

CONGRATULATIONS



CLASS OF

GRADUATES

2020

Newcastle High School



First State Bank

OF NEWCASTLE

MEMBER FDIC


  
**Congratulations,**

*Avery Ann Alishouse*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Susan and Jeff Alishouse

**Favorite memory from school:**

*The state art trip my junior year. We all got along well, after all, we were all art kids. This memory stands out as my favorite simply because of how fun and memorable the trip was. It was the only year I got to fully experience all the different parts of state art, and experience it with my friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will be going up to Fargo, N.D., to get a bachelor's in art education from North Dakota State University. One reason I chose NDSU is that they have a trap team that competes regionally. I plan to join the team when I start in the fall. Beyond that I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do. I know I'd like to pursue a master's degree, whether it's an MFA or something else relating to my career choice I haven't decided yet.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*My plans have not changed but, we still don't know what's going to happen. We all know how quickly life can change. In January we were seeing reports in the news that China was fighting this virus. In less than two months it was on our doorstep. We left school that Friday thinking we would come back Monday. We never came back. This virus is just another example of how life can change in a heartbeat.*



• Chick Financial •


  
**Congratulations,**

*Michelle Ballieu*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Ann Carlson and Steve Carlson

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school would have to be watching how my friends and I grow to become who we are today.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans are to go to Europe and do some studying over there. I really want to see how people in Europe study the things we study, it may be different, but it also may be the same.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*So far, yes. Nobody is really allowed to travel because of the pandemic, so it'll take me a bit to get over to Europe. The pandemic has changed my perspective of the world, because I have realized, and not to sound mean, just how stupid people really are.*



• 21 Alliance •




  
**Congratulations,**

*Kelzey Bennett*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Gary and Donalda Bennett

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is playing volleyball and going to prom!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*For now I will attend Casper College and get my generals. I still need to figure out what career I am interested in, but I am excited for the future!*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*This pandemic has changed everything for the students. I am now working full time and have to keep up with the online schooling. There are a ton of people who are supporting the 2020 seniors and I am thankful for that. As of right now there is a lot of unknown, I am just hoping for a graduation. Looking into the future it has changed how colleges are running things but they are still giving information to those who will be attending next year.*



• Weston County Health Services •


  
**Congratulations,**

*Logan Anthony Brockway*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Rhonda and Justin Brockway

**Favorite memory from school:**

*The day the class of 2019 had a barbecue in the school parking lot and somebody threw an old bottle of lighter fluid in the fire and a few people fell out of their chairs trying to get away.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on going to technical school and finding a good paying job after I finish.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*No my future plans haven't changed and my perspective of the world has also not changed because the world has been through much worse with much less resources than we have.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •



✦

# Congratulations,

*Jaiden Carter*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Mary and Donald Romine

**Favorite memory from school:**

*The days in which the school became a place of games, board games, and more games.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*To become a video game developer and to inspire, help, and teach other people through them.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has changed my perspective of the world and helped me realize that toilet paper is apparently a commodity, it has also helped me realize that I have been social distancing for 17 years of my life.*



• 21 Alliance •

✦

# Congratulations,

*Jayne Cass*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Stacey & Tobey Cass

**Favorite memory from school:** *There are many memories that I have from high school, but my favorite memory would be going to school and getting to see my friends everyday and playing sports with them. I also enjoyed all the home-comings.*

**Plans and goals for the future:** *I plan to attend Eastern Wyoming College (EWC) in Torrington, Wyoming in the fall of 2020 and start their vet tech or pre-vet courses. I want to be able to work with animals in the future.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?** *Yes, it changed my plans for the future. I was planning on going to school for the next two months, playing my last season of soccer, going to prom, and graduating. I never thought all of that would have been taken away from me so fast and so soon.*

*It has also changed my perspective on the world. We all thought it was joke at first until it blew up and we couldn't stop it. I think the world now knows that when major things happen like this they need to be taken seriously or things can really get out of hand.*



• Newcastle Equipment •

✦

# Congratulations,

*Owen Cox*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Leanne Cox

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Getting my own lab and free range to make all the stupid robots I could ever make.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Go to college and have a fulfilling career, hopeful I don't go into an early retirement with "oops wrong button" followed quickly by an explosion.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The pandemic has thrown every single one of my plans into limbo. My view of the world hasn't changed just only gotten louder and more depressing then usual.*



• Woody's Food Center •

✦

# Congratulations,

*Grace Coy*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): TJ and Anna Coy

**Favorite memory from school:** *My favorite memory from high school was running the 4x1 relay during state track my freshman year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:** *After graduation, I am going to attend Casper College. I plan to earn a degree in business and see where that takes me. My main goal is to finish college and pursue a career within my degree.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has not changed my plans for the future. It has had a large impact on my senior year, but has not changed my perspective of the world.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •



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# Congratulations,

*Shelby Davis*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Lynne and Dale Davis



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory would have to be State Art my junior year. There was a lot of new experiences to come from that trip. We had the best time while supporting others who aspire to be creative.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan for the future is to attend Casper College and get my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. The career that I am looking to get into is criminal investigation.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has not changed my plans for the future, however it has given me time to think. There are a lot of people pulling together during this time and I think it is a really cool thing to see. It changed the way I look at our town a little bit. There is so much support going around that is quite infectious. Just a positive of being in a small town.*

• Newcastle Vision •

✝

# Congratulations,

*Johnna Dawson*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jr and Tera Dawson



**Favorite memory from school:**

*I have had a lot of good times from high school, however my favorite memory would have to be all the fun volleyball bus rides. That's because I am sadly not going to college to play volleyball, so I want to cherish and hold on to every little memory us girls ever made throughout volleyball season.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans after high school is to attend cosmetology school in Gillette. I will be attending the newer school called True Colors. My goals are to do good and pay attention while in school, and afterwards build up a clientele that will keep me financially stable. I am excited to start this new chapter but sad to close this one as well.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has not changed my plans. I still plan to attend cosmetology school in August, however it has changed my perspective on some things, and has taught me a lot of things. It has taught me to never take anything in life for granted because it is not promised. I walked into that school for the very last time without even knowing it. I wish I would have cherished every day I had because now I will never get another day in high school with all my wonderful friends, and teachers. My perspective of the world is that these pandemics are real, and they are scary. Things can get ruined, plans can get cancelled, and future events are never promised.*

• JackMaster Construction •



✝

# Congratulations,

*Cooper Deveraux*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Craig and Jolene Deveraux



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Going to lunch every single day with Jory and Kale to Kale's house.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Get a business degree and rodeo at Gillette College, and then get my real estate license.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*No.*

• Newcastle Equipment •

✝

# Congratulations,

*Jake Deveraux*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Craig and Jolene Deveraux



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Not having to be in school for the last two months of senior year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Get a business degree and rodeo.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*It hasn't really changed my plans. Yes, it has changed my perspective on the world. Growing up, I always thought we were a country that could never be broken. But after the great "toilet paper shortage" of 2020, I'm not so sure.*

• Newcastle Equipment •



**Congratulations,**

*Gabrielle Downing*

Nickname: Gabby Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Rachele and Damon Downing



**Favorite memory from school:**

*It's hard to just pick one memory. There has been so many good ones along with some bad ones. And hopefully when I'm old and gray I will remember all of them.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan for the future after high school is college. I plan on moving down to Florida and eventually traveling the world.*

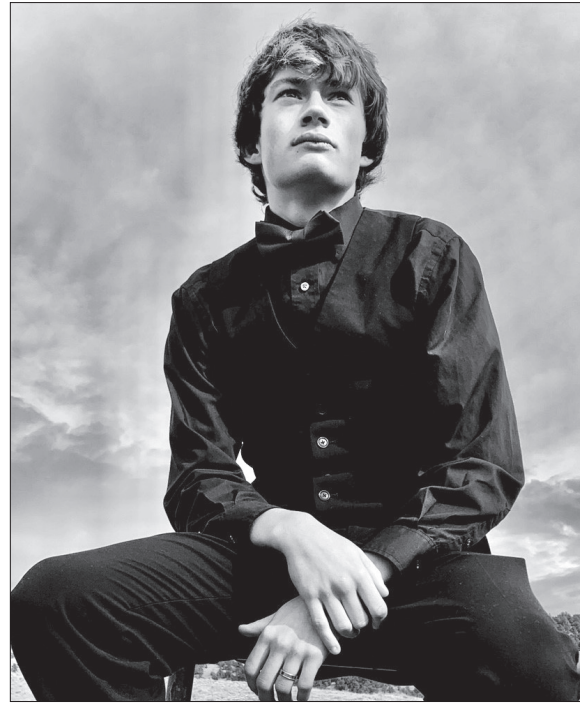
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't changed my plans; I will graduate and go to college. It has changed my perspective, because the pandemic has showed humanity's true colors. That humanity is selfish, chaotic, and an overall mess when things happen that can't be controlled.*

• Woody's Food Center •

**Congratulations,**

*Austin Drury*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*No response.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*No response.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*No response.*

• News Letter Journal •



**Congratulations,**

*Collin Dudzinski*

Nickname: Bongo Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Audra and Eric Dudzinski



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Not having to go to the last few months of senior year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan after high school is to become a U.S. Marine*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*It has not changed any of my plans, and if there is one thing I have learned from this, it is to make the most out of every situation.*

• Monument Health/Newcastle Clinic •

**Congratulations,**

*Gracie Emmitt*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Devlin and June Shell



**Favorite memory from school:**

*I would say my favorite memory from school is having the opportunity to have a new journey at Newcastle High School.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on graduating this May and then moving to Billings to pursue a career in cosmetology. After I receive my cosmetology certificate I plan on getting an education in nursing.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*No, it has not changed my plans for the future or perspective of the world.*

• Black Hills Dental •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Bradyn Freye*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Elizabeth and Brad Boylan



**Favorite memory from school:** *Besides having not to go? Most likely having the honor of attending Mrs. Proctor's class my freshman year.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:** *To attend UW and achieve my petroleum engineering degree. As far as my goals go, mainly I just want to lead a happy and successful life.*  
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?** *No.*

• Weston County Health Services •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Christina Hadlock*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Tracy and Becky Hadlock, Lindsey Luckett



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school would have to be any moment spent in Mrs. Josephson's class just because of the positive energy that everyone brings to her room.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans and goals for the future are to attend cosmetology school in Gillette in the fall. After cosmetology school I would like to obtain a degree in business.*  
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*COVID-19 has changed a lot of things in my life. I think me along with most of the graduating class of 2020 are just waiting to see, there isn't much any of us can do but wait for the outcome. As for my perspective of the world, yes, it has changed it. I think a lot of people take social interaction for granted just because of how easy it was to see people on a day-to-day basis, and now everything is really different, but I won't get in depth on the topic because everyone has their own thoughts on it and it is affecting everyone in a different way.*

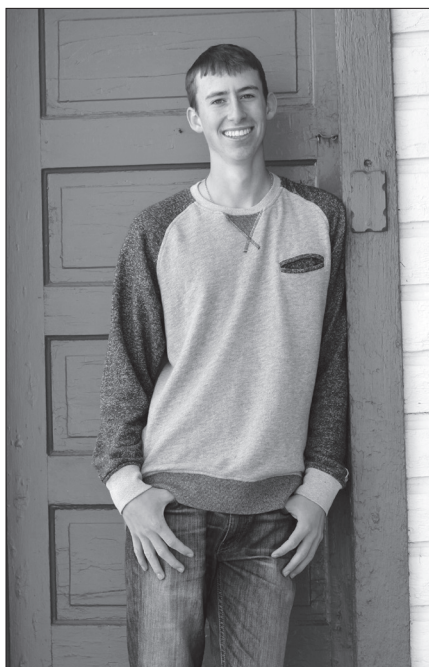
• Woody's Food Center •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Luke Harris*

Nickname: Lukey Pookey Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Daniel and Noelle Yonkee



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*One of my favorite memories from high school would have to be spending time with my friends, whether it was in class, cheering in the student section, or just passing by them in the hallway.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plan is uncertain yet I plan to go to college in Sheridan or Gillette. My goal is to just be happy with the path that I have chosen and never regret anything.*  
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*COVID-19 has not changed my plans for the future, but it has changed my perspective a little bit. It still baffles me that the media has control over our everyday lives and they can lead us into certain situations without us even knowing.*

• Voelkers Body & Paint •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Emma Humes*

Nickname: Em Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Michael and Jacqueline Humes



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*One of my favorite memories from school has definitely got to be in Mrs. Scribner's Culinary and ProStart classes with all of my friends cooking and goofing off while we tried and failed at being safe in the kitchen.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan on pursuing a Bachelor's in Nursing*  
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*I would say COVID-19 has not changed my plans for the future. As for if COVID-19 has changed my perspective of the world, I would say a little. Social distancing myself from everybody has definitely made me appreciate the small things in life I have taken for granted.*

• Weston County Health Services •



Decorative flourish  
**Congratulations,**

*Laila King*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Stephanie and David Kline



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*Junior and senior year homecoming. Especially playing flag football with all of my friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My goals for the future are to go to Gillette cosmetology school.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*No answer.*

• CLT Flooring & Furnishings •

Decorative flourish  
**Congratulations,**

*Cayen Lamb*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Shelly Heart



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*When I got really good at welding.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*Enlisted in Marine Corps. I leave Aug. 3.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*Not that much. The military was always something I was going to be doing.*

• RT: A Range Company •

Decorative flourish  
**Congratulations,**

*Chase Loebz*

Nickname: Bumpkin (from Football) Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Bart and Pennie Loebz



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*Playing football freshman year at Mallo. Had a great first time playing football.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*As of right now I do not have any plans but have an idea of what I can do.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*Yes, it has because it has slowed everything down for my life and I am ready for this stuff to be done and over with.*

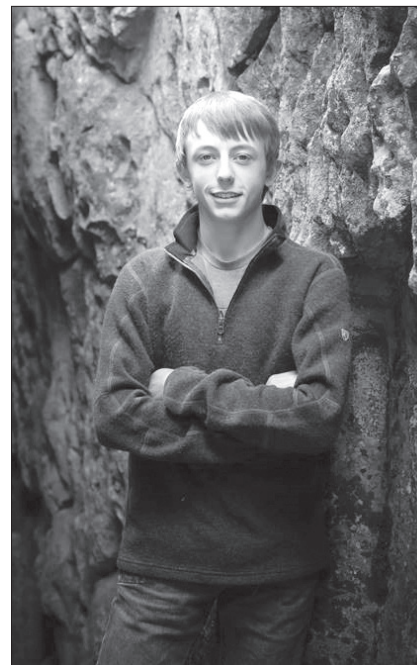
• Wayback Burgers/4 Way Gas 'N Go •



Decorative flourish  
**Congratulations,**

*Jory McFarland*

Nickname: Chowy or Tyke Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jason & Nicole McFarland



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memories have to be every stupid prank or dumb idea that Cooper, Kale, Jake and I carried out throughout high school, and every class Davin and I welded together in.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*Hopefully attend Gillette college for my R-stamp certification and go on to weld for as long as possible.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*Yes, this "pandemic" has changed plans for the future because my future in pipeline welding was looking pretty bright until this happened. This hasn't really changed my perspective of the world, but further proved that people are easily convinced to do something even if it really doesn't seem right.*

• Wyoming Refining Company •



  
**Congratulations,**

*Hailey Jo McGuire*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Dawn and Scott McGuire



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from high school was running across the finish line at the Star Valley state cross country meet my senior year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future are to attend Sheridan College in the fall, then transfer to an undecided school to finish my doctoral degree and become a licensed occupational therapist to help people in schools and in hospitals.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way I think about the world. I think that people often take health, education, and access for granted. This experience has taught me to appreciate my health, my freedoms, and my opportunities on a whole new level.*

• Chick Financial •

  
**Congratulations,**

*Joseph McLaughlin*

Nickname: Joe Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Trinity Douglas, Derick Douglas



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school has to be the cafeteria. Lunch time in the cafeteria had to be the funnest moment of any day.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am planning on moving to Texas after this summer. I will probably work for a while and then I might go to college there.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*So far all of my plans for the future haven't been changed by much. I have changed my perspective of the world though, for the worse, I think. From just the famous media sources inflating the whole situation, and all of the people buying everything and making it worse.*

• Woody's Food Center •



  
**Congratulations,**

*Aishwarya Mendenhall*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Paula Mendenhall

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is going to Green River my freshman year for soccer. I loved my team and all of our bus rides.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future is to continue my involvement with WC Search and Rescue along with Newcastle Fire Department. I am planning to do a lot of traveling and attending school later on. I am looking at starting my own business soon.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic changed my plans for June with LSS. I learned that it's always good to be prepared.*



• Newcastle Ambulance •

  
**Congratulations,**

*Brandon Mespelt*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Bobbi Jo Mespelt, Jason Mespelt

**Favorite memory from school:**

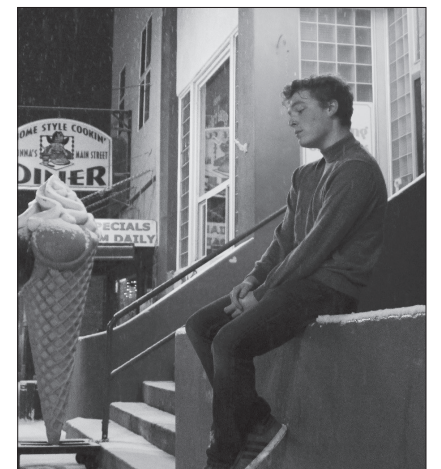
*My favorite memory during school would have to be the time I ripped my pants at my freshman year prom. Apple Bottom Jeans came on and I got way too low!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future involves me going to cosmetology school. I am still unsure where I would go for school. I plan to stay in Newcastle for another year just so I can get some money saved in order to move somewhere that will fit my personality more. I really want to get myself out there in the world and find what life has to bring to me. Another goal I have for the future is produce my own music. I have been working on a few projects and I take pride in everything I create. It truly is art to me.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*I feel although this pandemic has taken a toll on people's daily routines and opportunities. It has forced us to appreciate the freedom and journeys we have and will continue to have. It has allowed us to regain our excitement for anything in life. Personally, This has not changed my future but made it to where I can get more hours at work as well as save more money.*



• Decker's Market •





**Congratulations,**


*Payton Parks*

**Nickname:** Psquared    **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Ryan Parks and Davina Fiferman

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school was during a cold and rainy day at soccer practice. The team was playing around the world when coach Schaneman was trying to kick the ball to score a goal. Anyone that knows Schaneman could say he was a pretty clumsy guy. Well, he went to kick the ball and missed. He then slipped and fell onto his back.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to go to a community college where I can achieve my welder's certificate. My goal is to be able to fully depend on myself and buy a lot of cool toys I can adventure around on.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has not changed any of my plans, but it has for sure changed my perspective on the world. It clearly shows how American citizens will give up their rights to the government. This is not as much the case for Wyoming though. We have stayed strong and will continue to fight this pandemic.*





**Congratulations,**


*Madison Pearson*

**Nickname:** Madi    **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Randy and Cindy Pearson

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory would be hosting 3A East Regional Basketball in Newcastle this year. Punching our ticket to the state tournament that weekend truly made it the most memorable event.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*During the fall, I will be attending Dickinson State University to continue my education and volleyball career. I will continue my education to obtain a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a double major in Business Administration and Accounting.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*Overall, COVID-19 has just opened my eyes to the fact that nothing in life is guaranteed. No matter how big or small of a moment in life the world does not stop for it.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •

• Grazers Burger & Beer •



**Congratulations,**


*Jacob Rhoades*

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** JD and Cindy Rhoades

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is getting into shenanigans with my science teachers and doing fun projects with them. I also loved doing sports and messing around with my friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on attending Casper college with a major in fire science, and a minor in engineering. I hope to become a firefighter and a certified EMT sometime in the future. I hope to make the soccer team in Casper and continue my sports career as a Thunderbird. I am very excited, but also extremely nervous to start the next chapter of my life.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*Currently, COVID-19 has not changed my future plans, but depending on the duration of the virus it could affect the upcoming college soccer season and maybe even my college classes themselves. It hasn't changed my perspective of the world and I am still excited to see what the future holds.*





**Congratulations,**


*Louise Rietra*

**Nickname:** Louisha    **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Michael Freeman and Janice Freeman

**Favorite memory from school:**

*I don't really have one favorite memory, but just the little things like people saying, "hi, how are you?," and all the laughter my friends and I had during lunch and class. All those things made this American high school experience unforgettable and it made for one big amazing memory.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*After I finish high school in the Netherlands I plan on going to college and after that I would like to travel the world and go places I have never been like Australia, New Zealand, Iceland and many more. One goal is to visit Newcastle and my family and friends there as often as possible.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*It has changed my perspective of the world, because I started appreciating the little things like giving a hug, going out for dinner in a restaurant, and just being able to go hang out and do something with multiple friends.*



• First State Bank •

• Farmer's Insurance •



  
**Congratulations,**

*Tara Grace Rose*

Nickname: Grace    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Tara and James Rose



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*FCCLA*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan on getting my bachelor's degree in zoology and my master's and doctorate's degrees in marine biology.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*It has changed my perspective of the world, because I have realized how selfish people can get in a situation like this. I have also realized how something can change in just a day.*

• Ranchers Feed & Supply •



  
**Congratulations,**

*Chloe Smith*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Pat and Vicki Smith



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*I have many memories from my four years of high school. By far the biggest are my several science fair trips. The one that sticks out the most is when we all were headed to JSHS and we stopped to get food. While we were waiting for our food the school's Suburban got hit, and then when we went outside I chased Mr. Beam around the car for making fun of me. The laughs and lessons the science guys brought me will forever be remembered!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*After graduating I will be attending Chadron State College pursuing a degree in early childhood education. With this degree I want to open a daycare and teach preschool.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The pandemic has not affected my plans, although it has shown me the power the media has on what the public believes.*

• Wesco Gas •

  
**Congratulations,**

*Shelby Stith*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Michael Stith and Christy Porter



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*I have a lot of favorite memories from wrestling meets to my accomplishments in FFA. However, my favorite thing from high school will always probably be playing Hearts in Schaneman's class. There is where I truly let my competitive side show.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan to attend the University of Wyoming to study Rangeland Management and Watershed Ecology. From there, I would like to work with the Bureau of Land Management or the Natural Resource Conservation Service.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has not changed my plans for the future, however it has definitely stressed me out quite a bit for sure. It just goes to show you that sometimes life happens, but you just have to roll with the punches and keep moving forward.*

• Eastern Wyoming College/Newcastle Outreach •





**Congratulations,**


*Sara Sweet*

Nickname: Sar    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Shane and Marissa Sweet



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My senior year of basketball, going to San Antonio, Texas, for National FBLA, and going to Indianapolis, Indiana, for National FFA!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on attending Sheridan Community College and pursue a degree in elementary education and ag business.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?** *It's a scary time for the world right now, but we will all get through it and God has a plan.*

• Treasured Florals & Gifts •



**Congratulations,**


*Dylon Tidyman*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jon and Kelly Tidyman



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Being able to hang out with friends during school and on all of the bus rides we went on over the years.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on attending Sheridan College where I will continue playing basketball and major in business.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*This pandemic has not changed my plans for the future, but has helped me gain a better understanding of how lucky I truly am to live where I do.*

• First State Insurance •





**Congratulations,**


*Davin Tysdal*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): David & Mandy Tysdal and Jennifer & Chris Bohn

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school would most likely be driving tractors in the homecoming parade or the 2019 prom.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to attend Casper College and pursue a degree in Agricultural Business while competing in college rodeo. After Casper, I plan to attend UW or another four-year school to finish my bachelor's degree.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has definitely not changed my future plans, however it makes a person think about how much we take our normal lives for granted. You never realize how many opportunities you have until you no longer have them.*



• Triple T Land & Livestock •



**Congratulations,**


*Peyton Tystad*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Justin Tystad, Rita Tystad



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is winning state baseball.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future are to attend the University of Wyoming and obtain a degree.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has not changed my plans but has made me realize how quickly everything can change.*

• Pinnacle Bank •



✦

## Congratulations,

*Tessa Vanderznick*

**Nickname:** Tess **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Amber (Mother), Joseph [Joe] (Father).

**Favorite memory from school:**

*There are honestly so many memories that I can't pick just one. It was mainly the small moments that I enjoyed the most: curled up on Mrs. Scribner's floor laughing with my friend Emma and all the hugs and belly-aching laughs I got with my best friend James. Every moment I got to bond with teachers and my friends are moments I will forever cherish.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am going to hopefully pursue an occupation teaching psychology in a college setting. I want to enroll at Black Hills State University to get a bachelor's degree in psychology while minoring in education and later transfer to a larger institution (like Tampa Florida) to get my doctorates. Life, however, has a funny way of changing the road you are traveling so I am excited to see where I end up in the future years!*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*My future plans have not changed. They may be delayed if the quarantine pushes into the summer. I really hope this doesn't happen. This pandemic has also changed my view of the world. People are so easy to panic over problems that should be handled calmly and it is making a mess of society and our economy. The poor decisions humanity is making while panicked about COVID-19 is far scarier than the virus itself. COVID-19 has opened my eyes to the nature of our society and how common sense disappears when an entire civilization panics.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •

✦

## Congratulations,

*Austyn Vaughn*

**Nickname:** Aussie **Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Brandon Vaughn, Monica Vaughn

**Favorite memory from school:**

*I actually hated high school with a passion, but I would have to say my favorite memory was my second year going to State FCCLA, where I had to literally be carried out of the pet store.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan is to graduate college with a master's degree in psychology and a bachelor's degree in criminal forensics. My goal is to become a psychiatrist to help those whose issues lie beneath the surface.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*Well, COVID-19 certainly killed my dreams for graduation, the dream to walk across that stage with my friends and family in the audience. This world has so many issues that humans cause, I realized that long before it was "trendy." But now, seeing all the people being idiots and protesting the virus because of "My Body, My Choice" like it's a choice to get sick and die. Those people are the reason why I choose to barely associate myself with other people. People are the real disease of this world, and the only way for the world to heal itself, is for people to stop being dumb. Realize that we need to let this virus run its course. No one is safe, and more people are going to die. Protect yourself by following the guidelines and for goodness sake people, wash your hands!*



• Hometown Medical Clinic •



✦

## Congratulations,

*Gunnar Wainscott*

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Jo Lisa Wainscott, Todd Wainscott

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is the last day of my sophomore year. It was a game day so I just hung out with my friends enjoying the various activities in the classrooms. We were going into junior year and about to be upperclassmen, but not yet old enough to be worried about graduation or our futures. It was a beautiful day that turned into a beautiful summer, and I remember it like it was yesterday.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to go to Chadron State College this fall and study Geoscience. Although, I am open to changing my major if something else catches my eye.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The pandemic has sent my senior year off the rails, but hasn't changed my plans. I hope that everything will have calmed down by fall so I can have normal start to college. As for what this situation has taught me, it has taught me that a lot of people are stupid, but plenty of people are reasonable as well.*



• Decker's Market •

✦

## Congratulations,

*Kaitlyn Wardle*

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Harla Conklin

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Just seeing my friends, and enjoying the last moments we have as seniors.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will most likely move back to my home town and pursue education in criminal justice or teaching, very polar opposite, I know but I can't decide.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*It has not changed my plans for the future but it does show how much a community can come together and help one another. It's unlike anything I've ever seen before, and it is amazing.*



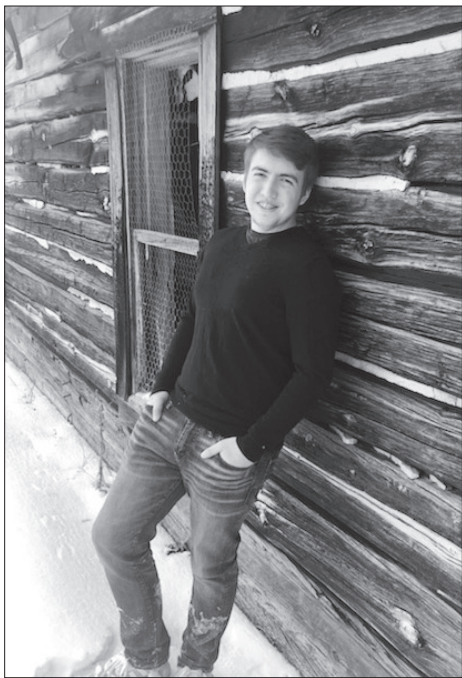
• Black Hills Dental •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Ty Weeg*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Hulda Mitchell, Bruce Weeg



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Taking part in the 2019 Prom skit. It was one of the first times I had willingly put myself out in front of a crowd, and enjoyed making others laugh.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan is to attend a community college to get my associate in sociology, then transfer off to a university to get my bachelor's. I then plan on moving to Washington State to then start my career there.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The pandemic has not changed my plans, yet. If the campuses for college are still closed when the fall semester starts, then yes. Online schooling has proven to be a bit of a pain incorporating it into a busy lifestyle and it may put my education on hold for a bit. If the campuses are open however, then I will still carryout my plans as normal.*

• Farm Bureau Insurance •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Markie Whitney*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Joseph and Michelle Whitney



**Favorite memory from school:**

*There are some memories we'd all rather forget about high school, but the really good ones will stick with us for a lifetime. My favorite memory was seeing the solar eclipse on the science camping trip. This trip was for two student lead research projects to study the eclipse. My partner, Perry Martin, and I had been working on and building these huge muon detectors for weeks of our summer. Setting up our equipment on eclipse day was not easy. It was windy, Perry and I were really struggling to put up these 8-foot-long detectors, and we had some problems with the technology in the field. All of our struggles paid off once we saw the eclipse. I don't know if I will ever get to see a solar eclipse again, but I will never forget how breathtaking that moment was.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**



*I am going to Casper College on a speech and debate scholarship. I'm on track to get my bachelor's degree in criminal justice, then attend law school at the University of Wyoming. Ultimately, I plan to be prosecuting attorney for the state.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has affected everyone in some way, seniors especially. For me the pandemic has affected my anticipation for the future. I am looking forward to going to college because milestones like graduation and senior prom are up in the air, and I won't be making any of my trips to nationals or internationals. However, the excitement I have for the next chapter of my life is through the roof. Quarantine has kind of given me an opportunity to count my blessings.*

• Short Stop •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Cameron Williams*

Nickname: Sandlot Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Autumn Meyers



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is showing up to PE every day and having a great friendship with Mr. Conzelman.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My future plans are to go to college and then see what I can do from there.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*The only thing that COVID-19 did was make me have to wait for the baseball season to hopefully come. It really hasn't changed the perspective of the world for me because I still get up every morning and work then come home.*

• Weston County Senior Center •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Erick Wolfe*

Nickname: Easy Money Sniper, Demmerick, Dimitri Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Connie & Carlos Garcia



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory is definitely the day I stole Mrs. Kokesh's glasses off her face in science class then proceeded to wear them around the classroom. I wish I had the chance to have her substitute one last time before she retired.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to move to Denver, Colo., and attend Red Rocks Community College. I plan to graduate with an associate's degree in cabinetry, carpentry, and fine woodworking. Eventually I will open a custom cabinet and furniture making business.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*No, it has not. I still am going to pursue my goals even if the world is still on lockdown when I leave for college. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most over-exaggerated illnesses I've ever had to learn about.*

• Renegade Paint & Pipes •





# CONGRATS Graduates!

The News Letter Journal realizes this has been a difficult year for graduates, and as our SPECIAL GIFT TO THE CLASS OF 2020, the NLJ is offering a FREE ONE-YEAR ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION to newslj.com. This is our way of saying CONGRATULATIONS, we are proud of you, and we want your hometown news to follow you on your future endeavors.

**CONTACT US FOR YOUR Free Subscription!**

Send your email address to [circulation@newslj.com](mailto:circulation@newslj.com) to activate your one-year subscription today!



**Congratulations,**  
*Austen Kenney*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Chris and Raimee Kenney

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Qualifying for State the final regular season swim meet sophomore year and being named the Black Hills Area Council Explorer of the Year for 2019.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to continue my education in Fire Science/Paramedicine with an emphasis on Arson Investigation.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*This pandemic has not presently changed my plans for the future. If anything, my perspective has been uplifted seeing how communities have come together and supported one another during this time.*



• State Farm/Jill Hartman •

**Congratulations,**  
*Rose Slagle*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Allen and Ann Slagle

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school, is the time we made history books with my cousins who are also home-schooled. I also really enjoyed all the times we were involved in plays with the home school group.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am planning, Lord willing, to go to Jackson Hole Bible College. After that, I will go where the Lord leads me. I am also hoping to continue to be involved in the Weston County Right to Life Chapter.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**

*COVID-19 has not really affected my plans much. One of the big things I noticed with the coronavirus is how important it is to value the times we get to spend with each other. I am also so thankful for my relationship with Christ. In 2 Corinthians 12:9 The Lord has told Paul "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." This verse is a great reminder that even if we do not have control of a situation, we do not have to fear because God is in control.*



• Newcastle Lodge & Convention Center •



# Newcastle High School valedictorians share their stories

By Hannah Gross  
NLJ Correspondent

Spring is in the air, and with social-distancing requirements, graduation is up in the air. After many years of hard work, the class of 2020 has finally reached the end and is ready to start the next chapter in life. However, COVID-19 has drastically changed and postponed these seniors' dreams of walking across the stage, receiving their diploma and together saying goodbye forever to Newcastle High School.

A common tradition is the valedictory address, and while the form that the graduation ceremony will take is undecided – whether there will be one at all – the News Letter Journal wanted to give these seniors a chance to share their messages with the community. The class of 2020 has five valedictorians: Tessa Vandersnick, Markie Whitney, Madison Pearson, Dylon Tidyman and Peyton Tystad.

For most of them, the goal in high school was to maintain good grades, but then achieving the status of valedictorian presented itself as a plausible opportunity. At times, it was easy to maintain the necessary grades, but at other times, it was much more difficult, and it took a lot of effort to keep going and not give up, especially during college psychology, Pearson said.

“There are many chances for a student to give up or get overwhelmed with the amount of homework that teachers give, but I had a lot of people in my corner to encourage me,” Tidyman said.

The five did not quit. When the going got rough, they kept on going. And it paid off. Being valedictorians will help them earn scholarships, they said, and Whitney acknowledged that the hard work of getting here also built up character that will stick with them as they encounter various challenges in the future.

As they come to the close of their high school life and childhood, the seniors said they had time to reflect on what they have learned and to give one final message to their classmates.

“As I sat down to finally write this speech, I had no idea what to say,” Whitney said.

She recalled the times that she and her fellow comrades would scream “2020” as loud as they could during middle school assemblies. It was a mere number then, she said, but now that day is finally here.

“It was clear that senioritis was going to hit us hard,” Tidyman said.

Whitney said the class has been through a lot together, but the lockdown “takes the cake.” It’s strange to her, she said, that when they left school on March 13, she had no idea it would be her last time at NHS as a student. They won’t have the luxury of the traditional end-of-year events of most graduates, but on the “bright side,” they are starting a new chapter in life.

According to Tidyman, the important thing is to live with no regrets.

“Don’t give yourself the opportunity to regret not applying to your dream school, applying to that dream job or gaining that dream life because others have said you can’t or you don’t think you can do it. You will always regret not taking a chance more than you will regret taking a chance and failing,” Tidyman said.

For each of them, one of life’s lessons stuck out to them more than all the others. For Tidyman, it was to take chances and make mistakes rather than regrets. For Whitney, it was that she’s not entitled to anything but must work hard for what she wants. Pearson said that she’s learning to not stress about things that won’t matter in 10 years. Vandersnick said that she’s learned to be honest with herself by being her own person, and Tystad said that he must decide for himself how successful he wants to be.

“Advice I would give to others would be to manage your time and to always work hard,” Tystad said. “The most important life lesson I’ve learned is that you control whether you are successful or not.”

Whitney encouraged the younger classes to take advantage of extracurricular activities available at NHS and find “your place,” and Pearson said to always look ahead to your future because it comes faster than you realize. However, don’t stress over the work, Vandersnick said, and be willing to try new things.

“Do not let education take over your life. Find something you are passionate about, and follow that with everything you’ve got. Don’t be afraid to try something different,” Tidyman said.

As time goes on, the future comes closer for these seniors. However, they will always have their memories of high school to look back at and cherish.

“I have seen firsthand how capable we are as a class. Each hardship we have overcome, we come out stronger. While we will all go our separate ways, we should value the memories we made together. I cannot describe how grateful I am to be part of such an amazing class,” Whitney said.

“It is okay, though, class of 2020, even with corona, we finally did it!” Pearson said.

## NHS VALEDICTORIANS



Madi Pearson



Markie Whitney



Tessa Vandersnick



Peyton Tystad



Dylon Tidyman



“We all know everyone sees us as fools because we are known for not exactly doing things the proper way. Like throwing prom together with \$1,000 or having our class song as ‘9 to 5’ by Dolly Parton. It is just our style to make everything in life more interesting,” Pearson said.

Vandersnick encouraged her classmates to “follow your own path and your own dream” and to not let other people’s expectations get in the way or become burdensome. Pearson echoed this sentiment and advised others to “complete your own greatness in life” with whatever career is chosen.

“No matter what you are doing, it is important to the world,” Pearson said.



# Newcastle High School

## Class of 2020

### Class Colors

Black, White & Orange

### Class Flower

White Rose

### Class Song

"9 to 5"

By Dolly Parton

### Class Motto

*"The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces."*

— Will Rogers



### Commencement

Sunday, May 17

2 p.m. NHS Parking Lot

(Seniors and their immediate families only.)

Online viewing and other details will be available at a later date)

Parade of Seniors and their families to follow on Main Street

### Valedictorians

Madison Pearson • Dylan Tidyman

Peyton Tystad • Tessa Vandersnick

Markie Whitney

 UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

# UW WELCOMES YOU

## CLASS OF 2024

Madi Pearson

Bradyn Frye

Chloe Smith

Tara Rose

Shelby Stith

Gunnar Wainscott

Peyton Tystad

*THE WORLD NEEDS MORE COWBOYS.*

Will you answer the call? There's still time to confirm your enrollment.

[bit.ly/welcomecowboys](https://bit.ly/welcomecowboys)

 Class of  
**2020**   


# Congratulations

FROM

## The News Letter Journal