



News Letter Journal

Weston County

January 8, 2015

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 129

Week 2

Lambert named new chairman

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

Weston County Commissioners started their year off strong at their first regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6. With two new commissioners on board, as well as a new county

clerk, the commissioners all agreed that this could be a very positive year for the county. To begin, the commissioners were set with the task of electing a chairman and vice chairman, as well as deciding whether the News Letter Journal or the Weston County Gazette would be the county's legal

paper.

When the nominations for chairman were opened by Cheryl Kregel, the new county clerk, Commissioner Randy Rossman quickly nominated Commissioner Bill Lambert to take the position. Commissioner Tony Barton seconded that motion, with

four of the five commissioners giving their approval. Commissioner Marty Ertman, who expressed to Kregel and the others that she wanted her vote recorded, voted against the motion to make Lambert chairman.

With the nomination for Lambert as chairman, the county faces quite a

unique situation, with having a newly elected commissioner as a chairman.

"My only concern on that is that county government takes a long time to understand," Ertman reported, when asked why she voted against putting

— See Commissioners, Page 7

Pay raise requested

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

William Curley, the newly elected county attorney, went before the Weston County Commissioners on Dec. 16 to request a pay raise, or benefits, for the deputy attorney he plans to hire, Linda Black, who was a county attorney in South Dakota for five years.

Curley approached the commissioners with a proposal stating that he wishes to make the deputy county attorney a full-time position and raise the salary for that position to \$75,000 and/or offer benefits.

"So this proposal you have here, your deputy would be making \$75,000 and you would be making \$50,000," asked then-Commission Chair Lenard Seeley, who is now retired.

"I wasn't going to start out at \$75,000, but she discussed some options with me," Curley stated. He explained that he also had some return options that he proposed to Black. Curley continued to tell the commissioners that, with flexibility, he could offer the position with or without benefits.

Mamie Krank, county clerk at the time of the meeting, explained to the commissioners that the state pays half of the wages for both the county attorney and deputy attorney, up to \$60,000. The money is initially paid by the county and then later reimbursed by the state, meaning that the county will need to have the full amount allotted in the budget, not just the partial amount. She reasoned that they could raise the deputy attorney's wage from \$50,000 to \$60,000 and still be reimbursed half, but raising the salary to \$75,000 will require the county to pay an extra \$15,000 out of pocket.

Curley was quick to explain

"I wasn't going to start out at \$75,000, but she discussed some options with me ... You have to have something to offer."

— William Curley,
County Attorney

that if the county was not to provide benefits but only the pay raise for the position, that they would in fact save money. Krank agreed with this, adding that she didn't know off the top of her head what it would cost to provide benefits for a year, but she could reason that there would be a savings.

"You have to have something to offer," Curley explained to the commissioners. Curley then clarified that, according to his research, \$70,000 was considered good pay for a deputy attorney in 2009 and 2010.

Black was given the opportunity to address the commissioners in which she explained that she and Curley had discussed figures that would allow for her to work full time. She figured that \$75,000 with benefits for a full-time deputy attorney would be reasonable, adding that she has bills to pay, and this proposal would allow her to devote all her time to Weston County.

She then made it clear to the commissioners that she understood that it maybe more feasible to not give her the benefits with the pay raise, and, depending on what her salary would be, she may have to supplement in order to pay those bills.

"We have a budget coming up, and that would be the perfect time [to address this],"

— See Attorney, Page 7



Taking aim

Junior Taylor Allen makes a jump shot during the Dec. 19 Newcastle Dogie game against Belle Fourche, during the Stateline Shootout. After a holiday hiatus, the team played against the Lusk Tigers on Tuesday, and face off against the Torrington Trailblazers on Saturday, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Tree care decision made

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

For several months, the Weston County Fair Board has been discussing the best way to care for the 87 trees at the fairgrounds. At the December meeting, the three present board members — Chairman Curtis Rankin, sec-

retary Marilyn Schmoker and board member Zane Marty — decided to hire an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, Travis Peterson, doing business as Acorn Tree Service, to provide maintenance for the trees.

Peterson explained that he started Acorn Tree Service after doing considerable vol-

unteer work in the community. He enjoys giving back to the community, he said, whether he is getting paid for it or volunteering his time and expertise. In the fall of 2014, when he first looked at the trees at the fairgrounds, his first reaction was to bring his wife and four children over and volunteer, because, he

told the News Letter Journal, they enjoy being able to use the facility.

However, he stated, after looking more closely at the health of the trees, he realized it will take a lot of work — more than originally thought — to get the trees to where

— See Trees, Page 3

Officers now equipped with cameras

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

The Newcastle Police Department was awaiting the arrival of four body cameras that police officers will wear on their person during their shift, and NPD Chief Jim Owens reported last week that the cameras had arrived and officers were familiarizing themselves with their use.

"Corporal [Rich] Hillhouse has been wearing one since Thursday," Owens reported in an interview with the News Letter Journal, suggesting that the new cameras will serve to protect citizens and officers alike. He said officers already use dash cams in their vehicles, but the body cams will provide greater coverage and overcome the limits of dash-mounted varieties.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, Hillhouse began wearing one of the four body cams during his shift after taking it home on his days off and going over the instructions to learn how it works. Owens explained that Hillhouse took the cameras home over his three days off, and will be tasked with teaching the rest of the officers how to use them.

At the Dec. 15 Newcastle City Council meeting, Owens informed the group that his officers are still working with the equipment to figure out what kind of video it produces, the quality of the video, and the process for downloading and saving the videos to a computer.

The camera, which is easily worn on the shirt pocket, runs constantly once it is turned on, but in order to record what is happening

the officers must push the record button on the unit. The camera will beep when the officer pushes the record button, and will record until the officer pushes the button again.

"They are just like our car cameras. Once you press the button to start it, it backs up 30 seconds. That first 30 seconds does not have audio, but it shows what was going on prior to turning the camera on," stated Owens, who explained the parameters under which the new cameras will be utilized.

"The policy with the car camera has been — the same with this — is any time they come in contact with someone, go ahead and record that contact. That way we will have it recorded if we need it, and we can delete it if we don't," Owens reported, explaining that neither the car cameras or the body

cameras record the whole time the officer is on shift, only when necessary.

According to Owens, the cameras record when the button is pushed, and the video stored directly on the camera. It is not transmitted directly back to dispatch. He noted there are cameras out there that have that ability, but they are far too expensive and not necessarily needed.

"It was determined that we could handle the video, at least at this phase, ourselves," Owens professed, adding that they also have systems through Axon, which is where their cameras came from, that will allow the department to download the video directly to the cloud. That service, though, is

— See Cameras, Page 8

NPD faces shortages

Recruiting for police force is business as usual

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

Newcastle Police Chief Jim Owens reported yet another resignation of a police officer, Eric Dudzinski, to the city council on Dec. 15 at their regularly scheduled meeting. This leaves Owens with two openings on his police force, but he wasn't too surprised to find himself understaffed yet again. He explained that recruiting and retention are major issues facing police departments across the country.

"Over the 14 years I've been with the police department, we've probably had maybe

— See Officers, Page 8

WEATHER FORECAST 	Thursday Clouds/Wind Hi 27 Lo -10	Friday Sunny Hi 16 Lo 6	Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 32 Lo 15	Sunday Partly Cloudy Hi 30, Lo 14	Monday Snow Hi 30 Lo 17	Tuesday Snow Hi 29, Lo 12	Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi 32 Lo 16	INSIDE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New director, Page 6 • Military success, Page 9 • Free movie, Page 9 • Choir, Page 11 	

Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

Read the Gazette

Although the ballots you cast in the 2014 election were counted on the night of Nov. 4, those votes really began to count this week. That's because the majority of the people you voted for in November were sworn in on Monday, and officially took on the responsibilities of the offices you elected them to.

We are pleased to report that we believe local leadership in Weston County is as strong as it has ever been, and we expect all of our elected and appointed boards to demonstrate the honesty, integrity and courage in their decision-making that is necessary to produce positive results for the people they represent.

We really can't ask any more than that from our elected officials, but the results we desire will not be produced if we — as constituents — fail to be informed and involved when it comes to local government. That's why we would like to thank the Weston County Commissioners for again choosing to designate the *News Letter Journal* as the official publication for Weston County.

We understand that this has never been an easy decision for the commissioners, given the fact that publication costs in the larger Newcastle newspaper are approximately three times as expensive as Upton's *Weston County Gazette*, but we believe this newspaper's decision a couple of years ago to pay the *Gazette* to publish those same county notices represents the best way to inform and involve the people of Weston County in the county's business. The county — through the *News Letter Journal* — is investing in a partnership with the primary news source in each of its incorporated communities. Now it is up to you — as readers and voters — to take advantage of the commissioners' effort to include you in county government by reading those notices and offering input when you have ideas or opinions that are relevant to the issues exposed in the minutes, resolutions, budgets and other items that will be published in 2015.

We also think the solution serves to bring people across Weston County closer together by not picking one community over the other through the selection of just one newspaper. That's why we would also like to encourage our readers to take the opportunity to purchase and read the *Weston County Gazette* occasionally over the course of the year. Although this newspaper makes a concerted effort to cover issues and activities in Upton, it is impossible for us to provide as much information about that community, and the people who call it home, as the *Gazette* does. There are plenty of issues unique to each of this county's cities (including Osage), but we believe the biggest challenges facing local government in the next year will be the ones that impact the entire county — landfills, a proposed hospital renovation and state funding levels to name just a few.

To truly triumph over those challenges, we all need to understand and take into account the differences between our communities. We want our readers to be involved in finding solutions that work for Weston County, but hope those who call Newcastle home will seek to understand the wants and needs of their neighbors in Upton as they do so. The *Gazette* offers the easiest and most effective way to do so for those of us who live in Newcastle, and we urge you to follow the commissioners' lead.

Invest in both communities — by reading both papers.

Letters to the Editor

AAA rescuer should be our Person of the Decade

Dear Editor,

Today, Kelly rescued me once again. My car was having fits and after calling and talking to Kelly, he was here after he finished the job he was currently taking care of. He put air in my car's tire, followed me as my car limped to Outlaw Motors, then gave me a ride back. He was then on his way to the hinterlands out of Upton.

What a hero he is! This is not the first time he has rescued me and my car, and was always more prompt than he needed to be. I know he has helped most everyone I know, and I do wonder what we are going to do when he chooses to retire.

He is the AAA rescuer for Weston County, which is a large, spread out county. I know that most of the people of Weston County have rescue stories of their own, and it would be wonderful if those stories could be printed. He needs to be the Person of the Decades instead of the just the year.

I look forward to more stories of Kelly rescuing others during all different times.

—Melissa Ward



killed. Neither even a few nor just one or two. When it happens as it has too often, a great furor arises.

Some want to ban all guns or just a certain few. Others want to arm everybody, or at least teachers.

Emotions run high and reasoning takes flight. Whatever happened to common sense — cause and effect?

It should be fairly obvious that a lack of mental health is the common element in every case.

In the 1980s, the President, without consulting authorities, shut off federal funding.

This converted resident mental patients to a new class of citizens called "The Homeless."

That also dampened the whole mental health profession. This caused the profoundly disturbed to roam free and do unspeakable damage.

Charles and David applaud shutting off federal funding for mental health. It is taxes that they won't have to pay. They

don't seem to care if whole classrooms of children are gunned down in cold blood.

Saving on their tax bill is more important — to them.

Think of this the next time you go to vote.

—Jerry Baird

Loss of mental health funding is responsible

Dear Editor,

Nobody wants to see a bunch of kids

Correction

A letter to the editor that appeared in last week's *News Letter Journal* entitled "When will prices drop?" was written by Cal Huber, not Don Thorson. We regret the error.

Need to talk to a public servant?

County Commission Members' contacts:

Bill Lambert.....	465-2268
Marty Ertman	746-2351
Randy Rossman	746-2965
Tracy Hunt	746-8898
Tony Barton	756-2561
Cheryl Kregel (County Clerk)	746-4744

Amnesty imperils American sovereignty

When President Barack Obama announced recently that he would be taking matters into his own hands by providing de facto amnesty to millions of illegal aliens, I was naturally somewhat perturbed. You see, I've been trying for some time now to get my wife, a non-U.S. citizen, into the United States legally.

But I chafed even more under the knowledge that the several planned initiatives to normalize the status of selected groups of illegals would not be paid, at least not immediately, by American taxpayers as a whole — though that itself would be objectionable enough. Instead, they'll be directly paid for by the substantial fees charged by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to those, like myself, who have been trying to go about the immigration process through established legal means.

If you didn't quite get that, let me make it perfectly clear: The legal immigrants are going to be paying the way for the illegal immigrants.

The official line is somewhat different, of course. Leon Rodriguez, the ethnically appropriate director of USCIS, is claiming that the immediate costs will be covered by fees the illegals themselves will be charged. But you really would have to be a fool to believe that. Even if it were true, the overall price tag of this latest episode in the ongoing cultural and demographic subversion of our nation is being estimated in the trillions of dollars over the coming decades — \$48 million annually alone for a thousand new USCIS employees to process all the new applications — and you can bet that no amount of application fees are going to cover all of that, regardless of who's being charged or how exorbitantly. No, you can rest assured that however amnesty shakes out, it will be law-abiding, tax-paying people in general that will end up being the ones who, one way or another, foot the bill, just as they do for everything else.

Here it should be noted that the aforementioned Mr. Rodriguez is at least honest on one point: He openly admits that the intended purpose of this supposedly temporary amnesty is to keep illegals in the United States permanently.

"If this program does what we want it to do," he's quoted as saying in "The Washington Times," "you will now have literally millions of people who will be working on the books, paying taxes, being productive. You cannot so easily by fiat now remove those people from the economy."

I suppose I'll have to amend that to partially honest, because, as I'm sure Mr. Rodriguez well knows, the numbers don't actually add up. Whatever the government claims, most of these people won't be

paying enough in taxes to offset the government services they utilize or they won't be working at all, and when they gain legitimate status, they won't likely be inclined to do menial work for less than minimum wage either. In time, more of the Third World will have to be imported to do those jobs we're constantly told "Americans just won't do," even though no positive steps ever seem to be taken to make it more feasible for Americans to actually do them.

But what of the political opposition, you ask? Haven't they been tirelessly working day and night to oppose Obama's amnesty?

Truth is, beyond talk, it looks like they essentially intend to do nothing.

The views of would-be president and Hispanophile Jeb Bush are well known, as are those of Rupert Murdoch, chairman and CEO of Fox News' parent company and co-founder of the "immigration reform" lobby group, Partnership for a New American Economy. Closer to home, Wyoming's governor, Matt Mead, is an amnesty enabler, as evidenced by a recent letter to "The Casper Star Tribune," in which the writer claimed Mead's office responded to her inquiry by telling her that amnesty is a border issue that doesn't concern Wyoming. As for our U.S.

senators, Numbers USA, an organization which supports immigration restriction, has recently called both John Barrasso and Mike Enzi hypocrites, essentially, for putting out public statements against amnesty and then failing to stand with the junior senator from Texas, Ted Cruz, and his "point of order" on the constitutionality of Obama's plan during the 2015 budget process.

Now, perhaps it's the case that Barrasso's and Enzi's votes, as well as those of 18 other Republican senators, really were motivated by strategic and procedural disagreements with Cruz, as has been claimed. Maybe the Republican leadership really does intend to put up a fight in the coming months, given that the Department of Homeland Security, under which USCIS falls, has only been funded through February. But I doubt it. I think it's simply that the Reconquista is foreordained, that it's in the script, as it were, and they want to begin to position themselves on the winning team.

But what about the opposite side of the political equation when it comes to amnesty? What about the leftist anti-globalization types of the kind who like to throw rocks at police and stink up public parks during Occupy Wall Street protests?

They're all for amnesty. Apparently moving millions of people around to serve the political and economic purposes of the establishment elites they



Todd Bennington
Quo Vadis

Who



Bob Bonnar
Publisher and Editor



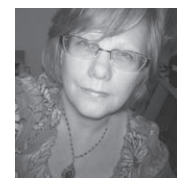
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What

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Stop in Monday through Friday at 14 W. Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming
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Annual Subscription Rate:
In Weston County \$45.50
Out of County \$57
Senior Citizens (65+) \$30
Military (Active) FREE
Student, In State \$27
Student, Out of State \$33

When

News Letter Journal is published each Thursday at 14 W. Main Street in Newcastle (Weston Co.) WY 82701. Periodicals postage paid at Newcastle, WY. USPS No. 389-940. Deadline for advertising is the prior Friday at 5 p.m.

Why

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

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Social hour

Joyce Niswender and Sharon Roness chat during the open house at Home Health Dec. 30, where visitors could find out more about the services offered by Home Health, as well as celebrate the outgoing and incoming director. Read more on Page 6. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

Trees

from page 1.....

they should be. He said the hours involved were more than he would usually do as a volunteer, which he does in addition to his full-time job working for the City of Newcastle. So a business was suggested because of the time it would take away from his family. He told the members of the fair board, at their December meeting, that with his proposal he would charge significantly less than what another certified arborist might charge: \$20 an hour as opposed to a fee of \$100 an hour.

"The services I could help you guys with is more of a consultant arborist, help you identify your assets and your liabilities. I can give you some tools to help you make some decisions and help you to navigate some of the stuff, and help you find resources to solve some of the problems out here. You guys do have several issues," he reported. "I just want to make it clear, anything I help you guys with is separate from things I will be doing with the city."

Peterson proposed six goals to the fair board: Enhance public safety, assess/stabilize/mitigate existing conditions, define long-term management strategy, develop new green space, document process/assess progress and use available resources efficiently.

"There are two stages to this proposal I submitted, and there are four basic steps in there," he said after handing each board member a proposal.

The first step is to complete a tree inventory, the key to making good decisions, Peterson explained. Knowing what species of trees, how many and their condition is important in knowing what needs to be done to care for them. To inventory, he would assign each tree a number and record where they are located with a Global Positioning System. More elaborate measures could be taken if needed. A computer program designed by the federal government generates a monetary value to a tree based on the size, location and landscape, assigning different replacement values. The software is free to use, and they recommend updating the inventory every 10 years.

After an inventory has been created, Peterson said, that is where step two begins, with a draft management plan, taking into account tree resources, local and regional contractors and utilizing manual labor resources. This would set the fairgrounds up with a tool box that will allow them to manage it on their own.

"Take in your assets and liabilities and figure out how to model those entities into what you are

going to want to do for the long and short course," the arborist explained.

The third step is a finer level, creating a work plan that suggests the best time to trim trees, taking into account when the area will be not be heavily used by the public. All those steps help budget from year to year, prioritizing which need to be done first. He emphasized that taking care of public safety issues, such as insects and disease, are a priority that cannot be put off any longer. Then, they can move on to adding more trees by looking at grants.

Competitive grants are available through the State of Wyoming. Peterson recommended looking online at what is available. During the meeting Weston County Fairgrounds Manager Tom Streeter indicated he had already begun looking into the possibilities of grants that could possibly help offset costs.

Rankin asked Peterson if the services of Acorn Tree Services would include pruning, fertilizing or similar services. In reply, Peterson, stated there are things that would be beneficial to have him do, services anybody could do, and tasks that need doing that he doesn't have the equipment to do.

Because he has a commercial applicator certification, he can apply chemicals to the trees if they get to that point on the management plan and it is deemed necessary, he informed the board. He also detailed how different trees with the same disease can require different treatment, depending on the stage of the disease and the age of the tree.

Knowing a window of opportunity was missed during the fall, the board members agreed that something needed to be done quickly. Marty said that by hiring Acorn, the board would receive the advice they need to identify the problems, know where to start, but allow them to do a lot of the work themselves.

A motion passed to hire Acorn Services. The board directed Streeter to apply for a state grant and, after reviewing the budget, it was decided there was enough money to work with in the maintenance budget.

"The things on stage two are things that you are working toward. Once you've got something put together, turn around a year from now and see if it is working, and make your adjustments and amendments to it and go from there. I think where I can help most is just guide you through some of these things that you struggle with," Peterson noted.



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Remember those who serve our country!

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APO-AE 09114
(Son of Debbie Dixon)

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HISTORY

BY AUTHORS MIKE JORDING
& SHELLY RITTHALER

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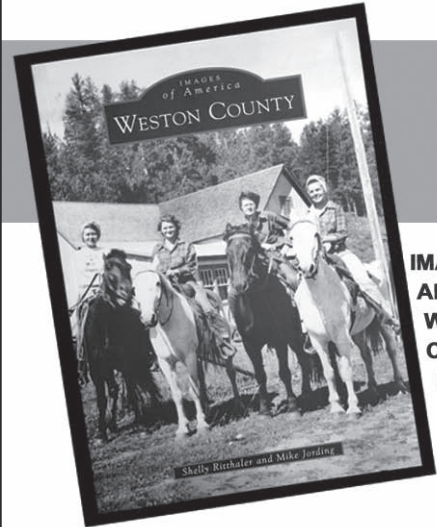
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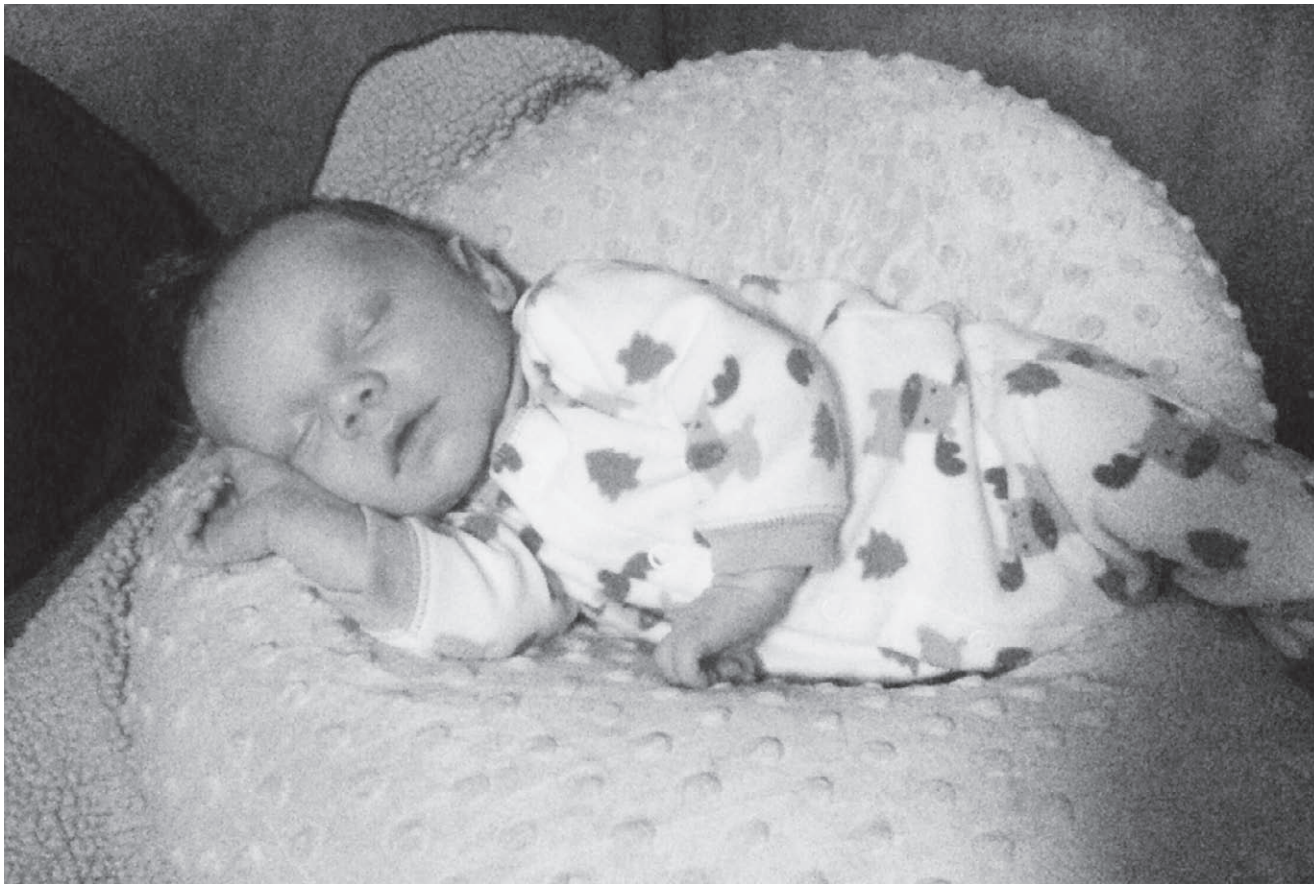
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Birth



TALON EVANS FULK

Proud parents Kristina Hope Stith and David Evans Fulk announce the birth of their son, Talon Evans Fulk. Talon was born Nov. 28, 2014, at 7:24 p.m.

100 YEARS AGO – JAN. 14, 1915

A dance will be given at Boyd Hall, Jan. 23, under the management of A.A. Shick. The best of music will be furnished, and an oyster supper at midnight. Come everyone, for a good time is assured.

Mr. Flynn, of the Boyd area, met with quite a serious accident, or rather what might have been, one day last week. Quite a number of neighbors met at his place to move a building for him and one team became unmanageable and started to run. Mr. Flynn who was standing near them, was thrown against the building, and with such force as to render him unconscious. After knocking him down the horses fortunately did not step on him, but jumped over him in their hurry to get away. Mr. Flynn was unconscious for quite a little time, but is now all right, only a little sore and stiff from his experience.

M.A. Price of Thayer, Neb., has recently filed on the Myron Dutton homestead which Mr. Dutton relinquished back to the government and sold the improvements. Mr. Price anticipates entering the dairy business, and says several others from his locality will locate here in the spring and take up the same vocation.

A very pretty home wedding occurred at the A.B. Walker home, in the Howard vicinity, on Wednesday, Jan. 6, when at high noon Mr. Leigh Sidney Wade and Mrs. Nellie Monroe were united in marriage. Rev. Glazier of Newcastle, officiating.

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Bock and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Jahrig were in from their Skull Creek homes last Saturday.

Mrs. David Whitman and son Roy drove overland by team to Cooper, S.D., last week, a distance of 200 miles,

making the trip in four days. Dave Rauhauser and W.O. Davis shipped a carload of 80 hogs to the South Omaha market Tuesday night, Mr. Rauhauser accompanying the shipment. The hogs were grain fed and in fine condition, and should bring a top price. Those who assisted in hauling the hogs to this point for shipment were Geo. Rauhauser, Fred McCoy, Vern McCoy, Dick Rauhauser, Chris Kolsen, L.L. Cool, Frank Cool, R.W. Curry and C. Beck.

The free "turkey eat" given at the Jackson & Faulkner pool hall last Saturday evening was enjoyed by a large crowd, with six large turkeys, 25 loaves of bread, 40 pounds of oyster dressing and two boilers of coffee being devoured by those present.

Last Thursday afternoon at the Episcopal rectory in this city, Miss Jeannette Brown and Mr. Clayton Minter of Upton were quietly married, Rev. Holmes officiating. The bride and groom will live at the Meek ranch on Lodgepole.

Carmelo Pedullo of Cambria, who had his right arm amputated some time ago, is at work again with an artificial arm in lieu of a natural one.

75 YEARS AGO – JAN. 11, 1940

The Newcastle Dogie cage squad met its first defeat in seven starts when the Gillette quintet eked out a 26 to 24 win in an overtime period in a game played at Gillette Saturday night.

Mrs. Dorothy L. Shank, Justice of the Peace, is confined to her home with the flu.

Mrs. Mary Nolan and Pat were surprised Wednesday when sons Jim Nolan and family of Sheridan, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Nolan of Edgerton and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Nolan of Upton and Mary Ann Nolan and Irene Brennan of Beaver Creek came to cel-

brate Grandma Nolan's 61st wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. O.S. Cleveland left the last of the week for Hot Springs, Ark., where Mr. Cleveland will take treatments. They plan to be gone a month.

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Landrigan arrived home Monday night from several weeks' visit with relatives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and Casper.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lynch of the Rochelle vicinity are the proud parents of six-pound, four-and-a-half-ounce baby son, born to them on Tuesday at the Acord Hospital.

The exhibition of oil paintings by the Teton Artists' association, now showing at the Newcastle Art Gallery, has attracted hundreds of visitors.

Mrs. Charlie Martens and daughter Dorothy Newcastle visited old friends in Osage Thursday and were luncheon guests at the Dodge home at noon, and six o'clock dinner guests at the Gordon Paulley home.

The Osage Brownie Pack met with Mrs. P.J. Westfall Friday afternoon after school, with all the Brownies present. The Brownies are planning a coasting party for next week if the weather permits.

Dick Costello of Osage returned the first of the week from the hospital at Hot Springs, where he submitted to a ruptured appendicitis operation, and is convalescing nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. John Perino and Irene Ann of Four Corners spent New Year's Day on Oil Creek at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Perino.

A crowd consisting of Phyllis Dumbrill, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Musgrave, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Sweet, Dorothy and Bob Martens, Dorothy and Bill Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. H. Musgrave and Gerald enjoyed a sleighing party Sunday on Beaver Creek.



50 YEARS AGO – JAN. 14, 1965

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cummings of Arvada, Colo., announced the sale this week of Cummings Ready-to-Wear in Newcastle. The new owners are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Avery of Newcastle. The ownership will change hands on Monday and will be known as Jane's.

Lloyd Reimer will be honored Saturday evening at a National Guard party at the Armory. Reimer recently retired from the National Guard with over 20 years of service.

The Newcastle Dogie basketball squad won two games and lost one during the past week. Two of the games were decided by one point during the dying seconds before the final buzzer. St. Marys of Cheyenne won 52 to 51. Newcastle held on for a 69 to 68 victory over eighth-ranked Gillette. Tuesday evening at Upton the Dogies took a 69 to 48 victory over the Bobcats.

The Dogie matmen won dual matches over Douglas and Gillette last weekend, but dropped a dual match to top-ranked Spearfish Tuesday evening.

Kirk Rowles and Carole Wilson were crowned king and queen at the annual DeMolay-Job's Daughter Sweetheart Sno-Ball here Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Updike and Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Sewell and family were dinner guests at the Albert Tavegia ranch Sunday. The families had a "butchering bee."

National Stalking Awareness Month
January is Stalking Awareness Month



While legal definitions of stalking vary, a good working definition of stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

If you think you are a victim of stalking, please call FOCUS at 746.2748 to speak to an advocate.

After 38 years of service,

Ted Stith

is Retiring!

Wyoming Refining Company
Success is no Accident

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Friday, January 9
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Refinery Main Office
located at 10 Stampede St.

Join us in Celebrating
90 years with this Cowboy

Charlie Rankin

Saturday, January 10
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
The Rankin Ranch

Lunch will be served at 12 p.m.

Directions: 7 miles southwest of Upton, Hwy 116. Turn right on Soda Butte Road for 3 miles, turn left at the Rankin rock sign.

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WHAT'S UP

Meetings & Events Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Jan. 8	Noon	Newcastle Area Chamber Board Meeting	Wyoming Refining Meeting Room
	5:30 p.m.	City Planning Commission	City Hall
Jan. 9	11 a.m.	Ted Stith Retirement Party	Wyo Refining Office
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Jan. 10	11 a.m.	Charlie Rankin 90th Birthday Party	Rankin Ranch
Jan. 11	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Jan. 12	1 p.m.	AARP Meeting	WC Senior Services
	6 p.m.	4-H Council Meeting	USDA Building
	7 p.m.	Cambria Bow Hunters Winter Leagues	Indoor Range
Jan. 13	Noon	Newcastle Area Chamber Meeting	USDA Building
	1 p.m.	Artful Gals	Senior Housing
	1:30 p.m.	Dirt Daubers Garden Club	1653 Sage Street
	6:30 p.m.	WC Fair Board Meeting	WC Fairgrounds Office
	6:45 p.m.	ALANON Meeting (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
	7 p.m.	American Legion, Post 3 Meeting	Armory
Jan. 14	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star	Masonic Lodgew
	2 p.m.	Flowering Fingers Garden Club	Newcastle Library
	3 p.m.	WC Natural Resource District Meeting	USDA Building
	6 p.m.	4-H Shooting Sports Meeting	USDA Building
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	Lady's Firearm Safety Class	WC Sportsmans Club

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jan. 9:
Marilyn Wright

Jan. 10:
Herb French

Jan. 11:
Jorja Hilerman,
Bridger Dean Johnson

Jan. 12:
Danielle Doell

Jan. 13:
Charles Bean,
Hayden Sylte,
Jay Kachelhoffer

Jan. 14:
Mr. & Mrs. Larry
Dean Bock
Troy Cassey

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THURSDAY, JAN. 8 AT 7PM

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www.wyomingpbs.org

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Home Health under new direction

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Weston County Health Services Home Health was a busy place in the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 30, with the celebration of Rogene Long retiring as director and Carmen Allison beginning the position. Members of the community attended the Open House, congratulating both on the new directions the two women are heading in the new year.

Allison has worked at WCHS Home Health since 1995 as a registered nurse, assisting patients in their homes. With her new position as director, Carrie Farnsworth is the staff nurse that will now fulfill those duties.

"Really, since this agency started, she has been here," Long commented about her replacement.

"Pretty much within a year after, I think. I was in Home Health in Montana for a long time before. So I have the basics down. It's the new regulations that's just going to be something new — there is always something new, always change," Allison acknowledged.

When asked if she was nervous or excited, Allison replied with a smile, "all of the above."

She has been preparing for a couple of months to take on the new position, explained Allison, who is a registered nurse with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

This year is when the IC-10 diagnosis coding — the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and related health problems listed by the World Health Organization — will be implemented to help facilitate the Electronic Medical Records Home Health began using last year, so challenges lay ahead, but the new director is ready.

"It was a good thing. Now the information is so readily available. We now have a way to get the physicians to electronically sign the medical records [through the Physician's Portal], so that is going to be much quicker, and actually [provide] better communications between us and the doctor, because we don't have to go through the office secretary. We just got approved for it, so now we have to



Rogene Long, retiring director of Home Health, poses for a photo with Carmen Allison, RN, who is taking over the position, during Home Health's Open House Dec. 30. Long has plans to travel with her husband, Jimmy. Allison has been with Home Health since 1995.

learn that part too," informed Allison.

Allison added that they are lucky in Newcastle, because the physicians here are helpful with their patients, however, this will make the paper trail faster.

In good humor, Long was notified during the Open House by the staff at Home Health that she will remain on speed dial, in case they need her expertise after she leaves. In February, she and her husband, Jimmy, who retired a couple of years ago, plan to head out in their recreational vehicle to enjoy state and federal parks while camping.

"He has been retired for two years, and has been very patient. We will see what being together 24/7 is like," she admitted, laughing.

WCHS Home Health
725 Washington Blvd.
Office hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday,
closed noon to 1 p.m.
307-746-3553

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- Medical Social Worker • Home Health Aide
- Medical treatments and supplies • Extended Care Program
- Medication Donation Site

<http://www.wchs-wy.org/home-health/>

Senior Happenings

Weston County Senior Services

- Jan. 8: Trip to Tin Lizzie
- Jan. 9: Blood Pressure Check 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 10: Open Rec Room
- Jan. 12: AARP 1 p.m.
- Jan. 13: Mexican Train 1 p.m.
- Jan. 14: Manor for Lunch
- Jan. 14: Creative Handicrafts 1 p.m.
- Jan. 15: Trip to The Lodge
- Jan. 16: Bridge Ladies 1 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Open Rec Room
- Jan. 20: Trip to First Gold
- Jan. 20: Helping Hands Foundation Board Mtg. 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21: WCSS Board Mtg. 9 a.m.
- Jan. 22: Ceramics 1 p.m.
- Jan. 23: Blood Pressure Check 9:30 a.m.

Weston County Manor

- Jan. 8: Food Fancy 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 8: Al & The Gang 2 p.m.
- Jan. 9: Bingo 2 p.m.
- Jan. 10: Word Games 11 a.m.
- Jan. 11: Trivia 11 a.m.
- Jan. 12: Anna Miller 3 p.m.
- Jan. 14: Kickball 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 15: Manicures 2 p.m.
- Jan. 16: Bingo 2 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Penny Ante 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 18: Church 2 p.m.
- Jan. 19: Resident Council 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 20: Keepsake Kraffters 2 p.m.
- Jan. 21: Karaoke 3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22: Bowling 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 22: Al & the Gang 2 p.m.
- Jan. 23: Movie 6 p.m.



Note: This list is not complete. For complete schedules see the event calendars at each facility.

Saving the environment is a tough job to handle

Here we are, at the start of another year and I am trying hard to do my part to save the environment, for instance by using my own cotton bags to buy groceries and stuff. Eight times out of 10, I forget and leave them on the floor of my car. What do they say? You can't teach an old dog new tricks? Old women, too, I figure. I actually do cut apart all of those little plastic ring things on six-packs of soda pop so that some bird or rabbit or squirrel won't get their little heads stuck in them. I carefully store all the plastic bags — I've found they make very good packing in parcels that you mail, although I admit I'm not mailing very much stuff anymore, can't afford the postage. Those plastic grocery bags are also useful to wrap breakable things that

I am putting into storage. As lax as this seems to be, I figure I'm leaving an "F" in the environmental world crisis, alas. In other words, I flunked out of this so far. I make a resolution on this project for our new year.

Gotta start somewhere, right?

I really ought to make a resolution to get out more, mingle more, be more sociable. It would round out my personality, instead of parking in front of the TV and rounding

out my backside some more. However I guess I have grown too comfortable with my own company — and it's pretty poor sometimes, I have to admit.

Back to saving the environment. I agree that plastic bags are a terrible thing, and I try to be brave and say "paper" when they clerk says "paper or plastic." And I do



Donna Gochanour Photo

reuse, recycle, etc. I probably have about 30 zippers that I salvaged from old clothes. Sadly, though, I

haven't installed a zipper in years, but when I try to deposit them in the trash can, a little voice says "but

you might really need them someday!" The world as we know it would vanish and I'd be the only source of zippers! Think of the good I could do for mankind with a supply of zippers occupying a whole drawer in my sewing table drawer. Of course, my button collection is pretty impressive, too. To this can be added my selection of bolts without matching nuts, odd-looking screws [both common and Phillips] and various small hardware parts that look vaguely familiar and I have forgotten their use. One of these days I really ought to clean and organize that ugly parts bin holder with its little drawers. For the third year in a row, I put "new parts bins" on my Christmas list and this year, I got this new iMac computer that I have a terrible relationship with so far. Too expensive by far but they smugly tell me "what's done is done." At least I got the WD40 I asked for! Just kidding boys and girls.

Sewing over the years kept us clothed, and here I fol-

lowed my mother who was a kid in the Dirty Thirties, and she and her sister spent many hours "making things over." My Mom would take a coat, for instance, all apart with a razor blade, and use it to make a smaller coat for one of us kids. When my kids were small, I remember a chunk of material that I made a curtain out of and then later turned it into a dress for one of the girls and eventually a pillow cover. Now that's dedication to saving stuff.

Well, cloth diapers, good old paper bags, glass bottles and jars are all gone by the wayside, but it looks like they need to make a return appearance. Even saving string. Do you remember wrapping parcels to mail with just brown paper wrapping and string to tie it together? It's a shaky world out there without Scotch tape. So much for that subject, but if you come to my house and see a line of used paper towels all rinsed and spread to dry for re-use, call the Funny Farm, it's time for me to be put under control.

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Commissioners

from page 1.....

Lambert in the chairman position. She added that, while he may be a good meeting facilitator, there will be times when he needs knowledge that he simply does not have the experience to have.

"If you didn't have three other commissioners that surround you and support you, you would not be successful — and without their help and their encouragement, it would not work for me," Lambert expressed, when asked about the challenges of being a new commissioner and also chairman, admitting that there will be a lot of terminology that he may not know.

Lambert also added that he does, however, come into the situation with a fresh perspective and doesn't have the relationships that the previous commissioners have concerning ongoing topics — which can be a good thing.

"I want to say thank you for putting your vote of confidence in me," Lambert professed.

Although he's a new member of the Weston County Commission, Lambert previously served 16 years on the board of the Weston County School District #1 Board of Directors, 10 of those as chairman.

The commissioners then went to task to fill the vice chair seat. Commissioner Tracy Hunt nominated Rossman, who respectfully declined, but in turn nominated Ertman for the position. Hunt seconded that motion, and all of the commissioners approved without discussion.

Next came the decision regarding the business of which newspaper would be the 'legal newspaper' of the county, the Weston County Gazette, based out of Upton, or the News Letter Journal, based in Newcastle.

This decision brought about much discussion among the commissioners, with concern and support for both newspapers expressed. The News Letter Journal has represented the county as its legal newspaper in which the minutes are published for the last two years, even though the Weston County Gazette has offered a lower bid, it was noted. However, the Gazette has provided the minutes in its paper as well, due to an agreement between both entities when the NLJ became the newspaper of record two years ago. This arrangement, according to Commissioner Linda Hunt, has allowed for better coverage and increased public awareness.

While Hunt and Rossman support this arrangement for that reason, both Ertman and Barton expressed opinions that were quite opposite. Barton explained that he was compelled to

respect the bid process, which would give the title of legal paper to the Gazette, since its bid was lower. Ertman has expressed this same opinion in prior years, she said.

Hunt made the final motion that would make the News Letter Journal the legal paper of record, with Rossman seconding that motion. Both Hunt and Rossman voted to approve the motion, with Barton and Ertman voting against it, this leaving the final decision to Lambert. He voted for the News Letter Journal, making it the official legal paper for Weston County for the year of 2015.

Tuesday's meeting wasn't the first time the commissioners met since the year began, however. Prior to their first regular meeting of 2015, the commissioners met on Monday, Jan. 5, after the new commissioners were sworn in, which allowed them to discuss concerns as well as establish new plans regarding how to handle business at hand.

The changes that were made concerned mostly the agenda, as well as the manner in which they would handle old business. Rossman explained to the News Letter Journal on Tuesday that, with the help of research done by Ertman, they were able to establish a way to approve things by block.

"On your consented agenda, you don't have to go back through and vote on everything, you just have a block, and if you have a problem with part of it, you pull it out and approve the rest of it," Rossman stated. He added that their work meeting Monday had been enlightening and altogether a good day for the commissioners.

Hunt explained another change that was decided upon Monday, which puts a slot on the agenda to discuss old business, allowing them to address projects that they hadn't finished previously. Ertman added that the way the agenda was previously set up, the old business portion of the discussion was on the second page, at the very bottom. This created very little time to get to those items, so certain things rarely got revisited.

"It seems like such a simple thing, but it's not. It's going to change the whole dynamics of this meeting — and it's going to be positive," Ertman proclaimed. According to Ertman, the changes they developed at this meeting will keep things that had been pushed to the side at the forefront of discussion, and it will force the commissioners to revisit and revisit them in the future — which should lead to resolving more issues.

"We are going to prove to the public that we can get things done," Ertman professed.

Attorney

from page 1.....

Commissioner Marty Ertman responded, stating that when the commissioners go over the next budget, it would be no problem to allow for the consideration of a pay raise at that time. Ertman explained that all that Curley can do, though, is put in a budget request and the commissioners will discuss it during the budget hearing that comes up in May.

"I need to get a deputy in place, the sooner the better," Curley pleaded with the commissioners. He made it clear that paying someone the wage currently in the budget will only allow for decent pay for three to four months, and without changes he can't even offer benefits with that.

"Part of the problem as a deputy is that you don't just work for the county attorney. If you are prosecuting someone, you are owned by the judge, so it is a professional job," Curley stated, adding that the job of deputy attorney is one that requires putting in the time needed to accomplish the work — you really can't just draw the line at 40 hours, he told the commissioners.

"The thing that we have, is that we have our budget set, and anything that we do to that budget, whether we move it out or make it more, is going to require a budget amendment," Seeley confirmed.

"One of the things that we deal with when dealing with something like this, is the fact that we have a budget in place until the budget is redone — so if we were to say, 'yeah, okay, we will authorize you to hire at that rate,' then we would have to do a budget amendment and come up with the money somewhere else," Shepperson declared, adding that he isn't quite sure if any of the commissioners really appreciate that fact.

"Please don't misunderstand me, I'm not trying to throw any monkey wrenches in the deal," Shepperson quickly added.

"No, thank you Mr. Shepperson, I appreciate the view of reality, but we are just sharing. I don't have any demands on the table," Curley replied.

Curley then offered that there should be a money savings when it comes to rent from what the county has been paying for outgoing county attorney Don Hansen's space, compared to what the county will pay for the space that Curley will move

into, with the city's approval, after circuit court is moved into the courthouse.

"It looks like rent will drop from \$2,000 a month to \$800 a month," Curley reasoned. He told the commissioners that currently \$4,200 is given monthly to Hansen for expenses relating to the job as county attorney, as well as the rent of the office space which is his. Curley offered the idea that they figure \$2,000 of the \$4,200 is what is considered the rent for the space.

Curley explained that this \$1,200 a month would be a savings within the budget and could be considered as a place to come up with the extra money to raise the salary for Black.

"This means there will be some extra money that I probably won't be using ever, so this means that it could be used somewhere else without changing the budget," Curley suggested.

Krank expressed that this wouldn't necessarily be the case, though, because the county has a separate account in the budget dedicated to paying the benefits of employees.

"Once again, it seems we get pushed into a corner again and there is a process to be honored, and it wasn't, and it is my opinion that we stick with the budget," Ertman stated.

The commissioners explained to Curley that he can hire someone at the rate of \$50,120, which is the current rate for the Weston County deputy attorney, for the remainder of the fiscal year, without a budget amendment. But that the money is there if they were to do a budget amendment.

Curley asked the commissioners if it is possible for him to designate the deputy attorney as a full-time benefited position, and Seeley replied that he wasn't sure if there are any legal issues associated with that change.

At that point, Ertman made a motion to table the discussion of the topic until Krank could get figures showing what it would cost for a full-time employee's annual benefit package, with Shepperson seconding the motion and all other commissioners approving it.

"Weston County is a low-paid county. There is one reason for that, we are the second poorest county in the state. But be that as it may, we have dealt with this situation every budget, saying that Weston

County is below par statewide," Shepperson explained to Curley and the commissioners, addressing directly what the commissioners make annually. "I'm not griping. I'm just saying this is a fact, but I don't like that. I think we should figure out some way that people can make a respectable wage for what they do."

The commissioners came back to the table discussion later in their regular meeting, which quickly strayed from raising the salary for this fiscal year.

"If you decide to say full-time position and stay at the same current salary, that would not require a budget amendment, but if you increase the salary it will," Krank reported to the commissioners, with Seeley reasoning that at the current salary that would allow for \$26,000 to finish the fiscal year.

"Well, I don't have a problem making it a full-time position at the current salary," Ertman professed. If the position becomes full time, the benefit package would be included, and this would address the situation until the budget process begins, she reasoned.

"The problem with the whole thing, is that if you do something like this for someone now, then somebody else will come along and say, 'but you did it for them,'" Shepperson stated, adding that there is an established procedure for these things.

Krank explained to the commissioners that, as far as she was concerned, every other deputy for an elected official throughout Weston County is considered full time. This means that in all reality the deputy attorney should be a full-time employee as well, she concluded.

"I think the definition of full-time employee is based on a 40-hour week for us, so I think that is what we are asking for when we ask her to be a full-time employee, that she devotes 40 hours a week," Krank explained when questioned about the specifics of full time and whether Black would be allowed to work on the side.

"I would make a motion that the deputy county attorney would become a full-time position with benefits," stated Ertman, with Shepperson seconding the motion and the rest of the commissioners agreeing.



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\$50,000 REWARD

For information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in the death of Katherine Grace Coffee.

On the morning of June 3, 2011, the body of **Katherine Grace Coffee, also known as Katy Coffee**, age 35, was discovered in her home in Newcastle, the victim of an apparent homicide. Her death is being investigated by the Newcastle Police Department and the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.



Anyone with information about the crime or knowledge of Coffee's whereabouts on the evening and night-time hours of Thursday, June 2, 2011, are asked to **please call the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation at (307) 682-1796, or the Newcastle Police Department at (307) 746-4486.**

Coffee's family has offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone that can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in this crime.

Paid for in part by the News Letter Journal



Story time at the library

Tuesday morning more than a dozen children attended story time at the Weston County Library in Newcastle. Above, Oliver Soriano and Rogue Patmore were a little distracted as they paused to see who has the bigger tongue. At right, Brystal Sweet enjoyed getting a close look as librarian Barrett Rich read "The Three Bears" to the children.



Photos by Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Cameras

from page 1

quite expensive as well, and he reasoned the ability to store on the cloud is not necessary for the department either at this time.

At the Law Enforcement Center the officers have a computer set aside specifically for use with the cameras. That machine is used for downloading, storing, and viewing the videos.

Owens explained that the public will be able to view videos by request, as has been the case with dash-cam footage. A person wishing to view the videos is required to go to the police department and submit a request. Owens said those requests are reviewed, and depending on the nature and specifics of the request, most requests will be approved.

If all goes according to plan, the new equipment will be in full use when the new year begins.

"Probably, by the end of this week, we'll have all four cameras in use, so any officer we have on the street will also be wearing a body camera," Owens reported.

Officers

from page 1

a year and a half total time — not all at once — that we were actually at full staff," Owens professed.

He explained that the current staff target is eight people, but prior to 2012 it was nine, and at one time, prior to him joining the force, it was more than that. He added that some big forces are down hundreds of officers.

"As far as getting people to start with, part of the problem is area itself," Owens reported, explaining that many people aren't accustomed to having to drive 80-90 miles to see "anything big." He added that it takes a certain kind of person to live in an area like Weston County. In most places rural is considered 25-acre plots, but here you can go hours without seeing anything.

He explained as well that a percentage of our population in Newcastle is in constant turnover, with a portion of the population leaving every one to two years. They see the same kind of turnover rate within the force.

"It's nothing bad about the community," Owens explained, adding that he was personally drawn to this locale, but that the environment isn't for everyone.

"I don't think it's as much a problem of retention, as it is with recruiting," Owens professed. According to a study, given to the News Letter Journal by Owens that was conducted in Florida in 2008, 51.5 percent of officers applied to another agency within the first three to five years of employment.

"Retaining quality police officers is an ongoing issue with all law enforcement agencies. Small police departments traditionally have to work harder to retain quality officers while competing with larger agencies that have more to offer, with higher salaries, more internal transfer opportunities, and more promotion opportunities," the study abstract by David Hubbard stated.

"In our case, within this agency, there is no real upward mobility as long as we remain constant," Owens reported. "There are only three administrative slots and the others are all patrol officers, and that's as far as you are going to go."

Typically in Newcastle — and nationwide, according to the study — a lot of officers apply for a sheriff's department position. Owens explained that there is just something about working for a sheriff's department that attracts officers. He added that typically his agency handles between 5,000 and 6,000 calls per year. That isn't a lot, and combined with the town being so small, it can make working conditions a bit boring, because you can only drive the roads of this city so many times.

Another problem facing police forces across the nation is the fact that there are a limited number of people that even want to take on the position, with an even smaller portion of those that are qualified for the position, according to Owens. He explained that this leaves everyone fighting over the same small group of people.

"The Wyoming Highway Patrol right now is down a whole bunch of people, and

“It's nothing bad about the community ... I don't think it's as much a problem of retention, as it is with recruiting. In our case, within this agency, there is no real upward mobility as long as we remain constant.”

— Jim Owens, Newcastle Police Chief

they are trying to backfill, but they're trying to get the minimum number they need that are officers that are already state certified and need minimal training. As a result, they are actively recruiting from law enforcement agencies," Owens professed.

He added that this is, in fact, where one of his openings came from, explaining that Jared Williams recently handed in his resignation so he could go work for the Wyoming Highway Patrol, because they offered him considerably more money. Other local officers had been contacted by the Wyoming Highway Patrol as well about employment, but Owens indicated they decided to stay where they were at.

"There is a major competition to get people, and that competition continues in keeping them. Again, we don't have a lot to offer to get them to stay," explained Owens, noting again that officers have little opportunity for upward mobility at the agency in Newcastle. He added that offering competitive salaries is tough with the city's budget, but noted one benefit to potential candidates is that the city pays the entire expense of their health insurance.

The risk with recruiting young officers is, according to Owens, that they themselves are seeking experience so they can then apply to larger agencies. He also explained that another issue with the community we live in and younger officers hinges on the fact that social life in this city is limited. Owens suggested that in this community everyone knows everyone, and that makes it hard for police officers to socialize in places where alcohol is served. This is not such an issue in larger areas, he said.

With the shortage of officers on the force in Newcastle, the officers face situations in which if anyone gets hurt or sick they are left short-handed. That forces Owens to take on street duty. He explained that they provide 24/7 coverage on the street, and with six people currently on the force if anyone is missing at all, they are left in a bind. Owens stated that this is a problem for the small agency in general, not just when they are short-handed.

At the city council meeting on Dec. 15, Owens told the council that they were advertising the position as open until filled, and are working to recruit people who have already completed the POST testing, therefore saving them a step. He added that they planned to review applications after the beginning of the year.

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Happy 2015!

We bid adieu to 2014 and are embarking on a brand new year. It's a little strange that one day on the calendar offers us a chance to start anew, but on January 1st there are many who determine to make the next 365 days better than the last.

I learned a long time ago that making New Year's resolutions was not for me, because I rarely keep them and then feel bad about my lack of resolve.

Though I don't make the official resolutions, I do see the dawning of a new year as an opportunity to reflect and to focus on ways that I can improve my levels of satisfaction with my life.



Sonja Karp Karpe Dogie

Last year I determined to obtain my National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification, and I'm proud to say that I achieved that goal.

This year I have decided that I need to return some focus to my health.

To that end, I and four of my friends are joining the second annual "A New Year—A New You" Community Weight Loss and Fitness Challenge presented by the Eastern Wyoming College Outreach program.

I know it may seem a little cliché to make weight loss a goal for the year, but given that losing weight involves healthy eating and healthy living, it is much more than a vanity goal, it is an overall better health goal.

I have a long history of yo-yo weight loss and weight gain, and I know myself well enough to be aware that I will need more than just my own will power to be successful. Therefore, this program gives me the tools that I need to stick with it.

If you know me, it will come as no surprise that I am highly competitive, and I love to work in a team atmosphere. This program offers me the opportunity to work with a team, so I know that it will not just be me that I disappoint if I don't achieve my goals, I will also let my team down if I falter in my resolve to lose weight.

As far as the competitive aspect of the challenge goes, I really feel like I'm in a position to do some good things for my team because the holidays — at least I'm going to blame it on the holidays — did a number on what the scale shows.

Of course, I also know I have some major weaknesses when it comes to diet and exercise: I love food and I'm not the biggest fan of working out.

— See Karp, Page 9

putting small-town Values to work in a big world

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Lt. Col. Clay Bartels' humble beginnings started in the small Weston County town of Upton. Today he is the commander of the 325th Operations Support Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., providing support to the 325th Fighter Wing and Team Tyndall, which trains and projects unrivaled combat power for F-22 pilots, air battle managers, and intelligence personnel.

Managing an airfield complex, maintaining all aircrew flight equipment, and overseeing current operations as well as the wing's weapons and tactic organization is part of his everyday life now. Bartels is a command pilot with 2,000 fighter hours in the F-15-C/D and F-22A, flying more than 50 combat hours in support of Operations Southern Watch and Northern Watch.

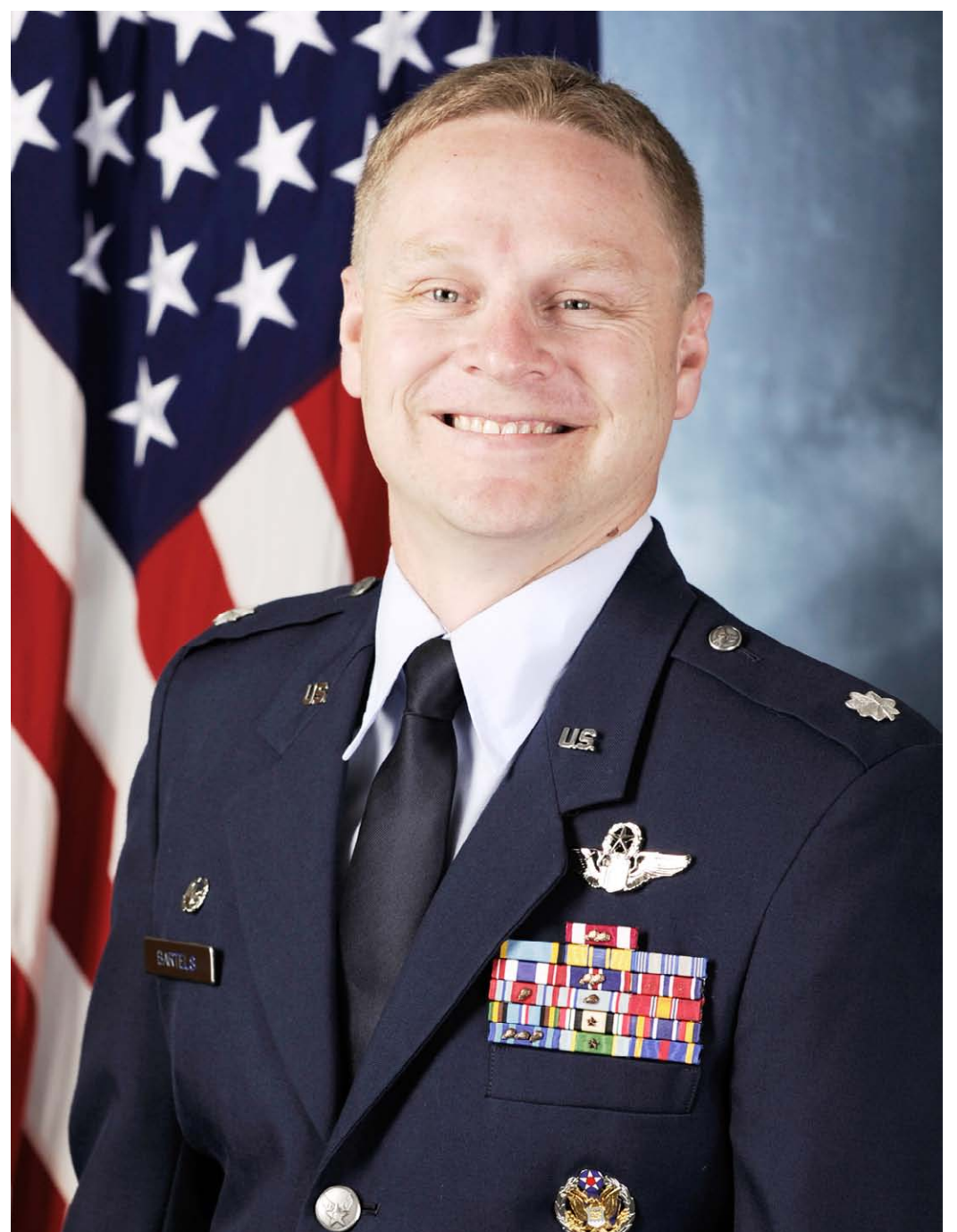
"The organization I command is pretty diverse," Bartels explained. "I have 234 people who work for me. I do all the non-flying in airplane functions for the 325th Fighter Wing, which includes running the air field, the tower, the radar approach

control — which also controls all the civilian traffic in northwest Florida inside of our sector. I am in charge of intelligence for the wing, air crew flight equipment, and wing scheduling. Most importantly of them, [my job] as the commander is taking care of the 200 and some folks who work for me."

Many of the young people have not been in the Air Force for long, and he considers it his personal responsibility to support them, because he is entrusted to one of the nation's most precious assets. He considers it a significant responsibility, he says, but the positives and negatives are spectacular, especially when they get their first badges. He enjoys seeing the development of these young recruits as they grow from basic training to a year later being confident technicians doing their job.

Perhaps, he strives hard to make a difference in young people's lives because of his own life. Bartels appreciates growing up in a small town of less than 1,000 people and spending time on his family's ranch as a youth without modern conveniences.

His parents, Don and Judy Bartels, still live in



Lt. Col. Clay Bartels is a hometown boy that has found success in the United States Air Force, most recently commanding an air field complex. He will soon begin teaching in Alabama.

Upton. He now appreciates the direction and nurturing they gave him, because it has helped make him the man he is today, he says.

"I am very appreciative of all the love and guidance and upbringing that I got when I was a kid, because that is the foundation that you build on.

They give you the basic tools to go out and spread your wings and make your own

— See Bartels, Page 10

Hospital offers free showing of movie

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Country music legend Glen Campbell's entertainment career has covered nearly five decades. In 2011, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, progressive mental degeneration of the brain for which there is no cure. With the help of his wife, Kim, his family decided to face the illness head on and share his diagnosis with the world.

A powerful portrait Campbell's life and career as a great American music icon was made into a film titled, "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," and released in theaters across the country in October. Weston County Health Foundation is sponsoring a showing of the nearly two-hour PG-rated movie at the Crouch Auditorium on Jan. 21, at 7 p.m., for the community to enjoy for free.

In the fall, WCHS Chief Executive Officer Maureen Cadwell and Weston County Manor director JoAnn Farnsworth had the opportunity to see the movie. They were both impressed with the story of Campbell's progression with Alzheimer's, and felt docu-

mentary was done well, which motivated them to bring it to Newcastle.

"JoAnn Farnsworth and I attended the Leading Age Conference in Nashville, Tenn., in October. On the first night of the conference they held the premier for the movie documentary, and at that time said that, if interested, we could host it in our community. From there, JoAnn and I visited and [my executive secretary] Shannon [Lassle] checked into the logistics of what we would need to do to host it, which basically just entailed underwriting 300 movie tickets at the going rate in our area," explained Cadwell.

Then they set out to find a way to pay the \$3,000 cost to show the movie in the community. Several area businesses were approached

about funding the project, but first to respond was the WCHS Foundation, which agreed to fund the entire amount.

"We were so impressed with the movie and the fact that the cost of bringing to our area as a free movie

was just so good that we could not pass it up. In addition, [there was] the fact that Alzheimer's affects so many people and families, that it truly

— See Movie, Page 16

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Checking it out

About a dozen people visited while enjoying cookies and coffee at Weston County Health Services Dec. 17, before getting a hands-on demonstration of the hospital's new eEmergency system. The group huddled in the trauma room while Piper Allard, director of Patient Services, explained the system, then opened a video connection with an Avera professional located in Sioux Falls, S.D., who spoke of the purpose of eEmergency services to assist doctors and nurses as the local facility. The presentation included a demonstration of how the Avera staff can zoom in and around the trauma room and read charts, check patient monitoring devices, and even read name tags.

Above, Kevin Senger, Shirley Parks and Brandon Franklin view a medical professional from Avera Health on a monitor, during a presentation of the new eEmergency system at Weston County Health Services. At right, Jill Sellers and David Chick talk about the upcoming presentation of "Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me," to be presented by the WCHS Foundation on Jan. 21.



Photos by Amy Menerey/NLJ

Bartels

from page 9.....

path, but it is harder if you don't have a good family baseline or family support structure — and I certainly had that, so I am very grateful for everything they did for me growing up," confessed the lieutenant colonel.

When asked about his decision to 'spread his wings' and become an Air Force pilot he recalled watching a University of Wyoming versus the United States Air Force football game on television. He was impressed by the flyby during the game. It is obviously something he never has forgotten.

Through the years Bartels has come to realize that his work ethic — working until the work is done, and some things you just power through — is a background culture that is a spectacular thing to have, he says, because, as an adult, things are not handed to you. This background, that others may not have, has led him to have higher expectations, he believes.

Leaving home, and leaving Wyoming, was also a transformation because seeing different parts of the world gave him a diverse standpoint.

"[It's] amazingly different in culture, when you actually get to go see it — all the different parts of the world. It gives [you] a little different perspective than when you grow up in a small town. It gives you a little bit of a different viewpoint, a little bit more knowledgeable about things that are going on around you. It's good for you as a human being," he said.

After graduating from Upton High School in 1992, Bartels attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in General Engineering in 1996. From there, he attended pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma for about a year, learning to fly T37 and T38 aircraft. For several months, in 1998, he continued his pilot training with a F-15C Basic Course at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Alaska was his home for a couple of years while he was a F-15C mission pilot and

squadron scheduler with the 54th Fighter Squadron, and a F-15C instructor pilot and assistant chief of weapons with the 12th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base.

"I went from Alaska to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. Around 9-11 of '01 I was in route to Langley. I was actually at Squadron Officer School on 9-11, but the next month I flew a whole lot of combat air patrols in D.C. and Camp David for three or four months total," he recalled.

In December of 2005 to July 2008, he was also stationed in Tyndall Air Force Base. First he served as an F-22A instructor pilot and flight commander for the 43rd Fighter Squadron, before becoming an F-22A chief of standardization and evaluation for the 325th Operations Group.


Bartels completed Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in 2001. Continuing his education, he earned a Master's Degree of Business Administration and Management from Trident University International, formerly TUI University, in 2008. The following year, he obtained a Master's Degree of Military Art and Science at Air University at the Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Adding to his world view, Bartels has spent time overseas as well, with a year in Iraq from July 2010 until July 2011 and shorter trips, as well as assignments to Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Norway and Thailand.

Bartels still has the opportunity to fly, and is an F-22 instructor pilot. One of the things he finds fascinating happened a decade ago when he was instructing pilots.

"I was the initial cadre for the guys that began flying the F-22 about 10 years ago. That's got a whole slew of interesting things that you get to see when you get to bring a brand new airplane online. It was neat to be a part of that," Bartels responded, when asked to describe something interesting he had been able to do in his career.

When asked where his



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lt. Col. Clay Bartels

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Dec 1996–Dec 1997, student pilot, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Vance AFB, Okla.
2. Mar 1998–Oct 1998, student pilot, F-15C Basic Course, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
3. Nov 1998–May 1999, F-15C mission pilot and squadron scheduler, 54th Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.
4. May 1999–Oct 2001, F-15C instructor pilot and assistant chief of weapons, 12th Fighter Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.
5. Nov 2001–Jul 2002, F-15C instructor pilot and chief of weapons, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
6. Jul 2002–Jan 2004, flight commander and chief of standardization and evaluation, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
7. Dec 2005–Jun 2007, F-22A instructor pilot and flight commander, 43rd Fighter Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
8. Jul 2007–Jul 2008, F-22A chief of standardization and evaluation, 325th Operations Group, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
9. Aug 2008–May 2009, IDE student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
10. Jun 2009–Jun 2010, F-22/F-15 chief of requirements, Headquarters Air Force, Pentagon, Va.
11. Jul 2010–Dec 2010, executive officer, Director Iraq Train and Advise Mission - Air, United States Forces Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq.
12. Jan 2011–Jul 2011, Iraqi base transition team chief, Joint Base Balad, Iraq.
13. Aug 2011–April 2013, Director of Operations, 325th Operations Support Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
14. May 2013–present, Commander, 325th Operations Support Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Meritorious Service Medal w/two Oak Leaf Clusters
- Aerial Achievement Medal
- Air Force Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:

- Second Lieutenant May 29, 1996
- First Lieutenant May 29, 1998
- Captain May 29, 2000
- Major May 1, 2006
- Lieutenant Colonel July 1, 2011

favorite station had been, he hesitated, saying it was a tough question. Eventually he decided it was Alaska, adding he didn't think his wife of 16 years, Mandy, would agree with that one, but admitted they did enjoy it up north.

For the last four years, Bartels and his wife have lived in Panama City, Fla., with their three children, Sadie, Seth and Mattie. It is the longest stretch they have been in one place.

In the summer they will move to Montgomery, Ala.,

where they were for a brief time in August of 2008 until May of 2009. He is looking forward to the change of pace.

"I will be spending two years as an instructor at the Air Command in Staff College, and then in the third year at Montgomery I am going to be attending War College. I am going to teach the lower school for two years, then attend the upper school for one. I am excited to do that, it will be a lot different than being a fighter pilot," admitted Bartels.



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Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

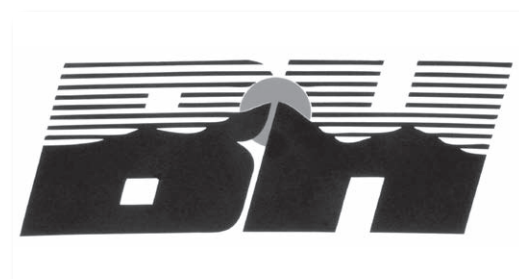
Back row from left: Abby Bock, Shelby Vandersnick, Heather Donner, Rose McMahon, Rachel Ehlers, Alex Henkle, Ryan Harder, Cooper Karp, Dawson Norton, Blade Stotz, Julia Scattareggia, Kelsey Wood, Madison Frazee, Savannah Williams, Rachel Henkle. Second row from left: Director Jan Ellis, Jordan Brooks, Laura Chord, Lexi Krogman, Ashton Alarid, Heather Michaelis, Brandon Benson, Jared Peterson, Bryce Williams, Erika Shultz, Catherine Turner, Angela Troupe, Jenna Holmes, Ashlyn Dollison, Katara Cade, Accompanist Kristin Wilkes. Third row: Nakala Liggett, Danika Johnston, Katherine Schraeder, Kinlee Whitney, Kellar Bock, Dennon Parks, Lyle Whitney, Colin Heaton, Layne Crisman, Bailey Lacey, Emma Evick, Sarah Henkle, Charla Lax, Daytona Bennett, Kaitlyn DeFord. Front row from left: Andrea Chavez-Lujan, Shawnee Wrage, Tava Rose, Emalee Sweet, Wyatt Voelker, Trayton Dawson, Chandler Burd, Daniel Caress, Flint Hossfeld, Danielle Wood, Glenda Wycoff, Grace Sandrini, Morgan Holt, Carissa Demming.



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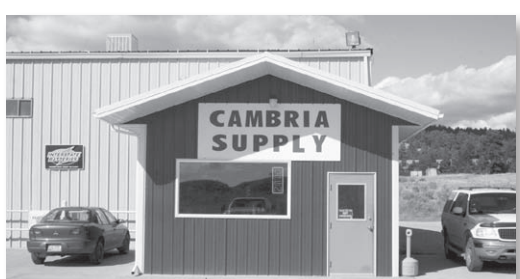
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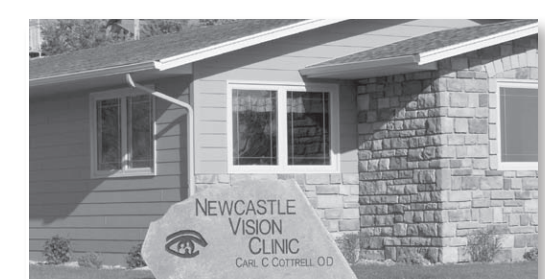
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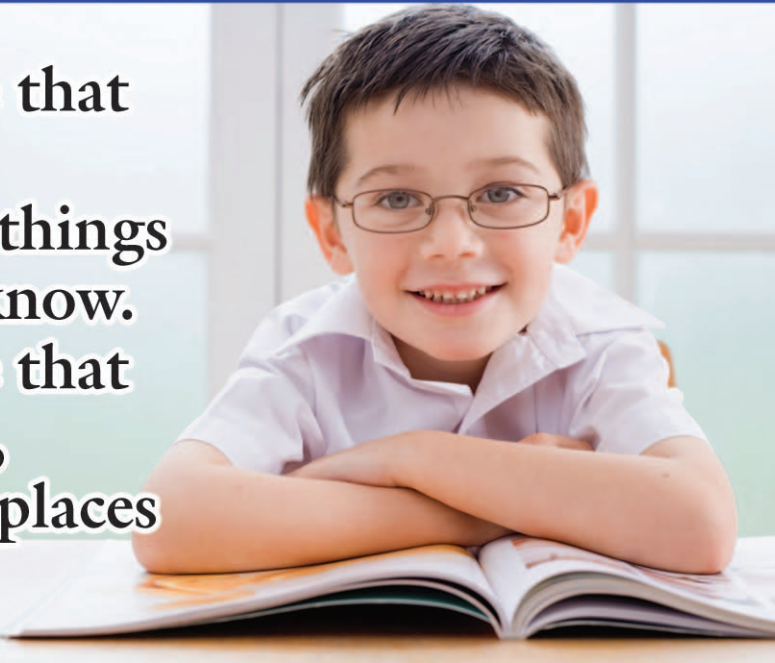
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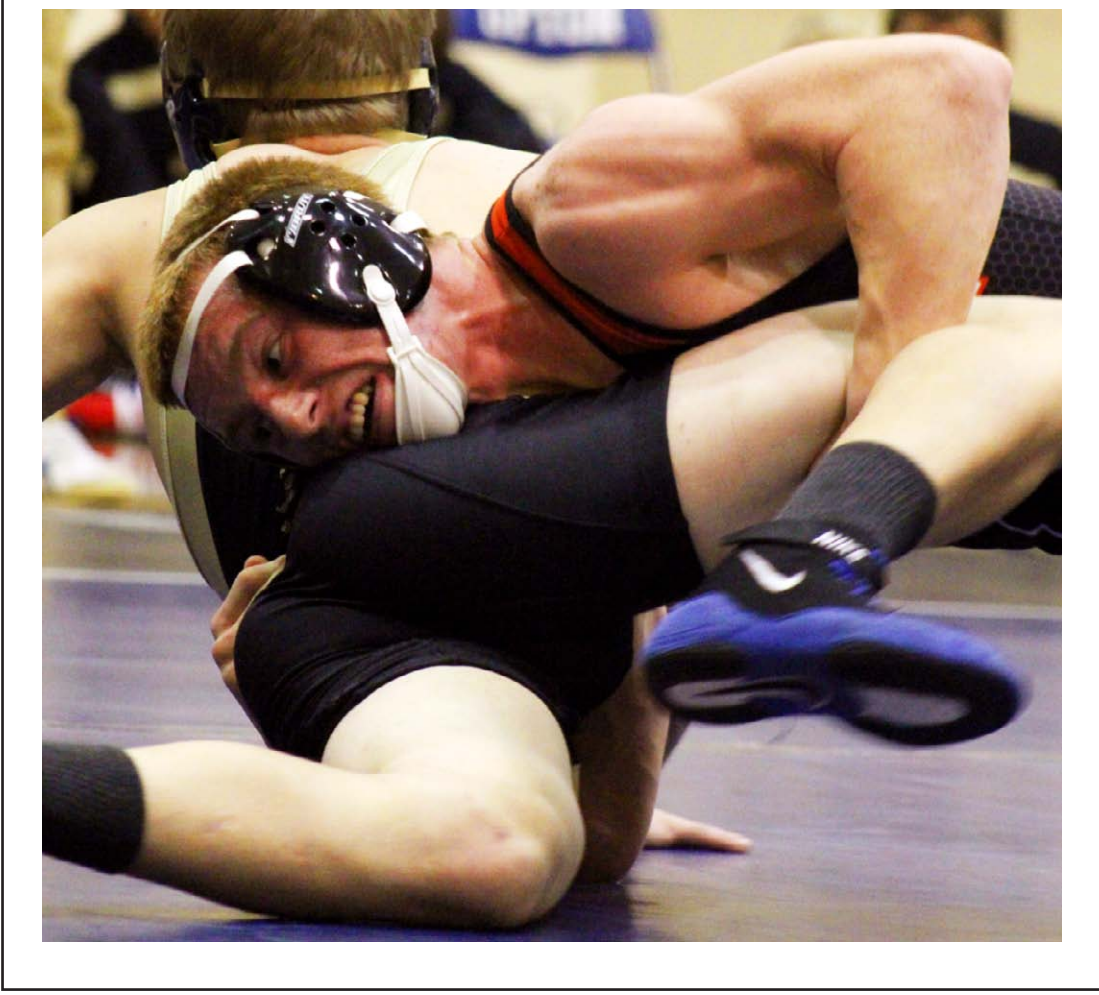
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Sports action resumes

The Newcastle Lady Dogies and the Newcastle/Upton wrestling team resumed competition this week after the Christmas break. The Ladies will be playing Saturday in Torrington, while the wrestlers will have their next match at the Douglas Invitational this Friday and Saturday. Pictured above is senior Scottlyn Wiggins in the Dec. 18 game against Sundance. Below, junior Ricky Larson wrestles against a Buffalo opponent on Dec. 18, in Upton. (Photos by Sonja Karp and Amy Menerey/NLJ)



Movie from page 9.....

brings reality to the disease and the significant affects on the person as well as the family," Cadwell added.

Because they wanted to be able to show the documentary to as many people as possible, they decided to use the Crouch Auditorium, which holds 750 people, instead of the Dogie Theater, which seats 275.

"We want to make sure it is big enough to hold a lot of people, and the high school has good parking. In addition, they are allowing us to use the auditorium free, as well as clean-up," the CEO acknowledged.

Winner of the Grammy for Lifetime Achievement and member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Campbell was the first country music star to cross over to the pop charts, paving the way for generations of country musicians. After being diagnosed with the dreaded disease several years ago, he made history by going public with the diagnosis — the first time a major American celebrity would share this experience with the world, stated a press release about the movie.

The Campbell family ventured on a three-week "Goodbye Tour," which turned into a sentimental and victorious 151-show nationwide tour de force.

"This epic drama about the undying bond between Glen and Kim, and their unwavering caring for each other, chronicles a story of love, resilience and the power of song. 'Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me' is the true tale of how America's greatest country star would not give up his music or his family, against all odds," informed the release.

Bruce Springsteen, Bill Clinton, The Edge, Paul McCartney, Jay Leno, Vince Gill, Jimmy Martin, Chad Smith, Keith Urban, Steve Martin, Blake Shelton, Taylor Swift and countless others are featured in the film. Rare vintage footage and new performances of Campbell's beloved hits are also included.

It also depicts how, along with his family, the talented musician lives each moment in the present while preparing for his future with Alzheimer's.

James Keach directs and produces the documentary, and received the prestigious 2014 Proxmire Award for his work on it. Trevor Albert also produced the film with Keach. After watching every movie they could about the disease, they were not going to make the film until they met with Campbell and his family.

"Once we met them, everything changed. These are exceptional human beings — an exceptional family with exceptional faith and an incredible sense of humor," Keach stated in the press release.

"Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me" also won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Picture at the 2014 Nashville Film Festival.

Cadwell stated the movie shows how the disease affects someone who is well known, and brings to light the disease. She said the family was open about the process of it, and humanizes the disease so that anyone who sees the film can develop an understanding of how it affects the entire family.

"This is a huge opportunity, and we hope that everyone can come and see the movie," Cadwell encouraged.

Karp from page 9.....

I remember that I do feel a lot better when I work out, but it's the month or so of pain that I have to endure in order to get to the point that it feels good that is tough to overcome.

That's also where the benefit of a team comes into play. When I don't feel like getting in my exercise for the day, I have teammates that will encourage me and give me a kick in the backside to get me going.

I'm a little nervous about joining the competition because I don't want to fail, but at the same time I'm excited about the possibilities that await me if I succeed.

At any rate, I'm going to give it my best shot, so here's to the New Year and hopefully to a New Me! I wish everyone success in whatever goals you have set for yourselves for 2015 and good luck to all!