

Meet

the

GRADUATES!



Graduate Profiles  
Graduate Memories  
Graduate Plans

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**CLASS**  
*of* **2021**



**First State Bank**  
OF NEWCASTLE  
MEMBER FDIC

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Bridger Alishouse*

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

**Favorite memory from school:**

*I would say my favorite part of high school was running cross country and more specifically, traveling to and from state on a 10-hour bus ride. Many people would probably think that such a thing would be miserable being cooped up on a bus for 10 hours non-stop with periodic breaks but, since I was with some of my best friends it made it so much more enjoyable and a really great team bonding activity.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*When I graduate high school, I plan to attend college at Utah State University and major in accounting. After completing my bachelor's degree, I will pursue a master's degree at another institution and take my CPA exam to become a certified public accountant. From there, I hope to find a good job, somewhere where the weather is warm would be preferred, and start doing a bunch of traveling to other countries.*

**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 too many of my plans for the future. The university that I am going to will be having mostly in-person classes this fall but, there are still online options available. I feel like the biggest change for me has come with visiting colleges and orientation. For some of my college visits, a maximum of five people per group was allowed. My orientation will be online through Zoom, which is something I have never really used much so I will probably have to learn some of that as I go.*



• Hometown Medical Clinic •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Claire Beastrom*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Bill & Jamie Beastrom

**Favorite memory from school:**

*For sophomore year Homecoming, Isabel Frank and I painted ourselves green for the "Meme Day" dress-up theme. We were the good and evil Kermit the Frog meme. Later on, we realized that the paint actually stained our skin.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will attend Southeastern Community College in Iowa to play soccer and to earn a degree in Early Childhood.*

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

*Going through a pandemic has taught me a lot. I have learned so much about our society and how people feel about their health and the health of others. Some of it was disheartening to see, but I think our town handled the pandemic well, especially in the school setting. Before everything happened I would find myself complaining a lot about going to school, but now that I have had to attend Zooms and do my work online, I realize how lucky we are to be back to in-person learning.*



• Weston County Children's Center •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Emily Beastrom*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jamie & Bill Beastrom



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Freshman year I pulled the science hazard shower in Mr. Beam's class at the end of the year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Attend Black Hills State University for Tourism and Hospitality Management.*

**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.*

• Weston County Children's Center •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Carson Bock*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Weston Bock, Melissa Bock



**Favorite memory from school:**

*None.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Get rich and drive fast cars.*

**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 still can't smell from having Covid.*

• Chick Financial •





**Congratulations,**  
*Sierra Checketts*

Nickname: *Rah Rah* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Ty & Becky Checketts*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*All the days I was gone*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am going to college in Hawaii to get my Bachelor's in Business and then my MBA. My five-year goal is to own a Ford Dealership.*

**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 made me lose hope for our country and mankind. I can't believe people feel protected by a little piece of fabric on their face.*



• EWC/Newcastle Outreach •



**Congratulations,**  
*Kale Corley*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Joe and Cindy Corley*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Going to my house for lunch every day with my best buds Jory and Cooper.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to attend Dickinson State University to continue my wrestling career and pursue a degree in business administration.*

**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 hasn't really changed any plans or my perspective of the world.*



• Hurricane Services •



**Congratulations,**  
*James Cox*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Tracy Frey and James Frey*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Probably the first time I met Mr. Stith. I absolutely love Stith, and enjoy his class every time I am in the room. It's fun, he's kind, and he has taught me a lot.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan to go to college and work into a biology degree, then branch into veterinary science.*

**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, and it has showed me that people are really dumb and choose to ignore a global pandemic and ignore the warnings on how to protect people. They choose to ignore facts because it doesn't suit their personal views.*



• Skull Creek Studio •



**Congratulations,**  
*Peyton Crinklaw*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Krystal and Cory Crinklaw*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*I don't have one.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will be attending Colorado State University in Fort Collins. I am majoring in Zoology on the pre-vet track, and minoring in French.*

**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 pandemic has not changed my plans for the future in any way; I have always known that I wanted to go to Colorado State. It has, however, changed the way I see the world. I definitely have a higher appreciation for in-person schooling and for the community we live in.*



• EWC/Newcastle Outreach •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Amber Cummings*

Nickname(s): *AmberBamber*    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Joseph Cummings, Karianne Cummings*



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school was the lockdown my sophomore year because I was in the art room and I was able to stay longer. It was really fun and we did a lot of annoying things, plus, art is my favorite class.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans for the future are to graduate and go to college. I don't really know what college I want to go to anymore, I just want to go to college.*

**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. Everything is the same for me. The only thing that's different is I have something to complain more about.*

• Decker's Market •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Jordan Daniele*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *John & Kari Drost*



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school would be painting the library with the Library Advisory Club. I had so much fun hanging out with my friends and making the library look great at the same time.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plan for the future is to get my Bachelor's Degree at the University of Wyoming in Psychology and Criminal Justice. After graduation I am going to move to Southern Maine so my mother can be close to me and start working for the local PD. From there, I will work my way up the ranks to a criminal psychologist.*

**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*Absolutely not. I plan on sticking to this course of action until I get where I want to be in life. If there is one thing I have learned through the pandemic, it's that people are really freaking dirty and I am reluctant to shake anyone's hand now.*

• Skull Creek Studio •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Paige Deyo*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Brian & Loretta Deyo*

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from high school was during my junior year when I got to go with a bunch of fellow FFA members to Nationals. Nationals was held in Indianapolis. We got to tour the city of Indy as well as several cities/towns around us. It was a week full of smiles, laughs and endless memories.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*After high school I plan on attending Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. I plan on getting a major in Elementary Education and possibly even getting a minor in Special Education. During that time, I would love to study abroad so that I am able to get some traveling in during college. After college I plan on staying in the Black Hills to teach kindergarten or first grade. I may even do some traveling before starting to teach just to explore further options.*

**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 for the future, although it did make me realize how different things could really be. It has also made me realize how crazy this world can really be when times get hard.*



• EWC/Newcastle Outreach •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Dylan Drost*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Kari and John Drost*



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory is running at state track my sophomore year and getting to hang out with all of my friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan on going to the University of Wyoming and studying kinesiology to become a physical therapist/athletic trainer*

**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 a whole lot in my life. I am still working towards the same goals and trying to do what I need to.*

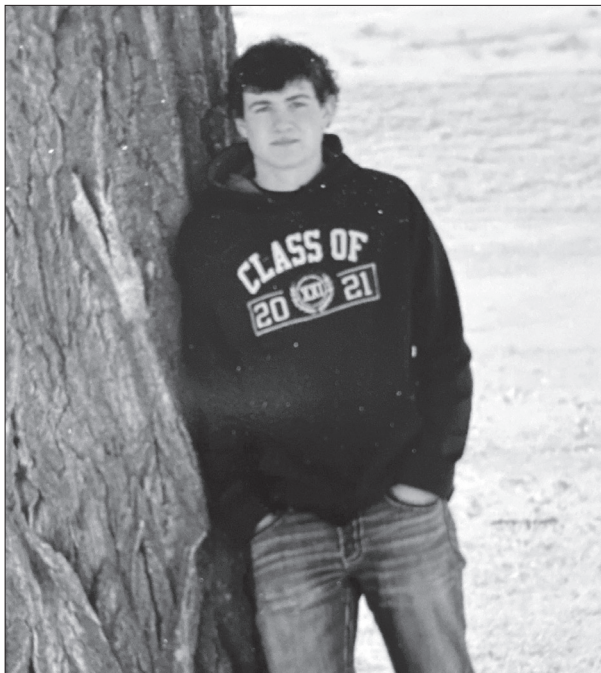
• First State Bank Insurance •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Landon Engle*

Nickname: Lando    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Carrie Sweet, Jared Engle



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Hanging out with the boys and playing basketball.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*To pursue a career that I enjoy and get paid good money.*

**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 don't follow Covid protocols, because Covid is overall a joke. It is just an excuse and cover up for what awful things the Democratic party is allowing down at the border.*

• Edward Jones Investments •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Trace Treeman*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Trina and John Baird



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is going to state FCCLA. It was so much fun and it allowed the people from my chapter to get to know each other better.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on attending an online college for a degree in elementary and special education or English education for secondary education.*

**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 or my perspective of the world. It did however help me realize what I want to do in the future.*

• Farmer's Insurance/Michael Freeman •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Christopher Fullerton*

Nickname: Cowboy    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Guy & Gigi Fullerton

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite school memory from school was when everyone was able to come back to school.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan is to move to North Dakota to work for STEFFES Welding Company and in the future to pursue a Human resource management Business 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?**

*Yes, COVID-19 has changed my plans for my future. I planned on attending North West College, but doing online has pushed me away because I am a one-on-one learner.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Xavin Goodrich*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jackie Goodrich & Zeb Goodrich



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Going on sport bus rides.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Become a choir teacher and go to Black Hills State University.*

**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 not really, I think it affected many businesses around the world because people were not able to travel around the world.*

• M&M Services •



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## Congratulations, Kilian Gorman

Nickname(s): Big Red, Ginger    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Matthew and Holley Gorman

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memories from school are going to have to be the friends that I have made through the years and many nights that we all had. The nights we went cruising and the nights we just hung out watching movies. Also the sports programs and all the amazing people that got me to where I am today.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans and goals for me for my future are a couple things. One, having a successful job and living life happy and easily. Another would be having a nice house in a nice community with friends and be in a place where the seasons cold, hot, hotter, and then the rain season. Then, finally, make sure that I make my successes and then help with others if they need help, and make sure to be happy doing whatever I am doing.*

**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. It made me realize even more how to get them and the effort that I will have to put into whatever it may be to get there.*



• M&M Services •

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## Congratulations, Asia Graham

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jessica & George Graham

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is going to New York City for choir. This was one of the best weeks and experiences I have ever had.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will be attending Chadron State College in the fall of 2021. I will be majoring in Criminal Justice with a sub plan of Forensic science. I hope to one day become a forensic investigator.*

**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.*



• Newcastle Vision Clinic •



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## Congratulations, Gravin Gray

Nickname: Gray    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jaimie and Chris Gray

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Spending nights out with all the friends I made in high school, and all my upper-classmen friends I made as a freshman.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*To go live in Denver for a year, then go attend BHSU.*

**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 not really, COVID didn't really affect the town at all or me.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •

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## Congratulations, Tyrell Harrington

Nickname: Ty, T-Rex    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Judith & Steve Harrington

**Favorite memory from school:**

*From being one of those introverted types of people, there hasn't been a lot of dramatic moments during my high school career. However, some fun memories are looking back on track and field, as well as wrestling Zach in the wrestling room last year.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I envision myself becoming a fully licensed physical therapist as a chosen career. One of the first steps for me to reach that long-term goal is attending college at the University of Wyoming for four years straight. By doing so, I will obtain my bachelor's degree in pre-physical therapy before transferring to a medical school for an additional two to four years to receive a doctorate degree. After this, my plan is to find a job as a physical therapist in Rapid City, since that is going to be my future hometown.*

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

*Even though COVID has changed my life and made 2020 the worst and nightmarish year ever, I personally think that it won't affect my future that much considering that restrictions are being lifted from here on out. With me attending college at a very huge campus, my only concern is how their in-person learning will take place as they have gone virtual throughout this year. In my personal opinion, Covid put the whole world in paranoia and at the same time most of us just need to realize that we can't let this virus stop our lives and put us in isolation. With this being said, my plans for the future will run smoothly as planned.*



• Physical Therapy of Wyoming •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Whispin Haslam*

Nickname: Whippin Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Starla Starkey

**Favorite memory from school:**

*I want to say that one of my favorite memories was me messing up in one of my soccer games. I decided to get in a fight with a girl because we kept pushing and shoving into each other. She tripped me so I got up and started punching her. I got a red card and could not play for two games; I also had to go and apologize to the coach for what I did. Also, everyone started to call me Rocky and it was a great memory and learning experience for me!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans and goals after graduating high school would be going to Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyo., for two years. I am going to study soil science and then get transferred to the University of Wyoming and I will study Equine Science. These two degrees will add up to what is called Hippotherapy; it's working with kids that have disabilities and working with horses.*

**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 really has not changed my mind on my future goals or even how my future will turn out. There are so many worse things that could happen in the future, this was just a little bump that we went through — and we got through it. I will always see the world as I always have; the world is difficult and nothing is going to change that. No matter what life you live, life is always going to be difficult. Live your life to the fullest, do not let anything change that.*



• Woody's Food Center •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Jakob Heberling*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Pat Heberling and Heidi Heberling



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Being in the Ag shop.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Working with my dad.*

**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 just live my daily life and not worry about it.*

• Decker's Market •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Rebecca Henkle*

Nickname: Becca Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Sean & Laurie Goodart

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memories from school are probably just the times I spent laughing with friends. There was never a dull moment with the group of kids in the art room.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I plan on majoring in illustration at Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design.*

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

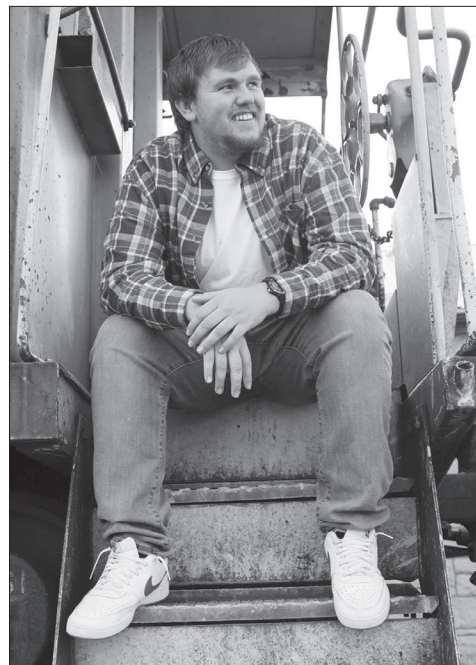
*During quarantine I had a lot of time to think about where I want to see myself in the future. Even though I don't have everything completely figured out, I'm glad I had that time to slow down and think about what I wanted. The pandemic also taught me that life just keeps moving whether you're ready or not, which I really don't appreciate at all. I've missed out on some things because of Covid, so I guess I want try to be more outgoing so I don't miss more.*



• EWC/Newcastle Outreach •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Kayne Hinshaw*

Nickname: Some call me Kayne but you can call me anytime Parents: Mike Hinshaw, Amanda Hinshaw



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory was freshman year basketball. The team was staying in a hotel, in Fortnite's glory days; Cam Quigley had won a game his first time ever playing. This caused a riot and the whole team swarmed the room in a riot of jumps and yells. Mr. VonEye was not nearly as happy, actually he was very mad and we ran a lot.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I'm going to school for psychology. However I'm probably going to become stupid famous and filthy rich. Either way I know I am going to be happy whatever I 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?**

*Now I know to be careful when kissing my lady fans, I don't want to contract Covid. Other than that nothing changed; I'm still just as awesome.*

• M&M Services •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Alexcya Hopper*

Nickname(s): *Ally/Alex* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Katrina Lund and Josh Lund*



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*The heck's a memory?*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*Become an author, or at least something in the English field that isn't a teacher.*  
**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*

• Cambria Discount Drug •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Skylar Jenkins*

Nickname: *Stallone* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Jason & Kim Jenkins*



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from high school was my freshman year football season. Adjusting to high school was not hard but it was different, so being able to look forward to having fun at practice with all of the guys always took my mind off of school.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans for the future are to go to get my Associate's Degree at Gillette College for welding. I also plan on continuing my military career with the army.*  
**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 has not changed my plans for the future at all. It has made me realize that when it hits the fan most people are not prepared to overcome adversity. As I get older I want to be able to adapt and overcome problems so that I can continue to grow and learn where others allow themselves to get tripped up and left behind.*

• Newcastle Equipment •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Christopher Johnson*

Nickname: *Chris* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Scott/Terra (Kennah) Johnson*

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My time in the Yearbook department and my part in making it, but mostly taking photos for it.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*If I do not go to a trade school for the arts, then I'll stay here and earn some money so I can go off and rent my own place with some other renters to get some experience with other people.*  
**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 really, all that changed was that I have to wear a mask all the time and that I'm allowed to tell people to stay away from me.*



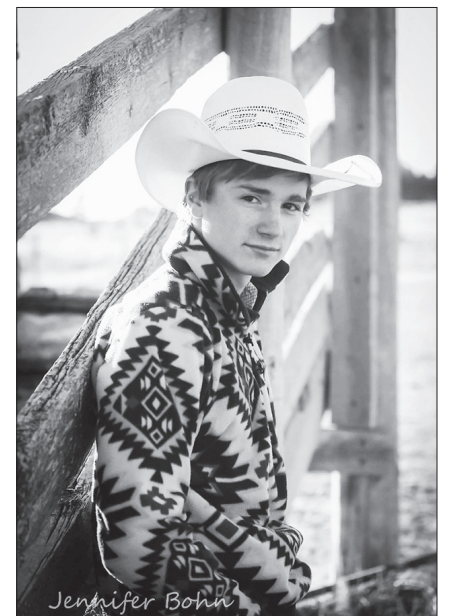
• Newcastle Lodge & Convention Center •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Kacy Jones*

Nickname: *Jonesy* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Tim and Stacey Jones*

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*Summer break, or FFA*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I will be attending Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas, to study either Agricultural Business, or Agricultural Education. I also am planning on continuing to 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?**  
*No the COVID-19 pandemic has not changed my plan for the future. It has, however, changed my perspective on the world. It has done this because it shows how anymore people only want to listen to what the media has to say, as well as blow something like a common cold way out of perspective.*



• Powder River Energy Corporation •



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## Congratulations, Dillon Kenney

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Trish and Robert Kenney*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*Running in track and hanging out with my best friends everyday*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plan for the future is to go to college and get my welding certificate so I can reach my goal of being rich.*

**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.*

• Rhoades Dental, PC •

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## Congratulations, Kalen Koch

Nickname: *IDK the teachers called me lazy* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Ryan Koch, Cassidy Koch*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory would be on my first day at Newcastle High School this guy named Kayne Hinshaw was sitting next to me and I asked for a pencil and he said I don't have a f\*\*\*\*\* pencil, do you know who I am?*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am going to WyoTech in Laramie. I am going into automotive maintenance and performance. I also just wanna live life as a dude.*

**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 not really.*



• Wyoming Refining Company •

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## Congratulations, Lacie Koester

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Annette Koester and Jerry Koester*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*There's too many to count. I would say the first day, because it was exciting to finally be a senior. Now, I'm graduating. It's so strange to me because all my life, I've been in school. Now I finally get a break before I go to college.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I'm going to take a gap year to focus on myself and work before I head off to college. I'm also going to train my service dog and get him ready for AKC Good Citizen training. After he's certified for that, then I can finally get him trained for his specialized tasks.*

**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 and no. It hasn't really changed much on the plans front, but it has changed how I think of things. A lot of people don't wear masks, and a lot of people are spreading sickness around. I think the pandemic itself has taught all of us a lesson on health and how to take care of yourself and others. It's strange that we needed a whole pandemic in the modern century to teach us this lesson.*



• Cashbox Ceramics •

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## Congratulations, Alaina Lawrence

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Brenna & Shane Crawford*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*State soccer our sophomore year (and hopefully this year).*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will be attending Southeastern Community College in Burlington, Iowa, where I will be earning my Associate's Degree in Biology, while playing soccer. After this, I hope to major in Sports Medicine.*

**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 honestly hasn't changed my plans for the future.*



• Weston County Health Services •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Alyssa Lichtenberger*

Nickname: *Aly* Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Melissa Hammond*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory of school was when I was in a class called JROTC. I really enjoyed being in that class because I learned a lot of important things that I will take with me wherever I go in life.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future is to take a gap year after I graduate. I am going to get a job and start saving up for a beauty school that I want to go to in Rapid City, S.D. I am also going to save for a small apartment and car. Another way that I am going to save up for school, small apartment, and car is by raising and breeding rabbits. I am going to sell the babies to also help pay for everything that I am going to need to survive 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?**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has not changed my plans for the future because I am mostly focusing on my school work first before getting a job or even rabbits. I want to be able to get good grades to be able to graduate on time. I will not have anything that could distract me from my school work.*



• Short Stop •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Rya Liggett*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Josh Liggett and Jennifer Hokanson*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is going to pre-COVID sporting events with my friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future are to move to Spearfish, S.D., to begin my life and attend 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?**

*COVID-19 has not changed my plans for the future, but it has given me a new perspective on society and how much the world is influenced.*



• 21 Electric •





  
**Congratulations,**  
*Lara Lopez*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Kami & Javier Lopez*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school would have to be our state trip for soccer my sophomore year. It was a blast and I can't wait to go again this year!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans for the future are to attend Casper College in the fall as well as playing for their soccer team. I plan on majoring in elementary education as well as special education.*

**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 Covid-19 has not changed any of my future plans so far.*



• First State Bank •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Dayton McFarlin*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Tami and VJ McFarlin*

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Playing soccer, and being able to spend every day with my best friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Attend college for construction*

**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.*



• 307 Auto •



✝

## Congratulations, *Owen Murphy*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Amber Murphy, Cory Murphy



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school is when my friends and I pelted my friend with snowballs right as he got out of his car.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My goals for the future are to be working a job I enjoy and that pays good.*

**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 for the future. The pandemic changed my perspective on the world because it made me realize how crazy people are.*

• CLT Flooring & Furnishings •

✝

## Congratulations, *Honesty Olson*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Nicole and Shane Olson



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*I have a ton of favorite memories from volleyball trips.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan to go to college at Myotherapy Institute for massage therapy.*

**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 for the future have not changed, but my perspective of the world did change.*

• Weston County Health Services •



✝

## Congratulations, *Caitlyn Pehringer*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Mike and April Pehringer

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school is when we went to state soccer in Jackson, Wyoming, homecoming and prom.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans and goals for the future is to attend either Central Wyoming College or Northwest College. I plan on getting a bachelors degree in health of science and work my way up to getting an associates in registered 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?**  
*COVID-19 has not really hanged my plans for the future. There have been a few shortages of nurses but not enough to where it is a struggle. It has not changed my perspective of the world, but it has made me more cautious about my relatives and the health of others.*

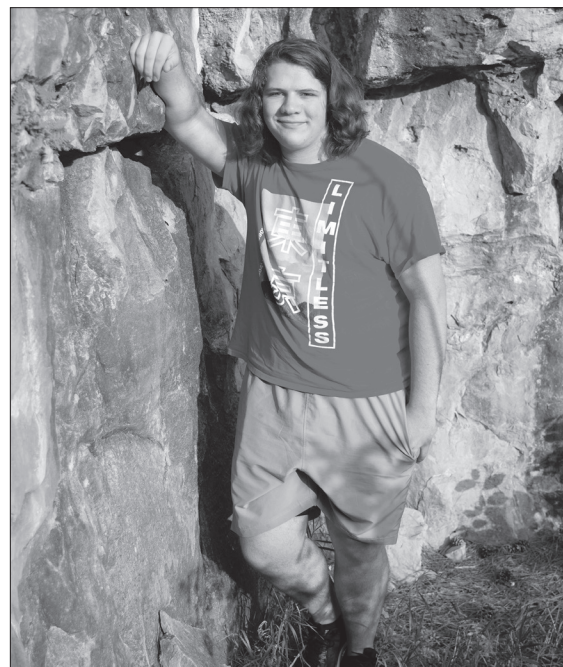


• Weston County Children's Center •

✝

## Congratulations, *Alexander Petersen*

Nickname: Alex Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Kent Peterson, Mary Alice Petersen



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*Some of my favorite memories from school is the track seasons; so many amazing memories came from doing random stuff with my friends during track meets and during practice.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My goals for the future are to attend Black Hills State University and discover what I truly want to do 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?**  
*COVID hasn't changed my plans for the future.*

• Pinnacle Bank •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Lyriquelle Peterson*

Nickname(s): Lilly, Mike, Honeybee    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Dawnette and Travis Peterson

**Favorite memory from school:**

*Probably either every lunch period my senior year, spent with the guys laughing. Or meeting in the commons after school to say goodbye to each other, and talk about our day, painting the mural in the library, or basically living in the art room in the days before state art. I have a lot of neat memories of school. Mostly because I know a few really stellar people.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My goal is to be unrelentingly and creatively happy.*

**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 had an adverse effect on me than it did on most others. It made me value every second of my time, yet slow down and actually see them for exactly what they are. COVID made me appreciate the little unnoticed things again.*



• Grazers Burgers & Beer •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Conrad Prell*

Nickname: Vernrad    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jim and Sheila Prell

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school would have to be the down time I have in class. It allows me to talk and laugh with others.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I will be working with a group call COR expeditions this next year and then I will go to school for 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?**

*My plans for the future have not changed. It has changed a bit of my perspective of the world. It has opened my eyes to how many people there are that fear things like pandemics and such, and how many people there are that just don't care.*



• Monument Health/Newcastle Clinic •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*Zachary Purviance*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jody and Jason Purviance

**Favorite memory from school:**

*The time my friends and I got our homecoming voting privileges revoked because we "cheated" on the ballot.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Go to college and get a biology degree, then hopefully get accepted to dental 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?**

*It has not changed much. My life did not change a whole lot due to the pandemic, just taught me to wash my hands even gooder.*



• Chick Financial •

  
**Congratulations,**  
*Adam Quinton*

Nickname(s): AJ    Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Nicole and David Jensen

**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from high school would have to be hanging out with my friends, and probably the best memory was when I donated blood and I became loopy after a while.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*My plans and goals for the future are, take a year off of school, go to college or trade school either be a teacher or work for the railroad. Give or take a few of my plans for the future. It will be exciting.*

**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, but also in a lot more ways no it has not. For instance, I know I was social distancing my whole life, so I had this whole pandemic thing under control.*



• WC Sports & Western Wear •



✚

## Congratulations, Grayson Ramsey

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Matthew Ramsey, Dawn Ramsey



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*I can't remember much but one of my favorite memories is doing the book review in Mrs. Proctor's freshman English class.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I am planning on attending Valley Forge Military College while doing ROTC. My goal is to complete four years of college and be commissioned into the Army as an officer.*

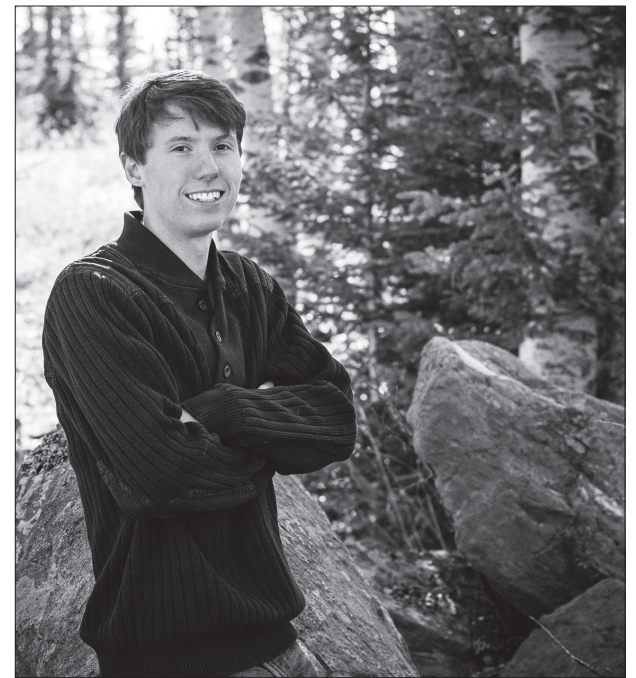
**Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your plans for the future, and/or has it changed your perspective of the world? If so, how?**  
*Nothing has changed*

• Matt Ramsey Auctions •

✚

## Congratulations, Gunner Ramsey

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Matt and Dawn Ramsey



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*I am gonna cheat a little and say my favorite memory is every single track season. There has been a good bunch of guys I have had the pleasure to run with from freshman year to my senior year. My family supporting me throughout the years has also been a good one.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*Find a job that I like and become good at it.*

**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 not really.*

• Matt Ramsey Auctions •

✚

## Congratulations, Christian Santos

Nickname: Santos

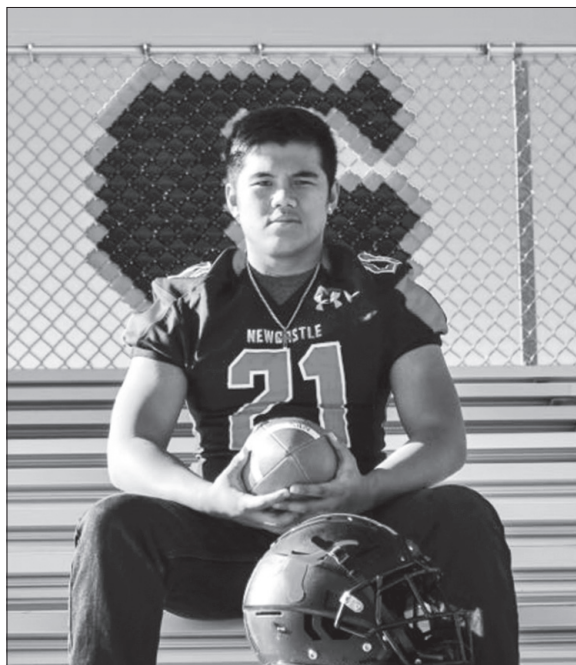
Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Edelyn & Gregg Halvorsen

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school is just doing sports with my favorite coaches and friends.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans for the future as of right now is to be a welder then hopefully do something with fishing and wildlife.*

**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 but it has changed my perspective of the world because it brought a lot of chaos in the world that shouldn't of happened and it really showed how us people really act which is not the good way.*



• Wesco Gas •

✚

## Congratulations, Samantha Simmons

Nickname: Sammy Simmons

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Amiee & Patrick

**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory of school is when I first came as a freshman me and my friend went to lunch and we were excited that we could go outside of school to have lunch. That was the coolest thing ever!*

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*My plans are to be a kindergarten teacher to help and teach little kids. I also love little kids and want them to have someone that they can trust. My future goals are to make a difference in the world by starting at a young age.*

**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 did not change anything for my future plans and it has not changed how I see the world.*



• Rhoades Dental, PC •



✦

## Congratulations, *Alaina Steveson*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Don & Jennifer Steveson*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is going to state soccer my sophomore year in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am attending Black Hills State University in the fall. There, I plan to receive my Bachelor's in Science, specifically majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry. After that, I plan to complete medical school and the required residency program to receive my Doctorate Degree in Dermatology.*

**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, but it has limited my experience opportunities. Two summers ago I did a three-day internship with Dr. Poling in Rapid City, S.D., and unfortunately I was unable to go back last summer and possibly this summer. I also interned at Hometown Medical Clinic at the beginning of last year and it was cut short because of the pandemic. This pandemic has definitely thrown curve balls at me, but I am passionate and committed to my dream of having that fancy piece of paper that outlines my name with PhD.*

• Wyoming Refining Company •



✦

## Congratulations, *Morgan Sweet*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Michelle Sweet and Robert Sweet*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*No answer.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*I am looking forward to future adventures with traveling the world and seeing what opportunities come my way.*

**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.*

• Weston County Health Services •

✦

## Congratulations, *Shayla Thomas*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Monica Ivy and Frank Lummus*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*My favorite memory from school is art class.*

**Plans and goals for the future:**

*To go to college and become a veterinarian.*

**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 my outlook on the world.*

• Range •



✦

# Congratulations, Rodney Vandom

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Jennifer Vandom, Rodney Vandom



*No response to questions by press time.*

• Donna's Main Street Diner •

✦

# Congratulations, Mercedes Voelker

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Ryan & Donna Voelker

**Favorite memory from school:**  
My favorite memory from school was my junior year of basketball when we played in the consolation regional game against Wheatland. The amount of support and encouragement from the crowd and the student section made for one memorable moment.

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
My plans for the future are to attend Sheridan College and obtain my Associate of Applied Science in Dental Hygiene. While obtaining this I am also going to earn my Bachelor of Science online through the University of Wyoming.

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

*There are many ways COVID-19 has affected the future for others, however, it did not change my plans and what I want to pursue in my future.*



• Voelkers Auto Body •



✦

# Congratulations, Hailey Wehri

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Rick and Ann Wehri

**Favorite memory from school:**  
State soccer in Jackson in 2019

**Plans and goals for the future:**  
I will attend Casper College to compete on the Livestock Judging Team and dual major in Animal Science and Life Science. After Casper, I will transfer to a four-year school to get my Bachelor's Degree and explore more career paths after that.

**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 pandemic hasn't changed my future plans.*

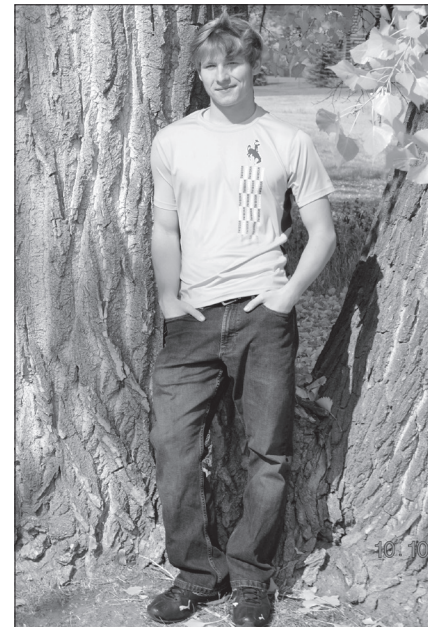


• Treasured Floral & Gifts •

✦

# Congratulations, Tristan Wornkey

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Amber Phelps, Wade Phelps



*No response to questions by press time.*

• Gateway Travel Center •





**Congratulations,**  
*Hannah Foote*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Roger and Tanya-Marie Foote



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*All of our field trips.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I'd love to be either a park ranger or a vet tech.*  
**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 appreciate seeing people's smiles more than I did before.*

• Wyoming Refining Company •



**Congratulations,**  
*Hannah Gross*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Scott and Teresa Gross



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*It would definitely have to be the "In God We Trust" musical our homeschool group did last. Even though at times it seemed we bit off more than we could chew, it turned out better than we even expected on performance night. It was a great time of fellowship, and we all learned invaluable lessons of truth that I'll be able to carry with me for the rest of my life.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I plan on attending Jackson Hole Bible College in the fall to hopefully grow deeper in my faith and relationship with Jesus. I'm not sure where I'll go after that, but my heart is in the mission field. I look forward to finding out where God guides me next.*  
**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 perspective of the world isn't based on circumstances because they constantly change. I base my world view on the Bible because God never changes, so even though these are very uncertain times, I'm not worried because my hope is not in this world but in Christ alone.*

• Erickson Dental •

**Congratulations,**  
*Abby Lacey*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Christa Lacey & Patrick Lacey



**Favorite memory from school:**  
*My favorite memory from school is my freshman year of high school when I went to Mrs. Scribner's culinary and textiles classes. I had so much fun and learned so many fun recipes and projects.*  
**Plans and goals for the future:**  
*I am not entirely sure what I am going to do in the future but I am thinking of pursuing a cosmetology degree in Gillette and moving into an apartment with my best friend 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?**  
*I think that the only way that the pandemic has changed my view is that you need to live for you. I have learned that you really need to follow your dreams and do anything and everything that you think will make your life better and happier.*

• Weston County Children's Center •



  
**Congratulations,**  
*KateLynn Slaamot*

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): *Jeremy & Heidi Slaamot*



**Favorite memory from school:**

*I've really just enjoyed my home school experience and learning at home with my brother and sharing fun memories. I've also enjoyed fun times with friends at our home school group. Working as an intern at the newspaper throughout high school has also been an incredible learning opportunity.*

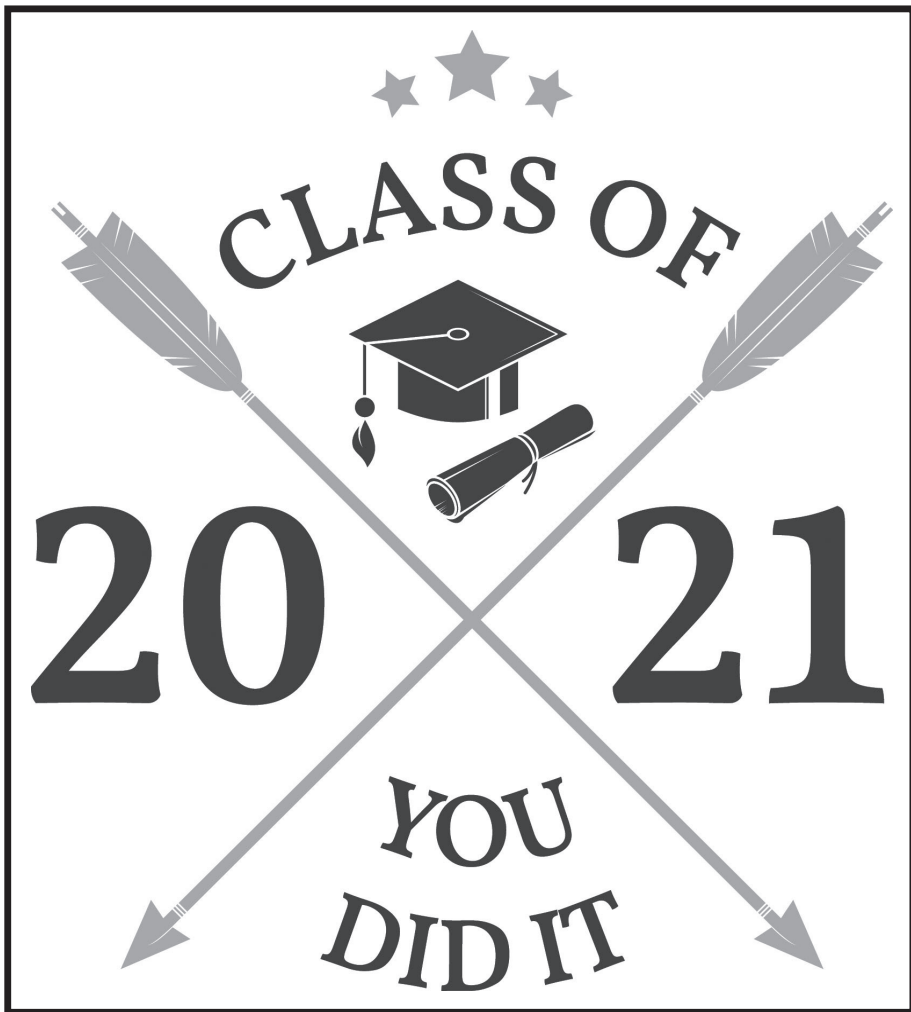
**Plans and goals for the future:**

*Right now I plan on taking a gap year and continue working at the NLJ. After that, I hope to attend Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyo., where my brother is studying.*

**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 haven't really changed, but the Lord may have different plans for my life. As far as changing my perspective of the world, the pandemic made me see a lot of division and hate between people with different opinions, and it made me realize how important it is to trust in God, love others and realize my hope is in Christ, not in current circumstances.*

• Rancher's Feed & Supply, Inc •



# Why don a cap and gown?

Graduation ceremonies are steeped in tradition, the most noticeable of which may be the caps and gowns worn by students on hand to receive their degrees. This attire likely dates back to 12th century Europe, when students would wear hoods and gowns that resembled those worn by their teachers, who were members of the clergy. According to Colorado State University, in 1321 a statute of the University of Coimbra in Portugal declared that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” wear gowns. That means that the mandatory graduation gown is on the cusp of celebrating its 700th anniversary. Hoods, caps and gowns not only signified a certain status of the students wearing them, but they also served a more practical purpose, helping to keep students warm in the unheated buildings where they were being taught. Ironically, many modern graduates, particularly those whose graduation ceremonies are held outdoors, may lament that their caps and gowns make them feel hot.

# Productive ways to spend the summer after graduation

Graduation is a momentous day in the lives of college students. After years of schooling that dates all the way back to preschool or kindergarten, newly minted college graduates are finally ready to begin their professional lives.

That can be a scary prospect for some students, especially those who graduate without jobs lined up. The summer after graduating from college can be a time like no other in the lives of new graduates. It can be easy to grow dejected as weeks or months go by without receiving a job offer. But spending the summer after graduation as productively as possible can help graduates overcome any dejection they might feel and increase their chances of landing a job.

- Contact career services offices at your alma mater. Career services offices can help recent graduates as they look for their first jobs out of college. Such offices may have access to job and internship opportunities that grads do not. In addition, they may coach grads on interviewing techniques and on ways to stand out in crowded job markets.

- Seek internships. If part- or full-time employment is proving elusive, don't be afraid to seek and ultimately accept internships, which can provide a way for grads to get their foot in the doors in certain industries. Summer internships may already be filled, so scour job boards for fall or winter internships.

- Start networking. Students who interned can get in touch with their past supervisors or mentors and find out if the company is hiring. Such people may be more inclined to bring someone with direct experience onboard — even if that experience was brief and unpaid. In addition, grads can connect with adjunct professors who work in their desired fields.



- When job hunting, don't get pigeonholed by your major. Just because a student graduates with a particular degree does not mean he or she needs to look for work in that field. In fact, many companies may prefer entry-level applicants with degrees that are not specific to their industries so their new hires are blank slates who can be easily trained.

- Attend job fairs. While other graduates may be taking the summer off, enterprising grads looking for work should attend as many job fairs as possible. Graduates likely won't leave job fairs with employment offers in hand, but job fairs are a great way for grads to meet hiring managers and submit their résumés to potential employers.

- Customize a résumé for every job. Be sure the curriculum vitae is not static. Write and refine résumés for each job you apply for, mildly tweaking the wording or accomplishments to address the key phrases used in the job listing.

It can be tempting for recent college grads to spend the summers after graduation relaxing, but those who spend that time productively may lands jobs more quickly than those who do not.



# Bartlett to speak at graduation ceremony

By Hannah Gross  
NLJ Correspondent

The graduation ceremony for the Newcastle High School Class of 2021 is set for 2 p.m. on May 23 at Crouch Auditorium. Attendees will have the privilege of hearing from class speaker Tyler Bartlett, Newcastle Middle School principal, and the four valedictorians: Alaina Laurence, Sierra Checketts, Hailey Wehri and Grayson Ramsey.

Bartlett said he felt both “surprised and honored” to have been chosen as the speaker, but he is also nervous because he feels “underqualified.”

“I don’t think of myself as some experienced sage full of wisdom. I feel like I’m still learning myself,” Bartlett said.

Following through on that thought, Bartlett said, he decided to use his own experience to propel the theme of his message: Don’t stop learning.

“Someone once told me you are either green and growing or you’re ripe and rotten. That message stuck with me, and it’s one I hope to pass on to the senior class,” Bartlett said.

While graduating from high school is a mile marker for the class of 2021, Bartlett wants to remind them that this is only the beginning of a journey. There are many more opportunities in life to gain wisdom, so he wants them to keep looking for them as they begin the next chapter in life.

“The best way I can deliver this message is to lead by example and share



Photo courtesy of Danielle Urman

some of the best lessons I’ve learned from the people in my life over the years,” Bartlett said.

While they look forward to sharing one final message with their classmates, none of the valedictorians are quite sure of what they will be presenting on graduation day, but Ramsey said he wants to focus on the lines of thankfulness and being hopeful.

Wehri said she has strived to be valedictorian ever since she was a little girl in elementary school, so finally reaching her goal makes her feel proud of the work she has put in to maintain a 4.0 grade point average. She credits this accomplishment to the support and encouragement of her parents and reading at an early age, which enabled

## CONGRATULATIONS *Graduates!*

The News Letter Journal realizes this has been a difficult year for graduates, and as our **SPECIAL GIFT TO THE CLASS OF 2021**, NEWS LETTER JOURNAL is offering a **FREE ONE-YEAR ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION** to [newslj.com](http://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!



her to excel academically. She and Checketts said they are grateful for the scholarship opportunities available to them because of this achievement.

Unlike Wehri, the other three never had the goal to be valedictorian, but they always worked to get good grades throughout high school. While Checketts said “it feels nice but nothing special,” Ramsey and Laurence are both grateful to their parents for teaching them the importance of work ethic.

“My parents motivated me to try my hardest, and in doing so, I will benefit from a good work ethic that was instilled in me over the years,” Ramsey said.

“My biggest motivation would have been my parents because they pushed me to work hard and be my best,” Laurence said.

The takeaway each valedictorian has from their time at high school is unique according to their own experience, and Wehri said although she learned the “generic” lessons of work ethic, time management, communication and cooperation, her most valuable takeaway is the importance of close friendships and not worrying about what others thought of her.

“I am so thankful for the wonderful friends that I have because I honestly don't think I could have done this without them. But letting go of what other people thought of me and how I appeared to them made me a way happier person and has helped me be more independent and shape myself into my own person,” Wehri said.

She wants her classmates to remember “don't stop being you.” Although not very original, she said it's “cliché for a reason.” Laurence echoed this by advising her peers to stop worrying about what others think. Each senior is amazing in their own way, and Wehri said she feels blessed to be a part of the

# NHS VALEDICTORIANS



Sierra Checketts



Alaina Laurence



Grayson Ramsey



Hailey Wehri

class of 2021.

But that is not to say that high school is always a rose-colored glasses experi-

ence, and Checketts admitted that getting along with everyone is not always easy or possible, so high school taught her “how

to deal with difficult people.”

She also wanted to advise her classmates and the underclassmen that “high school isn't everything.”

Laurence said high school taught her responsibility and hard work in both academics and athletics. For Ramsey, a strong work ethic was the most significant principle he learned from his high school years.

“The biggest lesson I learned was you get out what you put in. Hard work always pays off—maybe not immediately, so be patient and don't give up,” he said.

Additionally, Wehri reminds the underclassmen that high school goes by fast, so they should participate in as much as they can and cherish every moment.

“Everyone says four years goes by in a flash, but you never believe it until you're 27 days away from graduating. So, savor the moment now,” she said.

“These four years really do go by so quickly, so make the most of them,” Laurence said.

Bartlett said he also recognizes how fast the time flies but is grateful to have taught and coached the class of 2021, playing a “small part in their big picture.”

“I don't know what kind of impact I have had on them, but I'm grateful for the impact they had on me,” Bartlett said. “It's hard to believe that just four years ago these students were goofy, awkward eighth graders with us at Newcastle Middle School. Now they are young adults filled with potential and ready to take on the next part of their journey.”

He said that, along with the preceding classes, the class of 2021 is blessed to grow up in a community where they are surrounded by family, friends, teachers, coaches and others that can offer valuable insight of the world they are about to enter.

## What is a gap year? And should grads take one?

Members of the class of 2021 have many decisions to make in the coming months.

Many high school students enroll in trade schools or colleges after graduation, while college graduates start their careers or begin their pursuit of advanced degrees when their undergrad days draw to a close. But more and more high school and college graduates are taking gap years.

According to the American Gap Year Association, a gap year is defined as an experimental semester or full academic year taken between high school and college grads in order to deepen practical, professional and personal awareness. Students often take a break from school as a chance to travel or gain some professional experience.

Others use gap years as a chance for personal exploration before moving on to the next chapter in their lives. Gap years may once have been looked at unfavorably, but they have evolved from such perceptions into opportunities to volunteer abroad, learn a new language in a foreign land, visit one's ancestral homeland, or work as an intern.

While many students take gap years prior to entering college, even college graduates can benefit from taking time off after earning their degrees.

Gap years are now seen as a way to improve a curriculum vitae and gain relevant work experience in a particular field. The resource GapYear.com indicates employers actively employ people who have taken a gap year, preferring candidates who have real-world

experience.

Preparation is necessary before diving head first into a gap year. Students can speak with people who have already taken gap years and ask questions. Graduates should approach the decision of whether or not to take a gap year just as they would any other large, life-changing decision. Experts say that it can take between nine and 12 months to plan a gap-year itinerary. Finances are a consideration, and gap years require ample savings and a carefully constructed budget in order to be transformed from a dream into a reality.

Gap years are a growing trend that can help students improve their résumés, see the world and gain invaluable experience.



# Newcastle High School Class of 2021

## Class Colors

Black, White, Orange, & Silver

## Class Flower

Cactus Flower

## Class Song

"Curious George Theme Song  
(Upside Down)"

By Dr. John

## Class Motto

"The only thing I test  
positive for is senioritis."



## Commencement

Sunday, May 23

2 p.m. Crouch Auditorium at NHS

*Tickets Required*

## Valedictorians

Sierra Checketts

Alaina Laurence

Grayson Ramsey

Hailey Wehri

 UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

## WELCOME INCOMING CLASS OF FALL 2021!

Jordan Daniele

Riley Davey

Kilian Gorman

Mashayla Jacomet

Asia Graham

Jensen Kelly

Tyrell Harrington

Katlyn Louderback

Dylan Drost

Jess Claycomb

Bridger Alishouse

Daniel Wozney

*THE WORLD NEEDS MORE COWBOYS.*

Next Steps for Admitted First-Year Students: [uwyo.edu/nextsteps](http://uwyo.edu/nextsteps)

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