

Congratulations

Class of 2018



First State Bank

OF NEWCASTLE

MEMBER FDIC

Class of 2018

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Sunday, May 20th

2:00 P.M.

Crouch Auditorium

Graduation Speaker:

Bette Sample



Nathaniel Behnke

"Bulldawg"



Son of Julia and Ron Behnke
My favorite memory from school was during my first day of high school. As a freshman, I didn't know a lot about Mr. Hayman, but after a desk was thrown and my ears were ringing, I soon realized who he was. I plan to attend the University of Wyoming and pursue a degree in Kinesiology. After that, I may attend medical school and possibly become a Pediatrician.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Health Services*

Abigail Bock

"Aby"



Daughter of Kim and Robert Bock
My favorite memory was Prom 2018 and after-prom because I got a red mini fridge.
I plan to major in Architectural Engineering, and minor in Interior Design.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Childrens Center*

Wyatt Corley



Son of Joe and Cindy Corley
My favorite memory was when I watched my little brother win the state title in wrestling as a freshman.
I plan to go to Gillette College and get my degree in Diesel Mechanics and certify in welding, then hopefully find a place around here.

*Sponsored by
Newcastle Equipment*

Trayton Dawson

"WEEMAN"



Son of Tera and JR Dawson
My favorite memory from high school would include all the times my friends and I would hang out in class and pull our shenanigans, or all the sports activities I have been involved in.
My plans for the future include heading into the work field and making money. I want to get a good paying job, or go to school in Gillette for a Criminal Justice degree.

*Sponsored by
The Pizza Barn*

Bailey Domina



Son of Roy and Julie Domina
My favorite memory was when I broke my face at the beginning of senior year working on my go kart with Billy.
I've joined the Air Force and I hope to travel the world and serve my country.

*Sponsored by
Bradeen Real Estate & Auctions*

Jaden Douglas



Son of Debra Hoover and Derick Douglas
My favorite memory was State FFA with my FFA chapter.
I plan to run my own welding company.

*Sponsored by
Wyoming Refining Company*

Shaelee Douglas



Daughter of Tammy and John Bird
My favorite memory is from volleyball season my sophomore year. We went to Rawlins for the tournament. Playing JV wasn't even my favorite part, it was the adventures and fun times we had at the hotel.
I plan to go to the South Dakota School of Mines to study Mechanical Engineering. I hope to obtain a Bachelor's degree in it. Overall, my goal is to be content with my life and the career I choose.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Health Services*

Taylor Ford



Daughter of Becky Cobb
My favorite memory was when I was a freshman and played volleyball-bus trips and overnight stays with my friends were so fun. We were all so silly back then.
I plan to go to Gillette College and play soccer for the Lady Pronghorns. There I will finish my Associates and will later transfer to Sheridan for their Dental Hygiene program.

*Sponsored by
Decker's Market*

Xandra Marie Gallardo Goodrich



Daughter of Jackie and Zeb Goodrich
My favorite memory is going into my senior year because I was pretty excited for school and I was determined that it was a great year. So far it has been.
I plan to go to college and get my Criminal Justice degree.

*Sponsored by
JackMaster Construction*

Joseph Guse

"Goose"



Son of Matt and Jen Johnston
My favorite memory is hanging out in the science department and going on all the field trips offered by science.
I plan to go to welding school and work under someone as an apprentice. Then later make my own business welding sculptures and art pieces to sell, or go to school for Particle Physics and become a Particle Physicist.

*Sponsored by
Wyoming Refining Company*

Murray Hebbring "Junior"



Son of Brandee Hebbring and Josh Oliver
My favorite memory is all my friends and soccer team.
My plan and goals are to work at Maverick and move in with my sister.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Senior Services*

Sarah Henkle

Daughter of Sean and Laurie Goodart and Richard Henkle
My favorite memory would have to be from my sophomore year. I participated in both the 4x100 relay and 4x400 relay where we won both regionals and state in both.
I plan to attend Casper College to obtain my Associate's of Science in Athletic Training and continue to pursue my Master's Degree in Kinesiology.



*Sponsored by
Erickson Dental*

Makayla Hofner



Daughter of Carlyn Hofner and Jon Morgan
My favorite memory was probably the first day of school. I just moved here from a K-12 school with only 100 kids. I was nervous and so quiet and my first hour teacher was Mr Voneye. I laugh back at my first thoughts of everyone and their last names/nicknames as he shouted them through the room. The assembly was pretty funny too. I plan on attending BHSU for the first two years and then transferring. My goal is to get my Microbiology degree.

*Sponsored by
W.C. Sports & Western Wear*

Landon Howen



Son of Brandi Montagne
My favorite memory from school is just being around all of my friends. My goals and plans for after high school are to join the Marine Corps and create a good life for myself.

*Sponsored by
Decker's Market*

Bailey Lacey



Daughter of Patrick and Christa
My favorite memory is of all of my student council trips and activities, as well as setting everything up for Homecoming 2018. I plan to attend Casper College to obtain my degree in Elementary Education and Photography. I would like to become a kindergarten teacher and continue my photography business. I would then like to pursue Special Education.

*Sponsored by
BAM Document Destruction & Recycling*

Ramey Lake



Son of Jason and Alisha Lake
My favorite memory is meeting new people and having the friends I do. My plans for the future are to go into the Marine Corps.

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Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware*

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LEGACY
Series

Re-enactments of the historical events of 1903— from Frontier Justice on the streets of Newcastle, to the sudden blaze of gunfire Lighting Creek. All Free to the public.

May 28, 2018 ~ Dusk

The Lynching of the murderous cowboy “Diamond Slim” Clifton on the streets of Newcastle.

July 4, 2018

President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt's speech on Newcastle's historic Main Street.

October 31, 2018

The Battle of Lighting Creek, and the somber funeral procession for Sheriff Billy Miller.

nlj
news letter journal

Paid for in part by the Weston County Travel Commission

Teigen Marchant

Son of Dilly and Jacy Marchant
My favorite memory was moving through the grades. I plan to go to Torrington to finish an Associates in Art then to UW for a Master's in Civil Engineering.



*Sponsored by
Pinnacle Bank*

Colton Patrick McCoy

Son of Angie and Craig McCoy and Grandson of Sharon McCoy
My favorite memory was 3D printing. I plan to have a family vacation this summer, and Job Corps.



*Sponsored by
Dixon Bros. Inc.*

Halle McCoy



Daughter of Lee McCoy and Robyn Stanton
My favorite memory was being in Mrs. J's class. She let me paint on her wall my senior year before I graduated. I plan to join the National Guard and go to college to be a teacher.

*Sponsored by
M&K Oil*

Rehanna Payne



Daughter of Karen and Greg Payne
My favorite memory from school would have to be when I was attempting to make my best friend, Shelby, mad. I told her that I thought that all of her friends were stupid, but at that time, I was her only friend. So, I ended up calling myself stupid!
I am joining the United States Air Force to become a Flight Nurse and help those who are injured.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Health Services*

Emily Pearson



Daughter of Cindy and Randy Pearson
My favorite memory from school was my first day of my senior year as I felt like all my hard work was really starting to pay off. There was a light at the end of the tunnel. I plan to attend Montana State University of Billings to work on my pre-pharmacy requirements and work on getting a Bachelor's of Science.

*Sponsored by
Newcastle Equipment*

Aidan Peterson



Son of Danette and Travis Peterson
My favorite memory from school would have to be my first day of freshman year. In the future, I plan on going to Gillette College to become an electrician.

*Sponsored by
Dixon Bros. Inc.*

Tabitha Pillen



Daughter of Rick and Susie Pillen
My favorite memory was experiencing my very first structure fire which was the beginning of a very educational journey as an Explorer on the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department. This experience has now developed into me becoming a volunteer firefighter. I plan to attend Gillette College and get my Electrical Degree then transfer to Casper College to get a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Response and Fire Science.

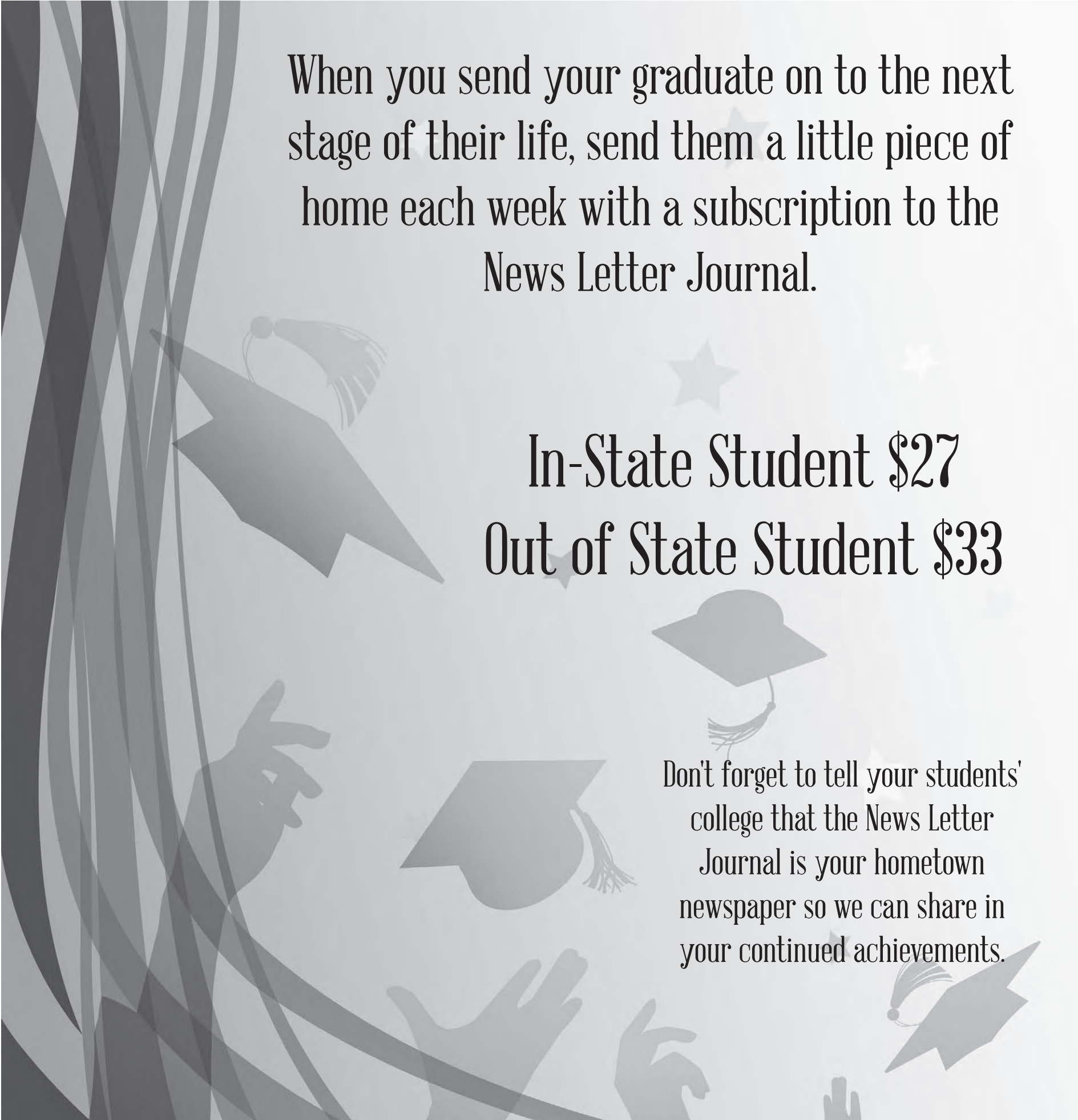
*Sponsored by
Crossroads Cantina*

Lovell D. Prell



Son of James and Sheila Prell
My favorite memory is of the first homecoming game I played in the band for. I plan on training in line locating and finding a company to work for afterwards.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Children's Center*

The background features a light gray gradient with several faint, semi-transparent silhouettes of graduation caps and hands reaching upwards. On the left side, there are vertical, overlapping bands of varying shades of gray, creating a textured, layered effect.

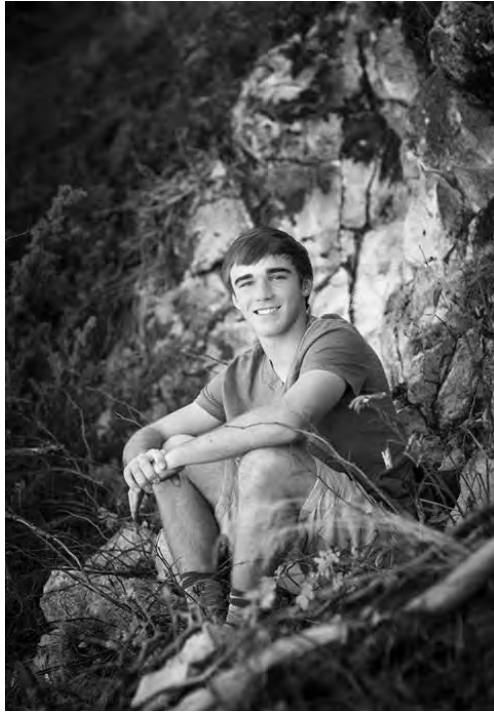
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Don't forget to tell your students' college that the News Letter Journal is your hometown newspaper so we can share in your continued achievements.

Cameron Quigley

Son of Todd Quigley and Jody Taylor
My favorite memory would be my four years of football and basketball. From bus rides, to team bonding, to actually playing the games, I wouldn't trade it for the world. I will be attending Dakota Wesleyan University in the fall. Here, I will go into the Athletic Training program and hopefully receive my Master's Degree. I will also continue my baseball career as a DWU Tiger.



*Sponsored by
North Platte Physical Therapy*

Courtney Rainbolt

Daughter of Amie and Russell Rainbolt
My favorite memory is going to Mallo in the 5th grade. I plan to obtain a degree in Chemical Engineering.



*Sponsored by
Weston County Health Services*

Katherine Schraeder "Kate"



Daughter of Joyce Schraeder
My favorite memory from school is some school trips freshman year. My plans and goals for the future are to become an orthodontist, get married, have a few kids, retire by the time I'm 65 years old, and die in my sleep.

*Sponsored by
Weston County Health Services*

Erika Schultz



Daughter of Greg Schultz
My favorite memory is painting each other's nails during sports trips on the way to Rawlins. I will attend Black Hills State University and get my degree in English Education.

*Sponsored by
Woody's Food Center*

Billy Soderberg

"Bill-Dozer"

Son of Lonnie/Ty Farella and Chris Soderberg
My favorite memory was doing anything with my friends, but probably when I earned my nickname.
I plan to go to school in Casper and get a business degree, make it to the CNFR, open a fabrication business.



*Sponsored by
First State Bank*

Dustin Stevenson

"Dust"

Son of Kermit Kennedy and Mark Stevenson
My favorite memory from school would have to be the time when I won one of the better prizes at after-prom.
My future plans include going to a trade school to become an electrician. After that, I plan to work at Black Thunder Coal Mine.



*Sponsored by
A-1 Real Estate*

Emalee Sweet

"Em"

Daughter of Shane and Marissa Sweet
I enjoyed all of the FFA trips we went on, but my favorite memory was attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.
I plan to attend Casper College to rodeo and get my degree in Agriculture Communications and Ag Business.



*Sponsored by
Treasured Florals & Gifts*

Bryson Tidyman



Son of Jon and Kelly Tidyman
My favorite memory is all of the FFA trips and functions that we took part in.
I plan to attend SDSU in Brookings, SD and study Ag Education in the fall.

*Sponsored by
First State Insurance Agency*

Shelby Vandernick

Daughter of Amber and Joe Vandernick

One of my favorite memories from school is when I went to a FCCLA Convention with my little sister, Tessa and good friend, Angie. Our hotel was about 30 stories, so the gravity on the elevator was weird. One of the times we went up it, Tessa got the hilarious idea to walk in a circle. When it stopped, the gravity shifted and comically made Angie fall over. In the future, I plan to enroll in Black Hills State University, majoring in Art Education and minoring in Art Management. After that, I am going to work hard to become an Art Educator. On the side, I plan to work on selling my art and to moderate my own web comic. My biggest goal is to be happy and make others happy as well.



*Sponsored by
Pinnacle Bank*

ShayeAnne Walker "Shaye"

Daughter of RayeAnne Schlesselman and Christina Walker
My favorite memory is sport trips with the teams and Mrs. McCormack's "immediately" over the intercom.
I plan to attend Gillette College for two years and major in Business Management and minor in entrepreneurship.



*Sponsored by
Decker's Market*

Lyle Whitney



Son of Michelle Whitney and Jay Whitney
My favorite memory is that Christmas parties were always a blast.
I plan to attend college for Physical Therapy.

*Sponsored by
North Platte Physical Therapy*

Nathan Foote



Son of Roger and Tanya Foote
My favorite memory is pretty much getting out.
I plan on getting on the Forest Service this summer, and finding out what the future holds for me after that.

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Wyoming Refining Company*

Mrs. Proctor's Last Class



Debb Proctor looks back on her long career as beloved English teacher at Newcastle High School as she gets ready to retire this spring. The memories are too many to catalog but most of all she will miss her relationship with the kids.

Story and photos by
JEN KOCHER for NLJ

Debb Proctor could go through a yearbook and tell you something about each and every kid.

In her 33 years of teaching at Newcastle High School, she's taught multiple generations, from parents to their children, and even including her own grandkids. Though the technology has changed, the kids have pretty much remained the same, and that's what she'll miss.

Not the technology.

She looks regretfully up at the white Smart Board hanging on a wall in her classroom. She'd promised her senior class that she would learn how to use it before she stepped down. Alas. It's the only promise she will not be keeping in her long career as an English teacher.

A pile of plastic binders sits stacked on a corner of her desk in her classroom on the second floor of the high school. It's the last batch of essays she'll ever grade. She sighs as she picks up a binder and gently sets it down. It's hard to believe she'll never hold one of these in her hands again. She's going to miss this, but at age 65, it's time for her to step down.

That was the plan she and her late husband, Marvin, had been working toward for the past few decades as they dutifully paid off their mortgage and car loans. They wanted to be free and clear

to retire without owing a dime. That Marvin died suddenly of a heart attack less than six months ago caused her pause, but isn't going to deter her plan. This was what they had said they were going to do, and he would want her to be happy. Period.

Plus, it will be nice to have her days free and a wide-open schedule when next year's fall rolls around, and her granddaughters amp up their busy sports and activity seasons. Debb plans to be present at all of them, and have daily lunches with the girls.

Still, the idea of a day without her students hangs uneasily over her as she plans for the future.

"I won't miss all the paperwork," she said, "but I'll sure miss the kids."

They've touched her life in so many ways, particularly in recent months when she's not sure how she would have made it to the next day without them. Home is so empty now, she noted, and the kids and staff have just been great.

"They're the reason that I've been able to get out of bed every day," she said.

Her career has been more fulfilling than she'd ever imagined. Over the years, there's too many stories to recount of the many students who have touched her life, though a few of the more notable ones stick out in her mind.

There's Johnny Walker, the once defiant student who claimed to hate English, but who later was so awestruck by one of her narratives that

he encouraged her to try to get it published. She did, and when the story of her brother and the tree swing found a home in a Black Hill's Literary Society journal, it was Johnny who encouraged her to give it to her brother for Christmas.

There's the story of another defiant self-proclaimed English class hater. Along with hating class, she also decided she hated Debb and called her mother one afternoon to come to school to confront Debb on all of the supposed injustices shown to her. When the mother walked in and saw her former teacher, who back then she'd known as Miss Heinen, sitting behind her desk, she grabbed her daughter and scuttled her outside for a good reaming out. Miss Heinen would never have done any of those things her daughter claimed, and from then on the girl never again gave her any trouble.

And, she'll never forget about Shawn Peterson the wrestler, who knew immediately that Debb had broken her shoulder when she turned up to class after taking a spill on her daughter's icy front porch. When Debb balked at making a doctor's appointment as he insisted because she wasn't going to waste the students' class time, Peterson stood up and told the class to hold tight because their teacher needed to leave class to make a phone call.

"Darned if he wasn't right, too," she said, shaking her head. "He could've saved me a doc-

tor's bill."

The only thing she couldn't stand was dishonesty, and she'd call students out on it when she suspected a lie, though she always tried to give them the benefit of the doubt. Some days that was harder than others.

She remembers one chronically late student, who after being threatened with detention for being tardy, showed up the next day with a whopper. According to the student, she and her friend were stopped for a train when a strange woman got into the car and demanded the girls drive her home. Later, she found out that apparently there were stories circulating about such a woman, so maybe that time Debb got it wrong. She still thinks about that one and others as her days behind the desk wind down.

These stories could go on for hours, she admits, and she gets a little teary when she recounts all of the many ways in which her students have touched her life. And she hopes, she theirs.

FROM PSYCHIATRIST TO ENGLISH TEACHER

In a million years, Debb would never have believed she would grow up to become a high school English teacher.

For starters, she hated high school. As a student in Lead, South Dakota, she hated the drama, the boredom, all the randomly useless information she was being taught. Instead, she was going to become a clinical psychiatrist.

First, however, she planned to move with her then-boyfriend to North Dakota, where the two would get jobs and go to school. Her father was horrified. Was Debb's mother really going to let Debb run off with some boy? Her mother shrugged- it was time for her daughter to find her own way.

Once in Grand Forks, the pair barely had time to sign up for classes when her boyfriend's father called him home. His draft letter had arrived, and in less than a week he'd be heading to Vietnam.

Debb returned to South Dakota heartbroken, until her girlfriend convinced her to take a ride over to Black Hills State and sign up for school. Without anything better to do Debb tagged along, and when the same friend convinced her to sign up for the teaching program Debb went along. Both she and her friend, also a teacher, still laugh about that today.

After college and with a young daughter in tow (the daughter of her former boyfriend, who upon returning from war was a changed man with no interest in becoming a family man) Debb applied for a job at her old high school, where she was interviewed by her former principal. She was horrified to return to Principal Bill Ausmann's office, where she'd also spent a lot of time as a kid.

"I was a rotten student," she said, shaking her head in disapproval at the memory of her girlhood self. "I sassed and got called to the office and was just a bad kid."

Her principal disagreed. But then again, she guesses every kid feels like they were rotten. Today as a teacher, many former students come back to her and tell her the same.

"He told me, 'Debb, there's some kids you believe will be okay, and you're one of them.'" He offered her a job on the spot.

After a year of teaching in Lead, she returned to the Black Hills campus to work in the student

center, where one of her mentors pulled her aside and told her it was time she moved away from home. Her mentor knew about a job in Crawford, Nebraska, and before Debb could make any objections, she called with Debb sitting there and set up an interview.

As a single mom, Debb was pretty nervous about what people might think, particularly in the small Midwestern town of less than 500.

"The superintendent asked me if I had a problem with my situation and being a single mom, and I said, 'no, is it a problem for you?' He hired me on the spot," she said, laughing.

It turned out to be a good move for Debb and her daughter, Jennifer, who were immediately adopted by the residents of the small town and taken under their wing. She loved the staff and students, and for the first time in her life had to figure out how to take care of herself. Her salary was small, but the two eeked it out with occasional celebratory dinners out at Taco John's in nearby Crawford, until one particularly cold February when the heat bill doubled and Debb found herself with the choice of paying rent or buying food.

She stressed over the figures one night when a student—a daughter of her landlord's—came to visit and wondered why she was so upset. After hearing the predicament, the next day there was a card on Debb's front door: No need to pay for the rent this month. Happy Valentine's Day, the card read. It was a gesture that three-plus decades later still brings tears to her eyes.

"They were so good to me," Debb said, shaking her head in wonder. "They didn't judge me or have a bad word to say. They were so happy I was teaching their kids in school."

With a daughter growing up fast, however, Debb decided it was time to start looking around for higher paying jobs and applied to school in Newcastle. One day as she lounged out in her yard sunbathing, she got a call from the superintendent who just happened to be dining at a restaurant a few blocks away. He wondered if she could be ready to interview in 10 minutes.

She flew into the house with just enough time to wash off the tanning oil and throw her hair into a pony tail. As the principal, Jerry Anderson, grilled her in her living room, little 10-year-old Jennifer appeared with a tray of Kool-Aid and cookies, warming over all of their hearts.

To this day, Debb has no idea how she knew to do that, but it was the gesture that sealed the

deal and one that Anderson to this day still credited for hiring Debb.

Then began Miss Heinen's career as high school English teacher.

She met Marvin a few years later when Jennifer asked to sleep over at her friend Shannon's house. Only if she met the parents first, Debb told her, which led to meeting Marvin, then a single dad, who she recognized from church. She gave her consent.

At the second sleepover, Marvin wanted to know if Debb wanted to have dinner, and since the girls were sleeping over, Marvin took them all out for dinner. When it came time to drop the girls at a movie, the couple went across the street for a Coke. The next day Marvin thought he'd just pick Debb and Jennifer up and take them all to church. Standing beside Marvin as he held the hymnal open for both of them to see she noted self-consciously his "beautiful tenor voice" intermingling with her not-so-good one. She put her hand over Marvin's to hold her end of the hymnal when a shaft of sunlight beamed through the stained-glass window, lighting up their coupled hands in a glorious blaze of light.

"I just knew," she said.

LOVE 'EM, FEED 'EM, THEN TEACH 'EM

There was a slight problem with a student's behavior toward the substitute yesterday, so Debb discretely pulled the student to the side as he enters the classroom. She leans in to talk quietly as the student begins to object, then promptly tips his head down apologetically. Debb mockingly pokes him a few times in the chest, and the student breaks into a shy smile and high-fives her. A few minutes later, the student is sitting in a chair beside Debb's desk as Debb helps him comb out the theme of his essay. He wasn't too sure about it, until she got him talking.

She loves her students, but doesn't let them get away with acting poorly or not living up to their potential. This is what her students appreciate about her. She's tough but kind, and over the years has adjusted her reading lists to try to instill a love of reading depending on interest—from Shakespeare to Louis L'Amour—and takes the time to help anyone in need. Some days this might mean helping students edit essays or memorize literary terms, and sometimes it means providing breakfast and snacks for rumbling bellies.

"My motto is to love 'em, feed 'em, and then



Debb Proctor teases Isabell Frank about not having her literary terms done for her upcoming presentation.

teach 'em," she said with a big smile.

For many students, she's a mother, and over the years has affectionately been called "Ma Proctor," "Big Mama," or "Grandma." The love runs deep in both directions.

This year, her seniors asked her if she would give their commencement address, though Debb declined.

"I told them they don't want an old, blubbery woman up there trying to speak," she said. Instead, they settled with her agreeing to walk with them during commencement.

It's going to take some practicing on her part, she admits, because even just thinking about it makes her teary.

"I just love them all, and I'm so proud of each and every one of them," she said, with eyes getting misty. "From the doctors to the lawyers to the construction workers and kids who choose to get jobs and not off to college. They're all my kids."

For now, she's taking the advice of friends who tell her not to do anything for a year as she continues to work through her grief over losing Marvin, though one day she plans to do some traveling to see every state in the Union. The travels she's been on thus far for conferences and other family trips remain some of her fondest memories, but as someone living with M.S., she knows she needs to take it easy and take it one day at a time.

For now, her only plans for retirement include fixing her back deck, which perhaps not surprisingly, will be done by former student, local contractor J.R. Lewis. She chuckles at that first phone call and his embarrassed pause when he admitted he wasn't sure what to call her.

"Call me Debb," she'd told him, once again reiterating how proud she is of him and his wife and all of the students who go on to have wonderful jobs, families and lives. "It's just so neat to see what people become."

Q What will you miss most about Mrs. Proctor?

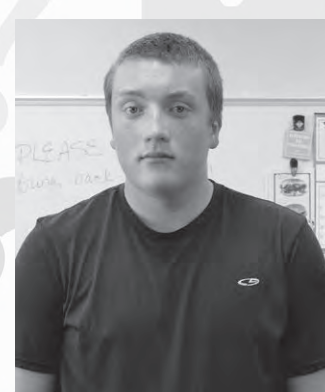


"She really cared about us a lot. Even when we were being a pain in the butt, which was most of the time."

Isabell Frank



Christian Santos: How she helps us out a lot and was always there for us. She could tell if you were confused and needed help even if you didn't ask. She was always there and smiling and fun to be around.



Kilian Gorman: How caring and loving she is with everyone. She really was such a fantastic teacher.

Newcastle High School

Class of 2018



Class Color: *Blue*

Class Flower: *Blue Iris*

Class Song: *"Stand By Me"*

Class Motto:

*"Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path
and leave a trail."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson