sources for the Recycling Center?

Recycle Center Security plan.

Write Board by-laws.

Update County Web Site yearly or as needed.

Follow-up on outreach opportunities with radio stations and Buffalo Bulletin.

Grant possibility (Hawthorn Foundation)

Buffalo Follow-up Community Assessment, May 2011 (Curb side pickup of recyclables).

### **LIST OF SAFETY ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED**

1. Employees should attend general safety training.
2. Continue holding monthly safety meetings and document.
3. Preventive Maintenance Vehicle Inspection Report Form program to be started.
4. Employees are responsible to instruct visitors to stand clear of bailers and other equipment.

### **REMINDER LIST**

1. Monthly: Hold monthly safety meetings with all staff in attendance and document.
2. Yearly: Join the Wyoming Solid Waste and Recycling Association and send someone to the yearly meeting.
3. Jan Meeting: Election of officers, determine where to do banking business and advertising.
4. Jan 2019: Work on yearly 1 percent funding request. Due February unless changed.
5. January: Get fire extinguishers checked.
6. March: Coordinate with the City and County regarding recycling options during the Johnson County cleanup days during May.
7. March: Coordinate Hazardous Waste Day with CCCD.
8. April: Update the Recycling Board webpage on the County webpage.
9. June: Pay scale will be evaluated each June to determine raises and cost of living increases. Increases will be effective July 1.
10. July: Recertify employees on forklift (Anderson Forklift).
11. July: Have forklift inspected and serviced (Anderson Forklift).

### **Board Member Year of Appointment Members are Appointed for 3 Year Terms Appointments Begin February 1 and End January 31**

Julia Bettinger, City, 2018

Marv Majerus, County, 2018

Dean Knauer, Joint City and County, 2019

Bill Ostheimer, City, 2017

Phil Gonzales, County, 2017

From: **Don Verger** <[vergerdairyfarm@gmail.com](mailto:vergerdairyfarm@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 9:31 AM

Subject: Re: Combo

To: Beth Heuer <[Beth@sagerecycling.com](mailto:Beth@sagerecycling.com)>, Brian Heuer <[brian@sagerecycling.com](mailto:brian@sagerecycling.com)>

Yes Brian that makes sense I'll talk to Paul about this and see if we can come up with some kind of a solution. In the meantime though I definitely need more Gaylord boxes and I have a truck worth of mixed material here Even if were breaking even for the time being we have to keep moving the stuff  
Thank you, Dan

On Wed, Mar 6, 2019 at 8:18 AM Brian Heuer <[brian@sagerecycling.com](mailto:brian@sagerecycling.com)> wrote:

Don,

I am trying to figure out something more feasible for your combo loads. By the time I pay freight to go up there and back from Cheyenne you don't make any money on your materials. I spoke with Paul Larson at the city of Sheridan this morning and he is willing to look at taking your combo materials into their recycling facility. I market all their material so they could combine your material with their own and save you a bunch of freight. We would just need to figure out the logistics of getting it to them. I gave Paul your number this morning and he said he would call you.

Beth will still be able to market your cardboard directly but this might be a better solution for the miscellaneous items. Beth said you were going to hold onto your cardboard until markets went up. I think that's a good idea however I am hearing that markets may actually go down more and it could be 6 months before we see any increases. Let Beth know if you needs truck. Thanks Don.

Brian Heuer

Sage Recycling & Waste Solutions

Cell: 406-546-4581

Efax: 1-720-302-1455

**From:** Brian Heuer [mailto:[brian@sagerecycling.com](mailto:brian@sagerecycling.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 05, 2019 3:08 PM

**Subject:** Market Report - OCC Lowest Point in Decades

Dear Sage & WYCO Customers,

Cardboard prices fell once again in March at a time of year when prices are usually recovering following the holiday glut. The cardboard market has now fallen to levels we haven't seen in decades according to Pulp and Paper Week. The PNW market High Side is \$30/ton this month and the SW High is \$65/ton. In most cases these prices will not cover freight to the mill let alone baling costs.

With US recyclers unable to meet China's new Green Fence policies and quality standards, millions of tons of cardboard that would normally be exported are now having to find homes in crowded US mills. As a result, most of these domestic mills have very high inventories and are turning away tons. Making matters worse, several domestic mills took downtime in February for maintenance, construction and other reasons which further increased inventories. Mill buyers are encouraging recyclers to think movement this month not price.

Export markets are also suffering. Chinese mills are taking only the cleanest, double sorted cardboard from the US and even then allocations are severely limited. Chinese mills have already used up most of their 1st quarter import permits so they will not be looking for tons until the 2nd quarter permits come out at the end of the month. Other countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam have increased their consumption of cardboard but do not have the capacity to make much of a dent. On a positive note, new US and over seas mills are in the planning stages and Chinese mills have begun importing cardboard pulp from US mills they have recently acquired in an effort to circumvent the import quality restrictions in their own country. This could all lead to a market price surge but is probably 18-24 months away.

While traditional Mixed Paper markets are almost non existent, Insulators are still hungry for clean, dry Newspaper and Mixed Paper. Prices remain soft and allocations are limited but clean paper is moving.

Sorted Office Paper dropped \$10 in all regions in March. Demand remains decent but rising inventories, maintenance downtime and a fire at a de-inking mill have caused prices to begin to soften.

PET pricing looks to be flat so far from Feb to March with strong demand. HDPE Color lost \$100/ton and HDPE Natural lost \$200/ton in March. Plastics prices generally follow petroleum prices and with the recent dip in gas prices at the pump, these decreases were expected. Demand for these commodities has not suffered.

LDPE Film has stabilized somewhat after losing half its value in late 2018. Orders for this material started to flow again in February and the price remained flat in March so we could be at the bottom.

Aluminum Can prices remain very low with mill prices in the mid .40's which is \$600/ton lower than last fall. So far pricing looks flat from Feb to March. As trade deals get cleared up, we should see these markets return to more profitable levels. Steel can prices remained flat so far in March and have even shown a slight increase in the last week. Demand is strong and overall pricing for tin cans is good.

Please let us know if you have any market specific questions or need pricing for your commodities. We have allocations in place with many mills and are prepared to help you continue to ship your commodities even in these difficult times. Thank you once again for your continued business.

Brian Heuer

Sage Recycling / WYCO Recycling

Cell: (406) 546-4581

Efax: 1-(720) 302 - 1455

[www.sagerecycling.com](http://www.sagerecycling.com)

BUFFALO JOHNSON COUNTY RECYCLE CENTER JPB TREASURER REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

	1/31/2019								
BALANCE									\$ 62,974.24
1	2/1/2019	DEP	Centenial Recycling	21.18 tons of OCC				\$ 1,101.36	dep
1	2/1/2019	DEP	Westrock	20.91 tons of OCC				\$ 522.75	dep
2	2/1/2019	4299	Bill Leibe	wages				\$ (240.82)	w
3	2/1/2019	4301	Marchel Kelley	wages				\$ (313.61)	w
4	2/1/2019	4302	Ace Hardware	miscellaneous				\$ (77.15)	mi
5	2/1/2019	4298	Brad Dro	wages				\$ (1,133.34)	w
6	2/1/2019	4300	Rick Galusha	wages				\$ (563.80)	w
7	2/1/2019	4297	Don Verger	wages and insurance				\$ (1,970.09)	w
8	1/28/2019	4296	Accounting by Book	W2 forms				\$ (82.50)	off
9	2/1/2019	4304	Veterans Home	367 pounds aluminum				\$ (91.75)	pa
10	2/8/2019	EFTPS	IRS	tax				\$ (1,829.94)	irs
11	2/1/2019	4303	St John the Baptist	185 pounds aluminum				\$ (46.25)	pa
12	2/16/2019	4310	Joseph Bray	wages				\$ (96.58)	w
13	2/16/2019	4307	Bill Leibe	wages				\$ (166.48)	w
14	2/16/2019	4309	Marchel Kelley	wages				\$ (177.55)	w
15	2/16/2019	4308	Rick Galusha	wages				\$ (510.71)	w
16	2/16/2019	4306	Brad Dro	wages				\$ (1,028.07)	w
17	2/16/2019	4305	Don Verger	wages and insurance				\$ (1,970.09)	w
18	2/16/2019	4312	RMP	electricity				\$ (119.51)	ut
19	2/16/2019	4311	ULINE	safety gloves				\$ (125.06)	mi
20	2/28/2019	DEP	First Northern Bank	interest				\$ 4.45	dep

BALANCE	2/28/2019							\$ 10,543.30	TOTAL OUTFLOWS
								\$ 1,628.56	TOTAL INFLOWS
								\$ 8,914.74	TOTAL DIFFERENCE



First Northern Bank  
of WYOMING

Serving you since 1885

PO Box 400  
Buffalo WY 82834



Date 2/28/19 Page 1 of 2  
ACCOUNT NUMBER 806862  
ENCLOSURES 17

1183859

BUFFALO JOHNSON CO RECYCLING JPB  
550 BUTTE ST  
BUFFALO WY 82834

### Checking Account

BUSINESS INTEREST CHECKING		NUMBER OF ENCLOSURES	17
ACCOUNT NUMBER	806862	Statement Dates	2/01/19 thru 2/28/19
PREVIOUS BALANCE	62,974.24	DAYS IN THE STATEMENT PERIOD	28
1 DEPOSITS/CREDITS	1,624.11	AVERAGE LEDGER	58,011
18 CHECKS/DEBITS	10,543.30	AVERAGE COLLECTED	58,011
SERVICE CHARGE	.00	Interest Earned	4.45
INTEREST PAID	4.45	Annual Percentage Yield Earned	0.10%
ENDING BALANCE	54,059.50	2019 Interest Paid	10.11

### ACTIVITY IN DATE ORDER

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1 2/01	DDA REGULAR DEPOSIT	1,624.11 CR	64,598.35
2 2/01	DDA DEBIT MEMO 4299	240.82-	64,357.53
3 2/01	DDA CHECK # 4301	313.61-	64,043.92
4 2/04	DDA CHECK # 4302	77.15-	63,966.77
5 2/04	DDA CHECK # 4298	1,133.34-	62,833.43
6 2/05	DDA CHECK # 4300	563.80-	62,269.63
7 2/05	DDA CHECK # 4297	1,970.09-	60,299.54
8 2/06	DDA CHECK # 4296	82.50-	60,217.04
9 2/07	DDA CHECK # 4304	91.75-	60,125.29
10 2/08	USATAXPYMT IRS 3387702000 02/08/19 ID #-270943902436844 TRACE #-061036010012108	1,829.94-	58,295.35
11 2/13	DDA CHECK # 4303	46.25-	58,249.10
12 2/19	DDA DEBIT MEMO 4310	96.58-	58,152.52
13 2/19	DDA DEBIT MEMO 4307	166.48-	57,986.04
14 2/19	DDA CHECK # 4309	177.55-	57,808.49
15 2/20	DDA CHECK # 4308	510.71-	57,297.78
16 2/20	DDA CHECK # 4306	1,028.07-	56,269.71
17 2/21	DDA CHECK # 4305	1,970.09-	54,299.62
18 2/25	Payment Rocky Mtn Power 1930246090 02/25/19	119.51-	54,180.11
	CHECK#-4312 TRACE #-042000012202192		
19 2/27	DDA CHECK # 4311	125.06-	54,055.05
20 2/28	INTEREST PAID 28 DAYS	4.45 IN	54,059.50

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	To Date
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ 26,581.31	\$ 14,050.69	\$ 60,339.62	\$ 98,333.21	\$ 89,859.12	\$ 75,016.27	\$ 74,584.49	\$ 62,974.24					
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 14,050.69	\$ 60,339.62	\$ 98,333.21	\$ 89,859.12	\$ 75,016.27	\$ 74,584.93	\$ 62,974.24	\$ 54,059.50					
<b>Difference</b>	\$ 12,530.62	\$ (46,288.93)	\$ (37,993.59)	\$ 8,474.09	\$ 14,842.85	\$ 431.34	\$ 11,610.25	\$ 8,914.74					
<b>Income</b>	\$ 513.76	\$ 60,413.31	\$ 50,076.40	\$ 3,070.26	\$ 823.91	\$ 10,927.84	\$ 5.66	\$ 1,628.56					\$ 127,459.70
<b>Expense</b>	\$ 13,044.38	\$ 14,124.38	\$ 12,082.81	\$ 11,544.35	\$ 15,666.76	\$ 11,359.62	\$ 11,735.91	\$ 10,543.30					\$ 100,101.51
<b>Difference</b>	\$ (12,530.62)	\$ 46,288.93	\$ 37,993.59	\$ (8,474.09)	\$ (14,842.85)	\$ (431.78)	\$ (11,730.25)	\$ (8,914.74)					\$ 27,358.19
<b>INCOME</b>													
City 1%	\$	\$ 60,000.00											\$ 60,000.00
County 1%			\$ 50,000.00										\$ 50,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 513.00	\$ 412.80	\$ 72.88	\$ 3,066.30	\$ 820.40	\$ 10,921.30	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,624.11					\$ 17,550.79
Interest	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.51	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.51	\$ 6.54	\$ 5.66	\$ 4.45					\$ 28.91
<b>TOTAL FOR MONTH</b>	\$ 513.76	\$ 60,413.31	\$ 50,076.40	\$ 3,070.26	\$ 823.91	\$ 10,927.84	\$ 125.66	\$ 1,628.56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 127,579.70
<b>EXPENSES</b>													
Fuel Pickups	\$	\$ 441.10			\$ 831.43	\$ 342.01	\$ 489.87						\$ 2,104.41
Improvements			\$ 101.88										\$ 101.88
IRS taxes	\$ 1,941.14	\$ 1,987.94	\$ 2,134.02	\$ 1,980.20	\$ 1,993.82	\$ 1,822.00	\$ 1,866.14	\$ 1,829.94					\$ 15,555.20
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,723.33	\$ 1,838.56	\$ 334.65	\$ 40.00	\$ 172.42	\$ 450.93	\$ (120.00)						\$ 4,439.89
Miscellaneous	\$ 164.75	\$ 178.99	\$ 105.26		\$ 146.31	\$ 78.19	\$ 466.47	\$ 202.21					\$ 1,342.18
New Trailer													\$ -
Office												\$ 82.50	\$ 82.50
Purchase Aluminum	\$	\$ 179.50	\$ 45.00		\$ 161.25	\$ 52.50		\$ 138.00					\$ 576.25
State unemployment	\$ 80.96		\$ 62.09				\$ 34.21						\$ 177.26
State Workmans Comp	\$ 621.63		\$ 688.82				\$ 627.42						\$ 1,937.87
Training													\$ -
Trucking					\$ 3,600.00	\$ 552.50							\$ 4,152.50
Utilities	\$ 81.94	\$ 218.63	\$ 79.03	\$ 84.04	\$ 247.60	\$ 204.55	\$ 255.81	\$ 119.51					\$ 1,291.11
Wages	\$ 8,130.63	\$ 8,979.66	\$ 8,982.97	\$ 8,389.20	\$ 8,213.93	\$ 7,556.94	\$ 7,695.99	\$ 7,874.14					\$ 65,823.46
Wages health	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00					\$ 2,400.00
<b>TOTAL FOR MONTH</b>	\$ 13,044.38	\$ 14,124.38	\$ 12,082.81	\$ 11,544.35	\$ 15,666.76	\$ 11,359.62	\$ 11,615.91	\$ 10,546.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,984.51

$$\frac{\text{Expense}}{\text{months}} = \frac{99,985}{8} = 12,498$$

1 per cent budget 2019 as of March 1, 2019

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
<b>INCOME</b>					
City 1%	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
County 1%	\$ 65,400	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 50,000
Micellaneous	\$ 62,822	\$ 26,209	\$ 37,948	\$ 44,101	\$ 17,551
Interest	\$ 47	\$ 34	\$ 20	\$ 41	\$ 29
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>	\$ 178,269	\$ 126,243	\$ 137,968	\$ 164,142	\$ 127,580

balance  
54059  
 Avg expense  
12498  
 = 4.3 YTD

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Fuel Pickups	\$ 3,216	\$ 3,181	\$ 2,218	\$ 3,044	\$ 2,104
Improvements	\$ 79,892	\$ 1,379	\$ 1,933	\$ 13,268	\$ 102
IRS taxes	\$ 19,765	\$ 31,233	\$ 20,705	\$ 23,565	\$ 15,555
Maintance & Repair	\$ 8,371	\$ 2,050	\$ 3,156	\$ 3,947	\$ 4,440
Micellaneous	\$ 6,246	\$ 2,991	\$ 5,079	\$ 6,809	\$ 1,342
Office	\$ 260	\$	\$ 217	\$ 100	\$ 83
Purchase Aluminum	\$ 978	\$ 899	\$ 1,154	\$ 861	\$ 576
State taxes(unemp)	\$ 3,581	\$ 2,671	\$ 2,964	\$ 543	\$ 177
State taxes(WC)	\$	\$	\$	\$ 2,237	\$ 1,938
Training	\$ 100	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trucking	\$ 3,630	\$ 2,430	\$ 5,540	\$ 3,100	\$ 4,153
Utilities	\$ 4,359	\$ 4,418	\$ 2,836	\$ 2,478	\$ 1,291
Wages	\$ 91,975	\$ 91,394	\$ 91,648	\$ 99,974	\$ 65,823
Wages Health	\$ 3,450	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 2,400
<b>TOTAL FOR YEAR</b>	\$ 225,823	\$ 146,246	\$ 141,050	\$ 163,526	\$ 99,985

# Recycling center sees slight drop in weights

Tariffs placed on Nos. 3-7 plastics the culprit

By FLOYD WHITING  
floyd@buffalobulletin.com

The Buffalo-Johnson County Recycling Center had a slight reduction in recycling in 2018 due mainly to trade tariffs placed on Nos. 3-7 plastics, according to Phil Gonzales, who is a member of the center's board.

The total weight of 2017's recycling from the center was 1.17 million pounds. The final weight from 2018 was 1.14 million pounds.

In 2018, that number dropped to 60,642 pounds of specific plastics and no mixed plastics.

At the end of 2017, China halted the import of 24 kinds of solid waste, including plastic. The effect was felt throughout the U.S., and the Buffalo-Johnson County Recycling Center was no exception, Gonzales said. The center began to bail plastic grocery bags without a place to send them.

"The tariff battle has impacted us as a nation, state and community by pricing out low-return products - i.e., plastics 3-7, alkali batteries and non-repurposing textiles," Gonzales said. "This will challenge us as a nation to find a way to use plastics 3-7, change the use of plastics, limit the use of plastics to 1 and 2s."

In 2017, the recycling center sorted, bailed and shipped 64,487 pounds of specific plastics including molded plastics for food and beverages; plastic cleaning bottles and non-corrosive plastic containers; and trays, general purpose containers and orthopedics. The center also shipped 32,636 pounds of mixed plastics, which do not fall into the other classifications.

Nos. 1 and 2 plastics are usually common household containers, such as soda and water bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, salad dressing containers, shampoo and soap bottles and more.

Nos. 3-7 plastics range from PVC to the bag that keeps bread fresh. Of growing concern is plastic No. 4, according to Gonzales, which is used for bags of all kinds. With the recycling center no longer able to accept plastic shopping bags, Gonzales has a suggestion for easing the impact if paper isn't an option.

Shopko has a drop box for the bags by the front entrance. The Bread of Life Food Pantry accepts grocery bags, board chairperson Pam McFadden said. Donations are accepted from noon to 1 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Meadowlark and Cloud Peak schools both have a box to place plastic bags for the Friends Feeding Friends program. IGA or DJs bags are preferred.

Gonzales said he is proud of the county's recycling ethic, even with the added tariffs affecting the amount that ends up in the landfill. But there are ways to improve, he said.

"Things we can do is take a carryout bag instead of using store plastics. Let companies know that

we prefer them to using 1 and 2 plastics," Gonzales said. "Let our stores know that using paper is a better choice."

Gonzales also suggests people who order online request something other than next-day or two-day shipping.

"We now compete for trucking with Amazon and Walmart next-day shipping, so trucks are short," Gonzales said. "That said, we are not going to halt this, and the boxes are great market products. If one is going to purchase electronically, it is better to not go two-day shipping and let them ship when they have full trucks. This has the least carbon footprint from the trucking."

## **What to recycle?**

- **Plastics:** Nos. 1 and 2 plastics and bubble wrap.
- **Cans:** Aluminum and tin (steel) cans. Rinse and separate aluminum cans from tin (steel) cans.
- **Glass:** Food jars, canning jars and drink bottles, regardless of color. Rinse jars.
- **Cardboard:** Corrugated, paperboard (such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes and other lightweight boxes), egg cartons, cardboard tubing or similar.
- **Paper:** School and office paper, newspapers, catalogs, magazines, telephone books and junk mail.
- **Books:** Hard- and soft-cover books.
- **Styrofoam:** Hard and soft Styrofoam used as packing or used for food products such as plates and cups.
- **Textiles and clothing:** Clothing, sheets, towels, tablecloths, blankets, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, undergarments and like items. Needs to be reusable and clean. Paired shoes or boots.
- **The center does not accept the following:** Refrigerators, air conditioners, large appliances or similar, light bulbs, purses, wallets, backpacks, totes, suitcases, belts, stuffed animals, baseball caps, toys, puzzles, board games, pots and pans, silverware, vases, ceramics, dinnerware, window glass or mirrors, vehicle parts, mattresses, furniture, blown-in or sprayed Styrofoam, non-drained oil containers, chemical containers (either plastic or cans), propane containers, vehicle batteries, waxed containers like paper milk cartons or similar, electronic waste and e-waste batteries, printer ink cartridges, car seats, plastics Nos. 3 thru 7 and plastic bags, shrink-wrap, bread bags, plastic sheeting or similar items.