

News Letter Journal

Weston County

March 18, 2021

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 135 Week 11

School funding method mulled

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The future of education funding in Wyoming has changed and morphed several times over the past year. The most recent bill up for consideration, House Bill 173, substitute number

one, proposes a 0.65% cut, down from the 10% originally proposed by Gov. Mark Gordon.

While this bill would affect K-12 education for 777 students in Weston County School District No. 1, Superintendent Brad LaCroix said that the \$120,000 cut would have a “sub-

stantially lower” impact than the cuts originally proposed.

Despite the revised funding cut (from 10% to less than 1%), LaCroix said, the school district’s concern with HB 173 as proposed is its use of categorical funding over a block funding model.

According to Rep. Chip Neiman,

R-Sundance, categorical funding would earmark a certain dollar amount for a certain category in the general fund, whether it is for administration, teachers or maintenance. He said that the state’s school districts now receive a block of funding that they are allowed to use where needed.

“Categorizing the money doesn’t allow for moving the funds. Money has to be kept in a certain area,” Neiman explained. “You can’t cross that money over, and that is where the heartburn starts. It takes away local control.”

— See **Schools**, Page 2

Battle for the ball



Photo courtesy of Nicole McFarland

Jaylen Ostenson garnered a great deal of defensive attention throughout the 3A State Tournament last week. Despite being double-teamed every time she went to the rack, the sophomore managed to drop 27 points in the Lady Dogies’ consolation semifinal win over Mountain View on Thursday morning. See more on Page 9.

Reservoir work in progress

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Work to permanently fix Turner Reservoir, a popular fishing spot located seven miles northeast of Osage, began in January of this year following infrastructure failure that caused the four-acre fishing pond in the northeast corner of Thunder Basin National Grassland to drain in both 2018 and 2019.

As originally reported by the *News Letter Journal* in August 2019, a temporary fix was completed after the initial drainage of the reservoir in 2018 while the U.S. Forest Service acquired funding for a permanent fix. Eventually, the temporary fix

— See **Reservoir**, Page 2

Call now for health screening

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Weston County Health Services will be using an appointment method on March 26 and 27 for Wellness Blood Screening, through Wyoming Health Fairs, according to Denice Piscioti, executive assistant at the facility. Appointments will be scheduled between 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. both days.

Last year, the hospital canceled the annual event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Usually in the spring, Wyoming Health Fairs comes to

— See **Screening**, Page 7

Newcastle native deployed to D.C. with National Guard

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

With Jan. 6 marked as a day that could go down in history due to the storming of and break-in at Washington, D.C., the U.S. National Guard made an extra effort to be present at the 2021 inauguration of President Joe Biden. Not only was the Washington, D.C., National Guard deployed but other units across the country joined the forces. Among the troops were local coal miner Justin Kolbeck, who has been a member of the South Dakota National Guard since 2005. Kolbeck was part of the military team that served in D.C. on Jan. 20. He was deployed a few

days before the inauguration and came home around Jan. 27.

Kolbeck, a squad leader, said his unit was in charge of guarding Independence Avenue, which included everything from Third to 14th streets. Basically, he said, they were responsible for an area that reached from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. During the week, Kolbeck and other Guard members carried 0.9 mm handguns and were deputized by the Department of Homeland Security. While nothing too exciting happened, Kolbeck said, Guard members were exhausted from pulling long days. The first day they started their deployment turned into an 18-hour day with the

remainder of the week averaging 14-hour days or sometimes longer.

Of news articles reporting that Guard troops were sleeping in parking garages, Kolbeck said that he “can’t tell you what’s fact and what’s fiction” of the reports. But he and his team did

— See **Kolbeck**, Page 7

Submitted photo

Justin Kolbeck, local coal miner, was part of the South Dakota National Guard team that was sent to Washington, D.C., during President Joe Biden’s inauguration, and he was a squad leader for the week.



WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Sunny
Hi 46, Lo 30



Friday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 55, Lo 37



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 58, Lo 34



Sunday
AM Snow
Hi 47, Lo 31



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 49, Lo 31



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 49, Lo 29



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 53, Lo 31



INSIDE

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- Sports Page 9



Be Kind. Be Compassionate. Be Direct.

The past year has been particularly rough on teenagers, and we are asking parents to help us monitor their social and mental well-being so we can provide the support families sometimes need. Help us intervene on behalf of children and families who are 'at-risk' or 'in crisis'.



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District looks at class sizes

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

When facing potential cuts of several hundred thousand dollars, Weston County School District No. 1 made it clear that nothing was off the table when it came to addressing the decreased funding for K-12 education. Part of the school board discussion included a potential switch to a seven-period school day for Newcastle High School's 246 students, instead of the current block schedule.

The reason, according to Superintendent Brad LaCroix, is that current class sizes do not meet the limits defined in the state's funding model. At this time, maximum class sizes for high schools are 21, according to the funding model. The Legislature is proposing to increase the maximum to 23 as part of House Bill 173.

Elementary and middle

school classes on the other hand, LaCroix said, are closer to the funding model guidelines for those grade levels.

According to information provided by LaCroix, class sizes at the high school range from an average of 7.1 students per class in various woodworking sections to 17 students in social studies classes. Exceptions to these averages are vocal and band classes.

Sonya Tysdal, the district's curriculum director, reported that when looking at class sizes at that level, the school has to consider that the schedule structure may be what is impacting class sizes.

"As someone said at last night's school board meeting, we offer more than any other school district our size," Tysdal said. "At what point do we retain what we offer and at the same time be responsible with taxpayer dollars? We have to have that conversation."

Not only does the district have fewer students than the state maximum in high school classes, it is also threatened by a drop in enrollment, especially in the future.

"Twenty to 30 years ago, class sizes were larger. Something that has become a reality in our community is that the school-age population is decreasing," Tysdal said. She added that while the impact is not immediate, it has the potential to affect funding in the future.

"The impact we could see next year is absolutely a reality. That could be another cut to the district, in addition to the cuts from the Legislature," she said.

According to enrollment data from the Wyoming Department of Education, Newcastle's graduating class is around 63 students. The incoming kindergarten class, according to Principal Brandy Holmes, is projected to be 45 students at most.

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COVID-19

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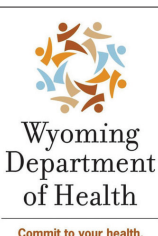
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307-746-4775



Schools

from Page 1

Neiman said that he is usually the first person to argue for local control but that he struggles with the block funding for school districts because funding is being used to pay for things the Legislature did not intend the money to be spent on.

Specifically, Neiman said, salaries for superintendents in Wyoming are, on average, 23% more than the funding model provides for. This money is, in turn, taken from other departments to pay for the salary amount that exceeds the funding model limit.

"That is where you get into the problem. My heartburn is over the administration when we are under funding teachers. That is the problem I have. ... You have got to keep the money in the classroom. Teachers need to be taken good care of, and my fear is, what I am seeing, is that they are the first ones who are threatened to lose their jobs. ... They are the first person to get laid off with block funding."

In his opinion, this is a sad circumstance. He stressed what he sees as the need for the

Legislature to do a better job of protecting teachers in Wyoming while not limiting local control over education.

Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle, echoed Neiman, stating that he fully supports the local control provided through block funding, although education cannot continue to be funded at the level reached in recent years. Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle, added that K-12 funding has been facing deficits for years.

"Clearly, we are facing decisions that affect every person in Wyoming this legislative session. One only needs to look at the reductions in the general fund budget of \$446 million to see we are facing unprecedented times," Steinmetz said. "The one thing most legislators can agree upon with regard to K-12 funding is that the model is broken. This year presents an opportunity to fix that problem. The question is, will the Legislature seize the opportunity or deny reality and kick the can down the road? We all have the opportunity to be part of the solution and chart a sustainable course in K-12 funding for the future."

560 acres to be fire treated

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

U.S. Forest Service fire crews are planning a prescribed burn of 560 acres in the Upton/Osage area of the Thunder Basin National Grassland, according to a press release from the agency.

The vegetation treatment, named Clay Spur, will take place in March and early April when conditions are favorable for controlled burn activity.

The agency is not releasing exact dates for the burn because timing will depend on suitable weather and fuel moisture content. The release noted that the daily ventilation category for smoke dispersal will also be

considered when determining burn dates.

"Smoke will likely be visible in surrounding communities and along Highway 16," the release states.

"Proposed burn units are located on National Forest System lands managed by the Douglas Ranger District in Weston County, Wyo," the release says. "The prescribed fire area is bordered by Skull Creek Road to the east and Forest Road 914 on the north. Two-track roads, livestock trails and creek bottoms surround the remaining project boundary to the west and south."

The area, according to the release, is 16 miles northwest of Newcastle, 5 miles north of

Osage and less than one mile from the Skull Creek Road.

"The hills and draws of the burn units are composed of ponderosa pine, intermixed with juniper, cottonwoods, with grass and sagebrush flats. The elevation is 4,600 feet," the release continues. "Much of the vegetation within the project area has not experienced fire in the past 50-100 years. The Clay Spur burn will mimic historically natural fire disturbances, benefit a variety of vegetative species and their age class diversity, as well as wildlife habitat and domestic stock pasture. Fire danger will also be reduced by removing potentially hazardous fuel loads."

Reservoir

from Page 1

failed and the reservoir remained empty.

According to Aaron Voos, a Forest Service public affairs specialist, the reservoir, which is fed by Turner Creek and located 7 miles north of Osage, is now under construction and the area remains closed to the public for the duration of the project.

"The project includes removing old infrastructure which failed in August 2019 and installing a new outlet pipe, control gate, spillway and

dam excavation work," Voos said in an email to the *News Letter Journal*. "The project is expected to be completed by this summer, but per the contract they (JTR Excavation out of Mills) have until September 2021."

He continued that the spring-fed reservoir will naturally refill after construction is completed. At that time, the Douglas Ranger District has also planned future work and maintenance to the dock and other on-site infrastructure.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center continues to provide care for Wyoming citizens in Sheridan, Johnson, Weston, and Crook counties.

With the significant decrease in COVID-19 cases and vaccination efforts in Wyoming and surrounding communities, we will resume in-person services effective 03/22/21 and continue to provide telehealth services for those clients who are unable to return to in-person services. Please note we follow CDC and State of Wyoming Guidelines as healthcare providers and therefore require persons coming into our offices to social distance and wear a face covering. Those who do not have a face covering will be provided one upon entry to our buildings.

For Sheridan, WY services, our 1221 W. 5th St office (by Sheridan Memorial Hospital) is currently undergoing renovations and we have temporarily relocated services to 909 Long Drive, Suite D. If you have any questions about finding our new temporary location, please call 307-674-4405. For updates, please check back with us at wymentalhealth.org or [facebook.com/nwymhc](https://www.facebook.com/nwymhc).

Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center is here for you during this ever-changing time.

On-call services continue to be in place and available 24/7.

County Contact Numbers 24/7 - In case of an emergency, call 911.

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Weston (307) 746-4456

nlj IDEAS

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WHAT

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WHEN

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WHY

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



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Government transparency is important

The citizens of Wyoming were the beneficiaries one week ago when the Wyoming Senate rejected a bill that would have limited government transparency.

By a 20-9 vote, Senate File 17, a bill brought by Sen. Tara Nethercott (R-Cheyenne), would have allowed cities, towns, counties and school districts to only place public notice information on their own websites.

Cody Enterprise
March 15
Guest Column

Unfortunately, much of the discussions seemed focused on how the state's newspapers would be impacted if those notices were moved online. The issue should never be about saving money, but how to best keep the public informed in an unbiased manner.

This week, March 14-20, is Sunshine Week, an initiative launched in 2005 by the News Leaders Association, to promote

openness in government.

Whenever elected officials are reluctant to have their actions fully exposed to the public, a light needs to be shown on their actions. That is why this initiative is labeled "Sunshine."

Lack of transparency always raises questions, "Is there something your elected officials don't want you to know about? Is something untoward happening here?"

Transparency means those you elected to represent you are held accountable for their actions. Transparency means meetings that

impact you are open to the public. Records, including meeting minutes, salaries, ordinances and more are readily available for your inspection. That means you need to have available records kept in an unbiased method of how your elected officials voted.

President Abraham Lincoln called our system "Government of the people, by the people, for the people."

Last week, the people of Wyoming were assured the right for the time being to hold their elected officials accountable.

Wyoming's year long journey with COVID-19

The first big bombshell occurred almost a year ago when the state high school basketball tournaments in Casper were cancelled because of a new virus on the world stage.

From then on, folks we have been on a long, strange journey.

Last March, we were terrified by the TV images of horrific scenes in hospitals in New York City and in Italy. If that was the plague it certainly appeared to be coming for us!

Wyoming put in lots of restrictions and cancelled just about everything and then we just stayed put – we sat around and waited for the apocalypse. And waited. And waited.

My column on May 10, 2020, pointed out how spectacular the statistics were in Wyoming with just eight deaths, lowest in the USA. We had more traffic deaths than Covid deaths. Our numbers of sick people were tiny compared to other states. In a burst of bravado, I specu-



Bill Sniffin
My Wyoming

lated this might be the biggest over-reaction in history.

Few people had predicted that the Cowboy State would be so much safer than the rest of the world.

Wyoming is a big, lonely empty place with six people per square mile. New York City has 27,000 people per square mile. The Big Apple is full of crowded apartments and subways. New

York City is a claustrophobic place for most Wyomingites. Watching the horror on TV of their emergency rooms, well, it was easy to believe the world was coming to an end.

It was not. At least not right away.

With Wyoming being such a big open place, it was logical that it would be a magnet for tourists. Everything here was shut down at first but then the dam burst in mid-June.

We had record tourism in August, September, and October and despite 5 million visitors over the tourist season we saw no spike in

Covid cases. It was almost an innocent time. How could Wyoming dodge this bullet?

Wyoming received some \$1.25 billion in federal CARES aid. The Wyoming Business Council did a fantastic job of making grants to state businesses under guidelines developed by the legislature, which met by Zoom. Zoom became one of the hottest businesses in the country as everybody jumped on the remote meeting bandwagon.

While Wyoming remained one of the states with the fewest health-related restrictions in the nation through the spring and summer of 2020, that changed in the fall and winter as the number of active cases in the state skyrocketed from 3,266 on Oct. 24 to 11,861 one month later. The increase prompted Gov. Mark Gordon and state Public Health Officer Dr. Alexia Harrist to impose a requirement that people wear face masks in public.

In the late fall of 2020, we peaked with 11,861 cases. Even Gov. Mark Gordon tested positive. On Dec. 7, he issued a statewide mask mandate. People were hun-

kering down. The plague had arrived in Wyoming with a vengeance.

Because of Covid, Wyoming, in several ways, has been forever changed.

Many of the new systems and techniques put into place during the last 200 days will continue on into the future. Biggest things will be statewide meetings being held with Zoom, distance education, and telehealth medicine. Wyoming people drive more miles per year than people in any other state, on a per-capita basis. We have good roads. We are small in population but have been almost desperate to get together for meetings, it seems.

For 50 years, my typical Wyoming day often meant driving three hours to Casper or Rawlins or Rock Springs or Jackson or Cody or Pinedale for a two-hour meeting and then driving three hours home. In the summers, we even would make the 4.5-hour trip to Cheyenne for a meeting and then drive back home in the same day.

Not anymore. We will Zoom those meetings.

Our legislators have been meeting almost non-stop by Zoom and I predict that whenever this darned pandemic ends, that option will continue. The computer-generated meetings are not as comfortable as in-person meetings but they certainly work better than anything else I have ever seen.

The months of December and January were rough but then the vaccines arrived. As I write this on March 12, 2021, times are good. Cases are way down. The mask mandate comes off this week.

But sadly, the death toll almost hit 700 on the one-year anniversary.

It has been a very long year. Now in 2021, we can again appreciate what normal life is all about. What a relief!

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

What were they thinking? Holding government accountable

Americans of various political stripes across the country often ask how they can hold government accountable. Citizens on the Right and Left, at various times, express outrage and occasionally helplessness as they witness the passage of policies and programs that seem at odds with the Constitution, democratic principles and values, bereft of wisdom and even common sense.

Citizens actually have many tools to promote government accountability and to improve the quality — and civility — of political dialogue.

Beyond the First Amendment rights that all Americans can exercise, including freedom of speech, assembly and the right to petition government for redress of grievances, let us consider five ways to elevate political discussion, regardless of your political views.

First, stop political labeling. The practice of endorsing or dismissing an idea merely because it is characterized as liberal or conservative is a lazy citizen's way of avoiding the obligation of citizenship, which requires analysis of the relative merits of an idea or proposal. In fact, the practice of labeling is simplistic and circular, and little more than a self-fulfilling

prophecy. It ignores, for example, the fact of changing definitions and shifting criteria that mark the fluidity of democratic politics. Widespread labeling, moreover, gives a pass to elected officials who know they can woo and win an audience that is vulnerable to descriptions and judgments grounded in ideological characterizations.

Second, listen. Nobody has a monopoly on political wisdom. A refusal to listen to competing arguments, an exercise in arrogance, rests on the assumption that we have nothing to learn from our fellow citizens. The tenets of constitutional democracy reject the concept of human infallibility and

reflect the understanding that public policy can be improved through the process of discussion. Listening to an opposing position or dissenting opinion may lead us to reconsider the merits of our own position and, perhaps, affirm the strength of our convictions. Alternatively, it may also persuade us to recognize the deficiencies in our position and improve upon it, or embrace a different view. Everyone gains when we participate in this educational process.

Third, citizens must be fair to one another. Constructive dialogue requires fair and accurate representations of opposing arguments, particularly in a system that rests on

the principle of government based on the consent of the governed. This requires respect for facts and evidence, and rejection of distortion and demagoguery. Nothing of substance is achieved through straw-man arguments. Fooling people into adopting one's political position is a hollow victory; indeed, such fraudulent tactics contradict the premise of winning "consent" from fellow citizens, since people who are deceived are hardly "consenting" to something.

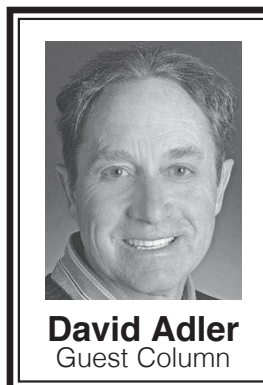
Fourth, avoid the politics of destruction. Politics is not war, and words are not bullets. It is wise to remember, after all, that in a democracy, which is fluid and reflective of changing views and values, and grounded in compromise, that today's opponents may be tomorrow's allies. We should be tough on issues, but tender toward people. Thus, it is important to avoid coercion, threats and intimidation. The effort to destroy opponents, moreover, is likely to curb participation in politics, since it will exacerbate apathy and cynicism. In a democracy, it should be recalled, we seek social conditions that encourage participation and honest give-and-take in the discussion of policies, programs and laws.

Fifth, avoid ideological rigidity. Compromise is the engine of democracy, a proven means of achieving consensus, which is critical to the establishment of political legitimacy and stability. Compromise is particu-

larly important in a nation like the United States, which boasts many different views and values, derived from various religious faiths, political orientations and cultural patterns. Efforts to achieve ideological purity are fruitless; it is far better to gain something than nothing. Half a loaf is better than no bread at all. Driving off the cliff, partisan flags flying, reflects the politics of impotence, for it shrinks political participation and squanders appeal and potential. The wages of rigidity may be measured in President Woodrow Wilson's refusal to negotiate with members of the U.S. Senate on his proposal for America's entry into the League of Nations. As observers noted, Wilson "strangled his own baby."

The founders' goal of achieving governmental accountability, which drafted American citizens into their own great cause, remains our nation's greatest experiment. Americans have the tools necessary to make the experiment successful, if only they will use them.

David Adler, PHD, is a noted author who lectures nationally and internationally on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and Presidential power. His scholarly writings have been cited by the US Supreme Court and lower courts by both Democrats and Republicans in the US Congress. He can be reached at david.adler@alturasinstitute.com.



David Adler
Guest Column

Send your letters to reporter@newsjl.com - deadline is Friday

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Obituaries

ERNEST LEROY CUMMINGS
March 6, 1939–March 9, 2021

Remember that guy you saw zipping around Gillette on his Moped? And the guy you saw at all the garage sales and auctions during the summer months? The guy who knew no strangers and was friendly to everyone? Remember the PE teacher that collected trophies and had them reinscribed for his badminton tournaments for his elementary students and who held Jump Rope for Heart to raise money for the Heart Association? Yes, that was Ernie Cummings. Those who knew Ernie saw a man with a tremendous sense of humor who loved to play practical jokes but would give you the shirt off his back.



Ernest Cummings Ernest LeRoy Cummings passed away peacefully at the age of 82 in Gillette, Wyo., on March 9, 2021, from complications of various health problems. He was born March 6, 1939, in Upton, Wyo., to Howard and Anne Cummings. He was raised and schooled in Upton where he participated and excelled in sports, especially basketball, football, and baseball. He graduated from Upton High School in 1957. He went on to Black Hills Teacher's College in Spearfish, S.D., for a short time then went to work in the oil fields.

In 1961 he joined the U.S. Navy. During his time in the service, he served 14 months at Pearl Harbor then put in for submarine duty where he spent his last two and a half years of duty stationed in New London, Conn., when he wasn't at sea traveling the world. While in the Navy he became an electricians' mate and earned the rank of E5. A week before he was discharged, he met the love of his life, Judy Annette Leuthard. Ernie would never admit he believed in love at first sight and there was never a formal proposal, but they had such a connection from the beginning that when he said to her, he needed to talk to her parents, she knew what he meant and 10 days later on Aug. 6, 1965, they were married. So began their journey together for the next 55 and a half years.

Ernie and Judy returned to Wyoming and

settled in Gillette where Ernie worked in the oil fields once again until after their son, Scott, was born. Ernie decided he wanted to go back to college, so they moved to Spearfish where they both attended Black Hills State College and acquired their teaching degrees. After Ernie graduated, they moved back to Gillette where Ernie began his teaching career as a PE teacher and Judy followed behind teaching Business Ed in the high school. They taught for 27 years and retired in 1997. For the next 20 years they traveled extensively. Ernie was a pool player and spent a good 40 years playing the game throughout the state and attended many national pool tournaments in Las Vegas, Nev. One year he earned the honor of Wyoming State Pool Champion. In his younger years he loved to hunt. He definitely was an outdoor kind of guy.

Ernie is survived by his spouse, Judy of Gillette; son, Scott of Reno, Nev.; granddaughter, Amanda, and great-granddaughter, Madison, of Montpelier, Idaho; two sisters, Bernie Ruff of Dubois, Wyo., and Lucy McKenzie of Upton; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings, Betty Fern Cummings, Mary Ann Hart, Lela Mae Bourgeois, and Howard Eugene Cummings.

There will be a private interment ceremony at Inspiration Gardens at Mt. Pisgah cemetery in Gillette. The date is impending. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Memorials and condolences may be sent in Ernie's name care of Walker Funeral Home, 410 Medical Arts Court, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at walkerfuneralgillette.com.

JOEL LEWIS
Jan. 4, 1960–March 2, 2021

Joel ended his battle with cancer on March 2, 2021, at Weston County Health Services.

Joel was born on Jan. 4, 1960, in Rapid City, S.D., to Bill and Dorothy Lewis. He was the youngest of eight siblings.

Joel worked for Dick Crawford in Newcastle, Wyo., for 16 years and only missed work for five days. Dick was more than a boss to Joel. He was a true friend and Joel enjoyed Dick's friendship as well

as Dick's sons.

Joel thoroughly enjoyed his video games, his music and his fur babies.

Joel is survived by his brothers, Roger Lewis and Billy Lewis in Rapid City; his sisters, Karen Thompson and Ruth Mattison in Wisconsin, Gloria Hoover in Newcastle; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Joel was preceded in death by his father and mother; sister, Margaret; and brother, James H. Lewis.

Cremation has taken place and no services are planned.



Joel Lewis

GAYLYNN SILVERIA
Dec. 1, 1961–March 7, 2021

Gaylynn Silveria, 59, passed away in her home on March 7, 2021, in Gillette, Wyo., located in Freedom Hills.

She was born Dec. 1, 1961, to Dianna and Ronald Atwood in Salt Lake City, Utah. Gaylynn attended Emery High School in Castle Dale, Utah, and went on to college to pursue her passion in cosmetology and nursing.

Gaylynn married Stanley on Nov. 29, 2005, in Idaho City, Idaho. The couple traveled from state to state enjoying life. She enjoyed riding motorcycles, tole painting, woodwork, crafts of any kind, and volunteering to help people in need. She loved her two little boys (yorkies) Ryder and Scout, whom Stanley and she adopted shortly after settling in Starr, Idaho.

Gaylynn is survived by her husband, Stanley; sisters, Ronda, Valerie, and Lori; and brothers, Derrick and Sheridan; daughters, Kristyn, Jennifer, and Kimberly; four grandchildren; and four grand fur-babies.

Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Walker Funeral Home, 410 Medical Arts Court, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at walkerfuneralgillette.com.



Gaylynn Silveria

Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to the NLJ!
Email to design@newsli.com

Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
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Daily Devotional Reading

Mar. 19 Luke 18:1-14	Mar. 23 Daniel 9:20-27
Mar. 20 Psalm 132	Mar. 24 Daniel 10:1-11:1
Mar. 21 Psalm 141	Mar. 25 Habakkuk 1:1-17
Mar. 22 Daniel 9:1-19	Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Wendy Owens, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydshall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 10 am
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 PM; Celebrate Recovery (18+) & Undeclared Youth (Infant- 12th Grade) Wednesday 6:00 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;
- AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm
- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Brenda Torrie, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10:00 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 949-0869
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7:00 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- **OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frezil Westerland. For Bible Study, call (605) 515-3058
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85, Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday Mass 5 pm
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Michael Paschall, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

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Courtesy of WC Historical Society/Elizabeth Fletcher Collection

This is a photograph of the Citizens State Bank in Upton, Wyoming.

Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

25 Years Ago March 21, 1996

Julie Shirley, a former jailer at the Weston County Law Enforcement Center, was allegedly murdered in Las Vegas Monday by her husband. According to an Associated Press story, Julie Shirley was working in a Las Vegas office when Bob Shirley barged into the office, cornered her in a back room, and shot her execution-style.

Lisa Ober, daughter of Betty Ober and the late Martin Ober of Rapid City, S.D., and Eric Hansen, son of Don and Marilyn Hansen of Newcastle, announce their engagement and forthcoming marriage on June 1.

Eliza R. Butts and Douglas M. Dollison will marry Sept. 13 in Newcastle at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Ninety-six Newcastle Middle School music students participated in the annual Northeast District Jr. High/Middle School Music Festival on Saturday, Mar. 9 in Upton. Students from Upton, Moorcroft, Sundance, Sheridan, Wright, Tongue River, and Newcastle attended.

Seven Newcastle Middle School students will be competing at the State Science Fair in Laramie, March 10-12, as a result of placing at the District Science Fair in Gillette, Feb. 28.

Seven students represented the Newcastle High School Forensics team at the state speech meet in Casper March

16. Natalie Dollison placed second in Original Oratory and Dessa Taylor placed seventh in Extemporaneous Speaking.

The Newcastle Dogie boys swim team concluded their season with an outstanding team effort at last Thursday's and Friday's State Championships held at Gillette. As a team, the Dogies placed sixth with 101 team points. Rawlins earned the team title followed by Lander, World, Powell, and Buffalo.

Newcastle High School has cast the 1996 school play, *The Wizard of Oz*. Unlike the movie, this version is actually based upon L. Frank Baum's book and was adapted by Townley and Puras, yet Dorothy and her friends still have the same desires and still face the Wicked Witch of the West.

Roger and Beverly Cossart attended the cow sale Saturday at St. Onge. Shelby Abbott was a Thursday night and Tuesday morning visitor at the home of Vi Coutant.

Jo Fulton spent Sunday in Gillette with her sister, Arrilla Taylor and her mother, Lula Magnusson.

Jo Zorn, Julie Abbott, Jody Oliver and Vi Coutant met for lunch at the Dairy Dell Saturday. Waynette and Tom Nichols were Sunday visitors and dinner guests at the home of Beverly and Roger Cossart.

Casper and Cody Rasmussen were in Gillette Saturday for Cody's fifth grade basketball game. Roger Cossart visited Lawrence Cossart in Spearfish Saturday.

50 Years Ago March 18, 1971

Distributive Education Clubs of America group in Wyoming will converge on Newcastle this weekend for the state leadership conference. The students and coordinators will be arriving today (Thursday) for a full slate of activities and competition.

Newcastle Science students received 11 of the 22 first place awards at the district science fair at Upton last Saturday. Newcastle also received two honorable mentions and were presented the Wyoming Cancer Society award.

The Dogie Theatre will observe its 20th anniversary on Sunday, Mar. 21. Free coffee and cake will be served on Sunday.

Mrs. Harry Spargur and Bill Mangus were supper guests of Mrs. Dolly Abernathy Friday evening. Mrs. Donal Jones joined them later for cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Slagle hosted the Fiddler Creek Social Club Saturday evening, Mar. 13. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Dillon were Friday evening callers at the Lyle Hamilton home.

Mr. and Mrs. Royal Bock and children enjoyed the company of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brown Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Dale Bock and sons, all of Newcastle, at dinner Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh Wilmot and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Sheehan of Upton were Thursday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cowger.

Mrs. Stuart Partridge was a

Saturday afternoon luncheon guest of Mrs. Dolly Abernathy.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Quest helped Mrs. Lawrence Popham load out some cattle Monday and Tuesday at the Popham ranch for sale Wednesday at the Sturgis Livestock Exchange.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Capps were honored on their 25th wedding anniversary at an open house Sunday, March 14, at the Jack R. Huber home. Hosts for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Huber and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Barr.

Miss Pattee McMillan was hostess at a pizza party at her home Friday evening for all of her senior classmates.

Steven Schiller was honored on his 2nd birthday at a supper given by his mother Friday evening.

100 Years Ago March 17, 1921

Well No. 6 on the southwest quarter of section 17-46-63 in the Osage field came in Friday at a depth of 200 feet and shows a strong test of over seven barrels a day. This well completes the drilling contract of Phineas Washer.

Delphia Eldoria Pauley, 14, died Friday afternoon of burns received 26 hours before, when in attempting to light a fire in their home near Osage with a can of crude oil, the container caught fire and the girl was enveloped in flames. The frantic efforts of the parents to extinguish the flames were successful, but not before the daughter had received burns that proved fatal.

Si Holst and wife were shopping in town the first of the week. Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Ellis were in from their Hay Creek ranch Tuesday doing their shopping.

Long and Clark are doing some substantial improving for Mell Quick on his homestead near town.

Geo. Beasley, editor of the Osage Reporter, was a business visitor to the county seat a few days the fore part of the week.

Mrs. M.A. Curtis, seventy-five years young, who has spent the winter with her daughter near Hardin, Mont., has returned and will go to her homestead for the summer.

C.F. Shilling, formerly editor of the Nefsy Oil Tribune, was doing business with local merchants and meeting friends in the county seat the fore part of the week.

F.S. Gurthrie and bride, who was formerly Miss Fern Stewart, arrived in Newcastle Tuesday evening from a two weeks' honeymoon in Kansas City and spent Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Hilton.


The presentation of the local filmed comedy, "A Cowpuncher's Dream," at the New Edison theatre Saturday and Sunday nights is drawing the attention of everyone.



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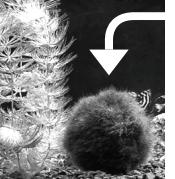
More than 300 types of bacteria make up dental plaque.

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The Washakie County Fair Board is requesting Bid Packages to provide the following services at the 2021 Washakie County Fair: Rodeo and Youth Rodeo.

— Please bid events separately —

Return sealed bids to Washakie County Fair Board (ATTN: Rodeo) PO Box 451, Worland, WY 82401 or drop off at April 12th WC Fair Board Meeting.
 Bids will be accepted until April 12th at 7:00 pm.
 For additional bidding information contact Jeff Lapp at (307) 431-0449.




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This Ad was supported in part by a grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

WHAT'S UP

March 2021

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Fri Mar. 19	4-7PM 5:30PM	Friends of Fair Garage Sale - \$5 admission BINGO	Fairgrounds VFW Hall
Sat Mar. 20	8-1PM	Friends of Fair Garage Sale	Fairgrounds
Tues Mar. 23	3:30PM	Alzheimers/Dementia Support	Zoom
Wed Mar. 24	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	WCHS
Mar. 26-27	Call for appt. 800-979-3711	Community Wellness Screening	WC Senior Center



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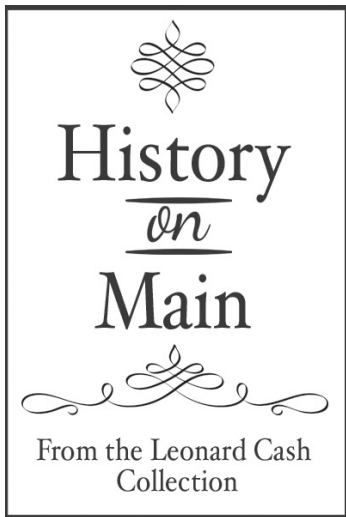
LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

This ad was supported by a grant from the Administration for Community Living, Dept. of Health & Human Services (#90SA0029).

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

‘Million dollar bank’ opens in Mondell building



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent
With Leonard Cash

Historian Leonard Cash continues to dive into his discussion on the Mondell building, located on lot 12 of block 10, in this week’s installment of “History on Main,” with newspaper articles from 1920 that report the success of First National Bank, which had recently undergone an extensive remodeling.

Starting with the July 22, 1920, edition of the *News Letter Journal*, shortly after First National Bank moved from its former location into the Mondell building, the establishment became known as “Weston County’s million dollar bank.” It had modern fixtures, marble trimmings and even a restroom for visitors.

“A trip thru the new building should be worth the time of every citizen,” the article says. “With former State Treasurer, J.L. Baird as president and Dr. Fred Horton as Vice-president, this bank has built up a confidence and trust that is impregnable.” E.P. Coyle was said to have “welfare of the entire community at heart.”

This bank proved its integrity and trustworthiness to become the “pinnacle of what can be accomplished by an institution of trust handling huge sums of money ... (with) the most careful, considerate and reliable methods of banking.”

Not only did they have a new building, but by August 5, 1920, the paper announced that First National Bank had erected a “magnificent electric illuminated clock” in the front of the building, which was “10 feet, 6 inches in height and 3 feet square, of dark bronze with a copper hood at top and bottom.” Four large dials, 2 feet in diameter, with crystal on the outside “will not only add materially to the appearance of the busiest section of the city, but will prove to be a great public convenience for the general public.” The clock contained bronze and plate glass with a 12-inch dial and a complete set of Westminster

chimes, creating an “artistic appearance” and “perfection” of its making. The chimes rang every quarter hour and “may be heard practically as far as the clock may be seen.”

According to the Oct. 7, 1920, paper, Clem Mollring, who formerly lived in Newcastle and operated the Mollring & Mollring dry goods store until moving to San Diego, wrote to his Newcastle friends that he was doing well and that “California is milk and honey land.”

Two years later, First National Bank continued to grow because an article from Dec. 7, 1922, reported that it had bought out Newcastle National Bank. Many believed that the consolidation was a good business accomplishment because, for the time being, “Newcastle can best support two banks instead of three.”

“This arrangement has been hanging fire for some little time and the final agreement was reached,” the article says. “No radical changes in the business of the town will result from the transfer of the business.”

An undated article in Cash’s records revealed the demise of the bank. First National Bank was organized in April 4, 1904, and grew from a small establishment to the largest banking business in town. However, it fell into tough times, becoming the “third bank failure to be recorded in the history of Newcastle.” The first two banks to fail were the Bank of Newcastle, which closed its doors on Dec. 5, 1903, and Weston County Bank. The bank in Osage also closed.

“With the closing of these two (Newcastle and Osage banks), it leaves Weston county with but one banking institution in operation, that of the Bank of Upton,” the article says.

Fortunately, a new bank was opening soon by H.G. Weare of Spearfish, South Dakota, who was a well-known rancher, according to the bank’s website and his associates. Weare held interests in several Black Hills banking institution and had years of experience, which would “undoubtedly make a success in the new undertaking.” The state granted a charter to allow the building formerly occupied by Weston County Bank (which is the present-day Cashbox Ceramics) to be leased.

“Folks in this community who have had to get along without a bank now for some time will undoubtedly welcome the new bank, and it is expected that the banking institution will start off with a



The First National Bank’s “magnificent electric illuminated clock” is shown here in this 1940s photo of First State Bank.



This is a photograph of the Weston County Bank, which was started by Mr. Sedgwick, in Newcastle.

fine business,” the article says. And that’s just what happened.

According to the Aug. 21, 1924, paper, “we predict that the new bank founded on bed rock and having outstanding obligations will be of real benefit to our town and country and that they will do a good business from the start.” The bank was capitalized for \$15,000, “prepared to increase capitalization when ever there

be need for it.”

And the following issue announced that First State Bank had officially opened and moved in. Although the bank was located in the Cashbox store, Cash wanted to include it in this series because it moved into the Mondell building in 1930.

“The First State Bank of Newcastle opened for business and from the very start, it was apparent that the people were

taking kindly to (the) idea of again having a banking institution in the town and county,” the article says.

Within the first week, \$23,000 was deposited in bank, giving it a “footing” of \$38,000 altogether. Eighty-six people and business firms opened accounts “and more are coming daily.”

The success continued because the Sept. 4, 1924, issue of the paper reported

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

Weston County Senior Services is opening effective March 8th for the following:

- *Exercise Class Mon. & Wed 9a.m.
 - *Exercise Room open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to noon (limit to 2 people at a time)
 - *Walking open Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to noon
 - *Various meetings & clinics
 - *Monthly dances
 - **Not open as of now for dine in meals or Friday rolls
- Call 746-4903 with any questions.

FRIDAY Mar 19
Exercise Room 8AM
Walking 8-12

MONDAY Mar 22
Exercise Class 9AM
Exercise Room 8-12
Walking 8-12

TUESDAY Mar 23
Exercise Room 8AM
Walking 8-12

WEDNESDAY Mar 24
Exercise Class 9AM
Exercise Room 8-12
Walking 8-12

THURSDAY Mar 25
Exercise Room 8AM
Walking 8-12

FRIDAY Mar 26
Dance 7-10PM

that the footings increased to \$61,000. Cambria, Osage and Upton were also doing business at First State Bank.

“The effect of having a bank in operation is reflected in the business of the community,” the article says.

Two years later, First State Bank rearranged its office equipment in the lobby, which had previously been occupied by C.C. Storm, who was the receiver of Weston County Bank. He moved his office to the courthouse.

By April 7, 1926, the bank was made depository of United State funds “for the reason being a well qualified institution.”

“Persons who deposited their money in the local post office in saving certificates are in turn deposited again with the local bank,” the article says.

That same year in 1926, Security State Bank opened up, with Walter Schoonmaker as president and C.W. Dow as vice president, and although he is unsure of the date, Cash said it eventually moved into the Mondell building before First State Bank bought out Security. But that will be saved for next week’s installment of “History on Main.”

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Kolbeck from Page 1

not have to sleep in a parking garage, he said. Instead, due to COVID-19, each member of the Guard received a hotel room for the week. Kolbeck said they were originally supposed to take their breaks in a garage, but the location was changed to the top floor of the Deskin building.

With all the uncertainty and controversy surrounding the events on Jan. 6, serving in D.C. during the inauguration gave Kolbeck the perfect opportunity to hear what happened from the perspective of those who were actually there on that day, he said.

According to Kolbeck, he talked with officers from the Metropolitan Police Department in D.C., and out of the dozens he connected with, only two of them were present at the Capitol during the incident. Those officers told him that there were supporters of President Donald Trump, as well as many ANTIFA members present, some of whom even dressed as Trump supporters. Kolbeck said that he merely wanted to point out that, contrary to media reports, the information he received was "first-hand knowledge" from local people.

During the storming of the Capitol, the National Guard was not activated, and Kolbeck said he found it "odd" because the Guard has always been enlisted for protests and demonstration events. After talking with members of the Capitol's Guard unit and learning they were told to stand down on Jan. 6, Kolbeck said, he wondered why. While he was able to ask some questions of the locals in D.C., he said the trip left him with even more questions.

However, serving in the National Guard hasn't been all work and no play. Over the past 16 years, Kolbeck said, he has had some very rewarding moments too. He considers himself a patriot, which was his primary reason for joining the Guard, but he was also following in the footsteps of his father, who also served in the Guard. And while the deployments that come with military life are hard on his family at times, he likes the fact that the Guard allows him to serve in the military while still remaining local.

"I wanted to serve my community," Kolbeck said.

In 2006, he was part of a combat tour, and over the years, he's seen eight countries, including those in South America, Europe and Southeast



Submitted photo
Local coal miner Justin Kolbeck stands next to the Lincoln Memorial. He has been a member of the South Dakota National Guard for about 16 years, and was recently deployed to Washington, D.C., to stand guard during the 2021 inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Asia. He even had the opportunity to operate a 0.50 caliber machine gun in Iraq.

But his most rewarding experience occurred in the local area when a blizzard hit South Dakota during the winter of 2008. The Guard was activated to help with snow removal, so Kolbeck began clearing Interstate 90 and local streets before moving on to gravel roads with 10-to-12-foot drifts. A local rancher waved him down, explaining that his family had no heat and his baby was sick and needed to go to the hospital. Although, for liability reasons, the Guard isn't supposed to clear private roads and drives, Kolbeck made an exception and immediately started removing snow. The rancher was able to take his baby to the hospital.

"That was one of the most rewarding moments with the Guard," Kolbeck said. Another thing Kolbeck

appreciates about the Guard is although they've seen a lot of conflict during active duty, there are many good experiences. Every guard unit has a "sister nation" that it helps, and his unit is responsible for Suriname. Kolbeck had the opportunity to go to the South American country and do humanitarian work, such as building schools and clinics.

While he sees both good days and bad, Kolbeck said he has learned a lot from being in the National Guard and it has allowed him to serve both his local community and beyond.

Screening from Page 1

Weston County for three days, with the first one in Upton; however, they were not able to do three days in a row this March," Piscioti said.

She added that the vendor fair will also not take place this year.

"This year will be different because appointments need to be made in order to get the wellness blood screenings done," Piscioti said in an email, noting that appointments will be made in 10-minute intervals.

The tests will run in a similar process as previous years, in addition to social distancing and mask requirements.

During the event, an array of tests will be offered, including a blood chemistry panel, hemogram, PSA screening for men, vitamin D/25 hydroxy, vitamin B-12 with folate, two different thyroid panels, blood type and several other options. Each test is performed for various prices ranging from \$30 to \$82 (see ad on Page 10).

According to Piscioti, a

12-hour fasting period is recommended before any blood draw, unless the individual is diabetic. The only exception to that rule is water or black coffee.

During registration, each person will receive a piece of paper, half of it for the person performing the blood draw and the other for the patient's record.

"On the portion they keep, there is a number and instructions on how to check their blood results online," Piscioti explained. "Results are typically available within three to five business days and will be mailed within seven to 10 business days."

She noted that authorization release forms will also be available.

Appointments for a screening can be made by visiting wyoinghealthfairs.com/appointments or by calling 800-979-3711. Newcastle can be found on the website's appointment page under Additional WHF Blood Screenings at the bottom of the page.

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COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

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"Amish Girl"

WILMA'S FAMILY — This is a photo of Wilma's family in 1985. She is their oldest daughter of 10 children — seven boys and three girls. Here, she is sitting up front.

As a young Amish girl in Bowling Green, Missouri, Wilma [Schrock] enjoyed the privilege of living on a farm and learning to work hard. Growing up with nine siblings, she learned how to do many things at a very young age - milking cows, hanging out laundry - hoeing the garden, caring for the chickens, and then, when chores were done, walking to school, each day... They didn't have modern conveniences such as running water, electricity, or motorized vehicles. They used horse and buggy for their transportation. They were old fashioned, hard-working, and respected...

Yet, even as an Amish girl, there was one thought that deeply concerned her. She knew that someday she would die - but, then - what would become of her?

The Bible teaches that every person has a soul which will spend eternity in either Heaven or in hell. However, the Amish preachers had taught them that no one can be sure of Heaven. They taught that God would decide their fate on Judgment Day, when each man's works will be put in the balance. Wilma often thought, "Will my good outweigh my bad?" Even with her Amish lifestyle, she was doubtful that anyone could really be "good enough".

Whenever the Amish needed to travel a longer distance from home, they would often hire an automobile/driver to take them. On one of these trips, their driver began talking to them about the Bible.

He explained all their "good works" were merely a "man-made religion". He asked them, "If you can work for entrance to Heaven, then why did Jesus need to die?" (They had just always assumed that "good people" go to Heaven, and "bad people" go to hell.)

Wilma's parents and others started questioning the Amish faith. Was it possible that "their way" was not *The Way* to Heaven? Can anyone really be sure of Heaven? Could it be that their "list of rules" did not agree with God's simple plan of salvation? Although it was forbidden, they began studying their Bibles - secretly. What they discovered changed their lives...

1) One can know for sure that they are on their way to Heaven. God has only One way - *Jesus Christ*. "I am the way..." - John 14:6

2) God's way of salvation is all of God, and nothing of ourselves. - Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8, 9

3) Everyone has sinned. God says we are all sinful. - Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23

4) God is a righteous judge Who requires the payment of death for breaking His law. Either we accept His death on the cross for our payment, or then we will pay for our own sin, in an eternal hell. - Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14-15

5) Jesus, in His love for us, died on the cross and became our payment for sin. - Romans 5:8

6) One can be saved by receiving Christ as their LORD and Savior. - John 1:12; Romans 10:9-13; Acts 4:12

Soon, all of Wilma's immediate family were "born again" after understanding these verses from God's Word. However, as a result, her family was "excommunicated" from the Amish. It broke their hearts to be shunned by many family and friends, but they found that Jesus is "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Their prayer now is for the rest of their Amish relatives, to see the Light --- **JESUS CHRIST**.

"...Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

For more of her family's amazing story - View their recent documentary on **YouTube**—

"The Ex-Amish of Maywood, MO"

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Pastor Matt & Wilma Furse

This message paid for by Mountainview Baptist Church, Custer SD



Fire power

The Weston County Event Center at the Weston County Fairgrounds was full of gun enthusiasts Saturday and Sunday as vendors and buyers filled the building during the spring gun show hosted by the Weston County Sportsman Club. During the event people could have a meal of biscuits and gravy in the morning, or nachos, chili dogs, or Sloppy Joes, as well as a selection of cookies and pies for lunch. The parking lot outside of the Event Center was filled all the way down to the race track and even outside the fence, despite the muddy conditions. At left, guns were not the only items for sale. Knives were also available, and while some of them were manufactured by large knife companies, John Ertman from Lead, S.D., a blade-smith since 1975, had his own creations on display. Below, left to right, the event center was full to near capacity with an enthusiastic response by the public; Yasmin Frank and Cary Voss greet people and take the entry fee of \$5 as people entered the event center; Tonya DaFoe gets food ready for the crowd to enjoy.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ



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COMING UP:
Soccer @ Scottsbluff
Track @ Buffalo
Track @ Newcastle

Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULES			
NEWCASTLE:			
NHS Men's Soccer			
3/19	J/V/V	Scottsbluff	A 4PM
4/1	J/V/V	Buffalo HS	H 4PM
NHS Ladies' Soccer			
3/19	J/V/V	Scottsbluff	A 4PM
4/1	J/V/V	Buffalo HS	A 4PM
NHS Track			
3/19	V9	Buffalo Tri	A TBA
3/26	V9	Laura Chord	H TBA
4/1	V9	Wheatland	A 11AM
NMS Girls Soccer			
4/6		Twin Spruce	A 3:30PM
NMS Boys Soccer			
4/6		Twin Spruce	A 5PM
UPTON:			
UHS Track			
3/26		Newcastle	A TBA
4/1		Jerry Campbell (Buffalo)	A TBA
UMS Track			
3/27		Newcastle	A 9AM

To your mark

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Dogie tracksters are chomping at the bit to be off to the races in 2021. After losing out on the 2020 season, the sound of the starting pistol is music to the ears of 36 young Dogies who are anxious to get into the blocks.

Head coach Chad Ostenson missed out on the first few days of practice which began last Monday due to coaching the Lady Dogies hoopsters at the 3A State Basketball Tournament last week, but in his absence assistant coaches Matt Conzelman, Kathy Beehler and Dave Christiansen started whipping his team into shape.

“I’ve only been to one day

— See **Track**, Page 10



Photo by Amy Menerey/NLJ

Pictured left to right: Nate Strickland, Grayson Ramsey, Conrad Prell, Dylan Drost and Thomas Prell enjoy good weather on March 11 — before the snow blanketed the area again — working to get in shape for the 2021 track season. There are 36 Dogies anxious to get the season underway after losing out on their 2020 opportunities.

It's been a year

A year ago last Thursday, the Lady Dogies were one of only four teams to get to play a game at the 3A/4A State Basketball Tournament before COVID-19 shut down the Big Dance.

A year ago last Friday, students walked out of Newcastle schools for the weekend without knowing

they would not walk back in during the 2019-2020 school year.



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

A year ago on Monday, teachers came to work in buildings without students only to go home at the end of the day and not return to the classroom.

Spring sports seasons were placed on hold after their first week of practice with the hope they could get back on the field or the track within a couple of weeks.

That was not to be.

For three weeks we were in limbo, with no idea of how,

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

Lady Dogies fall short of state hardware

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Lady Dogies made their second consecutive trip to the 3A State Tournament last Wednesday and Thursday in Casper. While they came up just short of bringing home any hardware, the young team advanced to the Consolation Championship game and gave all three teams they took on a run for their money.

“I think there were some nerves at work when we started our first game on Wednesday,” mused head coach Chad Ostenson. “And it just wasn’t our day in our last game on Thursday, but I am very proud of how the girls battled in every game, and we got some very valuable experience which I hope will help us next season.”

The Lady Dogies got off to a slow start in their first game of the tourna-

ment against the west side’s second seeded Lady Tigers of Lander on Wednesday afternoon. Though the squad created plenty of scoring opportunities, they struggled to find the bottom of the net.

Fortunately, the team played some solid defense early so held the Lady Tigers back from scoring at will.

“We had a tough time finishing early, but Lander also struggled a little to get going,” Ostenson surmised. “We did a pretty nice job of digging ourselves out of the hole we got in early, but having to do that really puts you in a bind later on.”

The Lady Dogies got their first two points from one trip to the charity stripe deep into the first quarter, however finished the first frame down only 6-11 against the Lady Tigers. Lander continued to build their lead, out-scoring Newcastle 13-9 in the second quarter

to take a nine-point advantage into the locker room.

The second half was a different story, however, and the Lady Dogies took the momentum early in the third quarter, finally getting into an offensive groove, cutting the Tigers’ lead to only two by the beginning of the fourth. Unfortunately, Lander was able to hold off the second half run by the Dogies to take the 40-36 win, dropping Newcastle into the consolation bracket.

“They hit a couple of fairly key shots down the stretch which helped them and hurt us,” Ostenson explained. “Their post stepped out and hit a couple which got them going. We played pretty good basketball really, but couldn’t finish.”

The Lady Dogies were out-rebounded by the Tigers, however, they only turned the ball over 13 times

to their 15.

Jaylen Ostenson led the team in scoring with 16 points, Mercedes Voelker was next with seven while MacKenzie Conzelman put up six. Shelby Tidyman added four points, Hunter McFarland contributed two points, and Tiernan Stanton pulled down 10 rebounds.

Thursday morning found the Lady Dogies back on the court faced with getting past Mountain View in order to give themselves a shot at the Consolation Champion title.

“We played one of our most solid games of the year against Mt. View,” Ostenson declared. “We held their big to only two points, we took care of the ball, shared it well, went inside out, rebounded well and played great defense.”

— See **Ladies**, Page 13

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Track from Page 9

of practice but my coaches have gotten them off to a good start," Ostenson nodded. "They are working hard and going through the paces. We haven't been out on the track much, but it's better than it's been in the last couple of years that we've been able to compete."

Numbers are particularly good for the boys, however the girls are working with only a few. Of the 36, only six are ladies and all are new to varsity track given there was not a season last year. Sophomores Jaylen Ostenson, Shelby Tidyman, Tiernan Stanton and Sierra Blaney are joined by freshmen Kendra Merchen and Tara Carter.

Though there are a few throwers in the crew, Coach Ostenson feels like he will be able to put together a relay or two throughout the season.

With 30 young men to work with, the situation is a little more flexible for Ostenson. In addition, the team is returning several seniors and juniors who advanced to the state meet in 2019.

"We'll see how that translates because there's a big change physically from sophomore to senior year," Ostenson speculated. "It'll also be fun to see the difference between the last time they competed. The girls' last time was in middle school, and there's a big difference in devel-

opment in two years for the guys. They've gotten stronger and matured, so it should be fun."

Seniors who placed at the regional meet in 2019 include Zach Purviance who is a middle distance runner, Gunner Ramsey who jumped 6 feet in the high jump, and Grayson Ramsey who was part of relay teams with Gunner and Purviance. Junior Tristan Troftgruben placed in the mile and two mile open races as a freshman, and though he is still coming off some injuries sustained during cross country, Ostenson expects him to do well this year.

Other returning seniors are Skyler Jenkins, Dylan Drost, Bridger Alishouse, Dillon Kenney, Conrad Prell and Tyrell Harrington.

"We have a good core of senior boys who will provide some good leadership and do some good things on the track," Ostenson nodded. "It will be a fun year, and fun to get to have a year, and the kids are working hard. It's an individual, but a team sport and you will get out of it what you put into it. I'm excited to see the kids get to be able to compete this year since they didn't last year."

The Dogies are scheduled to go to Buffalo Friday for their opening contest, however Ostenson isn't sure his team will be ready so he is leaning toward bypassing that meet



Photo by Amy Meneray/NLJ

Tara Carter, Gabe Rose and Kendra Merchen round the corner of the bike path, working hard to get in shape for their track season.

to prepare for the Laura Chord Invite in Newcastle on Friday, the 26th of March.

Current COVID-19 restrictions require that meets limit the number of teams to eight. While that limit may

be relaxed in the future, for now that is the requirement of the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

To make an appointment, go to WHF.Health/Appointments or call WHF at 800-979-3711

Community Wellness Screening Event



March 26 & 27, 6:30-10:30 a.m.
Weston County Senior Center, Newcastle

WHF recommends 12 hours of fasting prior to blood draw. Drink plenty of water and take medications as usual. Blood Pressure and Body Fat Analysis/ BMI Screenings are available at no charge!

Screenings Recommended Yearly

- ♥ **\$40 Blood Chemistry Panel** - Full 33 level screening includes heart, kidney and liver functions, with lipid panel, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and triglycerides. Also electrolyte levels, protein, iron, fasting glucose, and TSH uric acid and NEW FOR 2017, Carbon Dioxide. *Recommended 12 hour fasting, unless diabetic.*
- ♥ **\$30 Hemogram (CBC) with Differential** - A complete blood count of red and white blood cells and platelets. Also, screens for anemia, infections and other blood disorders. Shows size of red blood cells and hemoglobin concentration.
- ♥ **\$35 Hemoglobin A1C** - Measures historical blood sugar control for up to three months. This test is recommended for diabetics or those with family history of high blood sugar.
- ♥ **\$40 PSA for Men** - Screening for Prostate Cancer in men over age 50. However, if there is a family history of Prostate Cancer, it is recommended at age 40.

Vitamin Screenings

- ♥ **\$50 Vitamin D, 25 Hydroxy** - Provides an assessment of overall Vitamin D status for the screening of deficiency or toxicity. This test measures both D2 and D3 together & reports a total 25-hydroxy Vitamin D. There are several factors associated with an increased risk of developing Vitamin D deficiency.
- ♥ **\$45 Vitamin B12, with Folate** - Detects B12 deficient or elevated levels. B12 aids in the health of cells and nerves. *Recommend fasting, unless Diabetic.*

Thyroid Screenings

- ♥ **\$35 Thyroid Panel 1** - Includes three levels for the T3 uptake (THBR), T4 (Thyroxine), and free Thyroxine index/calculation.
- ♥ **\$55 Thyroid Panel 2** - Measures Free T4 (Free Thyroxine), the amount of unbound (active) T4 and provides a more accurate assessment of thyroid function; and Free T3 (unbound T3).
- ♥ **\$80 T3, Reverse** - The Reverse T3 (RT3) measures the inactive form of the hormone.
- ♥ **\$45 Thyroid Antibodies** - Looks for several types of antibodies which the body develops when a person has an autoimmune disorder.

Additional Screenings

- ♥ **\$82 SAR-CoV-2 Antibody Screening** - SAR-CoV-2 is the disease that causes COVID-19. This test has been authorized only for detecting the presence of antibodies against SAR-CoV-2, not any other viruses or pathogens.
- ♥ **\$35 Blood Type** - Determination of ABO blood group type and Rh factor.
- ♥ **\$50 Men's Testosterone, Total** - Screening used to evaluate testosterone hormone levels.
- ♥ **\$55 Women's Testosterone, Total** - Proves sensitivity and specificity required for assessment of low testosterone levels in women, children, adolescents and hypogonadal men.
- ♥ **\$80 Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Expanded Panel** Helps identify RA and arthritis associated with autoimmune disorders. Includes CRP quantitative test, cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, rheumatoid arthritis factor.
- ♥ **\$35 C-Reactive Protein (CRP) High Sensitivity CRP** - An inflammatory marker - a substance that the body releases in response to inflammation. CRP levels can provide physicians with information on a patient's risk of heart disease.
- ♥ **\$35 Ferritin** - Indicates levels of iron protein stored in the body.
- ♥ **\$60 Celiac Screening** - tTG/IgA screening detects antibodies that aid in the diagnosis of gluten-sensitive enteropathy (GSE), such as celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis.
- ♥ **\$55 Hepatitis C Antibody** - This test checks for an active hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Questions?

Contact Denice Piscioti at 307-746-3755



Weston County Health Services

Karpe from Page 9

if and when we would return to school and in that time; teachers and administrators had to throw together a plan to finish out the school year virtually.

Parents had to scramble to figure out care for their small children.

It was an unbelievable and surreal time for everyone, but we pieced together a plan to get our kids through the year, though it was far from a perfect scenario.

Kids had to forego their prom, and seniors had to improvise their graduation. However, the class of 2020 got their diplomas in an historic ceremony and juniors and seniors got to have their prom — it was just a little later than expected.

We here in Wyoming are exceedingly lucky in comparison with other parts of the country and the world. While we experienced a shut-down and a quarantine due to

the pandemic, and we were put under restrictions in order to try to slow the spread of the virus, our lives were not impacted nearly as severely as others.

Though we didn't do school face to face for two and a half months last spring, we were lucky enough to get to come back to school in the fall and it felt close to normal.

Fall sports got to play a season, albeit in a little different in format.

We had a bit of an uncertain break between sports seasons as a second wave of the virus swept through the country — and really the first wave for our area — made the start of the winter sports questionable.

Newcastle High School had a shaky few days in November when we were taking it day by day to see if we'd have enough teachers and subs to stay in tier one.

But we weathered that storm to stay in the classroom

and were able to get basketball, wrestling and swimming under way on time.

Again, competitions looked a little different than before but all teams got to see their seasons to fruition.

As we reached the anniversary of the day life changed, spring sports have begun and we are feeling confident they too will get to play it out through their culminating events in May. Plans are being made for prom, and graduation is set.

FBLA, FFA and Speech are able to enjoy their state events and club sports are able to get started as well. Vaccines are rolling out for those who choose to get them, and it feels like there may be a glimpse of a light at the end of a very long tunnel.

Maybe it's like seeing the lights of Newcastle when you're still 40 miles out, but that illumination at least provides us with a ray of hope.



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THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE

Lady Dogies will have 10 seniors on team this year

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

It's been a year since the Lady Dogies have been on the soccer field together after losing their 2020 season to quarantine, however, the team is back and, according to head coach Cami Willyard, are looking good for 2021.

"It's been a great first week, although a bit challenging with so many activities still going on," Willyard exclaimed. "Between basketball, FFA and Driver's Ed, we've had different numbers every day, but what I'm seeing so far is awesome."

There are 26 young ladies suiting up this year, so Willyard and assistant coach Ashley Reed have good numbers to work with and enough to field a junior

varsity and varsity squad. In addition, Willyard is returning several veteran players despite losing out on last season.

"We have 10 seniors, seven of whom started for Bryce [Hoffman] as sophomores," she nodded. "These girls have played a lot of soccer between the high school, club and indoor, so they bring a lot of soccer knowledge and experience to the team."

The seven senior former starters include Claire and Emily Beasstrom, Alaina Laurence and Alaina Steveson, Caitlyn Pehringer, Hailey Wehri and Lara Lopez. Becca Henkle, Peyton Crinklaw and Sammi Simmons are three other seniors who will be playing for the Lady Dogies.

"The seniors are a good group

and they are bringing it every practice," Willyard nodded. "Our goal is to be number one in the conference with Buffalo being our biggest challenge."

Also returning as former starters/players from two years ago are juniors Angel Perez and LaKacee Lipp.

According to Willyard, early season personnel are shaping up to include these nine, plus minutes from sophomore Gabby McVay up front, junior Shawnee Miles and sophomore MacKenzie Conzelman.

With the first week of practice in the books, and given last Friday was the first day she had all 26 girls to work with, Willyard emphasized that there is nothing set in stone at this time regarding starters, and that it will take a little more time

working with her full squad to get a more comprehensive look at what each player brings to the game.

She did feel pretty confident however, in naming this year's goal keeper. Two years ago Laurence and Perez alternated in this essential position and as the season progressed, Perez began to get more minutes in the net.

"Angel will be our keeper this year," Willyard declared. "She has really solidified her spot through hard work in the off season, which is great because that frees up Alaina to play on the field."

Willyard noted that at this time she is planning to run a 4-4-2 formation with four defenders, four midfielders, and two up top, and that defensively

she is going to try some new options in order to establish a balance between experience and speed in the back field.

"I'm just really excited for the season," she exclaimed. "We've had a great first week. The girls are pushing each other, the energy is high, it's been competitive and the girls are just really positive."

Newcastle competes in the 3A East conference against Rawlins, Torrington, Douglas, Riverton and Buffalo. Unlike other team sports, there are no play-in games nor is there a regional tournament to determine which teams advance to the state tournament. Rather, the four teams with the best records in the conference will punch their tickets while the bottom two teams from each side stay

home. "We have a lot of girls who have played a lot of soccer in their lifetime, and I don't think Newcastle has had a crew with this much experience and ability as a whole," Willyard smiled. "We have a solid 11 so it's exciting, and I think we look good to be among those top four teams in the East."

The Lady Dogies kick off their season this Friday, March 19, in Scottsbluff, Neb., with contests beginning at 4 p.m.

"They will give us a good indicator of where we are and where we need to be," Willyard determined. "It's nice to start the season with a challenging non-conference game, after which we will have a solid eight days of practice before we start our conference run."

Dogie men set to kick off season with 26 on board

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

After a year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Dogie soccer team is gearing up for their 2021 season. There are several players returning from the spring of 2019, but at the helm are two new coaches. Elyse Dickey and Sally Hoover took the reins for a week last year, but had to postpone their debut as head coach and assistant coach respectively.

"It's great to have quite a few guys who have varsity experience, and we have good numbers so that's awesome as well," Dickey began. "The first week of practice has been good and we've been able to be outside on the field four of the five days, which is a change from the last two years when the fields have been buried in snow."

There are 26 young men who will be taking the pitch this season including five seniors, seven juniors, three sophomores and a large crew of 11 freshmen.

Gavin Gray, Carson Bock, Dayton McFarland, Kalen Koch, and Kayne Hinshaw are the seniors, with Gray, Bock and McFarland returning from the varsity squad in 2019.

Juniors are Ezra Anderson, Aidan and Avery Chick, Zade Orsborn, Cael Holmes, Hayden Overman and Mathew Drake who is new to soccer, while Heath Henkle, Yeston Davis and Dylan McFarland make up the sophomore crew.

The freshmen are a strong group who Dickey anticipates will contribute quickly to the high school program.

"The freshmen have played rec and indoor so they have a lot of experi-

ence, which will be great for us," she nodded. "We also have some good talent and experience in our upper-classmen. They are all working hard and are open to the new conditioning and drills we've been throwing at them so that is great."

Dickey feels confident regarding the skill and experience of her backfield to protect the goal, therefore she is looking to run a 4-3-3 formation where she pulls a third player into the forward/striker position to give her team an edge on offense.

"We have good depth defensively, and a lot of our guys ran cross country so that really helps with the endurance needed at the midfield," she nodded.

"We also have quite a few who can play in a couple of different positions so that will give us some flexibility regarding the roles our guys can fill."

The Dogies lost their goalie to graduation, but there are quite a few young players willing and able to step into that vital role.

William Beasstrom as a freshman will be a good option as will sophomore Dylan McFarland. Both of these young men have the advantage of length to bring to the position, but Heath Henkle is also in the running.

"It's great because I'm not used to having a huge group of guys who want to, and are able to, play in the goal," Dickey laughed. "Since we have enough guys to fill a JV and a varsity team, that will give us a chance to see what several different players can do in the net."

Aside from a couple of activity conflicts, Dickey has had most of her players present for practice in the first week, and she is liking what she is

seeing from her squad. "We've worked on a lot of control and possession drills this week and they are talking pretty well," she nodded. "We are also doing a couple of morning runs to try to get in shape and that is going well, too, so I'm pretty excited to see what we can do in a game."

Rawlins, Torrington, Riverton, Buffalo, Douglas and Newcastle make up the 3A East Conference and in order to advance to the state tournament, the Dogies must finish the season in the top four based on their record as there is no play-in, or regional competition to determine state qualifiers.

Before the all-important conference record contest begins, the Dogies have the opportunity to shake the rust off this Friday in Scottsbluff, Neb., with games kicking off at 4 p.m.

INSURANCE | Homeowners

It's been a tough year for most of us. But it hasn't been all doom and gloom for building contractors and the companies that supply them. The housing market is robust and building suppliers and contractors can't keep up with the demand for new and rebuilt housing. However, that's not good news for homeowners. Surges in demand and costs for construction means that homeowners may not have enough home insurance to enable them to rebuild after a disaster—particularly in storm-ravaged areas.

Four Coverage Choices for Your Homeowners Insurance

It's important to understand the four main ways to be protected for damage to your dwelling.

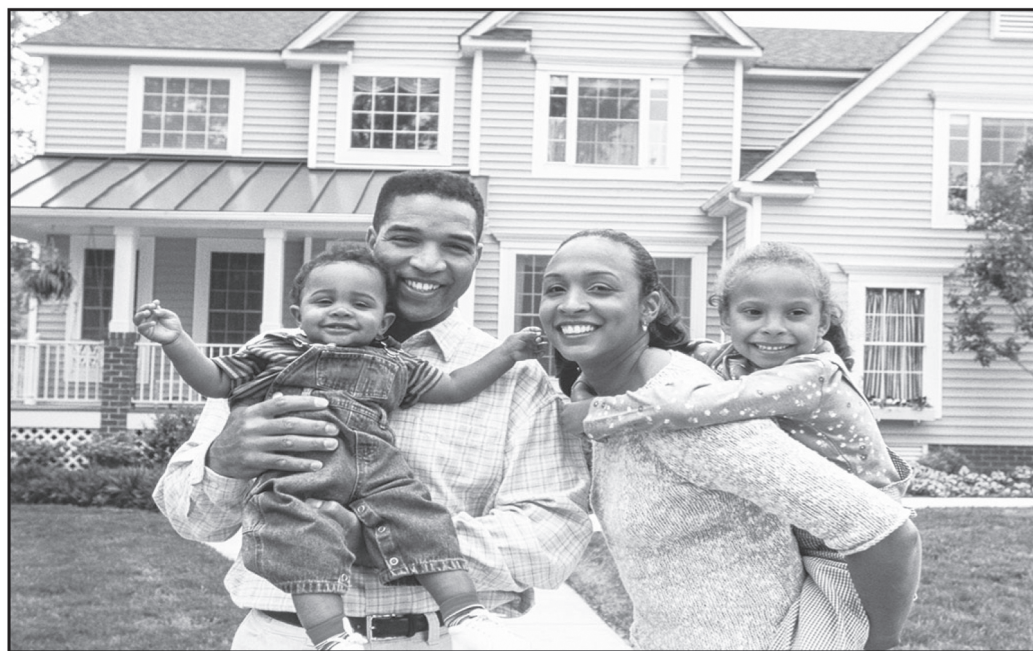
1. Lowest Possible Coverage: Actual Cash Value

A home insurance policy that pays reimbursement based on actual cash value (ACV) takes depreciation into account. This means that you could end up with high out-of-pocket costs if your home needs to be rebuilt or repaired. This provides the least amount of protection.

Depreciation is the usual way to appraise cars and other products, but do homes actually depreciate? Mobile homes do. There have been times in history when house values were "under water," but during the past year, housing prices have surged by more than 7% and single-family detached homes by 8%, according to a report by CoreLogic.

2. Better Than Actual Cash Value: Replacement Cost

Replacement cost coverage is coverage for both your dwelling and your personal property (such as furniture and clothes). It will repair your home with materials similar to what was there



before the damage, without any deduction for depreciation. It might be an easy decision to make, but this coverage will cost more.

3. Additional Options: Ordinance and Law and Dwelling Extended Replacement Cost

Replacement cost coverage is perfectly adequate—as long as the dwelling coverage amount stated in your policy covers all the rebuilding costs of your home. But relying on that number to be accurate can be a gamble, especially in these wild weather times.

Widespread disasters push up the local costs of materials and labor, as everyone clamors to get contractors to their houses. Suddenly your dwelling coverage amount can be insufficient.

For this problem there's "extended replacement cost" coverage. While your dwelling coverage amount is still set at a specific number, this gives you an

extra monetary cushion in case it is not enough.

For example, an extended replacement cost policy might provide 25% extra over your dwelling coverage amount. So, if your dwelling coverage is set at \$400,000, extended replacement cost coverage would provide up to \$500,000 total to rebuild.

In addition, Ordinance and Law provides coverage for the increased cost to repair or to build due to local building code changes. This coverage which is generally based on a percentage of the home value, and increased percentages can be purchased with additional premium.

However, not all insurers offer an extended replacement or ordinance and law coverage option with homeowners insurance.

4. Gold Standard: Guaranteed Replacement Cost "Guaranteed replacement cost"

coverage works to fill the same gap as extended replacement cost. If local materials and labor costs have spiked, and rebuilding costs now exceed your dwelling coverage amount, this provides an extra cushion of protection so that you can rebuild your house without dipping into your own money.

It pays costs needed to rebuild your house.

This coverage is designed to give policyholders peace of mind that their property will be covered without limits and without the risk of running out of funds, but Guaranteed replacement cost coverage can be hard to find.

Why Homeowners Need a Cushion for Rebuilding Costs

Since October 2019, lumber prices have increased by roughly 60% according to the Xactware, which estimates the cost of building materials and labor. For example, Sheathing material like plywood is up 75% year over year. This leaves homes seriously damaged by wildfires and hurricanes at a serious disadvantage since their need for repairs is great.

Increased Wildfire Risk

Weather experts predict that wildfire risk is likely to get worse due to climate change. Top-of-the-line guaranteed replacement cost coverage is likely to be very expensive, especially in high-risk areas, and is typically not available for older homes.

For most people, replacement cost coverage is adequate and it is easy to find. Consumers can buy the right amount of coverage and have enough to rebuild with standard carriers, but consumers must decide what is right for their budget and comfort level.



Wyoming Department of Insurance
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Newcastle Dogies



FBLA

2020-21



Top Row (Left to Right): Hogan Tystad(10), Landon Engle(12), Slade Roberson(11), William Beastrom(9), Tiernan Stanton(10), Jaylen Ostenson(10), Mackenzie Conzelman(10).
 2nd Row From Top (Left to Right): Christian Santos(12), Ezra Anderson(11), Mathew Drake(11), Taten Engle(10), Aidan Chick(11), Mercedes Voelker(12), Colton Vanderpool-Mobley(9). 3rd Row From Top (Left to Right): Gabby McVay(10), Shelby Tidyman(10), Alaina Laurence(12), Hunter McFarland(10), Alaina Steveson(12), AnaSofia Baeza(10).
 Bottom Row: (Left to Right) Zade Orsborn(11), Rachel Sweet(11), Hailey Wehri(12), Sierra Checketts(12), Avery Chick(11), Alysha Engle - Advisor.

#GoDogies

#HornsUp

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Photo courtesy of Nicole McFarland

Shelby Tidyman was all handles in the Lady Dogies' opening matchup against the Lady Tigers of Lander. Lander held off a second half run by Newcastle, knocking them into the consolation bracket.

Ladies from Page 9

The Lady Buffalo are a well-coached team who are pretty athletic but are a little undersized compared to Newcastle. From the start, the Lady Dogies controlled the contest, out-scoring Mt. View 15-12, 8-4, and 14-7 in the first three quarters of play. The Buffs made a little run in the fourth frame, however Newcastle held them off to take the 48-38 win and thus advanced to the fifth place game.

"I was glad they came to play and got a win down there so they could see what they are capable of doing," Ostenson said. "Everyone just played really well and it was an overall nice team win."

Two Lady Dogies finished the contest with double-doubles. Ostenson once again led with 27 points and 12 rebounds while Stanton scored 10 points and pulled down another 10 rebounds. From there, Voelker added six points, Tidyman chipped in two and Shawnee Miles added three in a dramatic fashion by hitting a buzzer beating shot from half court at the end of the third quarter.

"Tiernan had a good weekend," Ostenson emphasized. "Since regionals, she's picked it up a notch and she kept climbing through the state tournament. She went after boards with authority like she should, and defensively, she changes the game for us."

The Lady Dogies met a familiar opponent in the Consolation Championship on Thursday afternoon, as the Wheatland Lady Bulldogs soundly defeated Torrington to earn their shot at the fifth place trophy. The two teams battled twice during the regular season, and then again for third place at the regional tournament. The Lady Dogies had emerged victorious in all three contests, so Wheatland was coming in with a chip on their shoulder and much to prove.

"We won by one in double [overtime] the first time, and 11 the second time at home when we both played a little flat," Ostenson recalled. "Then at regionals we shot really well from the outside finishing with 10 threes, and six of those came in the third quarter."

To start their fourth and final matchup, the Lady Dogies came out swinging as Voelker

NHS Ladies' Basketball

3A State Tournament @ Casper
Newcastle v. Lander 3/10/21: 36-40
 Mercedes Voelker: 7 points, 2 assists, 4 steals
 Jaylen Ostenson: 16 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 2 blocks, 1 charge taken
 Shelby Tidyman: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
 Hunter McFarland: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
 Tiernan Stanton: 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 2 blocks
 MacKenzie Conzelman: 6 points, 2 rebounds

Newcastle v. Mt. View 3/11/21: 48-38
 Mercedes Voelker: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 block
 Jaylen Ostenson: 27 points, 12 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steal, 1 charge taken
 Hunter McFarland: 2 rebounds, 1 assist
 Tiernan Stanton: 10 points, 10 rebound, 1 steal, 1 block
 Claire Beastron: 1 assist
 MacKenzie Conzelman: 1 rebound
 Shawnee Miles: 3 points, 1 rebound

Newcastle v. Wheatland 3/11/21: 41-46 OT
 Mercedes Voelker: 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists
 Jaylen Ostenson: 20 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
 Shelby Tidyman: 2 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal
 Hunter McFarland: 5 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal
 Tiernan Stanton: 8 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal
 Claire Beastron: 2 rebounds, 1 assist
 MacKenzie Conzelman: 1 rebound
 Shawnee Miles: 1 assist

drained two back-to-back threes to start the game and gave Newcastle a quick 6-0 advantage.

However, things cooled off from beyond the arc, and the Lady Bulldogs rallied to close out the quarter with an 8-8 tie. The Lady Dogies pulled ahead slightly to take a three point lead into the locker room, then went point-for-point with Wheatland in another 8-8 quarter in the third.

"We played solid basketball, but coming down the stretch they hit some really big outside, contested shots to take the game to overtime," Ostenson explained. "The one [Kayla] Otero banked was NBA range with Shelby in her face. When that happens, it's probably not going to be good for you."

With the score tied at 37 at the end of regulation, the two squads found themselves once again in an overtime situation. The teams exchanged blows in the final four minutes, however both Otero and Ostenson fouled out (in that order) during the extended frame so the Bulldogs and the Dogies had to determine the winner without their most productive player.

"Coming down the stretch, we missed a few decent looks," Ostenson admitted. "Shelby

had a good look at a three and then another look at a drive, Jay had a nice drive, and Tiernan had a good look underneath. Some days are like that, but unfortunately it was for the consolation championship. It would have been nice to bring home a trophy."

Wheatland ended the contest on top 46-41, denying the Lady Dogies the hardware they were so hoping to bring home.

"I give Wheatland credit because they could have rolled over, but they didn't. They crushed Torrington earlier in the day and shot the ball really well," Ostenson nodded. "We did everything we should have, but it just wasn't our game. When they bank a three from five feet beyond the arc, it's tough."

Ostenson finished her season leading her team in scoring once again. She ended the contest with 16 points, Stanton was next with eight, Voelker had six, McFarland added five and Tidyman rounded out the scoring with two points.

The contest also marked the high school career end of Voelker and Claire Beastron, the team's two senior players.

"We're going to miss Mercedes and Claire a lot next year," Ostenson sighed. "Their leadership was tremendous and the team cohesiveness of Claire combined with Mercedes and her shooting will leave big shoes to fill."

Fortunately, Ostenson will bring back three juniors and four starters next season, and is hoping to have a summer program this year to keep them up to speed.

"It was such a fun year, and it was great to watch them grow throughout the season," Ostenson smiled. "I hope to start where we ended this year and grow again during the season, then we should be in a pretty good situation."

Ostenson also gave a shout out to his Lady Dogie parents and fans who complied with the restrictions and rules allowing the girls to have a wonderful season. In addition, Ostenson credited Ron Laird and Trevor Wilson of the Wyoming High School Activities Association as well as Mike and Beau Gregory and all the other administrators who kept things moving and got his team through the year.

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DATE	HI	LO
S-7	64	30
M-8	59	32
T-9	66	39
W-10	54	28
T-11	35	21
F-12	41	19
S-13	41	29

Public Notice

SEEKING QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF WESTON COUNTY MUSEUM DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Do you have a passion for history, love working with historic buildings and museum collections, and enjoy managing complex operations? Are you a history or historical museum professional who is looking to take on new challenges? Does the idea of overseeing two museums and helping the county remember its past as it progresses into the future appeal to you? Are you excited about bringing history to life for visitors and patrons of all ages? If so, the Weston County Museum District has an opening for the full-time, regular position of Museum District Director in Weston County, WY.

The incumbent is responsible for leadership and vision, overall operations, and day-to-day management of museum. Principle responsibilities include direction of the Museum District's mission, strategic plan, and policies, as well as intellectual and programmatic direction; management of budget, integrated accounting system, grants, and Foundation and generation of additional funding; planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of all activities and operations; oversight and maintenance of facilities; promotion and marketing, direction and management of all staff and volunteers under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

To apply, you must submit a cover letter, resume, and Weston County Museum District application. All three must be submitted in order to be considered for the position.

Please pick up an application and job description at the

Anna Miller Museum, 401 Delaware Ave. Newcastle, WY 82701 or
Red Onion Museum 729 Pine St. Upton, WY 82730

Interested parties out of the area may contact the Anna Miller Museum at 307-746-4188 or annamiller@rtconnect.net to request an application & job description
Open until filled.

(Publish March 11, 18 and 25, 2021)

Public Notice

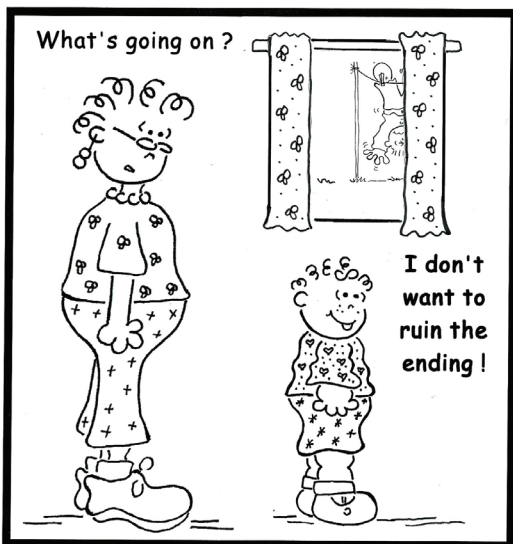
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 MEETING NOTICE

Weston County will have a 5:00 pm early start on March 31, 2021 for an Executive Session under Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a)(ii) to Discuss Initial/Continuing Contract, and Non-Tenure Certified Staff.

(Publish March 18, 2021)

Gwamma

by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Weston County Museum District has an opening to fill the unexpired term of a District Board Member.

Position runs from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Deadline to apply is 2:00 P.M. March 29, 2021. Interested parties must be Weston County residents. Please send a letter of interest and qualifications to:

Weston County Museum District
P.O. Box 698
Newcastle, WY 82701

Or

Weston County Museum District
401 Delaware
Newcastle, WY 82701

(Publish March 11, 18 and 25, 2021)

DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of the Application of Black Hills Energy (BHE) or the Company) to revise the Fuel and Lost and Unaccounted for Gas Percentages (FL&U) in the Cheyenne and Cody Divisions.

BHWG is a public utility as defined by Wyo. Stat. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(D), subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-112.

On October 12, 2020, BHWG filed its Application requesting approval to implement a Transmission FL&U percentage of 0.000% for the Cheyenne Division and 0.410% for the Cody Division. BHWG states the FL&U percentages will be incorporated into the October 2020 Gas Cost Adjustment filing with rates proposed to be effective December 1, 2020, and revised on a going forward basis annually on or before March 1st of each year to align with existing Casper, Gillette and Torrington Divisions filing schedule.

This is not a complete description of the Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, by visiting the Commission's website at <https://psc.wyo.gov/>, or by visiting BHWG's website at www.blackhillsenergy.com.

Anyone wishing to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so in writing filed with the Commission on or before November 17, 2020. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please be sure to mention Docket No. 30026-32-GA-20 (Record No. 15629) in all correspondence with the Commission.

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

Dated: October 16, 2020.

(Publish March 18 and 25, 2021)

IN THE GARDEN

ACROSS

- Great divide
- World's oldest national broadcaster
- Pasturelands
- Chinese fruit
- #9 Across, sing.
- Clemency
- One in advertising
- "_____ the land of the free ..."
- Characteristic of birds
- *Ongoing job in the garden
- *Without synthetic fertilizers
- 2nd tallest bird
- Theatrical production
- Curiosity killed it?
- Additionally
- Capital of Poland
- Passage into a mine
- Prefix in levorotary
- Mid-century modern, e.g.
- Toothy wheel
- *Some are heirlooms
- Make like a cat
- Erasable programmable read only memory
- Stanislavski's rifle, e.g.
- Unwanted correspondence
- Motionless
- Catch-22
- "Are you sure?" in a text
- Freight horse cart
- Opposite of don'ts
- *6 or more hours of sunshine
- *Radicchio or frisÈe
- On foot
- Negative vote
- 2020 NFL MVP
- Morrison's "The _____"
- Hockey great Bobby
- Respectable and quiet
- Sports award
- Affirmative response
- Infernos

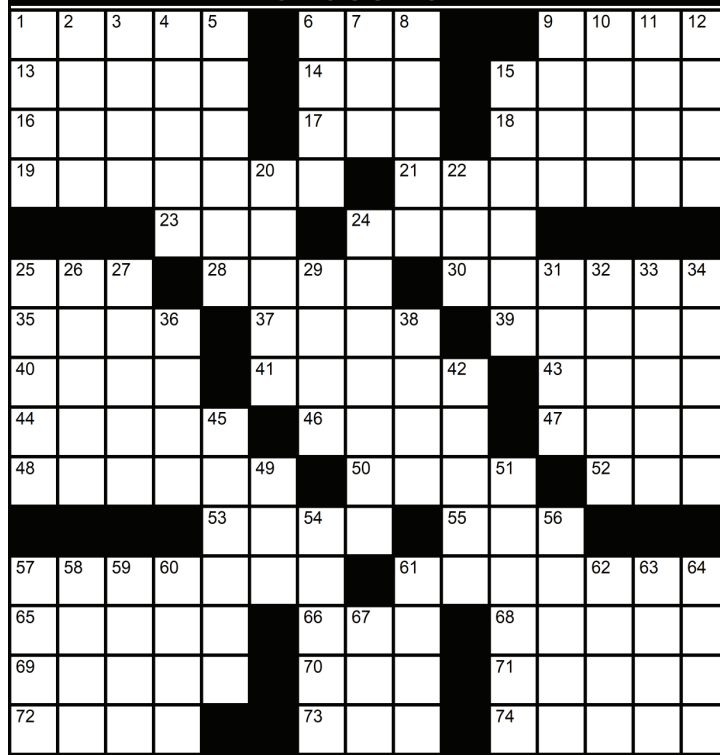
DOWN

- Old bathtub foot
- Opposite of seek
- Ne plus ultra
- *Opposite of #57 Across
- Minimum, pl.
- Influencer's journal
- *Stinging pollinator
- Holiday song
- Bulgarian money
- Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning role
- Popular smoothie berry
- Update an iPod
- Inhabitant of Hungary
- Nothing, pl.
- Like sashimi
- Lack of money
- *Tomato supports
- Highly skilled
- Miss America's headdress
- Slowly leak
- Moves at the gym
- Monument to Buddha
- Orderly arrangement
- *Wiggly pflowers
- Faster than a walk
- *Some plants and flowers emit a good one
- *Type of digger
- Centers, old-fashioned
- French vineyard
- *Last of 3 numbers on a bag of fertilizer
- Be a pest
- Washington, e.g.
- Grow dim
- Extraterrestrials' rides
- Pilot's stunt
- Type of parrot
- "Musical" constellation

Fun and Games

- Russian mountain chain
- *Type of garden hose that saves space
- Goes with "odds"
- Am is to I as _____ is to we

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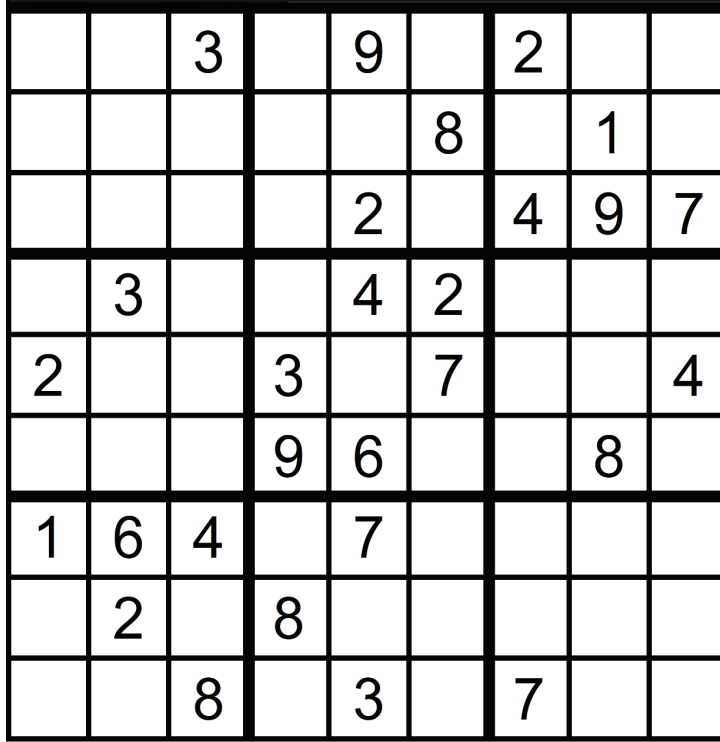
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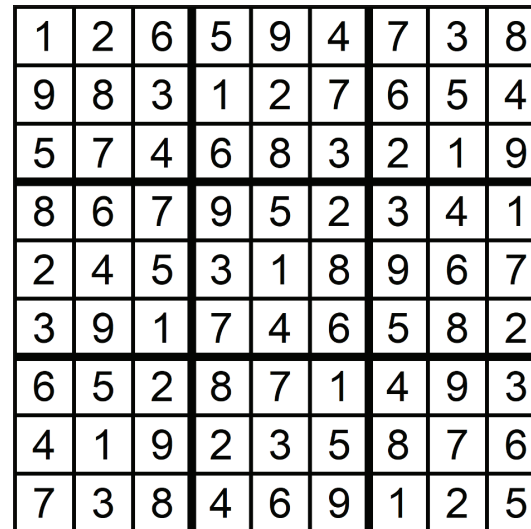
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Circuit Court Report

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, WESTON COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING (NEWCASTLE), JUDGE MATTHEW CASTANO

Eric David Tacy, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Eric David Tacy, Improper Use of Child Restraint System - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$80
 Brandon Donner, Valid Driver's License, Fees and Fines: \$120
 Shayla M. Ackley-Suess, Under 21 Have Measurable BAC in Body, Jail: 7 Days, Suspended: 7 Days, Fees and Fines: \$270
 Kasey Stroud, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$130
 Nicholas T. Wempfen, Breach of Peace, Jail: 45 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$405
 Nicholas T. Wempfen, Simple Assault, Fees and Fines: \$100
 Nathan J. Streeter, Battery, Jail: 45 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$605
 Kealear C. Harrington, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Misty J. Harrington, Seat Belt: Passenger over 12 Years, Fees and Fines: \$10
 Kyle P. Haslam, Under 21 Possess Alcohol, Jail: 7 Days, Suspended: 7 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$270
 Jordan L. Earley, No Registration and Improper Display of Tabs, Fees and Fines: \$100
 Christina Parks, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$135
 Stephanie J. Cohee, No Passing Zone: Passing, Fees and Fines: \$140
 Danny J. Jarvis, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$135
 Sherri L. Ahmed, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Jail: 60 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$270
 Danny J. Jarvis, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$150
 Jessica L. Mantle-Tighe, Expired Temporary License Permit/Improper Registration, Fees and Fines: \$140
 Elizabeth Brenner, Child Safety Restraint System - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$70
 Michael J. Heberling, No Authority in Vehicle, Fees and Fines: \$90
 Michael J. Heberling, Tire: Flat &/or Audible Air Leak, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Michael J. Heberling, Brakes: Gen, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Andy K. Podio, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Andy K. Podio, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$150
 Mandy R. Steggall-Mabe, Possess Controlled Substance - Plant - 3 Ounces or Less, Jail: 90 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 1 Year, Fees and Fines: \$370
 Gregory C. Gallagher, Compulsory Auto Insurance - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$555
 David J. Hammelman-Thomas, Breach of Peace, Jail: 45 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$470
 John E. Hanson, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$160
 Dayton A. Mcfarlin, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$200
 Cynthia Marie Caillier, Compulsory Auto Insurance - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$570
 Dale R. Mccoy, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$135
 Landon C. Engle, Under 21 Have Measurable BAC in Body, Jail: 7 Days, Suspended: 7 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$270
 Guy L. Phillips, Hunt, Trap, Fish or Collect Antlers/Horns on Private Land Without Permission, Fees and Fines: \$450
 Alivia Marie Hamady, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$125
 Zachary M. Rodriguez, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$190
 Ryan Reichardt, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$135
 Arthur J. Cottrell, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Shawn K. Ralls, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$115
 Shawn K. Ralls, Expired Temporary License Permit/Improper Registration, Fees and Fines: \$140
 Daniel W. Bartley, Violate Protection Order, Jail: 180 Days, Fees and Fines: \$455
 Leslie Watt, DUI Alcohol =to> .08% Within 2 Hours of Driving - 2nd Offense Within 10 Years, Jail: 120 Days
 Marcus Martinez, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Fees and Fines: \$440
 John Quinell, Oversize Vehicle Sign & Warning Lights Required (Daytime), Fees and Fines: \$240
 Joseph Lee Mcginnis, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Jerry Hunt, Tire: Tread &/or Sidewall Separation: Fees and Fines: \$190
 Jerry Hunt, Tire: Flat &/or Audible Air Leak, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Jerry Hunt, Brakes: Gen, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Donald Edward Jenerou, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Jail: 60 Days, Suspended: 57 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$270
 Leslie R. Dixon, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$103
 Matthew Walter Pzinski, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$115
 Melinda Lynn Adams, Compulsory Auto Insurance - 1st Offense, Jail: 45 Days, Suspended: 45 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$555

Melinda Lynn Adams, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Jail: 45 Days, Suspended: 45 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$200
 Doran Hines, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$140
 Sarah F. Rhoden, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Loretta Deyo, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Austin T. Drury, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$125
 Connie B. Hiser, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Brian T. Yeager, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$103
 Lisa J. Losee, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Sebastian L. Amerson-Christensen, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Andrew Longland, Seat Belt: Passenger Over 12 Years, Fees and Fines: \$10
 Caylee Alarid, Vehicle Exceed 65 MPH on Paved Roadway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$120
 Craig Allan Talbot, No or Improper Breakaway or Emergency Breaking, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Craig Allan Talbot, Inoperative Turn Signal, Fees and Fines: \$190
 Ramey Lake, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$125
 Jeremiah D. Remington, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Daniel Redding, Possess Controlled Substance, Jail: 30 Days, Suspended: 23 Days, Supervised Probation: 1 Year, Fees and Fines: \$720
 Craig A. Dolphay, Property Destruction: Under \$1,000, Jail: 75 Days, Suspended: 71 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$570
 Kayla M. Overman, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Jaden A. Douglas, Valid Certificate of Title, Certificate of Registration, and License Plates Required, Fees and Fines: \$150
 Scott Alan Johnson, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Preston S. Hawley, Reckless Endangering: Firearm, Fees and Fines: \$205
 Bryan D. Robert, Fail to Provide Proof of Liability Insurance, Fees and Fines: \$560
 Abigail C. Elliott, Careless Driving 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$240
 Caleb M. Johnson, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Alean S. Bujarski, Vehicle Exceed 30 MPH in Urban District (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$174
 Ethan Lee Hawkins, Open Container Alcohol/Moving Vehicle - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$150
 Amanda L. Hammelman Thomas, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$103
 David Garrison, Valid Certificate of Title, Certificate of Registration and License Plates Required, Fees and Fines: \$120
 James L. Campbell, Vehicle Exceed 30 MPH in Urban District, Fees and Fines: \$188
 Brylee J. Toth, Restricted License - 15 Year Old Class C, Fees and Fines: \$140
 Mackenzie Aitken, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Olivia Mcvay, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$165
 Bryan D. Robert, Fail to Provide Proof of Liability Insurance, Fees and Fines: \$560
 Bryan D. Robert, Drive Vehicle Within Single Lane, Fees and Fines: \$90
 Jason E. Dean, Valid Certificate of Title, Certificate of Registration, and License Plates Required, Fees and Fines: \$80
 Justin Dale Anderson, Compulsory Auto Insurance - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$560
 Dayton A. Mcfarlin, Speed Too Fast for Conditions, Fees and Fines: \$250
 Joshua A. Kaufman, Valid Certificate of Title, Certificate of Registration, and License Plates Required, Fees and Fines: \$150
 Sebastian L. Amerson-Christensen, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Sebastian L. Amerson-Christensen, Vehicle Turning Left at Intersection Yield to Approaching Traffic, Fees and Fines: \$100
 Gatlin Miller, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Kevin L. Thompson, Seat Belt: Passenger Over 12 Years, Fees and Fines: \$10
 Linwood Ward, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Michael V. Cobb, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Bobbie J. Miller, Expired Temporary License Permit/Improper Registration, Fees and Fines: \$150
 Rhonda Lee Haley, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Christopher N. Tarquinio, Seat Belt: Passenger Over 12 Years, Fees and Fines: \$10
 Andrew Z. Smith, Under 21 - Consume Alcohol, Jail: 7 Days, Suspended: 7 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$200
 Elijah Booker, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Fees and Fines: \$450
 Rianna Varner, Improper Use of Child Restraint System - 1st Offense, Fees and Fines: \$80
 Rianna Varner, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Landon C. Engle, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$103
 Andrew Oconnor, Valid Driver's License, Fees and Fines: \$175
 Justin A. Shaw, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Fees and Fines: \$440
 Nathan J. Streeter, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$115
 Dwayne J. Bridges, No Registration and Improper Display of Tabs, Fees and Fines: \$90

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange

Gases prices jump 23.4 cents

GILLETTE (WNE) – Wyoming gas prices have risen almost a quarter since March 1 as Americans emerge from the pandemic with an almost “insatiable” appetite for gasoline. Wyoming’s gas prices averaged \$2.80 a gallon Monday — 23.4 cents higher than two weeks ago, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 494 stations in Wyoming. Prices had gone up an average of 10.2 cents a gallon in the past week, and 13.2 cents higher the week before. That put the average price per gallon on March 15 at the highest prices since 2014. They are 46.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and 46.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. At \$2.816 a gallon, Campbell County is among the counties with the highest prices in the state, joined by Teton (\$2.859), Sweetwater (\$2.839) and Fremont (\$2.839).averaging \$2.80/g as of Monday. Gas prices in Wyoming are 46.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 46.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Wyoming is priced at \$2.60/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.99/g, a difference of 39.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state today is \$2.60/g while the highest is \$2.99/g, a difference of 39.0 cents per gallon.

WyoLotto launches daily draw

CHEYENNE (WNE) – Wyoming got a little luckier this week. WyoLotto CEO Jon Clontz announced Thursday that starting at 5 a.m. Sunday, March 14, Wyomingites can begin buying tickets for a new daily draw game, 2by2. “This isn’t just any game, it’s going to be too fun. It’ll be fun for our players, and it’ll bring extra revenue to the state,” Clontz said during Thursday’s virtual press event. “Wyoming’s newest game is the first to have a draw each day of the week, so you can play every single day.” Players select two red balls and two white balls for each play. The game is \$1 per play, and has a grand prize of \$22,000 when all four numbers match. Other prizes include \$100 for matching three balls, \$3 for matching two balls and a free play for matching one ball. Players can double their prizes by pur-

State will receive \$1B in relief funds

CASPER (WNE) — Wyoming will receive over \$1 billion in state aid soon, thanks to the latest stimulus package signed into law Thursday by President Joe Biden. The federal government passed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package along party lines this week, the third economic recovery act to pass Congress since the pandemic began last year. Wyoming will soon see hefty returns under the sweeping act. In addition to the approximately \$1 billion in state aid, the federal government will funnel an additional \$174 million directly to local municipalities in Wyoming, according to Renny MacKay, senior policy adviser to Gov. Mark Gordon. About \$109 million will also be available in the form of grants for capital projects in the Equality State. It will take about 60 days before the state receives the money. The U.S. Treasury Department still needs to issue guidance to the governor too. This latest round of federal funding comes with a bit more flexibility, at least

Mills verdict is second-degree murder

RIVERTON (WNE) — After a week’s deliberation, a jury convicted a Riverton man, Mario Mills, of second degree murder for the death of his friend, Trevor Bartlett. The jury considered not one, but three alternate charges: first-degree murder, second, or voluntary manslaughter. Failing proof for all three, the jury could have chosen to exonerate. The state argued for first-degree murder, saying that Mills had acted with “premeditated malice.” Mills’ team of defense attorneys fought for acquittal, saying Bartlett’s death was likely the result of a struggle involving the gun. On the night of March 25-26, 2020, Mills and his best friend, Bartlett, were in the former’s garage drinking and playing cribbage. Bartlett revealed a .31 blood alcohol concentration after death but when personnel arrived at Mills’ house the next morning, his BAC was not tested. Once Mills’ wife went to bed, the two friends began arguing about suicide. According to a police interview of Mills, Bartlett wanted to die. Next, Mills recalled, he put a round in his .45 Glock pistol, then unloaded it, and set it down on the workbench. Later, he said, he reloaded it and asked Bartlett “Are you sure about this?” – then shot his friend. According to the testimony of Destin Walker, Bartlett’s mother, there could have been no hatred between the two men; they’d been “like brothers” since they were 16. Bartlett had helped Mills to raise his daughter while the latter was still a single dad. Second degree murder is punishable by between 20 years and life in prison. Sentencing has not yet occurred.

Circuit Court Report Continued

Christopher D. Garhart, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Amanda L. Hammelman-Thomas, Drive While License Cancelled, Suspended, or Revoked if not Suspended for 31-5-229 or 31-5-233, Fees and Fines: \$200
 Andrew J. Mcmillan, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$190
 Andrew J. Mcmillan, Expired Temporary License Permit/Improper Registration, Fees and Fines: \$150
 Andrew J. Mcmillan, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Michael Grenstiner, Operate a CMV Without a CDL, Fees and Fines: \$90
 Dwayne J. Bridges, No Registration and Improper Display of Tabs, Fees and Fans: \$90
 Christopher D. Garhart, Vehicle Exceed 70 MPH on Primary/Secondary Highway (6+ MPH Over), Fees and Fines: \$105
 Stevie D. Bradford, Domestic Assault - 1st Offense, Jail: 45 Days, Suspended: 27 Days, Unsupervised Probation: 6 Months, Fees and Fines: \$520
 Michael Dutcher, Windshield: Obstructed View, Fees and Fines: \$100
 Brenda Kingston, Seat Belt: Driver, Fees and Fines: \$25
 Total Paid: \$61,241



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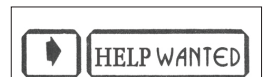
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TOPS
TOPS meets at three Newcastle locations each week: Tuesday at 4 at First United Methodist Church, call Joyce Brown at 629-1033; Thursday at 8 at WC Senior Center, call JoAnn Dunn at 746-2654; and at 9 am Thursdays at First Baptist Church,

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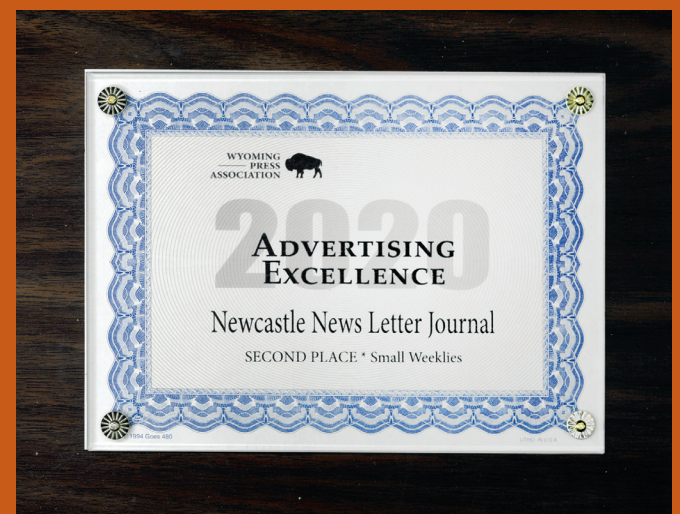
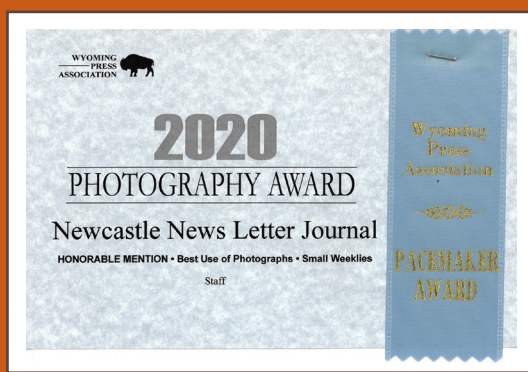
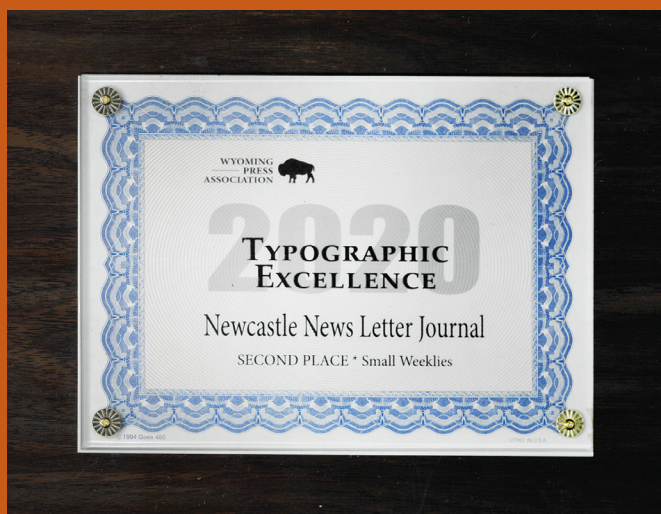
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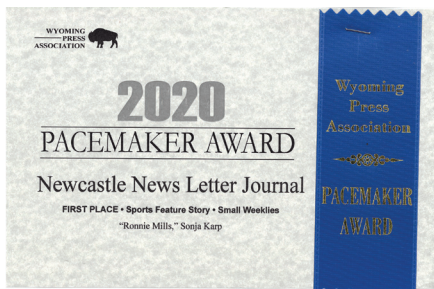
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1ST PLACE: SONJA KARP
Sports Feature
Judges Comments: Cool story about great supporter of sports.



1ST PLACE: AMY MENEREY
Front Page Design
Judges Comments: Love the clean, professional look of this newspaper. Great use of white space, photos, fonts, headlines, info boxes and graphics. Just an all-around great-looking front page.



1ST PLACE: ALEXIS BARKER
Education Reporting
Judges Comments: The reporter followed an important issue in the local schools throughout a series of meetings. While this entry was primarily coverage of school board meetings — as was the case with several others — the issue here was particularly newsworthy and treated thoroughly and fairly.



HONORABLE MENTION: AMY MENEREY
Open Page Design
Judges Comments: This page had many elements that needed to be tied together and the designer was able to pull it off with repeating elements and color boxes. It might have been a bit stronger if the amount of text was reduced a bit.



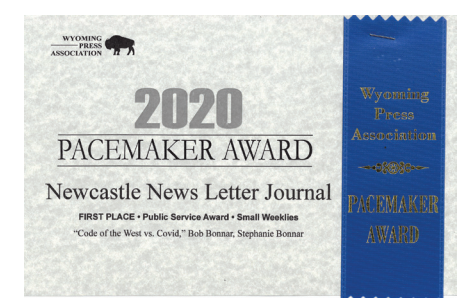
1ST PLACE: BOB BONNAR, ALEXIS BARKER, KATELYNN SLAAMOT
Website



1ST PLACE: SONJA KARP
Sports Column



HONORABLE MENTION: AMY MENEREY
Super Sale
Judges Comments: Smart house promotion. Good presentation for so much information.



1ST PLACE: BOB BONNAR, STEPHANIE BONNAR
Public Service Award
Judges Comments: The Code of the West Covid-19 campaign was fascinating and clever.



2ND PLACE: ALEXIS BARKER
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