Newcastle, Wyoming January 26, 2023 Year 137 Week 4

Amended lawsuit submitted in ballot case

Plaintiffs also seeking illegal text messages

Alexis Barker NLJ News Editor

Bruce Moats, the attorney representing the News Letter Journal, Kari Drost, Patricia Bauman and Raymond Norris, has filed a motion in the conducted, a direct violation District Court for the Sixth Judicial District to amend the complaint against the Board of Weston County Commissioners to include text messages in which county business was

of Wyoming law.

The group originally sued the commissioners over the secretperson to fill the unexpired term of former Wyoming Rep.

Hans Hunt in October 2021 after he resigned to take a job in Washington, D.C.

Moats first learned of the ballot vote used to appoint a illegal text messages after Commissioner Don Taylor revealed the text messages to

Drost during an exchange on Sept. 11. Taylor told Drost at this time that the five commissioners — current commissioners Taylor, Ed Wagoner

— See **Lawsuit**, Page 7

Trees in the mist



Photo by Amy Menerey/NLJ

Mother Nature has brought everything to the Black Hills in January, from snow storms to fog and sunny spring-like days. The forecast ahead is just as unpredictable, with snow showers expected for the end of the week, and temperatures next week to dip below zero once again.

Dogie wrestler takes first at tournament

Don Botkin NLJ Reporter

Kyah Miller, a senior wrestler at Newcastle High School, recently competed and took first place in her division at the annual Shane Shatto Memorial Tournament in Douglas on Jan. 6-7. This marked the first time the award has been won by a wrestler from Newcastle or Upton in over 20 years.

The tournament was named after 19-year-old Shane Shatto, one of the "Wyoming Eight," a group of University of Wyoming cross country team members killed by a drunk driver in September 2001. This year, the meet hosted wrestlers from nearly 30 schools, including Newcastle, Gillette, Torrington, Cheyenne and student-athletes from Colorado and Nebraska schools.

Miller competed in the varsity girls 120-pound weight division and won all four of her designated matches. Miller said that her biggest competitor at the meet was Andraya Conchola, of Natrona County, whom she defeated in the round 4 semifinals. She said that she has faced off against Conchola numerous times over the past few years.

Fourteen other wrestlers were in Miller's bracket at the tournament. She defeated Kaiana Garlough from Cheyenne Central in round 1, Brooklyn Hoffman from Chadron in the round 2 quarter finals, and



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Kyah Miller is tearing it up in her final season as a Dogie wrestler. In her exhibition match against the Douglas Bearcat JV 126-pounder last Tuesday, Miller dominated and won the match with a pin.

Conchola in round 4 semifinals before she took first place in the finals after overthrowing Aspen Henry, of Thunder Basin High School in Gillette.

Miller has been wrestling for over 10 years. The senior says that she is both nervous and excited because this will mark the first year that female wrestlers will be able to

compete in state wrestling. Her goal is to compete and win the state tournament this year.

She credits her wrestling success to her parents, Robert and Natasha Miller, and her aunt and uncle, Bryan and Kellie Taylor, and said she is thankful for her family's support through the years. Although Miller said she doesn't like to compare

herself to others, she watches her competition closely to make sure she trains harder and is doing what she needs to reach her goals.

After graduation, Miller plans to attend Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, where she has already been accepted. She will be

— See **Miller**, Page 2

Police wage increases approved

Alexis Barker

NLJ News Editor

As his first official action as chief of police, Charles Bowles requested a \$2 per hour pay increase for the Newcastle Police Department's nine employees and a \$2 per hour increase to the base pay for new officers. Bowles asked for the pay raises during the Jan. 17 Newcastle

- See **Police**, Page 6

Fatal wreck closes Hwy. 85

Alexis Barker NLJ News Editor

A two-vehicle accident south of Newcastle on Jan. 17 at 2:05 p.m. resulted in the death of a 71-year-old Denver man, according to Sgt. Jeremy Beck of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. The accident occurred around milepost 85 in Niobrara County, closing the highway for several hours.

- See **Wreck**, Page 6

Barker named Journalist of the Year

NLJ Staff

The News Letter Journal's Alexis Barker was named the 2022 Wyoming Journalist of the Year this past weekend at the 124th Annual Wyoming Press Association Convention in Cheyenne. The Newcastle native has been with the paper for more than eight years and is the news editor.

"Alexis has come an incredibly long

- See **Awards**, Page 8

WEATHER FORECAST











Sunday







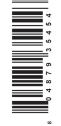


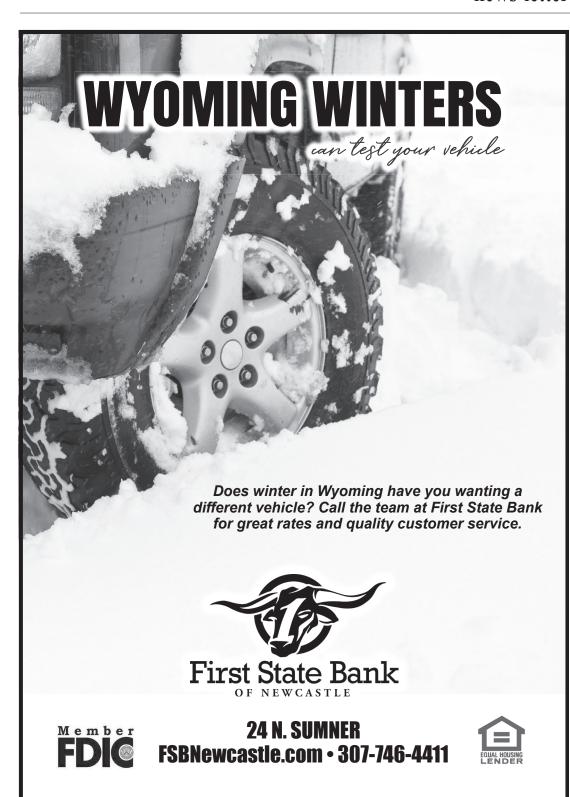


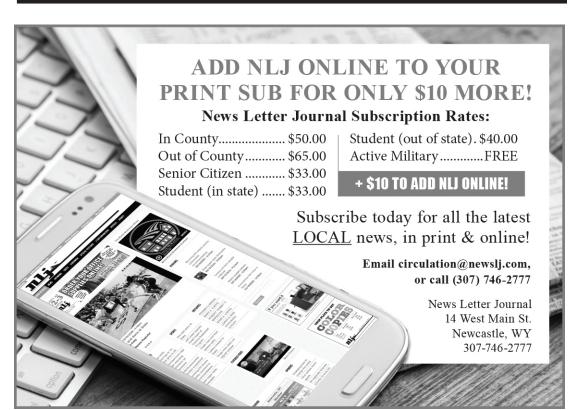


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- Goals, Page 2 • Scams, Page 4
- Qualifying, Page 11









Your Choice for Quality Healthcare! February 2023 Schedule

Orthopedics:
Dr. McEleney: Feb. 23, April 27
Nicholas Alonzo, PA-C March 23
To schedule appointments call 800-446-9556
Dr. Lochmann Feb. 1
To schedule appointments call 605-755-6700
Echo: Patient's Personal Physician must schedule Feb. 1
Heart Doctors: To schedule appointments call 800-432-7822
Dr. D'Urso Feb. 20
Dr. A. Schabauer Feb. 16
VA Clinic: (Usually 1st Monday of month, except holidays)Feb. 6
Mammography:
MRI: Feb. 2, Feb. 16
Patient's Provider must schedule with WCHS Radiology Department
Speech Therapy: Every Monday & Thursday, 4–6 pm
Upton Lab Draws: (1st Wednesday, except holidays) Feb. 1
Wellness Wednesday, WCHS Newcastle Every Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 am
Wellness Wednesday, W.C. Upton Clinic 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7-9 am
Home Health Toenail Clinic: (W.C. Senior Center 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 9–10:30 am)
To schedule appointments call 746-3553 Feb. 1, Feb. 15

Please check out our calendar for updates at wchs-wy.org



Students invited to audition

Alexis Barker

NLJ News Editor

Students throughout Weston County have the opportunity to audition for a part in "Space School Musical," with performers from the Black Hills Playhouse, in conjunction with the Weston County Concert Association.

Jan Ellis, president of the concert association, told the News Letter Journal that students in Newcastle and Upton — whether home-schooled or enrolled in public school — in grades K-12 are eligible to audition for a role in the play that will be performed on Feb. 11 at both 2 and 7 p.m.

Auditions will be held on Feb. 6 at 3:30 p.m., according to Ellis. The goal, she said, is to try to involve between 20 and 50 students of various ages.

The musical, created by Kellee McQuinn of KidTribe for NASA's Discovery and New Frontiers Programs, was adapted by the Dakota Players.

The musical highlights Hannah's journey to finish her science project, a model of the solar system, the night before it is due.

"Join Hannah on a trip through the solar system in this ultra-cool edu-tainment "hip-hopera" that is out of this world! Move and groove

Concert this weekend

On Jan. 29, the Travis Anderson Trio will take the stage at 3 p.m. in the Crouch Auditorium as part of the 2022-23 season for the Weston County Concert Association.

The top jazz trio in Minneapolis, according to the group's website, consists of Travis Anderson on keys, Nathan Norman on drums and Steve Pikal on

The trio gives a modern twist to classic jazz and pop favorites, including television show themes, Disney songs and various other musical pieces, according to Allied Concert Services.

Led by Anderson, the ensemble entertains the entire family with songs that will be familiar to people of every age.

along with the planets, moons, meteors, comets, asteroids and even some rockin' scientists as they sing, dance and serve up the freshest facts in the galaxy," the Black Hills Playhouse website says.

"Space School Musical"

is an engaging, interdisciplinary learning experience. It is designed for the "whole child," to help enhance kids' visual and performing arts abilities, as well as physical fitness levels, life skills, and decision making processes," the site continues, noting that the performance is roughly 40 minutes long.

If selected, students would practice every day after school from 3:30 to 8 p.m. depending on the seriousness of their role. Ellis reported that two performers from the playhouse will be the main characters in the musical, while the local students will fill the various supporting roles.

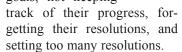
Before auditioning, parents will be required to fill out permission forms to guarantee that both students and parents understand what is expected of the performers. Permission forms will be available in school offices across Weston County and at the News Letter Journal office beginning on Jan. 30.

Anyone with a concert association membership will be able to attend the performances, and tickets for those without memberships will be available at the door. Ellis said that \$10 for adults and \$5 for children will get them into both performances on Feb. 11.

Learning to set goals with 4-H

When the new year rolls youth is to set goals and how to around, everyone starts talking about New Year's resolutions and making major life changes with the changing of the cal-

shows that just 9-12% of people keep their New Year's resolutions. Only 4% of people who have goals but did not set a resolution, are successful after even just six months. Top reasons for failure include having unrealistic goals, not keeping



Erin Persche

4-H Proud

I think most of my co-workers would tell me I was a bit crazy when I say that I enjoyed doing our annual extension reports in December and setting my professional goals for 2023. Looking back on a crazy year of starting a new job and adding a baby boy to our family was a fun trip down memory lane.

Writing my goals for 2023 really made me stop and think about what I want to accomplish, and how. However, before I could start writing goals I had to reflect on the previous year, and what I had accomplished, learned, and observed. Using that reflection to highlight areas that I want to work on helped me brainstorm my initial ideas for my goals and begin looking ahead to new and exciting adventures.

One of the most important

achieve them. 4-H is a perfect place to help youth learn and develop this life skill. Each year that a youth enrolls in 4-H they endar. A quick Google search select a few projects that they

would like to learn more about throughout the 4-H year. 4-H offers projects on just about any topic that youth would want to study and explore. Once they have chosen their projects, they are tasked with setting goals for each project. So, what is a goal?

A goal is a specific result or purpose expected from a project. How do you set a goal? Break out the pen and paper and start brainstorming — what things do you want to learn more about? What skills do you want to develop? Now that you have some great ideas on paper, let's narrow them down to your top two or three. The next step is to break each

of a SMART goal. • Specific: What do you want to accomplish? Who do you need to help you? When do you want to do this? Why is this a goal?

goal down in to the components

• Measurable: How will the action be measured? Measuring your goal helps you determine if you are making progress and helps to keep you on track throughout the project and the year. How will you know if you've successfully met your goal?

• Achievable: Is the goal life skills that we can teach our realistic? Setting goals that are

realistic helps set the project and the youth up for success. What is the motivation for this goal?

- · Relevant: Does the goal make sense for the project and the youth?
- Time-bound: Set a specific timeline for completion. Is the deadline realistic?

Once you've broken down that original goal into the five components of a SMART goal, it is time for the rewrite! Turn that original goal into a SMART goal statement including each of the components. Take that goal statement and post it somewhere that you can see it, then get to work.

There are so many great resources that can help youth and adults alike learn how to set SMART goals. This is a technique that can be used in many aspects of our everyday lives — we all have goals that we want to achieve, but how many of us are taking the time to write them down, develop them into SMART goals, then follow through with them?

Statistically, just 9-12% of us are successful with following through with those New Year's resolutions. If we can help instill goal-setting skills within our youth and help them to develop those skills throughout their 4-H tenure, I think we can raise that percentage considerably.

Erin Presche is the 4-H Youth Development educator for Weston County. She can be contacted at 204 W. Main St., Newcastle, at 746-3531, or by emailing epersche@uwyo.edu.

Miller from Page 1.....

majoring in environmental science and technology, with plans to also gain a commission as an officer in the U.S. Air Force and ultimately be a park ranger with the National Park Service. She plans to wrestle while at college.

In her free time, Miller likes to work out at the high school gym and enjoys playing soccer, rock climbing and hiking in the Black Hills and the Big Horns. She and her father recently climbed the seven tallest peaks in the Black Hills in a single day. She said it was a challenge but a terrific accomplishment. She has also logged a total of over 30 miles of backpacking with her father in the Big Horns. She said that she loves any type

of activity that keeps her outdoors.

Miller also enjoys being able to volunteer her time to help others. For the past few years, Miller and her father volunteer their time with the Ski for Light organization, based in Minneapolis. Ski for Light hosts cross-country skiing events around the country, to enhance the quality of life and independence of visually or mobility-impaired adults. Miller will be helping at the upcoming Ski for Light event, Jan. 22-26, at Terry Peak Ski Area in the Black Hills of South Dakota. More information on volunteering for Ski for Light is available at bhsfl.org.

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Award Winner

Have faith in the chicken people

Dustin Bergstrom

Dusty Mind

right direction.

t appears the chickens have come home to roost in Newcastle, and by that I mean backyard poultry. I have seen the arguments for and against, and all have valid points. It is an interesting conundrum. Talk of neglect, smells, noise, etc. The pro-chicken arguments are sustainability, education, reduction in grocery cost and just the joy

Backyard chickens are not uncommon across the United States, according to The-Chicken-Chick.com. As of 2011, 93% of U.S. cities allowed backyard chickens. These include New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and several other large

cities. Most are regulated by permit but

allow different numbers of hens based on

enclosure size.

Some even allow roosters, and Denver is the Wild West, allowing not only fowl but most livestock, such as horses, mules, donkeys, burros, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys. Imagine the cacophony that could bring. Heck, you could reenact "The Town Musicians of Bremen" in your backyard during barbeques.

The issue of neglect is a tricky one. Most owners of pets are responsible and care for their pets and animals. To say that chickens would be neglected is a bit disingenuous. There are a lot of dogs, cats, rabbits and what have you in town that are neglected. I have heard dogs out howling 24 hours a day that are kept in a small pen and the only human attention they get is when some Kibble and water are tossed to them. The number of feral cats is large as well.

People get puppies and kittens because they are cute and fun when they are little, but as they grow, they lose that fun factor and the work of caring for them is more than some people are interested in. I will say this will be the case for some people when they get chickens. The chicks will be cute and fuzzy; the fullsize birds will require work.

The thing to remember is animals should not be used as gifts to small children, who do not have the capacity to understand the care and feeding required. Pets and chickens should be a family project. For the parents, it is an opportunity to teach responsibility

> and caring for a living thing. For the children, it is an opportunity to learn the life cycle of animals, to watch them grow and change and how to care for them in a proper manner.

As to the noise issue, is a clucking hen worse than a dog that barks nonstop day and night? My brother had upwards of 20 hens in his coop, and during backyard parties, the noise of the hens was pretty subdued unless they were pushing an egg out or arguing over a nesting box.

Smells? If a coop is maintained and cleaned regularly, it is minimal. I mean, come on, we live in a town where we smell a refinery every day and sewage lagoons when the wind blows in the

A last couple of points. The incoming chickens will have a slight effect on local businesses; the feed stores will see an uptick in feed sales and peripherals such as mineral supplements, straw, pine shavings. If you have a neighbor who has a coop, get to know them, offer to help out a bit, maybe earn a dozen eggs. At the price of a dozen these days, an hour helping to earn a dozen isn't such a bad deal. Maybe trade produce from the garden for a bit of the fertilizer produced out of the coop.

This can be a great opportunity to make new friends, mend a fence and bring people together in a constructive way. Lord knows, we need a bit of coming together in this day and age of argument and divisiveness.

Remember, kindness and learning can go a long way to making a healthy community of friends and neighbors. Give it the benefit of the doubt and see where the journey can take us.

Cowboy in the NFL?

□ Logan Wilson

RESULTS: Should Weston County School District No.1 go to a four-day school week?

■ No......72% (18 votes) ☐ Yes28% (7 votes)

Follow the News Letter Journal on Facebook

QUESTION: Who is the best Wyoming

□ Josh Allen

Look for results in next week's

The state legislature just isn't the same without them

The ghosts and/or spirits of Clarene Law, Leland Christensen, Hank Coe, and Jim Angell seem omnipresent when I think of the Wyoming State Legislature.

All four of these wonderful folks died in 2021 or 2022 and, well, the place is not the same

without them.

Hank Coe of Cody was a staple of the Wyoming State Senate for a third of a century. Hank was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature, where he served for 32 years and held positions as Majority floor leader, Senate vice president, and president of the Senate.

He was a great friend of the late Sen. Frank Dusl of Lander, which is where I first met him. What a gentleman. Toward the end of his legislative career, he became a force for education. He deserves credit for much of the good education bills that occurred during this time.

Hank was the force that made sure the Division of Tourism's new statewide funding system was passed. It succeeded by one vote.

The state's aggressive approach to providing air service to smaller towns like Gillette, Laramie, Riverton, Sheridan, and Rock Springs may not have occurred without Coe's leadership. Everyone flying in or out of these airports owes Hank a

debt of gratitude. Clarene was a long-time hotel owner from

Jackson who was also one of our state's great leaders in tourism, our second largest industry.

She died at the age of 89 on Sept. 21, 2022.

Her calming presence and hard-working demeanor brought about a host of good things for the Cowboy State. She somehow managed to get so much done without making people mad. She was unique.

My Wyoming

She was in the Wyoming Legislature from 1991 to 2004.

One of her children, Steve Meadows, said his mother, "meant a lot to the community (and the state) over the decades because she gave so much. We were honored to have had her as our mother, grandmother, friend."

Cale Case, R-Lander, said Law's kind demeanor and ability to make friends on both sides of the aisle is what he'll remember most of her time in the legislature.

"Everyone loved her," Case said. "There was nobody that would call her an enemy. She bridged the gap in a huge way.'

Former State Sen. Leland Christensen, 62, of Alpine, was one of the true characters of the legislature during his time (2011-2019). He died Feb. 4, 2022.

Current Senate President Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, was his best friend and called him a brother from a different mother.

Leland was another one of those people who was liked by everybody. His background in law enforcement made him an indispensable authority while in Cheyenne. And yet his good humor and friendly demeanor charmed just about everyone.

His statewide primary campaign against Liz Cheney in 2016 was a classic case of David versus Goliath. According to Jimmy Orr, who worked on Leland's campaign, they did some stunts with social media that were low budget but high risk, and

created some unforgettable Wyoming political set pieces that will live long in the state's campaign lore.

One of the last times I saw Leland was in Pinedale and he looked like he had been in a car wreck. "You look like you got kicked by a mule," I said. He replied that, yes, he had had a bad scrape when one of his sons challenged him to ride a mule. "It did not go well," he said.

Orr recalled working with Leland on his primary campaign. "Leland brought that aura with him. You saw him. You smiled. You saw him. You laughed. Most of all, if you saw him, you went up to him. You had to say hi. He was a magnet."

I had the good fortune of working with Jim Angell for almost three years at Cowboy State Daily. We had a great relationship when he was at the Associated Press decades ago, and when he ran the Wyoming Press Association for 20 years before retiring.

To me, he was "Jimbo" because we also had Jimmy Orr at the helm. He was considered the "conscience" of the Cowboy State Daily.

He died Aug. 17 of last year from pancreatic cancer. Jim was a constant pres-

ence during legislative matters during his career and he fought for transparency in government and openness. He endured some classic battles with members of the legislature who did not favor openness as much as he did. He called them "a waste of skin." He was ferocious.

In his final years, his best role was playing Santa Claus. He was a professional in that role and was the best I ever seen. He loved doing it.

Jim Angell was inducted into the Wyoming Press Association Hall of Fame on Jan. 20 in recognition of his hard work and skill. A very well-deserved honor.

missed, too, but these four come to mind as folks who seemed to stand above the rest in that august body during the times that I

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.

There are others who are

covered it.

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

Check out the News Letter Journal at newslj.com

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746-2351 Ed Wagoner (Chairman) Garrett Borton 746-8618 **Don Taylor** 746-8582 Vera Huber 746-9122 Nathan Todd 468-2381 Becky Hadlock (County Clerk) 746-4744

www.westongov.com

Contact information for Wyoming State Legislators:

Sen. Ogden Driskill Ogden.Driskill@wyoleg.gov or (307) 680-5555 Sen. Cheri Steinmetz Cheri.Steinmetz@wyoleg.gov or (307) 534-5342 Rep. Allen Slagle Allen.Slagle@wyoleg.gov or (307) 306-7532 Rep. Chip Neiman Chip.Neiman@wyoleg.gov or (307) 290-0366

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Bob Bonnar





Kim Dean



Arts and Culture

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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

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

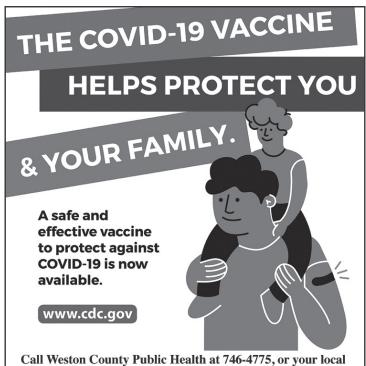


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Obituaries.

Glen **Blakeley**

GLEN RAYMOND BLAKELEY living in Casper in 2018. Oct. 18, 1931-Dec. 30, 2022

Glen Raymond Blakeley was born Oct. 18, 1931, in Newcastle, Wyo., to Preston M. and Freda M. (Wing) Blakeley. He entered into eternal rest on Dec. 30, 2022, in Casper, Wyo., following a short illness.

Glen lived in many communities including Edgemont, S.D., Sturgis, S.D., Newcastle, and finally settling in Glenrock, Wyo., in 1971, until he and Freda entered into assisted

Glen is survived by his two sons, Richard (Cheryl), Scott (Shari); daughter, Lea Ann Carr; sisters, Norma (Wilbur) Lease, Bonnie (Verne) Meyer, and Sandra Marquiss; brother, Bill (Billie) Marquiss; and grandchildren, Shawn Blakeley, Marie Mangold, Nikki (Cole) Ostmiller, Preston (Alecia) Blakeley, Lane (Melanee) Blakeley, Patrick (Valerie) Heiman, and Leslie Heiman Jones, Landon (Sandra)

Blakeley, and Parker (Nicole) Blakeley; 12 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins including Diane Kane of Newcastle. He will be missed by all.

Glen was predeceased by his parents, Preston, Freda and Josie Blakeley; his wife of 68 years, Freda (Benton) Blakeley; oldest son, Robbin; sisters, Beverly Kennedy and Linda Powell; brothers, Howard Blakeley, Fred, and Robby Marquiss.

Protect yourself from scammers

Vicki Hayman

Extension

Notes

eople have found countless ways to scam others out of money. Phone scams are becoming increasingly common—many lose money from these scams, and some even their life savings. In some scams, they are threatening and try to scare you. Others may act friendly and helpful. No matter what way they choose, scammers are sure to try to get your money or even personal information to commit identity theft. Today, I will discuss some of the most common lies scammers tell and how you can avoid getting scammed.

There are many very common types of scams. These include:

- Extended car warranties. Scammers may find out when you bought your car and what kind of car it is. They will then use this information to convince you to buy overpriced or worthless service contracts.
- Prize and lottery. A scammer may call you and say you have won the prize you most likely did not sign up for and that you must pay shipping charges, registration fees, or taxes. After you pay these fees, you will learn there is no prize.
- Imposter. A caller may pretend to be someone you trust, like a family member, a government agency, or someone claiming you have problems with your computer. With this scam, they may even change the caller ID to a fake number to seem more convincing.

• Debt relief and credit repair. With this scam, you will get a call from someone offering to fix your credit, forgive student loans, or lower your credit card interest rates. However, after telling you this,

they will say you must pay a fee first, which will cause you to lose your money and ruin your credit.

 Business and investment. In this scam, the caller may guarantee big profits from an investment, give

business coaching, or offer to help start your own business.

- Charity. This scam is just how it sounds. The caller will try to get you to donate to a charity, but always check the charity out before deciding to donate.
- "Free" trials. Scammers may tell you they can give you a free trial, but they will sign you up for lots of products, and you will be billed every month until you cancel.
- · Advanced fee loans. Scammers target people with poor credit histories and promise a loan or credit card, regardless of your credit history, for a fee upfront. Legitimate lenders do not make guarantees, especially if you have no credit, bad credit, or bankruptcy.

Now that you know how someone may try to scam you. you may be wondering how

do I stop a scammer. If you have already answered the phone, the best thing to do is hang up. If it is a robocall, do not click any buttons. The robocall may say it will let you speak to an operator

or remove you from their call list, but it may cause more robocalls. Your phone carrier may also offer call blocking to avoid these calls altogether. Lastly, do not trust your caller ID. Scammers can do spoofing, where they

name or number they want to show up on your caller ID.

choose whatever

When answering the phone, remember there is always a chance it is a scammer. Make sure never to send money to someone you do not know or have recently met. Never ever give your bank information to anyone unless you know with whom you are dealing.

In addition, banking fraud is an unfortunate fact of life these days. So when shopping online during the holiday season, or any time of year, always be wary of deals that seem too good to be true, and do your part to avoid becoming a scammer's next victim.

Since time is of the essence when it comes to catching unauthorized transactions, it's essential to regularly review your bank statements or online banking transactions. Doing so will ensure you catch ques-

tionable charges right away. When reviewing your monthly checking account statement or online activity, you may notice a purchase you didn't make. If you find any unauthorized transactions in your checking account, it's crucial to handle the situation immediately. The process can be slightly different when fraud involves a debit card rather than a credit card. If you discover a fraudulent charge, you should contact the bank immediately and speak to its fraud department.

Avoid scams by protecting yourself. Follow these tips:

- Avoid answering unfamiliar phone calls, letters, or
- Never give out personal information.
- Keep operating system and virus protection software up-to-date on computers and mobile devices.
- Use safe and secure WiFi connections and avoid public
- Make sure the websites you are using are secure.
- Ensure all accounts have strong passwords.

Though there are many forms of scams, the objective is to steal your money or information. Therefore, please don't ignore any suspicious signals; report them immediately! The longer you wait, the more time-consuming, costly, and exhausting it can be to rectify the situation.

Sources: canr.msu.edu; consumer.ftc.gov; usa.gov)



Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to the NLJ!

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Daily Devotional Reading

January 27 **Exodus 38-40**

January 28 Leviticus 1-4

January 29 Leviticus 5-7

January 30 Leviticus 8-10

January 31 Leviticus 11-13

February 1 Leviticus 14-15

February 2 Leviticus 16-18

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

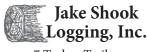
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH: Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally
- BAHA'I FAITH: Firesides (open to all) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626
- · CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH: 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. 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. Kenli Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. christchurchnewcastle@gmail.com. Service times:
- · 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 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; Undefeated Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 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 Ben Roberts, 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: Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP: Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091
- KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES: 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 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
- 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
- UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH: Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ~ Colossians 3:12







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Mass 5 pm

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25 Years Ago Jan. 29, 1998

The 370 employees at Kerr-McGee's Jacobs Ranch Mine got the news Monday. The mine is for sale. Like Atlantic-Richfield Corp, which put its Campbell County Black Thunder mine on the market last year, Kerr-McGee wants to concentrate its resources on oil and gas production and its chemical business, titanium dioxide pigments.

TCI Cablevision's general manager Joe Conway expects a "good response" to the company's latest entertainment offering in Newcastle. For \$10 more per month, the 1,250 TCI customers in Newcastle can access 33 more video and 10 more audio channels.

If the mentoring program can be deemed a success this year, credit should be given to elementary school teacher Nancy Stephenson and high school English teacher Debb Proctor, the women who built the program last year. In reading skills, kids learned study, notetaking or reading comprehension skills, which helped them in their regular class. The program has evolved to now include sophomores and juniors and a full-time reading skills teacher, Betty Petranek.

Weston County True Value's Gen Ellis gets advice on the treat selection at Chamber Coffee. Falgun and Jaimini Patel hosted the event, which included foods and drinks form their native India. This week's coffee will be hosted by Public Health in the lower level of the county courthouse, Friday at 10 a.m.

The Newcastle boys' swim team continued with their early season success as they won the Douglas Triangular held last Friday. During the meet, Travis Castelli became the ninth Dogie swimmer to qualify as he attained the state standard in the 50 Freestyle.

50 Years Ago Jan. 25, 1973

Officers of the Newcastle Police Department recently completed a course of instruction in the operation of Doppler Radar. A Speedgun was recently purchased by the Newcastle Police Department and is in use. Several arrests have been made by the Speedgun, and numerous written warnings have been issued.

The final settlement of the estate of Raymond W. McClure is nearing completion. Thomas L. Whitley, attorney for the estate, said that about \$130,000 in certificates of deposits have



been sent to the Wyoming National Bank in Casper for a trust fund for school districts one and seven.

Mr. and Mrs. O.H. (Buddy) Wilson are the new operators of the Antlers Dining Room, located in the basement of the Antlers Hotel. Lunch and dinners will be served with a businessman's lunch featured.

H.A. True Jr., president of the Belle Fourche Pipeline Company, announced today that the company plans to build a new ten-mile 8" pipeline. True said, "The ten-mile line will connect the Teckla and Polson Draw Fields located in Converse County to the main 12" Belle Fourche Pipeline."

Members of Lambda Chapter,

Beta Sigma Phi enjoyed a slide show accompanied by readings of poetry selections on "Nature" given by Nancy Darnell in the home of Kathy Daum. Refreshments were served by Minnie Quick.

More than 15,000 Wyoming families will soon find questionnaires in their mail boxes. William H. Williams, Wyoming State Librarian, has announced. The purpose will be to assess public library usage and needs throughout the state.

100 Years Ago Jan. 25, 1923

At the recent regular meeting of the Library Club it was moved to sponsor a movement toward the organization of the Girl Scouts of Campfire Girls, and a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to consummate the organization.

Last Tuesday night the dog poisoner started his dastardly work in the city, the result of which many vulnerable dogs have been poisoned, among the twenty-odd ones already killed. Evidently the poison has been ruthlessly thrown all about the city.

The third grade of the city schools, after studying for some time the ways and means of manufacturing flour, headed by their teacher, Mrs. Jackson, and accompanied by Madams Wakeman, Richardson, Bond and Miss Helen Miller, acting as "guards," visited the local flour mill Monday forenoon.

Reports from the county clerks' office and various garages in this city show that the applications for 1923 auto licenses have been coming in quite rapidly, and many of the first applicants have received and are using the new license.

Sinclair company to begin work on pipeline between Salt Creek and Teapot dome at once.

George M. Culver, the coal and ice man, has a force of men at work this week harvesting his second crop of ice from his dam up the canyon. The ice is clear and good, and runs about fourteen inches in thickness.

M. Williams was down to Morrissey last Friday. He called at R.R. Gray's and drove home a steer which he had traded for.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of SOLID WASTE

The Wyoming Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District (District) is now accepting applications for the Executive Director of Solid Waste. This position requires a professional engineering license in either civil or environmental engineering.

Salary range starting at \$85,000, depending on qualifications, accompanied by a comprehensive benefit package (i.e. 2-weeks paid vacation, 2-weeks paid sick leave, Wyoming Retirement, health insurance, health savings account contributions,

dental insurance, vision insurance, life insurance, air & ground ambulance insurance, short-term disability, and long-term disability). The job description can be picked up at the

District Lander Landfill Office 52 Beebe Road / Lander, WY 82520, or on our website at trashmatters.org (under Employment).

Applicants shall submit a cover letter, resume, and professional references to the Lander Landfill Office at: Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District / PO Box 1400 / Lander, Wyoming 82520. The Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and conforms with enforcement of a drug-freeworkplace. Applications will be reviewed as received, and interviews will be held until the position is filled. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at (307) 332-7040.

From the vault ...



Photo Courtesy of WC Historical Society

Zoom

W.C. Senior Center

Newcastle Lodge & Convention Center

Mike and Edna Materi in front of their grocery store.

9AM

5:30PM

WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR



LET US **KNOW** WHAT'S UP!

Is your group or organization hosting an event? Send your event listings to design@newslj. com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar, sponsored by Pinnacle Bank.

Fri. Jan. 27 9AM W.C. Senior Center Caramel Rolls WC Library System Board Mtg. W.C .Library Meeting Rm. 11:30AM W.C. Senior Center 1PM 2PM Oral History, Neal Purcelli Anna Miller Museum **BINGO** 5:30PM VFW Hall 7PM W.C. Senior Center Dance Mon. Jan. 30 9AM **Exercise Class** W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center 1PM Computer Clinic 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous W.C. Senior Center Tues. Jan. 31 11AM Story Time W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center 1PM Bridge/Dominoes Alzheimers/Dementia Support 3:30PM Wed. Feb. 1 6:30-8:30AM Wellness Wednesday W.C. Health Services 7-9AM Wellness Wednesday **Upton Medical Clinic** W.C. Senior Center 9AM **Exercise Class**

5:30PM Friends of Fair Fairgrounds, Events Center 7PM Jr Livestock Committee Fairgrounds Office Thu. Feb. 2 7AM T.O.P.S. #218 W.C. Senior Center 1PM W.C. Senior Center Crafts/Bridge 1PM W.C. Senior Center American Legion Auxiliary Mtg 4:30PM WC Museum District mtg Anna Miller Museum 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous W.C. Senior Center

Toe Nail Clinic

WC Travel Commission

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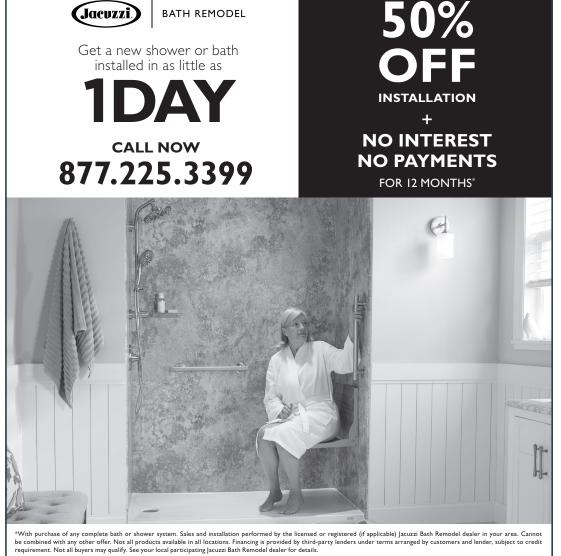
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Say 'Cheese'



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

During the News Letter Journal's staff trip to Cheyenne for the Wyoming Press Association Convention, a squirrel joins in the fun by hamming it up for a photo at Little America Hotel on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Police from Page 1

City Council meeting.

"I want to maintain the department and also hire quality employees, and I think wages go along with that," Bowles said. "Stacy (Haggerty, city clerk-treasurer) and I have talked over my current budget, and I think there are ways we can move some things around that are not being used for an increase to wages."

Councilman Tyrel Owens offered the only discussion on the topic when he made a motion to approve the increases.

"I think the chief has a valid point. It is something we are looking at with public works too. You can't hire quality people if you are not offering them a living wage," Owens said.

He said that he hoped the increase will allow the city to keep and maintain a quality police department.

"I think this is a bold move for the chief. He just got here and is already championing for wages," Owens said before the council voted unanimously to approve the wages.

This is the second time since the start of the new year that the city council has addressed

Newcastle Police Department Wages

For officers and dispatchers (after raise)

- Leanne Cox \$19.16 Taylor Ide \$17.66
- · Ashley Knowlton \$18.19
- Pea Miles \$25.13 Tonia Mills \$21.64
- Lance Riebel \$22.83
- Genell Rothleutner \$21.21
- Melissa Stubbs \$23.43 Rebecca Swentesky \$14.48
- Starting wage for officers \$21.04
- · Starting wage for dispatchers

payroll concerns related to the police department. Early this month, during its Jan. 3 meeting, the council also approved vacation and compensation time payouts to officers and dispatchers who were at risk of losing the pay.

During the board's last meeting of 2022, on Dec. 19, Haggerty first approached the council with the concern. At that time, the board tabled the discussion until January, but she brought it back to their attention at the first meeting of the new year.

"There are employees getting close to maxing out vacation accrual," Haggerty said on Jan. 3.

She noted that the lack of officers does not allow for current officers to use the vacation time they had accumulated, and a payout would allow the officers to "reset" their vacation accrual before they lose it.

"In these certain circumstances, I think it is a good idea we do that," Councilman Don Steveson said.

Owens then moved that the council allow payouts to officers who reach the maximum vacation and comp time allotment until the department is fully staffed. At this time, the department has just two officers besides the new chief, and active recruiting continues in an effort to attract enough law enforcement professionals to reach a total of eight officers — which is the number needed to fully staff the department.

The motion to pay employees for the unused vacation time carried unanimously, and to date the city has paid out a total of 71.6 hours to one

Wreck from Page 1.....

Vladimir Perlin was driving a 2007 Lexus RX 400H westbound when he stopped at the stop sign at the intersection of U.S. Highways 18 and 85. Failing to yield to a 2019 Dodge Durango, Perlin turned left and the driver's side of the Lexus was struck. Perlin was wearing a seat belt, but ultimately succumbed to injuries received during the incident, according to Beck.

"Four other folks were involved in the crash," Beck said. "All were injured and transported to the Niobrara County Hospital for treatment."

The fatality was the fourth recorded on Wyoming's roadways in 2023.

Since then, according to information provided by Beck, eight other individuals have died on Wyoming roadways, including two on the morning of Jan. 22 near Evanston. The release on that accident states that two Missouri men, driver 39-year-old Keith R. Koehler II and 40-year-old Tyler U. Judd, were killed when the 2007 Volvo Conventional commercial truck they were traveling in rolled over on Interstate 80.

Another five individuals were killed at 6:52 p.m. on Jan. 22 on Interstate 80 east of Rawlins after officers were notified of a driver driving the wrong way on the interstate.

"Preliminary information has revealed that a Dodge Ram 3500 was headed east on Interstate 80 on the wrong side of the interstate. The Dodge collided with a commercial truck and a passenger car. As the Dodge truck collided with the passenger car, a driver of a second commercial truck attempted to avoid the approaching truck by driving into the median," the release from Beck states. "This commercial truck exited the median and entered the eastbound travel lanes, where it collided head-on with a Ford F-150. The second commercial truck and passenger truck immediately became engulfed in flames.'

The five occupants of the F-150 were fatally injured during the accident. Other motorists involved in the collision were transported to hospitals with critical injuries.

"The driver of the Dodge, who was driving the wrong way, has been arrested on suspicion of impairment and may receive future charges as the investigation unfolds," Beck concluded, noting that no further information would be released at this time due to the ongoing investigation.

Only one death was reported on Wyoming's roadways in 2022, compared with eight in 2021 and three in 2020.

Lawsuit from Page 1.....

"I think these text messages

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that Weston County residents

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Commissioner Tony Barton's

insistence on staying on the

Weston County Commission

long after he moved to Crook

County. His effort to convince

other Weston County com-

missioners to lobby local leg-

islators on behalf of Crook

County's interests is pretty

convincing proof that he

did, in fact, have a conflict of

interest. In this instance, at

least, he was certainly serving

the interests of Crook County

while being paid by the tax-

— Bob Bonnar, News Letter

Journal Publisher

payers of Weston County."

and Nathan Todd and former commissioners Marty Ertman and Tony Barton — and County Clerk Becky Hadlock had used text messages to communicate as a group since he first joined the commission after the 2020 election.

According to Moats, Wyoming Statute 16-4-403(d) addresses the use of text messaging as a form of communication for boards. It states that "no meeting shall be conducted by electronic means or any other form of communication that does not permit the public to hear, read or otherwise discern meeting discus-

sions contemporaneously. Communications outside a meeting, including, but not limited to, sequential communications among members of an agency, shall not be used to circumvent the purposes of this act."

"First, text messages are certainly sequential communications, so the commissioners using the messages to conduct business hidden from the public, which circumvents the purpose of the Act," Moats said.

receiving After knowledge of the messages, Moats asked the court for permission to depose Taylor in a letter dated Sept. 20, 2022, but Tucker Ruby, the Johnson County attorney, responded that Taylor was not available. Ruby also asked at that time if the defendants could develop a settlement proposal, but one was never presented to Moats, according to documents requesting the ability to file the amended complaint.

"When no settlement proposal was forth-

coming, plaintiffs requested the text messages in an email to defendant's counsel on Nov. 30, 2022," the document states. "Counsel for defendant agreed to obtain the text messages. The group text messages held by Commissioner Taylor were provided via an electronic file on Jan. 13, 2023, but technological issues meant the Plaintiffs were not able to access the provided file until Jan. 17, 2023.'

News Letter Journal Publisher Bob Bonnar said it is frustrating that the only messages received were from Taylor's phone.

"He is the one commissioner who has been transparent and forthcoming from the start, and he is the one who actually revealed the existence of these text messages in the first place," he said

When reviewing the messages, Moats said, it became evident that the commission was conducting county business via group messages, a direct violation of the Wyoming Public Meetings Act. The document notes that the group chats included discussion of public business and even voting on the expenditure of public funds.

Expenditures approved via text included permission to pay various bills, a variety of prepays and the rental of a storage unit. The group also authorized a Best Coyote Hunt Calcutta, approval of minutes, an adjustment to a budget hearing, an email to the city, discussed the scheduling of the meeting to replace Hunt and the chairman's signature on various documents. including a letter to the Wyoming Legislature and a document for Ruby.

When discussing the letter to the Legislature on redistricting, not only did the group approve Ertman's signature on the letter but Barton also suggested that the Weston County commissioners include Crook County in their requests to legislators, and ask that both counties be allowed to "stay whole.". Before this discussion, Barton had relocated to Crook County but refused to relinquish his seat on the Weston County commission, even after current commissioner Garrett Borton sought his removal from the board in a lawsuit.

"I think these text messages also demonstrate very clearly that Weston County residents were right to be upset about Commissioner Tony Barton's insistence on staying on the Weston County Commission long after he moved to Crook County. His effort to convince other Weston County commissioners to lobby local legislators on behalf of Crook County's interests is pretty convincing proof that he did, in fact, have a conflict of interest. In this instance, at least, he was certainly serving the interests of Crook County while being paid by the tax-

payers of Weston County," Bonnar said of the redistricting text messages.

The News Letter Journal publisher said the text messages are further indication of a pattern of willful violation of Wyoming's open meetings and public records laws by the county commission, and he thinks that they also raise additional questions about the motives of some commissioners in relation to the secret ballot itself.

"There is a clear violation of Wyoming law in the text messages that represented votes of the commission and approval of spending and signatures - all of which should have been done in public meetings," Bonnar said after reviewing the messages. "I also think it is interesting that the commissioners discussed legislative redistricting through the texts, given the fact that the redistricting issue was given as the rationale by Commissioner Marty Ertman for choosing J.D. Williams for the House District 2 seat - when

she did finally reveal her choice almost a full year after she used a secret ballot to do it."

In addition to providing proof of actions taken and approved by commissioners, the texts provided by Commissioner Taylor also included messages from County Clerk Becky Hadlock to inform the board of several emails she had sent to the board and requesting a response to those emails. The board also discussed the Wyoming County Commissioners Association and voting positions they would take on issues brought before that organization.

"Are any of you on the WCCA vill (bill) review zoom meeting? Asking in case we have a one vote per county situation. Texting would be the easiest way to communicate for one vote," Ertman said in one of the text messages.

The board has rejected the request by the NLJ and the other plaintiffs to amend the original complaint over the secret ballot to include the recently discovered text messages, and a judge will be required to make a decision on whether or not those text messages will be added to the complaint.

"As the defendants objected, they (Ruby and the commission) have 20 days to draft a response," Moats said. "Then the court will likely set a hearing on the motion."

Moats also said that the group will make a discovery request for the county emails mentioned in the text messages and any others about county business over the past two years. He noted that because Ertman and Barton are no longer on the board, a subpoena will be required to receive theirs.

Bonnar noted that there is also reason to believe that there may be additional text message conversations that did not include Taylor.

"The fact that none of the other commissioners involved were willing to share their text messages makes me believe there may be text messages between county officials that didn't include Taylor that they are trying to keep from the public. We will be asking the court to provide access to those records as well," he said.



Bau, Simon Paul Beastrom, Hailey Bloom, Aspen Joyce Fitzwater, Preslee Blumenthal, Kaitlyn Harrington, Javde Carter, Benjamin Hebbring, Brayden Checketts, Oakley Henkle, Heath Alan Christensen, Callie Lynn Holguin, Danyela Conzelman, Drew Conzelman, MacKenzie Jensen. Emilie Corley, Jayden Lea Jerry, Lidia Crinklaw, Taylor

Martell, Brook Garcia, Andrea Topete Matthews, Casey McConkey, Collin McConkey, Holden McFarland, Hunter McVay, Gabrielle Hoover, Caleb Robert Morrill, Elijah Huber, Kathryn Sophia Morris, Julie Mullen Kendal Ohnstad Archei Jerry, Shaylin Olson, Isaiah Kenney, Moriahn Olson, Logan Knight, Baleigh Olson Rebekah

Perino, Quint Petersen, Mia Prell, Jacob Roland Prell Thomas Redding, Reagan Rose, McKenzie Rose, Ruth Mia Rumore, Saleen Rushton, Elizabeth Schmitz, Brooklyr Scribner, Samuel Shroyer, Trinity Stanton, Tiernan

Stith, Cody Michael Stith, Tyler Daniel Strickland, Nathaniel Tavegie, Pate Tavegie, Tell Tidyman, Shelby Troftgruben, Thatcher Tystad, Hogan Vanderpool Mobley Colton Wehri, Cole Thomas Williams, Ava Yanchunis-Gonzalez,

Newcastle High School

B Honor Roll - Semester 1

Ayers, Leticia Ayers, Veronica Baeza, Anasofia Beastrom, William Bickford, Daniel Bock, Varsity Bowles, Charles Carr, Savanah Christensen, Colter Conklin, Payge Conley, Heather Cummings, Skyler

Bau, Ivy Lyne

Butler, Aidan

Conklin, Taylor

Cummings, Amesha

Daniels, Sarah

Cunningham, Samuel Derifield, Brayden Deyo, Hunter Dixon, Angel Lynn Dixon, Angela M Dudzinski, Wyatt Engle, Taten Evenson, Dayne Ray Farnsworth, Canyon Fladstol, Rylan Geisness, Jessica Gramkow, Tradyn Jay Griffin, Bailey Halvorsen, Kimberly Hardy, Cage Hatheway, Teegan Hinshaw, Jyzelle Hossfeld, Caleb Huey, Sara Lacey, Maggie Larson, Scott Lichtenberger, Emilia Lorenz, Spencer Matthews, Courtney

McVay, Colin Merchen, Marshall Mills, Elizabeth Morris, Alyssa Mullen, Kahlen Munoz-Galvan, Yaquelin Parks. Triston Pederson, Sydney

McFarlin, Dylan

McGuire, Ryan

Peterson, Holly Qualheim, Abigail Schantle, Aaron Simmons, Peyton Troftgruben, Theodore Tupa, Storee Unterseher, Mischa VanGundy, Kalan White, Zander Wildermuth, Jessica

Newcastle High School

A Honor Roll - Quarter 2

Bau, Ivy Lyne Beastrom, Hailey Bloom, Aspen Joyce Blumenthal, Kaitlyr Butler, Aidan Christensen, Callie Lynn Conklin, Taylor Conzelman, Drew Conzelman, MacKenzie Corley, Jayden Lea Crinklaw, Taylor Cummings, Amesha Daniels, Sarah

Drake, Camilla Dudzinski, Wyatt Dutcher, Raisa Grace Erb, Cole Fitzwater, Preslee Garcia, Andrea Topete Hebbring, Brayden Henkle, Heath Alan Hoover, Caleb Robert Hossfeld, Caleb Jensen, Emilie Jerry, Lidia Jerry, Shaylin

Kenney, Moriahn Knight, Baleigh Lichtenberger, Emilia Lipp, Jerome James Martell, Brook Matthews, Casev McConkey, Collin McConkey, Holden McFarland, Hunter McVay, Gabrielle Merchen, Marshall Morrill, Elijah

Morris, Julie Mullen, Kendal Ohnstad, Archer Olson, Isaiah Olson, Rebekah Ostenson, Jaylen Perino, Cort Prell, Jacob Roland Prell, Thomas Redding, Reagan Rose, McKenzie Rose Ruth Mia Rushton, Elizabeth

Schmitz, Brooklyn Shroyer, Trinity Stanton, Tiernan Stith, Cody Michael Strickland, Nathaniel Tavegie, Pate Tavegie, Tell Tidyman, Shelbv Vanderpool Mobley, Colton Wehri, Cole Thomas Williams, Ava

Newcastle High School

B Honor Roll - Quarter 2

Ayers, Veronica Bau Simon Paul Bickford, Daniel Bock, Varsity Bowles, Charles Carr, Savanah Carter, Benjamin Christensen, Colter Conklin, Payge

Cummings, Skyler Cunningham, Samuel Dixon, Angel Lynn Dixon, Angela M Downing, Katelyn Engle, Taten Farnsworth, Canyon Gerlag, Finn Halvorsen, Kimberly

Hardy, Cage Harrington, Jayde Hatheway, Teegan Hinshaw, Jyzelle Holguin, Danyela Huber, Kathryn Sophia Huey, Sara Liggett, Kendahl McFarlin Dylan

Mills, Elizabeth Mullen, Kahlen Olson, Logan Orsborn, Zachary Perino, Quint Petersen, Mia Peterson, Holly Qualheim, Abigai

Rumore, Saleen Scribner, Samuel Stith, Tyler Daniel Troftgruben, Thatcher Tupa, Storee White, Zander Yanchunis-Gonzalez. Kvra

Newcastle Middle School

Principals Honor Roll - Quarter 2

Bloom, Cheyanne, 7 Butler, Adam, 8 Checketts, Ridge, 8 Cunningham, Liliana, 7 Dean, Natalie, 6 Dresen, Delainev, 8 Dunseth, Robert, 6 Dutcher, Trent, 7 Fitzwater, Addison, 7

Hanson, Chanel, 6 Hill, Bridger, 6 Hoover, Gabe, 8 Kitch, Connor, 7 Knight, Allee, 6 Liggett, Kentri, 6 Lorenz, Savannah, 6 Lovejoy, Taylor, 7

Novak, Liam, 6 Oleson, Anika, 7 Olson, Adalyn, 8 Parsons, Ethan, 7 Patterson, Lilv. 6 Paul. Sean. 8 Pischke, Joslyn, 7 Prell, Netanya, 8

Morrill. Lillie. 8

Rettinghouse, Colter, 7 Sanford, Heidi, 7 Shroyer, Ashlynn, 8 Stillabower, Isabell, 6 Stroh, Calad, 6 Sweet, Brystal, 7 Tacy, Abigail, 7 Tavegie, Coen, 8

Purviance, Treyden, 6

Tavegie, Emeree, 7 Thurgood, Regina, 6 Von Eye, Kyndal, 8 Watt, Olivia, 6 Wildermuth, Ashlynn, 8

Newcastle Middle School

A Honor Roll - Quarter 2

Alexander, Hana, 6 Allen, Kyan, 8 Allen, Zadvn, 7 Ankeney, Damian, 7 Bergstrom, Adelyn, 8 Blumenthal, Kendrick, 8 Bryan, Chevelle, 6 Caster, Brylee, 7 Crabtree, Dane, 8 Cummings, Owen, 8

Dawson, Asic, 6 Dixon, Jenna, 7 Evenson, Owen, 6 Gregory, Braylon, 6 Gregory, Nolan, 6 Griffin, Stephen, 7 Guzman, Brooklyn, 7 Hatheway, Landon, 8 Herring, Nevaeh, 7 Hoffman, Davyn, 6

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Awards from Page 1......

way over the years, and I can't tell you how proud I am of the job she does for the community," News Letter Journal Publisher Bob Bonnar said after presenting the award to Barker,

who is also his daughter-in-law.

"She really does exemplify what community journalism is all about in the 21st century," Bonnar continued. "She has to do a little bit of everything for us — writing and photography, running our website and social media, and helping lead the other writers and contributors who help us put the paper together every week. Somehow she does all of that while raising two kids and helping out at the school district by working sporting events at the middle school and high school. It's really pretty damn impressive when you think about it, and I can't think of anybody more deserving of the honor after the year she has had and the stories she has covered for her

A willingness to tackle tough subjects also earned Barker her first state editorial award, as she brought home second place in the small weeklies category for editorial excellence.

community."

"Poignant, timely, and well-written. Sharp critiques of local government on transparency, definitely having the reader's point-of-view in mind, with details to flesh out the process for readers," the judge said of Barker's editorials. "The ongoing work of the News Letter Journal to better local government transparency epitomizes the newspaper mission. Great to highlight the successful impact it made."

Barker wasn't the only News Letter Journal staff member to snag a major award. Photographer and videographer Walter Sprague was recognized as Photographer of the Year (small weeklies) for the second year in a row, and his work helped the paper secure second place in photographic excellence in the small weekly category too.

The judge said Sprague's work combined superb storytelling with excellent composition, and he was also credited for providing a great variety of images covering a broad number of subjects — from sports to features and editorials.

"I am proud of the work our small NLJ team does every week to produce a top-notch newspaper for our community. To bring home 12 Pacemaker awards along with four major awards from the 124th Wyoming Press Association convention is outstanding. I'm very proud of Alexis Barker for receiving Journalist of the Year and Walter Sprague for being awarded Photographer of the Year for the second year in a row," said Kim Dean, managing editor.

The Pacemaker awards hauled in by the newspaper were in various categories, ranging from general news accounts to a first place recognition for a photo story submitted by Barker.

Longtime News Letter Journal correspondent Hannah Gross was honored at the convention for the first time, but broke through in a big way by receiving three Pacemaker awards. She was recognized for her reporting on the backyard chicken discussion in Newcastle, with a second-place ribbon in general news reporting.

"Never has there been a more contested issue. Bravo to Hannah Gross for following the issue through



Photo by Braden Schiller

The staff of the News Letter Journal pose for a photo after receiving several major awards during the Wyoming Press Association Convention at Little America Hotel in Cheyenne on Saturday, Jan. 21. Pictured is Breeklee Loebs (Alexis Barker's daughter) holding the second place small weeklies 2022 Editorial Excellence award, Bob Bonnar, NLJ publisher, Alexis Barker, winner of the 2022 Journalist of the Year award, Kim Dean, NLJ managing editor, holding the second place small weeklies 2022 Photo Excellence award, and Walter Sprague, winner of the small weeklies 2022 Photographer of the Year award.

the process. It might seem trite to many, but this is a prime example of reporting on what is important to the community," the judge said.

Gross was also recognized with a first-place award in agriculture reporting for her stories on local small farms and a first-place ribbon in the arts-entertainment-culture

reporting category for her "The Heart of Worship" story series.

The worship series highlighted various church musicians throughout the community, for which the judge commended her for a series that is typically left for column coverage. For the agriculture series, the judge commented on the way Gross brought out the unique personalities and operations of each subject with authenticity and humor.

Another longtime News Letter Journal correspondent, KateLynn Slaamot, captured first place in the news-feature story category for her piece on a family wedding dress.

"The article is very well written. It immediately engages the reader, by tying the present to the past in a relatable way," the judge said. "Newspapers are all about documenting history — this story is an excellent example, wrapped up in a pretty silk bow."

Bonnar also expressed pride over in high school.

"Hannah and KateLynn carry on a long tradition of interns who have gone on to do well, not just in the journalism profession but in all walks of life. They join a long line of interns and former interns who have received state and national awards, and that doesn't happen at other newspapers. It makes me proud that the NLJ is still taking an active role in mentoring young people in the community. It's exciting to be able to provide opportunities for them to learn and excel in a professional field," he said.

In addition to the major awards, Barker brought home a second-place ribbon in government issue reporting for her story on concerns brought up about the Weston County Clerk, as well as an honorable mention in outdoors-environmental reporting for her series on drought and snow and for best website.

Barker also brought home the paper's only individual photography Pacemaker for her photo story on the Newcastle Stingray's home meet of

"This was a perfect blend of sports story and feature story. The photos of the swimmers at work set the stage for the overall package, the medals were a great detail and the long shot of the girls waiting to enter the water put it all in perspective," the judge said.

Designer Amy Menerey was recognized for her use of color in an ad, with an honorable mention for her spring concerts ad, and the newspaper staff also received two Pacemakers. They the accomplishments of Gross and NLJ earned a second place in best use Slaamot, both of whom began working of photos and an honorable mention for the News Letter Journal as interns in the special section category for the Western Heritage publication, which is designed by Menerey.

> "I am blessed to have such a great team that supports one another and works together. I'd like to give credit to all of our behind-the-scenes support team, including Penny Bonnar for editing and Amy Menerey for designing and selecting many of these entries. It takes a village to make a newspaper, and special thanks goes to this community for sharing your stories, trusting us with your advertising needs and for being loyal subscribers," Dean said.



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Jim Angell was inducted into the Wyoming Press Association Hall of Fame on Friday, Jan. 20, during the annual WPA Convention, held at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne. Angell passed away on Aug. 17, 2022. For more information, Bill Sniffin recalls working with Angell and gives details about his career with WPA and Cowboy State Daily, as well as Angell's work as a supporter of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and his importance to all the members of WPA. Look for Sniffin's column on Page 3. After the presentation of the Hall of Fame plaque to Mary and Amanda Angell, Jim Angell's wife and daughter, Bob Bonnar gives a big hug to an emotional and grateful Amanda. Also pictured is Robb Hicks.

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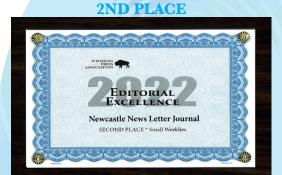


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2022

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Alexis Barker



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Walter Spraque





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January 26, 2023 — 11

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orts News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL Wrestling 1/26/23 VJ Wright Jr/Sr HS

1/27-28/23	٧J	Belle Fourche Invite	A NOON			
1/27-28/23	VJ	Ron Thon Invitational	A NOON			
1/31/23	VJ	Triangular @Newell	A 4:30PM			
2/2/23	VJ	Buffalo Dual @Upton @Riverton	H 5PM			
Men's Swimming						

MICH 3 OWIII	mining			
1/27/23	٧J	Gillette Invite	Α	4PM
1/28/23	VJ	Gillette Invite	Α	10AM
2/3-4/23	VJ	3A Conference @Worland	Α	TBA
2/10/23	VJ	Gillette Last Chance	Α	4PM
2/16-27/23	VJ	3A State Championships	Α	10AM
		@Gillette		
		-		

A 4PM

V9 Glenrock HS

1/28/23	٧9	Wheatland HS	Н	1PM
2/3/23	V9	Rawlins HS	Α	2:30PM
2/7/23	V9	Lead HS	Н	4PM
2/10/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	Α	1PM
2/11/23	V9	Glenrock HS	Н	11AM
Men's Bask	etball			
1/27/23	V9	Glenrock HS	Α	4PM
1/28/23	V9	Wheatland HS	Н	1PM
2/3/23	V9	Rawlins HS	Α	2:30PM
2/7/23	V9	Lead HS	Н	4PM
2/10/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	Α	1PM
2/11/23	V9	Glenrock HS	Н	11AM

Cycle of confidence

This week, as I interviewed coaches, I heard a lot of references to confidence. I wrote in an earlier column this year that confidence is key in achieving success, however, as head boys basketball coach Allen Von Eye pointed out during our interview, you can't just be confi-



Karpe Dogie

dent. It's not something you are, nor is it something that meone can give you.

So that begs the question: how do you get it?

When I think of schools

who have a tradition of producing strong, winning sports programs like Lander in swimming and Douglas and Buffalo in basketball, I often wonder how they continue to dominate year after year.

What are they doing differently in their programs that they consistently crank out athletes who excel?

Is it just because they are bigger schools with more athletes to choose from, or do their coaches somehow possess the million dollar secret of how to elevate their players to the next level?

Do they have feeder programs that all the parents of the youth in

- See **Karpe**, Page 13

Swimmers qualify at home

Sonja Karp

NLJ Sports Editor

The Dogie swimmers were able to compete at home last week as they hosted a triangular with Douglas and Buffalo on Thursday, then a dual against Douglas on Friday. Head coach Doug Scribner's crew took advantage of their home pool advantage to not only hand two more back-to-back defeats to the Bearcats, but also to improve their times in all but one race.

"The challenge for the week was to either swim something new or improve in a race they've already done," Scribner began. "Thursday was a great meet for everyone. Andrew [Hicks] probably would have improved in the 100 Freestyle, but had an issue with his goggles, which caused him to stop for a second or two, so we should see an improvement in his race the next time he swims it."

The biggest improvement came from Archer Ohnstad, who dropped an astounding 27.37 seconds in the 200 Freestyle on Thursday. He finished in 2:14.57 and is now within 3 seconds of qualifying in that event. In addition, Ohnstad also shaved off 5.48 seconds in the 100 Breaststroke to establish a new personal record in that event.

"Archer is just a freshman so he is starting to learn what he is capable of doing, and it shows," Scribner said. "We saw that same thing with Harrison [Gross] in the 500 Free. He gained some confidence when he swam it in Douglas, so then he knew

- See **Swimmers**, Page 12



Samuel Scribner qualified for the state meet in the 50 Freestyle on Friday, and is close to adding the breaststroke to his state slate as well.

Grapplers finish a busy, brutal week

Sonja Karp

NLJ Sports Editor

The Newcastle/Upton wrestling crew had a brutal week of competition last week as they opened things up with a quad against Douglas, Wheatland and Torrington in the Dogie Dome on Tuesday, then traveled to Moorcroft for a triangular on Thursday, and then back again on Friday and Saturday for an invitational.

Head coach Lee McCoy was pleased with his team's performance over the four Dogies/Bobcats came up short in duals — owing to the fact that they gave up four open weight class forfeits — when it came down to it, the team won most of their matches against their opponents.

"Against Douglas [on Tuesday], of the varsity matches that were wrestled, the Bearcats only won two," McCoy began. "Usually, we're on the other end of that against Douglas. It's been quite awhile since we've done that well against them,

days of wrestling. Though the and it felt pretty good to take it to them like that."

Haven Vrana, in the 106pound weight class, made quick work of his opponent, pinning him in just 8 seconds.

Kyah Miller wrestled an exhibition match against their JV 126-pounder and pinned him as well.

"That was a tough match for her and just what she needed," McCoy reported. "It gave her better competition and she had to wrestle hard and do things right to win the match — and she did just that."

Casey Matthews (132) also did well against his opponent, getting the pin in 2:20.

"Casey is a little unorthodox in some of the things he does," McCoy explained. "But he's been working on keeping his intensity up, while staying in control, and that paid off for him on Tuesday night."

Despite winning all but two matches, the Bearcats took the dual by a score of 46-31.

The next dual on Tuesday ended in a tight 35-36 loss against Wheatland where the Dogies/Bobcats gave up three weight classes in forfeits.

"We also lost a couple of matches that we probably shouldn't have, and that was probably the difference in the match," McCoy admitted. "But we also had some pretty quality wins, so that was good to see."

According to McCoy, Vrana, Jackson East (120), Trey Schneider (126) and Matthews all had quality wins over their opponents.

In the final contest of the

- See **Wrestling**, Page 12





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Wrestling from Page 11.....

night against Torrington, McCoy's suffered an injury to his temple in a strange turn of events, and though he wasn't concussed, he wasn't able by putting her head down." to continue his match so lost by a medical forfeit.

"It was a weird blow to the temple area that short circuited him for a little bit," McCoy explained. "I think that it also rattled our guys a little bit, because we didn't wrestle nearly as well against Torrington as we had against Douglas and Wheatland."

Only East, Schneider, Jacob Prell (182) and Heath Henkle (285) were able to pick up wins against the Torrington Trailblazers.

"Any time we're giving up four or five weights, we're not going to win many duals," McCoy said. "I was proud of the kids, though, because they wrestled well, and we count those duals as wins, even if they aren't on paper."

On Thursday, the Dogies/Bobcats traveled to Moorcroft for a quad there. The team was scheduled to wrestle Wright as one of their duals, however, since McCoy's squad is scheduled to take on Wright this week, he opted out of that one given how much competition there was still to come in the week. As such, Newcastle/Upton took on Moorcroft and Shoshoni only on Thursday.

Moorcroft was up first, and although the Dogies/Bobcats wrestled the Wolves pretty tough, they took another loss against them, 17-54.

Landon Norman (113), East and Prell were the only wrestlers to win in the dual, and each did so by sticking their opponent.

Miller took her first loss of the season against the top ranked girl in the state at 120 pounds. "Rebekah [Anderson] had dropped down to 115, but we talked them into having her

wrestle up so she could go against team lost 30-42. Unfortunately, Vrana Kyah," McCoy explained. "Kyah was kicking her butt for about 5:45 seconds, but then she made a mistake

> Anderson took advantage of the mistake and put Miller on her back for the pin. At that point, Miller had been up 12-2.

"It wasn't a loss she wanted to take, but at the same time, it was a great learning opportunity for her," McCoy said. "Not that we want anyone to lose, but we really did kind of want her to get beat, because it takes some of the pressure off of her, and also gives her something to work toward."

The team had their way with Shoshoni in the second dual of the night, winning 30-40 despite giving up four forfeits due to open weight classes.

"There were a couple of kids out of the line-up, but their 220-pounder was pretty tough," McCoy explained. "He bumped up to wrestle Heath, and he got the better of him, but other than that, we were pretty dominant."

Norman, East, Matthews and Thomas Prell (138) all picked up wins by pinning their opponents while Jacob Prell won by major decision.

The Dogies/Bobcats turned around and went back to Moorcroft on Friday and Saturday for a big tournament with teams from Wyoming, North Dakota and Montana. Newcastle/Upton finished 11th out of 25 teams, scoring 82.5 points.

A lot of competition and big brackets meant that McCoy's squad had their work cut out for them through the two days of wrestling.

"They had to win a lot of matches to get into the top of the bracket," McCoy said. "As coaches, we were super happy because we beat some kids who we are not supposed to beat on paper. I don't remember how long it's



Photo courtesy of Robert Miller

Kyah Miller is the first Dogie to win the belt buckle at the Dylan Humes Memorial Tournament in Moorcroft. The unique award is given only to champions, and Miller claimed that title at 120 pounds in the girls' division last weekend.



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Casey Matthews, wrestling in the 132-pound weight class, was in for a battle against his Bulldog opponent last Tuesday. Matthews was able to prevail in the match, however the Dogies/Bobcats lost to Wheatland 35-36 in the dual.

been that we've gone to a tournament of that quality and come away with seven placers.'

Miller won her bracket at 120 and so was awarded the belt buckle, which is a unique trophy that Moorcroft awards at the Dylan Humes Tournament.

"That was pretty special," McCoy said. "Since they've been handing out belt buckles, Kyah is the first kid we've had to win one, so that was awesome."

At 106, Vrana went 4-2 earning fourth place, Norman (113) finished third with a record of 4-1, East was sixth at 120 going 3-3 on the day, Scott Larson (126) was also sixth with a record of 4-3, Schneider (126) finished fifth going 4-2, and Jacob Prell was sixth at 182 finishing with a record of 3-3.

"Landon beat a lot of tough kids to finish third, and several were seeded over him," McCoy began. "The kid he beat to take third was an overtime win, so he had to fight hard to tie it up at the last second in regulation, and then took the kid down in overtime so that was also a special win."

"At 126 it was pretty cool that Trey and Scott met again for fifth and sixth," McCoy continued. "It was a close match, where Trey ended up on the winning side, but both kids had great tournaments to get to that match."

This week will be busy again for the Dogies/Bobcats, but not as brutal as

The squad will wrestle the Panthers in Wright on Thursday beginning at 5 p.m. then will head to Belle Fourche on Friday and Saturday for another tough, multi-state tournament there.

NHS/UHS Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Newcastle/Upton Quad

Newcastle/Upton v Douglas 31-46 106: Haven Vrana W by Fall :08 113: Landon Norman W by MD 10-2 120: Jackson East W by 126: Trey Schneider W by Decision 4-0

132: Casey Matthews W by Fall 2:20 138: Thomas Prell MD 1-10 145: Open Forfeit 152: Open Forfeit 160: Open Forfeit

170: Open Forfeit 182: Jacob Prell W by 195: Open Forfeit 220: Open Forfeit 285: Heath Henkle L by Fall 1:17

Newcastle/Upton v. Wheatland 35-36 106: Haven Vrana W by Tech Fall 22-3 4:23 113: Landon Norman W by Fall :35 120: Jackson East W by Fall 1:18 126: Trey Schneider W by Fall 1:55 132: Casey Matthews W by Fall 3:56

138: Thomas Prell L by Fall 5:12 145: Open Forfeit 152: Open Forfeit 160: Double Forfeit 170: Open Forfeit Fall 1:14 195: Nathan White I h Fall :47

Fall 2:26 Newcastle/Upton v Torrington 30-42

106: Haven Vrana L by

220: Double Forfeit

285: Heath Henkle L by

Medical Forfeit 113: Landon Norman L by Fall 2:26 120: Jackson East W by Forfeit

126: Trey Schneider W by Fall 5:40 132: Casey Matt 138: Thomas Prell L by Fall 1:34 145: Open Forfeit 152: Open Forfeit 160: Double Forfeit 170: Open Forfeit 182: Jacob Prell W by

195: Nathan White W by Forfeit 220: Double Forfeit 285: Heath Henkle W by Fall:26

Newcastle/Upton @

Fall 1:54

Moorcroft Triangular 1/19/23 Shoshoni 40-30 106: Caden Vrana L by Fall 2:33 113: Landon No by Fall 5:18 120: Jackson East W by Fall 1:11 126: Trey Schneider W 132: Casev Matthews W by Fall 3:30

Fall 1:31 145: Double Forfeit 152: Open Forfeit 160: Open Forfeit 170: Open Forfeit 182: Jacob Prell W by MD 8-0 195: Open Forfeit

Fall 1:56 Newcastle/Upton v Moorcroft 17-54 106: Haven Vrana L b SV-1 9-11

120: Jackson East W by

by Fall 1:36

126: Trey Schneider L by 132: Casey Matt by Fall 1:16 138: Thomas Prell L by Fall 2:14 145: Open Forfeit 152: Open Forfeit 160: Open Forfeit 170: Braden Hill L by 182: Jacob Prell W by

Fall 1:33 195: Open Forfeit 220: Double Forfeit 285: Heath Henkle L by Fall 1:36 Newcastle/Upton @

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14. Buffalo 55 15. Wheatland 51 16. Poplar 51 17. Circle 47 18. Wright 43 19. Shoshoni 38 20. Forsyth 36 21. Baker 29.5 22. Broadus 26 23. Wolf Point 17

24. Rocky Mountain 12

25. Hulett 10.5

Place 4-1

13. Tongue River 66

Individual Results: 106: Charlie Bowles **DNP 2-2** 106: Caden Vrana DNP 0-2 106: Haven Vrana 4th 113: Landon Norman W Place 4-2 113: Landon No

120: Jackson East 6th Place 3-3 126: Scott Larson 6th Place 4-3 126: Trey Schneider 5th Place 4-2 132: Casey Matthews NDP 2-2 138: Thomas Prell DNP 1-2 182: Jacob Prell 6th 285: Heath Henkle DNP 1-2 Second Chance Individual Results:

106: Caden Vrana 4th Place 1-1 106: Charlie Bowles 1st Place 1-0 132: Casey Matthews 4th Place 2-0 138: Thomas Prell 4th Place 0-2 285: Heath Henkle

DNP 1-0

Girls Team Scores: 1. Kelly Walsh 116 2. Baker-Plevna 114 3. Sheridan 107 4. Glenrock 80 5. Thunder Basin 85 6. Shoshoni 60 7. Poplar 54.5 8. Buffalo 49 9. Campbell Co. 39 10. Wolf Point 38 10. Lovell 38 12. Wright 37 13. Moorcroft 36 14. Hulett 32 14. Natrona 32 16. Colstrip 31 17. Newcastle/Upton 23

18. Lusk 15 19. Circle 15 20. Wheatland 14 21. Rocky Mountain 10 22. Hettinger/Scranton 22. Tongue River 0 Individual Results:

110: Courtney Matthews 3rd Place 0-3 120: Kyah Miller 1st Place 3-0

Swimmers

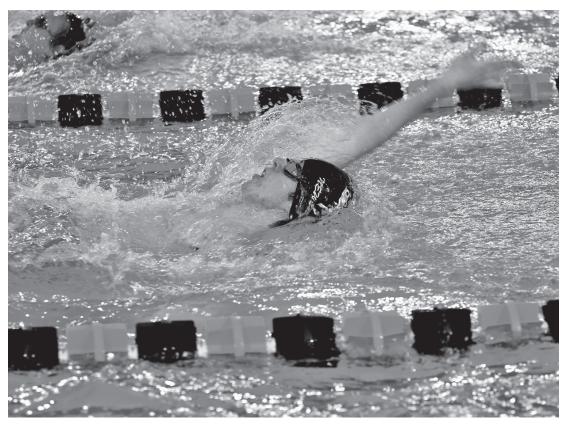


Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Ramsey Gross had a slight advantage over his opponent in the next lane as he raced the

he could do it."

backstroke Thursday.

That confidence proved itself as the freshman finished first and qualified in the grueling race on Friday with a race on Saturday. time of 6:04.31.

Gross also dropped 4.11 seconds in his 200 IM and 4.06 seconds in the 100 Breaststroke out," Scribner said. "His on Thursday.

Samuel Scribner was the other new Dogie to qualify for the state meet on Friday. He did so in the 50 Freestyle, finishing with a time of 25.25, which is

also a personal best for him. Aaron Schantle, who is new

to swimming this year, dropped 1.45 seconds in his backstroke on Thursday then improved another 5.27 seconds in the "Aaron is also under 30

seconds in the 50 Free now, so he is really figuring things stroke is looking a lot better, he is stronger, and he is really improving. He has figured out his dive and so now he just needs to figure out the flip turn and he will really see

improvements." Logan Olson saw a 1.61

second drop in his 100 Backstroke on Thursday while Nate Strickland took 3.19 seconds off his time in the 500 Freestyle on Friday.

improvements last week, it was great to see that happen," coach Scribner said. "This week in Gillette, they will be racing against people who are really close to their times, so they just need to go out and race and there should be more improvements."

"After not having a lot of

There are a couple of swimmers who are close to qualifying



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Aaron Schantle is brand new to swimming, but according to Doug Scribner he is improving leaps and bounds with each week. He posted PRs in backstroke on both Thursday and Friday, and is now under 30 seconds in the 50 Free.

in a couple different events. Ohnstad and Harrison Gross are close in the 200 Freestyle, Scribner is close in the 100 Freestyle and the breaststroke, Strickland is close in the 500 Freestyle and Olson is close in the backstroke. Individual Results:

"We are swimming strong and we are racing and being competitive. Sometimes I think they even surprise themselves with how good they can be," Scribner said, chuckling. "This week will be a good opportunity for the guys to qualify since it's a big meet. They will have more time to rest in between events than they have at smaller competitions, so that should help."

Friday, the Dogies will travel to Gillette for a pre-invitational meet, and the team will return for the larger invitational meet on Saturday.

NHS Men's Swimming

200 Free Relay: 1:50.55

Newcastle @ Newcastle Triangular 1/19/23 Team Results: 1. Buffalo 89 2. Newcastle 54 3. Douglas 27

200 Medley Relay: 2:04.50 2. Logan Olson, Ramsey Gross, Samuel Scribner Nate Strickland 200 Free: 2. Archer Ohnstad 2:14.57

4. Aaron Schantle 2:39.22 200 IM: 2. Harrison Gross 2:37.48 50 Free

4. Ramsey Gross 24.44 3AQ 7. Nate Strickland 26.89 12. Andrew Hicks 29.48

100 Free:

500 Free:

100 Butterfly: 2. Logan Olson 1:17.29 1T. Samuel Scribner 57.81 200 Free 6. Andrew Hicks 1:11.90

1. Andrew Hicks, Aaron Schantle, Harrison Gross 50 Free: Archer Ohnstad 100 Backstroke: 3AQ PR 3. Ramsey Gross 1:04.40 5. Logan Olson 1:10.48 6. Aaron Schantle 1:40.38 100 Butterfly 100 Breaststroke: 100 Free: 4. Samuel Scribner 1:16.75 5. Harrison Gross 1:23.60 500 Free: 7. Archer Ohnstad 1:25.99 3AQ PR 400 Free Relay: 4:26.35 3. Ramsey Gross, Aaron

Harrison Gross Newcastle v. Douglas 1/20/23 63-61 200 Medley Relay DQ. Logan Olson, Nate Strickland, Archer Ohnstad Aaron Schantle

Schantle, Logan Olson,

1. Harrison Gross 2:15.82 2. Andrew Hicks 2:51.20

2. Nate Strickland 6:19.69 1. Ramsey Gross 2:21.19 3AQ 1. Samuel Scribner 25.25 3. Nate Strickland 27.08 6. Logan Olson 39.62 1. Samuel Scribner 1:12.50 1. Logan Olson 1:22.41 DQ. Aaron Schantle 1. Harrison Gross 6:04.31 2. Nate Strickland 6:16.50 3. Archer Ohnstad 6:59.75 200 Free Relay: 1:49.93 1. Ramsev Gross, Samuel Scribner, Logan Olson Harrison Gross 100 Backstroke: 2. Aaron Schantle 1:35.11 100 Breaststroke: 2. Ramsey Gross 1:39.65 400 Free Relay: 4:21.88 2. Andrew Hicks. Samuel Scribner, Archer Ohnstad. Harrison Gross

Newcastle men drop close one to Wolves

Sonja Karp **NLJ Sports Editor**

The Dogies had two big nights of quadrant play Friday and Saturday against Moorcroft and Buffalo, as they started their run for post-Allen Von Eye and his crew were looking for their first win of the season against the Friday, but Moorcroft dashed those hopes by taking the 47-37 victory over Newcastle.

The Dogies rebounded to play their best game of the season against the Bison in they were unable to overcome the Johnson County team, so took their second quadrant loss, 41-71.

"We've never been in a situation like we were against Moorcroft, and our decisionmaking wasn't great coming down the stretch," Von Eye admitted. "Our kids played hard again, but they were hesitant in a lot of phases of the game, which is to be expected given we haven't been there yet this season."

The contest against Moorcroft was a tight one throughout most of the 32

NHS Men's Basketball

Newcastle v. Moorcroft 1/20/23: 37-47 Quint Perino: 10 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist. 4 steals Zander White: 8 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals, 1 block Wyatt Cole: 5 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist 2 steals, 1 block

JJ Lipp: 1 rebound Will Beastrom: 6 points, 9 rebounds, 1 Thatcher Troftgruben: 1 point, 3 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steal

Newcastle @ Buffalo 1/21/23: 41-71 Quint Perino: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 3

Pate Tavegie: 7 points, 3 rebounds

Zander White: 12 points, 1 rebound, 1 Wyatt Cole: 14 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists 2 steals

Will Beastrom: 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 Thatcher Troftgruben: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 1 charge taken Pate Tavegie: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1

JJ Lipp: 1 point, 4 rebounds, 2 assists

speaking, Moorcroft ended season seeding. Head coach the night connecting on four from beyond the arc, while Newcastle drained three. The Dogies struck first in the Wolves in the Dogie Dome on contest, however, the Wolves held a 12-8 lead at the end of the first quarter, then outscored Newcastle by one in the second to take a five-point lead

into the locker room. By the end of the third Buffalo on Saturday, however, quarter the Wolves and the Dogies were knotted up 29-29, but unfortunately, down the stretch the Dogies tightened up and struggled to score in the fourth quarter, allowing Moorcroft to out-score them 18-8 to take the 47-37 win when the final buzzer sounded.

minutes of play. The teams

traded the lead six times and

tied things up twice, with turn-

overs and shooting percentages

were close. Though neither team is much of a threat from

three-point land, statistically

"We didn't see the grit or the finish that we wanted out of them," Von Eye said, with a sigh. "If we would have played Friday the way we played on Saturday, it would have been a whole different ball game, and we would have come away with a W pretty easily. That's part of the growing process though. We just have to learn how to play hard and play smart when it's a tight ball game."

Quint Perino led his team with 10 points, Zander White had 8, Pate Tavegie had 7 points which included two shots from beyond the arc, Will Beastrom scored 6 points, Wyatt Cole had 5 and Thatcher Troftgruben chipped in 1 point.

"One of the issues we had on Friday is that we didn't have a perimeter presence," Von Eye began. "We shoot the ball well in practice, but we just don't really shoot much from outside in a game. So we talked about that after the game, and I think it finally set in for Buffalo."

On Saturday, aside from the first quarter where the Bison



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Pate Tavegie had a breakout game for the Dogies in their loss to Moorcroft last Friday. He was perfect on the night hitting two of his team's three baskets from beyond the arc.

out-scored the Dogies 19-3, 15 points. Newcastle battled with Buffalo in the last three quarters of play. There was only a sixpoint differential in the second quarter and eight points in the third, while in the fourth the two teams both scored

shoot right from the onset in Buffalo. They wanted the ball in their hands and we shot the ball well," said Von Eye. "Buffalo also took care of us. They only pressured us for from previous games, as the

the first quarter and then only 'We saw the guys ready to sporadically after that. But, we did handle the pressure a lot better than we have in the past when they did throw it on us."

> The Dogies' perimeter shooting was much improved

team went 7-17, so shot 41% from the three-point line. Cole had a great night shooting 4-7 from beyond the arc for 57%.

"Wyatt shoots the heck out of it in practice, and he finally showed what he is capable of," Von Eye said. "He was ready, he was confident, and he knocked them down."

The 41 points the Dogies scored was their best offensive performance of the season, which Von Eye attributed to his team attacking the defense and doing a much better job in the half court.

"It was demoralizing for us on Friday to lose to Moorcroft when they are a very beatable team, but for us to bounce back on the road against a very tough team on Saturday was exactly what we wanted to see from our kids," Von Eye said. "They were pretty jacked about how they did on Saturday and were excited to get back to practice. All year long, they've been incredibly receptive. They work hard, and they really want to improve."

Cole led his team in scoring, racking up 14 points on the night. White was also in double figures with 12 points, Troftgruben scored 6, Tavegie 4, Beastrom and Perino each had 2 points and JJ Lipp rounded out the scoring with 1.

This week is another big one for the Dogies as they travel to Glenrock on Friday for their third Northeast Quadrant contest of the season.

"Glenrock is another beatable team," Von Eye declared. "They have beaten Moorcroft twice, both in close contests, so we just have to get ourselves ready and make sure the energy and the focus we had on Saturday transitions to Friday in Glenrock."

Then on Saturday, Newcastle will host Wheatland in a crossquadrant match-up. Varsity tips off at 7 p.m. on Friday and 4 p.m. on Saturday, which is also the annual Pink game for cancer awareness.

Karpe from Page 11

the community funnel their children into so they learn the skills early?

Newcastle has its fair share of talented athletes and talented coaches, and we have club programs for our youth in volleyball, soccer and wrestling. Though it's true that we don't have as high of numbers of students as Lander, Douglas and Buffalo, we do have over 200 in our high school.

But, what we don't have is a tradition of winning state titles.

In our interview, Von Eye stated his opinion that confidence is bred from success, and that success comes through hard work, blood, sweat and tears, and I had to agree with that.

With that in mind then, in order to become confident one must experience success. But, how do you do that if you're not confident?

We are all striving for confidence in life, and as Von Eye also pointed out, the way we measure success is

different for each individual and for each situation.

Therefore, our athletes and sports programs can count showing improvement as a success. For example, the Dogies shot 41% from the three-point line in their game against Buffalo last Saturday, which more than doubled their season average.

That is a huge success for the team, so hopefully it will bolster their confidence when shooting from the perimeter going forward.

One of the Dogie swimmers gained confidence from his experience in swimming the grueling 500 Freestyle race earlier in the season, and relied on it to qualify for the state meet in that event last week.

Von Eye passed along one more pearl of wisdom in our talk, when he said that confidence breeds resilience. When you are resilient, you can

come back and overcome adversity in order to be successful — which then increases your confidence.

It's all a big cycle that once you have it established, it will continue to get stronger. It gives you the fortitude to push harder, work harder, take risks and will make you give everything you have to whatever you endeavor.

Gaining confidence takes time, but it's time well spent.

If you want it

we can get it.

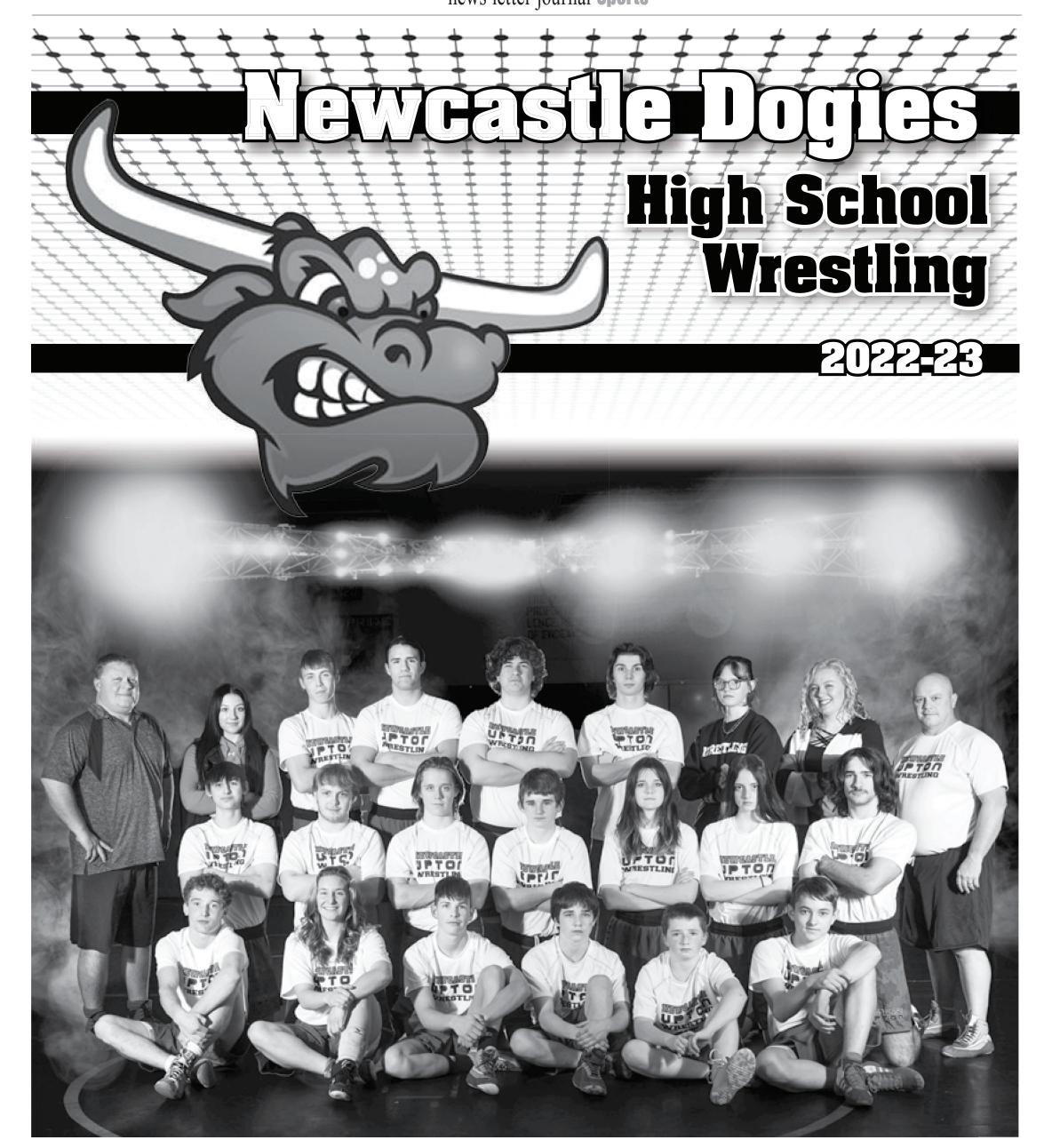
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Front Row: Jackson East, Kyah Miller, Landon Norman, Haven Vrana, Cayden Vrana, and Simon Bau. Middle Row: Alek Hamady, Braden Hill, Casey Matthews, Trey Schneider, Courtney Matthews, Madison Hespe, and Thomas Prell. Back Row: Coach Sean Crabtree, Carmella Malone, Cullen Davis, Jacob Prell, Heath Henkle, Scott Larson, Hannah Stirmel, Lilyawna Barton, and Coach Lee McCoy.

Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography

#GoDogies/Bobcats #HornsUp #Wrestling #JoinTheRide

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our Home Page and Scroll Away! (or search by keyword if you're so inclined (**)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR TAX DEED

Cummings, Rebekah A PO Box 137 Osage, Wyo. 82723

To all owners, possessors or occupants of the real property described as Lots 5, 6 & 7, Block 15, Nefsy Addition Osage, Weston County, Wyoming.

Be advised that; Steven A. Martens purchased the above described property at a tax sale on the 18th day of August 2018 in Newcastle, Wyoming from the Weston County Treasurers and is in possession of certificate of purchase No. 5035. The property was taxed or assessed in the name/names of Cummings Rebekah A.

For the year 2018 at this time there are no special assessments for local or public improvements on this property and the owner cannot be found in Weston County, Wyoming.

In accordance with Wyoming law, the property may be redeemed by the legal owner after the date of sale but before a valid tax deed application has been filed and accepted by the county treasurer. Take note that Steven A. Martens will apply for a tax deed on or after the 27th day of August 2022.

Any persons holding an interests in this property or otherwise interested in application for tax deed may contact the applicant Steven A. Martens 320 Green Mtn. Road Sundance, Wyoming 82729 or contact the Weston County Treasurer, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701. Regarding the petitions intent to apply or a tax deed.

Dated this 9th day of January 2023

Steven A. Martens 320 Green Mtn. Road Sundance, Wyoming 82729

(Publish January 12, 19 and 26, 2023)



DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY

Fun and Games



SUPER BOWL

ACROSS

- 1. COVID tester
- 5. Pep rally syllable 8. To overlay with thin gold coating
- 12. Sky bear 13. Abundant
- 14. Worrier's worry?
- 15. Fishing spot
- 16. Blackhearted 17. Full of coral
- 18. *2023 Super Bowl stadium sponsor
- 20. Research facil. 21. Egg cell
- 22. King Charles to Prince Harry
- 23. Thief's target 26. *2023 Super Bowl Halftime Show star
- 30. Mozart's "L'__ _ del Cairo" 31. Bob Marley's music
- 34. Yarn spinner
- 35. "The Poky Little _
- 37. Skedaddle 38. 18-wheelers
- 39. "Guilty," e.g.
- 40. Fabric inset 42. One of the sibs
- 43. *Super Bowl advertiser's purchase
- 45. Anatolian language
- 48. "There it is," ‡ Paris

- 50. "Hold on!" 52. *Home of the Ravens, for
- both Super Bowl appearances 56. Cuckoo for these puffs!
- 57. Curved molding
- 58. Medicinal plant
- 59. Court orders, e.g.60. Sonny & Cher and Abbott & Costello
- 61. Talk like a drunk 62. Actor Danson and character Lasso
- 63. "Owner of a Lonely Heart" band 64. *Star of the most-watched Super Bowl
- Halftime Show

DOWN

- 1. Paddleboarding acronym
- 2. Court order
- 3. Between ports
- 4. Hungarian composer Bela
- 5. *Either one of the opposing Super Bowl teams
- 6. FlambÈ
- 7. Position of leadership
- 8. *2023 Super Bowl AZ location
- 9. Frosts, as a cake 10. Hit the road
- 11. Like certain humor
- 13. Disprove
- 14. Dickens's Heep 19. Each and all
- 22. One of a set of dice 23. Father, colloquially

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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.

- 24. Round openings 25. Pickled garnish
- 26. *Last year's Super Bowl winners
- 27. Nimbus, pl. 28. Nigerian money
- 29. Torcher's crime
- 32. Elmer's, e.g.
- 33. Found at the pump
- 36. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- 38. Signing tool at the cash register 40. Greenwich-related acronym
- 41. Superior ones
- 44. Itsy-bitsy bits
- 46. Patterned table linen
- 48. Lacking clarity 49. Bread spreads
- 50. Donned 51. As opposed to base in chemistry
- 52. Snatchers' quest
- 53. Cantina pot
- 54. *Overwhelming Super Bowl defeat 55. Fear-inspiring
- 56. 100 lbs.

FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN **NEXT WEEK'S PAPER**

Last week's answers

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3	6	4	1	8	7	2	9	5

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Newcastle City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS **MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023**

Mayor Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Council members Don Steveson, Ann McColley, Tyrel Owens, Tom Voss and John Butts. Also present were Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff, Police Chief Charles Bowles, City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty and City Attorney Dublin Hughes via

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Gualtieri amended the agenda, adding Committee Appointments under Mayor/Council reports. Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tom Voss moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Tuesday, January 3, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Carson Bock for his new business, Wyo Auto Care. CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None CITIZEN'S BUSINESS-IN WRITING:

Apex Mechanical, LLC requested plumbing and electrical license. Contractor's license: Apex Mechanical, Master Plumber: Justin Strong, Journeyman Plumbers: Josh Boyer and James Burton, Master Electrician: Garyn Ketterling, Apprentice Electricians: Adam Baumberger and Colby Bessler. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

Melissa Cade requested sewer forgiveness due a leak under the Outlaw Motor's building. Tom Voss moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve sewer forgiveness in the amount of \$249.32. Discussion was had. MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS-VERBAL:

Fire Chief James Curren was present to report on the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department elections. Chief: James Curren, Assistant Chief: Chris Kenney, Treasurer: Paul Eitel and Secretary: Cory Horn. Ann McColley motioned, seconded Daren Downs to accept the elected positions. MOTION CARRIED.

Fran Goode was present to express her thoughts on the requirement of cement vaults at the cemetery. The Cemetery Committee is scheduled to meet at Noon on January 24, 2023. MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Application for Zoning Amendment to rezone vacant lots, 11, 12, and 13 off Stampede Street and next to Cambria Community Baptist Church, from residential zoning to commercial zoning. After discussion, consensus was that upon preapproval of loan by Jared Foy the council would approve the zoning amendment. A letter will be provided to Mr. Foy. No action was taken, tabled till next meeting.

Councilman Tyrel Owens reported that he was in the City Office when Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty was talking to a concerned citizen regarding no parking on S. Summit Ave. and needing to have parking restored. Discussion was had and a Streets Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Committee will bring recommendations to next meeting.

Councilman Owens reported that he met with Police Chief Bowles and Sheriff Colvard regarding the Chapter 56 Permit. Chief Bowles plans to write up a workplan to present to wildlife biologist Joe Sandrini. Attorney Hughes will draw up a resolution for the Chapter 56 permit.

Mayor Gualtieri appointed Councilmembers to the Standing Committees effective January 17, 2023. Police Committee: Daren Downs, Don Steveson, Ann McColley; Personnel/Finance Committee: Daren Downs, Ann McColley, Don Steveson; Water/Sewer/Fire Committee: Don Steveson, Tyrel Owens, Tom Voss; Streets/Alley/ Building Committee: Daren Downs, John Butts, Tom Voss; Sanitation Community Appearance Committee: Ann McColley, John Butts, Daren Downs: Parks/Cemetery/Recreation Committee: John Butts, Tyrel Owens, Ann McColley; Land Committee: All Council as needed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: Police Chief Charles Bowles reported calls of service with 355 YTD, WC Sheriff 77, PD 93, CSO 25, City Crew 2, Upton PD 38, Upton VFD 2, Upton Ambulance 4, Newcastle VFD 7, WC Fire District 73, Newcastle Ambulance 34. Chief Bowles requested to increase wages for nine employees as well as the starting wage by \$2.00/hr. starting with the next payroll. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

City Attorney Dublin Hughes had no report. City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty reported that the annual audit has been rescheduled for 6:00 p.m. on February 6, 2022.

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff referenced American Engineering Testing's Work Plan and Cost Estimate for 2023 Semi Annual Environmental Monitoring for the anticipated cost of \$18,615.36 - \$23,347.07. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve this estimate. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Stumpff asked Interim Engineer Chuck Bartlett to present resolutions for ARPA funding. Resolution No. 2, 2023 Entitled: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT ARPA GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE for the purpose of water and sewer line replacement on 7th Ave., project total \$862,584.00 with the

City matching 16% and 84% grant amount of \$724,570. Resolution No. 3, 2023 Entitled: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT ARPA GRANT APPLICATION TO THE STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE for the purpose of replacing the sewer main and lift station on Duff Ave., project total \$1,008,858 with the City matching 16% and 84% grant amount of \$1,201,022. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to support these resolutions. MOTION CARRIED. Interim Engineer Chuck Bartlett then stated that all resolutions for the ARPA grants would need to be prioritized for submission. Consensus was that Resolution No. 3- Duff Ave. would be first priority with Resolution No. 2- 7th Ave. would be second and Resolution No. 1 - Heritage park would be third priority. Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff then referenced report, no questions were asked.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None OTHER BUSINESSS: Tyrel Owens reported that he had been made aware of a camper parked on Cheyenne Ave. that is in violation of the Ordinance pertaining to the restricted parking of campers and trailers on City streets. Police Chief Bowles will look into this. Tom Voss noted that he would like to promote the Certificates of Recognition more and possibly start promoting an employee of the month. Interim Engineer Chuck Bartlett stated that the Planning and Zoning board had received an application for appointment from Barry Peterson and they recommend appointing him to the board. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to accept this recommendation. MOTION CARRIED. No other applications had been received

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Referencing personnel W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) and litigation W.S 16-4-405(a)(iii) Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to suspend the rules and go into executive session at 8:02 p.m. MOTION CARRIED. Don Steveson moved, seconded Ann McColley to return to regular session at 10:10 p.m. Motion carried. Don Steveson Moved, seconded Ann McColley to increase the rate of pay for Building Inspector Adam McFarland from \$21.85/hr. to \$24.35/hr. including \$0.50/hr. for certification. Tom Voss noted that his opinion would have been \$25.00-\$25.50/hr. MOTION CARRIED.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to pay the claims against the City dated January 17, 2023. MOTION CARRIED. Don Steveson moved, seconded Ann McColley to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council. Tyrel Owens stated that the issue of hiring a City Administrator/Grant Writer has not been resolved. A Personnel Committee is scheduled for February 1, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m..

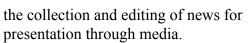
Claims: Ad-Pro, supplies, \$25.54; Alpha Communications, tower rent, \$95.00; American Business Software, website maintenance/annual fees, \$948.95; AT&T Mobility, PD cell service, \$375.37; BCN, long distance service, \$108.03; Bearlodge Engineering, engineering services, \$33,037.50; Black Hills Energy, energy services, \$10,468.62; Bomgaars, supplies, \$677.68; Cambria Supply, supplies, \$632.71; Century Link, E911 services, \$954.81; CNA Surety, FD bond, \$200.00; Culligan, bottled water, \$65.00; Decker's, supplies, \$141.09; Derek's Field Service, repairs, \$3,243.60; Eastern Wyo. Equip. Co., parts/supplies, \$3,328.68; Engineering Associates, engineering services, \$11,998.07; Farnsworth Services, portable sanitation, \$250.00; Ferguson Waterworks, meters, \$25,036.23; Frontier Home Ranch, supplies, \$283.74; Gateway Travel Center, fuel, \$8,809.24; Graphic Design, PD patches, \$510.00; Richard Hillhouse, deposit refund, \$49.83; Luke Hock, deposit refund, \$76.37; Hometown Medical, physical, \$215.00; Hurricane Services. concrete work, \$7,930.00; International Assn. of Chiefs, membership, \$190.00; Cheyenne Kisler, deposit refund, \$98.28; Abelardo Magana, mileage, \$282.85; Marco, copier lease, \$282.85; Mastercard, supplies/PD fuel, \$3,008.17; Tonia Mills, mileage, \$208.75; Motorola, audio accessories, \$362.68; Mountain Plains Audiology, OSHA screening, \$140.00; Mountain View Plumbing, services, \$1,304.00; Newcastle VFD, medical supplies, \$1,309.87; News Letter Journal, supplies/legals/ads, \$2,915.74; Norco, cvlinder rent. \$40.92; Norhtwest Pipe Fittings, \$5,111.80; One Call of Wyoming, CDC Code CON, \$22.50; PowerPhone, maintenance/ training, \$1,164.60; Range, city share PD phone, \$457.61; Range, phone service, \$1,477.58; Rapid Delivery, delivery services, \$98.49; Rick's Electric, services, \$557.25; Genell Rothleutner, cleaning services, \$200.00; Short Stop, fuel, \$2,729.41; David Smith, mileage, \$188.75; Michael Staiger, mileage, \$1,207.50; Summit Plumbing, services, \$335.83; USA Bluebook, supplies, \$3,108.03; Valli, monthly maintenance, \$140.82; Becky Vodopich, cleaning service, \$300.00; WC Health Services, drug screening, \$50.00; WC Road & Bridge, FD fuel, \$201.11; WC Treasurer, youth services/airport expenses, \$2,623.27; Natasha Wheeler, deposit refund, \$98.28; Woody's, supplies, \$82.37; Wy. Dept. Environmental Quality, remediation project, \$105,000.00

Pam Gualtieri, Mayor ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy Haggerty

(Publish January 12, 2023)

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Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Crop production declines

CASPER —Wyoming's crop production fell last year as the state produced the smallest winter wheat harvest since 1944.

Production was also down for barley, sugar beet, dry edible beans, pinto beans and corn for grain.

Drought, a reduction in planting and pests all contributed to the reduced harvests, said Leslee Lohrenz, Wyoming's USDA agricultural statistician.

"I'd guess the main cause is that input costs are higher than usual — and extreme weather," she said.

Rising farm production costs were a major factor for producers in 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. In 2021, total farm input expenses — fuel

(WNE) and oil, livestock, fertilizer increased about \$29.8 billion compared to the year prior.

> Portions of southeast Wyoming — including Laramie, Albany, Goshen, Platte, Converse and Niobrara counties — were all considered to be in extreme drought conditions as of Jan. 10, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

In 2022, the corn for grain crop was 18% below the previous year, the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service said. Wyoming's barley seeded area was down 7,000 acres. Sugar beet production decreased by 10%, dry edible beans decreased by 16% and pinto beans decreased by 14% last year.

Three crops managed to

increase output: hay, winter wheat seedlings and seedlings of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures.

In Wyoming, the intensity of future droughts is projected to worsen, even if precipitation increases, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a 2022 state report. This will likely impact crop production for years to come.

"Increases in evaporation rates due to rising temperatures may increase the rate of soil moisture loss during dry spells. Thus, future summer droughts, a natural part of Wyoming's climate, are likely to become more intense," the report said.

This story was published on Jan. 23, 2023.

WYDOT adjusts snow response

SHERIDAN (WNE) — Back-to-back storms impacting the entire state has caused Wyoming Department of Transportation snow crews to restructure how they approach clearing roads.

WYDOT Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Tom DeHoff told the Wyoming Transportation Commission Thursday maintenance crews are approaching snow removal differently this winter season.

DeHoff said there were several road closures in the past month due to winter conditions, crashes and wind, causing no visibility and drifting. Maintenance crews are shifting resources to where the storms are and attacking storms as soon as they come, enabling roads to open as quickly as possible.

"Several team members have gone to other districts to help fight the storm and stay several nights in hotel rooms away from their families," he said. "This is a little shift in (our plan) and the guys are adjusting well to it, and I just want to commend them on how they're

adjusting to this new way of our trying to attack the storms."

Other staff are gearing up for summer, ensuring maintenance on equipment in preparation for construction projects.

Six snow plows had been hit since the last commission meeting, with 10 having been hit in total so far this season. Fortunately, DeHoff said, nobody was injured but there was damage to the trucks requiring minor repairs. All are back on the road and working.

A total of 62 vacancies remain out of 449 total maintenance positions throughout the state, which is three fewer than the last time DeHoff reported, he said, noting each month the number decreases. He noted raises approved for maintenance crews helped with the hiring of open positions.

For those interested in open positions with WYDOT, see governmentjobs.com/careers/

This story was published on Jan. 20, 2023.

Mental health webinars scheduled

month's rent and deposit or

or keeping safe housing? ERAP

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Housing assistance still is other costs related to obtaining available to previous Emergency Rental Assistance has given funding to local com-Program applicants and those

who never applied. ERAP has set aside \$8.6 million for housing stability services available to ERAP recipients and households that have not previously received funding. That funding is scheduled to be available until June.

Below are the housing stability services that are available.

Need help with the first ized services to support their Jan. 14, 2023.

munity-based organizations that will determine funding on a case-by-case basis. Households needing legal assistance: If facing eviction, visit Legal Aid of Wyoming at

lawyoming.org or call 1-877-432-9955. Seniors and individuals

with disabilities: The Wyoming Department of Health's Aging Division provides specialability to obtain and maintain safe housing.

Survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking: The Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault provides specialized services to support their ability to obtain and maintain safe housing.

For more information, call 1-877-WYOERAP, visit dfs.wvo.gov/erap or email RentalAssistance@wyo.gov.

This story was published on

Don't rescue livestock guardian dogs

ROCK SPRINGS (WNE) — Over the years, livestock guard dogs have become an increasingly popular, and non-lethal, tool in livestock management. Ranchers in Wyoming depend on special breeds to protect their livestock from predators.

But every year across the state, especially during the winter grazing season, a number of these dogs are taken from their security outposts on Bureau of Land Management or national forest lands by those mistaking them for lost or abandoned pets.

"This time of year, many ranchers run their sheep or cattle on winter feed-leases," said Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer Chris Omas.

While most have good intentions as dog lovers who just want to make sure the animals are OK, Omas said removing the dogs for any amount of time threatens not only the livestock but also the canine's welfare.

"Livestock guardian dogs are specifically bred

and trained to protect cattle and sheep," she said. "Removing them from their work assignments, for any amount of time, actually jeopardizes their temperament and training."

In fact, under Wyoming law, "livestock guarding animals" enjoy special legal protections when compared to household pets.

"We just ask people to call first, instead of taking matters into their own hands," sheriff's office spokesperson Jason Mower said. "Don't feed them or pick them up - just make note of their location and call dispatch's non-emergency number so we can get an animal control officer in the area to assess the situation."

"We also want people to know, the animals are well cared for," Omas said. "Ranchers invest a lot of time and money into breeding and training them, and they're an invaluable deterrent for predators on the open range."

This story was published on Jan. 21, 2023.

For more statewide news visit NLJ online at newslj.com and click on the 'statewide' tab



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News Letter Journal PO Box 40 • Newcastle WY 82701 (307) 746-2777 • FAX (307) 746-2660 email: classifieds@newslj.com Send Classifieds via email, in a Word/Text document, call, or drop at the office.

> Cards of Thanks & In Memorium: \$12 up to 50 words; \$20 up to 100 words

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CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT NOON

COMMUNITY TOPS

TOPS meets at three Newcastle locations each week: Tuesday at 4pm at First United Methodist Church, call Joyce Brown at 307-629-1033; Thursday at 8am at WC Senior Center, call JoAnn Dunn at 746-2654; and at 9 am Thursdays at First Baptist Church, call Ellen Butts at 746-4251. All are welcome!

Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County

Are you in need of medical traveling assistance? Contact Glenna at 307-468-2316 or Carol at 746-2298.

Hope Dealers

NA meets at Church on Hill, 6:30-7:30pm, every Tuesday. Shawn at 307-575-6641.

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at WC Senior Center family room, 627 Pine St., Mondays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Contact Stan 746-9199.

Veterans

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

Operation Iraqi Freedom eligible. For assistance, call 307-630-3230.

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Full-Time Special Education Teacher Position

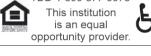
Weston County School District #1 has an opening for a full-time K-12 Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Candidates must hold or be eligible for a Wyoming Teaching Certificate. Applicants should include a letter of interest, resume, letters of reference, and a completed Wyoming Statewide Application to WCSD



1, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY 82701, 307-746-4451. The position will be open until filled. WCSD # 1 is an E.O.E.

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Kitchen Assistant Position

Weston County School District #1 has an opening for a parttime (5 hours a day) kitchen assistant. Starting wage is \$14.21 hr. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY., or on the school website at wcsd1.org. Position will be open until filled. EOE

NOW HIRING Gift Shop Associates

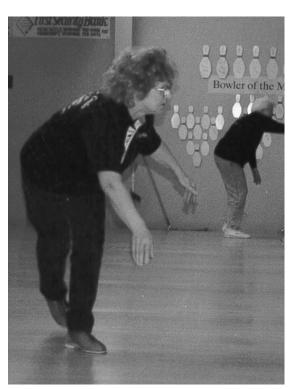
Associates for gift shop, FT and PT. Employee discounts and benefits. EOE.

Apply in person or send resumé to Decker's Floral & Gift, P.O. Box 249, Newcastle, WY 82701



BLAST FROM THE PAST ———









Here are photos from the News Letter Journal's archives. Subjects unknown. Email staff@newslj.com to share any

information about these photos or events.

WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

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

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

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
Position	<u>Status</u>
Registration/Admitting Clerk	FT
CNA, In-Home Services	PT
RN – Long-term CareFT.	/PT/PRN
CNA - LTC (\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus)	FT&PT
Acute Care CNA	FT
Acute Care RN	PT/PRN
Nutrition Support Aide	PT
Dietary Aide	PRN
Environmental Services Aide FT,	PT, PRN

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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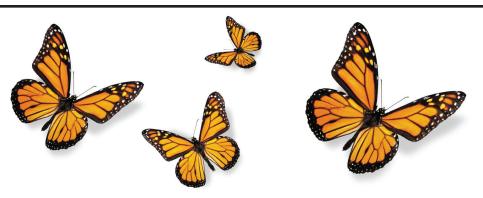
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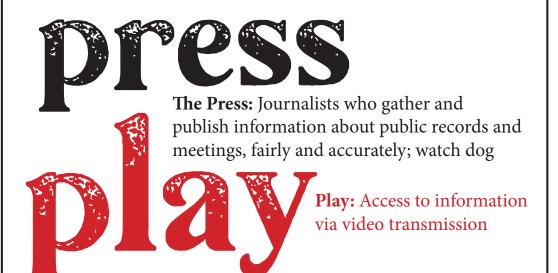
*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) and Interest Rate of Certificate of Deposit (CD) may change after account opening. Fees could reduce earnings on the CD. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Promotional rates made available in special offers are excluded. You may step up your rate one time to the current rate of the equivalent term. Certificate will automatically renew into a fixed rate CD of the equivalent term with the current rate at renewal. The Annual Percentage Yield is current as of December 19, 2022.

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Ladies fall to the Bison

Sonja Karp

NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies opened up 3A Northeast Quadrant play last weekend as they hosted the Lady Wolves of Moorcroft on Friday, then traveled to Buffalo to take on the second-ranked Lady Bison on Saturday.

Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew came away with their seventh win of the season on Friday, defeating Moorcroft 50-22, then picked up their second loss of the season against Buffalo, dropping the game 47-58.

"It was good to be back in the Dome against Moorcroft on Friday. It was a great atmosphere and a great crowd and the kids just love it," said Ostenson, "And then on Saturday, the game was back and forth and I love it when they are tight like that. It was great to have a game like that for the girls, because we need to have those situations to get ready for the post-season. It was good to get the test."

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On Friday, fans were in for a three-point shooting extravaganza from the two teams on the court. Moorcroft came into the contest having taken 256 shots from beyond the arc while Newcastle had put up 168. In the game, the Lady Wolves put up 28 to the Lady Dogies 19 attempts. Despite shooting nine less, Newcastle was successful on six of their shots while Moorcroft only connected on five.

"We shot okay, but I'm hoping we can get into the groove and get used to seeing some more game speed shots so we can get our percentage back up where it should be," Ostenson began. "We have shooters who are capable of lighting it up from out there, so we just need to get into a rhythm so they can do that."

The Lady Dogies led 12-5 at the end of the first quarter, then extended that lead to 29-7 by halftime.

"Our defense looked pretty good," Ostenson continued. of the ball. Neither team pressed a lot, so that contributed, but only having six turnovers by the end of the game is pretty impressive."

In the second half, Newcastle out-scored the Lady Wolves 21-15 to come away with their first quadrant win of the season.

Jaylen Ostenson finished as

NHS Ladies' Basketball Newcastle v. Moorcroft 1/20/23: 50-22

assists, 3 steals Shelby Tidyman: 8 points, 2 rebounds, 1 Hunter McFarland: 12 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 block rebounds, 1 block Oakley Checketts: 3 rebounds, 1 assist Jayde Harrington: 6 points, 14 rebounds, 1

assist 1 steal Hailey Beastrom: 3 rebounds Julie Morris: 1 rebound

Newcastle @ Buffalo 1/21/23: 47-58 Jaylen Ostenson: 18 points, 13 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 3 blocks Shelby Tidyman: 3 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, 1 block Hunter McFarland: 6 points, 7 rebounds. MacKenzie Conzelman: 3 points, 5

rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals Oakley Checketts: 4 points, 1 rebound,

Jayde Harrington: 11 points, 12 rebounds



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Hunter McFarland had one of her shots blocked by a Lady Bison defender Saturday in Buffalo, however, the senior put up two good games over the weekend, scoring 12 points on Friday and 6 points on Saturday.

the team's leading scorer with 16 points. She was followed by Hunter McFarland with 12, Shelby Tidyman with 8, Jayde Harrington with 6 points and 14 rebounds, MacKenzie Conzelman with 5 and Sydney Pederson with 3 points.

On Saturday, the Lady Dogies knew they were in for a battle in the Big Horns, as Buffalo rosters a talented and athletic team.

"They shoot the ball well and they have two pretty solid posts, so they have a good inside-out game," Ostenson pointed out. "They also work their tails off "We also took really good care and you know what you're in for when you play them."

> The game played out as nearly everyone expected, with the two teams exchanging blows throughout the first three quarters. Newcastle trailed 13-15 at the end of the first quarter, but out-scored Buffalo 15-9 in the second to go into the locker room with a fourpoint lead.

The Lady Bison cut the Lady Dogies lead to two by the end of the third quarter, then a four-minute scoring drought by Newcastle gave Buffalo the opportunity to take back the lead and they did so by hitting two of their five threes to stretch out their lead a bit.

In the waning minutes of the contest, Newcastle had to ramp up full-court pressure, which the Bison used to create scoring opportunities when they broke the pressure.

That, combined with Newcastle having to foul, increased Buffalo's margin of victory to 11 by the time the final buzzer sounded.

"It certainly wasn't an 11-point game," Ostenson said. "I think we learned some things that we will do differently next time. We don't win or lose a state tournament in January."

The Lady Dogies ended the contest only shooting 19% from the three-point line and 23% overall, which Ostenson identified as the major reason for the loss.

"We created opportunities to score, but we struggled to finish," he said with a sigh. "If we'd have shot 75% from the free-throw line and even 25% from three, it's a completely different outcome."

Ostenson and Harrington each finished the night posting double-doubles to their stat lines. Ostenson led the team with 18 points and 13 rebounds, while Harrington was second with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

"Javde played an excellent game, getting backside rebounds and putting them back up and then making her free-throws. I told her after the game that it was the best game of her career so far," Ostenson said. "Pretty soon, she will be someone that teams will have to account for as well."

McFarland finished the contest with 6 points, Oakley Checketts scored 4, Tidyman and Conzelman each put in 3 points while Pederson added 2.

The Lady Dogies will play their third quadrant contest this Friday in Glenrock, and then will host Wheatland in the annual Pink game on Saturday.

"This weekend will be another good test for us," said Ostenson. "Hopefully we fill the Dome again, because last Friday was so much fun."

Games start at 4 p.m. on Friday in Glenrock and 1 p.m. on Saturday in the Dome.



