

# News Letter Journal

Weston County

March 25, 2021

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 135 Week 12

## Commissioners say no to horse racing

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

The Weston County Commission voted against moving forward with a resolution that would have allowed

Wyoming Downs, a live horse racing and simulcast off-track facilities, blanket access to bars for its betting machines. Commissioner Tony Barton was the only board member to vote in favor of the resolution, with Chairman

Marty Ertman and Commissioners Nathan Todd, Ed Wagoner and Don Taylor voting against it.

During the board's March 16 meeting, before the vote, the commissioners heard comment from several

residents who had reservations about the gambling venture coming into the local communities. Jill Jerrard, Wyoming Downs public relations specialist, was also available via phone to answer questions.

The board had originally discussed the topic on March 3 with Jerrard, who explained that the company was interested in using local bars to house

— See **Downs**, Page 2

## Hespe assures ambulance service

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Roger Hespe, owner of Newcastle Ambulance Service, assured both the board of Weston County Commissioners and the Weston County Health Services board of trustees that the county would not be without an ambulance service. Hespe, who plans to retire and to sell his ambulance, addressed both boards during meetings last week.

"My interest is in the community. I want a good, qualified service here that is going to go into the future. That is my goal," Hespe told the commissioners on March 16. "I gave the deadline that I would like to be done. ... If it takes a bit longer," Hespe told the hospital board on March 18. "I would stay in business; for the county it is important. The people

— See **Ambulance**, Page 7

## Jobless rate lowest in state

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Despite experiencing a slight increase in unemployment from December to January, Weston County marked the lowest unemployment rate in the state, according to a March 8 report from the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Research and Planning Division.

"The lowest unemployment rates in Wyoming were found in Weston County at 3.8%, Crook County at 4.0% and Teton County at 4.2%," the report states. "Sublette County reported the highest unemployment rate at 8.3%. It was followed by Natrona County at 8.2%, Sweetwater County at 7.7%, Campbell County at 7.0% and Converse

— See **Unemployment**, Page 2

## It ain't love



Photos by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Newcastle Middle School students came together and raised more than \$500 for the school's student council. During the fundraiser, students voted for various teachers by putting money in their cups. The cumulative event featured three teachers puckering up to kiss a pig during the finale on March 18 in the Crouch Auditorium. Above, NMS English instructor Nicki Bartlett braves her fears as the little piggy squeals as it nears her face. At left, vocal instructor Jan Ellis enters the Crouch Auditorium calling for her pig "Buttercup" prior to the finale. Below, Bartlett and the pig move in for their unwelcome close-up.



## Keeping spirit alive in wood

**Walter Sprague**  
Art and Culture Reporter

Wyoming's registered trademark, the Bucking Horse and Rider, exemplifies the people's independent spirit and never-give-up attitude. Registered in

1936 by the state of Wyoming and adorning our license plates for years, the silhouette was the emblem embossed on the U.S. Mint's bicentennial quarter for Wyoming in 2007. For most, it honors Wyoming's military men and women and represents the

state's fighting spirit.

Nowhere is that fighting spirit exemplified better than in Dwight Souder, owner and wood smith of Dite's Tinkering Designs.

"I've dabbled in woodcraft most of my life," Souder said, "I was introduced to it in high school."

Souder studied drafting and design in college and designed cages for zoos and other entities. The cages were for anything

Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ  
**Dwight Souder runs Dite's Tinkering Designs, where he manufactures fine woodcraft and engraving projects, despite having partial vision, in only his right eye. After the inlay is completely excavated by a computer controlled router on a cutting board, he vacuums the board thoroughly.**

— See **Souder**, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday**  
Mostly Cloudy  
Hi 51, Lo 30



**Friday**  
PM Showers  
Hi 44, Lo 27



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 49, Lo 27



**Sunday**  
Sunny  
Hi 61, Lo 37



**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 56, Lo 24



**Tuesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 44, Lo 23



**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 52, Lo 27



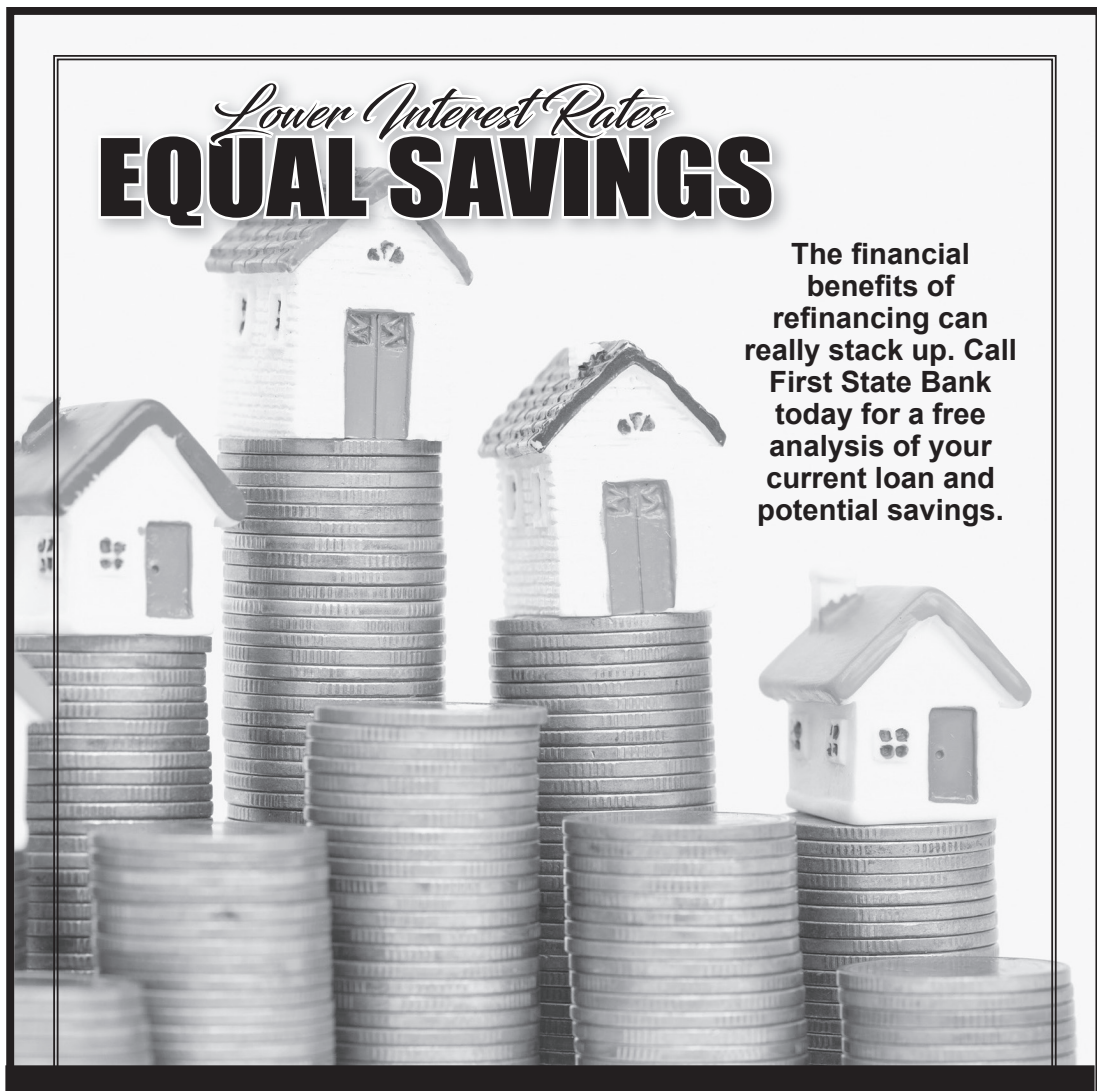
### INSIDE

- Repubs vote, Page 2
- Rodeo auction, Page 8
- Dogie honors, Page 9
- Sundowner, Page 18




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**GOOD CITIZENS**  
 MARCH 2021



**Hadley Olson**  
3rd, Mrs. Wynia

Spring is in the air, and so is the March Good Citizen. This month's third grade Good Citizen has modeled kindness all throughout the year. Her classmates describe her as a very good friend, someone who is nice, and someone who helps them. I have observed all of these qualities in her throughout the year. She is a friend to everyone and is always willing to help anyone who needs a hand. If someone is left out, she will invite them to join her. This student consistently strives for excellence — if there is a challenge she is always up to the task. Even if something is difficult, she will try and try until she gets it. She goes above and beyond what is required in class and always does it with a smile on her face. Congratulations to this month's Good Citizen, Hadley Olson.



**Chanel Hanson**  
4th, Mrs. Giesler

Our classroom is unique in numerous ways! The Good Citizen, for the month of March, has been selected from several deserving fourth-graders, this special student exhibits many qualities of an extraordinary individual. She is a polite young lady, doing what is asked of her, with neat and timely work, assisting fellow classmates, and providing peaceful solutions to classroom discussions. Each morning, she arrives at school ready to begin her day with a cheerful hello, puts her things away, completes her morning work, and eager to help her peers do the same. As an outstanding role model for other children, she is responsible, respectable, and considerate. Being a good listener and following directions has helped her in various ways. She works well in a variety of situations, whether it is in the classroom, in P.E., Music, Science, or at recess. We are privileged to have her as a classmate in our room! She is a true asset to the Newcastle Elementary School. It is indeed a pleasure to congratulate, the 4th Grade Good Citizen, Chanel Hanson!



**Lainee Lewis**  
5th, Mrs. Orban

The person chosen for this month's Good Citizen meets all the criteria to hold this honor. This person is honest, helpful, and kind to others. She is hardworking and takes all of her school work seriously. She comes in every day ready to give 100% to any task that is put in front of her. This month's Good Citizen is a good friend to all of her classmates. She is polite, has a great sense of humor, and her smile and laugh bring light to our classroom. I have watched this young lady grow as a student, a friend, and become a good citizen. The qualities this young lady has will help her accomplish anything she puts her mind to. I am proud to have been your fifth grade teacher. Congratulations, Lainee Lewis, Good Citizen Award winner!

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**Bargains galore!**



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

**The Annual Friends of Fair Garage Sale was held on Friday and Saturday. Despite the \$5 entry fee on Friday, many people came out to participate in the fund-raising event. The sale was held at the Weston County Event Center at the fairgrounds. Just over \$5,000 was raised in the two-day garage sale, according to treasurer Pat Morgan. This was the best sale they've had since she has served, she said. Even on Saturday, when the attendance normally lessens after the first couple of hours, attendance was steady for the duration of the sale. After gathering treasures, attendees 'checked out' by making offers for their purchases, which were largely accepted.**

**County's Republicans elect officers**

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Kari Drost will remain chairman of the Weston County Republican Party after the central committee elected new officers on March 20, according to an email from Drost.

In addition to Drost, Allen Slagle was elected vice chairman, as well as the state committeeman. His wife, Ann, will be both secretary and state committeewoman.

Rounding out the group's officers is Jamie Farnsworth as treasurer.

In addition to electing officers for 2021, the committee accepted the resignation of Tex McBride as precinct committeeman for precinct 4-1. Jim Diehl filled his position.

At the meeting, held at Foursquare Church in Newcastle, Drost openly held all items of the meeting up for the precinct members to vote on. She also answered, or directed questions to the persons who had the answers, conducting the meeting in a fast, efficient manner.

The next Weston County Republican Party meeting will be held on April 29 at 6 p.m., at a location to be announced later.

**Downs** from Page 1 .....

up to four machines. According to its website, Wyoming Downs Racetrack is the largest and only privately owned racetrack in Wyoming, hosting 14 races a year at its facility 10 miles north of Evanston. Betting on the races can be done on site or at any of the off-track facilities located in Laramie, Cheyenne, Casper, Evansville, Sheridan and Rock Springs.

In 2019, the company reported a payout of \$4.2 million in taxes to cities and counties across the state. A share of that money would come to Weston County, Newcastle and Upton once machines were in place.

Jerrard originally reported that the devices and venues are heavily regulated and monitored by the Wyoming Gaming Commission. She noted that Wyoming Downs pays for the upfront training and technological needs for each facility and their employees before the machines would go live.

On March 3, Taylor said he was concerned about the blanket variance requested by Wyoming Downs, stating that the commissioners might want to consider reviewing and approving each location. This concern was also discussed during the March 16 meeting, with Taylor stating that he believed a site-by-site approval would leave the control in the county's hands instead of with the gaming commission.

Ertman said during both meetings that she did not believe the county should hyper manage the placement of the machines.

"My two cents is that it should be county wide. I don't want to be in the position of

**Commission Clips**  
*Notes from the March 16 Weston County Commissioners Meeting*

- Commissioner Nathan Todd expressed concern over the lack of forward movement in replacing the ramp and stairs at the Weston County Law Enforcement Center. Over two years ago the board was informed that the structures were in poor condition and needed replaced. Todd noted that the ramp could not be used all winter, limiting handicap access to the facility.
- Commissioner Don Taylor reported that he had received several complaints regarding the lack of advertising for open board positions in the News Letter Journal. Clerk Becky Hadlock stated that there was limited funding for advertisements and that the openings were online. Chairman Marty Ertman added that if Taylor was concerned that the topic could be discussed during budget workshops.

the board picking winners and losers," Ertman said, adding that she has seen issues with "personalities" playing a role in liquor license approval.

Todd noted that the skills games located in some Weston County bars have no oversight from county or local municipalities.

"I don't understand why we would have oversight over this either," Todd said. "Other than that, I'm not 100% convinced it is a great thing, but it would bring in some tax revenue."

Following the board's discussion on the topic, some residents voiced their views on the issue.

"The only person that wins from this is Wyoming Downs," said Allen Slagle, who noted that the financial gains for local bars and municipalities are, in his opinion, not worth the potential negative side effects of local horse betting.

Both Slagle and Carol Thurman said they worried about the negative effects of

gambling, including addiction, on the community on local children, schools and divorce rate.

"Do we really want to welcome another addiction into our community?" Thurman asked. "That money would have gone to the gas stations and grocery stores. How much is a family worth? Is the amount [of money] you are going to get really worth local families? I have seen the damage. The kids are the ones that are going to pay the price."

After listening to the public's concerns, Barton noted that gambling in Weston County already exists in the form of the skills games and the lottery. He then cast the only vote in favor of Wyoming Downs.

Ertman said that betting on horse races in local bars is not completely off the table and that the county can revisit the Wyoming Downs resolution at any time.

"I would like to see how it goes in other communities for a year," Todd added.

**Unemployment** from Page 1 .....

County at 6.7%."

Like 21 of Wyoming's 23 counties, Weston County experienced an increase in unemployment from December to January, although the increase in the county was the lowest in the state at 0.4%.

Teton County was the only county that experienced no change in unemployment rate, while Crook County with a 0.5% increase and Goshen

County with a 0.6% increase had the lowest increases in the state. The largest increases were seen in Big Horn and Sublette Counties at 1.5% and Niobrara County at 1.3%.

Statewide, the unemployment rate in January was at 6.1% or 5.1%, seasonally adjusted. Nationally the unemployment rate was at 6.8% or 6.3%, seasonally adjusted.

# nlj IDEAS

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## WHAT

We strive to cover all the news and entertainment important to the people of Weston County, Wyoming. Our entire staff takes part in the decision-making process of what appears in these pages and all content is locally generated. If you have a story idea please contact any of the people you see here. NLJ editorials appear in the upper left hand corner of this page and are written from the position of the newspaper, usually with the influence of several people, and in the hope that they will carry the weight of our 100-plus years of leadership. The personal columns and letters appearing elsewhere on this page, and others, represent the opinions of single individuals and do not necessarily reflect the position of the newspaper. The NLJ welcomes and encourages your Letter to the Editor. We will print all signed, original letters of local interest. Please provide a phone number for verification. We will not publish letters that are libelous or scurrilous in nature. Letters of thanks are offered at a reduced price in our classified section.

## WHERE

Stop in Monday-Friday at 14 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming  
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Out of County .....\$65  
Senior Citizens (65+).....\$33  
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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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## Here for more than just the news

Today, I'm reflecting on the 27-plus years that I've worked at the *News Letter Journal*. While I began part-time employment working mainly in the back room in circulation, I have learned a great deal and continue to learn many things about the newspaper industry. For instance, how hard you strive to meet deadlines each and every week, and how as much as you want to put out that perfect newspaper, it never fails that there is always that one correction (or more) that doesn't get made. That page number didn't get changed,



Kim Dean  
Solve It

or the headline or outline (caption) wasn't fixed. And then the cycle begins again for next week's paper and we're on the hunt for interesting stories and the most relevant information to get in front of our readers.

I believe in the importance of a newspaper to a community. We want to tell your stories, keep you informed about events and government action, advertise, support and promote your business, as well as document and preserve history. That's our job, and always our goal.

As I've climbed the ladder here, I've found there to be more heavy lifting. I've felt more responsibility to be a voice for our readers. Even

though the NLJ is not the official paper for Weston County, I appeared before the commissioners in January to specifically ask that they advertise a few notices (mainly board openings and help wanted ads) once a month in the *News Letter Journal*, not because they have to (legally), but simply because they really should want to inform our readers about these open positions. I am still hopeful they will choose to do this.

I have taken many phone calls in my time here. I couldn't even begin to guess the number of billing and circulation calls I've taken. I also get the calls when a reader is upset about something that ran in the paper, or didn't run in the paper. Some calls are easy to solve, while others fall into the heavy lifting category. The

easy calls are when a reader didn't get their newspaper, and it is important that our loyal subscribers have their paper each and every week.

I received a phone call a couple weekends ago from a loyal subscriber whose love and friendship I have always treasured. She informed me that she did not have long to live. I knew she had not been well, but the call left me shocked and emotional. She always made a point to make me feel special whenever I saw her.

There are times with this job that I do question if all the heavy lifting is worth it. But this call from a loyal subscriber and friend — a heavy call indeed — will forever remain with me, along with her love and inspiration.

## Is it time for bold action in the Cowboy State?

Even though the idea of Wyoming spending a billion dollars on a gigantic swath of land had some of us scratching our heads about one year ago — well, at least you had to give the project (and Gov. Mark Gordon) high marks for bold imagination.

That deal went away when a company outbid Wyoming.

But thinking back about that, it makes me wonder if Wyoming should be just a little brash. Be a little bold. Just a bit?

Our leaders sometimes act like the proverbial guy who was up to his waist in alligators and forgot all about draining the swamp.

We are so consumed with worries about our faltering economy and where to cut, cut, and cut some more -- well, there is no inclination to think about bold plans.

So, what would be an example of a bold plan?

Now I do not claim to be the author of these ideas. These

are just ideas people have mentioned to me over the years. For example:

Should Wyoming take control of the coal-fired power plants before they are finally closed? Could they be more converted to natural gas? We have lots of gas in Wyoming. And if you believe electric car maker Elon Musk, no less, there is no way the future can provide enough electricity for the needs he is envisioning.

If Musk is to be believed, this big rush to shut down coal and natural gas plants and replace them with wind and solar projects just does not provide enough juice to power the future.

My friend Dan Brophy of Wilson says Musk is right. "I have a friend with a utility who tells me coal plant power is 95% available, wind power 30%. Plus, when you account for end to end costs, wind energy is massively more expensive and massively more destructive environmentally. The industry exists because of

subsidies. Until cheap energy (battery) storage technology is developed, wind and solar will remain uncompetitive."

Or, should we be bold and implement a huge statewide plan for more wind and solar? Obviously private companies like Power Company of Wyoming and Rocky Mountain Power are shooting for the stars with their gigantic wind projects. Can it be even bigger? We have the best wind in the country and maybe in the world. Is there even more we can do to promote it?

For a long time, Wyoming was the country's largest producer of uranium. What about a commitment to putting in some nuclear plants? I am not talking about those massive Three Mile Island-type plants. We have had nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers for over 50 years using small nukes. Should we be pushing for small nuclear installations using these super-safe small nuclear plants so Wyoming can continue to provide energy to the rest of the country? Providing power to the country has been our bread and butter. Should we continue to try to fill

that position, using nukes this time around?

We are a perfect location for massive computer server centers. Cheyenne already has several. We also could serve as a great location for super computers. They require cool weather. Cool wind is good. And Wyoming, especially around Cheyenne, has huge trunks of internet fiber. These will not employ so many people but could provide tax monies.

It is hard for Wyoming to attract big 500-employee plants. But it is easy for the Cowboy State to attract 500 people who each individually work for their individual companies and bring their big salaries with them?

We need reliable internet service, good airline service, and nice small towns that are safe and forward-thinking. I think most Wyoming towns fit this description like Evanston, Afton, Cody, Powell, Lander, Riverton, Douglas, Buffalo, Sheridan, Newcastle, Gillette, and the bigger towns like Rock Springs, Laramie, Casper, and Cheyenne plus other places. Our cities and towns are wonderful places with low

taxes, good medical care, and wonderful places to eat.

Again, my friend Dan chimes in: "I think private capital and private innovators will see Wyoming for the advantages which fit into their plans and interests. It's important to create and continue an environment of low regulation and low to zero taxes."

"The federal tax burden will soon increase gigantically, making no state income tax more important than ever and low regulations the same. Too many people fail to understand the importance of low regulations — it is a giant influence in decisions where to locate businesses."

These are just some musings from me and my friends. What bold ideas do you think would work for Wyoming?

*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](http://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.*

## Looking at separation of powers and checks and balances

The constitutional principle of "separation of powers" is as casually thrown around as frisbees in the park on a Saturday afternoon, but often with far less accuracy. Presidents invoke it to defend imaginary powers against congressional encroachments.

Members of Congress cast it into discussion to expose alleged executive abuse of power. Confusion, and not a little manipulation, abound. Americans hear it referenced, but wonder about its origins, meaning and purpose.

The doctrines of separation of powers and checks and balances are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution, yet they represent pillars of American Constitutionalism.

James Madison, chief architect of the Constitution, explained the central purpose behind the doctrine of separation of powers: to promote liberty by preventing the concentration of power in one branch of government, which would represent the very definition of tyranny. The framers of the Constitution thus roughly separated the legislative, executive and judicial functions of government in order to prevent the same hands that made laws from executing and adjudicating the laws.

While the allocation of powers — the

enumeration of powers — to the three branches reflect the general functions of government, the scheme of separation is not perfect. The aim was not to rigidly separate the powers.

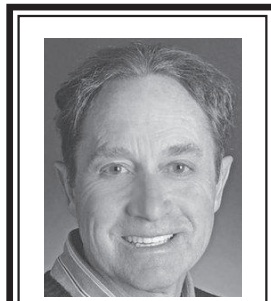
By constitutional design, as Madison explained, some functions of government are deliberately mixed. Citing the famous French scholar, Montesquieu, whom delegates to the Constitutional Convention regarded as "the oracle" on matters of separation of powers, Madison observed in Federalist No. 47 that the allocation of powers based on governmental functions "did not mean that these departments ought not to have no partial agency in, or control over, the acts of each other."

Liberty, always the North Star in Madison's writings, was more effectively preserved through overlapping powers, which would enable separate branches to check one another in the exercise of authority. In this way, Madison introduced the rationale for the doctrine of checks and balances. In Federalist 51, Madison wrote that the security against the concentration of powers "consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others." In words made famous through repetition in classrooms across America, Madison

declared, "ambition must be made to counteract ambition, the interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place."

The key to making checks and balances work effectively, the framers believed, lay in this scheme of "ambition to counteract ambition." In this emphasis, the founders relied on a brilliant psychological insight, culled from theorists across the centuries, into the minds of politicians. Politicians desired power; the more power they acquired, the more they desired. The appetite was great. The framers thus drew upon the "dark side" of a politician's nature and turned this vice into a virtue, making it work to the advantage of constitutional government.

Thus, for example, members of Congress, the framers believed, would seek to protect their own individual turf, which would serve the institutional interests of Congress by preventing executive efforts to aggrandize or usurp congressional powers. In this way, the "interest of the man" would fit "the interest of the place." Members of Congress, the framers reasoned, would be unwilling to surrender their individual political power. Such stout defense would fortify the powers granted by the Constitution to Congress, and thus maintain the allocation of constitutional powers. Maintenance of the Constitution would please Americans, who ratified the Constitution, which allocated powers and responsibilities in a particular way.



David Adler  
Guest Column

Send your letters to [reporter@newsjlj.com](mailto:reporter@newsjlj.com) - deadline is Friday

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### Obituaries

**WAYNE L. COMPTON**  
**Feb. 12, 1935–March 16, 2021**

Wayne L. Compton was born Feb. 12, 1935, to Lewis M. and Evangeline Compton at his father's homestead on the Limestone near Moon, S.D. This remained his home until he was 19 years old when he took a seasonal job with the U.S. Forest Service at Teepee Ranger Station. He worked as a logger and ranch hand in the Newcastle, Wyo., area. In 1955, he met his future wife while working on one of these ranches. He married Betty Mahnke in 1958, in Newcastle.

In 1959, he began a permanent career with the U.S. Forest Service at the Junction Ranger Station which brought the family to Custer, S.D. Their first child was born in May of that year. In 1961, the Harney Ranger District was created by a consolidation of Bear Mountain and Hill City ranger districts; Wayne moved to the district headquarters in Hill City, S.D., at this time. In 1962, they welcomed their second child and purchased a home on Clay Street in Custer. Wayne spent many years with the Forest Service serving as a fire control technician and in forestry management. He served with Black Hills Helitack, and as a liaison with contract fire crews fighting fires in many western states. He retired from the Forest Service in May of 1994.

After retirement he spent three summers returning to his love of horses working as a wrangler for Roy Miller's Trail Rides north of Custer. In the fall of 1995, he started working for the Custer School District as a crossing guard and custodian in the winters and later a groundskeeper. He worked for the school district until 2010. Outside of his careers he served the community he loved in many ways. He was an active member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Parish, a member of the St. Brendan's Council of the Knights of Columbus for 56 years, he served as a member of the Custer City Council, he was active with Custer Youth Bowling and the Teener Baseball program and served as a member of the Custer Volunteer Fire Department for 33 years.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Compton of Custer; daughter, Janice (Jim) Coates of Custer; daughter, Vicki (Daniel) Keierleber of Newcastle; grandson, Cody (Bridget) Coates of Thermopolis, Wyo.; granddaughter, Candace Keierleber of Federal Way, Wash.; granddaughter,

Whitney (Justin) Cosenza of Casper, Wyo.; great-grandchildren, Zayden and Jasmine Cosenza, and Jackson, Grant and Andrew Coates; brother, Lewis J. Compton of Hill City; sister, Augusta Nissen of Billings, Mont.; and many extended family and special friends who continue to love him.

Wayne passed away peacefully in his Clay Street home of 59 years on Tuesday March 16, 2021.

Christian funeral vigil services were held 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Custer.

Christian funeral mass was held 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 24, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Custer.

Christian funeral committal services will be held 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for St. John the Baptist Catholic Church gathering area.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home in Custer.

**DONNA MARIE (MAHAN) HEATON**  
**July 22, 1956–March 14, 2021**

Sunday, March 14, 2021, Donna Marie (Mahan) Heaton passed away after a brief illness in Apache Junction, Ariz.

Donna was born on July 22, 1956, in Boston, Mass., to James and Joan (Blair) Mahan. Donna grew up in the Boston area and shortly into college, she decided to work for the summer in Kimball, Neb., where she met the love of her life, Dave, and she never looked back. They were married Oct. 22, 1976, and raised two children, Brenna and Dalton.

Donna was always up for adventures with her family, and in retirement she and Dave continued the adventure and headed to Arizona. She loved finding new places to go and see with her best friend, Dave. Donna loved her family and friends fiercely, and she will be so very missed.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, James and Joan Mahan; brother, James Mahan Jr.; father-in-law, Gary Heaton; her beloved cousin, Terry Mahan; and brother-in-law, Barry Heaton.

She is survived by her husband, Dave; daughter, Brenna (Shane) Crawford; son, Dalton (Madison) Heaton; grandchildren, Lilly, Alaina, Colin, Sydney, and Shayna; her mother-in-law, Darlene Heaton; several cousins, nieces, nephews and brothers and sister-in-law; and many

beloved friends.

A private memorial will be held at a later date.

**FREDERICK W. MINTER**  
**March 7, 1939–March 1, 2021**

Frederick W. Minter, 81, born in Newcastle, Wyo., died at St. Jude Hospital, Fullerton, on March 1, 2021, of complications from kidney surgery on July 31, 2020. He lived at his current home in Placentia, Calif., for 29 years.

Fred graduated from Newcastle High School where he was a state-ranked wrestler and football player. He earned his metallurgical engineering degree at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, S.D., in 1967. Prior to graduating from college, he served with the U.S. Army in Germany for three years.

Fred loved visiting and talking about the Black Hills and especially loved staying at Custer State Park and watching the wildlife. Fred spent 18 years in the chemistry lab and later as the metallurgist for the gray iron foundry at John Deere Dubuque Works, Iowa. While in Dubuque he was married briefly to Sandra Oswald and they had two sons, Douglas Frederick and Eric Andrew.

In 1982 he married Elizabeth Carlisle Donnan, who was the library directory at Dubuque's Carnegie-Stout Public Library. Fred moved to California in 1989 and worked briefly for Continental Forge in Compton before joining the Quality Assurance Department at Pacific Tube Company in Commerce. He ended his metallurgical career at Atlas Testing Company in Commerce.

During his professional career, Fred was active for 50 years in the American Society for Metals, International, and served as chapter chair multiple times in Iowa and California. He was also a member and chapter chair for the American Foundry Society in eastern Iowa. After moving to California Fred completed his certification as a Certified Quality Engineer and became a member of the American Society for Quality.

Fred became a professional real-bearded Santa Claus in 2004



**Frederick Minter**

— See Obituaries, Page 6

Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to [design@newslij.com](mailto:design@newslij.com)!




**Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.**  
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend meetings  
Tim Qualheim, Worshipful Master • Mike Hutchinson, Secretary




# faith & values

**Daily Devotional Reading**

<p><b>Mar. 26</b> Habakkuk 2:1-20</p> <p><b>Mar. 27</b> Habakkuk 3:1-19</p> <p><b>Mar. 28</b> Mark 11:1-33</p> <p><b>Mar. 29</b> Mark 12:1-17</p>	<p><b>Mar. 30</b> Mark 12:18-44</p> <p><b>Mar. 31</b> Mark 14:1-31</p> <p><i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i></p>
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- **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. haydishall@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 Westerlund. 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

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ~Romans 8:26

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# Recapture

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago  
March 28, 1996**

Bob Shirley, a former resident of Newcastle and suspected murderer of wife Julie Shirley, also a former resident, was found at 5 a.m. Tuesday morning. According to Sgt. Keeton of the Las Vegas Metro Police, Shirley hung himself with an electrical cord. The weapon used to kill Julie Shirley was not found.

Gillette resident Stuart Smith, 45, drowned while fishing in the Osage Reservoir Mar. 20. According to Weston County Sheriff Don Howell, his tipped over canoe was sighted around 1 p.m. The sheriff's office was called at 3 p.m.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt for children in the Newcastle area is Saturday, April 6, at 1 p.m. at Dow Park.

Army Pvt. Sam N. Mitchell

has graduated from the basic field artillery cannon crew member course at Fort Sill, Okla. Mitchell is the son of Mike J. And Rose A. Mitchell of Newcastle. He is a 1995 graduate of Newcastle High School.

John and Sharron Ackerman of Newcastle are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Shawnda K. Ackerman, to Joseph M. Sandrini, son of Louis and Sherron Sandrini of Millbrae, Calif.

The Blotter: Mar. 7 — A horse was reported to be stuck in a cattle guard. A woman reported footprints in her backyard leading from the alley to her window. Mar. 9 — A woman reported finding a bullet hole through two of her windows.

Students in the sixth grade

math classes at Newcastle Middle School have been collecting money through a program called "Math-A-Thon." Students competed a math packet of 200 math problems, then collected pledges for their work. A total of \$821.10 has been sent to St. Jude's Children's Hospital for their research for cancer in children.

**50 Years Ago  
March 25, 1971**

The Rev. Duane Smelser has become the new pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Newcastle. Smelser succeeds the Rev. David Clark, who moved to Boulder, Colo., several weeks ago.

The Newcastle track squad will open their 1971 season on Saturday, Apr. 3, when they will enter the Sheridan relays. Some 28 boys are currently

on the track squad, including nine lettermen.

An agreement has been reached whereby Cambria Forest Industries of Newcastle will purchase the complete operations of U.S. Plywood-Champion Paper Company. The agreement was announced by Pete Field, president of Cambria Forest Industries.

The Hi-16 Drive In in Newcastle has been sold to Mr. and Mrs. Norm Caillier. The drive in was sold by Mr. and Mrs. Cable Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mitich, who also operate the Sioux Cafe.

Newcastle Junior High School students placed first in the Gillette Invitational wrestling match Friday. Their score was 94. Buffalo was second with 57 and Douglas third with 51.

Eight young ladies will compete in the fifth annual Miss Weston County Scholarship Pageant when it is staged in Newcastle Saturday evening, April 10.

The Pizza Kitchen and lunch counter will open for business on Thursday, Apr. 1. The new business is located in the former Jack and Jill bustling on Warren Street. Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Bickford are the operators of the new business.

Some 14 high school and 14 junior high wrestlers from Newcastle are expected to enter the state AAU wrestling matches at Douglas Friday and Saturday.

Mrs. Tom McMillan was a coffee guest of Mrs. Elmer Rose Friday afternoon. Mrs. George Kennedy and Mrs. Doris Mirich were in Newcastle Thursday on business and to shop.

**100 Years Ago  
March 24, 1921**

Just a few days more than one year ago, the first gusher was brought in in the Osage field, thereby placing Weston County on the map as a producing oil field. Since then a number of good wells have been drilled but for the past few months activities have quieted down and for several weeks little excitement has prevailed.

The Library Club which has enjoyed a season of delightful informal meetings held their regular meeting on last Friday afternoon at the library, with Mrs. E.E. Wakeman, as chairman.

While the drillers were pulling the casing at the Gose well near Upton Friday the mast broke and Vernie Moody, one of the drillers was killed instantly. There were five of them at the well and they were all in the engine room and when the mast began to crack Vernie ran out and something struck him and tore the top of his head completely off.

The early setting in of spring has found many of the boys out "limberin' up" in preparation of the coming season of "swat the pill." Much discussion has arisen as a result and the chief topic of conversation in the restaurants and other places of business as well as on the street corners is the prospects of a good baseball team for Newcastle this summer.

Frank Fawcett fixed R.A. Harpers' car so Bob is driving a car now instead of a team. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thomson have both been quite ill with a hard cold but we are pleased to say they are much better now.

Jessie Scott took his children to Newcastle to see the Cow Boy's Dream Friday night. I.N. Smith and F.R. Keys were looking over the Beaver Creek telephone line Friday. Everyone will be glad when the line is fixed.

If you were not among the forty or more Newcastle residents who journeyed to Upton Monday evening to attend the meeting held there of the Weston County Good Roads Association, you missed a real treat. Most of the cars left Newcastle between five and six o'clock and arrived at Upton in time ranging from 55 minutes by V. Jessen in his Buick roadster, to an hour and a half by the slower drivers.

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Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society/P. Webster Collection

This is Pearl and Dick Webster in 1939.

**WHAT'S UP**  
*March/April 2021*  
 Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

<b>Mar. 26-27</b>	Call for appt. 800-979-3711	Community Wellness Screening	WC Senior Center
<b>Fri Mar. 26</b>	11:30AM-5:30PM	WC Library System Board Mtg BINGO	Library Meeting Rm VFW Hall
<b>Sat. Mar. 27</b>	5PM	Mule Deer Dinner	Event Center
<b>Wed Mar. 31</b>	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	WCHS
<b>Thurs Apr. 1</b>	4:30PM-7:30PM	Natural Resources Cost Share applications due WC Museum District mtg Newcastle Planning & Zoning Mtg Martial Arts Class Masons #13	Anna Miller Museum City Council Chambers Fairgrounds Masonic Hall
<b>Sat. Apr. 3</b>	11-3PM	Chamber of Commerce Easter Carnival	Lodge
<b>Mon Apr. 5</b>	11-5:45PM	Blood Drive	WC Senior Center

**LIL DOGIE LUNCH**

**Lillyan James, Callan Smith, Wyatt Smith, Brylee Caster, Chevy Bryan, Trent Dutcher**

Thank you Subway for hosting this month's Lil' Dogie Lunch, and partnering with Newcastle Elementary School to reward students who display good citizenship by helping others.

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# For the Ages

News Letter Journal

## Bank reopens after Roosevelt's 'bank holiday'



**Hannah Gross**  
NLJ Correspondent  
With Leonard Cash

Historian Leonard Cash continues his development of the history of the First State Bank and its success despite the economic effects of the Great Depression in this week's installment of "History on Main" on the former Mondell building located on lot 12 of block 10. But before moving on to that, we start with Security State Bank, which was eventually bought out by First State.

In the Oct. 13, 1977, issue of the paper, which reprinted an article from 1927, we learn that Oct. 16 marked the first anniversary of Security State Bank, which opened "after a stormy session in trying to secure a charter."

"The statement published (on another page of the paper) shows the bank to be in a very good condition and we believe the institution will continue to grow and prosper and be a benefit to its patrons and stockholders," the article says.

Two years later, the fire alarms rang in the bank basement at 9:30 p.m., according to the Jan. 24, 1929, issue. The basement was occupied by Newcastle Plumbing and Heating Co., and the fire was caused by an overheated stove pipe. Fortunately, the fire was discovered before any significant damage had been done.

By Aug. 28, 1930, the bank was sold to H.G. Weare of First State Bank. This consolidation, which was a "nation-

wide trend," left only one bank in Newcastle, but it was an institution with resources of approximately \$750,000 and deposits of \$600,000. Walter Schoonmaker, president of Security State Bank, had no definite plans for future, but he planned to stay in Newcastle. At the time, Security had been operating in the Mondell building, so after the consolidation, First State Bank moved in.

A booklet in Cash's records titled "Fifty Years (1924-1974) with the First State Bank" provides more background on Weare. He was the president of the leading bank in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which was capitalized at \$1 million. Weare was also connected with the First National Bank in Deadwood, and others in Spearfish, Sundance, Hulett and Moorcroft. So he had a lot of experience.

"It will be a relief to our people to have a bank at which they can do business and while for a time a great deal of caution is apt to be exercised in dealing with any bank, we predict confidence in the new situation will be such that business conditions will return to practically normal, very shortly," the booklet says, referring to when First State opened. After several banks closed in town, many were skeptical about having a bank, and it took time to restore trust.

The bank shared its building with a barber shop, and according to an article from Nov. 28, 1929, Fred "Dutch" Lundberg purchased the Grover Taylor Barber Shop (which was located on the first door right around the corner of the bank).

"Fred is a good barber and his many friends in this vicinity will be pleased to hear of his going into business for himself," the article says.

The Dec. 19, 1929, issue reported that Lundberg was busy remodeling the walls, ceiling and door covering, as well as installing new equipment.

An undated advertisement from around this time (Cash said it was most likely published

in the 1930s), announced that with three barbers employed at the shop, customers wouldn't have to wait long to get their 25-cent haircut. Baths were also 25 cents.

Another store was opening in the building with the bank and barber shop, announced the April 9, 1931, edition of the paper. Mrs. Godfrey was opening a ladies' apparel shop called Smart Shop in the upstairs of the bank on Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m., celebrating with tea and cakes. The shop carried a line of spring and early summer dresses and coats.

The booklet said that around 1930, the J.C. Penney Co. rented its building from First State Bank.

An article from Dec. 3, 1931, reported a change in officers and directors at First State Bank. Weare was resigning as bank president due to health, so Vice President Charles Dow took his place. Hugh Updike of Osage filled Dow's board seat.

Back in the day, a steel tower with a bell behind the bank faithfully rang every night to let the youth know it was time to return home. But according to the Nov. 3, 1932, paper, the tower was dismantled to make room for a new business enterprise and would no longer signal the curfew.

"The curfew shall not ring tonight" says an old poem, which is okay with Newcastle youth," the article says.

According to Cash's booklet on the bank, President Franklin D. Roosevelt started his "economic reforms" after he was elected in November 1932. On March 6, 1933, he declared a "bank holiday," which was effective for four days. Banks across the nation were forced to close and their financial stability was checked, with only sound banks permitted to reopen.

"Intended as a protection to the people this action actually worked a hardship on many," the booklet says, because many who didn't accept charity during the depression "were forced to ask for relief even though they had wages (in



Photo courtesy of Leonard Cash

Cash speculates this undated advertisement is from the 1930s.

check form) to purchase what they needed."

However, Wyoming banks fared better than others, according to the booklet, because Gov. Nellie Tayloe Ross told the Wyoming Legislature earlier in 1925 that a revision to the banking laws was needed. And, fortunately, First State Bank reopened after the holiday.

"Pursuant to President Roosevelt's program for gradual reopening of the country's banks, the First State Bank of Newcastle opened at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning along with other member banks of the Federal Reserve System located outside cities having clearing house associations," says an article from around March 16, 1933.

An earlier *News Journal* article dated March 9, 1933, reported that the bank was opening under restrictions, according to a proclamation by

Gov. Leslie A. Miller.

"Under restricted banking regulations, withdrawals will be limited to five per cent of the amount on deposit," the article says. "In Newcastle, suspension of banking service brought marked curtailment in business activities."

Despite the setbacks, Newcastle residents stayed positive, and according to the March 16 article, the public displayed its gratitude for the reopening of the bank by not making any large withdrawals on the first day. Deposits exceeded withdrawals by a "comfortable margin" at the end of the day.

"Demands made were simply normal demands to meet current needs of business firms and householders," the article says.

Perhaps it was due to the two restrictions put into effect by the president, who limited large withdrawals to

### 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 26

Exercise Room 8AM  
Walking 8-12  
Dance 7-10PM

#### MONDAY Mar 29

Exercise Class 9AM  
Exercise Room 8-12  
Walking 8-12

#### TUESDAY Mar 30

Exercise Room 8AM  
Walking 8-12

#### WEDNESDAY Mar 31

Exercise Class 9AM  
Exercise Room 8-12  
Walking 8-12

#### THURSDAY Apr 1

Exercise Room 8AM  
Walking 8-12

## Obituaries

from Page 4

specializing in community events, private parties, and home visits. He never retired from that occupation. He was a charter member of the Fraternal Order of Real-Bearded Santas and its Orange County Chapter.

Fred loved to cook and entertain. His super-powered margaritas featured limes from his garden and he was beloved by Elizabeth's family for his creative omelets. He rarely missed an opportunity for Scotch tasting and loved talking about single malts.

Fred is survived by his wife of 39 years, Elizabeth Donnan Minter; his sons, Douglas Frederick and Eric Andrew of Wilmington, N.C.; and his cousins, Wilbur Lease of Newcastle, Phyllis Johnson Murdoch of

Fredericksburg, Texas, and Kenneth Murdoch of Laramie, Wyo.

At the time of his death he was survived by his sister, Peggy Lucelle Minter of Rapid City, but she passed two weeks later, on March 15, 2021.

A Zoom memorial service was held on March 27, 2021.

Donations may be made to the South Dakota School of Mines Library for its metallurgical science collection.

#### PEGGY LUCELLE MINTER

Aug. 3, 1937–March 15, 2021

Peggy Lucelle Minter, 83, died on March 15, 2021, at Avantara Mountain View Nursing Home in Rapid City, S.D., where she had been

a resident since August 2012.

Peggy was born in Newcastle, Wyo., on Aug. 3, 1937, and spent her early years in Osage, Wyo. Peggy attended school in Newcastle where she was an active member of the Methodist Church, the Girl Scouts and Job's Daughters, which she served as guardian. Peggy graduated from Newcastle High School in 1955 and went on to graduate from the Rapid City School of Business in 1957.

Peggy had a career working as an administrative assistant for Barber Transportation Company in Rapid City, as an account clerk at Ellsworth Air Force Base and as a data entry clerk for Conesco Financial. After retirement, Peggy spent four winters

working at an income tax firm in Buena Park, Calif.

Peggy was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star in South Dakota where she held a number of local and state offices. Peggy was also an active member of the Rapid City Chapter of the Association of Business Women of America. Peggy attended First Baptist Church in Rapid City.

Peggy spent much of her life taking loving care of her mother, Genevieve Minter, in both Newcastle and Rapid

City. Peggy's greatest joys in life were sharing her knowledge and love of the Black Hills and helping others through her volunteer work and everyday acts of kindness.

Peggy is survived by her nephews, Douglas Frederick Minter and Eric Andrew Minter, both of Wilmington, N.C.; her cousins, Wilbur Lease of Newcastle, Phyllis Murdoch and Kenneth Johnson; and by her loving caretaker, Renie Smith of Rapid City.

She was preceded in death by both parents; her brothers, Robert Minter of Durham, N.C., and Frederick Minter of Placentia, Calif.

There was a visitation from 2-4 p.m. on March 18 at Kirk Funeral Home. She will be interred in the family plot in Upton.



Peggy Minter



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LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

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)

# Ambulance

from Page 1

here have been good to me. I have been very humbled the last few months.”

Hespe also told both boards that several parties are interested in the business.

“That eased my mind a lot right there,” Commissioner Ed Wagoner said.

As for what the business model would look like for the future of private ambulance services in Weston County, Hespe said that would depend on the buyer. He noted that a county wide service is possible but not guaranteed.

“Probably 12 years ago I had talked to the commissioners about that. ... At the time, Upton was able to take care of that,” Hespe said. “Now there are personnel problems in Upton and Osage.”

According to John Strong, of the Upton Volunteer Fire Department, volunteers for the Upton Ambulance Service are dwindling and finding volunteers to help fill the roles is hard to do. He told the commissioners during the March 16 meeting that his crew does what they can to respond, but there are times they end up aiding the Newcastle Ambulance Service.

Hespe reiterated the struggle to find volunteers for ambulance services, noting that paid

“I am not going to leave the community high and dry. Anyone could walk into the service, change the punch code and go to work. I have things in place that allow that.”

— Roger Hespe  
Newcastle Ambulance Service

personnel is less of an issue. However, a county wide private ambulance service is possible, he said.

“Do I think a private service could cover the whole thing (Weston County)? Yes, I Do,” Hespe told the commissioners. “I think it would have a different look than what we have now. Everyone (Upton and Osage services) is trying, and we are glad to help when we can. We have not missed a call to help anyone.”

Hespe said he is not sure what the future of private EMS will look like. He added that he will share his knowledge and help to whoever purchases the business, if needed.

“I am not going to leave the community high and dry. Anyone could walk into the service, change the punch code and go to work. I have things in place that allow that,” Hespe said.

Despite the assurances from Hespe, the hospital would continue exploring its options, said Connie James, chairman of the WCHS board of trustees.

“Don’t worry too much,” Hespe said. “WCHS has been good to me, we have had a great working relationship. You won’t be without an ambulance.”



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Dwight Souder’s never-give-up attitude is a testament to the spirit, exemplified in Wyoming’s Bucking Horse and Rider logo, which he has the license to use in his fine artistic work. Here, he is pictured with Don Dafoe, the current commander for the American Legion George Monroe, Post 3, with the Wyoming Bucking Horse, cut from local Ponderosa Pine. Souder, a member of the Wyoming Tree Farm Committee, carved the Bucking Horse and Rider to hang above the fireplace at the Newcastle National Guard Armory. For this carving, Souder used a Shou Sugi Ban technique. This technique, originating in Japan, uses heat to scorch the outer layers of the wood, which acts as a preservative against decay. Then he heavily varnished the piece. The symbol is a representation and thanks for the years of service that the members of the American Legion have given to America and Wyoming, he said, and their dedication of selfless service have helped to protect our way of life and to keep us safe.

# Souder

from Page 1

from butterflies to primates. He has also worked on road and bridge projects for 15 years.

But the creative side of his personality finally won out, and he turned to woodcrafts. In 2009, he got a license to use the bucking horse and rider logo and began crafting inlay objects with that design out of more exotic woods, such as black walnut and cherry wood. He loves the high contrast of bonding different woods together.

Souder was making signs, cutting boards, cribbage boards and the like, often with custom names or short sayings inlaid on them. He uses a process called computerized numerically controlled routing. Using a computer that controls his equipment, the router cuts out the pre-made design. First, a fine bit cuts out the design’s outline, utilizing a couple of passes, and takes larger sections out of the object’s finer details. Then, a more significant bit is put to work, taking out the rest of the silhouette. This process prevents splintering around the edges and makes it easier for the inlay to be inserted and glued in place. The computer control is precise; there is only a 15/1000th-inch difference between the inlay and the cutout. Once the object has dried overnight, he uses a sanding planer to smooth every-

thing, and the last step is the finishing coat.

But in January 2017, a potential medical tragedy struck.

“I had a tumor on my pituitary gland that pulled the optic nerves from my left eye and damaged the nerves on my right,” he said.

Souder is now completely blind in his left eye and has lost much of his peripheral vision in his right eye. He says that he owes a lot of his ability to keep going to his sister and friends, who not only supported his decision to keep working but sometimes pushed him not to give up.

“I feared losing it all,” Souder said, “The building, my clientele, all my equipment.” But he pressed on. “I did a lot of soul-searching, and I quickly realized that I just couldn’t give in. So, I learned how to do the work even though I couldn’t see the entire computer screen.”

Now he has high contrast and enlarged cursors on his computer and has to scan around the screen to see the object he will cut. He has had to persevere through the difficulties and figure out how to see what he needs to see. Using hundreds of saved image files and often having to create files for special orders, he still makes the cutting boards, cribbage

boards, coasters and custom signs for clients, as well as plenty of other items.

“I even stayed busy during the COVID shutdowns,” he said, “And while everyone was hit hard with that, I still was able to do my work pretty consistently.”

One of his recent clients, The Wyoming Tree Farm Committee, commissioned him to create a large bucking horse and rider sculpture, made from locally grown and milled ponderosa pine, for the American Legion. After cutting out the image and sanding it down, he used a Japanese technique called Shou Sugi Ban too lightly burn the wood, which helps to preserve the wood. He also lacquered the finished product, and on March 9, he presented it to the Legion, where it now hangs above the fireplace at the Newcastle Armory, the group’s meeting place.

Souder also does metal and plastic engraving, in much the same way, but using different equipment. Dite’s Tinkering Designs is located at 1517 W. Main St., and you can contact Souder at (307) 746-5482. There are plenty of pre-made beautiful woodcrafts for sale there, or if you have that unique one-of-a-kind item in mind, he can help with that as well.

# BLOOD DRIVE



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Monday, April 5  
11 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.  
Weston County Senior Services Center

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Learn more about our response to COVID-19 and current donation guidelines at [vitalant.org/coronavirus](http://vitalant.org/coronavirus).  
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  - Dr. Eckrich ..... April 7, 21
- Echo: ..... April 21
- Patient’s Personal Physician must schedule • Usually 1st & 3rd Wednesday of month
- Heart Doctors: To schedule appointments call 800-432-7822
  - Dr. D’Urso ..... N/A
  - Dr. A. Schabauer ..... N/A
- VA Clinic: (Usually 1st Monday of month, except holidays)..... April 19
- Mammography: ..... Call 746-3704 to schedule an appointment
- MRI: ..... April 1, 15, 29
- Speech Therapy: ..... Every other Monday & Thursday, 4-6 pm
- Patient’s Provider must schedule with WCHS Radiology Department
- Upton Lab Draws: (1st Wednesday, except holidays) ..... April 7
- Wellness Wednesday, Newcastle ..... Every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 am
- Wellness Wednesday, Upton..... 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7-9 am
- Home Health Toenail Clinic: (At Weston County Senior Services) ..... April 7, 21



WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

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Rodeo roundup




Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ


The Weston County Event Center hosted the Newcastle High School Rodeo Banquet on Saturday evening. The event featured dinner along with a silent auction and live auction, where people could buy artwork, or a member of the rodeo for a day during the 'slave auction'. The dining hall was filled almost to capacity as people enjoyed good food, auctions, and fellowship. Top, a spin game, where you could try your luck for tickets used for door prizes, was set up near the entrance to the event center. Tom Streeter tries his luck at the game while Candi Stanton holds the game. Above, people line up for a delicious banquet of roast beef, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls and a selection of deserts. The food was praised by many who complimented the workers who cooked and seamlessly took care of the banquet service. At right, student Callie Hiser is auctioned off by Justin Mills to individuals or businesses in attendance at the fundraiser. 'Winning' a student means the youth will be available for a day of work. In the past, students have done a variety of odd jobs including helping at a business or assisting with brandings. Through this method of fund-raising, students learn to work for the money raised while benefitting the community.

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# Sports & Lifestyles

## News Letter Journal

**SPORTS SCHEDULES**

**NEWCASTLE:**

**NHS Men's Soccer**

4/1	J/V/V	Buffalo HS	H	4PM
4/6	J/V/V	Gering HS	H	4PM

**NHS Ladies' Soccer**

4/1	J/V/V	Buffalo HS	A	4PM
4/6	J/V/V	Gering HS	H	4PM

**NHS Track**

3/26	V9	Laura Chord Invite	H	TBA
4/1	V9	Wheatland	A	11AM
4/9	V9	Absaraka Expo	A	11AM

**NMS Girls Soccer**

4/6		Twin Spruce	A	3:30PM
4/8		Douglas	A	4:30PM

**NMS Boys Soccer**

4/6		Twin Spruce	A	5PM
4/8		Douglas	A	5:45PM

**UPTON:**

**UHS Track**

3/26		Newcastle	A	TBA
4/1		Jerry Campbell (Buffalo)A	A	TBA

**UMS Track**

3/27		Newcastle	A	9AM
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## Dogies earn post-season honors

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Reporter

A plethora of Dogies received recognition for the efforts put forth on the court this season. Five Lady Dogies and two Dogies garnered the attention of coaches in the conference to earn All-Conference awards or honorable mention nods, and one Lady Dogie was named to the All-State team as well.

The Lady Dogies had a successful season, finishing with a 14-9 record overall, a 4-2 quadrant record and a sixth-place finish at the state tournament. Head coach Chad Ostenson emphasized how pleased he was with his team's growth throughout the course of the year, and Jaylen Ostenson, Shelby Tidyman, Mercedes Voelker, Tiernan Stanton and Hunter McFarland — the starting five — each were recognized by the 3A East Conference coaches for what they achieved.



Jaylen Ostenson, above, was a unanimous pick for the 3A East All-Conference Team and an easy pick for the 3A All-State Team as well. This is the second time the sophomore has earned both post-season honors. Shelby Tidyman, below, received an Honorable Mention in her freshman season, but earned the votes this year to be named to the 3A East All-Conference Team.

In addition, Coach Ostenson himself was recognized for the second consecutive year as Coach of the Year for the 3A East Conference.

**Jaylen Ostenson** was named to the All-Conference and All-State teams for the second time in her two-year career, while Tidyman also earned the All-Conference nod for the Absaraka Conference. Voelker, Stanton and McFarland all received an Honorable Mention to the All-Conference team and, according to Coach Ostenson, all of his players were deserving of the honor.

"We had a couple of the girls with honorable mention come within a vote or two of making the All-Conference team, and in my opinion they deserved it," Ostenson said. "But when you're in the same conference as this year's Douglas team, it limits the number of available spots."

Jaylen Ostenson was a unanimous choice for All-Conference honors and an easy pick for All-State as well and when looking at her stats, it's

easy to understand why.

Ostenson led her team with 454 points bringing her career total to 768 in just two seasons. She was second in rebounding with 161, second in assists with 46, first in steals with 49 and second in blocks with 12. In addition, she was the team's leading scorer in 21-23 games, the leading rebounder in seven games and led in assists in four games.

"Jaylen had a good year. She was second in 3A in scoring behind Allyson Fertig (Douglas), but a lot of credit for that also goes to her teammates for helping her do that," Coach Ostenson nodded. "I've watched her forever, but the jump she took from her

freshman year to this one was huge. She got stronger and more confident and shouldered the increased defensive pressure thrown at her in every game this season. She adjusted to the increased defensive hit and handled it very well. She didn't run away and hide."

Rarely was Ostenson not double teamed and sometimes triple teamed, but she still found a way to score, and when the Lady Dogies needed to put points on the board, often she was the go-to player.

"I really didn't think about it a lot until I heard a couple of coaches talk about how much she improved from last



## Elk hunt changes proposed

**Joe Sandrini**  
Guest Columnist

In 1992, when I worked my first fall hunting season in the Black Hills, there were some elk around and the lucky folks who had tags could fill them with a little work. That has changed radically since, and now we have elk in numbers and places where we never thought we would. The population has been so successful, trying to manage their numbers has become very difficult and frustrating for a lot of folks.

The Black Hills provide excellent habitat for elk. Plus, unlike the western side of our state, the hills do not have a large suite of elk predators. Research on the South Dakota side of the hills has shown that once an elk makes it to a year and a half old, unless it is harvested by a hunter, it is likely to stay alive, maybe to the age of 20-plus.

Data I have collected over

— See Sandrini, Page 10



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## A little of this, a little of that



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

On March 12 and 13, a Treasures and Trash Sale was held at the old Decker's Market building on West Main Street in Newcastle. In addition to shelving, there were many Christmas decorations and silk floristry items for sale, along with other assorted items. Above, Becky Decker helps Tracie Cummings find the perfect Christmas garlands, decorations, and silk floristry items.

Follow the News Letter Journal on Facebook!

To make an appointment, go to [WHF.Health/Appointments](http://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**

## Sandrini

from Page 9 .....

the years for Wyoming Game and Fish suggests for every 100 cow elk on the ground, without hunting, 40 or more yearling elk are added to the population each year. This means, with only natural mortality, the population has the potential to double every three years. To temper that growth hunting with significant harvest is needed.

Wyoming follows the North American Model of wildlife management. Accordingly, hunting is the primary tool used to regulate big game populations. Hunting conducted by the public with equal opportunity for all to get a license. However, while elk hunting seasons have been dramatically liberalized in the Black Hills over the last 20 years, the elk population has continued to increase and expand. In 1991, just over 100 head of elk were taken in the Black Hills by hunters, while the past two years that number has exceeded 700. But, even at that, it is not enough.

In response to the growing population, Game and Fish has tried a variety of hunting season formats and continued to increase license availability, but inadequate harvest has allowed elk numbers to continue to grow. The biggest problem isn't selling hunting licenses or finding hunters to hunt. The main problem is much of the area is private property, and to date a number of landowners have not allowed enough hunting to regulate the elk population. While this was especially true early on, recently things have improved a bit.

To increase harvest and assist landowners whose ranching operations have been negatively impacted by elk grazing and damage to fences and other improvements, the department implemented a Hunter Management Access Program in 2017. This program has been run by a seasonal coordinator who works with landowners to help hunters access their properties and direct the hunting. Harvest in the program has been targeted almost exclusively on antlerless elk.

Overall, our hunt management coordinators have had pretty good success, taking on average somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 elk each year, and building bridges with landowners. The program has gained access for hunters to land that was previously off limits to them, and the landowners involved have been generally pleased with the results. However, even with more Game and Fish boots on the ground working closely with landowners and hunters, obstacles still remain. One of the biggest challenges



Photo courtesy of Joe Sandrini

**Lou Sandrini poses with his elk, harvested off Wyoming Game and Fish's Hunter Management Assistance Program.**

the program faces, and one that plagues hunters throughout the hills, is that elk are not dumb animals. When they are hunted or disturbed regularly they learn where to go to get away from hunters and disturbance. Then, when they get someplace safer, they often remain there until something else moves them again.

It becomes very frustrating for game managers, hunters, and some ranchers that a few landowners allow elk to congregate on their property. This results in reduced harvest and elk negatively impacting neighboring landowners, sometimes quite significantly. It would certainly improve the situation if a little hunting, or some other type of activity, would occur when elk get onto these refuges to get them to leave for a bit.

In response to my complaining about this problem, I have often heard it said that it is private property and owners can do with it what they want. However, I would suggest a comparison. Granted, people don't want to be told what they can and cannot do on their property, but almost every year the county enacts a fire ban or burn restrictions. People get it, and comply with it because they don't want their neighbor accidentally burning their place down. If you think about it, the situation is not much different with elk. If they are allowed to build up on one property, eventually they spill over on to another, hurting someone else's land and livelihood. It would help improve management and mitigate damage issues if landowners protecting elk now would allow more hunting, or some other activity to temporarily move elk to where they could be harvested. After all, wildlife is a public resource that takes all of us to manage.

Because wildlife is not owned by the government, but rather is a resource equally owned by all and managed by the state for everyone, public hunting, support and input are critical for good wildlife

management. That is why each year before the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission sets hunting seasons, they solicit public comments. It is a chance for folks to review the recommendations put forth by the department and express their support or desire for something different.

This year, local Game and Fish managers are proposing a few changes to the elk hunting regulations, notably in Hunt Area 117 to encourage more harvest. One proposed change is to create a Type 6 license with 100 permits available to take a cow or calf throughout Hunt Area 117 between Oct. 15 and Jan. 31. The other proposed changes entail increasing the number of currently issued license types. Those increases raise last year's quotas including: 50 more any elk tags (Type 1); 100 more spike or antlerless elk tags (Type 2); and 100 more cow/calf Type 7 licenses.

These changes are being proposed for three reasons. Demand for, and success on any elk tags is high, plus our bull to cow ratio needs to be lowered. Also, to help lower this ratio and maintain trophy quality, the Type 2 license number is proposed to triple in hopes of harvesting more yearling bulls. Finally, the increase in Type 7 licenses, along with the creation of the Type 6 tag are intended to meet resident and nonresident demand for cow/calf tags, and allow for more public land opportunity on cow/calf licenses outside of the archery season.

Comments on all of the proposed hunting seasons can be submitted to Game and Fish through their website, or by sending in a letter. Either way, comments need to be received by 5 p.m. April 2. If you decide to comment, be assured every comment submitted with the commenter's name and received on time is passed on to each Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioner for consideration.

# Honors from Page 9

year, but she really has gotten stronger, she handles the ball better, and she passes better and stronger against the press," Ostenson nodded. "She can do it all if she has to, but I think they all play well together, which makes everyone look good."

After receiving an Honorable Mention to the All-Conference team in her freshman year, sophomore **Shelby Tidyman** got the nod to the All-Conference squad this season.

Tidyman finished her season as the second leading scorer with 161 points, the third leading rebounder with 97, she led in assists with 80, and was second

with 44 steals. She led in assists in 11 games, led in rebounding in two and led in scoring for one contest throughout the year.

"Shelby does so much for us. If she needs to score 20 points, she gets it done. If she needs to give out 7-8 assists, she does that too. She draws the task of defending the opponent's best guard. She just goes and goes and goes, and her motor never stops," Ostenson said. "She's tough. She's not afraid to stick her nose — or teeth — in there and she just does a great job with her leadership and her defense. Her talking or communication is excellent. That goes unnoticed

by a lot of people, but it's such a big deal when it comes to making our defense better."

Tidyman was also in the running for an All-State spot, but again, with the Douglas players taking up four positions, available spots were limited.

Senior **Mercedes Voelker** was honored by the Absaraka coaches despite not earning enough votes to make the limited All-Conference squad.

"Over the last four years, 'Cedes really grew into a pretty important member of the team doing things that mostly go unnoticed, other than the threes," Ostenson smiled. "She earned the reputation that she will knock them down if she is left open, which was huge for us because she demanded defensive attention so her defender wouldn't be able to sag off and help. Teams didn't give her as many open looks this year, but she did well in spite of the dedicated defense she drew."

When Voelker got hurt and was sidelined for a couple of games late in the season, it was obvious that the squad missed her in her role of inbounding the basketball.

"We also depended on her for her maturity of being a senior. She helped bring the ball up the court when we needed her to do that in the full court pressure, where in the past she would never have done that," Ostenson described. "She stepped up this year and did some of those things that are so important, and we're going to have to find a replacement for her next year."

Voelker finished her career with 95 points on the year and hit 27 threes. She was the team's fourth leading scorer, and she also pulled down 63 rebounds, had 26 assists and 22 steals.

**Tiernan Stanton**, the Lady Dogies' 6-foot-2-inch sophomore post, also was within a vote or two of earning a spot on the All-Conference team. Though she didn't quite make the cut, she finished strong as an Honorable Mention.

"I really think that Tiernan deserved to make the All-Conference team, and the last week of the regular season was a turning point for her," Ostenson declared. "She really came on as a force for us from then through the post season. She was definitely a difference maker before that, but really showed her potential at the end of the season."

Stanton finished the season as the team's third leading scorer with 113 points, she led the team pulling down 184 rebounds, and was also the leading blocker with 39 on the season. She added 4 assists and 15 steals to her season stats as well. In individual contests, Stanton led in rebounding in 14 games and assists in two.

"Tiernan's ceiling is so high and when she figures out how to finish, she'll be up there in the state for sure," Ostenson insisted. "She does such good things for us, especially on defense. Our defense was pretty good given we were the second best team on our side defensively, and I credit a lot of that to her. She's a shot changer, and blocks a few. She got a lot of rebounds which makes a world of difference. She toughened up impressively in those final games of the year, and I can't say enough about her with where she started and where she ended up."

**Hunter McFarland** also received an Honorable Mention to the 3A East All-Conference team. As just a sophomore, McFarland got her first real taste of varsity action as a starter this season, and proved that she belongs on the 3A floor.

"If anyone wants to see what hitting the weight room, hard work and just doing the dirty and hard work, Hunter is a prime example," Ostenson said. "She went to the weight room every night after practice and it showed. Her strength, confidence, and athletic ability grew by leaps and bounds, and if it weren't for Tiernan,

she was probably the most improved player."

McFarland drew the task of defending one of the top two or three guards of the team's opponents, and according to Ostenson she knew her role and did it very well.

"Hunter can score from the outside when the opportunity presents itself and she is also good at driving to the basket when it's there too," he stated. "She defends well and doesn't turn the ball over. I knew we were going to have to fill two spots this season, and she just kind of came out of the blue and did some good things for us. It was quiet stuff, but really important and she was a pleasant surprise for us."

McFarland finished her first varsity season with 74 points, 63 rebounds, 33 assists and 24 steals.

Regarding his own **Coach of the Year** award, Ostenson was quick to share credit with his current and former colleagues.

"I couldn't have done it without Noelle Yonkee, and also Tyler Bartlett, who was head coach during my tenure," Ostenson insisted. "It was a fun year with great kids and I look forward to seeing what we can do in the future."

### Men take honors

For the Dogie men, Head Coach Allen Von Eye also had a couple of players who earned postseason honors. Senior **Zach Purviance** was named to the 3A East Absaraka All-Conference Team.

**Zach Purviance** had a great cap to a very good career as a Dogie, finishing his final season averaging 13 points per game and 6.9 rebs, both of which landed him in the top eight in the 3A East Conference and his rebounds were in the top 10 in the state. He scored a total of 234 points, pulled down 125 rebounds, both of which were the most on the team. He also led with 27 steals and 12 blocks, and was third on the team in assists with 17.

"We asked a lot of Zach on both ends due to the lack of continuity that the season provided. He responded by giving his best every day in practice and every night on the floor," Von Eye nodded. "In his four years in our program, I feel that Zach grew an incredible amount as a basketball player and as a young man."

Purviance also finished his career as the Dogies' 13th leading scorer of all time with 407 career points. He also ranks ninth in three-point makes with 52, and third in charges taken, finishing with 15.

"We are very proud of all that Zach accomplished and all the time and effort he has put into our program," Von Eye declared. "Perhaps the thing

that makes us the most proud of him is how he interacts with our future Dogies and how he always takes the time to visit with them or play a quick game of basketball with them. He is going to do awesome things in the future."

**Taten Engle** received Honorable Mention to the 3A East Absaraka All-Conference Team as just a sophomore.

"Tate grew a ton this year," Von Eye said. "He was able to get good minutes as a freshman and was introduced to varsity basketball, however, this year he showed on a nightly basis that he truly belongs at this level, and was a very solid player."

Engle finished the season averaging 7.1 points per game, 3.5 rebounds and two assists. However, through the last six games of the season Engle aver-

aged 3.2 assists per night, which would have put him in the top six in the conference. Overall for the Dogies, he was third in scoring with 127 points, second in rebounding with 63, led the team in assists with 36, had 16 steals and five blocks.

"Tate really is a great facilitator and sometimes he sees guys open before they know they are open," Von Eye elaborated. "He really started to become confident in his abilities as the season wore on and was able to get to the rim on almost any defender in our conference. His game will only continue to grow as he keeps working in the weight room and the gym."

Of the seven Dogies who garnered post-season honors, five will return to the court next season so the future looks bright for Dogie Hoops.



NLJ file photos

**Chad Ostenson**, above, was named **3A East Coach of the Year** for the second year in a row. He gave a nod to assistant coach **Noelle Yonkee** as an essential part of the coaching staff and also a winner of the award. Below, **Mercedes Voelker** received an Honorable Mention to the **3A East All-Conference Team** in her final season as a Lady Dogie.



NLJ file photos

Head coach **Chad Ostenson** identified **Tiernan Stanton**, above, as his most improved player this season, and **3A East** coaches agreed, giving her an Honorable Mention to the **3A East All-Conference Team**. In her first year as a varsity starter, **Hunter McFarland**, below, received Honorable Mention to the **3A East All-Conference team**.



NLJ file photos

Senior **Zach Purviance**, above, was named to the **3A East Absaraka All-Conference Team**. Purviance finished his career with 407 points making him the 13th leading scorer of all time for the Dogies under head coach **Allen Von Eye**. Below, sophomore **Taten Engle** received an Honorable Mention to the **3A East Absaraka All-Conference Team** in his first season as a starter for the Dogies.



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# Newcastle Dogies



## Arts Expressive League

### 2020-21



Left to right: Rebecca Henkle (12th), Emma Haugen (11th), Angel Perez (11th), Amber Cummings (11th), Dakota Wheeler (10th), Nickalena Schantle (11th), Samantha Simmons (12th), Jimmie Lynn Josephson (advisor).

#expressive

#art

#creative

### Thank you to these community partners

*Photo provided courtesy of Skull Creek Studio, Emily Hartinger*

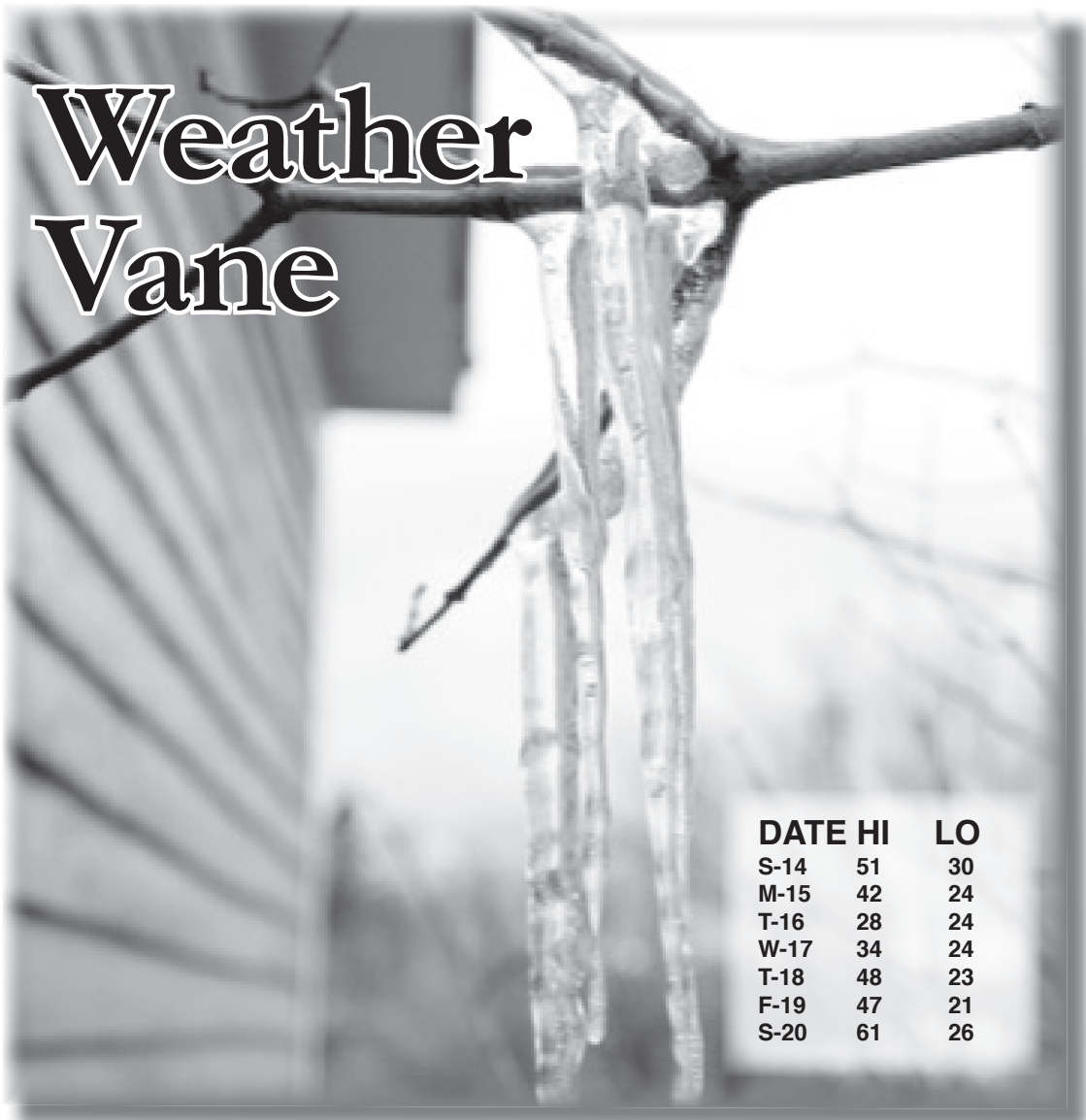


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# Weather Vane



	DATE HI	LO
S-14	51	30
M-15	42	24
T-16	28	24
W-17	34	24
T-18	48	23
F-19	47	21
S-20	61	26

## Fun and Games

### THE 1960s

#### ACROSS

- Kennedy and Ruby
- Credit card acr.
- Just in case
- Yemeni's neighbor
- Scheduled to arrive
- \*First full-disk image of it was taken in 1966
- Alleviated
- Wildfire remains
- One born to Japanese immigrants
- \*\*"Catch-22" author
- \*Oscar-winning leading lady of "Mary Poppins"
- Green or black beverage
- Piercing woodwind
- Mom in U. K.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and drab
- Good-for-nothing
- \*TV's Batman, \_\_\_\_\_ West
- Figure skater's jump
- Make happy
- Hitchhiker's quest
- \*\*"Wilt the \_\_\_\_\_" of pro basketball
- Femur, e.g.
- Cut it out
- Away from port
- Largest organ of human body
- Like anti-cruelty society
- Same as #42 Down
- Even, to a poet
- Roaster's spot
- \*It's the loneliest number
- \*Sam Walton's company
- \*Haircut popularized by the Beatles
- Relating to axis
- PC brain
- \*Sting Ray and Mustang, e.g.
- Threshing hand tool
- \*\*"On \_\_\_\_\_ Majesty's Secret Service"
- Dostoyevsky's novel, with The
- Seaside bird
- Tibetan ox
- Condemn

#### DOWN

- \*Hasbro's G. I.
- Same as ayah
- Four six-packs
- Genulfected
- Sashayed
- Month of Purim
- Abscess contents
- Repair
- Bear's den
- Gaelic tongue
- Meat and potato dish
- Not that
- Take to one's heart
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grey and James \_\_\_\_\_ Jones
- Noggin or dome
- #24 Across players
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ on Washington
- Farewell in Paris
- Address to a woman
- Just a little
- Young socialites, for short
- Call forth
- \*Barbara Eden starred as one
- \*First American astronaut to orbit the Earth
- Table in Spanish
- Type of bargain
- Best not mentioned
- Ultimate goal
- Slightly pointed on a Hobbit
- Pro bono
- Scratchy's nemesis
- Chopin piece
- Drift

- Rod for a hot rod
- One with pants on fire?
- Street in Anytown, USA
- Darkness or gloom
- Relating to ear
- Poverty-stricken
- Cause of Princess' downfall
- Pig's home

### CROSSWORD

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

### Last week's answers

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**Police Blotter**

**February 28**  
Abandoned 911. 911 Misdiagonal. Suspicious Activity Reported. Welfare Check Requested.

**March 1**  
Traffic Control Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Domestic Issue Reported. Traffic Hazard Reported. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported.

**March 2**  
Report of a Dog at Large. Reckless Driving Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. Medical Assist. Traffic Hazard Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Drunk Driver Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Hazard Reported, Civil Matter Reported.

**March 3**  
Medical Assist. Drunk Driver Reported. Traffic Hazard Reported. Water Leak Reported. Funeral Escort Requested. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. Traffic Hazard Reported. Medical Assist. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.

**March 4**  
Assist Other Agency. Residential Burglar Alarm Reported. Report of a Dog at Large. VIN Inspection Requested. Suspicious Activity Reported. 911 Misdiagonal. Disorderly Conduct Reported. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued.

**March 5**  
Barking Dog Reported. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Traffic Control Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Control Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Missing Child Reported. Assault Reported.

**March 6**  
Prowler Reported. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Assist Other Agency. Public Assist. Public Assist. 911 Misdiagonal. Medical Assist. Public Assist Requested. Assist Other Agency.

**March 7**  
Civil Standby Requested. Harassment Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Complaint, Verbal Warning Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. 911 Misdiagonal.

**March 8**  
Minor Two Vehicle Accident Reported. Assist Other Agency. 911 Misdiagonal. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Funeral Escort Requested. Traffic Control Reported. Theft Reported. Civil Matter Reported. Ministerial Assistance Requested. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. Domestic Issue Reported. Welfare Check Requested.

**March 9**  
Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported. Assist Other Agency. Child Abuse Reported. Suspicious Activity Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Public Escort Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Complaint. Arrest Warrant Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Control Reported. Arrest Warrant Issued. Disorderly Conduct Reported. Arrest Warrant Issued. Report of Two Dogs at Large, Dogs Impounded. Warrant Arrest Made. Arrest Warrant Issued. Traffic Complaint.



**March 10**  
Medical Assist. Assist Other Agency. Gas Smell Reported. Theft Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. Parking Complaint, Verbal Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large.

**March 11**  
Extra Patrol Requested. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. Medical Assist. Assist Other Agency. Welfare Check Requested. Traffic Stop, Arrest Made.

**March 12**  
Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. School Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported. Suspicious Vehicle Reported. Assist Other Agency. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. School Walkthrough. Traffic Control Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Bar Walkthrough.

**March 13**  
Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. Reckless Driving Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.

**March 14**  
Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Hit and Run Accident Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Illegal Dumping Reported. 911 Misdiagonal.

**March 15**  
Registration Red Tags Placed. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. School Walkthrough. Arrest Warrant Issued. Ministerial Assistance Requested. Medical Assist. 911 Misdiagonal. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. Assist Other Agency. Medical Assist.

**March 16**  
Minor One Vehicle Accident Reported. Parking Complaint. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. 911 Misdiagonal.

**March 17**  
Suspicious Activity Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Control Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. Drunk Driver Reported.

**March 18**  
Traffic Control Reported. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. Medical Assist. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. Threats Reported. Found Property Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Domestic Problem Reported. Civil Issue Reported. 911 Misdiagonal. Vehicle Vs. Deer Accident Reported. Assist Other Agency.

**March 19**  
Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Search Warrant Executed. Drunk Driver Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Minor Two Vehicle Accident Reported. Driving Complaint. Public Assist Requested. Driving Complaint. Assist Other Agency. Protection Order Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued.

**March 20**  
Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. 911 Misdiagonal. Civil Standby Requested. Auto Theft Reported. Trespassing Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Bar Walkthrough.

**Cowboy State Look-In**

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



**NWCC enrollment dips**

POWELL (WNE) — Northwest College's spring 2021 enrollment was in-line with what it typically sees relative to its fall enrollment. Preliminary figures show the total headcount stood at 1,442 students this semester, down just one from the fall. Meanwhile, the full-time equivalent (FTE) — which is the total credit hours taken of all students divided by 12 — was 1,133.4. That represents a roughly 6% decline from last fall's FTE of 1,204.8, but was consistent with historic trends; spring enrollment is usually about 7% lower than the fall FTE. The college has struggled with enrollment over the past decade, which has been a trend across the country and state for most institutions. NWC's headcount from the fall 2009 semester stood at 2,198 and sank to 1,461 by the fall of 2019, according to the Wyoming Community College Commission. That 33.5% at NWC was the steepest decline among the state's seven community colleges, according to the commission data. The next highest was Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs, where the headcount dropped 30.7% over the same period. Northwest College, however, started out with one of the highest headcounts in the state relative to the population of the county where it's based. In 2009, NWC's headcount represented 78 students per 1,000 residents in Park County. In comparison, Casper College had 62 students per 1,000 Natrona County residents; Casper College's enrollment fell 22.3% over the decade.

**Sundance man saves young boy**

SUNDANCE (WNE) — When Sundance man Doug Ramsey began volunteering at the world-famous Iditarod seven years ago, he did so because it was an important item on his bucket list. Last week at the Skwentna checkpoint, he ticked off another list-worthy achievement: saving the life of a child. According to a dispatch from the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Ramsey's quick thinking enabled him to rescue a young boy after he fell through the ice. On March 9, Alaska Wildlife Troopers Knier and Gunderson report that they were at the Iditarod checkpoint on the Skwentna River when they saw an eight-year-old child fall into a patch of open water. He immediately began to be pulled under the water by the current underneath the ice. The boy's ten-year-old brother grabbed him and struggled to keep him from being pulled under the ice, at which point Knier and Ramsey saw what was happening and sprinted over. According to a report from Alaska News Source, Ramsey took hold of the older brother and pulled him, while Knier grabbed the eight-year-old and was able to haul him from the water. "The Alaska Wildlife Troopers would like to thank Mr. Ramsey for his selfless act of courage, which prevented a tragic loss of life," states the dispatch.

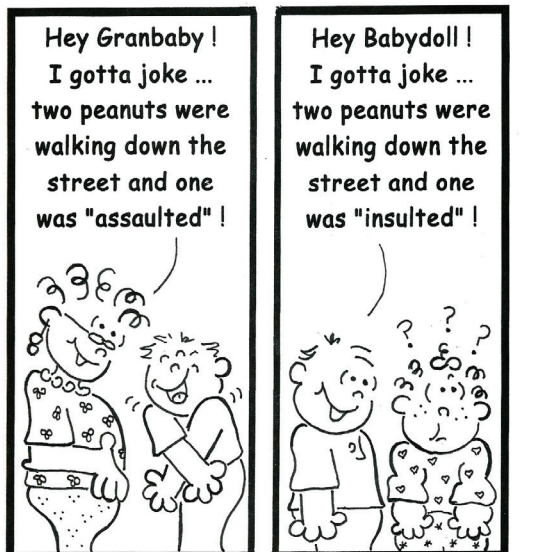
**LCCC closes auto body program**

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Laramie County Community College's decision to deactivate its automotive body repair program is raising concerns with some industry partners, who say it's one more blow to an industry already struggling to find talent. Last week, the LCCC Board of Trustees voted to close the program at the end of this school year, citing low enrollment, the expensive nature of the program and lower starting wages than those in comparable technical fields. Fewer than 12 students have enrolled in the auto body repair program since 2019, and only a total of four students have enrolled during the 2020-21 school year. LCCC President Joe Schaffer estimated that deactivating the program will save the college roughly \$200,000, which he said the college intends to reallocate toward building its manufacturing program offerings. Right now, the college does not offer a degree program in the area. David Robinette, the Northwest regional business development principal for the Inter-industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair, which has provided the curriculum to LCCC's program, said the deactivation is just one of several "unfortunate" auto body repair program closures he's seen across the Mountain West over the past few years. "We can't keep closing these schools, because we're in a critical state in the collision industry with a shortage of new entry-level technicians coming in. They're not coming in as fast as the retirees are coming out," Robinette said.

**Ski area closed because of bears**

JACKSON (WNE) — Grand Teton National Park has closed the east face of 25 Short to prevent conflict between backcountry skiers and riders and a denning grizzly bear. The closure is in effect until further notice and will impact the east-facing slope between the skier summit and the true summit of Peak 9975, which is colloquially referred to as 25 Short. Direct access across the summit ridgeline to Turkey Chute, Chute the Moon and other routes into Avalanche Canyon remains open. Skiers who choose to ski the steeper chutes off the westerly backside of 25 Short should have the appropriate knowledge, partners and plan. Bears are beginning to emerge from hibernation. The first active grizzly of the season was spotted in Yellowstone National Park earlier this week. About 50% of adult male grizzly bears are awake by mid-March, according to a Grand Teton National Park press release, while females with cubs tend to emerge between April and mid-May. Bears will be hungry after hibernation, and may be seeking out winter-killed carcasses in avalanche paths and other areas. Grand Teton National Park encouraged backcountry skiers to "be alert, aware of the surrounding area, and carry bear spray." "Black and grizzly bears may be located anywhere within the park, including developed areas," the press release continued. "All park visitors should carry bear spray and maintain a minimum of 100 yards from bears and wolves, and 25 yards from other wildlife."

**Gwamma** by JaNel M. Farnsworth



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 email: classifieds@newsjl.com  
 Send Classifieds via email, in a Word/Text document, call, or drop at the office.

## Classified Rates

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**Night Audit**  
 Newcastle Lodge is seeking a part time night audit. Additional shifts available.

**Cashier**  
 Short Stop Fuel Mart is now hiring a cashier. Must be 21. Will train. Apply in store.

**COMMUNITY Veterans**  
 Veterans Outreach and Advocacy

Program (Wyoming Dept Health/BHD) Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom eligible. For assistance, call 307-630-3230.

### Helping Hands Foundation

In need of assistance? Contact the Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County. To apply, call Glenda at 307-468-2316 or Carol at 746-2298.

**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, call Ellen Butts at 746-4251. All are welcome!

**AA Meetings**  
 Alcoholics Anonymous meets at WC Senior 627 Pine St, Family Room, around back

**NEWSLJ.COM**

of building. Mondays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Contact Stan 746-9199.

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### Housing

Dubois senior housing is taking applications for one-bedroom apartments in Dubois, Wyoming. Low income housing for: senior citizens, handicap or disabled. Call 307-455-3074, Equal

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### MISC For Sale

4 cemetery lots at Castle View burial park, Holy Road, lot 182, graves 3, 4, 5, & 6. Will sell as follows: 1 lot \$1,500, 2 lots \$2,500, 3 lots \$3,500, 4 lots \$4,500. If interested call Jennifer at

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### HELP WANTED

#### Labor positions & engineering intern

The City of Newcastle is seeking seasonal summer help for labor positions and an engineering intern. Applicants must be 18 years of age and have a current valid Wyoming Driver's License. Minimum starting wage is \$9.50/hr. Applications can be obtained at City Hall located at 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701 or at [newcastlewyoming.org/](http://newcastlewyoming.org/).

*The City of Newcastle is an equal opportunity employer.*

### FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

The Front Desk Supervisor is responsible for ensuring the operation of the Front Desk in an attentive, friendly, efficient and courteous manner, providing all guests with quality service prior to and throughout their stay, while maximizing room revenue and occupancy.

**ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Oversee staff and operations of the Front Desk and acts as Manager on Duty in absence of Assistant Manager and General Manager
- Within guidelines established by the hotel or management company, ensure proficient, professional handling of arriving and departing hotel guests.
- Displays leadership in guest hospitality, exemplifies exceptional customer service, monitors guest satisfaction to identify areas of improvement.
- Assists with training, motivating and supervising front desk staff.
- Consistently achieves monthly revenue production targets.
- Ensure proactive, professional sales effort is consistently undertaken to maximize revenues.
- Ensure that guest problems and complaints are handled in a courteous and professional manner and ensure follow through.
- Other duties may be assigned to meet business needs.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- High School diploma or GED required.
- Strong communication and listening skills and the ability to work and communicate effectively with the general public, employees, co-workers and with all levels of management.
- Working knowledge of MS Office required and hotel property management systems knowledge a plus but will train the right person.
- Proven ability to multi-task in a high-volume work setting with strong attention to detail and deadlines.
- Highly organized, results oriented with the ability to be flexible with schedules, assignments and additional duties.
- Previous experience in front desk leadership a plus.
- Morning, evening, night, weekend and holiday shifts are required.

Send resume' to Linda Ahlers  
 gm@newcastlelodgeway.com  
 EOE

## WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

Weston County Health Services is currently accepting applications for the following positions.  
**Please see our website at [www.wchs-wy.org](http://www.wchs-wy.org) for more details.**

Position	Status
Occupational Therapist	FT
Laboratory Tech	MT/MLJT, with ASCP preferred, FT
RN – Long-term Care	FT/PT/PRN
RN Acute Care	PRN
Nutrition Support Aide	PT
CNA	FT/PT/PRN
Physical Therapy Assistant	FT
Dietary Aide	PRN
Environmental Services Aide	PRN
Registration, Business Office	FT

Employment Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the hospital front desk.  
 Fax completed applications/resume packets to 307-746-3726, or email CTurner@wchs-wy.org.  
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Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Scott and Jacinta Domini are the new managers of the Sundowner Inn in Newcastle. Jacinta's brother, Jason Bushong, recently purchased the business.

## New faces in Newcastle Sundowner Inn under new ownership

**KateLynn Slaamot**  
NLJ Correspondent

After 16 years of owning and operating the Sundowner Inn, Clint and Stacey Sieber have closed that chapter of their lives and passed on the torch. The sale of the motel closed in November of last year, with Jason Bushong of California purchasing the business. Bushong also owns the apartment complex across from Isabella's.

"Selling was something Clint and I had talked about a year before. Unfortunately, the sale fell through. When the opportunity came up this past October, we sold," Stacey said. "We wanted to concentrate on our families and have some time to do things together."

While Clint and Stacey enjoyed the many friendships they made in their years running the motel, they are excited for Bushong, his sister Jacinta Domini and her husband, Scott, who will be managing and operating both the motel and the apartment complex.

Bushong said that he purchased the Sundowner because he wanted to make another investment in a nice, small community. He was born in Washington state, where he developed a love of outdoors, and he likes the small-town atmosphere of Newcastle.

"I love having a part of such a nice town and only wish I could possibly move to Newcastle someday," Bushong said.

The Dominis were already considering a move to the area, relocating from Colorado to Newcastle late last summer to manage Bushong's apartment complex. The couple was looking at a home with some acreage, and through a connection from that, they learned about the motel. With Bushong looking for another business venture, it was the perfect opportunity, Jacinta said.

"The community has been very welcoming," Jacinta said, noting that they immediately felt at home in the community. "[This community] just feels like a big family."

Stacey has been very welcoming to the couple

and has also been a huge help as they navigate this new experience, Jacinta said, and she has been willing to answer any questions that Scott and Jacinta may have.

Even other business owners have offered their help, Scott said, in his plan to open a food trailer on the motel property.

The plethora of wildlife in the Newcastle area — even in town — is another reason why they fell in love with the area, the Dominis said. Whether it be deer, turkey or other wildlife, Scott and Jacinta enjoy being able to appreciate the wildlife.

The couple said that they are anticipating future plans for the motel. According to Scott, the Siebers had done some remodeling and he and Jacinta plan to continue remodeling to bring the motel up to date.

In addition to working on the guest rooms, they plan to gut and redo a section of the motel as a long-term stay unit. As for the exterior, one side of the building has already gotten a new look of log siding, and plans are to do the same to the rest of the motel and add a green metal roof.

"We've got a lot of work on the inside of the building first," Scott said. In addition, Scott plans to open his food trailer on the location as a separate business in the late spring, and he will be selling Korean beef bulgogi.

But remodels are just part of the couple's plans. Jacinta said that they have aspirations for the heart of the motel and will continue Stacey's motto of "Just Like Home." They hope the motel can truly have that homey feel.

"I wish them all the joy and friendships that I experienced there," Stacey said of the new owner and managers.

Scott and Jacinta are excited to get to know the community more and serve it as business owners, they said, and they have loved living here over the past several months.

"People just get along with each other here," Scott said. "It's hard to describe, but this place is special to us."

## Lummis accepting applications for military academy nominations

U.S. Sen. Cynthia Lummis is now accepting applications for nominations to the U.S. military service academies for the 2022-2023 school year. Lummis will nominate students considering military careers for an opportunity to attend the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Military Academy at West Point, and the Naval Academy.

About the process Lummis said, "Wyoming students make exceptional members of our Armed Forces. The lessons we grow up with in Wyoming are integral to the knowledge needed to serve one's country well. These acad-

emies are some of the premier educational institutions in the nation, and those that attend are equipped with a unique set of experiences that will serve them throughout their lives. I hope that Wyoming students are encouraged to bring the exceptional traits that were engrained in their upbringing to these institutions."

Nominations are based on an evaluation of leadership, extra-curricular activities, academic grades, SAT/ACT test scores, and letters of recommendation. Based on the applicant's interview with Lummis's selection committee, applicants are recommended to Lummis for

final approval. Following her nomination, final appointments will be made by each academy.

All applicants for service academies, with the exception of the United States Coast Guard Academy, require a nomination. Applications for a nomination are due to Lummis' Cheyenne office by Oct. 31. The application, procedures, and specific applicant criteria are available at [lummis.senate.gov/academies/](http://lummis.senate.gov/academies/).

Applicants will be interviewed in Lummis' Casper office or via zoom in December.

For additional application information, contact Martha Wilson at (307) 772-2477.

## Soccer opening contest postponed

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Reporter

After two years, the Lady Dogie and Dogie soccer teams had to wait a little bit longer to get back on the pitch when Mother Nature threw a wrench into their opening contest scheduled for last week.

The 'Snowpocalypse' which hit southern

and eastern Wyoming also affected western Nebraska and pushed the teams' first contest at Scottsbluff, Neb., from Friday to Tuesday, March 23. As such, both squads headed south on Tuesday afternoon to kick off their season.

Look for an update in next week's edition of the *News Letter Journal* to find out how the Dogies fared in their first games of the 2021 season.

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### VACCINE INFORMATION



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has open COVID-19 vaccination  
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**(ALL PREVIOUS GROUPS MAY CONTINUE  
TO REGISTER AS WELL)**

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**PLEASE ANSWER 'YES' TO THE QUESTION 'ARE YOU 65 AND ABOVE'**

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COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center 1.800.438.5795

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Prompt:2; press 1

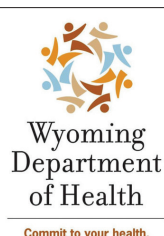
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