

Commission leaders question tech meeting

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Chairman Ed Wagoner and Vice Chairman Nathan Todd, of the Board of Weston County Commissioners, raised

concerns about an informal meeting attended by the other three commissioners — Vera Huber, Garrett Borton and Don Taylor — with technology professionals the week before the board's regular March 7 meeting.

The meeting, originally to be attended by only Huber and Taylor, was to address issues with the board's Zoom meetings. For some time, the board has had issues with Zoom, described by the company as "a communications

platform that allows users to connect with video, audio, phone, and chat." Problems include meetings being cut off while constituents are watching meetings via Zoom. According to Wagoner, he was

informed about the meeting on the Monday prior but was told that only Huber and Taylor would be attending. He noted that he was comfortable

— See **Tech**, Page 2



Submitted photo

Newcastle's public works personnel worked throughout the night on March 9 into the morning of March 10 to repair a water main break. The break was reported at about 8 p.m. and the water was turned back on by 5:30 a.m. The break did cause a late start for Weston County School District No. 1.

Aging water lines plague city

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Water issues have been plaguing Newcastle for some time, and according to the city's public works supervisor, the most recent water main break resulted in a late

start for schools in Weston County School District No. 1 on Friday, March 10.

The leak leading to the late start on Friday was discovered Thursday night, shortly before 8 p.m., supervisor

— See **Water**, Page 7

Council questions ambulance costs

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

At the end of a presentation representatives of Newcastle's ambulance provider informed the Newcastle City Council that the ambulance service would be requesting an increase of \$10,000 during the upcoming budget session. If the increase is approved, Newcastle would pay \$110,000 for the service in the next fiscal year.

The increase in annual cost, coupled with complaints and concerns

— See **Ambulance**, Page 8

Controversy ensues over voting method

School board hides administrator names when approving contract extensions

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

On March 8, the board of trustees for Weston County School District No. 1 voted to approve contract extensions for six administrators by numbering the contracts instead of specifying the name, title or position of the employees as they went through the annual process of renewing their contracts.

After questions were raised by concerned citizens to the newspaper about the anonymous process, however, the board attached the

names of the administrators to each number in the official meeting minutes.

As has been their customary practice when approving the renewal of contracts in the past, the board began their meeting by convening into an executive session to allow board members to discuss the merits of the six candidates up for renewal. Immediately after reconvening in open session, however, Board Chairman John Riesland said that the names of the administrators

— See **Schools**, Page 7

Winners



Submitted photo

Brooklyn Hoffman shows off the medal she helped her team win as the 307 Soccer team walked away with the championship at the Mesquite tournament in February. She wasn't the only winner in the family, though. Read more about the Hoffman family success on the field on Page 6.

Still on the family homestead

Walter Sprague
Art and Culture Reporter

Chris Russell "Russ" Christensen, a resident of the homestead he was born on in 1930, was inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall

— See **Christensen**, Page 2



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Chris Russel "Russ" Christensen, inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame, says he values family, land, and livestock, and places a great deal of weight on being a man of integrity whose word is his bond.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 31, Lo 19



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 30, Lo 10



Saturday
Sunny
Hi 33, Lo 14



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 39 Lo 22



Monday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 44, Lo 26



Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 44, Lo 29



Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 48, Lo 31



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Search for CEO continues

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The search for a new CEO for Weston County Health Services moved into a new phase last week when the board of trustees created a committee at their March 9 meeting to sort through more than 40 applications that had been received from Indeed.

(According to the Indeed website, they are the “number one job site worldwide” with over 250 unique visitors per month. Indeed is available in more than 60 countries and 28 languages, covering 94% of global GDP.)

The board also elected to pause the ad on Indeed until they have concluded their review of the initial pool of applicants for now.

During the meeting, the board decided that all members would be allowed to see all the

applications that were received, but that a committee consisting of Chairman LeAnn Kenagy, Ann Slagle and Connie James would review and organize the applications and report back to the full board.

During the meeting, trustee Kari Drost predicted that setting the parameters for the CEO position would likely eliminate some applicants.

“Especially the salary,” James agreed.

The board has not yet set a salary or official job description for the position, and Kenagy agreed that once those parameters are set, the field of applicants will likely thin.

Monument Health is currently under a contract to provide a Chief Executive Officer for WCHS. Thomas Worsley, president of the Spearfish Hospital and Hills Market, represented Monument Health at the

February meeting, and officially announced Cadwell’s retirement to the board. It was noted during the March board meeting that the board was also waiting for a new CEO contract from Monument.

Piper Allard, the former chief operating officer at WCHS, continues to serve as the Interim CEO while the search is being conducted. Allard took over as CEO immediately upon former CEO Maureen Cadwell’s retirement on Feb. 6, but will remain an employee of Weston County Health Services. She has been employed there since 2002.

Despite Cadwell’s retirement, she remains a consultant with the facility for use of her long-term care license. During the March meeting Allard noted that she had applied for her own long-term care license and was currently in the background check phase.

Tech

from Page 1

with the meeting at this point, but when Borton joined the gathering it constituted a quorum of commissioners.

“I have concerns about the meeting last week. There were three commissioners in this room. I received an email update on what happened in the meeting, and it appears some decisions were made to get quotes,” Wagoner said. “We are currently in a lawsuit over open meeting law violations.”

The lawsuit referenced by Wagoner was filed against the board by the News Letter Journal, Patricia Bauman, Kari Drost and Raymond Norris, challenging a secret ballot vote used in 2021 to replace former Rep. Hans Hunt. Recently, the lawsuit was amended to include a series of alleged illegal text messages used by the board — Taylor, Wagoner, Todd and two former commissioners Marty Ertman and Tony Barton — to discuss county business and approve spending.

Wagoner expressed the fear that the meeting between the three commissioners and the technology professionals would result in a further amendment to the lawsuit.

“My concern now is that the News Letter Journal legal team is going to file another lawsuit on us for open meeting violations — or are they going to let this one slide because certain commissioners they want to keep dragging their names in the mud weren’t involved?” Wagoner continued. “That is where my concerns are.”

Todd stated that he was unaware of the meeting and was not invited to attend, but he expressed similar concerns, questioning whether or not the board would face additional litigation because of this violation. He stated that the board needs to conduct business by the book and that a workshop or something should have been scheduled to avoid potentially breaching the law.

“Fair enough, but some of the lawsuits are our own fault,” Taylor said in response to the dressing-down from the commission’s leaders. He then explained that he only chose to meet with a technology professional after he had

made multiple requests for the county’s IT providers to appear for a regularly scheduled commissioners meeting.

“I think those are valid concerns that you brought up, but what I will say is, in my point of view, this is something I brought up for some time and asked for it to be looked at. It was requested by constituents,” he continued, noting that he was consistently denied the ability to speak with a tech professional during an open meeting.

On various occasions, Taylor had requested that a tech professional attend a future meeting to discuss the issues, but as previously reported by the News Letter Journal, he was rebuffed by Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock’s claims that she had “addressed the issues” and “done everything possible.”

After acknowledging the concerns raised by Wagoner and Todd over the potential legality of a quorum of commissioners attending the meeting, he stated that the issue could have been avoided if tech professionals had been produced for a regularly scheduled meeting as requested.

He further suggested that the solutions discovered during the tech discussion will ultimately produce greater transparency aid by providing continued public access to the meetings.

Borton also acknowledged and apologized for the potential breach of the state’s open meetings laws, but urged the board to focus moving forward on how they are going to fix the tech issues and ensure Zoom meeting availability. According to Huber, Taylor and Borton, the meeting with tech professionals did reveal several options to potentially fix the frequent issues that have made the online meeting option unreliable for constituents.

“I think this is a good start,” Todd admitted, referring to the information gathered during the tech discussion that involved the three other commissioners.

“One thing I do know, we spent an awful lot of time talking about Zooming and not other county issues,” Todd said.

Christensen

from Page 1

of Fame in 2021. Except for the years he served as a medic in the army during the Korean War, he has lived his entire life on the homestead his father acquired in 1910.

“The house I was born in is still there, about 150 feet from where I live now,” Christensen said. “In fact, the iron bedstead I was born in is still in that house.”

Growing up as far out of town as he did, along the Cheyenne River, he rode his horse to school. Christensen said that the schoolhouse changed locations often, sometimes every year. Some years he rode three or four miles to get there. But then, the following year, it might be within walking distance.

“I remember walking through snow, sometimes, along tracks in snow piled up higher than I was,” he remembered. “It seems odd to know that kids today will ride the bus just a few blocks to school now.”

Christensen met his wife, Ruth, while serving in the U.S. Army. A native of New Jersey, she came out west, where she and Russ raised three sons, Mike, Tom, and Bill. Christensen raised cattle, sheep and Appaloosa horses for years. He still runs a cow-calf operation, according to wyomingcowboyhalloffame.org.

“Since we lived so far out

“ I remember walking through snow, sometimes, along tracks in snow piled up higher than I was. It seems odd to know that kids today will ride the bus just a few blocks to school now.”

— Russ Christensen

of town,” he said, “You had to learn how to make do with what you had. You couldn’t just go to town and fix something.

His son, Bill, said that this was something his father passed on. Often with seven children in tow in a stock truck or on horseback, he taught his kids, nephews, and nieces the value of hard work and ingenuity. But he passed on much more.

“Dad has probably forgotten more about cows, sheep and horses than most people will ever know,” Bill said.

Bill says this “make do with what you got” attitude has helped his father stay on the farmstead for his 93 years. But he also stated that there is more to this cowboy than that.

“Keep your nose clean,” Bill said of other values taught by

the elder Christensen. “Keep your word and don’t lie. Those are the matters he passes on to anyone he is around. He also (is) a very loyal man.”

Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns, whose family has been friends with the Christensens for three generations, corroborates that information.

“Integrity has always been the way of life for the Christensen family,” Stearns said. “When Russ looks you in the eye, you know you have his word. And his word would always be kept. Instead of all these papers, you must sign in quadruplicate,” she said somewhat sarcastically. “Russ would give you a handshake, and you knew it was a done deal.”

The Christensen family helped the Sedgwick family move into the area in the early 1900s. Stearns’ dad, who was a little boy at the time, told her that it was 30 below zero when the Christensens picked up her family in Edgemont, South Dakota. They brought them out to just north of Mule Creek Junction by wagon.

“That’s how the whole family was,” Stearns said, “You know they would always help you out when they could. And if they said they would do something, it got done.”

She said Christensen was no different. To this day, his word is his bond.

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Our View

The public has already won

Over the past quarter-century the News Letter Journal has published dozens of stories and editorials about open meeting and public record violations.

We've only filed one lawsuit. But the leaders of the county commission against whom we filed that suit have now challenged us publicly to also file a lawsuit against their three fellow commissioners because they believe that another violation of the open meeting law has taken place — and this time they weren't a part of it.

It just so happens that the challenge from Weston County Commission Chairman Ed Wagoner and Vice-Chair Nathan Todd coincides with an entirely separate and unrelated action by the Weston County School District #1 Board of Trustees that also raised questions about compliance with Wyoming's transparency laws last week.

So we welcome this opportunity to provide our perspective on the stories you read on page 1 of this week's edition.

Let us be clear, in both cases, we believe the elected officials in question were wrong...

But we are satisfied that no lawsuit will be necessary because those elected officials immediately remedied the situation by making all of the information in question public and available.

It is important to know that the primary remedy in law for an open meeting or public records violation is to make the hidden information public as soon as possible. In both instances last week where a board or group of board members acted counter to the intent and purpose of the open meeting law, they responded by making the information that had been shared outside of a meeting (or concealed during a meeting) available to the press and public almost immediately.

In the case of the unannounced quorum of commissioners being in attendance for a meeting with some

IT people, we even received a public apology from the commissioners in question and a promise to avoid such a situation in the future. That's a far cry from the "we do not regret this decision" declaration made by Commissioners Todd and Wagoner through a statement read publicly by then-Commission Chair Marty Ertman on November 1, 2022. That statement was made a full year after the use of a secret ballot which eventually led to the lawsuit they are referring to (see "Statement issued on secret vote," November 10, 2022 NLJ, page 1).

We would also note that 2 of the 3 commissioners in attendance at the recent IT meeting, including the late arrival, have only been serving as elected officials for 2 months at the time of this incident. We do acknowledge that mistakes happen and some confusion about the laws could exist for brand-new board members. That is why it is so important that they acknowledged their mistake publicly, discussed the situation publicly, and made all of the information discussed in the meeting available to the public immediately upon request.

That is also why the News Letter Journal will not be filing any lawsuits over actions of local board members as told in our page one stories, "Commission leaders question tech meeting" and "Controversy ensues over voting method."

For the commissioners who seem to be confused over the nature of the lawsuit the News Letter Journal (and our co-plaintiffs) have pursued — and who seem determined to confuse the public about the suit as well — we think it is important to point out that the lawsuit wasn't filed until months after the secret ballot was used. The decision to take legal action was only made after multiple requests for the information in question had been ignored or denied, and after the commissioners refused to even discuss the decision to use a secret ballot in public. They

have since refused to even allow the public to comment on the decision in open meeting.

We would also remind those commissioners that any citizen is free to file a lawsuit against Commissioners Taylor, Borton and Huber if they would like - including Commissioner Wagoner and Todd. If they truly believe it will produce a better result for the people of Weston County than the discussion at the last meeting did, then we would certainly encourage them to file that suit themselves. (We would also remind them that Wyoming taxpayers won't be paying for their representation this time if they choose to do so.)

We are, however, encouraged to note that Commissioners Wagoner and Todd no longer appear to think that "potential litigation" is justification for an executive session, since they decided to accuse the newer members of their board of that crime in more than one public meeting in the past week. After avoiding public discussions about their own potential violation of the law by declaring "potential litigation" as a reason for going into executive session on a regular basis for a year and a half, it is a relief to see the leaders of the Weston County Commissioners set this bold precedent. They have clearly demonstrated that they will not be going into executive session to discuss "potential litigation" any more.

We trust that the new commissioners will help them remember that precedent.

(Ed. Note: As always we invite anybody who would like to witness these conversations to go to the News Letter Journal's YouTube page and view the videos of the county commission meetings that are made available to you there. You can also learn more about this topic by listening to the first episode of our Top of Main podcast at <http://www.newsly.com/podcasts> or on Spotify.)

POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION:
 Should the names and salaries of public employees be public information?

- Yes
- No

Go to newsly.com to vote!
 Look for results in next week's News Letter Journal.

RESULTS:
 Grade the Wyoming Legislature...

- F.....36% (5 votes)
- D.....29% (4 votes)
- C.....21% (3 votes)
- B.....7% (1 votes)
- A.....7% (1 votes)

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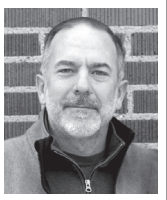
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WHAT

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WHY

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

A nickname for Wyoming folks avoiding progressive trends

Almost two-thirds of Wyoming residents fit into a stereotype that I call "common sense Republicans." These are folks who seem to be getting hammered for just wanting things to be more normal.

"Common sense Republicans" is a nickname for folks who are anti-abortion, anti-gender-bending, anti-boys competing against girls, anti-pornographic books in our schools, anti-global warming hysteria, and who are upset about this new emphasis on how bad America is rather than how good it is.

Issues like the Jan. 6 Capitol riot and even Liz Cheney's ill-fated campaign last August also come under this description. Let's discuss them:

Progressive WyoFile columnist Kerry Drake wrote about transgenderism issues in his column recently.

He quoted a UCLA study that estimated there are 200 transgender students, aged 14-17, and 2,100 total transgender people in the state. This compares to 94,000 total school students and a state population of 585,000.

These common sense Republicans wonder why are so many people even spending time talking about this? This

seems like way too much attention for a tiny minority.

Common sense Republicans recoil at the thought of experimental transgender drugs and procedures being used on young people. Common sense tells you that this is crazy.

Most common sense Republicans do not believe it is their mission to convince trans-genders to change their life style or beliefs. Common sense Republicans just don't want it flagrantly displayed just like they don't want to see overt displays of affection by heterosexual teens and adults.

Today, you can legally kill a baby as long as it is safely in the womb. If you wait until after it is born and then you kill it, you go to prison. This is crazy logic.

Women should have rights over their bodies, of course, but does not that child with its active little brain and its beating heart have any rights? Look at that child with your eyes. A common sense Republican sees that baby as a real human, not some kind of medical procedure that can be sloughed off and tossed into a medical dumpster.

Is it really time to ban books? I never thought I

would ever write this. As a journalist we defend printing and publishing everything, right? Wrong.

Common sense Republicans wonder who in their right mind would want little kids to be exposed to explicit sex acts portrayed in these pornographic books being promoted as health books in some of our libraries?

Common sense Republicans delivered one of the biggest defeats of an incumbent in American history last August because our U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney did something that did not make sense during a non-scandal campaign.

Despite that she came from a famous Wyoming political family, and had served for three terms, she found out what happens when you defy common sense. When she turned her entire Congressional effort seemingly to punish former President Donald Trump, she was, in turn, punished by common sense Republicans back here in Wyoming where Trump's policies had been well received.

Just about all of Wyoming's voters did not support Liz when she said she went after Trump on principle. They wondered why 230 of her Republican House colleagues did not share her view and neither did 45 Republican senators. She defied common

sense and was slaughtered at the Wyoming polls. Had not 25,000 Democrats and Independents crossed over, she might have gotten less than 24,000 votes by real Republicans in that election. Common sense Republicans could not be swayed by the record-\$5 million she spent on her reelection campaign.

Common sense Republicans were appalled at the riot at the nation's capitol Jan. 6. But they also realized that out of thousands of peaceful protesters, just a tiny percentage of them crashed the capitol building.

Common sense folks wonder why a few under-trained and out-manned tour guides/capitol police were asked to hold back that crowd?

No common sense Republicans are cheering for what happened that day. It was a very dark day in American history. I have friends who even equate it to 9-11.

Shortly after that event, new president Joe Biden had 25,000 national guardsmen stationed there to protect him during his inauguration.

Common sense Republicans are baffled by how climate change international politics are being negotiated.

Woke government officials under President Biden want to close all Wyoming's coal-fired power plants while ignoring facts that countries like China

and India are building new coal-fired plants as fast as they can.

India has 179 coal-fired plants with no plans to retire any of them until 2030. China consumes six times as much coal as the USA and plans on increasing that total. It defies logic to assume that there must be a different sky over those countries than what is over ours.

Common sense folks are appalled when they see young couples choosing to not have children because of their belief the world is going to end because of climate change.

This world disaster scenario has been taught with religious zeal to our school children for generations and these fearful actions are the result. Common sense folks scratch their heads because they look for evidence of an impending Armageddon and it is hard to find.

These are just a few of the reasons why a majority of Wyoming people can be called common sense Republicans.

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.

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ORAL HISTORY PRESENTATION

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How to make a simple pan sauce

Have you ever thought about how your mom or grandma used to cook for you? Remember those comfort foods with a cream-of-mushroom soup base or loaded with gravy? It is safe to say we do not cook like this nearly as often any more. Many people have learned to cook more simply, healthily, and quickly.

With these simple recipes, I think we have lost the ability to make a sauce. I do not mean a gloppy, heavy concoction that is slathered all over everything on your plate. I'm talking about a perfect spoonful or two of flavorful liquid to enhance simply prepared foods.

Adding more flavor to your dinner sounds great if you are like me. True pan sauces are simply a reduction of liquids, flavorings (aromatics like shallots and herbs), and enrichments (such as butter or cream) to give the sauce wonderful flavor and add a little body. Making a pan sauce is much simpler than you think, so follow along to learn how.

• Sauté

The first step to a good sauce is using a stainless steel or cast iron pan for cooking the main portion of your meal. You could use chicken, steak, pork, fish, tofu, cauliflower steak, or even a skillet full of diced veggies. Whatever you choose, cook it until it is nicely browned and some brown food bits (caramelized sugars) are stuck in the pan.

Set sautéed food aside. After the food of choice has been browned nicely, set it aside on a separate plate to rest. Pour off excess fat from the pan, leaving just a thin coating. Too much fat left behind will make the sauce greasy. Now that the pan is empty, notice what is left. The stuff in the bottom, called fond, is culinary gold. The fond should be a

nice brown color. If it turns black, you should reconsider making a pan sauce as it may taste burnt.

• Deglaze

Deglazing the pan is when you add a liquid and heat it with your fond to get all those delicious bits off of the bottom of the pan. You could use water for this step, but why do that when you can use something that will make your sauce more flavorful? My recommendations are stock, juice, wine, beer, or liquor. Use enough liquid to fill the pan about one-quarter of an inch. As the liquid heats, use a spatula to lightly scrape the fond.

As the fond releases, it will give delicious deep, rich flavors to the liquid, enhancing the sauce. With just a minute or two of scraping, the bottom of the pan should be fond-free, rendering it easy to clean.

• Cook the liquid down

Next, cook the liquid down to concentrate the flavor. You will want to do this until the liquid is about one-eighth-inch deep in the pan or reduced by half. Remember, we are making a simple sauce perfect for adding just a tablespoon or two to your dish.

• Finish with butter

Do not freak out, it is not much butter. A small amount does some wonderful things to the sauce. Fat is a flavor carrier, so a small amount of butter will enhance the flavor of the sauce. The butter will also thicken the sauce slightly and give it a smoother mouthfeel.

• Season and serve

Add salt and pepper to your taste. Lastly, spoon the sauce over your sautéed

food, and serve. You did it! You made a pan sauce that is perfect for adding to any meal!

To enhance that basic idea, but only if you are so inclined:

After the initial sauté and remove your browned food from the pan, add some aromatics and sauté them until soft. Aromatics, like garlic, onions, shallots, and ginger, provide a great base flavor for the sauce. Then proceed with adding the liquid.

Add spices and sturdier herbs like rosemary and thyme along with the aromatics. Add more delicate herbs like cilantro and chives right after the butter.

Replace the butter with a different creamy ingredient. Try cream, crème fraîche, goat cheese, or blue cheese. (But avoid pre-crumbled cheese because it might not melt like not pre-crumbled.)

Being able to whip up a pan sauce is a skill that can take weeknight cooking to a new level, make holiday dinners memorable, and even salvage a piece of meat cooked a little past the ideal temperature.

Sources: *epicurious.com; foodandwine.com; foodnetwork.com; jillthough.com.*



Vicki Hayman
 Extension Notes



Enjoying the sunshine

James and Michael Lane take advantage of the beautiful day and 51 degree weather on Tuesday to walk their dogs, Willow (black lab) and Beasley (Australian Shepherd).

Photo by Kim Dean/NLJ



faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| March 17
Judges 11-13 | March 21
Ruth 1-4 |
| March 18
Judges 14-16 | March 22
1 Samuel 1-3 |
| March 19
Judges 17-19 | March 23
1 Samuel 4-7 |
| March 20
Judges 20-21 | <i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i> |

- ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- BAHAI 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. Kenti Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. christchurchnewcastle@gmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- 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; Undeafened 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 Mass 5 pm
- 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

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ~ Matthew 6:24

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25 Years Ago
March 19, 1998

While total county valuation is \$65 million, the bulk of Weston County's revenues from property taxes comes from state-assessed properties. Translated, that means industry, particularly the minerals industry, pays most of the county tax bill.

"They stretch out, race around and feel good, when it's warm like this," said rancher Helen Nicholls. She and husband Corbin take turns checking their stock every three hours to see if any are giving birth. The couple has already delivered about 50 newborn calves before the weather broke.

Newcastle will be a little greener this spring than last. The city will be planting new trees in parks, along roadsides, and on the courthouse lawn. The \$820 grant (from Wyoming Urban Forestry Council) will be matched by \$1,009 from the Weston County Conservation District, Wyoming State Forestry Division and the City of Newcastle.

Technology hasn't exactly changed the face of art, but it has opened up whole new employment horizons. Students still begin their art careers in Art I at Newcastle High School with learning about the masters, both the classical and contemporary. Today, a computer with enough RAM and hard drive space to handle memory-hungry graphics programs sits in the art classroom.

The Dogies host the 3A and 4A State Championships this weekend. Twenty-three schools will converge at the Kozisek Aquatic Center in hopes of becoming state champions.

Sunday, March 14, Newcastle Middle School 6th, 7th and 8th graders participated in the Northeast District Solo and Ensemble Musical Festival for vocal and piano. Sixth grader Maggie Highfill performed Mozart's "Symphony #40."

50 Years Ago
March 15, 1973

Robert Dilly, president of the Black Hills Area Council, Boy Scouts of America announced the employment of Gregory Landowsky to serve as district Scout executive for the Pine Tree district. The employment of Landowsky has been made possible through a grant from the Boy Scouts of America



Weston County's History Through the Archives of the News Letter Journal

"boy power fund."

Police Chief Ray Templeman announces that the police department will conduct a free speedometer check test and demonstration of the "Speedgun" radar on Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

A burglary conviction at Newcastle has been upheld by the Wyoming Supreme Court. The court upheld a suspended 1-2 year prison sentence and a \$250 fine handed down to Dale Heberling, formerly of Newcastle, and now of Denver. The Supreme Court rejecting all six points of contention including one that the trial court erred in overruling Heberling's motion for acquittal.

"Now is the time to get started on preliminary work for this

summer's Little League and Babe Ruth baseball league," Gene Mills said this week. Mills has called for a meeting for Friday, March 16, at the National Bank of Newcastle hospitality room, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Robin Eutsler of Osage, Joseph Wood of Osage and Naomie Jackson of Newcastle were the winners of the Farm Bureau safety poster contest for Weston County.

Serving 180 people was an easy thing for the Weston County CowBelles as they presented the "Cow's Side of the Story" at the Consumer Day held in Newcastle on March 8.

100 Years Ago
March 15, 1923

Last week as we went to

press the case of the Live Stock National versus the First National Bank of this city was being tried, and it resulted in an adjusted verdict through which each of the parties to the suit receive a portion of what they claim is due to them.

Evidence of the most sensational and far-reaching character has been unearthed by the celebrated Egyptologist who has been secretly working on the case for the past 10 days. The identity of this mysterious person is veiled in mystery and is baffling the most astute of our local hawkshaws. Whoever he is, he is on the job and is silently and ruthlessly uncovering the damning evidence that will make or mar the reputations of those high in the councils of the exclusive Shrine Club.

A very pleasant evening was held Monday evening at the library where those persons who made up the orchestra and chorus for the program in the dedication of the new school building, March 2, extended to Prof. Soller a surprise party in appreciation of his efforts and hard work in drilling the body of young people and older folks to the perfection manifested in the delivery of the numbers of the cantata.

Aden Adkins in his excitement and eagerness to arrive early at the Clareton dance broke through all the gates, leaving them open in his wake, and it is reported he even hit his big brother who was somewhat in a hurry himself.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

COVID-19 vaccines add another layer of protection.

Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine to keep you and your family safe. www.cdc.gov

Call Weston County Public Health at 746-4775, or your local pharmacy today to get your COVID vaccination or booster.

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From the vault ...

Photo Courtesy of WC Historical Society/Earl Christensen Collection

This is a photo of the aftermath of the January 1949 blizzard at the Earl Christensen Ranch.

ALIEN ENTERTAINMENT PROUDLY RETURNS!

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9PM-2AM

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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">LET US KNOW</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 10px 0;">WHAT'S UP!</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Is your group or organization hosting an event? Send your event listings to design@newsjl.com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar, sponsored by Pinnacle Bank.</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; vertical-align: top;">Thurs. 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Passion BREEDS SUCCESS

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

While it may not be true for the United States, soccer is the world's most popular sport, and soccer fans are among the most loyal and passionate of any there is. Perhaps distance running could compete with the familial environment soccer fosters, however, as a team sport, it has no rival.

Here in Newcastle, there is a strong community of soccer lovers that has, in the past year, had two of its young athletes represent their town and the sport well by being recognized for their dedication and talent.

Davyn Hoffman, a sixth-grader at Newcastle Middle School, was awarded the Spotlight Player of the Month for March by the Wyoming Soccer Association, so when the family headed out to Casper on Saturday, March 4, for the soccer banquet, he was thinking that he would be recognized in that realm. He had no idea there was much more awaiting him.

Not only was Davyn the Spotlight Player of the Month, he was also soon to find out that he had been recognized as the Wyoming Soccer Association's Player of the Year — an honor awarded to only one player in the state, regardless of age group.

"I was a little nervous because I guess I didn't really know what to expect," Davyn admitted. "Once I realized that it was me, I was pretty excited! I just couldn't believe it would be someone from a small town when there are all these kids from Gillette and Casper."

Prior to the announcement of Davyn as the winner, the announcer described the recipient, and as she did so, Davyn's sister Brooklyn and he began a whispered debate regarding who that might be.

"When they were talking, I just knew it was Davyn because of the things they were saying," Brooklyn said, grinning. "I just kept saying that I thought it was him."

"I didn't think it was me until they said that the player liked Chelsea [England] and that they shag balls at high school games," Davyn added. "When they talked about liking World War II and space, it didn't ring any bells because that was three years ago

“

It's cool that both kids from a small town are making a positive impact in soccer, both in their community and at the state level. It's something we couldn't do if we didn't have such a supportive soccer community here in Newcastle."

— Bryce Hoffman



Davyn Hoffman proudly displays his awards for being selected Player of the Month for March as well as Player of the Year for the Wyoming Soccer Association. Below, Davyn with his parents, Bryce and Amy Hoffman, and sister Brooklyn, a winner in her own right.

that I liked that."

All debate ended with the announcement of his name. As he went up to accept his award, his family was there to celebrate his success.

"It was pretty cool to see Davyn recognized for his hard work and for what he brings to the field," said his mother, Amy. "He has been a huge fan of the game, getting up early on weekends to watch the Premier League games, and has played every season since he started as a U6 player. He also has been playing indoor soccer for the last few years, and is just very committed to the sport."

Brooklyn, a fifth-grader at Newcastle Elementary School, was also recognized this past year for her talents on the pitch as she tried out for, and made, the 307 Soccer team, which brings together the best players from around the state. Last summer, she attended three weekends of tryouts in Casper and was rewarded for her efforts by being offered a jersey.

"I was nervous to try out because I would be playing with a lot of girls that I didn't know, and playing at such a high level stressed me out a

little bit," Brooklyn admitted. "It's different playing on the 307 team, mainly because I play defense for them, where I play center attacking mid for my team here in Newcastle."

Since then, she has competed with 307 in two tournaments. The first took place in Las Vegas, Nevada, over Thanksgiving where the Wyoming squad was narrowly defeated 1-2 by Hawaii in the championship game, to finish second. The second was in Mesquite, Nevada, Feb. 2-4 where 307 dominated their competition, coming home with the championship trophy and ending the weekend after only being scored upon twice.

The 307 team held one practice before the Las Vegas tourney, however, Brooke's local team had a tournament in Belle Fourche that weekend, and as local obligations trump 307 obligations, Brooklyn played with her Newcastle team instead of going to the practice. As such, she only participated in one practice with the 307 team before they played in their first tournament.

"I was pretty nervous going into the first one, especially, because I didn't

know what to expect, and it also felt like there was a little more pressure," Brooklyn said. "But, I felt better going to the second one because, as a team, we had more experience playing together and I knew what to expect."

The Hoffman children have been blessed with athletic ability, however it takes more than talent to achieve



Submitted photo

“ Once I realized that it was me, I was pretty excited! I just couldn't believe it would be someone from a small town when there are all these kids from Gillette and Casper.”

— Davyn Hoffman

the level of success they have. It takes passion and commitment, not only on the part of the athletes, but also on the part of the family.

Bryce and Amy Hoffman have been a huge part of fostering their children's love for the game, and for supporting them in their soccer endeavors. Both parents played as children, starting with the U8 teams in Newcastle. Although Amy graduated before soccer became a sanctioned high school sport at NHS in 2005, Bryce was able to play for the Dogies his senior year.

Both parents have consistently coached teams for the club over the years, and Bryce was the head girls' soccer coach at NHS from 2012-2019.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the love of the game came naturally for Brooklyn and Davyn.

The familial connection goes far beyond the Hoffman household, however. Within the soccer community, more so than other sports it seems, there is a strong connection between everyone who loves the game.

"You develop a soccer family. With both kids' teams, we travel to all the weekend tournaments and there is a large group of parents that support their kids," Bryce explained. "We build a pretty cool camaraderie with those families on all those weekends. It really brings people together."

Dogie fans can expect to see more from the Hoffman kids, as well as other up-and-coming little Dogies, as they age up to be able to play on their middle school and high school teams. For now, Newcastle can be proud of how these two young athletes have represented their sport and their community.

"It's cool that both kids from a small town are making a positive impact in soccer, both in their community and at the state level. It's something we couldn't do if we didn't have such a supportive soccer community here in Newcastle," Bryce said. "Our local board is pretty amazing, as are the parents here. It has created some pretty cool opportunities that our kids have benefitted from. There is such a dedication and passion for the sport, and it shows."

Game and Fish invites public to 2023 season setting meetings

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Casper Region will hold a series of public meetings to present and discuss proposed 2023 hunting seasons. Attending a public meeting is one way to learn about local wildlife populations, ask questions, and visit with local Game and Fish biologists and wardens. You are invited to participate in one or more of the following meetings:

Date	Time	City	Location
March 20, 2023	4:00 PM	Sundance	Crook County Courthouse Basement
March 20, 2023	7:00 PM	Newcastle	Weston County Library Meeting Room
March 21, 2023	6:00 PM	Lusk	Niobrara County Fairgrounds – Shooting Sports Bldg.
March 22, 2023	6:00 PM	Douglas	Converse County Library Meeting Room
March 23, 2023	6:00 PM	Casper	Casper Game and Fish Regional Office

Copies of the proposed regulations are available on the Game and Fish website at wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/Public-Meetings. In addition, presentations will be posted with information on proposals for each biologist district in Wyoming.

Interested hunters can review the proposed regulations and submit public comments online through 5 pm March 29 at wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/Public-Meetings or mail comments to Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Regulations, 3030 Energy Lane, Casper, WY 82604.



WGFD
Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

The Game and Fish Department supports the Americans with Disabilities Act. Every effort will be made for reasonable accommodations by contacting the nearest Game and Fish office.

GUN SHOW

March 18 & 19
Newcastle, WY
WC Senior Center

This gun show is a fundraiser for Weston County Sportsman's Club

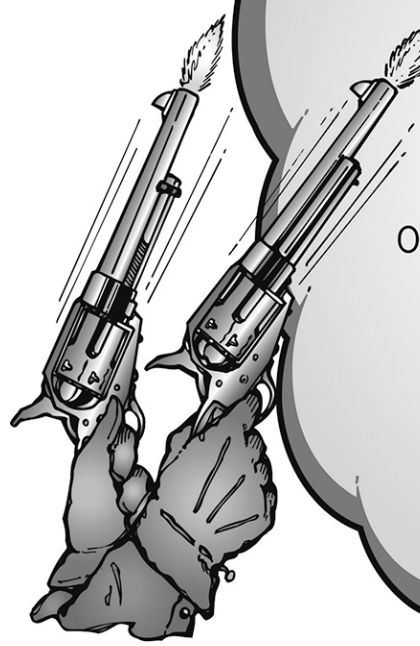
Food will be available!

Set up for vendors: Friday, March 17, 3–8pm
Open to public: Saturday, March 18, 9am–5pm
Sunday, March 19, 9am–3pm

Admission: \$5.00

Children under 12 free if accompanied by parent or guardian

Contact Mike Novotny
253-678-4825



Schools from Page 1

would be concealed when the board voted publicly to determine if their contract would be renewed.

Riesland announced that administrator contracts would be voted on individually, "and they're numbered — 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6."

Later in the meeting, when the board voted, they unanimously approved 5 of the contracts by a 9-0 tally, but the sixth was retained by a vote of 5-3 with one abstention.

According to Chairman John Riesland, the board decided to assign numbers rather than identify the employees by name or title as a professional courtesy to the administrators.

"We wanted to let the superintendent (Brad LaCroix) visit with each

administrator one on one before the public knew how the board voted," he said. Riesland, who has served on the board since 1992 indicated that the board has approved contracts this way in the past.

According to the minutes provided by the district, the board unanimously voted to approve contract extensions for Newcastle Elementary School principal Brandy Holmes, Newcastle High School principal Bryce Hoffman, Newcastle Middle School principal Tyler Bartlett, curriculum director Sonya Tysdal and business manager Angie Holliday. The sixth administrator (Taren Olson), identified in the meeting as contract No. 5, received a split vote from the trustees.

Dana Mann-Tavegia, Tina Chick, Dana Gordon, Joe Prell and Riesland voted to approve the contract extension for special education director Olson. Billy Fitzwater, Jason Jenkins and Sean Crabtree voted against the contract extension; Paul Bau abstained.

When asked about the process used by the trustees, News Letter Journal Publisher Bob Bonnar, who served on the WCSD No. 1 board from 2002-2014 and chaired the board for two years, said the board has voted to approve contracts "by list" in the past. He said, however, that is only possible when the group is in universal agreement.

"If approval is unanimous or con-

sistent, the board has approved contracts in the past by list - meaning they vote to approve an entire list of contracts, which are then immediately available as public documents. When a board unanimously agrees to not issue a contract, there is no public document and that applicant or employee does not have their name or title revealed," Bonnar explained. "This method does speed things up a bit when you remember that the board approves dozens of contracts at this time of year. It also allows the board to avoid singling out applicants or employees by name or title in an open meeting, but it is only possible when approval is unanimous for all applicants or employees."

He said uncomfortable situations can arise if the board disagrees about a personnel issue, which could force them to discuss some things in public that would normally stay in a closed executive session.

"When a board disagrees and has to slug it out in open session, they might just have to look somebody in the eye and say 'Yes' or 'No' to them. It is a really tough thing to do, but it is the job," Bonnar said. "In the long run I think the decision to temporarily conceal an identity probably made the situation even more uncomfortable, but I'm glad that district officials resolved the issue by making the information available shortly after hearing about citizen concerns."

Water from Page 1

Private water leaks result in sewer forgiveness

In addition to city water main breaks, the city has recently found several water leaks at customer properties while reading meters for billing, said Greg Stumpff, Newcastle's public works supervisor.

"To be proactive, we call the customers to inform them about the problem when we find it. We also investigate the high-usage issues to help the customers. As part of the investigation, we look at whether the water entered the sewer," Stumpff said. "Per ordinance, the city cannot forgive water used during a leak that is registered on the water meter. But what the city can do to help the customer is sewer forgiveness when the water does not enter the sewer."

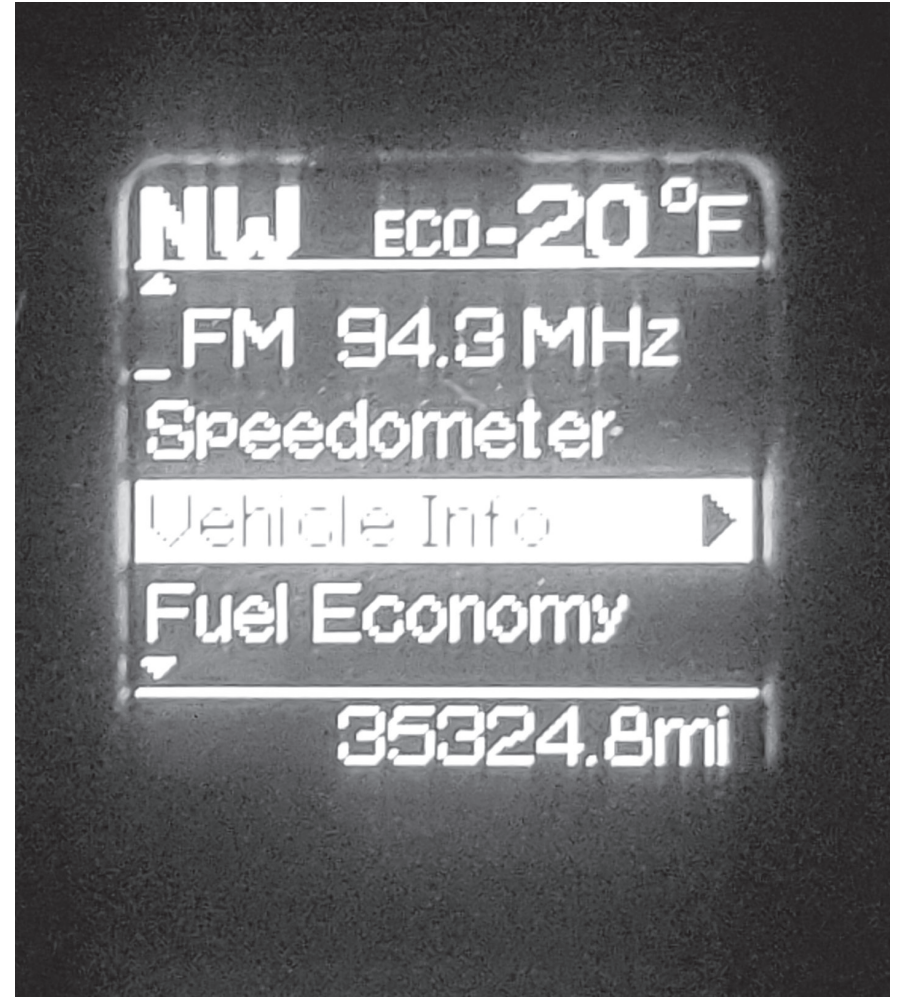
In this instance, the public works department will recommend to the City Council that the city forgive the sewer charges. While Stumpff said he has not tracked the number of leaks on customer property this year, it appears to be trending up lately.

City Clerk-Treasurer Stacy Haggerty said the City Council has forgiven \$1,085.12 in sewer charges to date in 2023.

the plan, Stumpff said, is coming from the Wyoming Water Development Office.

Newcastle's city crews have also worked to keep the city's wastewater treatment facility working properly, along with several other water and sewer projects. One project, Stumpff noted, involved updates required by the Environmental Protection Agency's revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule, including updating water meters to a radio-read meter system. According to epa.gov, "on Aug. 4, 2022, EPA released Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory to support water systems with their efforts to develop inventories and to provide states with needed information for oversight and reporting to EPA."

"Water leaks will continue to happen unless all of the infrastructure is new, which is unrealistic due to the cost, so the public works department will stay ready to address issues as they arise," Stumpff said. "The public works department is trained to handle the issues, maintain a good stock of parts on hand and have the necessary tools and equipment. And, most of all, (we) have a great group of dedicated individuals willing to work regardless of the time of day."



Submitted photo

A city public works crew battled sub-zero temperatures earlier this year while repairing a water break on Second Avenue in Newcastle.

Greg Stumpff said. City crews worked throughout the night and had the leak repaired with the water back on by 5:30 a.m., although Stumpff noted that repairs do not always go this smoothly.

"The leak was a lateral break in an AC pipe, (for) which we were required to replace over 10 feet of 6-inch broken main with a new piece of pipe," Stumpff reported to the News Letter Journal. "This is a common type of pipe failure for the city public works water infrastructure. We average over seven leaks per year over the last 20 years since we started tracking our leaks."

Information provided by Stumpff shows that the city has experienced an average of 7.7 waterline breaks a year over the past 20 years. The year 2019 had the greatest number of breaks at 27, with the lowest number, zero, occurring in 2009. To date, in 2023, the city has had three waterline breaks.

Nationally, one way of reporting leaks is by the number of breaks per mile of pipe, Stumpff said. With approximately 30.6 miles of water main in Newcastle, he said, the city annually has one leak in every 4 miles of pipe.

"Some of the leaks from the past have been addressed and the water mains and services replaced. But with aging infrastructure, leaks can be common," he said. "The majority of the water mains in Newcastle are over 65 years old, and the type of

pipe has a life of 75 years."

With a significantly aging water and sewer infrastructure, the city is continuing to work on a master plan for infrastructure replacement, according to Stumpff. But, due to the cost involved with replacing both water and sewer lines, he said, the process is slow.

"There are less grant opportunities than in the past, and the majority of the funding options are low-interest loans now. We are currently replacing the water mains from two wells that provide the majority of the water for Newcastle and adding a new well to expand capacity," Stumpff explained. "We have been working this winter, when we can, on a water main replacement on First Avenue, with city resources. We have one water main replacement scheduled to begin construction in April (South Summit Avenue water improvement project) and just received a grant for a sewer main and lift station that we have a permit to construct for Delaware Avenue (water improvement project) and another water-sewer main replacement project (Seventh Avenue Water/Sewer improvement project) that we also have a permit to construct."

Funding for the last two projects has not been secured yet, and Stumpff said the city is still working on finding funding sources.

Newcastle also has a new water master plan to update the old water master plan. Funding for updating



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

David Hopkins, of Summit Plumbing, operates a backhoe to expose a broken sewer line in an alley off of Sumner Avenue on Wednesday, March 1.

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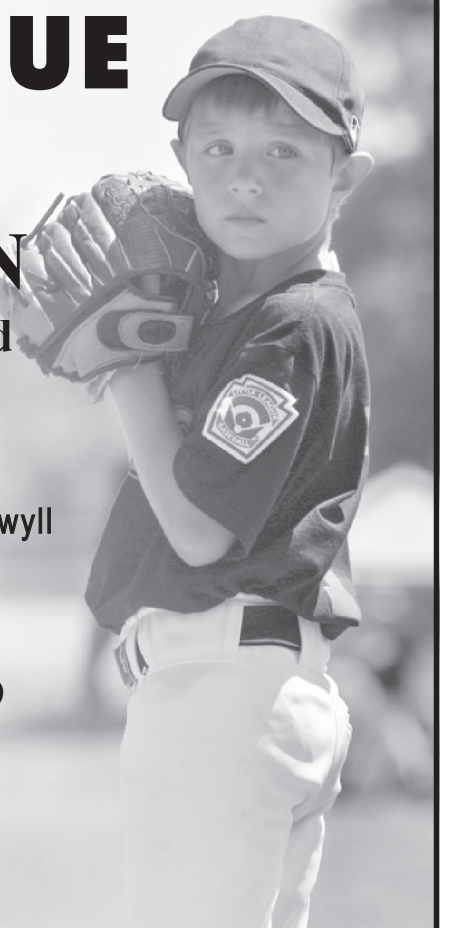
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GIRLS & BOYS AGES 4 - 12





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REV. TESS FRANZEN, MS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FREEDOM'S JOURNEY, INC



Tess Franzen is the Founder and Executive Director of Freedom's Journey, Inc., which is a nonprofit organization in Western South Dakota assisting survivors and combating all forms of human trafficking. The mission of Freedom's Journey is survivor focused, relationship based, and teamwork driven.

Tess received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science and History from Black Hills State University, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, and she also earned her Master of Science Degree in Strategic Leadership from Black Hills State University. Tess is a Licensed Minister with the Assemblies of God, and a Missionary Associate with the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions tasked with serving those who have been exploited through human trafficking. Tess is Founder and past Chair of South Dakota's West River Human Trafficking Task Force, which was formed in 2013 and held its first meeting in January of 2014. The Task Force is still active, and Tess currently serves as Task Force Secretary. Tess has been assisting survivors and working to create a community and culture where human trafficking would be impossible since completing graduate school in 2012.

Weston County Emergency Management & The Weston County Peace Officers Association

Accomplishments

Lee graduates from SDSU
South Dakota State announces Tera Lee Yanchunis of Newcastle has graduated, following the summer and fall 2022 semesters. Yanchunis graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in SDSU's College of Nursing. Founded in 1881, South Dakota State University is the state's Morrill Act land-grant institution as well as its largest, most comprehensive school of higher education. SDSU confers degrees from seven different colleges representing more than 200 majors, minors and specializations. The institution also offers 39 master's degree programs, 16 Ph.D. and two professional programs. The work of the university is carried out on a residential campus in Brookings, at sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City, and through Extension offices and Agricultural Experiment Station research sites across the state. SDSU's research expenditures for the 2022 fiscal year were more than \$59 million.

Peterson graduates from BSC
Sara Peterson of Newcastle graduated from Bismarck State College with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Petroleum Production Technology, in fall 2022. Fall graduates are eligible to participate in BSC's 83rd Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 12, at the Bismarck Event Center. As North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution, Bismarck State College focuses on student success through the delivery of affordable, flexible, high-quality, experiential learning enhanced by public-private partnerships. Learn more at bismarckstate.edu.

HONORING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Ambulance from Page 1.....

from constituents, prompted some members of the council to question the level of service provided by Campbell County Health's EMS team. Campbell County Health took over emergency medical services in Weston County on July 1, 2021, and on March 6 of this year, Christopher Beltz, paramedic and director of urgent and emergent services, and Shawna Cochran, manager of emergency medical services, attended the Newcastle City Council meeting to provide a breakdown of the services provided in 2022. Several council members stated that they did not believe the community was getting the same level of service provided by Newcastle Ambulance Services under the ownership of Roger Hespe. "There were four buses (ambulances) with Roger, and now there is one," Councilman Don Steveson said. He further noted that he has received complaints that Weston County Health Services has had to wait for an ambulance to transfer patients. "With the money we are paying for the service, we thought the level of service would be maintained. That level of service is not being maintained in my eyes," Stevenson continued. "Many times, there is only one ambulance staffed." Councilman Tyrel Owens also said he was not happy about one ambulance being fully staffed in Newcastle. He said that although there are two "buses" at the ambulance bay, there is only enough staff to have one running 24/7. "Even though we have two here, only one is staffed. That is alarming to me," Owens said. "I was under the impression when we granted the subsidy to the ambulance service that we were still going to be receiving the same sort of service that we received from Hespe. It doesn't seem like we are. We want to service our constituents the best we can, and it has kind of caused a bit of a bitter taste in my mouth." He also noted that the word on the street is that Life Flight is being used more often, which he said is causing residents to incur more costs. Steveson then asked if there would be an increase in the level of service if the city paid the additional \$10,000, and

Ambulance Service BY THE NUMBERS

YEAR 2022

- Total calls: 672
- Transports: 417
- Medicals: 300
- Traumas: 199
- Interfacility transfers: 118
- Air medical flights: 8
- Fire department standbys: 8
- Special event standbys: 25
- Other transports: 14

RESPONSE TIMES





- Average en route time: 2:32 minutes
- Average time to scene: 9.1 minutes
- On-duty staff responses: 547 with 344 transports
- Off-duty staff responses: 23 with 16 transports
- *Campbell County responses: 102 with 57 transports
- *These resources were repositioned to the Newcastle base to provide service coverage.

CALL LOCATIONS

- Newcastle city limits: 568
- Upton area: 76
- Osage area: 22
- Four Corners area: 4

FINANCES

- Gross service revenue: \$1,344,651
- Net service revenue: \$956,190 (71% of gross revenue)
- Total operating expenses: \$953,603
- Net income: \$2,587

Mayor Pam Gualtieri went a step further by indicating that Beltz had said that Campbell County Health was not dependent on the subsidy from the city in initial conversations with the ambulance service. Beltz responded that he meant to say that Campbell County Health was committed to providing the service to Weston County, even if it had to operate at a loss the first year. "I may have misspoken when we first presented," Beltz said. "We were committed at the time, and we thought that if things were the same, we could make it a sustainable service. That did include the \$100,000." Beltz said that, like ambulance services across the state and nation, Newcastle and Campbell County Health are facing a lack of staff. "It is not like we are interviewing and turning people down. We don't have the interest," he said, noting that insurance requirements with Campbell County Health do not allow the service to use volunteers as Hespe could as a private business. Gualtieri assured Beltz and Cochran that the council appreciated the services provided, but that they could not answer resident's concerns without bringing them to the attention of Campbell County Health. "It is appropriate. When anyone approaches you with complaints, if it is appropriate, forward those to us," Beltz said. "We don't want anyone doubting the service." He noted that he would be frank with constituents and expressed the hope they would be frank with Campbell County Health as well. "We are happy to provide the service over here," Cochran added. "We work hard and are providing services to Upton without them being able to provide supplemental funds. Areas are struggling, and we are trying to reach out to small communities that can't do it themselves. We have to, no one else is going to. We enjoy being here. Our crews enjoy being here, and we are happy to provide the service."

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Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Track	Opponent	A	TBA
3/17/23	Rapid City Central HS	A	TBA
3/23/23	Laura Chord	H	TBA
3/31/23	Wheatland HS	A	TBA
4/1/23	Buffalo HS (Jerry Campbell Meet)	A	TBA

Ladies' Soccer	Opponent	A	TBA
3/17-18	Jamboree @ Gillette	A	TBA
3/24-25/23	Jamboree @ Worland	A	TBA
4/1/23	Worland HS	A	NOON

Men's Soccer	Opponent	A	TBA
3/17-18/23	Jamboree @ Gillette	A	TBA
3/24-25/23	Jamboree @ Pinedale	A	NOON
4/1/23	Worland HS	A	NOON

Tough as nails

What a fun season it has been, watching the Lady Dogies make their run for a state title!

When you are a small school, you go through years of ups and downs, and the seniors this year have given us four years of "up."

They are a dedicated crew of ballers who have committed themselves to the sport of basketball, and it has shown from the time they set foot on the hardwood as freshmen.

They don't just show up the Monday before Thanksgiving and hang up their shoes after the season ends at the beginning of March. They put in time all year round, and have put in time since they were just wee lasses in elementary school.

They are also tough as nails, as Dogie fans got to witness over the last few weeks of the season and the post-season competition.

Between bouts of strep throat, a touch of the flu, and a variety

of injuries that plagued the team, one wouldn't have blamed them for taking a step back to heal or recover.

But not this crew.

They

toughed it out and showed up. Even though fans who are well acquainted with the players may have caught glimpses of illness or injury, for the average observer, it wasn't obvious at all when we watched the team play throughout the last couple of weeks.

In the squad's last regular season game against Buffalo, Jaylen Ostenson was recovering from being sick, and, near the end of the game, she was just about as pale as her white jersey — but she still led her team in their 19-point win over the Lady Bison with 21 points.

Hunter McFarland opened up a gash on her cheek early in the

— See **Karpe**, Page 16



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

Ladies make history at tourney

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogie basketball team set off for Casper and the 3A State Tournament last Wednesday with the goal of bringing home a state basketball title. Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew gave it everything they had, however, a 6-point loss to the Lady Bison of Buffalo in the semi-final match-up stripped away their chance to play in the championship game on Saturday.

Despite their disappointment, the Newcastle girls rallied to pull out the narrowest of victories over the Lyman Lady Eagles on Saturday morning to bring home the third-place trophy, which is the first third place earned in the girls program, and it is the highest finish a Newcastle High School girls' team has had since 1981. Though it wasn't the title, the team definitely made their mark on Lady Dogie history.

"It was a pretty darned good year," Ostenson said. "I thought we played pretty good basketball at the end of the season when it really mattered, and we finished on a good note with a win and a third-place trophy."

The road to third place began on Thursday afternoon in the Ford Wyoming Center as the East Conference, third-seeded Lady Dogies tipped off against the No. 2 seed from the West, the Pinedale Lady Wranglers, in the quarter-final round. Pinedale came into the contest with a better overall record than Newcastle, however, it didn't take long for fans to see that the Lady Dogies were the better team.

— See **Ladies**, Page 10



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ
The Lady Dogies executed a near-perfect game on both ends of the court Thursday in their quarter-final win at the 3A State Basketball Tournament in Casper. Here, Hunter McFarland goes up for a layup against a Pinedale defender at the Wyoming Ford Center.

Dogies prepare to kick off season

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

While Mother Nature may be trying her best to pull the wool over our eyes, spring is just around the corner and spring sports have begun. The Dogie men are getting up to speed to hit the pitch to kick off their 2023 soccer season this weekend, and head coach Sally Hoover is excited to get her admittedly small, but mighty team ready to take on their competition.

"We only have 16 out this

season, so our numbers are small," Hoover reported. "But everyone is getting along and having fun, and they are showing up every day wanting to get better, so that is great."

Hoover is in her fourth year of coaching the boys team and her first as head coach. In addition, she is running the program solo as the search for an assistant coach has yielded no takers, so she is hoping that someone will heed the call and join the team soon.

Due to inclement weather and wet field conditions, the Dogies spent their first week of practice in the gym, but Hoover and her crew did their best to take advantage of the situation.

"We were a bit limited in what we could do, but we did what we could, so I think it went pretty well," Hoover said. "At the end of the first day, when the guys said the best thing about the day was that they had chemistry, I thought that was a great way to start the season."

The Dogies graduated seven last season and gained only one freshman as well as a foreign exchange student this year, but they are bringing back four starters and a few others with varsity experience.

Dylan McFarlin, Zach Orsborn, Cole Wehri and Caleb Hoover are returning starters this year, while the other returning varsity players include William Beaström, Yestin Davis and Colter Christensen. New to the team this season is Dutch

foreign exchange student Finn Gerlag, who brings quite a bit of talent to the pitch for Newcastle.

"Finn is a phenomenal player and has some of the best skills I've seen. He is also a really good team player, which is awesome," Hoover explained. "He will probably be in the midfield. Though he likes to play defensive mid, I'll probably play him center attacking mid because he has a great leg."

— See **Men**, Page 10

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Ladies from Page 9

On both sides of the ball, Ostenson's crew executed their game plan, nearly to perfection, which made the road rough for the Lady Wranglers.

"Our defense looked very good," Ostenson declared. "We rebounded well, taking away second chances, we took on the state's leading scorer and held her to zero points at the half, and only allowed her 11 points overall when she averages almost 22 points per game — and we shot really well, especially for playing in the Ford Center."

Though Pinedale took a 2-point lead early in the game, it didn't take long for the Lady Dogies to warm up as they finished the first quarter leading the Lady Wranglers, 12-4. They extended that lead to 28-8 by the time the teams headed to the locker rooms at the end of the half.

When play resumed, Pinedale went on a 7-0 run against Newcastle, but then back-to-back threes hit by MacKenzie Conzelman and Hunter McFarland crushed their momentum, and the Lady Dogies continued to dominate to come away with the 54-33 win.

"That was great to get a win in that venue, since we had yet to do that," Ostenson said. "It was one of the best all-around games the girls have played all season. It was a good showing and a great way to start the tournament."

Jaylen Ostenson led her team with 17 points, Shelby Tidyman was next with 12, Jayde Harrington had 9 points and pulled down 15 rebounds, McFarland and Conzelman each ended with 6 points, while Oakley Checketts and Syd Pederson added 2 points each.

The semi-final game on Friday was deja vu from the regional tournament where Newcastle had to get past the No. 1-ranked team in the state to make it to the championship. This time, they were tasked with defeating the No. 2-ranked Buffalo Lady Bison in the semis to get to the title game.

The two squads are essentially the same team and had split wins on the season, but Ostenson and his crew were fully aware that the Lady Bison were playing very good post-season basketball, so they would have their work cut out for them.

The game was frankly a little ugly throughout. Both teams were determined to win their way into the championship game, so it was a defensive battle with neither squad having a lot of success on the offensive end of the court as evidenced by the score at halftime, which was 12-11 in Newcastle's favor.

In the third quarter, in what would ultimately be the turning point of the game, Buffalo hit three threes in a row from which Newcastle could not recover. By the time the fourth quarter began, the Lady Dogies found themselves behind 21-25.

"I went back and looked at those shots, and truly we defended those pretty well," Ostenson said. "Both of Karly's [Davis] were at least NBA depth. Some kids are going to have their day, and she did on Friday."

The Lady Dogies pulled within 3 points with 51 seconds to play, but had to foul, so the Lady Bison were able to pull away to take the 36-30 victory, meaning Newcastle would be denied their chance at a state title.

"I don't know what else we could have done differently other than hope a couple of their shots didn't fall," Ostenson said. "And, I guess there were other little things along the way that added up. We missed some rebounds and a lot of free-throws down the stretch. We are so evenly matched, but they hit a couple more timely shots than we did, and we missed some free-throws."

Tidyman led the team with 13 points, Ostenson was close behind with 11, while McFarland and Harrington each added 3 points each. Harrington had another good night on the boards, pulling down 12 rebounds.

"The atmosphere in that game was so awesome," Ostenson said. "It was so loud, the girls couldn't hear me from the bench, but the great thing about these guys is that they knew what they needed to do and were calling out plays even if they couldn't hear me."

The Lady Dogies had just a few hours to

NHS Ladies' Basketball

Newcastle @ 3A State Tournament in Casper 3/9-11/23	Hunter McFarland: 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist
Newcastle v. Pinedale 3/9/23: 54-33	MacKenzie Conzelman: 5 rebounds
Jaylen Ostenson: 17 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks	Oakley Checketts: 2 rebounds
Shelby Tidyman: 12 points, 3 rebounds, 6 assists	Jayde Harrington: 3 points, 12 rebounds
Hunter McFarland: 6 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal	Sydney Pederson: 1 rebound
MacKenzie Conzelman: 6 points, 7 rebounds	
Oakley Checketts: 2 points, 3 rebounds	Newcastle v. Lyman 3/11/23: 41-40
Jayde Harrington: 9 points, 15 rebounds, 1 steal	Jaylen Ostenson: 15 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 2 blocks
Sydney Pederson: 2 points	Shelby Tidyman: 12 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, 1 block
Hailey Beastrom: 1 steal	Hunter McFarland: 5 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 steal
	MacKenzie Conzelman: 2 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block
Newcastle v. Buffalo 3/10/23: 30-36	Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 2 assists, 1 steal
Jaylen Ostenson: 11 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 3 blocks	Jayde Harrington: 2 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal
Shelby Tidyman: 13 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals	Sydney Pederson: 2 points

mourn the loss of the championship game before they needed to set their sights on bringing home some meaningful hardware from the tournament.

"It was a tough loss because it meant no run for the title. I was a little bit worried about how we would bounce back for the third place game. Historically, that is the toughest game to come back from, and we haven't done well in the past," Ostenson admitted. "It wasn't the one they wanted to play in, but they got themselves up and ready, and did what it took. I'm as proud of them for that as anything."

The game for third and fourth place on Saturday morning had the Lady Dogies pitted against the Lyman Lady Eagles. Ostenson described the contest as a grind in which his kids had to battle hard every minute.

"They worked their butts off!" he said. "It may not have been as good defensively as our other two, but I didn't have as much scouting info from them as the other teams. However, the girls figured things out as the game went on and adjusted to their strengths."

A battle is the only way to describe what took place on the court in those 32 minutes. Throughout the contest, there were four ties and three lead changes, and the biggest lead that was established was a mere 5 points by either team.

The two were tied 11-11 at the end of the first quarter, the Lady Dogies took a 25-21 lead into the locker room at the half, Lyman pulled ahead 34-32 at the end of the third, then Newcastle out-scored them 9-6 in the fourth to take the 41-40 victory.

With short time remaining, the Lady Dogies were down 2, but then McFarland hit a huge three to put her team up 1. From 42.3 seconds to the end of the game, the score remained at 41-40 in Newcastle's favor. A couple of missed free-throws on the Lady Dogie's end, and missed shots by the Eagles, kept the score stagnant.

The game ended in dramatic fashion. With 8.3 seconds remaining, Lyman had possession, but Tidyman stole the ball with just a couple seconds on the clock — and that was enough to clinch the win and the third place for the Lady Dogies.

"I'm pretty proud of what these girls did, and the toughness of our kids was impressive," Ostenson declared. "Between Shelby's injured foot, Hunter just getting over being sick, and Jayde being banged up and bruised, they still gave everything they had, so they should have no regrets."

Ostenson finished the game leading her team with 15 points, Tidyman had 12, which came from hitting four of eight three-point attempts, McFarland ended with 5 points, Checketts had 3 while Harrington, Pederson and Conzelman each added 2 to their team's tally. Conzelman also had a good game on the glass, pulling down 10 rebounds.

The ladies ended their season with a 19-7 record, five of those losses coming from the number one and number two teams in the state.

Next year, the Lady Dogies will lose six seniors, four starters and the head coach. However, they will have a good mix of returners who got some time on the varsity floor and will bring in a freshman class that has some talent.

Men from Page 9

The Dogies will be getting out on the field for practice this week as long as the weather holds, so Hoover and her squad will have the opportunity to get a better look at their game plan for their opening contest this weekend.

Hoover plans to run a 4-1-3-2 scheme this weekend due to it being the formation the boys ran last season, so they are familiar with the requirements of each position.

"We're going to start that way and see how it goes," Hoover began. "We'll have four on defense, one sweeper, three in the midfield and two strikers."

Hoover plans to put 6-foot, 8-inch Beastrom in the goal to start the season, while Orsborn and Wehri will return as two of the four defenders. She

anticipates starting Davis and Caden Esposito as the other two defenders as well.

The defensive midfielder in the sweeper position will be Skyler Cummings, Gerlag will be the center attacking midfielder, while Christensen and McFarlin will play on the wings. Finally, Caleb Hoover and Caleb Hossfeld will start at striker.

With the small numbers, Hoover noted that it will be super important to keep everyone healthy. Unfortunately, the squad will not be playing any JV games this year because they are so small, which is disappointing for skill building with some of those younger kids on the team.

Looking around the conference, Hoover anticipates that Worland and Buffalo will

be tough.

"Torrington and Douglas each have a couple of good players, but if we can mitigate that, we should be okay," she predicted. "I'm not sure how Rawlins will be as they are a little down this year, but if the kids can stay healthy, I think we can hang with anyone. They are going to have to work hard, but if they show up every day with the attitude they have had so far, I think good things will happen."

The Dogies are scheduled to play Kelly Walsh in their opening contest Friday in Gillette, however, Hoover is hoping to move the game to Saturday, rather than Friday as she will be missing three of her kids, two of which are starters, who will be at state FBLA from Wednesday through Friday.

2023 COWBOY FOOTBALL

Season TICKETS

9/2 TEXAS TECH	9/9 PORTLAND STATE	9/23 APPALACHIAN STATE	
COLORADO STATE	NEW MEXICO	FRESNO STATE	HAWAII

ON SALE NOW
STARTING AT \$170

307-766-7220
gowyo.com/tickets



Newcastle Dogies

Student Council

2022-23



Front Row: Trinity Shroyer, Samuel Cunningham, Student Body Treasurer Heath Henkle, Student Body President Gabby McVay, Student Body Vice President Hunter McFarland, Jayde Harrington, Ivy Bau. Back Row: Advisor Hope McKay, Andrea Garcia, Taylor Crinklaw, Caleb Hoover, Rebekah Olson, Casey Matthews, Tiernan Stanton, Callie Christensen, Amesha Cummings, Emilia Lichtenberger, Preslee Fitzwater, Baleigh Knight, Advisor Maggie Unterseher.
Not Pictured: Jessica Geisness

Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography

#GoDogies #HornsUp #StudentCouncil #JoinTheRide

Thank you to these community partners:

Black Hills Dental
 Chick Financial
 Elliott Chiropractic
 News Letter Journal
 Decker's Market
 Farmers Insurance

Newcastle Equipment
 Newcastle Vision Clinic
 Spearfish Forest Products/Neiman Ent.
 Weston County Health Services
 Wyoming Refining Company
 Antlers/Pizza Barn

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Weather Vane



DATE	HI	LO
S-05	34	23
M-06	32	23
T-07	32	23
W-08	30	21
T-09	28	12
F-10	41	19
S-11	37	14

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) approved on an interim basis the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company) to implement a decrease of \$0.0058 per therm in the Company's Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (RAM) rate. The Commission's approval of BHWG's rate change is subject to notice, protest, intervention, refund, change, further investigation, opportunity for hearing and further order of the Commission.

The RAM rate applies to BHWG's approximately 132,756 residential, small, medium, and large general service customers throughout the Company's Wyoming service territory, including those areas where the Choice Gas program is in effect. The Company included in the Application a credit of \$1,011,852.36 from Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission, LLC, for operational flow order penalties related to the February 2021 cold-weather event. The proposed RAM rate would provide for a decrease of approximately \$0.39 per month (-0.4%) for

a typical residential customer using 67 therms per month during the rate-effective period of December 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023.

BHWG's Application is available at the Commission in Cheyenne, or online at <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (Enter Record No. 17188).

Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a hearing must file with the Commission in writing on or before April 7, 2023. A proposed intervention or request for hearing must set forth its grounds and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 30026-67-GM-22.

If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: March 10, 2023.

(Publish March 16 and 23, 2023)

Legal Notice

ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE

There will be a sale of the following 6 vehicles if no one comes forward and produces legal title to these vehicles.

1. Mini MG Convertible
GHN5UH441649
2. 1976 Chevy Camaro
1Q87L6M559613
3. Ford Country Sedan

- OP73K1G1345
4. 1993 Ford F150 XL
1FTEX14HXPKB52163
5. 1980 Chevy Pickup Custom
CKM24AJ113019 White/Blue
6. 1966 VW Beetle AG
116944315

For more information call 307-746-4348.

(Publish March 9 and 16, 2023)

Bid Notice

NOTICE OF BID

Weston County School District #1 will be taking bids on the following equipment:

- Quantity: 265 Student Tablet Computers
 Manufacture: HP
 Model: ProBook 440 G9 14" Notebook Touch Screen
 System Configuration:
 - Intel Core i5 12th Gen i5-1235U Deca-core (10 Core) 1.30 GHz - 8 GB Total RAM - 256 GB SSD - Intel Chip - English Keyboard - IEEE 802.11ax Wireless LAN Standard
 Quantity: 35 Teacher Tablet Computers
 Manufacture: HP
 Model: EliteBook 840 G9 - Touch screen
 System Configuration:
 - WUXGA - 1920 x 1200 - Intel Core i7 12th

- Gen i7-1255U Deca-core (10 Core) - 16 GB Total RAM - 512 GB SSD - Silver - Windows 11 Pro - Intel Iris Xe Graphics - In-plane Switching (IPS) Technology - English Keyboard
 HP Care Pack - 5 Year - Warranty - 9 x 5 - On-site - Maintenance - Parts & Labor - Physical 40 HP Power Adapter 65 W
 300 Batteries Swap at 3 Years (both models)

For a complete detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) please contact:

Beau Gregory
 Director of Technology
 Weston County School District #1
 (307)746-2746

Bids are due on April 6th 2023 at 12:00 pm. Further details are available via RFP.

(Publish March 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to issue a renewed Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations (WAQSR) Chapter 6, Section 3 operating permit to the following applicant for the Newcastle Refinery in Weston County, Wyoming: Wyoming Refining Company
 10 Stampede Street
 Newcastle, WY 82701

The Newcastle Refinery is located in Section 29, Township 45 North, Range 61 West, Weston County, Wyoming (740 W Main Street, Newcastle, WY). The facility is involved in refining crude oil into a variety of marketable products.

The Division's Operating Permit contact is Melissa Meares, Operating Permit Program Manager, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 at (307) 777-3784. Interested parties may examine the draft permit, permit application, and statement of basis for the permit at the Division's Cheyenne office or the Division's Sheridan Field Office located at 2100 West 5th Street, Sheridan, Wyoming, (307) 673-

9337. These documents are also available online at the Division's website (<https://openair.wyo.gov>), utilizing facility ID F000980 and permit number P0021981 under permits. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Public comments or a request for a hearing must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. local time (Mountain) on April 17, 2023. Requests for a hearing shall be in writing and shall include the name and contact information of the person requesting the hearing, a brief statement identifying the purpose of the request, and a brief statement of the issues to be discussed. Written public comments or requests for a hearing should be directed to the Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. The FAX number for the Division is (307) 635-1784. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Division's website (<http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>). Comments or requests submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record.

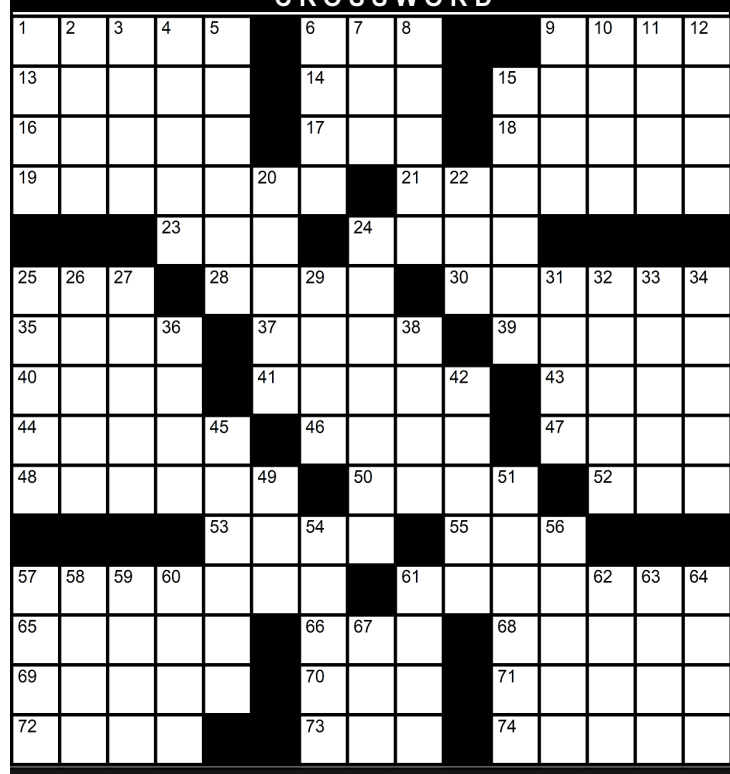
Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish March 16, 2023)

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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.

Last week's answers

D	O	G	M	A		O	N	E		H	O	O	P						
A	P	R	I	L		G	O	V		T	E	R	R	A					
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8	5	9	6	4	2	3	1	7
6	7	4	8	3	1	9	2	5
1	3	2	7	9	5	4	6	8
4	1	6	9	8	3	5	7	2
3	8	5	1	2	7	6	4	9
9	2	7	5	6	4	8	3	1

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



THE 2010s

- ACROSS**
1. Necktie alternative
 6. Finish line
 9. Show of appreciation
 13. Biotic community
 14. Hula dancer's necklace
 15. House duty
 16. Sofia Costanza Brigida Villani Scicolone's stage last name
 17. International distress signal
 18. Hogwarts professor, part werewolf
 19. **Avengers: _____** second-highest grossing movie of all time
 21. *Annexed Black Sea peninsula
 23. Santa _____, Orange County
 24. Multicolored horse
 25. *Rand Paul's title, abbr.
 28. Youngster
 30. *Type of spinner popular in the late 2010s
 35. Between duet and quartet
 37. Newspaper piece
 39. Pope's court
 40. Bohemian
 41. *Tonya and Harley Quinn to Margot Robbie, e.g.
 43. *Like Millie Bobby Brown and friends in "Stranger Things"
 44. Prows
 46. Vaulting prop

47. Fencer's blade
 48. *Animated story of Elsa and Anna
 50. Greek salad ingredient
 52. Make #26 Down
 53. Look through a book
 55. Good times
 57. *Global surveillance whistle-blower
 61. *Swedish audio streamer
 65. BBQ spot
 66. Words at the altar (2 words)
 68. Beneficiary
 69. Anti-seniors sentiment
 70. Ides mo.
 71. Bone hollow
 72. Prepare potatoes
 73. Tide's backward flow
 74. City in France
- DOWN**
1. Having the means
 2. Land of Israel
 3. *_____cutting, broadcast TV phenomenon
 4. Opposite of alpha
 5. Not owner
 6. Something _____
 7. Opposite of paleo
 8. "Saturday Night Fever" music
 9. Pal
 10. Between trot and gallop
 11. Operatic solo

12. Actor Sean
15. Healthcare facility
20. *Bill de Blasio, e.g.
22. England's airforce
24. Recite rapidly (2 words)
25. Walking stick
26. Fielding mistake
27. Part of TNT
29. *BTS' genre
31. *Home to Blue Devils, 2015 NCAA winners
32. Complain
33. Downy duck
34. Policeman's shocker
36. Court of law opener
38. Mark for omission
42. Frame job
45. Not often
49. *Amal Clooney _____ Alamuddin
51. Naturally footless
54. Japanese cartoon art
56. Expressionless
57. Junk e-mail
58. Hindu serpent deity
59. Singer-songwriter Redding
60. Item on Santa's list
61. Acidic kind of apple
62. A fan of
63. *Plant in Zach Galifianakis' 2019 movie
64. Those not opposed
67. *Popular meme move

WCSD#1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 FEBRUARY 2023

21 Electric LLC	\$767.80
A&B Welding Supply Co.	\$2,160.98
Absaraka Conference	\$1,001.62
Amazon Capital Services	\$3,039.66
Randy Bock	\$525.00
City of Newcastle	\$2,710.10
Comfort Inn Worland	\$550.00
Copenhaver, Kath, Kitchen&	\$851.00
Douglas BB Officials Ass	\$802.50
Frontier Home Ranch And Hdwe	\$1,054.92
Gillette Officials	\$690.00
Gillette Officials	\$690.00
Gillette Officials	\$690.00
Emily Hiser	\$707.40
Holiday Inn	\$545.00
Judge Rotenberg Center, Inc.	\$35,937.06
News Letter Journal	\$1,651.50
Pine Cove Consulting, LLC	\$3,330.00
Range	\$1,175.16
Travis Tavegie	\$847.50
Travis Tavegie	\$847.50
Universal Athletic \$	768.20
Verizon Wireless	\$574.50
WCSD-Food Service	\$1,016.60
Weston County Health Services	\$1,250.00
Weston County Health Services	\$6,033.00
Woody's	\$934.56
Wyoming Refining Company	\$25,948.12
The Master Teacher	\$0.00
Mastercard	\$754.67
Amazon Capital Services	\$3,742.75
American Solutions For Business	\$810.28
Big Horn Integrators Inc	\$30,111.74
Black Hills Energy	\$23,257.23
Black Hills Energy	\$19,040.47
Decker's Market	\$1,233.18

Eastern Wyoming Equipment Company	\$680.91
Marco	\$7,234.99
Menholt Equipment Services	\$570.00
Norco LLC	\$600.06
Northeast Wyoming	\$67,738.24
Powder River Energy Corp	\$6,789.44
Sysco Montana INC	\$1,157.39
Weston County School Dist -FED	\$8,952.71
Woody's	\$578.13
Checking Account Total:	\$270,451.87
Gillette Steel Center	\$674.85
Little Caesars Pizza Kit	\$3,497.00
Mastercard	\$0.00
Wood Stock Supply	\$1,353.16
Mastercard	\$5,885.87
Amazon Capital Services	\$869.89
Atlas Therapy LLC	\$550.00
Jaimie Gray	\$1,652.00
Make-A-Wish Wyoming	\$600.00
Woody's	\$6,024.14
Checking Account Total:	\$21,106.91
Black Hills Energy	\$5,489.85
Black Hills Energy	\$3,060.96
Checking Account Total:	\$8,550.81
Prairie Farms	\$939.76
Sysco Montana Inc	\$11,116.65
Prairie Farms	\$1,859.62
Sysco Montana Inc	\$5,437.57
Checking Account Total:	\$19,353.60
Black Hills Plumbing & Heating	\$1,417.06
Long Building Technologies, Inc	\$31,091.00
Black Hills Heating	\$9,384.00
Checking Account Total:	\$41,892.06
Black Hills Energy	\$508.74
EWC College Bookstore	\$1,083.19
Checking Account Total:	\$1,591.93
Grand Total:	\$362,947.18

(Publish March 16, 2023)

Newcastle City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MINUTES MONDAY MARCH 6, 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, Daren Downs, Tyrel Owens, Tom Voss and John Butts. Also present were, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff, Police Chief Charles Bowles, City Attorney Dublin Hughes and City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ann McColley moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Don Steveson moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Tuesday, February 21, 2023 and the special meeting of Wednesday, February 22, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Kyah Miller 1st place Female State Wrestling Champion and Haven Vrana 2nd place State Wrestling.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: Norma Shelton for her years of service to Newcastle and the Weston County Travel Commission Board.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: Julie Whetsell submitted a request for appointment to the Weston County Travel Commission Board. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ms. Draine be moved to permanent status. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff reported that Trihydro is in the preliminary stages with the Landfill No. 1 remediation project and nothing is being moved at this time. Mr. Stumpff then referenced the Cemetery stating that the Committee was moving forward with the mater plan with conceptual drawings and had proposed changes to the rules regarding the cemetery. He then stated that the City had been awarded funding for the Duff Ave. project from the State Land and Investment Board. Public Works Supervisor Stumpff then referenced provided reports.

Police Chief Charles Bowles reported calls of service: WC Sheriff 202, Newcastle PD 259, Upton PD 60, Newcastle Ambulance 41, Upton Ambulance 9, Newcastle Fire 4, Upton Fire 1, Weston County Fire 65 and City Crew 2. Planning for the move of the Newcastle Police Department on March 12, 2023, with the exception of the Dispatch Center. Chief Bowles stated that he will be gone for training March 20th to 24th, in his absence Sergeant Thompson will be in charge.

OTHER BUSINESS: Councilman Tom Voss stated that the City website needs updated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to suspend the rules and go into executive session reference gifts/donations per W.W. 16-4-405(a)(viii) and personnel per W.S. 16-4-405(a)(ii) at 8:36 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to return to regular session at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried. Ann McColley moved, seconded Tom Voss to accept the donation of land. Discussion was had regarding the City's want or ability to upkeep the donated land. **MOTION DIED.**

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to pay the claims against the City dated March 6, 2023. **MOTION CARRIED.** Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Claims: 4R Graphic Design, decals, \$21.00; Aced Embroidery, embroidery work, \$70.00; Alpha Communications, tower rent, \$95.00; American Business Software, PD job posting, \$74.50; American Equipment, inspection/supplies, \$1,915.25; Matthew Anderson, mileage, \$418.75; Stella Anderson, garbage deposit refund, \$78.00; AT&T Mobility, PD cell service, \$356.82; BCN, long distance service, \$107.29; Black Hills Energy, energy services, \$178.33; Bomgaars, supplies, \$1,119.63; Cambria Supply, \$1,132.61; Campbell County EMS, ambulance services, \$8,333.33; Century Link, E911, \$956.19; Chuck Bowles, reimbursement/supplies, \$91.15; City of Newcastle, wa/sw/ga, \$586.79; Civic Plus, municode hosting/updates, \$1,200.00; John Crowter, deposit refund, \$100.00; Dakota Testing & Engineering, biosolid removal, \$1,310.00; Derek's, repairs, \$2,793.10; DRM, parts, \$1,302.52; Douglas Dumbrill, municipal judge/mileage, \$1,078.40; Eastern Wy. Equip., supplies, \$125.89; Energy Laboratories, laboratory testing, \$132.00; Farnsworth Services, portable sanitation, \$600.00; First State Bank, CD for NVFD, \$25,000.00; FOCUS, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$1,250.00; Frontier Home Ranch, supplies, \$816.73; Hughes Law Office, attorney fees, \$3,500.00; Hurricane Services, Handrails on Main, \$1,038.76; Kregel Towing, tow services, \$123.60; Mastercard, supplies/travel/training/memberships, \$2,348.36; Newcastle Chamber, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$2,500.00; Newcastle Recreation Board, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$9,500.00; NVFD, supplies/support/retirement, \$8,436.01; News Letter Journal, legals/supplies/ads, \$1,751.91; Norco, filers, \$87.75; Range, phone/internet, \$1,611.66; Brandi Roshau, deposit refund, \$24.12; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning services, \$200.00; Salt Creek Water District, sewer services, \$555.00; David Smith, mileage, \$660.00; Michael Staiger, mileage, \$345.00; Bryand Streeter, monthly distribution, \$1,333.33; Lucky Teigen-Grummons, FD cleaning services/supplies, \$329.31; Becky Vodopich, cleaning services, \$300.00; Voice Products, yearly contract, \$20,300.68; Weston County Children's Center, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$2,250.00; WC Road & Bridge, FD fuel, \$40.08; WC Treasurer, City share utilities, \$1,625.00; WC Humane Society, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$4,500.00; WC Senior Services, \$7,500.00; Woody's, supplies, \$35.99; WY DOT, plates, \$20.00; Wyoming Home Services, 3rd qtr. distribution, \$1,500.00; Wyoming Rents, track loader rent, \$4,215.00

Pokey's Smokehouse Barbeque requested a 24-hour catering permit for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to be held at the Weston County Event Center on March 11, 2023. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Tonya Christensen requested a 24-hour catering permit on behalf of Cap N Bottle for a St. Patrick's Day mixer for the Chamber of Commerce to be held at the Weston County Event Center on March 17, 2023. Tom Voss moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Ayush Dhakal of the Pines Motel requested sewer forgiveness due to a leak. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the sewer forgiveness in the amount of \$246.95. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL: Henry Nessel, President of the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce was present to give updates on the Chamber.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: Mayor Gualtieri welcomed Chris Beltz and Shawna Cochran with Campbell County EMS. Mr. Beltz went over the informational packet given to the Council. Within the packet a funding request for FY 2024 in the amount of \$110,000.00 was made. Concerns pertaining to the number of ambulances and the use of Life Flight were expressed.

Councilman Tyrel Owens made a report for the Tree Board. He reported that Arborist Travis Peterson had applied for grants to replace placards, trees and foliage around the corner of the City Hall building.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Gualtieri read Resolution No. 4, Series 2023, RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE TAKING OF DEER WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF NEWCASTLE AS PROVIDED UNDER W.S. 23-1-302(a)(vii) AND (xxii) AND AS PROVIDED UNDER CHAPTER 56 OF THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH REGULATIONS. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to pass Resolution No. 4, Series 2023. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Gualtieri referenced the Heritage Park Project. Consensus was that Dave Ehlers with the Heritage Park Committee could continue to look for funding to present to the Council. Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff stated that he would like to share information on funding with Mr. Ehlers.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS: City Attorney Hughes had no report. City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty requested the Council's clarification as to if the Clerk's Office should send out the newly recalculated charges for Dispatch Services. No comments were made. She then referenced materials provided by Wyoming Educators Benefit Trust regarding increased rates on employee health insurance. Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to accept the new rates. **MOTION CARRIED.** Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty stated that as per the Budget Process letter previously sent out, budget packets had been given to all department heads. Work shop with Council is set for April 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. She then reported that Clerk Heather Draine has completed her one (1) year probation and requested a \$0.50/hr. raise and that

0.118% to 0.000%;
(ii) An increase in the Distribution and Gas Cost Adjustment FL&U for Gas percentage from 0.433% to 0.834%;

Torrington Division
(i) An increase in the Choice Gas Distribution FL&U for Gas Reconciliation percentage from 2.726% to 2.739%; and
(ii) An increase in the Distribution and Gas Cost Adjustment FL&U for Gas percentage from 1.535% to 2.291%.

3. This is not a complete description of the Application. You may review the Application at the Commission's office in Cheyenne, Wyoming during regular business hours or online at: <http://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17250).

4. Anyone wishing to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so in writing filed with the Commission on or before March 31, 2023. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please be sure to mention Docket No. 30026-72-GA-23 in all correspondence with the Commission.

5. If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or write to the Commission, 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: March 3, 2023.
(Publish March 9 and 16, 2023)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company), for authority to revise the Fuel, Lost and Unaccounted for Gas Percentages (FL&U) in all of its Divisions, as more fully described below.

1. BHWG is a natural gas public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(D) and 37-2-112.

2. On March 1, 2023, BHWG filed its annual Application requesting approval to revise its FL&U gas percentages for the Casper, Cheyenne, Cody, Gillette and Torrington divisions, effective June 1, 2023. The Company requests the following:

Casper Division
(i) A decrease in the Transmission FL&U percentage from 1.587% to .197%;
(ii) A decrease in the Storage Injection FL&U percentage from 3.325% to 2.573%;

Cheyenne Division
An increase in the Distribution and Gas Cost Adjustment FL&U for gas percentage from 0.439% to 1.279%;

Cody Division
An increase in the Transmission and Gas Cost Adjustment FL&U for gas percentage from 2.114% to 2.318%;

Gillette Division
(i) A decrease in the Choice Gas Distribution FL&U for Gas Reconciliation percentage from

Bid Notice

NOTICE OF BID

Weston County School District #1 will be taking bids on the following equipment:
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Networking, Configuration, and Installation
For a complete detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) please contact:
Beau Gregory
Director of Technology
Weston County School District #1
(307)746-2746
Bids are due on April 6th 2023 at 12:00 pm. Further details are available via RFP.
(Publish March 16, 23 and 30, 2023)

Meeting Notice

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 MEETING NOTICE
Weston County Board of Trustees will have a 5:00 PM Early Start on March 29th for Executive
(Publish March 16, 2023)

Session to Discuss Initial/Continuing Contract Teachers under W.S. 16-4-405 (ii).
(Publish March 16, 2023)

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CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT NOON



CARD OF THANKS

Thanks
The Sutherland family would like to thank all that helped with Bert Sutherland's funeral. A special thank you to everyone that came together and made the wonderful food for the celebration of Bert Sutherland's life. A big thank you to all who made that day a day to remember. Once again thanks and the Sutherland family appreciates you all and we love you all.

Thank you
I wish to thank everyone who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. Life is a wonderful dash. God bless.
Sincerely, JoAnn

MISC
Yard sale
Sat Mar 18, 9-6pm & Sun Mar 19, 10-4pm, Osage Kitty Moats School. Toys, videos, dishes, clothes and more. Something for everyone!

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Fairgrounds Event Center
Fri, Mar 31, 4-7pm \$5 admission. Sat, Apr 1, 8-1pm free admission. All donations accepted at Event Center, all day Mar 30 & until noon Mar 31 or by calling Stephanie 746-8007, Sue 746-3325. But please only 1 box/bag clean gently used clothing. Only 1 small box books/magazines. See you at the sale!

Poker
Humane Society spring Texas Hold 'Em tournament. March 25th, 6pm at Newcastle Country Club. Free food, drawings for prizes. Questions? Call 746-4213.

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HELP WANTED

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Part-time office assistant needed, duties include waiting on customers, answering phones, making copies and other tasks. Pick up application at News Letter Journal, 14 West Main St.

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

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!

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Maintenance Technician Position

Weston County School District # 1 has an opening for a full-time building and grounds maintenance technician. Experience in HVAC, grounds work, sprinkler systems, general building maintenance, small engine repair and maintenance preferred. Position is a twelve month position. Fringe benefits include paid vacation, sick/personal leave, paid holidays, insurance, retirement. Please include a letter of interest, resume, and a completed application to the Administration Building at 116 Casper Avenue. Position opened until filled. Weston County School District # 1 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Please submit a cover letter and resumé to the Clerk's Office at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY 82701. Position will be open until filled. For questions, please call (307) 746-4744



Upton & Newcastle
Community Wellness Screenings

Dates and Times

Upton Community
 Nelson Administration Bldg. - 804 Willow St
Thursday, March 30th, 2023
6:30am - 9:30am

Newcastle Community
 Weston County Senior Center - 627 Pine Ave
Saturday, April 1st, 2023
6:00am - 11:00am

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Willyard back at the helm for the ladies

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Editor

Cami Willyard is back at the helm after taking a year's hiatus, and is looking forward to a good soccer season after losing only three to graduation, and returning several starters to the pitch this year. As the Newcastle High School ladies' soccer head coach, she said the girls have made the transition from winter to spring sports, and have been hard at work in practice sessions preparing for the 2023 soccer season.

"It's great to be back!" Willyard said. "I enjoyed last week so much! It was great to be back around the girls, the energy was awesome, and I knew I made the right decision to come back."

Practice began last Monday, but due to wet fields and adverse weather conditions, the ladies had their first five practices indoors. However, they were able to get outside and on the field this week as they get ready to kick off their season this weekend at the Gillette Jamboree.

"The fields could have been in better shape but it was great to get outside," Willyard said. "The girls didn't complain at all about the cold, so it felt really good."

MacKenzie Conzelman, Gabby McVay, Kyah Miller, Mia Peterson, McKenzie Rose, Emi Lichtenberger, Ava Williams, Andrea Garcia, Leti Ayers, Ruth Rose and Hailey Beastroom are returning varsity players from last season.

Having lost Angel Perez as keeper to graduation, Willyard is in unfamiliar territory with a need to replace her goalie.

"We've been working with Kenz Rose in the goal and she is looking good," Willyard reported. "She played in the goal in the past and filled in for Angel once last season, and having Jesse Stearns as my assistant, who used to play keeper and has a lot of experience there, is great. As such, we are also working with a couple of freshmen because it would be awesome to have Kenz out on the field, because she does some good things for us there."

There are 19 girls out for the sport at this point in the season, but Willyard is hoping to add one or two more to the team. With those numbers, the Lady Dogies will be able to field a JV team to play either one half, or a full game of 9 v. 9.

The returners are coming back having earned

a state tournament berth last season. Though they went two and out, Willyard noted that it was great for them to gain that post-season experience.

Currently, Willyard is planning to run a 4-4-2 formation like they did last season, but is considering implementing a 4-5-1 (four defenders, five midfielders and one striker) or a 4-3-2-1 play (four defenders, three defensive midfielders, two offensive midfielders and one striker).

"We have some key spots to fill, so I'm going to mix some things around to get a better idea where everyone fits best," Willyard explained. "I just got the basketball players today (Monday), and also picked up another player today, so I'm still feeling it out to see what will work best for us."

Looking around the conference, Willyard anticipates that although Buffalo graduated quite a few girls last year, they will have a solid squad again this season. Douglas will be a solid contender, but Willyard believes that the Lady Dogies should be able to battle with them. Rawlins and Torrington should be teams that Newcastle will be able to hold their own against, and Worland — who has moved back into the 3A East — will be solid as per usual.

"Making it back to the state tournament this year is definitely our goal this season," Willyard declared. "Then, once we get there, we want to win a couple of games."

In addition to Willyard and Stearns, the Lady Dogies are also being helped out by volunteer coaches Kristine Rhoades and Nathina Lewis.

The Lady Dogies are scheduled to play Friday at the Gillette Jamboree, but they are hoping to move their game to Saturday, because Willyard will be without four starters if they have to play on Friday due to players being gone for state FBLA.

"If we can't get it moved, I'll only have 11 or 12 players who can play on Friday," Willyard said, frowning. "If we do get it moved, we'll be able to play JV and varsity."

Their opponent for the opening contest is Kelly Walsh, which will be a challenging contest to kick things off.

"I like it that we will have a team like Kelly Walsh right out of the gate," Willyard said. "We'll get to see the girls go up against good competition, so it'll give us a good idea of where they fit best."

Karpe from Page 9.....

second quarter of the semi-final game at the regional tournament, requiring her to have the wound taped up, but was back on the court in the second half.

Jayde Harrington — who is a junior, but still tough — was suffering from some back issues heading into regionals and she got banged up pretty good in the three games that weekend, however, she also played through regionals and state with no one being the wiser to her pain.

Shelby Tidyman suffered an injury to her foot in the consolation semi-final match-up at regionals — the loser out game — but she fought through the pain to finish the game.

I saw her foot the following Tuesday, and it was purple and green from her ankle all the way to her toes, and she headed to the state tournament wearing a boot, but there was nary a limp when she took the court at the tournament. It didn't slow her down at all, and the senior played three of the best games of her career, despite the fact that she had to feel that pain with every step she took.

To be honest, it's kind of rare to see that much toughness in this day and age.

Any one of those injuries or the illnesses that went through the team in the final weeks would have been enough to convince a player to take a

break until they felt better, but not these girls.

They were on a mission to bring home a state title, and they were willing to do whatever it took to make it happen.

Although they didn't quite reach their goal, they did bring home the first ever third-place finish at the state tournament Saturday, which was also the best finish for NHS girls' basketball in 42 years.

They left everything on the court so they can look back at what they accomplished with pride and with no regrets in the years to come.

And they can rest assured that they showed amazing grit and resolve and proved that they are tougher than nails.

Week of the Young Child Adventures in Learning Night
 Preschool-Age Children & Parents!

Monday, April 3rd, 5:30-7 p.m.
at the Newcastle High School Cafeteria and Practice Gym

Local community preschools/daycares and many other organizations/businesses will be providing fun activities for preschool age children along with their parents! Activities will target the Wyoming Early Childhood Standards! Children do not need to be enrolled in a preschool. Come out and enjoy a night of playful learning and receive a gift!

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