

WCHS approves hazard pay

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

After a heated debate at the Nov. 19 Weston County Health Services board of trustees meeting, the board

approved a limited \$2-an-hour hazard pay increase for employees for hours worked between Sept. 21 and Nov. 30. The board and employees met in person and via Zoom. According to CEO Maureen

Cadwell, other hospital facilities in the region had recently given staff additional funds for work performed during the spike in COVID-19 cases. She said that some employers had provided an hourly hazard pay in

addition to regular wages, while others had given a one-time payment of \$1,000 to employees working during the time. "A lot of staff is picking up a lot of time, and a lot of staff have stepped

up and are doing amazing work. I would like us to consider something like that," Cadwell said. She suggested making a \$1,000
— See **Hospital**, Page 8

Overwhelmed

Workers frustrated with misinformation

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

People in Wyoming have been dealing with COVID-19 and regulations related to the illness for seven months now. No one would argue that everyone is overwhelmed by the information, guidelines, restrictions and closures associated with the public health orders that have been put in place, and local health care workers and emergency responders are no different.

During a Nov. 18 local emergency personnel committee meeting over Zoom, health care providers and first responders from Weston County discussed their ongoing frustrations. With new cases in the county being announced daily, six in the past 24 hours, Kristen Johnson, a nurse, acknowledged that there is no relief to the work associated with COVID-19 cases in sight and that the lack of acknowledgment from the public about the situation is frustrating. "We are seeing it daily. We are seeing

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We are seeing it daily. We are seeing real, live, sick patients and still being called sheep because we believe it is serious. We are seeing it with our own eyes.”

— Kristen Johnson, Nurse and Member of Local Emergency Personnel Committee

real, live, sick patients and still being called sheep because we believe it is serious. We are seeing it with our own eyes," Johnson said, adding that Weston County Health Services is currently full of patients and finding a bed for those with COVID-19 is becoming more and more difficult.

"Things are not looking good. We (Weston County Health Services) are getting

— See **COVID**, Page 8

Progress in the making



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

The new Gateway Travel Center and Taco Johns, located at the intersection of U.S. Highways 16 and 85, are in the final stages of completion. Last week the big sign for the Fountain Inn was moved to a new location directly in front of the inn. Here a crane and crew hoist the heavy sign up onto a flatbed and secure it in place for transport. See more photos of the long-anticipated new business on Page 7.

New health orders

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Because of the increase of COVID-19 cases statewide and region wide, Gov. Mark Gordon released new COVID-19 guidelines for the first time in months. The new guidelines will go into affect Nov. 24.

The guidelines further restrict the number of people who can attend a gathering. These stricter limitations restrict gatherings to 25 people, without social distancing guidelines in place.

If social distancing guidelines are followed, indoor events can have up to 25% of the maximum occupancy with a maximum of 100 people. Outdoor events on the other hand are allowed to have up to 50% of occupation capacity with a maximum of 250 people in attendance.

Unlike other governors across the country, Gordon has not yet implemented a statewide mask mandate, leaving it up to county officials.

At this time, Weston County has no mask mandate

and there have been no public conversations with local government officials about implementing one. In fact, the Weston County commissioners have continued to support a county wide variance that would remove all COVID-19 regulations, although the state has not approved any of the submitted variances.

As of Monday, Nov. 23, Weston County has had 309 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 63 probable

— See **Orders**, Page 8

Festival of Wreaths goes online



NLJ file photo

Although this year the Pinnacle Bank's Festival of Wreaths will be an online auction, it is still anticipated to be a successful fundraiser for area charities.

Walter Sprague
Art and Culture Reporter

For the past 20 years, the Festival of Trees has been a major fundraising event to benefit nonprofit organizations. But with the shut-down of the Weston County Senior Citizen Center due to COVID-19, the venue customarily used for the auction is no longer available, and Pinnacle Bank, the event sponsor, decided to cancel that event for this year.

However, Pam Gualtieri said that, after thinking about the situation, she contacted Pinnacle Bank to see if she could do something. She didn't want to take the event away from the bank but thought there had to be a way to keep the fundraiser going without violating social distancing guidelines. She pitched an idea to

have an online auction, and Pinnacle Bank wanted to be a part of it.

Pam also talked to Matt Ramsey to see if his online auction services would be available. Ramsey agreed to donate his services. And, so, the Festival of Trees has become the

WHAT
Pinnacle Bank Annual Festival of Wreaths
WHEN
Online, Dec. 7-12
ramseyauctions.hibid.com
TO DONATE
Call Pam Gualtieri
307-941-0573

Festival of Wreaths for this year. "It's like everything came about perfectly," Pam said. "All three florists in town are getting the wreaths. Pinnacle Bank is still buying them and sponsoring the event. ... Matt is letting us use his site." Gualtieri was also excited that 36

businesses had agreed to participate as of Friday. She feels confident, she said, that people will decorate all 45 wreaths to be auctioned this year.

Because the online auction is nationwide, the wreaths will be

— See **Festival**, Page 2

Cuts will affect snow removal

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Cuts to the Wyoming Department of Transportation budget will affect its ability to continually remove snow from all routes in District 4, which includes Weston County, according to a Nov. 10 press release.

"With the budget constraints the department is currently facing, WYDOT has identified six levels of service and the routes that fall under those levels to help manage and work within those budget constraints while still maintaining adequate levels of service for plowing," the release says. "Within these

— See **Snow**, Page 2

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Sunny
Hi 39, Lo 19



Friday
Sunny
Hi 43, Lo 25



Saturday
Sunny
Hi 50, Lo 24



Sunday
Sunny
Hi 36, Lo 20



Monday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 46, Lo 25



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 39, Lo 21

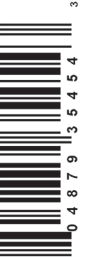


Wednesday
Sunny
Hi 40 Lo 22



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- Veterans run, Page 18



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
to our community!

First State Bank will be closed on Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.

First State Bank OF NEWCASTLE

Member **FDIC** **24 N. SUMNER**
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Newcastle Chamber of Commerce
PARADE OF LIGHTS
Saturday, Nov. 28
2020 Theme: Winter Wonderland
LINE-UP 5 P.M. AT NHS PARKING LOT. PARADE STARTS AT 6 P.M.

\$25 Entry Fee: Paid Cash Check Number
Please return to Sandy by November 20th
Category: Car Truck Trailer Big Rig Other
Parade Entrant's Name: _____
Description (include what you will be handing out, vehicle decorations & costumes): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed Name: _____ Phone: _____

Return completed forms to Team Properties at 727 Washington Blvd., Suite A.
For questions, please contact Sandy Martin at (307) 321-8357

NEWCASTLE Area Chamber of Commerce

Disclaimers: By participating in the above activity, I/We agree to waive & release all claims of property damage, personal injury, or death which may result from participation in this activity. This release discharges the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce from all liability connected with this event. I/We understand the risks associated with this parade and, knowing these risks, assume them voluntarily.

Please be responsible & observe social distancing

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BLOOD DRIVE

Transform a life, and your own

Newcastle Community Blood Drive

Monday, Dec. 7
11 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Weston County Senior Services Center

Please call Ellen Butts at 307-746-4251 to make an appointment OR go to bloodhero.com and use the code **NEWCASTLE** to locate the drive

Learn more about our response to COVID-19 and current donation guidelines at vitalant.org/coronavirus.
Appointments suggested. Walk-ins welcome.

To learn about our programs or how we can help your transfusion service, call **877.258.4825** or visit us at vitalant.org

vitalant

Snow from Page 1

constraints, highways will be plowed, but they may remain snow covered at times and overnight plowing may not happen or be minimized depending on the timing of a snow event.”

Priorities on the highways will be the travel and passing lanes, with road shoulders and approaches being secondary, the release notes. The department will use traction control materials such as salt/sand and liquid and granular de-icing products, although the release says that there is a budgeted amount for the purchase of the products.

“We will have to strictly adhere to our winter maintenance budget, which means there likely won’t be any wiggle room to go over budget if we have a particularly severe winter,” WYDOT supervisor Luke Reiner said in the release. “However, we will continue to provide winter maintenance services based on our limited budget.”

According to information provided by Laura Dalles, public involvement specialist for District 4, interstates and school bus routes will take priority as far as plowing goes. She noted that each district worked closely with the local school districts to ensure that designated bus routes receive service, with the hopes of keeping them safe and open.

All highways located within Weston County, according to a snow removal plan provided by the department, will be designated as level 2, receiving approximately 16 hours of service.

“We will strive to provide service up to 16 hours per day for traffic observing reasonable winter driving precautions. Plowing methods and frequency

WYDOT District 4 – Northeast Wyoming SNOW PLAN LEVELS OF SERVICE		
Level 1A (24-Hour Service)		
Roads have 24-hour service. Interstate 80 is the only Level 1A road. ***There are no Level 1A roads in District 4		
Level 1B (20-Hour Service) **MM = Mile Marker		
Service provided up to 20 hours per day with minimum service necessary to allow traffic to move safely at a restricted speed. Plowing methods and frequency will be sufficient to keep road clear of snow and slush and minimize drifting. Interstate 90 and Interstate 25 are the only highway within District 4 with this designation.		
Interstate 90	Interstate 25 (MM 300-272)	WYO 50 (MM 0-13)
WYO 59 South (MM 112-56.5)	WYO 59 North (MM 115-123)	US 14/16 (MM 89-102)(124-127)
WYO 387 (MM 151-149)	WYO 450 (MM 66.2-45)	
Level 2 (16-Hour Service) **MM = Mile Marker		
Strive to provide service up to 16 hours per day for traffic observing reasonable winter driving precautions. Plowing methods and frequency will be sufficient to keep road clear of snow and slush and minimize drifting.		
US 14	US 14/16 MM 27-60(70-89)	US 16
US 18	WYO 24	WYO 50 (MM 113-52)
WYO 51 (MM 140-146)	WYO 59 (MM 123-170)	US 85
WYO 87	WYO 110	WYO 111
WYO 113	WYO 212	WYO 330 (East 5 th St.)
WYO 331	WYO 332 (MM0-5)	WYO 335 (MM 0-4)
WYO 338	WYO 345	WYO 387 (MM 131-149)
WYO 450 (MM 0-55)	US 585	
Level 3A (Minimal Service) **MM = Mile Marker		
Provide minimum service necessary for traffic observing reasonable winter driving precautions and speeds. Plowing methods and frequency should be sufficient to keep road clear of snow and slush and minimize drifting. Road conditions shall govern whether the public may travel at their own risk, as conditions allow.		
US 14/16 (MM 60-70)	WYO 24 (MM 21-36)	WYO 51 (MM 132-140)(146-153)
WYO 59 North (MM 126-170)	WYO 112	WYO 116
WYO 193	WYO 194	WYO 196
WYO 335 (MM 4-9.7)	WYO 336	WYO 339
WYO 340	WYO 341	WYO 343
Level 3B (Minimal Service) **MM = Mile Marker		
Provide minimum service as resources become available. Apply abrasives and chemicals as necessary on hills, curves and hazardous locations. Road conditions shall govern whether the public may travel at their own risk, as conditions allow.		
WYO 346	WYO 451	All Interstate frontage/service roads
Level 4 roads – Seasonally closed roads		
This road closes in the fall as mandated by heavy snow and weather. Reopen as soon as practical in the spring		
US 14A		

will be sufficient to keep the road clear of snow and slush and minimize drifting,” according to the plan.

Dalles said that the service a roadway will receive will also depend on the district the roadway is in, as well as the local daily traffic volume and/or the primary road usage. She said that the only roadway in District 4 that will receive 24 hours of service is Interstate 80, while Interstates 90 and 25 will receive approximately 20 hours of service.

Cleanup operations after a snowstorm, according to the release, will only be performed during scheduled working hours and only after all other levels of snow control service have been accomplished in the district.

“This operation includes the clearing of any snow block approaches, removal of drifted areas off the roadway, snow piles at intersections and turn-arounds and other necessary cleanup,” the release says.

WYDOT also reminds drivers to help keep plow drivers and others safe while driving on winter road conditions.

“When encountering a snow plow, be sure your headlights are on, so you are more visible to the plow drivers and others. Slow down. Travel a safe distance behind the plow to avoid crowding and sand striking your vehicle,” the release says. “Don’t chance passing unless the path ahead of you is absolutely clear, many times the road ahead is worse.”

Festival from Page 1

artificial instead of natural. This change caused a bit of a problem with the florists, who usually pre-order their wreaths in January for the next Christmas season. But with the many changes happening and the wreaths being artificial, there was a scramble to get enough wreaths.

Jeri Tapp of Treasured Florals and Gifts mentioned terrific cooperation between the florists.

“We help each other,” Tapp said. “Suzi (Gibson, Flowers & Things) and I talked just this week about the problem. We pull together and always make it happen.”

“We had a hard time to get wreaths,” said Gibson. “We all had to scramble, but we got ’er done.”

Sage Brush Marketing, a local ad agency, will take care of that aspect of the event. In addition to Pinnacle Bank, Pizza Barn, Antlers, Treasured Florals and Gifts, Flowers & Things and Decker’s Floral & Gifts are also sponsoring the event. Gualtieri said she is thankful for how the businesses have already pulled together to make Festival of Wreaths happen.

“I can’t believe the outpouring and involvement of the community,” She said. “This COVID thing is almost like our (Newcastle’s) 911. It’s trying to kill our town. But we are overcoming and really pulling together to get through it and survive.”

The funds raised by the auction will go toward two registered nonprofit organizations. Several organizations have been contacted, but they need to call Pam Gualtieri by Dec. 1 for consideration.

Her phone number is (307) 941-0573.

“That’s the hardest part of this, for me,” Gualtieri said. “I’m just glad I’m not deciding which nonprofits are getting the money by myself.” She noted that Pinnacle Bank is also helping to choose the two charities that will benefit.

The auction takes place from Dec. 7-12. Anyone interested in the online auction needs to register at ramseyauctions.hibid.com to place a bid.

Those interested in decorating a wreath or those who wish to view them before the event may also call Gualtieri. She will do what she can to accommodate all while maintaining safe social distancing practices, she said.

The wreaths will soon be available to be picked up at the Antlers. Once received, they need to be decorated and returned to Gualtieri by Dec 5.

She would like to challenge anyone to make a wreath for this fund-raising event, even some school groups. People will also be able to vote for people’s choice for the best wreath.

“Putting this together as fast as it has been done,” Gualtieri said, “I couldn’t be prouder of everyone who has participated in it. I got kind of teary-eyed when I realized just how fast and easy the businesses have made this event happen.

“I really see our community pull together and help each other. It just reminds me every day how proud I am and how much I love this small town. I love the fact that we know each other, good or bad, and we’re always there to help. It’s amazing.”

THE NEWS LETTER JOURNAL

PERSON
of the **YEAR**

WHO WILL IT BE?

Who made a difference in Weston County this year?
Or in your life? Or in the life of your neighbors?
Nominate that someone who gave a little extra for the
News Letter Journal Person of the Year Award!

Send nominee’s name, contact information and a brief explanation of why this person deserves nomination to: News Letter Journal, PO Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701, email to editor@newsalj.com, or drop off at 14 W. Main Street.
Please include your name and phone number as well.

nlj OPINION

news letter journal

News Letter Journal:
WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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WHAT

We strive to cover all the news and entertainment important to the people of Weston County, Wyoming. Our entire staff takes part in the decision-making process of what appears in these pages and all content is locally generated. If you have a story idea please contact any of the people you see here. NLJ editorials appear in the upper left hand corner of this page and are written from the position of the newspaper, usually with the influence of several people, and in the hope that they will carry the weight of our 100-plus years of leadership. The personal columns and letters appearing elsewhere on this page, and others, represent the opinions of single individuals and do not necessarily reflect the position of the newspaper. The NLJ welcomes and encourages your Letter to the Editor. We will print all signed, original letters of local interest. Please provide a phone number for verification. We will not publish letters that are libelous or scurrilous in nature. Letters of thanks are offered at a reduced price in our classified section.

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WHEN

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WHY

To provide news and entertainment for, and to serve the best interests of, the people of Weston County

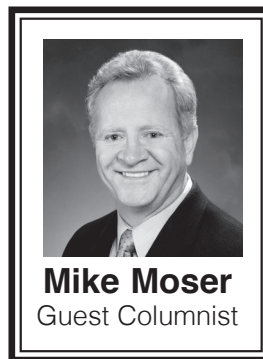


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Guest View

We can get through this, together

In June, we penned an editorial asking Wyomingites to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so that Wyoming businesses can remain open. Although many sectors of the economy have been negatively affected by the pandemic, some of the businesses we are honored to represent... restaurants, bars, lodging, and clubs... have taken among the worst of the economic damage.



Mike Moser
Guest Columnist

There is only one way to avoid additional restrictions in Wyoming. Start voluntarily. If you don't want to wear face masks and practice social distancing for yourself, do it for others. Although we have a number of counties that mandate mask usage, compliance with those health orders is often spotty at best. We do not want

to force elected officials and health professionals to take additional action, but our carelessness may force their hand, at either a county or statewide level.

We had anticipated five months ago the likelihood of a second wave of COVID-19. We were wrong. This isn't a wave, it's a tsunami. And that tsunami threatens to engulf many of those businesses that have managed to survive thus far as well as the well-being, and lives, of our fellow Wyomingites.

Wyoming has thus far been fortunate by having some of the fewest restrictions in the country. To put that in perspective, 35 states, in addition to the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, currently require people to wear face coverings in public statewide, according to a list maintained by AARP. Utah and North Dakota joined the list in recent days, and more are

sure to follow. Although we have fewer restrictions than the significant majority of states, the negative impact on Wyoming businesses and our employees is greater due to the high percentage of small businesses, particularly in the hospitality industry. Many of those businesses that are holding on by a thread, and will not survive another shut down. Although we understand the possibility of further restrictions in this COVID-19 tsunami, we don't want to see it happen.

Perhaps you are one of those folks who feel masks and social distancing are unnecessary. That, we suppose, is your right. But we represent industries whose employees have been taking those precautions for months now, including wearing face masks every shift. We want to keep our businesses, and our employees want to keep their jobs. Please help them do that.

Follow the safety guidelines for

the wait staff that needs that job to keep food on the table for their kids. For the clubs, which includes veteran's organizations, who are struggling to keep the lights on. For the bar or restaurant owner that sees the spike in COVID-19 cases and knows that they can't make it through another shutdown.

In closing, we thank you for your business. Whether it's takeout, a socially distanced restaurant meal, a beer with friends, we deeply appreciate Wyoming's support for our small businesses. Just one major thing. Face masks and social distancing aren't nearly as oppressive as businesses closing and employees losing jobs. We're looking toward the finish line, when a widespread vaccine will come available. But for now... Please help us stay in business.

*Mike Moser, Executive Director, Wyoming State Liquor Association
Chris Brown, Executive Director, Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association*

Do not, I repeat, do not eat the dough!

When making homemade dough for cakes, cookies, bread, or other baked goods, it may be tempting to taste the dough or lick the spoon. It may seem like a harmless habit, but resist the temptation! Eating or even tasting uncooked foods that are intended to be baked can make adults and children very ill. Most people don't realize it, but children can also get sick after handling or eating dough used for crafts or play clay too.

A common misconception is that raw eggs are the only ingredient that poses a food safety risk in uncooked foods. People have long been warned of the danger of getting Salmonella from eating raw dough containing raw eggs. However, many people are unaware that there are additional risks associated with the consumption of raw dough, such as particularly harmful strains of E. coli in a product like flour.

Flour may not come to mind as raw food, but it is always raw unless it has been specially treated. Being a raw, untreated food means it hasn't been processed to kill germs such as Escherichia coli (E. coli), which causes foodborne illness. Grain can become contaminated while still in the field or during other parts of the harvest or flour production. Grinding the grain and bleaching the flour does not kill germs such as E. coli. Cooking the dough or food made with

flour is the only way to kill pathogens.

Besides not consuming uncooked dough or other raw foods containing uncooked flour, the FDA offers these tips for safe food handling to keep you and your family healthy:

Keep raw foods separate from other foods while preparing them to prevent any contamination that may be present from spreading. Be aware that flour may spread easily due to its powdery nature.

Do not eat any raw cookie dough, cake mix, batter, or any other raw dough or batter product that is supposed to be cooked or baked.

Follow package directions for cooking products containing flour at proper temperatures and for specified times.

Wash hands, work surfaces, and utensils thoroughly after contact with flour and raw dough products.

Follow label directions to chill products containing raw dough promptly after purchase until baked.

Raw eggs are another ingredient in uncooked batter and dough that can make you sick. Raw or lightly cooked eggs can contain Salmonella, a bacteria that causes foodborne illness, sometimes called "food poisoning." Eggs are safe to eat when cooked and properly handled.

Some companies and stores offer edible cookie dough that uses heat-treated flour and pasteurized eggs or no eggs. Read the label carefully to make sure the dough is meant to be eaten

without baking or cooking.

Remember: eating uncooked flour or raw eggs can make you sick. Don't taste or eat raw dough or batter!

Follow safe food handling practices when you are baking and cooking with flour and other raw ingredients:

Do not taste or eat any raw dough or batter, whether for cookies, tortillas, pizza, biscuits, pancakes, or crafts, made with raw flour, such as homemade play dough or holiday ornaments. Do not let children play with or eat raw dough, including dough for crafts. Bake or cook raw dough and batter, such as cookie dough and cake mix, before eating.

Follow the recipe or package directions for cooking or baking at the proper temperature and for the specified time.

Do not make milkshakes with products that contain raw flour, such as cake mix. Do not use raw homemade cookie dough in ice cream. Cookie dough ice cream sold in stores contains dough that has been treated to kill harmful bacteria.

Keep raw foods such as flour or eggs separate from ready-to-eat foods. Because flour is a powder, it can spread easily.

Follow label directions to refrigerate products containing raw dough or eggs until they are cooked. Clean up thoroughly after handling flour, eggs, or raw dough. Wash your hands with running water and soap after handling flour, raw eggs, or any surfaces they have touched.

Wash bowls, utensils, countertops, and other surfaces with warm, soapy water.

If you or someone you know starts to exhibit symptoms of foodborne illness, pay close attention to the symptoms as they can vary from mild to severe and differ depending on the type of pathogen that was consumed in the food.

Severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting are all E. coli infection symptoms. People usually exhibit symptoms approximately 3 to 4 days after eating the contaminated food product. Most people recover within a week. However, some people develop a serious type of illness called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), which can result in kidney failure, stroke, and even death.

The symptoms of Salmonella infections typically appear 6 hours to 6 days after being exposed to the bacteria. Salmonella infections typically present with the symptoms of diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Most times, people will be ill for 4 to 7 days and recover without antibiotics. Sickness caused by Salmonella bacteria can be serious and is most dangerous for older adults over 65, babies, and people with pre-existing health conditions or who are immunocompromised.

(Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

The University of Wyoming and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate.

The University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

C.J. Box feature Big Sky is worth watching

Five stars is the rating I give the TV show "Big Sky," based on the book by Wyoming author C.J. Box, which is featured on ABC Tuesday evenings.

Box, who lives in Saratoga, joins fellow Wyoming author Craig Johnson of Ucross, as having a TV series made from his books. Johnson has enjoyed a tremendous run with his series "Longmire" about a mythical Sheriff in Wyoming's 24-county, Absaroka, which just happens to be located near Ucross.

Congratulations to both of them. They write about a Wyoming that we all love. All Wyoming people should be required to read Box and Johnson books if you plan to be here for a while!

Box's book "The Highway" was one of the creepiest books I have ever read. It was quite a departure from Box's traditional stories, which are full of intrigue, mayhem, oddball

twists and turns, and a big dose of Rocky Mountain lore.

"The Highway" is all about the scariest of things that can happen to a family – a friend or relative disappears into thin air and it appears that something really bad has happened to them.

I had three friends describe the first episode as "creepy," but it was not as sinister as the book. The first two-thirds of the show also starred the Rocky Mountain West with all the vistas, canyons, mountains, and rivers plus the actors.

The characters were well-defined within the 60 minutes, which was quite a trick. There are a whole bunch of them.

Creator David E. Kelley is the master of this genre. His shows "Big Little Lies" and "The Undoing" on HBO are classics when it comes to putting interesting people into God-awful situations. This show is no different. Every single

person has issues. And the show did a good job of revealing them.

The episode opens with two young girls being silly as they travel from Colorado to Montana. Their car breaks down. A mysterious truck comes along and bad things happen. Really bad things.

Shades of real life. It reminded me of Dale Wayne Eaton and the famous "Little Miss" murder mystery in Wyoming in 1988. Eaton raped and killed Lisa Marie Kimmel. He then took her car, a snazzy little Honda CR-X with the license plate "Lil Miss" and buried it in a huge hole on his property near Moneta between Shoshoni and Casper. Eaton has been on death row since.

Eaton is also the primary suspect in another crime involving a missing young woman, Amy Wroe Bechtel, who disappeared outside of Lander in July, 1997. Her body has never been found and Eaton has refused to discuss the crime, although his brother suspected him of snatching Bechtel, too.

But back to the TV show. The cast is full of troubled characters. The lead is a private investigator named Cody Hoyt (Ryan Phillippe) who is separated from his wife. She is a former police officer who works with him. Another investigator in the office has a fling with Cody, which results in a classic western bar fight between the two women. Lots of tension between them.

Cody's son happens to be the boy in Montana the two girls are traveling to see. He calls his dad, who mobilizes folks to hunt for the missing girls, including getting an oddball highway patrolman up in the middle of the night to help. This role is played by John Carroll Lynch, who I remember famously as Norm Gunderson in the movie " Fargo."

In that one, he was the slow-moving husband of the lady Sheriff. It was a classic role but this time around, he is much more sinister. There is a lot going on inside this guy's head.

The trucker who is abducting the girls is a true misfit living

with his domineering mother and full of pure evil.

As in any David E. Kelley show, the whole thing comes together very well.

Spoiler alert – I about fell out of my chair on the last scene in the first episode when the highway patrolman pulls out his gun and shoots Cody in the head. Just like that – bang!

Heck, Cody is the leading man in this 10-part series. Is that the last we see of him? Tune in to additional shows to find out.

Because of my admiration for both C. J. Box and David E. Kelley, it is easy for me to give this show five stars. Be sure to tune in on ABC and see what happens on Tuesday nights – I know I will.

Bill Sniffin is a retired newspaper publisher who has penned a number of books about Wyoming. Check out additional columns written by Bill at www.billsniffin.com, and find volumes from his coffee table book series, which have sold over 30,000 copies, for sale at the News Letter Journal.



Bill Sniffin
My Wyoming

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Saturday, Nov. 28 • 8AM-1PM

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Obituaries

MINTA GRAY
Nov. 24, 1934–Nov. 13, 2020

Minta Gray, 85 of Sundance, passed away on Nov. 13, 2020.

Minta Eileen (Tate) Gray was born Nov. 24, 1934, to Merrill and Norine Violet (McDougall) Tate in Riverton, Wyo. Minta was the first daughter in the family, where she joined three brothers, Ronnie, Cecil and Duane, later to be joined by the youngest member, Sharon. The family lived in Chugwater, Wheatland, and Riverton, before settling in Newcastle, Wyo. Here Minta attended school and met the man who become her partner in life for 67 years, Earl Gray.



Minta Gray

Minta and Earl were married Nov. 28, 1952, in Newcastle. They made their home there until moving to Spearfish, S.D., where Earl attended BHTC. After graduation they moved to Moorcroft, Wyo., then to Douglas, Wyo., where Earl taught school and Minta was busy being a mom to three children. After leaving Douglas, Minta helped Earl operate the Castle Conoco Service Station in Newcastle. During this time a fourth child rounded out the family. Minta also helped her mom out by working at the restaurant/café that she owned.

In 1967, Minta and Earl and family moved to Sundance, where they would spend the next 53 years. During the years in Sundance, Minta would attend football, volleyball, basketball, and wrestling

matches. Always supporting her family, she helped with homework, and school projects when needed.

Minta helped with the annual Christmas decorating of their house, both inside and out. Many hours painting all the yard decorations helped make for a delightful display on the Gray's front yard. The Christmas tree in the front window was a spectacular sight to behold and many many times people driving by would stop and knock on the door to see if they could come in and see it close up. She always put the silver icicles on one or two at a time until the tree shimmered. Her Christmas baking — and especially the peanut butter fudge — were always family favorites.

Her family said, "Minta loved reading and you could always find a book or two or three opened to begin reading exactly where she left off earlier. In addition to reading, Minta also loved gardening, as you could easily tell by the magnificent vegetable and flower gardens surrounding the Gray's house on the corner. She also liked to crochet, embroidery, and cross-stitch. But her baking and cooking were truly wonderful. She could walk into a kitchen and come out with a meal fit for a king at a moment's notice. She always said, 'if you leave the table hungry, it's your own fault.' One of the best memories of grandkids, and great-grandkids, was and always will be the 'cookie drawer.' It must have been magical, because it was never empty. No matter when it was opened, it always had your favorite kind of cookie in it just waiting for you. Her table was always full and the magical cookie drawer

was never empty."

Minta is survived by her children, Deb Kipp, Bob (Jacque) Gray, Cindy (Karl) Paschall, and Frank Gray; grandchildren, Travis Kipp, Teresa (Tony) Gibson, Steven (Kelsey) Gray, Robin Gray, David (Cassie) Howell, Brad Howell, Karl (Valerie) Paschall, and Kyle Paschall; great-grandsons, Devyn (Mayra) Kipp, Chase Kipp, David J. Howell, John Howell, and Raider Howell; great-granddaughters, Cienna Kipp, Destiny Howell, and Blakley Gray; great-great-granddaughter, Autumn Kipp; sister, Sharon (Eugene) Sweet; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, and long-time friend of the entire Gray family, Shirley Buchannan Jones.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Earl Gray; infant son, David; parents, Merrill and Norine Tate-Steffy; brothers, Ronnie Tate, Cecil Tate, (and spouses), and Duane Tate; brother-in-law, Frank Gray Jr. (Dorothy); sisters-in-law, Lorraine Grund-Christensen and Clara Duff and their spouses.

Due to Covid 19, a gravesite service was held Nov. 20 at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle. In lieu of flowers, send any memorials/or cards to Deb Kipp, 802 Vivian Court, Gillette, WY 82718.

HAROLD ARTHUR HENDERSON
Dec. 13, 1924–Nov. 21, 2020

Graveside burial service for Harold Henderson will be held on Nov. 28 at 10 a.m. at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle.

Harold Arthur Henderson was born on Dec. 13, 1924, and passed away on Nov. 21, 2020.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



Walter Sprague
Art and Culture Reporter

FOCUS Toy Drive happening now

The FOCUS Toy Drive is going on now, and families that are struggling need your help. To help children that might not have much for Christmas, FOCUS Inc. has stepped in to gather toys for these children. The Toy Drive will be going on until Dec 15.

FOCUS has trees at several locations. They are Bomgaars, Family Dollar, Wayback Burgers, and Frontier Home Ranch & Hardware. The way it works is to pick a tag off of those trees. The labels are for either a boy or a girl and of

different ages indicated, and you buy an appropriate toy for that child. Once the toys are purchased, you can leave them at the store with the tag or drop off toys at the FOCUS office at 204 W. Main St.

If you need help this Christmas, or if you know of a family that is in need, FOCUS asks you to fill out an application with a contact name, phone number, address, age, and gender of the children.

To get an application, please call FOCUS at (307) 746-2748 to set up an appointment. They ask that you contact them before you come in because of COVID-19 concerns to help keep people safe. If no one is there to answer,

you can leave a message, and they will get back to you as soon as they can.

When FOCUS collects all the toys, they will be delivering them to the addresses needed, along with some wrapping so that the parents can wrap them themselves. FOCUS wants to thank all those participating in this event and wanted to make sure the community knows that your outpouring of care will bless a child in need.

Parade of Lights is coming down Main

Newcastle Chamber of Commerce presents the annual Parade of Lights this Saturday. The parade will start from the high school parking lot at 6:00

p.m. and head down Main Street. The parade kicks off the Christmas season every year, with floats from business and organizations driving down Main St. to the joy of kids of all ages.

Those participating in the parade need to line up at the high school parking lot at 5:00 p.m. to get in place for the parade and judging.

Due to the concerns regarding COVID-19, the chamber asks everyone to act responsibly, practice social distancing, or wear masks if you can't.

So come out at 6 p.m., dress warm, and have a wonderful time enjoying the pretty lighted floats on Saturday.



Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend meetings
Tim Qualheim, Worshipful Master • Mike Hutchinson, Secretary



faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

Nov. 27 Psalm 139	Dec. 1 Mark 13:1-23
Nov. 28 Psalm 135 First Sunday of Advent	Dec. 2 Mark 13:24-37
Nov. 29 Psalm 49	Dec. 3 Daniel 7:1-14
Nov. 30 Psalm 144 First Sunday of Advent	<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Wendy Owens, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydshall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 10 am
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 PM; Celebrate Recovery (18+) & Undeclared Youth (Infant- 12th Grade) Wednesday 6:00 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

- AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm
- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Brenda Torrie, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10:00 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10 am. Call 949-0869
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7:00 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- **OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frezil Westerlund. For Bible Study, call (605) 515-3058
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85, Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday Mass 5 pm
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Michael Paschall, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

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~ 1 JOHN 4:19 (NLT)



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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago
Nov. 30, 1995**

A ten foot native spruce, donated by hospital business office manager Judy Myers, has appeared in front of Weston County Memorial Hospital in hopes it will soon blaze with lights. These lights will represent donations made to Lifeline in honor of or in memory of a loved one and will be lit on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m.

Newcastle Middle School wrestlers are looking like champs again this year as they take on tougher and tougher opponents. The season started Nov. 4 with the Gillette Invitational where Newcastle won the tourney with 156 points.

Thomas Kaul, a senior at Newcastle High School,

has been named to both the Absaroka All-Conference Football Team and the Wyoming Coaches Association All-State Football Team.

An All-American performance by Ben Sandy, a sophomore from Newcastle, paced Dana to a 17th-place finish Saturday at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships at Kenosha, Wisc.

Jenny Black, Casper College admissions coordinator, will be in Newcastle at Newcastle High School on Tuesday, Dec. 12, at 10 a.m. to visit with high school juniors and seniors interested in attending Casper College.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, Newcastle High School inducted ten new members into the National Honor Society.

Five seniors and five juniors were inducted. Seniors inducted were Craig Dutcher, Ross Castelli, John Hansen, Shannon Merrill, and Keeara Rhoades. Juniors inducted were Teena Bau, Lori Hamaker, Kasey Keeler, Lenora Sundstrom, and Dessa Taylor.

Tickets for the Mini Mart/Gatorade Wyoming Cowboy Shootout Basketball Tournament set for Dec. 28 and 29 went on sale to the general public Wednesday, Nov. 22.

**50 Years Ago
Nov. 26, 1970**

The Weston County United Fund drive will get underway Friday with a goal of \$10,624.04. A kickoff breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. at the Black Hills Café for

workers and anyone interested in helping.

The Newcastle wrestlers are facing a "tough" dual meet schedule during the coming season which will be a challenge for the Dogies.

Coach John Pierson has some 30 boys, including five lettermen, participating in basketball at Newcastle high school. The Dogies will open their season Dec. 5 against Torrington. The Dogies had a 5-11 record last year.

Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Newcastle provided the setting for the Saturday, Nov. 21, marriage of Miss Patricia Ann Butts and Pfc. Glen Russel McCoy. The Rev. Cletus Prado performed the double ring afternoon ceremony.

The annual Christian Fellowship Christmas Tea will be held Friday afternoon, Dec. 4. The purpose of the tea, sponsored by women from all the churches in Newcastle, is to promote and enhance the spirit of Christian unity.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Mellor were in Newcastle Saturday on business and to shop. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Burr called on Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bock Friday evening.

Mrs. Cal Peterson was a Friday overnight guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Velmar Ruff at Moorcroft.

John Baker was honored on his 89th birthday Thursday, Nov. 19. Friends of Mr. Baker, who is a house guest of his daughter and family, the Robert Abbots, called during the afternoon.

Leroy Giffin was a Sunday dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Barritt. Ronnie, Randy, Doug and Paul Materl enjoyed spending Sunday skiing at Terry Peak.

**100 Years Ago
Nov. 25, 1920**

Beatrice Kipping sustained a badly dislocated arm during the basketball game with Cambria, at that place last Saturday night. Playing the close quarter, the girl was thrown against a hot radiator and in twisting to keep from being burned suffered the dislocation.

Mrs. Everett Graham, who went east to have an operation performed on her baby, reports that the operation was entirely successful.

Francis Budroe has gone to Sheridan to spend the winter as brakeman on the railroad. His family will remain on the home ranch.

Florence Hamm is still at his brother's in Newcastle. He is expected home soon, his leg having healed enough to warrant his being without medical attention.

Bill Crossley has been riding for horses on Black Thunder this week. Mort Dare is in Upton making final proof on his homestead.

George Beard assisted Mr. Cullison in butchering last week. Mrs. Luce has gone to Newcastle to make her home this winter.

Art Crossley hauled the lumber for the school house as far as Pidgeon's and had to unload there because of heavy snow. Later he and Bill went and got it and sided up the school house.

Louis Apprederis hauled coal this week. Frank Davis stopped at Art Crossley's last Wednesday while riding for cattle.

Dave Jones has returned to our locality after herding sheep around Little Buck Creek. He is visiting at Bill Crossley's at present. George Beard has been hauling fuel lately.

The Southwest Oil company resumed drilling Monday on their well on section 8-45-63 after a long delay. The well is down about 1200 feet and showing splendid indications.



Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society

This is a picture of Ruth Foltz Griffin, Paul Foltz, Maxine Foltz Pridgeon, and Ralph Foltz.

WHAT'S UP

Nov/Dec 2020

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Nov 27-Dec 7	Treasured Florals Special Sale Event	Treasured Florals
Fri Nov. 27	10AM-5PM Small Business Event	Ranchers Feed & Supply
	5:30PM BINGO	VFW Hall
Sat Nov. 28	8AM-1PM Small Business Event	Ranchers Feed & Supply
	NACOC Parade of Lights	Downtown Newcastle
	(Line-up starts @5PM; Parade @6PM)	
Tues Dec. 1	9AM WC Commissioners	Courthouse
	6PM WC Humane Society mtg	Shelter
	7PM WC Travel Commission mtg	Newcastle Lodge & Convention Center
	7-8PM Alanon Meeting	Senior Center Family Room
Wed Dec. 2	5:15PM Friends of Fair	WC Events Center
	6:30-8:30AM Wellness Wednesday	WCHS
	7PM VFW Meeting	VFW Hall
	7PM Jr Livestock Committee	Fairgrounds Office
Th Dec. 3	5:30PM WC Museum District mtg	Anna Miller Museum
	5:30PM Newcastle Planning & Zoning Mtg	City Council Chambers
	7:30PM Masons #13	Masonic Lodge

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. 27 Bill Fassbender †	Dec. 1 Elias Hutchinson Stetson Lorenz Norman Brotzman
Nov. 28 Rick Dunford	Dec. 3 Alice Vickers
Nov. 30 Rick Parrish Carmen Allison	

Send your meeting and event announcements to design@newsj.com

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For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Everything could be found at the general store



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent
With Leonard Cash

In this week's installment of "History on Main," historian Leonard Cash will begin a short series on the drug store, built in 1890 by D.W. Fawkes, that once occupied lot 9 on block 10. A fire later destroyed this building in 1998, as well as the one on lot 8, but Cash will go into more details on that fire later.

According to the June 25, 1890, *Weston County Democrat*, D.W. Fawkes and Co. was moving the frame building on lot 8 to the next-door lot 9 so he could erect a new two-story brick building on it for his drug store.

"If you want some good views of the coal mines or of the city call on Wright Hunt back of Fawkes Drug store," the same issue said.

Along with starting a new chapter in his business life, Fawkes also began a new chapter in his personal life. The Jan. 23, 1891, issue of the *Newcastle News* announced that a junior member of the firm, Arthur Hewes, left Newcastle for a short vacation to his father's ranch on Beaver creek, "where he will witness

the marriage on Monday next of his sister to our accomplished druggist and his partner in business D.W. Fawkes."

The June 13, 1895, *Newcastle Democrat* reported that Dr. Horton moved his jewelry store into the drug store. By Jan. 30, 1903, the *Newcastle News Journal* said that the Fawkes family, who moved to California, transferred the drug store to Horton and Dr. Lamerton (although Fawkes still maintained ownership of the building) and it was renamed Elk Drug Co.

A few years later, employee Homer Jones resigned his position from the store to move to Boise City, Idaho, according to the Oct. 6, 1905, issue of the paper.

An advertisement from Oct. 20, 1905, announced that "Velvet Cream, a pleasant cooling application for softening and beautifying the skin and preventing it from chapping," was available at the drug store, and a few weeks later, the Nov. 3, 1905, paper advertised that wallpaper was four cents per roll.

"A drug store back then was almost like a general store," Cash said.

Articles from Oct. 16, 1908, and Nov. 6, 1908, reported that a woman named McCoy, who was a nurse for 18 years, was staying at the flat above the courthouse but moved her practice to the second floor of the drug store and "is now well equipped to receive and attend hospital cares."

Over a year later, the March 18, 1910, paper reported that work had begun on the drug store to make it an up-to-date store "in every way." A large capacity soda fountain was ordered, "which will assure us cool drinks during the coming



In this photo from the early 1900s, Hested's variety store was on the far left, then First National Bank, then Fawkes.

Photo courtesy of Leonard Cash

hot weather even if they are the softer variety."

There was a change in ownership, according to the April 15, 1910, newspaper, when Wyoming Pharmacy sold its business (which was operated like a peddler station, Cash said) to the Newcastle Drug Co., a corporation formed by John Sedgwick and C.C. Kilpatrick "for the purpose of taking over the stock and business of the former company." Newcastle Drug bought Elk Drug.

An article from May 6, 1910, announced that J.F. Barton and his wife moved into the flat above the drug store and made it their new home.

The May 13, 1910, edition of the *News Journal* reported that a druggist named Mr. Allerbury moved to Newcastle from Nebraska to accept a position with what the paper called Fawkes Drug Co. but which was actually the Newcastle Drug Co., Cash said, because even though the name had changed, many people still referred to a business by its original name.

Another man from Nebraska arrived around Sept. 23, 1910, to work at the drug store. Albert Lindeman, a registered pharmacist from Crawford, accepted a new position in Newcastle.

The April 24, 1913, issue announced that the drug store installed a "fine new show case" in the cigar department.

"It is a beautiful piece of furniture and adds much to the beauty of that institution," the article says.

According to the June 19, 1913, paper, there was a fast change in stockholders and management when John Anderson found himself too busy with all his business enterprises. He couldn't dedicate the necessary time to his Nebraska operations because he was tied down to the Newcastle Drug Co., so he decided to pass it along to someone else. The store was "being negotiated" and the work of invoicing was "progressing rapidly." Stock held by Anderson and J.J. Klott was to be purchased by Mr. Carroll and Mr. Jeffers, who was to look

after prescription and general management.

New residents were occupying the flat above the drug business, according to the Nov. 23, 1916, issue. John Falkner and his wife moved out of the room to the Putnam residence on Summit. The Thoenings, who were in the Putnam residence, swapped places and moved into the flat of the Fawkes' building. Shortly after, former Cambria residents Archie Kirkwood, chief engineer, and his wife of Cambria moved into the flat with the Thoenings.

The Newcastle Drug Co. evidently moved out because, according to a news report from April 27, 1916, Harold Fawkes returned to town the previous Sunday from Chicago, where he graduated from the Northwestern College of Pharmacy with "high standing." Now that the business was back in the Fawkes family, the store once again became the Fawkes Drug Co., and the establishment opened its soda fountain and ice cream parlor.

A year later, the Fawkeses sold the business again, because a Jan. 25, 1917, article reported that brothers James and Douglas Sprecher bought the drug store and were busy changing out the sign.

"The Sprecher Pharmacy boys evidently do not mind Wyoming cold weather as they were busy washing windows Tuesday and taking down the old D.W. Fawkes sign and placing the new sign of the Sprecher Pharmacy in the place. The boys were a little late in taking down the old sign acquainted with the successor of the D.W. Fawkes Pharmacy before taking the old sign down," the article says.

By May 3, 1917, a soda fountain was up and running, and around Nov. 22, 1917, the Newcastle Drug Co. (which moved to the now empty lot next to Cashbox Ceramics) received a fine line of Chinaware, which kept the clerks busy unpacking for hours.

Next week, Cash will continue his discussion on the Sprecher Pharmacy store.

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Sweets for a good cause

Melissa Stubbs and Kelly Page work the pay table at the 2020 United Fund Pie Auction hosted by Decker's Market on Nov. 11. During the event, which featured goodies from the bakery at Decker's including fruit-filled Danishes, pies, cookies and cinnamon rolls, more than \$6,500 was raised that will benefit 10 Weston County organizations. According to Chris Beardsley, board chair of United Fund of Weston County, people can still send a donation to P.O. Box 910, Newcastle WY 82701.

Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Closing the Generational GAP

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Photos by Walter Sprague & Amy Menerey/NLJ

Shiny new business

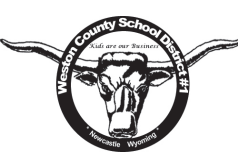


The Gateway Travel Center, located at the corner of U.S. Highways 85 and 16 in Newcastle, is expected to open shortly after Thanksgiving, officially on Nov. 30. The much anticipated truck stop and convenience store will feature fuel, Hot Stuff Pizza, Taco Johns, gifts, and all the usual truck stop fare. Clockwise from above: The new fuel pumps stand ready for new customers. W&S Construction of Newcastle poured 2,500 cubic yards of concrete covering 120,000 square feet during the construction of the travel center. Here a crew is finishing up one of the curbs in the back of the store. According to Nathan Williamson this was the largest pour of concrete he's ever worked on. Also available once opened will be Hot Stuff Pizza and Sandwiches. Kathy Hepker checks the inventory to make sure everything is correct and ready for the Nov. 30 opening. Employees of Taco Johns served crews food while they were finishing all the work needed to get the new center open.



LIL DOGIE LUNCH

Dylan Hespe, Emeree Tavegie and Ethan Parsons, Jon Gilliam and Coralynn Jenkins



Thank you Grazers for hosting this month's Lil' Dogie Lunch, and partnering with Newcastle Elementary School to reward students who display good citizenship by helping others.

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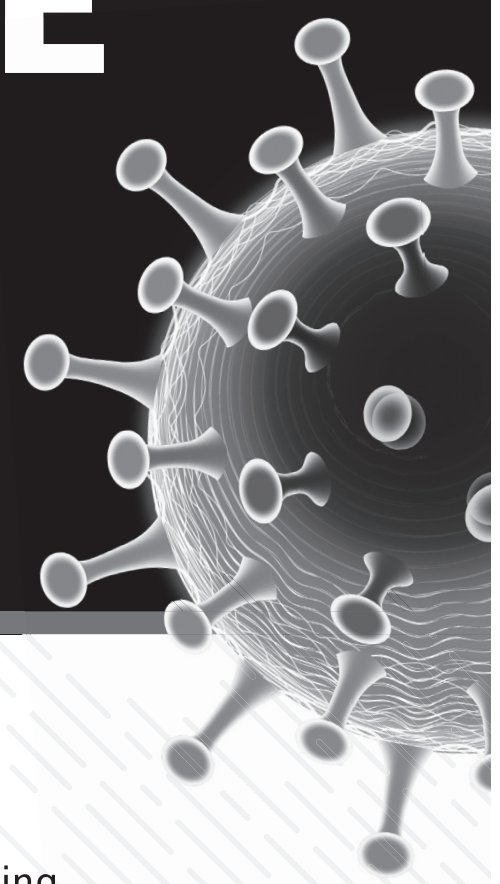
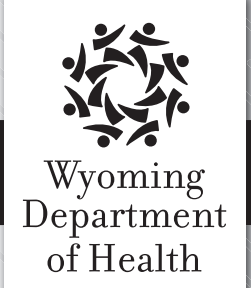
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Wyoming Department of Health

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Wyoming Department of Health

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-  Practice physical distancing (6 feet or more) between yourself and others
-  Do all you can to stay home and away from others if you're feeling ill, unless you're seeking medical attention

Learn more at health.wyo.gov

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COVID

from Page 1

transfers from Spearfish and are taking the lower acuity patients that don't need a higher level of care," she continued. "We are transferring patients out too, and we are sometimes struggling to get them beds in Colorado."

As previously reported, Weston County Health Services does not have the ability to keep COVID-19 patients long term. With only two ventilators, meant for temporary use, CEO Maureen Cadwell has said that the facility plans to work with surrounding hospitals to get local patients the care that they need.

Newcastle City Council President Don Steveson, who also serves on the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department, added that finding hospital beds is going to get tougher as cases climb. He admitted that this is just not for COVID-19 patients but anyone seeking help at a hospital in the area.

Johnson explained that while Weston County Health Services does have a surge plan in place to respond to an overwhelming number of patients at the facility, this plan did not account for that being the situation everywhere.

"Every surge plan I have ever done counted on it being a localized event. When we were struggling, we could borrow from Gillette or Casper. We never did anything predicting that it would be the entire country," Johnson said, noting that the facility started on a plan but never had the chance to address the issues because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even in surge situations, there are options to placing patients somewhere, even in hallways, but getting those patients the help they need is another question, according to Melanie Wilmer, public health coordinator for Weston

and Crook counties.

"The biggest issue is going to be staffing in any surge situation," Wilmer said.

Johnson added that Weston County is not struggling with staff numbers but that the staff at the facility is becoming burned out.

Overall, though, she said, the long days, sick patients and dying people isn't what she and other health care workers are most frustrated with. Health care workers are really irritated with the "angry people" who won't admit that COVID-19 is a real issue.

"What is really stressful is the denial. There are health care workers that are just done because of it. Most of us would be happy if people would just admit it is an issue and stop saying it is a political game," Johnson said.

Part of the problem, in her opinion, she said, were the strict rules and regulations in the beginning, before Weston County and most of the state saw real case numbers.

"There needs to be different levels of intervention used. We need to be using those strict guidelines again, but the resistance is so strong. Even if the mandates were put in place, people are not going to follow them," Johnson said. "They aren't following the guidelines put in place now. Early containment and getting people to take it seriously are the key to preventing the spikes."

Steveson acknowledged that he saw this issue coming since March when the pandemic first reared its head.

"We had zero [cases] for months, so everyone was asking why are we being forced to do all of this. Now we are catching up to the rest of the states and counties," Steveson said.

“We had zero [cases] for months, so everyone was asking why are we being forced to do all of this. Now we are catching up to the rest of the states and counties.”

— Kristen Johnson, Nurse and Member of LEPC

Hospital

from Page 1

bonus payment to all employees who worked over 20 hours in a pay period since Sept. 21 in recognition of their extra work and for assuming risks related to the illness.

According to Cadwell, a total of 153 of the facility's 184 employees would be eligible for the bonus. The estimated expense for the \$1,000 payment per employee and the cost of associated benefits totaled \$168,300, she said.

"I think you guys recognize the amount of work that they have done. They have truly been amazing," Cadwell said, noting that she figured a \$2-an-hour pay raise would equate to roughly \$160 a week.

Trustee Lisa Foster said that she is against leaving any employee out, despite the number of hours worked, because anyone working during the pandemic is risking their health and safety to come to work.

"If anyone has been at work, they are putting their life on the line," Foster said. "I am against leaving anyone out."

Trustee Jeff Virchow agreed, stating that he thinks an hourly wage increase would be fairer, across the board. He said that the people shouldering more overtime would be getting a better bonus than those working fewer hours.

Both trustee Lanny Reimer, a doctor in the community, and trustee Mike Ratigan argued that providing the bonus to those working over 20 hours a week would be an incentive

for others to step up and help during stressful times. They both noted that the pay would be for the extra effort the other staff is putting in and that \$2 an hour could result in a higher expense for the facility than the one-time \$1,000.

"They are facing COVID-19," Foster repeated. "It is hazard pay. They need to get paid for the hazardous situation. ... Hazard pay is hazard pay, not incentive pay."

She said that the cost of the additional pay should not be of concern because the facility should be reimbursed with CARES Act money. Foster also argued that there should be no "ceiling" on the potential payout because of the reimbursement.

"It could be just like the x-ray machine, things could change. We might think we are getting the money back,"

Reimer argued.

Piper Allard, director of patient services, explained that as a supervisor she can see both sides of the argument. While she understands the hazard pay aspect, Allard said, it is also frustrating seeing the same individuals pick up all the extra shifts while other employees never answer their phone.

"If they are picking up the shift, they are already getting a couple extra dollars an hour," Allard added.

"I say to that, this is not an incentive program. This is a hazard pay program. I firmly believe those who are working should receive the hazard pay," Foster reiterated.

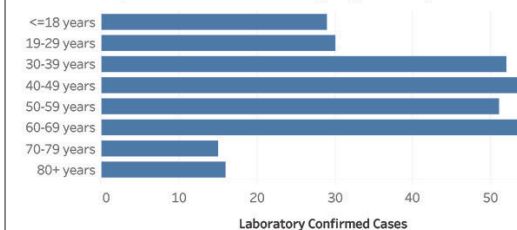
Despite the opposing views, the board approved a \$2-an-hour pay raise for employees retroactive to Sept. 21 and ending Nov. 30, for all hours worked during that time.

State and County Dashboards

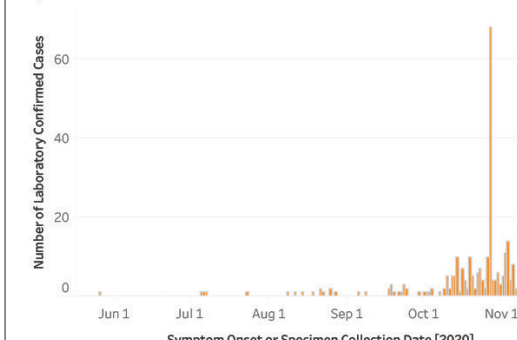
Cases and Contacts

This Dashboard was last updated: November 20, 2020 4:43 PM
Total Lab Confirmed Cases: 301 Total Probable Cases: 63
Total Active Cases: 149 Total Recovered Probable Cases: 42
Total Recovered Cases: 152 Total Contacts: 175
Total Deaths: 0

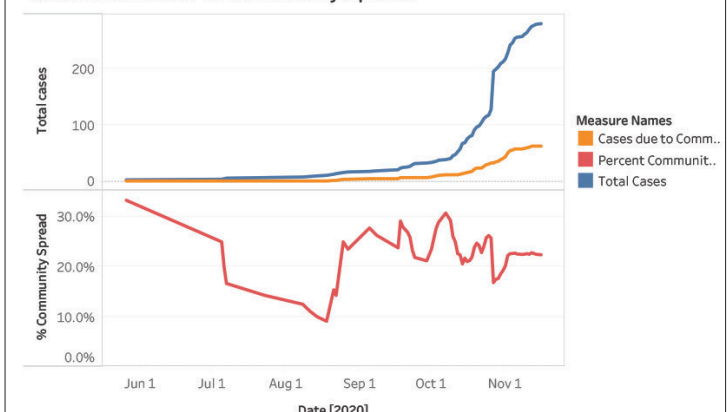
Laboratory Confirmed Cases by Age Group



Epi Curve



Cases Attributed to Community Spread



Orders

from Page 1

cases, according to the Wyoming Department of Health. Currently, 149 of those cases are active and 202 have recovered.

Per capita, Weston County is seeing one of the highest COVID-19 rates in the state with 4,461 cases per 100,000. A total of 2,884 tests have been performed on county residents with 5.58% of those tests resulting in a positive case, according to the department's website.

Statewide, 361,668 tests have been performed with 6.8% of those tests coming back positive. Wyoming is currently reporting 24,309 laboratory-confirmed cases, 3,860 probable cases and 176 deaths related to the disease.

editor@newsj.com

November 26, 2020 — 9

Sports & Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE:
NMS Girls Basketball
 12/01 Twin Spruce Junior HSA 4PM
 12/05 Wheatland HS H 10AM

NHS Boys Basketball
 12/12 V9 Burns Tri A TBA

NHS Girls Basketball
 12/12 VJ Burns Tri A TBA

NHS Wrestling
 12/12 VJ Lusk Invite Weigh ins 8 am A 9AM

UPTON:
UMS Girls Basketball
 12/3 MSGBB Twin Spruce 4:30PM

UHS Girls/Boys Basketball
 12/11 HSGBBB @ Custer A 4:30PM

Grateful for tech

I know that Christmas has been on a lot of people's minds ever since Halloween, however, as much as I've contemplated putting up decorations for the December holiday, I have waited in order to give Thanksgiving its due.

This has been a challenging year in which it may have been

a little hard to feel a great deal of gratitude, but this weekend as I pondered the subject of my column I kept coming

back to the many things I am grateful for this year.

Surprisingly, there was a common thread running through all the things that I am thankful for, and that is technology. While we are often frustrated by it, it has made this year of quarantine, disappointments and isolation so much easier to bear.

Technology has made it possible to be with family and friends even though we are apart, and my family and friends are top of my gratitude

— See **Karpe**, Page 11



Sonja Karp Karpe Dogie

Centennial recognition for ranch



KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Correspondent

With a love of ranching and the land, the Circle Nine Cattle Company has been a family operation for over 100 years. According to Rebecca Podio, the ranch was recognized as a centennial ranch this year. The Wyoming Historical Society partners with several other organizations to present the honor to ranches across the state each year after applicants are reviewed.

The Circle Nine was established 26 miles southwest of Newcastle in 1918 by Claude and Marie Adkins, Marie Podio's grandparents. The ranch was then passed on to Marie's father and uncle, and eventually she bought them out



Submitted photo
Claude Adkins, center, established the family ranch, Circle Nine Cattle Company. Pictured with him are his two sons, Kenneth, on the left, and Bob, on the right.

in 1980. Today, the ranch is run by Marie's sons, Joe and Andy, and Rebecca, Andy's daughter.

"I owe it to my ancestors to keep it (ranch) going," Joe said, noting that his great-

grandparents didn't have an easy time running the ranch, and he feels the obligation to

keep it going.

From the Great Depression to the blizzard of 1949 that wiped out most of the cattle, as well as numerous other tragedies and hardships, Joe said, his relatives would have had every opportunity to throw in the towel. Yet they kept going. If they could put that much effort into something they loved, Joe said, he could put in the work to keep it going. While adversities do still come up, such as droughts or hard-hitting winters, it's still worth it, according to Joe.

"This family cared enough about this ground to keep it in the family," Marie said, noting that the ranch really is all about family, a sentiment echoed by other members of the family.

Andy reminisced about his summers as a child when he and Joe would spend the summer with his grandparents. Working on the ranch and helping out with cattle chores cultivated his love for the lifestyle, he said.

"We didn't want to do anything else but live and work on

— See **Ranch**, Page 10



Reach for the sky

Amid the waning light of day, a twisted and weather-worn tree stands alone against a dark and threatening sky along Beaver Creek Cutoff. Although snow has made its appearance, none has yet to stick as temperatures continue to hit 40s and 50s during mid-day.

Photo by Amy Menerey/NLJ

Commitment

Weston County Health Services is honored to recognize our 2020 Years of Service Award Winners. These employees add value to our services with each passing year.



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 Home Health 746-3553 • Pharmacy 746-2425

not pictured Heather Boyer and Sara Williams

10 Years

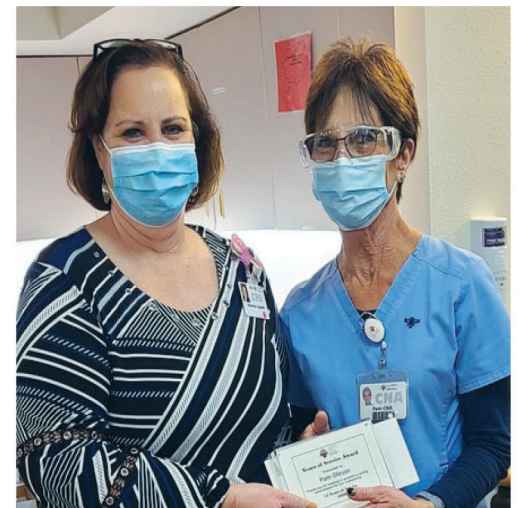


Angie Stanton



Beckie Pearson

15 Years



Pam Oleson



Jim Krank

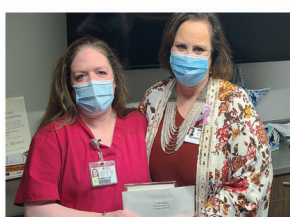


Tavis Weidenbach

5 Years



Denice Piscioti



Heather Burd



Jacqueline Humes



Jerry Gray



Julieta Huey



Daniella Gerard, MD



Dr. Franklin (+32)



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Stock going to finals

KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Correspondent

The Podio family, owners of the Circle Nine Cattle Company, have been raising bucking bulls on their land for the amateur rodeo circuit for about a decade, according to Rebecca Podio. However, recently they became pro rodeo stock contractors, and they are sending two animals to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Arlington, Texas, in December.

Last year, Chancy Wilson of Kyle, South Dakota, approached the Podios about buying into a pro rodeo card, a “dream come true” for Andy, Rebecca’s dad.

“It was a lifelong dream of being a stock contractor in the PRCA,” Andy said. Andy’s brother, Joe, noted that being around rodeo their whole lives, this seemed like a natural next step for the ranch.

In partnering with Wilson, they became Muddy Creek ProRodeo. Becoming a PRCA stock contractor is a prestigious honor, according to Andy, because there are limited cards available.

“We couldn’t have better partners,” Rebecca said of Wilson.

Wilson raises the bareback horses, and the Podio’s raise the bucking bulls right on their land. Muddy Creek is sending one bull, 512 Propaganda, and one bareback horse, Braggin Rights, to the WNFR, another notable accomplishment.

Both animals have had impressive reputations, with 512 Propaganda being honored as the high-scoring bull at the 2020 Forever West PBR in Sheridan, and Braggin Rights being featured in the past at the Indian National Finals.



Submitted photo

512 Propaganda, a bucking bull raised in Weston County by the Podio family, at the Badlands Circuit Finals in Minot, N.D. 512 Propaganda will be making an appearance at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in December, along with Braggin Rights, a bare back horse raised by the Wilson family in Kyle, S.D. The Wilsons and the Podios are partners in Muddy Creek ProRodeo, a stock contractor in the PRCA.

The family is pretty excited that their homegrown bull has been chosen for a pro rodeo, Rebecca said, and it’s rare that rodeo stock is raised on “centennial ground” – the ranch has been in the family for over 100 years.

“We raised 512 Propaganda right here on the ranch,” Rebecca said.

In order to be chosen for the Wrangler Nationals, a bull must go through a competitive process, Rebecca said. First, the animal needs to have eight outs on the circuit within a rodeo season, Oct. 1 to Oct. 1. Once the animal meets that criteria, it can be nominated. Event directors go through the nominees and gather a short list, narrowing down the animals.

Videos and stock stats are

put together for the animal, and cowboys who are qualified in that event vote on the stock. Then, to choose the final animals, the top cowboys in the world choose which animals will be entered.

In addition, Muddy Creek ProRodeo also sent 13 animals to the Badlands Circuit Finals in Minot, N.D., in October, and Rebecca said that they are very happy with the success of their first full season.

While breeding rodeo stock can be a lot of work, the Podios say they are excited to continue in their partnership and have already lined up rodeos for the 2021 season.

“Next year looks good for us, and we hope we can get more livestock picked,” Andy said.

Ranch

from Page 9

a ranch,” Andy said.

Rebecca grew up on the ranch, and she was close to her great-grandparents, she said. Her great-grandpa taught her how to ride a horse, and he also taught her all the skills she needed to master for ranching. Rebecca said that the quality time she was able to spend with her loved ones was priceless.

“The best thing about it is family,” Joe said. “It keeps the family together. Everybody still comes back to the ranch.” Even though some family members have moved away, Joe said that the ranch is a home that everyone can come back to.

The family raises black cows, as well as a small herd of rodeo cows, and there’s just something about a family-operated ranch and ties to the ground that promotes excellence, according to Rebecca.

“There’s more of a focus that can’t be taught in an agricultural program,” Rebecca said. “Stewardship of the land and livestock” is better displayed and passed down from generation to

generation, she said. Rebecca also noted that with smaller operations like theirs, you have to be all in and truly committed to make it work, traits that the family has exhibited throughout their years on the ranch.

“We take really good care of our livestock,” Marie said.

The family is excited to receive this honor and recognition for all the years they’ve poured their hearts into the ranch.

“It’s exciting to be a centennial ranch, it really is,” Andy said.

Throughout all the hardships and tragedies, joys and learning experiences, family members all said that they are proud of the legacy of Circle Nine Cattle Co., and they wouldn’t trade it for anything. They also expressed a hope that the ranch will continue in the family for many more years to come, and that it will continue to be a place their family can always come home to.

“I hope the next generation keeps it going,” Joe said.

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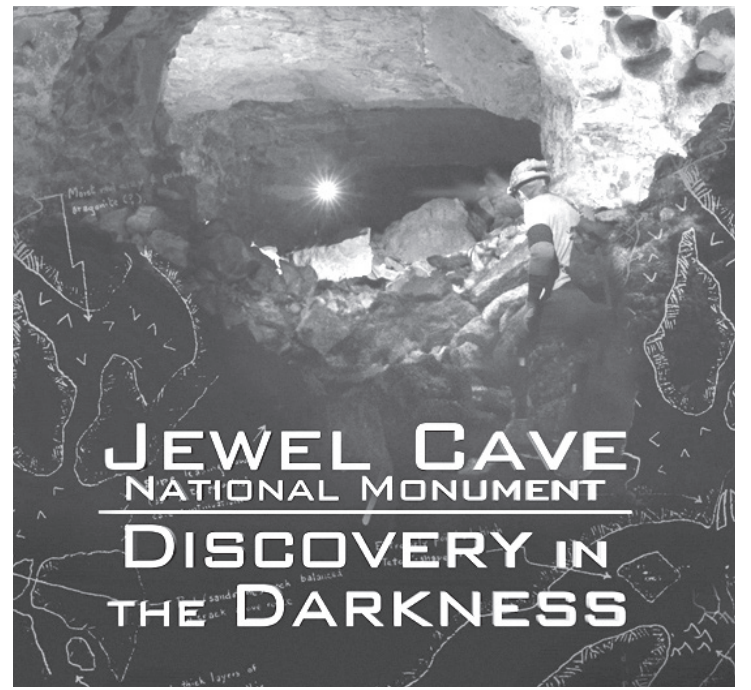
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Jewel Cave film receives award

The park film "Jewel Cave National Monument: Discovery in the Darkness" at Jewel Cave National Monument earned first place in the 2020 Interpretive Media Award Competition for the National Association for Interpretation. NAI recognizes excellence in film, publications, indoor and outdoor exhibitory, and digital media. NAI awards are widely recognized as a symbol of the highest standards in interpretive media production. All entries were productions released during the 2019 calendar year.

The film explores one of the longest caves in the world, showcasing its features as a pristine underground wilderness. It takes viewers back in time to the early years of the monument and transitions to present-day, showcasing the many wondrous features of the cave, exploration, and ranger-guided cave tours. Cave exploration is highlighted in the production, with multiple interviews, including early cave explorer Jan Conn.



Surface features are shared to encourage exploration on the trails, wildlife watching, and outdoor recreation.

Superintendent Michelle Wheatley said, "We deeply appreciate the work of the film's producer, production team, and the park staff for this extraordinary film which captures the complexity and frontier nature of Jewel Cave National Monument." The monument worked with the NPS Harpers Ferry Center, Aperture Films, and subject matter experts to craft the overall production. Due to the extreme and arduous conditions within the cave, local cavers captured much of the off-trail footage and showcased the efforts of the volunteer cave explorers.

NPS Production Manager Tim Elms states, "This film is a beautiful production that allows every visitor a chance to experience the exploration and discovery of the cave. It definitely

makes viewers walk away with a better appreciation for such a significant resource."

The 22-minute film is available for viewing at the Jewel Cave Visitor Center, located 25 miles east of Newcastle on U.S. Highway 16. The production can be viewed online on the Multimedia Page at nps.gov/jeca. Adding to the visitor experience, the film is also available in DVD in the park store at the visitor center, operated by the monument's cooperative partner, Black Hills Parks and Forests Association, or online at blackhillsparks.org.

Jewel Cave is currently open Thursdays through Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This includes the visitor center, surface trails, and picnic areas; the monument is closed Mondays through Wednesdays. Visitors are also encouraged to follow the monument on Facebook, facebook.com/JewelCaveNPS or Instagram at instagram.com/JewelCaveNPS.

Karpe from Page 9

list as always. Being able to Facetime, Zoom or Houseparty with them when we've been stuck at home made it oh so much easier to cope with the isolation.

Every Sunday morning, I get to go to church in my hometown thanks to live streaming of the services on Facebook. They started streaming it during the quarantine, but have kept it up after things opened back up and I have loved it. An added bonus is that I often get to see my family during the services which always makes my day.

Technology has allowed me to learn to play the guitar on my own and anytime I think of a song I'd like to learn to play, all I have to do is open up the app on my phone, search for chords, and off I go.

When I left school on March 16 and didn't return until August, technology allowed me to finish out the school year, teaching my students. Sure, it wasn't an ideal situation, and I hope we don't have to go back to that situation again, but it enabled us to get through it and we — teachers and students alike — are now very aware how much we appreciate being face to face in the classroom.

The 2020-2021 sports seasons were tenuous, but got under way, albeit with some new and interesting restrictions, but technology helped out there as well. Social distancing requirements made it harder to watch our favorite young athletes play this year, but thanks to the Pixelot cameras and the NFHS Network (and generosity of Weston County School District No. 1 in providing that service free of charge), we

haven't had to miss a minute of competition in the Dogie Dome or on Schoonmaker Field.

Smart TVs and streaming services like Roku have also been wonderful this year. When I get tired of the reality going on around me, I can simply pull up Hulu, or my new favorite Peacock, and escape to a world of entertainment. My recent fave thing to do is binge watch the original Charlie's Angels series on Cozi TV.

Then there's Snapchat. It's a silly little app, but it really does bring me a lot of joy. I currently have streaks going on with eight different people (that means we snap each other every day) and my longest is 825 days! For more than two years I have snapped that person every day and she has snapped me back. It may sound silly, but we get to see each other each day because of it.

And then there are the Snapchat filters! If you want to feel good about yourself, there's a filter for whatever ails you. Too many lines or wrinkles? A filter can take care of those. Want a different hairstyle or eye color? A filter can do that. Want to see what you'd look like as a man/woman? They can do that too.

And they are fun! In one swipe you can be racing down a snow packed mountain on a waffle, and with the next, you can have a sloth wrapped around your neck giving you a hug. What a great way to start your day!

Without a doubt, 2020 has been a rough one, and I don't know if 2021 is going to be much better, but technology has certainly helped make a hard year a little easier, and I am grateful for that.

Newcastle Festival of Wreaths

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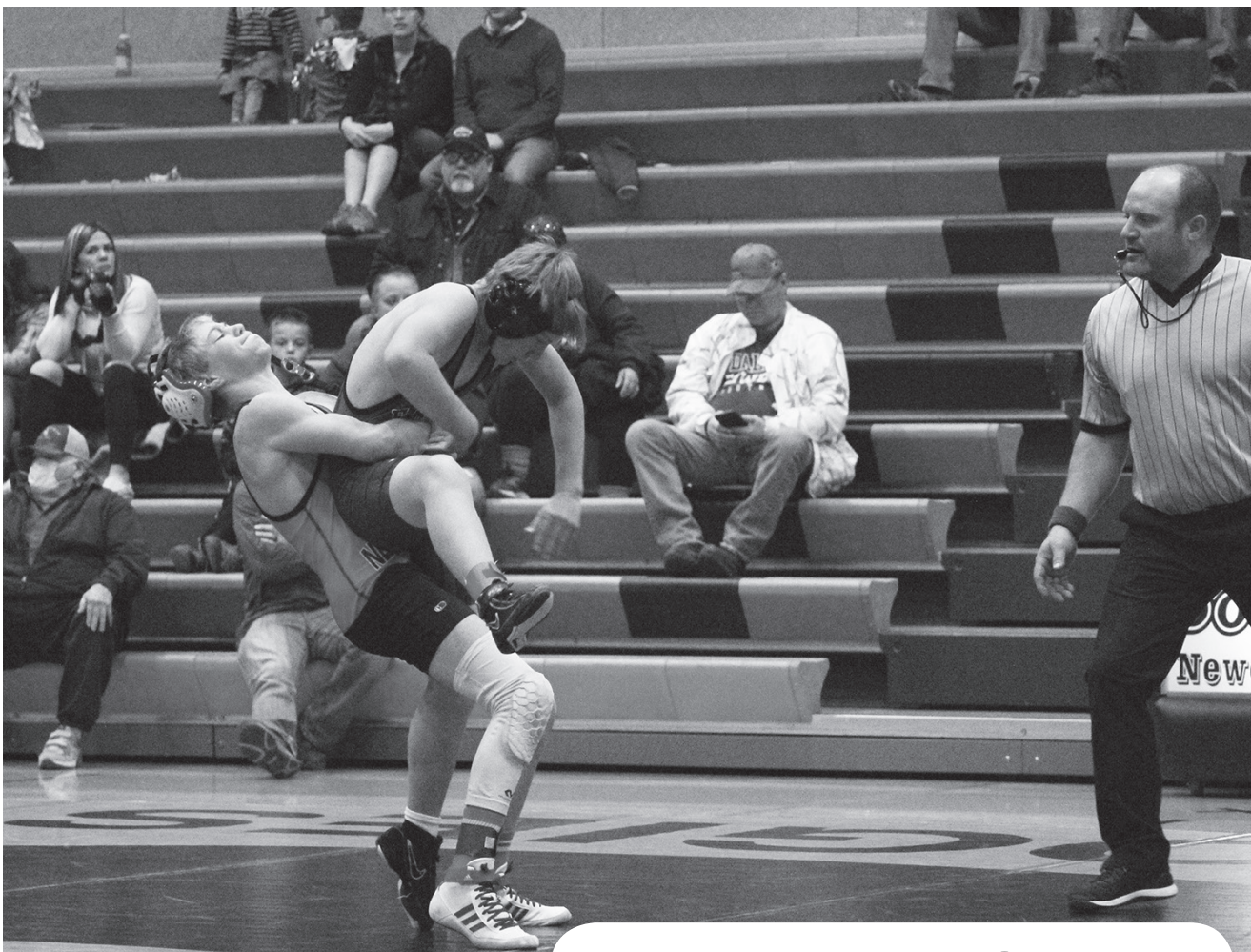
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If you would like to register your non-profit for the benefit, please contact Pam at the number above by Dec. 1

Wreaths, following the auction, can be picked up at The Antlers or Pizza Barn

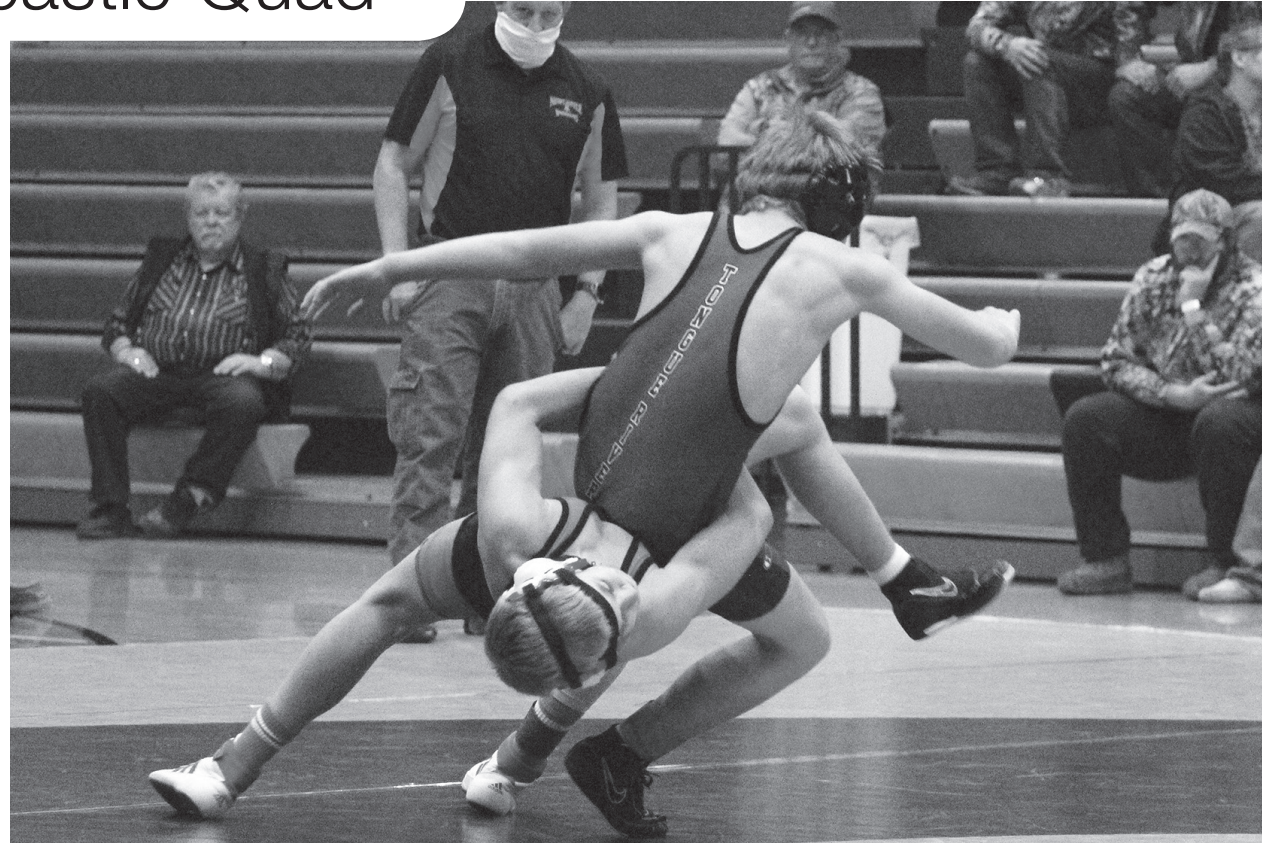


Happy Thanksgiving
to all my friends, especially those at Woody's who have helped me so much.
I am thankful for all of you.
— Love, Georgia Japp



The teams of Upton, Newcastle, Tongue River and Big Horn came together on Saturday for middle school wrestling competition at the Newcastle Quad in the Dogie Dome. The young wrestlers were gearing up for the Northeast District competition, which was Tuesday in Upton.

Newcastle Quad



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

WISHING YOU A
HAPPY
thanks
GIVING

AND A HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON
from all of us

DECKER'S
M·A·R·K·E·T

We will be closed
Thursday, November 26

YOU ARE INVITED
to Customer Appreciation Week

In an effort to socially distance, and still have our much-loved customer appreciation event, our 2020 gathering will be spread over five business days. Please visit the bank lobby between December 7 and December 11 for cookies, beverages, door prizes, and an appreciation gift. The First State Bank team wishes you holidays filled with blessings and good health.

First State Bank
OF NEWCASTLE

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**gifts available while supplies last*

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT NEEDS ASSISTANCE WITH CHRISTMAS PRESENTS THIS YEAR?

Contact FOCUS at 307-746-2748, message us on Facebook at WestonCountyFOCUS, or stop by our office at 204 W. Main in Newcastle.
Sign-up is open until Dec. 15, 2020.

We need a contact name, contact phone, address, age, and sex of the child.
Toy donations are also being accepted and can be picked up by calling 307-746-2748.

Newcastle Dogies

High School Cross Country

2020-21



Top row from left: Coach Nelson, Nathan Strickland, Travis Scribner, Tristan Troftgruben, Zach Purviance, Conrad Prell, Gunner Ramsey, Teegan Hatheway. Middle Row: Lara Lopez, Zach Brown, Tara Carter, Zander White, Alaina Laurence, Mathew Drake, Janaya Ralls, Coach Beehler. Kneeling: Bridger Alishouse, Max Makousky, Carson Bock, Avery Chick, Wyatt Cole.

#GoDogies

#HornsUp

#HSXC

#JoinTheRide

Thank you to these community partners

Photo provided courtesy of Skull Creek Studio, Emily Hartinger



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 Chick Financial
 Dixon Bros., Inc.
 Elliott Chiropractic
 Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware
 Grazers Restaurant
 Monument Health

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Fun and Games

FAMOUS LANDMARKS

- 51. Type in all _____
- 52. Agitate
- 53. Hole punchers
- 54. Like the White Rabbit
- 55. Any doctrine

ACROSS

- 1. Octagonal sign
- 5. "Don't have a _____!"
- 8. Can of worms
- 12. Pathetic
- 13. Spanish sparkling wine
- 14. Pico de gallo
- 15. WWII side
- 16. Like word of mouth
- 17. Church song
- 18. *Victoria in Zimbabwe or Horseshoe in Canada
- 20. *Home to Rock of Cashel and Blarney Castle
- 21. Massachusetts university
- 22. "_____ Be Home For Christmas"
- 23. Olympic torch, e.g.
- 25. On the move
- 28. Menu words
- 29. *Golden Gate or Mackinac
- 32. Goodbye, to bambino
- 34. Ruling in Islamic law
- 36. Variable, abbr.
- 37. Can, with thou
- 38. South American monkey
- 39. *Versailles or Buckingham
- 41. Thus far
- 42. Yoko's John
- 44. Collectively
- 46. Party bowlful
- 47. Memory failure
- 49. Goals
- 51. *St. Basil's or Canterbury
- 55. Independent, slang
- 56. Initial stake
- 57. Field of Dreams state
- 58. More than one stylus
- 59. Barnes and Noble or Barnum and Bailey
- 60. Jaunty rhythm in music
- 61. Don Quixote's enemy
- 62. Urge Spot to attack
- 63. Besides

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19			20				
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58						59			60		
61						62			63		

OMAHA STEAKS
SINCE 1917

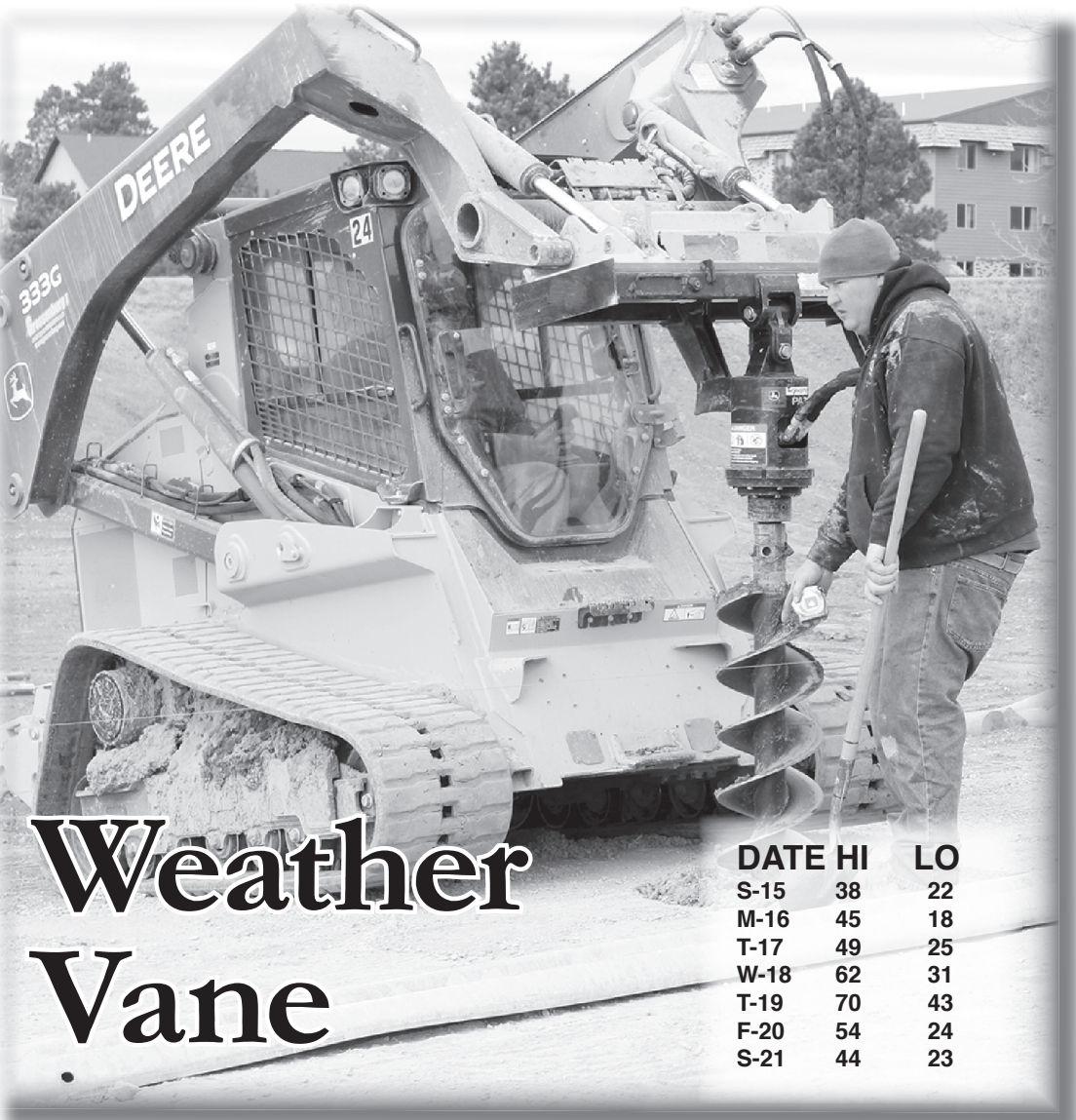
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Weather Vane

DATE	HI	LO
S-15	38	22
M-16	45	18
T-17	49	25
W-18	62	31
T-19	70	43
F-20	54	24
S-21	44	23

City Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 3, SERIES 2020

AN ORDINANCE CREATING ORDINANCE 17-13.2 OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WYOMING MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FENCES, RETAINING WALLS, AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, The Governing Body for the City of Newcastle, Wyoming has recommended the creation of Ordinance No. 17-13.2 to be a part of the City of Newcastle Municipal Code as hereinafter set forth; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Newcastle held final reading of said proposed Ordinance 17-13.2 on November 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Newcastle publicly read proposed Ordinance 17-13.2 on three different days, pursuant to W.S. 15-1-115(c); and

WHEREAS, passage of the proposed Ordinance received the affirmative vote of the majority of the qualified members of the Governing Body of the City of Newcastle; and

WHEREAS, adoption of proposed Ordinance 17-13.2 as hereinafter set forth will recognize changing conditions in the City of Newcastle and is in harmony with the purpose of the City of Newcastle Municipal Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING THAT:

Proposed Ordinance No. 17-13.2 is hereby adopted by the Governing Body of the City of Newcastle, Wyoming and said Ordinance shall read as follows:

17-13.2—Fences, Retaining Walls, Similar Structures

Any owner of any fence, retaining wall, or other similar structure shall ensure that said structure is maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to public health, safety or welfare. Any person who maintains or permits the existence of the prohibited dangerous condition herein is in violation of the 1997 Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings and the procedure for abatement of such condition shall be pursuant to such Code.

This Ordinance shall become effective after passage and upon publication as provided by law.

Passed on first reading: October 5, 2020.
Passed on second reading: October 19, 2020.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on third reading this 2nd day of November, 2020.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WYOMING
Donald Steveson,
President of the City Council
Attest:
Gregory H. James,
Clerk/Treasurer

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

I, Gregory H. James, City Clerk/Treasurer of the City of Newcastle, Wyoming, hereby certify that Ordinance No. 2, Series 2020 was published in the News Letter Journal, Newcastle, Wyoming on this 26 day of November, 2020.

Gregory H. James
City Clerk/Treasurer

(Publish November 26, 2020)

DOWN

- 1. BBQ side
- 2. Taxon, pl.
- 3. Fail to mention
- 4. Bygone Spanish money
- 5. Jeweler's unit
- 6. Egg-like curves
- 7. *The Western one in Israel or the Great one in China
- 8. *La Sagrada Familia or St. Peter's
- 9. Having wings
- 10. _____ of Man
- 11. Scottish cap
- 13. Ceiling panel in the Pantheon
- 14. Type of wheat
- 19. Cuban dance
- 22. Glacier matter
- 23. Medieval knight's spiky weapon
- 24. Coffee shop order
- 25. *Home to Taj Mahal
- 26. Phonograph record
- 27. Artist's support
- 28. Back, at sea
- 30. Director Reitman
- 31. Indian restaurant staple
- 33. Giant Hall-of-Famer
- 35. *Moulin Rouge or Netherland's landmark
- 37. Incess without prefix
- 39. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
- 40. Enigma machine's output
- 43. One born to Japanese immigrants
- 45. Roman magistrate
- 47. Hawaiian veranda
- 48. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the _____"
- 49. Naysayer's favorite prefix
- 50. Bucolic poem

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		8					1	6	3
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		5	4						1
	4		5		6			3	
3					9	7			
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1			3						2

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Last week's answers

B	I	F	F		G	P	O			M	P	G						
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7	1	4	3	2	9	5	6	8
2	8	9	7	6	5	3	1	4
3	9	1	6	4	7	8	2	5
8	6	7	2	5	3	4	9	1
5	4	2	1	9	8	6	3	7

Police Blotter

- November 15**
Lost Property Reported. Suspicious Activity Reported. Report of a Dog at Large, Impounded. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Public Assist Requested. 911 Misdialed. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Reckless Driving Reported.
- November 16**
Noise Complaint. Dead Deer Reported. Assist Other Agency. Public Assist Requested. Warrant Arrest Made. Assist Other Agency. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Medical Assist. Unidentified Liquid Spill Reported. 911 Misdialed. Lost Gun Reported. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Assist Other Agency.
- November 17**
VIN Inspection Requested. Arrest Warrant Issued. Welfare Check Requested. Other Agency Assist. Assist Other Agency. Arrest Warrant Issued. House Fire Reported.

- November 18**
Welfare Check Requested. School Walkthrough. Traffic Complaint. VIN Inspection Requested. Domestic Issue Reported. House Fire Reported. Found Property Reported.
- November 19**
VIN Inspection Requested. Fire Alarm Reported. Motorist Assist Requested. Assist Other Agency. Message Delivery Requested. Drunk Driver Reported. Assist Other Agency.
- November 20**
Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Traffic Complaint. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. School Walkthrough. VIN Inspection Requested. Domestic Issue Reported. Public Assist. Civil Matter Reported. Abandoned 911. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued.
- November 21**
Harassment Reported. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued.



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Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth

Six feet away!

Ahhh Choo!

Six feet away!

Ahhh!

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— Derby Brown

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City Council Minutes

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020**

Council President Don Steveson called this regular meeting of the Newcastle Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were President Steveson; Council members Roger Hespe, Michael Alexander, Ann McColley, Pam Gualtieri and Tom Voss. Also present were Department Heads City Police Chief Sam Keller, City Engineer Mike Moore, City Attorney Michael Stulken and City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ann McColley moved, seconded Roger Hespe to approve the agenda as amended, adding Sandra Martin under Citizen's Business-Verbal reference Chamber of Commerce. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tom Voss moved, seconded Michael Alexander to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday November 2, 2020 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

SWEARING IN: Council President Steveson administered the Oath of Office to new police officers, Jason Barker and Lance Riebel.

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Deckers Food Center for their generous donations for baked goods for the United Fund pie auction.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: Sandra Martin was present to receive her recognition for sponsoring and promoting the annual Truck or Treat on Main Street for the community's youth.

The recognition for the Sundowner Inn for the remodeling they have done to their building will be mailed.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: none

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL:

Sandra Martin discussed the lighted Christmas parade and logistics for holding the event. Further discussion was held regarding sale of bricks as a fundraiser for the Chamber. Mr. Stulken was asked to review the contract regarding the wording of sale of commercial products.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: Council President Don Steveson passed out a graph showing expenditures and revenues.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney Michael Stulken brought for discussion the matter of keeping horse(s) at the Howdy Drive-In/Bakery. After much discussion, it was identified as two issues; it is against City ordinance to keep such animals in town and it is in violation of the City Zoning code to have horse in that area. While trying to be accommodating, Mr. Moore was asked to inform the folks that currently they cannot keep the horse(s) on that property.

City Police Chief Sam Keller reported on calls for service, 4403 YTD and 214 in November so far. He also reported on the repeated trouble with the radio system.

City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James reported the audit is going well so far, and there would be no on-site visits this year. The City was successful in being granted \$50,000.00 in COVID relief funds from the State Lands & Investment Board for wage reimbursement. The City Office will remain closed to the public for a while yet.

City Engineer Mike Moore reported on the Dura-Patcher use, grading and drainage repair along Sage Street, use of the wood grinder at the compost area, visits with a consultant on the sewer lagoon issues, and a potential

zoning matter on 7th Ave.
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: Don Steveson reported on a Police Committee meeting where financing for a new dispatch system was discussed. Some decision needs to be made before the end of December.

OTHER CITY BUSINESS: President Steveson brought up for review, the Council's preference for continuing under the present manner since the General Election has been held. Ann McColley moved, seconded Roger Hespe to continue as-is until the normal transition in January 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tom Voss moved, seconded Michael Alexander to pay the claims against the City dated November 16, 2020. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ann McColley moved, seconded Roger Hespe to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 8:21 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Claims: Alpha Communications, tower rent and radio repair, \$355.00; BCN Telecom, Inc., long distance service, \$162.88; Bearlodge Engineering & Surveying, land survey and CADD, \$8030.00; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, employee health insurance, \$36,204.00; Butler Machinery Co., parts, \$217.49; Cambria Supply, supplies/materials, \$792.17; CDW-Government, computer cartridges, \$1427.55; Culligan Water Conditioning, bottled water, \$39.00; Deckers Food Center, housekeeping supplies, \$153.43; Delta Dental of Wyoming, employee dental insurance, \$1905.00; Eastern Wyoming Equipment Co., Inc., parts, \$1115.07; Energy Laboratories, Inc., water sample testing, \$172.00; Farnsworth Services Co., Inc., hydrovac truck, \$1273.50; Front Range Fire Apparatus, pump & kit, \$1548.88; Graphic Designs, PD shirt patches, \$82.00; Hurricane Services, PD car washes, \$35.00; Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC, PD first aid/CPR training, \$15.33; Newcastle Police Dept., reimburse petty cash, \$68.20; News Letter Journal, minutes/legals/office supplies, \$2143.98; NORCO, Inc., welding cylinder rent, \$25.11; Normont Equipment Co., Dura Patcher rent, \$1585.00; Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc., pipe/valves/fittings, \$6250.76; Office Shop, Inc., copy charges, \$55.71; Office Shop Leasing, office copier lease, \$71.45; Personnel Concepts, labor law posters, \$218.90; Powder River Energy Corp., electric service, \$993.38; Powerphone, PD EMD training, \$399.00; Range, E-911 and City share, \$485.22; Rapid Delivery, Inc., parts delivery, \$14.66; Ricks Electric, repair heat tape, \$732.56; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning, \$200.00; Short Stop Fuel Mart, fuel purchases, \$6134.88; Smith Psychological Services, PD medical, \$800.00; Michael Stulken, November 2020 attorney fee, \$2800.00; Greg Stumpff, reimburse CDL, \$46.00; Uber Geek Computer, computer ink, \$158.76; Valli Information Systems, credit card service, \$100.00; Becky Vodopich, city office cleaning, \$300.00; Voice Products Service, LLC, annual maintenance, \$18,972.60; WEBT, employee life insurance, \$95.75; Weston County Road & Bridge, fuel purchase, \$201.04; Weston County Treasurer, airport project & tax handling fee, \$3525.47; Weston County Humane Society, food fee, \$4.00; Woody's Food Center, housekeeping supplies, \$33.34; Wyoming Automotive Co., parts, \$29.38.

Don Steveson, President
ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Greg James

(Publish November 26, 2020)

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange

Help record history

SHERIDAN (WNE) — How are you celebrating the holidays this year? Will you be hosting a Netflix party to watch a holiday classic film?

As the pandemic continues to impact our lives, the Wyoming State Archives and State Museum, the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center and Wyoming State Historical Society are working together to preserve your experiences and encourage communities to take photographs, write stories, create artwork, interview friends and family and tell us how you lived through this historic time and celebrated the holidays with friends, family and loved ones.

Do you keep a journal or a blog? Are you talking on Facebook or Instagram with your friends about how this pandemic has affected your life?

The AHC, Wyoming State Archives and Wyoming State Museum will be sharing submissions on a shared online platform in the upcoming months. This online platform will



allow our community to see, hear and understand how others in our rural state are coping with social distancing and the unknown future.

If you're writing down your thoughts, please consider donating a copy to the State Archives or the AHC. If you prefer to reflect on social media, use the hashtag #COVID19WY so staff can pull together all the tweets and posts later. That includes Instagram photos of empty streets, teddy bears in windows or masked get-togethers.

If you've used your crafting skills to make PPE masks, signs or documenting your feelings visually, the State Museum is interested in hearing from you, and you may see those objects someday in an exhibit about the challenges of life in 2020.

If you're looking for help in how to conduct a COVID memory conversation, staff compiled questions and tips online at wyoarchives.wyo.gov/index.php/find-it-in-the-archives/oral-history-collection.

Enforcing the masks

SHERIDAN (WNE) — "What level are we going to take to actually enforce it?" Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library Director Cameron Duff posed to his board of directors.

The question lingers for business owners and government building overseers after a health order requiring masks in government buildings and businesses went into effect Wednesday.

Fulmer Library board members defaulted to Duff's plan. He posted signs noting

the mask requirement and will ensure staff wears masks. Beyond that, he wasn't sure whether to call law enforcement or not for anyone not complying with the order.

Duff told staff not to get into confrontations over the mask order.

"I've spoken with the county, and they said the same," Duff said. "Do the best you can but don't get into confrontation that puts the staff at risk of some sort of altercation."

In addition to those refusing to wear masks potentially causing issues, Duff said certain patrons wearing masks may also become upset if others are not wearing masks and following the order.

"That's what I've done this far, but I'm really struggling with the idea of what to do with enforcement," Duff said, noting he doesn't think it's a viable option to call law enforcement every time someone comes in without wearing a face covering.

Mullen Fire closure lifeted

LARAMIE (WNE) — The onset of consistent winter conditions and the lack of fire activity in the Mullen Fire burn area has enabled the Medicine Bow National Forest to lift the area closure that has been in effect since mid-September.

The public may access and use the burn area in the southern Snowy Range, Albany and Carbon Counties, Wyo., and Jackson County, Colo., however the Mullen Fire may still be smoldering. Most of the burn area has cooled, but heat may still exist in thick timber stands and deadfall. Smoke has not been visible for several weeks.

There is one exception to the area closure recension. Due to fire damage and hazards in the vicinity of the Rail Trail, approximately

seven miles of the non-motorized trail, from Fox Park to Lake Owen, will remain closed to public use until mitigation work can be completed. The parking area and toilet on the northwest corner of Lake Owen, near the fishing pier, will also be closed.

Forest staff will continue to monitor the fire as it remains in patrol status and has not been declared fully controlled (out).

"The benefit of public access to the Mullen Fire burn area now outweighs the risks that exist," said Laramie District Ranger Frank Romero. "That said, we absolutely do not want to minimize that burned areas can be hazardous and that people should not assume that everything is back to the way it was before."

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 email: classifieds@newsnj.com
 Send Classifieds via email, in a Word/Text document, call, or drop at the office.

Classified Rates

Business Rate: \$10.80 per week for 4 lines (approximately 20 words); \$2.50 per line thereafter.
Non-Commercial Rate: \$5 per week for 4 lines (approximately 20 words); 15¢ each word thereafter
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 \$8 up to 50 words; \$15 up to 100 words

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT 5 PM

MOVING SALE

Bonnie Brae
 Moving sale on Saturday, Nov. 28, from 9am to 1 pm at 107 Bonnie Brae.

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Two Bedroom
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Roomy Apartment
 Nice 2 bedroom roomy apartment, washer/dryer. Call 307-629-1026

HELP WANTED

Short Stop
 Short Stop Fuel Mart in Newcastle is hiring a PT bookkeeper. Must have Quickbooks experience. Flexible hours. Also hiring a

PT cashier. Must be 21 or older. Will train. Apply in store. Salary DOE. EOE.

WANTED

Odd Jobs Wanted
 Leaf raking, gutter cleaning, moving furniture, tree trimming — anything you need a little hep with! Call Leonard Lang 746-2999.

COMMUNITY

Veterans
 Veterans Outreach and Advocacy Program (Wyoming Dept Health/BHD) Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom eligible.

For assistance, call 307-630-3230.

Helping Hands Foundation

In need of assistance? Contact the Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County. To apply, call Glenda at 307-468-2316 or Carol at 746-2298.

TOPS

TOPS meets at three Newcastle locations each week: Tuesday at 4 at First United Methodist Church, call Joyce Brown at 629-1033; Thursday at 8 at Gateway Fellowship Church, call Grace Davis at 746-4531; and at 9 am Thursdays at First Baptist Church,

call Ellen Butts at 746-4251. All are welcome!

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FREMONT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25, RIVERTON,

WYOMING. Positions Available Immediately 3rd Grade Teacher at Jackson Elementary. Posting closes at 5 p.m. Nov. 30, 2020. Applications are received electronically and job descriptions are located at: <https://www.applitrack.com/fremontcountysd/onlineapp/>. Fremont County School District #25 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

Wyoming Humanities Director of Operations. Manage day-to-day operations and translate strategic plan into operational objectives. Full-time, exempt position reporting to CEO.

Laramie-based candidate preferred, but will consider home-based candidates from across Wyoming. For more information visit thinkwy.org. Submit cover letter/resume: ask@thinkwy.org, 307-460-8789.

Miscellaneous

NEEDED ~ Your prayer requests TO: Carmelite Nuns, 17765 78th St. SE, Wahpeton, ND 58075, carmelofmary@gmail.com, 701-642-2360. WE are here 24-7!

Notice

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Weston County School District # 1 School Board Member Opening

Weston County School District # 1 has an opening for a School Board Member. Position runs from Dec. 9, 2020 to November 30, 2022. Deadline to apply is Dec. 7, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Please send a letter of interest to: Weston County School District # 1 c/o Board Vacancy 116 Casper Avenue Newcastle, WY 82701



LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

Stop out and see Janet to learn more about volunteering at the chamber.



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PT OFFICE POSITION

USDA Forest Service, Hell Canyon Ranger District-Newcastle will be filling a year-round, part-time temporary front office position starting next spring.

Work hours will normally be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., but the successful applicant will need to be flexible.

Applications can be submitted at USAjobs.gov, Job #21-TEMP4-R2-2459-4DT-HC. Announcement opens Dec. 1, 2020, and closes Dec. 16, 2020.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

Weston County Health Services is currently accepting applications for the following positions.

Please see our website at www.wchs-wy.org for more details.

Position	Status
Laboratory Technician	FT (Night Shift)
Pharmacy Technician	FT
Environmental Services (EVS)	FT & PRN
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	FT, PT, & PRN (Day and Night Shifts)
Nutrition Support Aide (NSA)	PRN
Registered Nurse (RN)	FT, PT, PRN (Manor Nursing Home)
Health Information Management (HIM) Technician	FT
Radiology Technician	FT

Employment Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the hospital front desk.

Fax completed applications/resume packets to 307-746-3726, or email CTurner@wchs-wy.org.

WCHS performs post offer, pre-employment drug screening. EOE.



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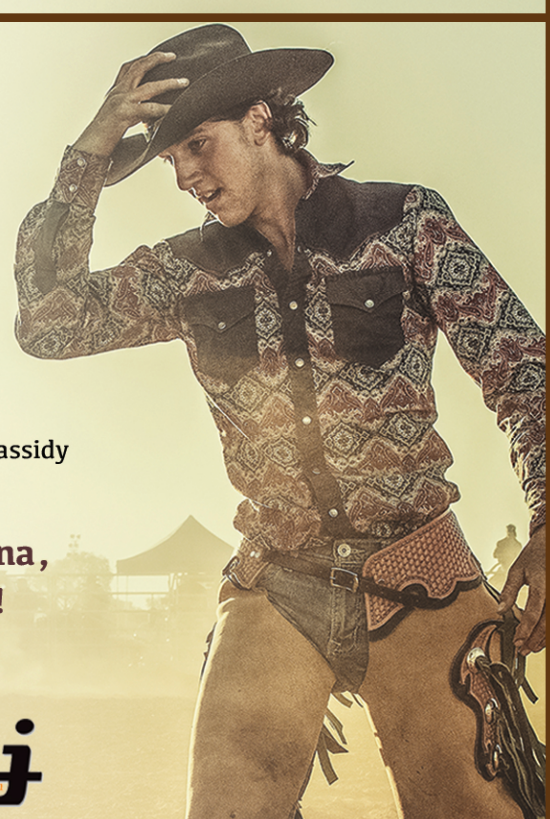
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Happy Thanksgiving

The News Letter Journal will be closed Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, Nov. 25, 26 and 27, for the holiday



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Run for veterans



The NHS Cross Country team along with their coaches honored veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 11, with a run beginning at the Antler's on Newcastle's Main Street to the Maverik Convenience Store, then circled back to the the top of Main where veterans who were parked in their cars honked and cheered them on. The team took photos, shook hands and thanked the local veterans for their service prior to their run and enjoyed refreshments and hot beverages afterward. Above, coaches Cody Nelson, Kathy Beehler and Jess Troftgruben lead the team in their patriotic run. At right, NHS Cross Country coach Cody Nelson visits with local veteran Homer Hastings. Below, Rev. Mick Bohn visits with team member Zach Purviance.




Half price passes on sale Dec. 4

Forest Recreation Management will be hosting their annual Half Price Pass Sale for the 2021 season on Dec. 4, 2020. This one-day sale will be held at a new location, the Lions Building on the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City, S.D., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We are hosting the sale at the Lions Building at the Central States Fairgrounds this year as Forest Service offices are currently closed to the public," said Ty Gerbracht, operations manager for FRM. "Due to staffing limitations, we are only able to hold the sale at one location and the Lions Building will be a nice place for the public to purchase their annual pass."

"COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place at the Lions Building. Masks are recommended, hand sanitizer will be available and social distancing will be used to keep people safe," said Gerbracht.

These passes are for USDA Forest Service facilities located within the Black Hills National Forest fee areas and should not be confused with South Dakota State Park Passes.

The Premium passes (which includes the Sheridan and Pactola complexes) will be \$20 (regularly \$40), and the Standard passes (which are for all FRM operated day use areas except the Sheridan and Pactola complexes) will be \$12.50 (regularly \$25). FRM asks that these are paid with cash or check.

The number of passes available for purchase per individual is unlimited, making them great gifts for stocking stuffers, gift exchanges and prizes for drawings. No other discounts will be accepted with this offer and those with senior or access discounts can receive this reduced price any time.

To accommodate people that are not able to purchase the pass in person, the public may also purchase the pass by mailing a check and a self-addressed envelope to FRM, P.O. Box 1168, Hill City, SD 57745. The request must be post marked no later than Dec. 7. Please include a check for the appropriate amount.

Under a special use permit, FRM operates Black Hills National Forest campgrounds and other recreation facilities. FRM has been operating these facilities since 1999.

For more information on this event, contact Forest Recreation Management at 605-574-4402. For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit usda.gov/blackhills.

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