

News Letter Journal

Weston County

April 22, 2021

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 135 Week 16

Money for schools unchanged

Neiman: Education funding the 'black eye' of Legislature

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

School funding will remain unchanged despite more than \$300 million in shortfalls after the Wyoming House of Representatives and Senate were unable to reach an agreement on cuts during the session that ended on

April 7. This lack of action, according to local representatives, is the biggest failure of this year's session, pushing the education-funding dilemma down the road.

"The lack of passage of an education funding bill is the black eye that the state is going to have to deal with," said Rep. Chip Neiman, R-Sundance,

during a conversation with the *News Letter Journal* last week.

Legislators basically just postponed the inevitable, he said.

"Education funding has been kicked down the road basically," Neiman said. "We were not able to come to a resolution. The House was less willing to make cuts, and the Senate was

unwilling to add taxes, so we came to a deadlock, walking away with nothing resolved. There are no winners in that. I think we needed to come to some kind of decision."

According to Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle, House Bill 173 would have provided some changes in the funding model, initially leaving the

House with a half-cent sales tax, which would have gone into effect in three to four years, based on the balance of the state's rainy-day fund. This bill, he said, was killed when the conference committee was unable to agree on the difference in the bills

— See **Schools**, Page 2

AMBULANCE SERVICES are on LIFE SUPPORT



The ultimate risk is that you might not have ambulances coming to take care of you, and if you do, you might have to wait hours before someone gets to you. I think that's the concern that all of us have, because we're all health care providers and we want to take care of people."

— Matt Strauss, Regional Director for AMR.

Daniel Bendtsen
WyoFile.com

The historic revenue crisis facing Wyoming's state, county and municipal governments is threatening to claim yet another casualty: universally available ambulance service.

The state-wide problem is perhaps most acute in Fremont County, where a five-year-old cost-saving plan has unraveled, leaving the nearly Vermont-sized region without a single outfit interested in providing service beyond June.

Amid an economic downturn and significant budget cuts, Fremont County commissioners opted to privatize the county's ambulance service in March 2016.

The cost of the county-run ambulance service had been rising, resulting in a \$1.2 million budget request. The county's assessed tax base dropped 27% that year.

So commissioners signed a five-year contract with Guardian Flight. The private enterprise not only took over the EMS service, but it did so without requiring a governmental subsidy and paid the sheriff's office more than \$200,000 per year for dispatch services and another \$250,000 to rent the county's ambulance equipment.

At the time, there was a hope that Guardian — now owned by AMR — would eventually buy the county's equipment and the original contract would've been just the start of a long-term relationship.

Instead, the operation lost money from the get-go; in the 2020 fiscal year, AMR lost more than \$1 million in Fremont County, according to Matt Strauss, who oversees the local operation as regional director for AMR.

When county commissioners decided to issue a request-for-

proposals this year after failing to reach terms on a second agreement, AMR announced it wouldn't bid.

"We can't sustain that kind of loss long-term," Strauss said.

When the deadline for the RFP ended Thursday, however, no other company had bid either. County commissioners are set to discuss next steps Tuesday.

Before the RFP closed, Fremont County Commissioner Larry Allen had hoped AMR's successor wouldn't need any governmental subsidy, but also acknowledged that might not be possible.

"We're hopeful that, if we have to pay a subsidy, it'll be minimal," he said. "If they want something like \$1.5 million, the county might as well run it ourselves."

Long-term, Allen said, Fremont County will need to find a stable source of funding for EMS.

"We're going to have to do something, maybe a mill levy," he said. "Those are the conversations we've had with other commissioners. . . . If towns and cities want ambulances, they're also going to have to help out a bit."

Fremont County is just one Wyoming community where the future of EMS is uncertain. Its struggles with financing the service underscore an issue unfolding across the mostly rural state, where cash-strapped local governments are grasping to find a sustainable funding model to maintain a service most agree is essential.

The issue is now reaching a "breaking point that was easily predicted," said Andy Gienapp, the state's top EMS official from 2010 to 2021. "We have not gone about creating a design that works for the future or, when we see it, we're hesitant to make the changes that need to happen to really design something."

— See **Ambulances**, Page 8

Taking a look around



Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Macke

Last week youngsters from Weston County Children's Center had visits from the Weston County Sheriff's Department, Newcastle Police Department, Newcastle Ambulance Service and visited the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department to learn about emergency services and first responders in the community. Above, Charlie and Jaxon Sadler from the Elmo class explore the inside of a fire truck. See more photos on Page 10.

Legislative session wraps up

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The Wyoming Legislature wrapped up what Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, called a "productive session, as well as a frustrating one" with portions of it being virtual early on in the year, ending with an in-person session that concluded on April 7.

With nothing being done to address



approximately \$300 million in education shortfalls for the state, the Legislature did pass a supplemental budget bill for fiscal year 2022 with reductions to the general fund of \$430 million, according to Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle. She noted that this is about 96% of the \$446 million recommended by the Joint Appropriations Committee and that it contains no tax increases.

"At the same time, the bill preserves funding for services critical to Wyoming's vulnerable populations and investments to continue to strengthen and grow our economy, including: the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services; the University of Wyoming and the state's community colleges; Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS); the UW cryptocurrency matching program and advisory council; and the

— See **Legislature**, Page 7

Clinic purchases move forward

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The Weston County Health Services board of trustees voted to move forward with purchasing the Newcastle and Upton clinics from

Monument Health after preliminary costs were presented to the board on April 15. The board accepted the numbers as presented.

According to CEO Maureen Cadwell, this motion will allow attorneys

to start getting paperwork drawn up regarding the sale to Weston County Health Services. The preliminary numbers presented to the board were \$137,575 to Monument Health for the equipment, staff and other

clinic infrastructure, not including the buildings.

"This doesn't include the buildings, which are not owned by Monument Health," Cadwell told the

— See **Clinics**, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Sunny
Hi 50, Lo 30



Friday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 48, Lo 24



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 53, Lo 38



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 64, Lo 42



Monday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 64, Lo 37



Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 51, Lo 33



Wednesday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 59, Lo 36



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Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Having made their selections at Gigi's Closet, Viola Carlson and Clark Brady bring clothing up to checkout desk, while Elaine Wilcomb puts them in bags. Gigi's Closet accepts clothing donations, and is located at First United Methodist Church in Newcastle.

Donations to Gigi's provide clothing for those in need

Walter Sprague
Arts & Culture Reporter

There's a little-known place in Newcastle to help those in need of clothing, located in the basement of the First United Methodist Church off Seneca Avenue.

"Gigi's Closet is a place for people to bring clothes they don't use anymore but that still have some good use in them," said Phyl Sundstrom.

With the plan to repurpose used clothing, an idea was formed in the mind of Irma Fouch during a Sunday School class at the church, which led to Gigi's Closet being open about four years ago. In 2020, Gigi's Closet was mostly shut down due to COVID-19, but when things started to open up in the fall, Gigi's also re-opened.

With some racks donated by Dan Decker of Decker's

Market and other donations from many people and organizations, Gigi's serves the community to ensure that anyone who needs clothes that are still in good condition can get some. Operating free of charge, Gigi's relies on donations of clothing for all ages, including children's outfits. Of course, any donations of money are greatly appreciated as well, but not necessary.

Donations to Gigi's are preferred on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month when the closet is open to the public, but they can also be delivered to the church office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

The name of the place, "Gigi," is for the late Evelyn Zingery, former county clerk and member of the Methodist church. Her grandchildren called her Gigi, which means

grandmother. She was a much-loved member of the church and the community. So when the brainstorming about the closet was done it was decided that it would make a good name, and a fitting tribute to a respected lady.

The good will of people who donate to Gigi's Closet does not necessarily end with Newcastle, however. Any clothing that has not moved in a while gets packed up and sent to Cornerstone Rescue Mission Women's Shelter in Rapid City. So the benevolence lives on, even past the boundaries of Weston County.

Anyone who is in need of clothing with plenty of wear in them, or wishes to donate clothes or financial assistance, can stop by First United Methodist Church of Newcastle and get to know the volunteers that run this service.

THE FOURTH ESTATE the press; the profession of journalism

The Watchdog: a role that is still important to a functioning democracy.



GOOD CITIZENS

APRIL 2021



Callan Smith
3rd, Miss Munoz

The month of April is considered to be the "growing season," and just like the plants around us have started to blossom, so has this young man in third grade. I have seen this student not only grow in the month of April but throughout the school year as well. From the start, this student has demonstrated responsibility. He comes in every morning ready to start with the morning routines. After completing his own morning work, I often look up to find him helping out his classmates. When coming in from recess he quickly finds his seat and rests his head on his desk to show he is ready for the next step. His enthusiasm for learning becomes very contagious during our math lessons. He is very passionate about math and always strives to do his absolute best. He is very respectful not only to his peers but to the adults around the school. I remember watching him thank a police officer one morning for helping us out with the morning traffic and help things go smoothly. He has a very kind, sweet, and easy-going personality, which makes selecting him for Good Citizen easy. Congratulations, Callan Smith! Miss Munoz and all of your classmates are very proud of you!



Owen Evenson
4th, Mrs. Liggett

Our Good Citizen for fourth grade has been selected for so many reasons. His kind nature is noticeable from the moment you meet him. He is a friend to everyone and never hurtful to anyone. He is a leader, does not cave to peer pressure, and respects everyone around him. Many times, others have chosen to make good decisions because of the example he sets. He is not easily distracted and always willing to help others that are. I have found him to have a calm and level-headed attitude about everything he encounters during the day. This young man is a true good citizen. Congratulations, Owen Evenson.



Trent Dutcher
5th, Mr. Dickey

As the year is beginning to come to an end, we have heard many students earn this award for exhibiting qualities that make them good citizens — qualities such as responsibility, kindness, positivity, and respect. This month's Good Citizen exhibits all these qualities and more. This young man has been a tremendous asset to our classroom, starting from the very first day of school. He comes in every single day with a positive mindset. He can often be found helping in the classroom, holding doors open for staff members and students, or working as a leader in group activities. Not only does this young man demonstrate all these qualities, but my personal favorite quality about him is he refuses to settle for good enough. He has worked tirelessly this year to get better every day and continues to be the very best version of himself. For this reason, it is my honor to award fifth grade's Good Citizen Award to Trent Dutcher.

Schools

from Page 1

presented by each body.

"Because of this, education will continue to be funded at the same level for the remainder of this biennium," Hunt said.

According to Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, the lack of agreement will continue to draw down the state's savings and cause cuts to the parts of state government funded from the general fund, which took a \$430 million hit during this legislative session.

Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle, was one of six legislators serving on the Joint Conference Committee discussing HB 173. She stated that they worked hard to find common ground between the House and the Senate, but in the end the group was unable to.

"The House continues to want to permanently divert money from income sources into education, while the Senate's position is to be transparent and let the people know how much is diverted and where it came from," Driskill said. "Once again, the Senate held true to no new taxes until education is brought under control and has an honest spending plan going forward."

Steinmetz added that both legislative bodies have a very different approach when it comes to funding education in the state and the lack of an agreement is essentially unfair to the other agencies and departments that are facing cuts. "To me it is not fair that K-12 education does not have to come to the table and be a part of team Wyoming, working together to solve the state's financial woes," Steinmetz said in a conversation with the *News Letter Journal*. "Hopefully we can continue the discussion. We spent a lot of time and money on recalibration and came to no solution. We put in a lot of time and effort to get very little result and that is discouraging."

"Under the current model, taxes will have to be raised over \$1 billion in the next decade to keep up with education — this is unsustainable," Driskill added. "A fiscal cliff of cuts of up to 30% is in the future for education if a solution cannot be found soon."

And a solution is exactly what is needed, according to Weston County School District No. 1 Superintendent Brad LaCroix.

"Sure, there is a money crunch. I don't think they are lying but we have to look for solutions," LaCroix said.

When looking at education, he said, you cannot just look at the money side of things but also at the basket of goods, what we want a Wyoming high school graduate to look like. LaCroix noted that the Legislature must also consider the draw that the Wyoming education system has in bringing new families and teachers into the area.

"When we talk about education, we are talking about the livelihood of families, about the economics of Wyoming," LaCroix said. "We want to be viable to young families, and having good schools, housing and medical access are the packages that we are going to have to offer."

If times are as tough as the legislators say, he said, it is crucial that the local boards have the time to address the needs and do what is best for the people they represent.

"There has to be a system in education that is more consistent than a knee-jerk reaction in April," LaCroix said. "The whole idea that there are going to be no gives and no takes ... for as much as we say we aren't like D.C. (the federal government), we sure do behave a lot like D.C."

LaCroix stressed that those seeking a solution must focus on what the state wants for our students and children, because if they don't, then they are just a bunch of adults not getting along.

With the hopes of addressing the K-12 funding issues in the state, Steinmetz reported that Gov. Mark Gordon plans to create a committee to look at the issue.

"We have pretty big differences and we are in a deadlock where we are. We are having trouble finding common ground and will continue to do so," Steinmetz said, noting that the governor's committee should hopefully help find some common ground the two legislative bodies can agree on.



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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.

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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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Our View

Sharing from our proud partners

We have always taken pride in the fact that the vast majority of what you see in these pages was produced by the staff of the *News Letter Journal*. Unfortunately, a decade-long decline in newspaper revenue in this country has forced us to make a choice between the pride we take in the information we actually produce for you and the passion we have to provide our community with the most accurate and relevant information available.

The *News Letter Journal* truly believes that arming the citizens of Weston County with this knowledge is the best way we can fulfill our mission to promote our community and allow its residents to govern themselves successfully, so it really wasn't much of a choice. We have been confronted with the very real possibility that financial support for newspapers will continue to decrease for the foreseeable future, and that has helped us realize that pride is far more expensive than passion — and serves far less purpose.

As a result, we have sought partnerships with a growing number of readers who represent our own home-grown version of citizen journalists, and in the future we hope to work with even more of the talented individuals who produce their own photographs and stories about our community. Our platforms - both in print and online - offer an opportunity for people to share their passion for Weston County with our

audience, and we welcome the chance to introduce even more of you to readers moving forward.

While there is nothing more valuable to us than the partnerships we enjoy in our own community, our desire to make sure our readers have access to the information most valuable to them has also motivated us to form partnerships with other journalists in Wyoming. These partnerships allow us to use the work they produce when we believe it is relevant or important to the community we serve.

Our page one story, "Ambulance services are on life support across Wyoming," is an example of these new types of industry partnerships as it was produced by WyoFile reporter Daniel Bendsten and shared with you through the *News Letter Journal's* membership in the Wyoming News Exchange.

The Wyoming News Exchange was created by former Wyoming Press Association Executive Director Jim Angell and his wife Mary as a means to compile and share the most important stories produced by the state's top newspapers.

(You may have met Jim and Mary before, as Jim traveled here occasionally to speak to various groups about open meetings and public records laws in Wyoming, and the talented couple also performed at street dances and other events the *News Letter Journal* sponsored in years past - including our eclipse celebration in August, 2017.)

WyoFile — a non-profit online news outlet that is an associate member of the Wyoming Press Association — was eagerly welcomed to participate in the News Exchange. They have produced a number of valuable statewide stories that we have shared with our readers on newsnj.com, and we were more than happy to swallow our pride and put Bendsten's excellent story on our front page this week because we think the information it contains is valuable to you — and we quite literally couldn't have done it better ourselves.

We think it is important to let our readers know that the challenges surrounding the need to provide affordable ambulance service isn't isolated to Weston County, and we hope our own decision-makers will see the benefit in examining what other communities are doing in the face of this struggle. Perhaps they may even reach out to share ideas and experiences in the hopes of identifying solutions.

We were also pleased that the owner of the local ambulance service was contacted by WyoFile and was willing to provide additional information and insights. He has largely declined the opportunity to comment on stories regarding the subject in this publication, and also reluctant to reveal information at public meetings where local officials have tried to address the uncertain future of ambulance service in Weston County, so we are pleased to

offer the insight to our readers regardless of who did the work.

That's what collaborative journalism is really all about — getting the best information to The People so they can best govern themselves — and we're proud to share our talents and pool our own work with the state's top newspapers and online news outlets. (In addition to WyoFile, we also collaborate with the *Cowboy State Daily* and its publisher, Bill Sniffin. You see Bill's columns in this paper frequently, and *NLJ* stories have run on that website a number of times).

Our wounded pride has also been somewhat salvaged by the fact that our work is seen by more readers through the contributions we've made to other news outlets since the inception of the Wyoming News Exchange. We truly hope that our stories have benefitted other communities because the passion journalists have for the mission we share... has to be enough to overcome the challenges faced by our industry.

Collaborative journalism helps us ensure that we can insulate our readers and communities from the economic challenges faced by our industry because it means we can provide just as much information as we have in the past, and maybe more. For that we're grateful to our partners, both within our community and without, and we invite our readers to take full advantage by checking in at newsnj.com for more stories from our partners.

Dangers of the "For the People Act"

I write today to offer my opinion on recent legislation before Congress, H.R. 1, legislation monickered deceptively as the "For the People Act," sets a dangerous precedent for the usurpation of state sovereignty. I posit that its name is misleading because it does not seek to protect our election and, if our elections are not secure, they are no good "for the people."

H.R. 1 would greatly burden Wyoming's ability to run accurate, efficient and secure elections. Specifically, this legislation would interfere with our ability to: determine the qualifications of our voters; ensure the accuracy of our voter registration rolls; secure our elections process in

Edward S. Buchanan
Secretary of State
Guest Column

a way that meets Wyoming's needs; ensure participation of our voters in the electoral process; and determine the district boundary lines of our representatives.

H.R. 1 makes the assumption that elections can be run through a "one size fits all" method, however, nothing could be further from the truth. This bill contains requirements that would not work in Wyoming, both from practical and constitutional perspectives.

The way we run elections in Wyoming is fundamentally different than the election process in other states. What works in Wyoming would not necessarily work in California, or Louisiana — or vice versa. The ability for each state to run its elections to best suit their citizens allows our system to remain decentralized, flexible, and nimble to accomplish great things in very little time without federal interference or mandates. In fact, this decentralization is one of the key ways to thwart fraud.

Laws such as H.R. 1 would prohibit Wyoming from passing legislation that we believe is best for our state, similar to Wyoming HEA 72 Voter Identification which was

signed into law this month. HEA 72 aims to defer fraud at the polls through the use of voter identification.

The "Voter ID" legislation passed this session by the Wyoming legislature is the culmination of several sessions of work by the legislature to pass a bill of this nature. It is a proactive effort to keep Wyoming's elections among the elite in the areas of security and transparency. Conversely, H.R. 1 would require Wyoming to undertake a universal mail-in ballot election, something that is prohibited by our state constitution.

I communicated my concerns to our congressional delegation about the dangers of this bill and they agree with

my position.

I will fight this bill vigorously and have offered to testify before Congress, as needed. I have offered my efforts, along with those of many other secretaries of state, to fight H.R.1 and its companion legislation, S1 before the Senate.

And, should it become law, I will support efforts to stop it in the courts.

I am grateful for the trust that Wyoming's citizens have placed in me to carry out the duties of the Secretary of State. I remain dedicated to ensuring the people of Wyoming can freely exercise their right to vote in a state that continues to exemplify safe and secure elections.

Personal constitution: embodied in the First Amendment

The concept of the "Personal Constitution," which we introduced in this column last week, is personified in the First Amendment freedoms, particularly in the rights of religious liberty and freedom of expression. The exercise of these liberties summons the most fundamental beliefs that human beings possess.

The First Amendment affords protection for the component parts of the human spirit and the freedom of conscience — emotions, beliefs and reason. Nothing in the Constitution is more personal than this protection. Various views and strains of thought were entwined in shaping the First Amendment. The Framers began the initial amendment with the words: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Freedom of speech, press, assembly and the right to petition government followed the religion clauses.

The prominence of religious freedom in the minds of the Founders was understandable, given the fact that American colonists belonged to various churches. Recall that many had fled European countries to escape

religious oppression. The Founders rejected in the "Establishment Clause," the very idea that government could impose upon the people an official church or even religious orthodoxy. Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Statute of Religious Liberty, adopted in 1786, formed the basis for the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, and declared that no person should be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship nor suffer on account of religious opinions and beliefs. Congress, through its authority to enact laws, was meant to stay out of the realm of religion, leaving the people free to decide whether or not to worship and, if they did, how they would worship.

The "great object" of the Bill of Rights, James Madison had said, when introducing his draft of amendments to the House of Representatives, was to "limit and qualify the powers of Government," for the purpose of making certain that none of the powers granted to the government could be exercised in forbidden fields, including religion. Since Congress was granted no authority to impose religious orthodoxy, or otherwise establish an official church or religion, the assertion that Congress could provide aid to religion in general would mean that the First Amendment was actually

"adding" powers to the congressional arsenal. That view would contradict what Madison had said, that the First Amendment was intended to restrict Congress to the powers it possessed in Article I of the Constitution, and since it had no authority to legislate in the field of religion, it could not support religion on any basis. To assert that an express prohibition on power creates power is wholly arbitrary and without any merit.

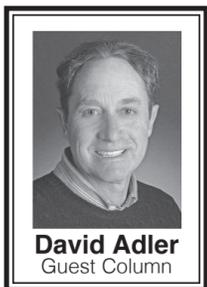
The starting point for the freedom of religion, then, was found in the Establishment Clause. The freedom of religion, carved out specifically in the "Free Exercise Clause," the Supreme Court said for the first time in 1940, in *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, "embraces two concepts — freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute but, in the nature of things, the second cannot be. Conduct remains subject to the regulation of society." There is, of course, no need for a constitutional guarantee protecting a freedom to "believe," since, as the Common Law held, "the devil himself knows not the thoughts of man." The regulation of conduct in the name of religion will be addressed at a later date, but suffice it to say, that a citizen's thoughts and beliefs are off limits to the government.

The intensely personal freedom of religion, exercised through one's exploration of the universe and relationship to God, was linked to freedom

of expression in the First Amendment, for natural reasons. Those who discovered the path to salvation would feel the need and certainly the right or even the duty to share the gospel with others. Freedom of expression would serve both the speaker and the listener. Suppression would thus deny to both parties the communication of an important message, perhaps one critical to gaining entry to an afterlife. The concept of broader spiritual liberty was derived from a more narrow religious focus. Men and women who might not embrace a specific church doctrine, would suffer a violation of their freedom of expression and spiritual liberty, if they were denied access to other speakers and listeners.

The existence of freedom of religion and freedom of expression, born of similar concerns, are more intensely personal than any other liberty protected by the Constitution. They embody the essence of the Personal Constitution.

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



David Adler
Guest Column

You are invited
to join award-winning
singer/songwriter **Ron Hughes**
in concert

APRIL 25, 2021
Assembly of God Church, Upton @ 10:30 a.m.
Skull Creek Community Hall @ 6 p.m. • Carry-in to follow

A gifted songwriter and cowboy poet, Mr. Hughes has had many "Top Ten" Gospel songs in the U.S. and abroad, with 12 Gospel albums and one "Christian Cowboy" album to his credit. Born and raised in Wyoming, he travels extensively, sharing the Gift of Music! As well as being nominated for many awards numerous times, The Country Gospel Music Guild voted him:
"Male Horizon" winner, 2001
"Artist of the Year" winner, 2004
"Male Vocalist" winner, 2005

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Obituaries

BEVERLY JOAN KING
July 10, 1937–April 16, 2021

Beverly Joan King was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, and a friend to all that she met.

She was called to rejoice in heaven on April 16, 2021, at Weston County Health Services in Newcastle, Wyo., after battling a lengthy illness. She was 83.

Beverly was born to Alford and Irene Jacobs on July 10, 1937, in Newton, Iowa. After graduating high school from Good Sheppard's Catholic School for girls in Sioux City, Iowa, she began working as a café waitress, where she met Eldon King. They were married on July 26, 1957, in Des Moines, Iowa, and shortly after moved to Newcastle to be near family. Together they raised three children, Terry, Sheila, and Kathleen.

Beverly worked as a school custodian at Gertrude Burns Elementary for many years. In retirement Beverly enjoyed the simplest of pleasures in life that brought her joy. Her family was her life, she enjoyed spending time watching and being a part of her grandchildren. You could see the joy in her eyes, and a large smile on her face as she spoke of them. Beverly had a heart of gold and would do anything she could to make sure those around her were taken care of, not a truer friend could be found.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband, Eldon; mother, Irene; father, Alford; sister, Shirley; and two brothers, Delmar, and Dennis.

She is survived by her sisters, Mary Helen and Sue, of Iowa; brothers, David, Colorado, and Daniel, Idaho; children, Terry (Tonya) Gillette, Sheila, Lusk, Wyo., and Kathleen, Newcastle; as well as 10 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Weston County B.R.E.A.D. Office. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railroad Ave., Newcastle, WY 82701. Condolences may also be expressed at meridian mortuary.com.



Beverly King

ROBERT H. QUEEN
June 7, 1940–April 14, 2021

His horse is saddled, the cinches are tight, barn door closed, reins over the neck, and foot into the stirrup. Sitting tall in the saddle with his hat pulled down tight, rope in hand, Robert H. Queen rides over the great divide with the Lord to ride and rope forever and ever. Bob's last ride began April 14, 2021, at the Crook County Hospital in Sundance, Wyo.

Bob was born in Deadwood, S.D., on June 7, 1940, to Oliver "Olie" and Alice (Jones) Queen. Bob grew up with his brother, Sonny, and sister, Lois, on the Gunn Ranch. From a young age Bob was always a cowboy at heart. He continuously had a rope in his hand, even sometimes a rope made of twine to rope his mother's chickens by their legs. In 1948 Bob's parents purchased the Cameron Ranch near Farrell, Wyo., where Bob attended grade school. He was homeschooled during his high school years. Following his father's death in 1963, Bob and Sonny took over the ranch.

In 1965 Bob married Roberta Hook and to this union a son, Kevin, was born.

In 1966 Bob and Sunny began building a dairy barn which later developed into a thriving dairy business producing dairy for the Cheese Factory located in Sturgis, S.D.

Bob had a lifelong passion of breaking and training horses and worked hard to perfect his ability to rope. His love for horses and roping led to several winnings, including belt buckles and a saddle. He served as the director of the NRCA for eight years.

In 1980 Bob married Carol Hesse and became the father to her daughters, Lori and Tia. Bob was widowed following Carol's passing in 1987.

In 1989 Bob married Bonnie and became the father of Paul, Wayne, Julie, and later BobbiJo.

Bob leaves behind his wife, Bonnie; and children, Kevin Queen, Lori (Leon) Hutchinson, Tia (Adam) Carr, Paul Pollat (Lisa), Wayne (Christina) Pollat, Julie Hughes, and BobbiJo Queen (Matt);



Robert Queen

grandchildren, Laurel Carr, Jolene Pollat, Madison and Paysen Pollat, and Shatehya, Rylan, and Hadlie Hughes. He also leaves behind a sister, Lois Perino (Richard); and extended family (best friends) – Ray Marchant and family – Gerald McInerney and family.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents, Olie and Alice; brother, Duane "Sonny;" and wife, Carol.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on April 20 at Crook County Central Office Gymnasium. A viewing was held prior to services, and burial was at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

Memorials have been established for the benefit of the NRCA and WJRA.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Roberts & Isburg Funeral Chapel of Sundance, Wyo.

Online condolences may be written at fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com.

CINDY HOFFMANN RAMIREZ
Dec. 22, 1959–Jan. 19, 2021

Cindy Patricia Hoffmann was born Dec. 22, 1959, the oldest child of Marlyn and Patricia (Heppner) Hoffmann, in Rapid City, S.D. She passed away on Jan. 19, 2021, from pneumonia/COVID-19 complications in Humble, Texas.

Cindy's early years were spent in the Faith and Sturgis, S.D., area. In 1967 the family moved to Gillette, Wyo., working for Dick Mader. Cindy had great memories of teachers and friends while attending the rural Rawhide Country School. While at the Mader Ranch, Cindy was very grateful for the opportunity to attend Wildwood Christian Retreat Summer Bible Camps. It was here that she heard the Gospel Story and accepted Jesus into her heart. Cindy's faith was strong — it got her thru many difficult occasions in her life. It wasn't just a religion to her, it was a relationship with her Savior Jesus.

The family moved to Ashland, Mont., in 1974 and Cindy attended Broadus High School her freshman year. Summer



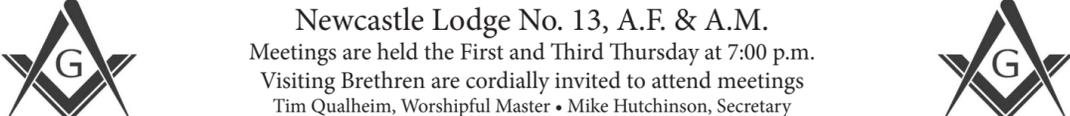
Cindy Ramirez

— See Obituaries, Page 6

Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to design@newsli.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

Apr. 23 Psalm 52	Apr. 27 Psalm 102
Apr. 24 Psalm 56	Apr. 28 Psalm 103
Apr. 25 Psalm 57	Apr. 29 Psalm 121
Apr. 26 Psalm 91	Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Wendy Owens, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. 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

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ~Romans 8:28

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Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society

This is the branding scene on a ranch near Newcastle. Horton Ranch - Frank Pedulla, Tony Farella, Rod Guthrie, Jim Pedulla, Leno Farella, Al Kagle, Shorty Waltz.

Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

25 Years Ago
April 25, 1996

Voters will decide whether they want a museum district in Weston County on June 13. The Weston County Commissioners have set the special election for that date. In addition to the museum district question, voters will also cast ballots for museum district trustees. Six trustee positions are open.

Someone is poisoning cats in the area of Wood and Willard Streets and the Weston County Humane Society and the Salt Creek Veterinary Clinic are issuing a warning to all pet owners in Newcastle.

The Newcastle Soccer League is planning an "all-soccer weekend" May 3-5. Activities begin with a fundraiser in conjunction with the Newcastle Pizza Hut on May 3.

Nancy Penton Smith will discuss the role of the buffalo in Plains Indian culture in her program "The Bison and Native Americans," on May 4 at the Weston County Library Meeting Room.

The Kountry Kowpokes met April 17 in the activity room at Weston Manor. President Jay Tysdal called the meeting to order. Kimberly Domina and Lori Bair led the group in the pledges. Other members present were: Cole and Will Lambert, Merilee Newman, Rebecca

Shaw, and Heidi Howell.

Two Newcastle Dogies have received All State honors at the close of the winter sports season. Senior Carla Dowdy was named All State in girls' basketball while Aaron Erickson, a junior, was named an All Stater in boys' swimming.

Marty Sedgwick, Newcastle High School senior, won the average in the saddle bronc event in Thermopolis at the high school rodeo. Marty scored a 65 on Saturday and a 61 on Sunday to win the average and now sits second in the state in that event.

Forty-plus pieces of artwork done by Newcastle High School art students will be displayed at the 1995-96 Wyoming State High School Art Symposium this week.

The Newcastle Saddle and Sirloin Chapter attended the Wyoming State FFA Convention held in Powell, Wyo. April 11-13. FFA students may participate in the state contests if they have won at the regional level.

50 Years Ago
April 22, 1971

Cambria Forest Industries started operating the sawmill in Newcastle Monday morning. Cambria purchased the mill from U.S. Plywood-Champion Paper Company recently. The

mill has not been operating since the middle of March.

Duane Carr, Marty Chittim, Richard Huber and Jeff Grimm, all Gertrude Burns Grade School students participated in the Regional AAU Wrestling matches at Baker, Mont., Saturday. Duane placed fourth in his weight class.

On Tuesday, Apr. 27, the Newcastle grade school and junior high school students will present a concert. Both the fifth and sixth grade bands and the junior high band will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium

The recent sale of Holwell Oil Company in Newcastle by Doug Holwell to Leonard Sedgwick has been announced. Holwell Oil Company is a dealer for petroleum products and has facilities on East Wentworth.

The 21st annual Fiddler's Frolic, sponsored by the Newcastle Odd Fellows, will be held Saturday evening. The Frolic will start at 8 p.m. at the Odd Fellows hall and the dance will start at 10 p.m. with music by the Alex Mitich orchestra.

Shearers were busy at the Art Williams' ranch from Tuesday until Friday. Tuesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Art Williams were at the Jim Materi ranch to get the automatic wool trampler. Walter Ritthaler

called at the Williams' Friday to get the wool trampler to use it at his ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Quest visited Saturday afternoon with the Clay Georges. Mrs. Lyndon Childs and Larry Byrne were Wednesday evening callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Peterson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Peterson and Jon trucked wool to Belle Fourche Wednesday. Saturday Mrs. Wayne Peterson and sons were in Newcastle on business.

The regular meeting of the Order of Eastern Star held April 13 was observed as Wyoming night with 38 members present. All officers and the flag bearer were dressed in old fashioned clothing.

100 Years Ago
April 21, 1921

Newcastle has leaped into the limelight as a tourist center with the announcement that two hundred Iowa Boy Scouts will be routed through this place to the National Park this season provided entertainment can be furnished the boys along the route of the Black and Yellow Trail.

Walter Bolden, a Weston county boy who is well known to many citizens here, having attended the local schools, is ill with smallpox at the Kirk home in this city. He is attended by his wife.

Judge M.B. Camplin, mayor of Sheridan, is in Newcastle this week attending to court matters. Mac Quest was in town the first of the week attending to business matters from his home in the far west county on Raven creek.

R.S. Douglas was in town shaking hands with friends and doing business errands a few days the first of the week.

Charles Whitman, driver for the A.M. Nichols Supply company, was hurt last Friday in a runaway. While the injuries are not serious, they necessitated his laying off for a couple of days. He is back on the delivery dray at this time.

C. Ferguson was in the city the first of the week from the LAK, where he has recently come to look over operations with the beginning of spring work.

James G. Stephens is living on the road between Newcastle and Strawberry Dome of late, where the wildcat well, Dixie Carroll Well No. 1, is reported to be sinking rapidly.

Seven new members were given their final degrees in the Knights of Pythias lodge last Friday night. The phenomenal growth of the order in Newcastle places the lodge among the largest in the state of Wyoming.

W.G. Morgan, who has spent the last few weeks on his home-stead came in Friday with a beautiful tan and some aching shoulders with the announcement that he had just set his 500th post.

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Crystalxx Barrels in Stock: BGF 20% w/Mag, HE 20% w/Mag
Available via Transfer/Order: Blueprint Mineral w/Mag, Sweet 14 Barrel w/Mag

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LIL DOGIE LUNCH

Lila Scott, Gustavo Munoz, Nash Mefford, Brecklee Loeb, Ashlynn Mills, Calad Stroh



Thank you Wayback 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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The Short Stop Deli is seeking a full-time employee for the kitchen. Salary DOE. EOE.

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The Short Stop

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Open 4am-9pm Monday-Friday
6am-9pm Saturday & Sunday

WHAT'S UP

April/May 2021

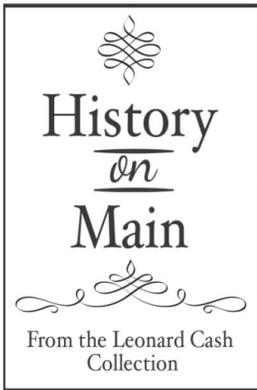
Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Fri Apr. 23	11:30AM 5:30PM	WC Library System Board Mtg. BINGO	Library Meeting Rm. VFW Hall
Sun Apr. 25	10:30AM 6PM	Ron Hughes in concert Ron Hughes in concert, carry-in to follow	Upton Assembly of God Church Skull Creek Com. Center
Tues Apr. 27	3:30PM	Alzheimers/Dementia Support	Zoom
Wed Apr. 28	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday AG Day	WCHS Four Seasons Arena
Thurs Apr. 29	4PM 5-9PM 6PM	WCTC Co-op Grant Deadline Martial Arts Class WC Republican Party meeting w/ leg report	Call 746-2896 Fairgrounds Newcastle Lodge
Apr. 30-May 2	9AM	Newcastle High School Rodeo	Weston County Fairgrounds

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Theater sues bank for collapsed wall



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent
With Leonard Cash,
Historian

In last week's installment of "History on Main," Leonard Cash began a series about South Seneca Avenue behind the Mondell building, which was once owned by First State Bank. The bank was constructing a new brick building there in 1939, which is where we pick up this week.

An article from the April 6, 1939, issue of the *News Journal* reported that the west wall of Castle Theatre collapsed without warning due to the excavation project behind First State Bank for a new brick building, causing several thousand dollars' worth of damage. Contractor Gillette Mason said the southwest corner of the theater was the cause of the collapse because it was completely soaked with water. However, there was some good news in the article. The digging of the basement was completed and the workers planned to bolster wall soon.

The June 15, 1939, paper reported that Esther Cleveland, owner of theater, filed a \$13,289.42 lawsuit against First State Bank because of the collapse, charging the defendant with "carelessness and negligence" during the excavation, which she said was "so close to the wall of the theatre as to remove the earthen support and in places mined under the wall." She was also alleging that they

disregarded her husband's warning that the wall could collapse. Cleveland sought \$5,000 for damage from the one-story partial collapse, \$2,000 for the second story falling, \$5,000 for the structures destroyed from the wall and roof falling in, \$367 for the destroyed picture reels, \$812.50 for loss of profit during closure and \$109.02 for workmen compensation.

Despite the lawsuit, work on the building was "progressing nicely" and increasing the attractiveness of the street, according to the June 29, 1939, issue. With the new building came new equipment, and when the building was almost finished by Aug. 3, 1939, the business firms started settling in. Dutch's Barber shop installed new equipment, making it "probably one of the finest and most modern shops in the state." Dr. A.J. Benesh opened up his office, which included a waiting room furnished with maple furniture, a therapy room, an X-ray examination room and a basement for storage. Modern Cleaners, which was next to the doctor's office, opened with a new press from Hoffman Pressing Machine Co. The fourth section on the south end, where D.G.'s lunchroom was to be, wasn't completed yet, but "men were rushing work" on it.

"Each business has a large front window and the interior decoration are finished in attractive colors," the article says.

New complications arose in the lawsuit when, according to a news report from Oct. 26, 1939, there were two pending cases. The first was still Cleveland's against the bank for the collapsed wall, but First State Bank decided to sue Cleveland, Mason and the American Surety Co. of New York for \$14,039.42 "and the determination of the respective rights of the plaintiff, and the defendant, Esther Cleveland, and asked for a declaratory judgment declaring the meaning and construction of the construction contract, specifications and

bond given by the defendant contractor, as principal, and the American Surety company as surety."

Preston T. McAvoy and Sheridan attorney R.E. McNally represented First State Bank in both cases, and E.C. Raymond and Rodney Guthrie represented Cleveland. Mason and the American Surety Co. were represented by their own attorneys. However, they decided to settle the matter without a trial, so a stipulation and agreement released each party.

"This agreement recites that the consideration was \$7,000 for the receipt of which Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland released the other interested parties from all claims arising out of the excavation or collapse of the party wall," the article says.

A variety of businesses occupied this building, including the Club Café. According to the Dec. 18, 1947, issue of the paper, Frieda Japp purchased the café, and she was a "well-known" citizen in town and "will appreciate any patronage shown her." Her hours were from 5:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., seven days a week.

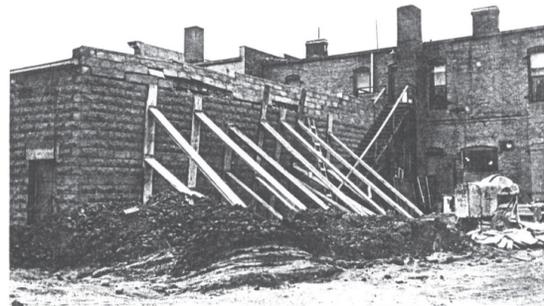
By Jan. 15, 1948, she was testing being a 24-hour café until further notice. She invited the community to come try the homemade pies.

Not only was there a café, but an article from Aug. 19, 1948, announced that the B&B 24-hour service cab station was available at the café.

Around Nov. 22, 1945, Robert R. Eide decided to open a radio service shop next to the barber shop, which was also located behind the bank.

Three years later, the Cap 'N Bottle liquor store was added by Dan L. Evander two doors down from First State Bank, according to an April 29, 1948, news report. The interior was redecorated, and it was the only package liquor store in town at the time.

The Feb. 24, 1949, issue of the paper announced that Newcastle Heating and Sheet Metal moved in, with I.M. Huffman as manager, who said



Photos courtesy of Leonard Cash

Pictured is the collapse of the Castle Theatre building in 1939.

he could service any brand or type of heating installation for his patrons.

A few months later, another business moved in. An article from May 26, 1949, reported that Ray Ross was hosting the grand opening with free coffee and doughnuts for his Modern Appliance store, which was the General Electric dealer in Newcastle.

The next article to appear in Cash's records is dated April 16, 1953, and from it, we learn that the bank awarded a contract for the building occupied by Lundberg's Barber shop, Cap 'N Bottle, Club Café and Yellowstone Drilling to Harold Julien to add a second story.

The following year, around December 1954, more extensive remodeling took place for the Newcastle Men's Store, which moved in around that time. Cash said there were offices above the building, and

a few lawyers operated their law firms out of them.

According to an article from June 2, 1955, Cap 'N Bottle was purchased by brothers Karl and Robert Thoeming.

By May 29, 1958, Grieves Insurance and Real Estate moved to 11 S. Seneca, which Yellowstone Drilling had formerly occupied.

Stan Sedig, who was the owner of Club Café, reported in the June 30, 1960, paper that the café had been broken into and \$40 cash was stolen.

The café was no longer operating 24 hours a day, according to Louise McVay in an article from March 8, 1962. The new hours were from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Cash will conclude the history of the building behind the bank and the many businesses that occupied it in next week's installment of "History on Main."



Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

FRIDAY April 23

Exercise Room	8AM
Walking	8AM-NOON
Rolls	9AM
Bridge	1PM

MONDAY April 26

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

TUESDAY April 27

Exercise Room	8AM
Walking	8AM-NOON
Dominoes	1PM
Bridge	1PM

WEDNESDAY April 28

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

THURSDAY April 29

TOPS #218	7AM
Exercise Room	8AM
Walking	8AM-NOON

Obituaries

from Page 4

of 1975 saw a move to Upton, Wyo. Cindy graduated from Upton High School in 1978, then attended Casper College, graduating in 1980. She started working for Marathon Oil in Casper, Wyo., in 1981. Soon the "Big City Lights" of Casper were not bright enough and she transferred with Marathon Oil Company to Houston, Texas, in 1985. She loaded her little car to the brim, rented a U-Haul trailer and headed south, where her home has been for 35 years. Cindy was looking forward to her 40th year celebration party working for Marathon Oil, in

February 2021.

Cindy married Al Ramirez in 1987. They have two sons, Nathan and Keith. Cindy dearly loved her annual vacations up to the north country to see family and friends every year. Oh how she loved reunions — whether it was family, school, or friend reunion. Most of the time Cindy was the one initiating, making all the contacts, organizing, ordering any supplies and seeing them through to fruition — from over 1500 miles away! She also enjoyed the cruises she went on and the (occasional)

trips to the Louisiana casinos with her Texas family, Gloria, Tracy and Debbie.

Cindy's biggest highlight of her life was when grandson Gabriel was born in 2010! He was such an important part of her life, and anyone who visited with her soon found out all about him! She truly loved her role as Oma!

Preceding her in death is her mother-in-law, Frances Ramirez in 2009, whom she loved very much; maternal grandparents, EC (Hepp) and Emma (Peg) Mackey Heppner;

paternal grandparents, John (Pa) and Gertrude (Mom) Moelter Hoffmann; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

From the Houston/Humble area, Cindy leaves behind sons Nathan Ramirez and Keith Ramirez; grandson, Gabe Ramirez; father-in-law, Matt Ramirez; sister-in law, Gloria (Fred) Palomarez; niece, Tracy (Henning) Schmidt; nephew, JR (Meghan) Palomarez; great-nephews, Brody and Logan; sister-in-law, Debbie (Steve) Hoffart; and nephew, Stevie. From Lusk, she is survived

by her parents, Marlyn and Patricia Hoffmann; brother, Arlyn Hoffmann; sister, Lorrie (Jake) Reed; niece, Jamie (Brian) McElhane, and Braedon and Jaelon. From Newcastle, she leaves a niece, Staci (Zane) Marty; great-niece, BlazeLee; and great-nephew, Tyan; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and many, many friends from all across the USA.

Celebration of Life Services for Cindy will be held sometime during the summer/fall of 2021.

It is not goodbye — it is just, until we meet again!

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Call 746-2896 for applications

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Legislature from Page 1.....

Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund, an investment account that will continue to produce returns for the state,” Steinmetz said in an email.

Cuts were made to programs across the board, she said, noting that there were no “sacred cows” on the general fund side of the budget. This budget bill, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate, according to Driskill, leaves the general fund side of the budget for the next year complete, without having to draw on reserves.

Rep. Chip Neiman, R-Sundance, and Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle, said the passage of the reduced state budget was the biggest success of the session.

“We did cut \$430 million from state agencies and streamlined others. ... We reduced state spending. That was a success, although not everyone believes that,” Neiman said. “We shouldn’t be spending what we don’t have, so in my mind that is a success.”

In addition to the \$430 million in cuts made to the initial budget passed last year by the state Legislature, Driskill reported 324 cuts to state positions in various departments, the impact of which will be felt across the state for years to come.

According to Steinmetz, the cuts include the following full-time employees: 161 with the Wyoming Department of Corrections, 50 with the Wyoming Department of Family Services, 11 between the

Bills that passed this session

- House Bill 229, Livestock Identification Choice Act – protecting the rights of livestock producers to identify with the official method of their choice for disease traceability.
- House Bill 207, coal-fired generation facility closures litigation – provides \$1.2 million in funding to the attorney general for court challenges against other states under the commerce clause when Wyoming’s economy or ability to produce and use coal fire power are detrimentally affected. It also applies to coal port litigation.
- House Bill 127, public health amendments – provides some restraint on the powers of the state health officer when it comes to the power to restrict the movements and activities of healthy people.
- House Bill 116, concealed-carry residency requirements – allows for citizens of the United States that meet the requirements of current law to carry a concealed firearm in the state without a permit.
- House Bill 75, voter identification – requires that identification be provided before in-person voting and sets forth acceptable means of identification.
- Senate File 130, charter schools – this bill revises the overall process for the approval and renewal of charter schools. It also provides that in addition to the local school district board, the State Loan and Investment Board can authorize up to three charter schools.
- Senate File 155, limiting firearm seizure – prohibits the executive branch from closure of gun shops, shooting ranges, placing restrictions on the sale of weapons and ammunition, and suspension or revocation of permits to concealed carry of weapons during states of emergency.

Wyoming Attorney General’s Office and the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, 10 with the Wyoming Department of Enterprise Technology Services, five with the judicial branch and another 55 throughout other agencies in the state.

Steinmetz concluded that the passage of the budget was done through prudent compromise and achieved the priorities of both chambers.

“The Legislature is committed to creating long-term

economic growth and diversification, and to solving the state’s structural revenue shortfalls,” she said.

Hunt and Neiman will provide a wrap-up of the session at the Weston County Republican Party meeting on April 29 at 6 p.m. at the Newcastle Lodge and Convention Center.

In addition, the Legislature will likely hold a special session in July to address the funding allocated to Wyoming from the most recent federal COVID-19 funding bill, Hunt said.

Clinics from Page 1.....

News Letter Journal. “Right now, I believe that we will lease the buildings, similar to Monument Health, while looking at what we could potentially do in the future.”

In addition to the \$137,575 for the clinic acquisition, WCHS will be responsible for spending \$359,374 to build the Epic medical record system for the clinics.

The board of trustees originally expressed interest in acquiring the clinics in Dec. 17 when trustees submitted a letter of intent to Monument Health. At that time, Cadwell reported that the idea was initially discussed because of the 340B program.

The 340B program, according to hrsa.gov, enables covered entities to “stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services.”

“Manufacturers participating in Medicaid agreed to provide outpatient drugs to covered entities at significantly reduced prices,” the website says. “Eligible health care organizations/covered entities are defined in statute and include HRSA-supported (Health Resources and Services Administration) health centers and look-a likes, Ryan White clinics and State AIDS Drug Assistance programs, Medicare/Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospitals, children’s hospitals and other safety net providers.”

Cadwell explained that if the district employs the providers working at the clinics, then the retail pharmacy would be able to use the 340B program to purchase medications at significantly reduced costs. The goal, Cadwell said, would be to provide medications to the public at a reduced cost, although she noted that might take some time.

Another perk to bringing the clinics under the auspices of the hospital district would be an increase in reimbursement from Medicare, the CEO added. She said that the clinic being a department of the hospital district would allow Weston County to “maximize reimbursement” from Medicare.

Cadwell said that the costs associated with the acquisition are preliminary and that additional costs could be included. She noted that the clinics would need to remain in the separate

WCHS will open retail pharmacy in Upton

In addition to the potential acquisition of the clinic owned by Monument Health in Upton, Weston County Health Services CEO Maureen Cadwell reported that the facility will be opening a telepharmacy in Upton relatively soon.

“The telepharmacy will open the first part of May,” Cadwell said, noting that this venture was in the works prior to the considered acquisition of the clinic.

“This will give locals access to medication without travel,” Cadwell said. “We will provide typical medications, and if there is anything special needed, we will have to get that routed in.”

facilities due to space constraints and the number of providers that would be employed.

Cadwell said that the urgent care area at the hospital has three exam rooms, one treatment room and two offices. While this space would help to house the additional services, the CEO says that is something that might be considered down the road.

“There is a lot of net transition that needs to be done,” Cadwell added. “Basically, once we are through all that, we can determine if there is a final price, if we will have to pay them or maybe they pay us.”

The time-line for the potential transition, Cadwell said, is three to four months.

“There are a lot of people that think we are owned by Monument Health, the hospital and the nursing home,” Cadwell said. “We are not and we are hoping that the transition will help people see that division. Maybe that will help them recognize we aren’t owned by anyone else.”

“We are owned by the citizens of Weston County and the hospital district. We rely on the taxpayers to support many things that we have done,” Cadwell said. “For the people, we can bring all their local health care under the same umbrella. Hopefully, it will be less confusing that way.”

She noted that the facility would still have a tie to Monument Health for supplies and support.

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⁵Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of June 2020.

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Ambulances

from Page 1

Without that foundation, communities across the state are having hard conversations as they try to forge solutions.

No mandate, no money

Sweetwater County Commissioners are also struggling to craft a plan to maintain EMS service amid rising costs.

In December, commissioners told their two EMS providers they'd terminate both contracts by March, saying it was "unsustainable" to continue subsidizing them. The current county-paid subsidy, \$1.2 million annually, is more than double what it was just two years ago, according to the county's budgets.

In early March, commissioners asked the cities of Rock Springs and Green River to cover half of that \$1.2 million cost. The county warned the municipalities that one of the two services, Sweetwater Medics, was just weeks away from no longer responding to EMS calls. Ultimately, the commission voted to continue funding the ambulance services until at least June, while continuing negotiating with the two cities.

Contributing to the crises facing counties like Fremont and Sweetwater is a lack of a designated tax base for ambulance service and the lack of mandate to fund those services.

Wyoming counties are allowed by state law to levy a maximum of 12 mills in property taxes for their general funds — revenue that is already stretched thin funding services that state statute explicitly obligates counties to provide.

So, for example, when Fremont County's assessed values dropped by about \$250 million for the 2017 fiscal year, the county found itself scrambling to shore up a \$2 million budget deficit. State law both limited what the county could cut and barred raising taxes just as the county's EMS director was requesting \$1.2 million in general funds.

Commissioners stressed the need to focus on meeting "statutory obligations" — services like sheriffs and prosecutors.

Ambulance service is not on that list. In fact, no entity — not municipalities, counties, hospitals nor the state of Wyoming itself — is required to provide EMS to Wyoming residents.

"As we talk today, literally everybody who runs an ambulance service could stop doing it tomorrow, and there's nobody that could make them do it," Gienapp said of the 62 ground ambulance services and 23 air medical groups currently operating in Wyoming under a variety of contracts.

As the funding crisis worsens, EMS leaders are pushing the Legislature to establish some legal obligation to prevent a worst-case scenario.

"The ultimate risk is that you might not have ambulances coming to take care of you, and if you do, you might have to wait hours before someone gets to you," Strauss said. "I think that's the concern that all of us have, because we're all health care providers and we want to take care of people."

A volunteer base that's running thin

That was a very real fear for residents in Weston County when Roger Hesse, owner of Newcastle Ambulance Service, announced his plans to retire in June.

Hesse has contracted with the city of Newcastle since 2000.

The EMS business in Weston County has been good to Hesse, he said, even

though his subsidy from the city hasn't increased in a decade.

"It's a struggle. Can it be done? You bet. I've been doing it," he said. "A lot of the work falls on my shoulders. I have very few days off because I have to staff the ambulances. I work a lot of hours."

Hesse fielded 200 ambulance calls in his first year of business. That's now up to 700.

"We're doing more work for less money, but I never let that get to me. I just figured out how to make it work," he said.

Hesse said there's ample interest from others wanting to purchase his business, and he's confident someone will take it over.

Newcastle Ambulance Service has four full-time employees and, like many small ambulance services in the state, Hesse also relies on an ever-shrinking base of volunteers. With the costs of EMS classes and certifications rising, Hesse understands why.

"If I was a young man starting out, I wouldn't do it, because now it costs you a few thousand dollars just to get started," he said.

of people who are willing to do this for really crappy wages. And of all crappy wages that you could get paid, getting paid nothing is the crappiest of them all."

Those communities in Wyoming that continue to rely on volunteers are the least sustainable in the state, said Aaron Reinert, a partner of consulting firm Safetech Solutions, which has a contract with the Wyoming Department of Health to analyze the EMS systems of various communities in the state.

The dwindling base of volunteers means that many communities are just now coming to grips with the true cost of running an ambulance service, he said.

"The vast majority of any ambulance budget is salaries, and when those salaries have been free or almost free, rural EMS communities just haven't understood that it doesn't just cost a few thousand dollars," Reinert said.

Paying market wages, it costs about \$500,000 annually to run an ambulance 24 hours per day, Reinert said. That price tag only allows for "basic life

Local solutions

While EMS leaders want legislative involvement, some communities are pursuing local solutions. While state law limits counties from taxing more than 12 mills, it also allows voters to establish separate tax districts — dubbed "rural health care districts" — that can levy two additional mills that could be used to pay for EMS service, among other things.

Some communities have established such districts.

A 2020 assessment that Reinert's firm conducted of Johnson County's system — one that's funded by a health district — found the service to be "sustainable long term," noting that more than "three-quarters of the system's operational resources come from some form of public dollars."

Regionalization of EMS systems, in which a group of small operations join forces and consolidate services into a larger operation, is also an important strategy for improving efficiencies that stabilize service, said Luke Sypherd, who oversees the Washakie County EMS service.

Washakie County's system is

and their own jobs."

Because Sypherd and his team will remain based in Washakie County, he said residents there shouldn't see any drop-off in the level of care. If anything, he expects response times to improve because the delay of volunteers heading to the station will disappear.

"If you can reduce time, you can reduce mortality and morbidity rates, which then, in turn, has a huge ripple effect on the economics of health," he said.

Legislative needs

Even with regionalization, Sypherd says the Legislature still needs to address structural problems with EMS funding.

Sypherd co-founded the Wyoming EMS Association in 2019. As the organization's current president he's spent much of the last two years trying to educate legislators and Gov. Mark Gordon's administration about reforms that will make ambulance service more reliable and stable, he said.

When Wyoming's economy rebounds, Sypherd said, the Legislature should establish an interest-bearing "sustainability account" that provides grants to local EMS agencies.

"When we're in a time of plenty, let's plan for famine," he said.

Strauss, Gienapp, Hesse and Sypherd all stressed the need for the Legislature to codify EMS as an "essential service" that's required to be provided by local governments.

Fremont County Commissioner Allen said a rural health district could ultimately be a solution for his community. He'd welcome involvement from the Legislature, he said, but only if the end result isn't an unfunded mandate. "I think if the Legislature would get involved, they need to involve everybody, including both the municipalities and counties to understand their needs," Allen said.

Reinert is less optimistic that the Legislature is the right avenue to fix EMS's funding woes.

With options like rural health districts already available, Reinert said the onus is on communities to commit funding.

"At the end of the day, I think that emergency management services are a local problem and I think the only thing that's sustainable long-term is a local solution," he said. "I worry that when we create a one-size-fits-all solution, it will lead to unsustainable models in local communities."

During Sypherd's lobbying efforts this year, several legislators on the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee were surprised to learn that EMS isn't deemed an essential service, he said, and he's hopeful there will be a legislative effort in coming years to mandate it as such.

He acknowledges that a new tax proposal will receive substantial pushback, but he's not buying arguments that the state can't afford to subsidize EMS. "To say we can't afford it I think is false," he said. "It's that we don't want to afford it. We don't want to cut other things that aren't as essential or we don't want to pay additional money to cover it, but when residents of counties and cities call 911 and they don't get an ambulance, or they get inferior service, they're not going to be happy."

WyoFile is an independent nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy.

Back in the day, it was really easy to run an ambulance service. You'd get two or three friends together and buy an ambulance and, overnight, your small town could have an ambulance. That works as long as you and I are available to donate the single biggest cost in operating an EMS service — and that is labor."

— Andy Gienapp, Wyoming's top EMS official from 2010 to 2021.

Unlike other medical services, Gienapp said, EMS in rural states was built on the backs of volunteers. This has allowed communities to ignore the true cost of ambulances for a long time.

"Back in the day, it was really easy to run an ambulance service," Gienapp said. "You'd get two or three friends together and buy an ambulance and, overnight, your small town could have an ambulance. That works as long as you and I are available to donate the single biggest cost in operating an EMS service — and that is labor."

But as EMS has become more complex and regulated, a volunteer-based system is no longer viable — nor is it fair, EMS leaders stress.

"I'm a fully qualified paramedic and if I lived in one of these small towns and they asked if I'd be willing to volunteer and ride with their ambulance crew, my response would be 'absolutely not,'" Gienapp said. "This is my career and it's what I get paid to do and I know what the work entails. It takes a willingness to give up time with your family. It can lead you to miss your kid's baseball game, ballet lesson, or leaving Christmas dinner to go out on an ambulance call."

EMS workers are also exposed to traumatic and dangerous situations, Gienapp said.

"We have plenty of EMTs and medics, and we can make more of them," he said. "We've just run out



NLJ file photo

A Newcastle Ambulance Service vehicle in a Newcastle parade in 2020.

support," which doesn't include paramedics, he said. To operate a full-time ambulance with advanced-life support in Wyoming would cost upwards of \$1.2 million annually, he said.

Billing strain

Without volunteer labor, it's almost impossible for ambulance services to operate without governmental support since EMS billing regulations typically only allow organizations to recoup a fraction of costs, Reinert and other EMS leaders said.

EMS organizations bill only when a patient is transported to a hospital or transferred from one hospital to another.

"You're doing a lot of free work because of those variables," Hesse said.

And for those bills that are issued, only private insurers cover the full price, according to Wyoming's EMS leaders.

Medicare and Medicaid pay flat rates per ambulance call and, in areas with low call volumes, those rates typically cover less than half the cost of service, Gienapp and others said. And while the cost of providing rural EMS keeps increasing, those federal reimbursement rates are going down.

Caring for uninsured patients — such as the roughly 24,000 Wyoming residents in the "Medicaid gap" — typically results in no compensation at all.

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Sports & Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULES

NEWCASTLE:

4/23	J/V	Buffalo HS	A	4PM
4/26	V	Douglas HS	H	6PM
4/30	J/V	Riverton HS	A	3PM
5/3	V	Torrington HS	H	4PM

NHS Ladies' Soccer

4/23	J/V	Buffalo HS	H	4PM
4/26	V	Douglas HS	H	4PM
4/30	J/V	Riverton HS	A	3PM
5/3	V	Torrington HS	A	4PM

NHS Track

4/23	V9	Douglas	A	2PM
4/30	V9	Buffalo Twilight	A	2PM
5/1	V9	Lusk	A	TBA

NMS Track

4/24		Douglas	A	10AM
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NMS Girls Soccer

4/22		Douglas	H	4:30PM
4/29		Sage Valley	A	3PM
5/1		Buffalo	H	10AM

NMS Boys Soccer

4/22		Douglas	H	5:45PM
4/29		Sage Valley	A	5PM
5/1		Buffalo	H	11:15AM

Rodeo

4/30-May 1	@ Newcastle	H	9 AM
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UPTON:

UHS Track

4/23		Kaycee	A	
4/30		HS/MS Wright	A	

UMS Track

4/23		Moorcroft	A	10AM
4/30		HS/MS Wright	A	

Corley commits to Dickinson

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Following a successful high school career as a Dogie wrestler, Kale Corley has signed his name on the dotted line to take it a step further and become a collegiate wrestler.

He will change out the orange and black for the blue and white as he suits up for the Bluehawks of Dickinson State University next year.

"I actually got a call from an assistant coach at the beginning of December, and we started talking," Corley began. "Then in January, my folks and I went up to visit, and after talking with them and touring the facility, I decided that I wanted to wrestle there."

Corley admitted that Dickinson State had not been on his radar for postsecondary possibilities, however, schools he had reached out to hadn't responded, and after seeing what the university had to offer, it seemed like a good fit.

"I toured the campus all day, and then I got to practice with them in the afternoon," Corley explained. "I really liked the atmosphere because it has a small-town, home feel to it and the coaches are really nice, and I liked the energy of the room."

Corley is making his decision based on 14 years of experience on the mat having first begun his wrestling career at the tender age of 4, then honing his craft to claim two 3A East Regional Championship titles, two 3A State Championship titles, as well as a second and third place at both the regional and state tournaments throughout his four years in high school.

In addition, Corley didn't limit himself to just high school sanctioned events, but also AAU and USA competitions

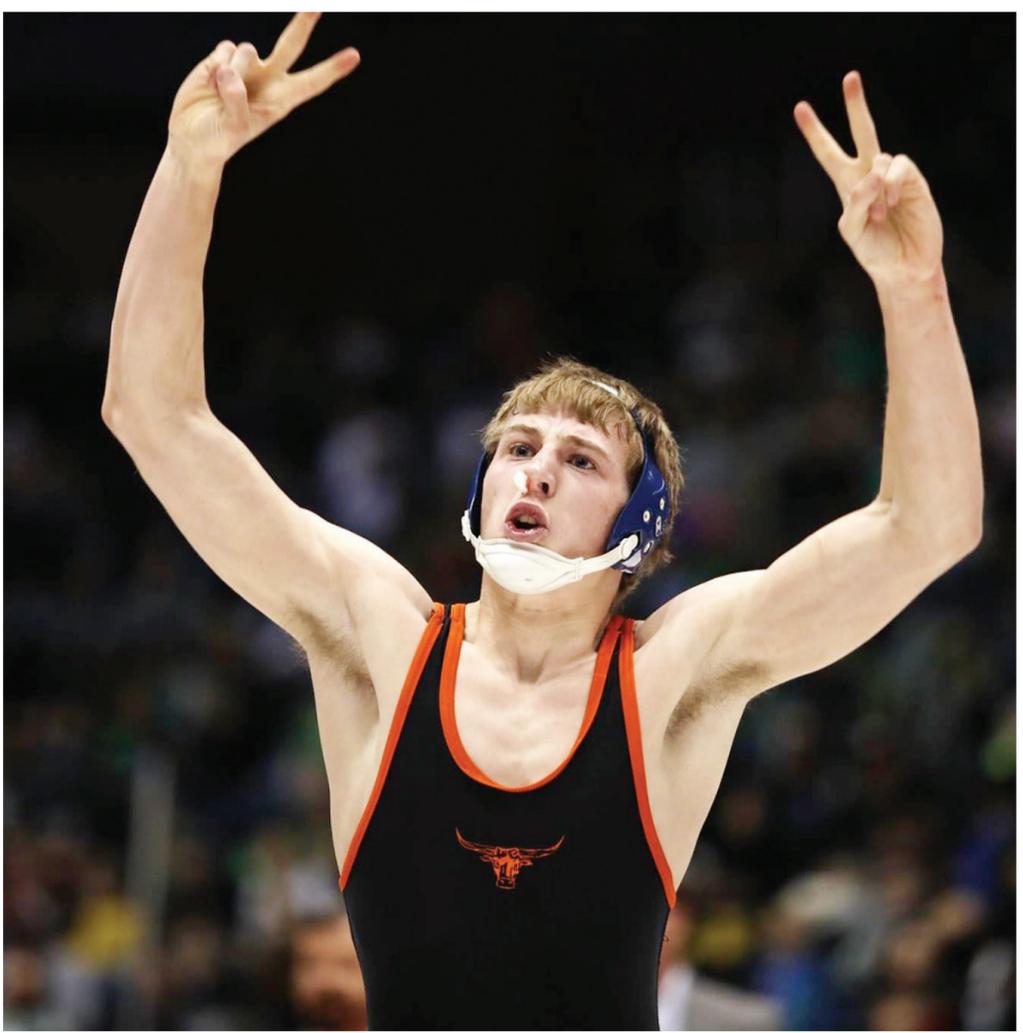


Photo courtesy of Josh Clark/Douglas Budget
Kale Corley, who claimed two 3A East Regional Championship titles, two 3A State Championship titles, as well as a second and third place at both the regional and state tournaments throughout his four years at Newcastle High School, has signed on to wrestle at Dickinson State University in North Dakota.

Not for the faint of heart

A couple of weeks ago, I jokingly blamed soccer and track for snow storms because it looked as though the only days that were wintry-like were days when contests were scheduled to take place.

It looks as though I was hasty in my accusation. I know that April showers bring May flowers, and I know that we need moisture desperately, but come on Mother Nature! Do we need to have that moisture come in the form of snow? We've had more snow since spring began than we



High school rodeo ready to roll

KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Correspondent

After missing last year's highly anticipated annual Newcastle High School Rodeo due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's rodeo is slated for next weekend, April 30-May 2.

Stacey Jones and Marissa Sweet, advisers for the rodeo club, said that they expect around 300 participants, seven of whom are members of the school's rodeo club. Three Newcastle kids are in the junior high division. High school club members are Kacy Jones, Rachel Sweet, Tell Tavegie, Pate Tavegie, Tiernan Stanton, Ana Sofia Baeza and Callie Hiser. Middle schoolers are Josie Smith, Teddy Troftgruben and Coen Tavegie.

Junior high will compete on Friday, April 30, and they are looking to start at 9 a.m., with two rodeos occurring that day. The high schoolers will have a go at it on May 1 and 2, starting at 9 a.m.

Events include bareback, goat tying, saddle bronc, bull riding, barrels, poles, shoot dogging, breakaway and more. Members of the FBLA chapter in Newcastle will offer concessions during the festivities.

Sweet said that anticipation is high and they are excited for the kids to get back to it. "I hope that our kids do well and that everyone is safe," Sweet said.

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Learning about safety

Each year the children of Weston County Children's Center learn about emergency services and first responders. Last week they received visitors from the Weston County Sheriff's Department, Newcastle Police Department, Newcastle Ambulance Service and went to the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department to learn about the people that work there, and what they do. At left, the "Cookie Monsters" meet Sparky the Fire Dog.

Photos courtesy of Kaitlin Macke



Children of the Bert and Ernie class at WCCC pose for a photo with Newcastle Police Officer Levi Tacy.

Corley from Page 9

as well. Right after the state meet, Corley earned his way into junior state, which is a high school opportunity for wrestlers across the state where freestyle and Greco forms of wrestling are utilized. The combined Wyoming team would travel to North Dakota to compete as well as taking their talents overseas for tournaments as well.

In 2020 Corley had earned a spot on the Wyoming team to travel to Greece for two weeks of international wrestling tournaments. COVID-19 caused that trip to be cancelled, however all of those invited to go last year were extended another invite for the summer of 2021, so he is looking forward to making the trip.

"I'm really happy that I still get the opportunity to do this," Corley said. "My brother got to go to Bulgaria when he was a junior and he had a blast, so I can't wait to experience it as well. Besides wrestling we also get to go to Athens and Crete and take a night ferry to

I really liked the atmosphere because it has a small-town, home feel to it and the coaches are really nice, and I liked the energy of the room."

— Kale Corley

a couple of the islands, so I'm really excited."

Having spent so much time committed to one sport can present the risk that one may become burned out, however Corley is far from reaching that point and declared that he is looking forward to more years on the mat.

Competing in organized events this summer will bode well for Corley as he works to prepare for ramping up the intensity required of collegiate training. He has already received a workout plan for the spring and summer from his

coaches, and will be allowed a minute to acclimate himself to college life before beginning team pre-season weight training and conditioning.

"Last week they emailed me a workout schedule and then they give us a week to settle in when we get there," Corley began. "Then we will work out as a team, but won't get on the mat until December or so to try to avoid guys getting hurt or worn out before the season actually starts."

At this time, Corley plans to major in business at DSU, in addition to wrestling, and is aware that doing both school and a collegiate sport will require dedication and commitment to both, but he is excited to take on the challenges that each will bring.

"I've always wanted to compete at the collegiate level because it's a big step up," Corley grinned. "After looking around, I'm excited to give it a try and I think it's going to be a lot of fun."

Karpe from Page 9

did all winter!

Besides being weary of seeing white cover the ground, I also feel bad for the spring sports athletes. I have always admitted to being a fair-weather sports fan and growing up in this part of the country that doesn't mean taking part in outdoor activities in the spring because she is such a fickle season around here.

There are a lot of people, though, who are tougher than me when it comes to participating in the sport they love, and I give them mad props for sticking to it.

When I woke up Monday morning to notices of a two-hour late start for school because overnight the sky had dumped on us again, I was at first happy to be able to snuggle back down under the covers, but then I thought about those poor kids who play their sports outside.

Snow-covered fields and a snow-covered track make it difficult, to say the least, to practice outside.

You're not going to pole vault inside the Dogie Dome, although with the ceiling the way it is in there, I suppose that it would be possible if it weren't for having to move the landing pit indoors.

I certainly think someone would have something to say if Coach Ostenson had sand brought into either gym for long jump practice.

It's also a little tough to practice hurdles — either the 100 or the 300 meter version — when you can only work on getting over a couple of hurdles inside.

Throwing practice would also be impossible,

especially for the discus. I'm not sure anyone would appreciate a disc being hurled into any wall inside the building.

I guess you could practice hand-offs for relay purposes, but as far as getting the feel of any race it's just not going to happen when you're inside.

Then there's soccer. A gym certainly does nothing to prepare players for the size of the soccer pitch.

It's nearly May, which means that there are only a few weeks remaining in either sport's season, and while everyone is grateful that they are getting to compete this year after losing 2020, it has to be frustrating to have to be battling snow at this point in the season.

Track missed out on Friday's meet, and if it is made up it will mean they will have at least two meets in a week.

Soccer had two conference matches postponed over the weekend, so those contests also have to be made up. As such, they will have three games each in the next couple of weeks. That doesn't leave much time for practicing anything that needs addressed.

All of that is also dependent on not having any more competitions delayed due to having a foot or two of snow dumped on us.

I'm telling you that anyone who participates in outdoor sports in the Wyoming springtime needs to be given a great deal of respect, because it takes a pretty tough cookie to face all that this temperamental season has to throw at them.

Spring sports are definitely not for the faint of heart!

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Since the last day of 1999, Ron Evitt, along with To the Cross Ministries have spread the Gospel in city wide events and preaching in five-plus cell blocks in a county jail. Along with teams of young Gospel musicians and singer/comedian Tim Lovelace, he brought A Preacher in the Patch and Friends event to the Weston County Event Center in Newcastle Thursday through Sunday nights last week. The event was well attended, so much so, that rows of chairs had to be added to accommodate all. At left, the bands that participated included Heather Peterson and the Alliance Band, Riley Dakota and the Sweet Crude Band, and Rexella Daisy. Here they take the stage with Evitt and Lovelace. Below left, Al and Brenda Costello worship with the congregation in attendance on Friday night. Below center, Undefeated Youth Group, from Church on the Hill in Newcastle, enact a short skit portraying the birth, death, and resurrection of the Jesus Christ, during the Saturday night event. Below right, Cody Roland of North Dakota was the emcee for the entire four-night worship service. This is the 82nd Preacher in the Patch event in 21 years, and as a graduate of the University of Wyoming in petroleum engineering, Evitt said he loves coming to Wyoming and the Newcastle area.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Preacher in the Patch



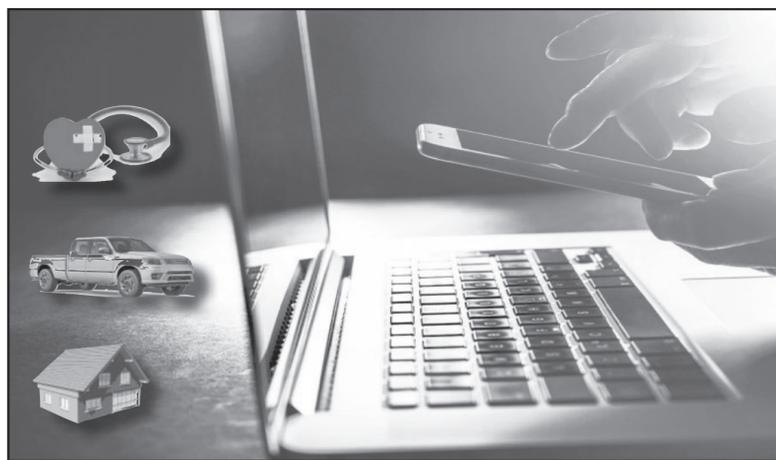
INSURANCE | IMPROPER MARKETING

Today's consumers receive calls, emails, and mailings offering everything from extended automobile warranties, discounted health insurance plans, and home repair deals, to fake home security alarms and get-rich-quick plans. Unfortunately, consumers are finding the path to legitimate insurance plans can be complex and confusing.

Health insurance seems to be particularly vulnerable to scams. Some marketers suggest they have simple solutions to everyone's health care needs and dupe the uninformed. These marketers often cold-call potential consumers or generate leads through websites offering questionable products.

Some sites feature the names and logos of major insurers or use names that sound like official companies or websites but are phony look-a-likes. Consumers who respond to these sites are hounded by phone calls, high-pressure sales pitches, and too-good-to-be-true gimmicks. These plans often promise "complete" coverage with low premiums, low deductibles, and low co-pays. Often, these plans provide less coverage than advertised or are even total fakes. Some medical discount programs require consumers pay a monthly fee to get reduced prices from participating medical providers, but these are not a substitute for insurance.

Scammers are even known to impersonate representatives of the federal Health Insurance Marketplace. They take advantage by asking for personal information such as Social Security or Medicare numbers to "verify an application" or they offer, for a fee, to help you choose the right plan. Legitimate



consumer assistance for Marketplace plans is always free.

BE WARY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- High-pressure sales pitches that push low-cost plans or special rates if you sign quickly.
- Robo-calls from numbers you don't recognize or ghosting phone calls from phone numbers allegedly from an insurance company or government agency.
- Statements that a plan is licensed under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Talk with your employer's human resources person about your employer-provided insurance. Insurance companies are licensed by the states, not by any federal agency.
- Plans that require you to join an "association" or "organization" to get coverage. These are likely fake organizations designed to create the illusion that you are buying group health insurance.
- Anyone claiming to be from a government agency selling you an insurance

product. No government representative will ever try to sell you insurance. The only official site for ACA Marketplace plans is: HealthCare.gov. Avoid any sites that use a similar sounding name ending in ".com," ".org," or an email tag such as Gmail, AOL, or Yahoo.

• Calls or letters stating that your new car warranty is about to expire and offering you an "extended warranty." Despite government efforts to crack down on these plans, they trick consumers into buying extended vehicle service contracts. Admittedly, it is hard to discern a fraudulent call when the scammer has information about your car, and they deceive you into thinking they are legitimate.

• Calls that begin with an automated or pre-recorded message. You may be instructed to press a certain number or stay on the line, then asked to provide personal information, which can be used to defraud you.

BE A WISE CONSUMER

- Confirm with the Wyoming DOI

that a plan provider, insurer or agent is licensed.

• Compare rates. Premiums for "comprehensive" or "complete" coverages that are far lower than comparable plans are probably too good to be true.

• Insist on seeing a statement of benefits or a complete copy of the policy.

• Ask specific questions so you know what you're getting. Research any associations or organizations named in an insurance pitch. Look for evidence of activity other than selling health insurance.

• If an unfamiliar company says it sells plans through a major insurer, contact the major insurer to verify the offered product is theirs.

• Remember: assistance in navigating the Health Insurance Marketplace is free. Go to HealthCare.gov, contact Enroll Wyoming, or call Wyoming 2-1-1.

STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

• **Do not provide any personal information, such as a social security number, credit card information, driver's license number or bank account information to any caller unless you can verify you are dealing directly with a legitimate company with which you have an established business relationship.**

• Don't enter personal information on a website in exchange for a price quote.

• Screen incoming calls. Legitimate telemarketers are required to transmit or display their phone number and the name and/or phone number of their company.

• Avoid answering spoofed calls. Criminals may engage in deliberately falsifying the information transmitted to your Caller ID to disguise their identity.

• Contact the DOI or file a complaint with FCC about suspected scam calls.



Wyoming Department of Insurance
<http://doi.wyo.gov> • 1 (800) 438-5768

This public service announcement is presented and paid for by the insurance companies licensed to do business in Wyoming in cooperation with the Wyoming Insurance Department. For more information on the state's insurance companies, including financial information, visit the Insurance Department website's "Company Financial Information" section.

Newcastle Calves

Middle School Track

2020-21



Front row left to right: Lane Carter (6), Gabe Hoover (6), Jayden McGuire (6), Rook Herrberg (7), Ben Carter (8), Simon Bau (7), Lucas Scribner (6), Owen Cummings (6), Daxton Phillips (6), John Sandrini (6). Middle row: Kendrick Blumenthal (6), Collin McConkey (7), Kyan Allen (6), Aidan Butler (8), Triston Martinez (8), Landon Hatheway (6), Jayden Corley (8), Adam Butler (6), Cort Perino (7), Drew Conzelman (7), Austin Hicks (7). Back Row: Coach Cody Nelson, Dagan Thompson (6), Nickolas Lopez (8), Eli Morell (8), Samuel Scribner (8), Rylan Fladstol (7), CJ Hardy (8), Logan Olson (8), Cole Erb (7), Caden Esposito (8), Dane Crabtree (7), Colin McVay (7), Coach Allen Von Eye.



Front row left to right: Haley Smith (6), Kendall Page (6), Josie Smith (6), Preslee Fitzwater (7), Callie Christensen (7), Jensi McCormack (7), Delaney Fullerton (8), Aria Wheeler (6), Netanya Prell (6), Kali Martell (6). Middle row: Taylor Conklin (8), Taryn Allison (6), Trinity Carter (8), Julie Morris (8), Rachel Baird (8), Carmella Malone (8), Delainey Dresen (7), Sara Huey (8), Kaitlyn Blumenthal (6), Madison Sterriker (7), Scottlyn Hildrebrant (6). Back row: Coach Candi Stanton, Adalyn Olson (6), Destini Boyle (7), Aspen Bloom (8), Sydney Pederson (7), Hollie Swentesky (6), Avery Doyle (7), Mischa Unterseher (8), Kyndal Von Eye (6), Lillie Morrill (6), Coach Jessica Troftgruben, Lizzy Mills (8).

#GoCalves

#HornsUp

#JoinTheRide

#Track

Thank you to these community partners

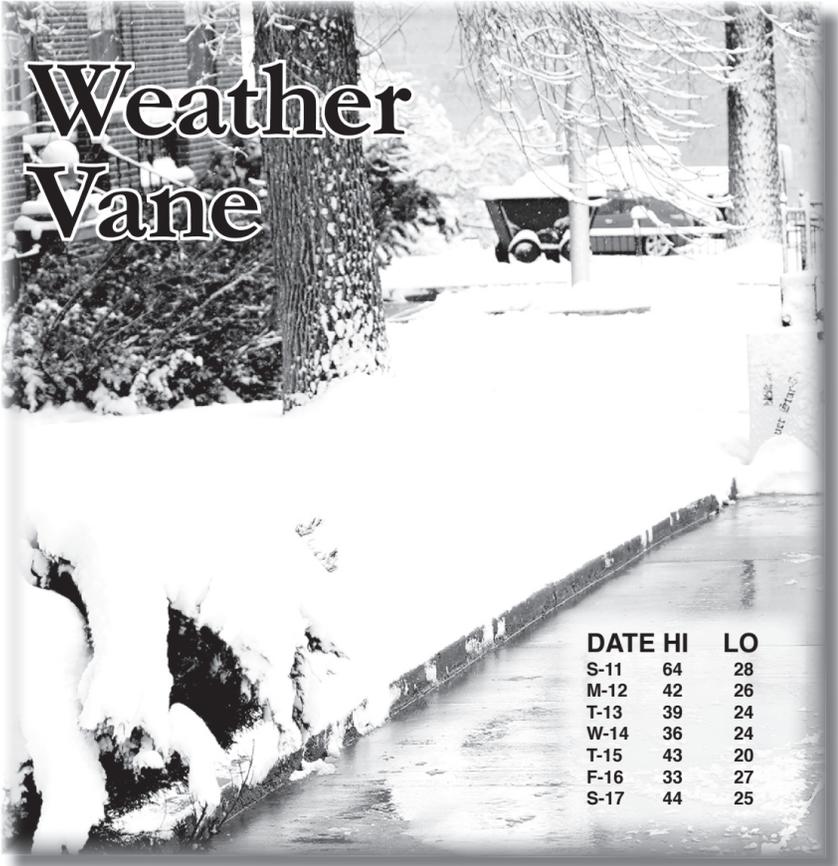
Photo provided courtesy of Skull Creek Studio, Emily Hartinger

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M-12	42	26
T-13	39	24
W-14	36	24
T-15	43	20
F-16	33	27
S-17	44	25

Legal Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF WYOMING IN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Change of Name of Xandra Marie Gallardo
Civil Action Case No. CV-2073

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

You are hereby notified that a Petition For Change of Name, Civil Action No. CV-2073, has been filed on behalf of (current full name) Xandra Marie Gallardo in the Wyoming District Court for the 6th Judicial District, whose address is (address of District Court) 1 West Main, the object and prayer of which is to change the name of the above-named person from Xandra Marie Gallardo to Xandra Marie Goodrich.

Any objection must be filed with the District Court within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, or an Order Granting Name Change may be granted without further notice.

Dated this 2 day of April, 2021

By Clerk of Court
Tina Cote by Riki Bartels
Clerk of District Court/ Deputy

(Publish April 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021)

Legal Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF WYOMING IN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Change of Name of Xavin Edmund Gallardo
Civil Action Case No. CV-2074

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

You are hereby notified that a Petition For Change of Name, Civil Action No. CV-2074, has been filed on behalf of (current full name) Xavin Edmund Gallardo in the Wyoming District Court for the 6th Judicial District, whose address is (address of District Court) 1 West Main, the object and prayer of which is to change the name of the above-named person from Xavin Edmund Gallardo to Xavin Edmund Goodrich.

Any objection must be filed with the District Court within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, or an Order Granting Name Change may be granted without further notice.

Dated this 2 day of April, 2021

By Clerk of Court
Tina Cote by Riki Bartels
Clerk of District Court/ Deputy

(Publish April 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2021)

Election Notice

ELECTION NOTICE
PROCLAMATION & NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR CAMBRIA IMPROVEMENT & SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021

Notice is hereby given that CAMBRIA IMPROVEMENT & SERVICE DISTRICT is seeking applications for TWO (2) DIRECTORS to serve on the Board of Directors for a FOUR (4) year term.

Any qualified elector or landowner within the District's boundaries may apply for the position of Director by filing an application with the District's secretary, Sharron Ackerman. Please call 746-2205. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY APRIL 15, 2021 with the secretary.

All qualified elections and landowners within the District's boundaries are entitled to vote, either in person at the C.I.&S. District's office building on Hwy 85 North or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained by calling the secretary or by written request to C.I.&S. District at P.O. Box 91, Newcastle WY 82701.

Absentee ballots must be received no later than April 30, 2021.

(Publish March 25 and April 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2021)

FIND EVERY PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLISHED IN WYOMING. THEY CAN BE VIEWED AT
WWW.WYOPUBLICNOTICES.COM

Meeting Notice

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 MEETING NOTICE

Weston County Board of Trustees will have a 5:00 pm early start on April 28th for an executive session to discuss administrators evaluations under Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(ii).

(Publish April 22, 2021)

Fun and Games

FICTIONAL MOTHERS

ACROSS

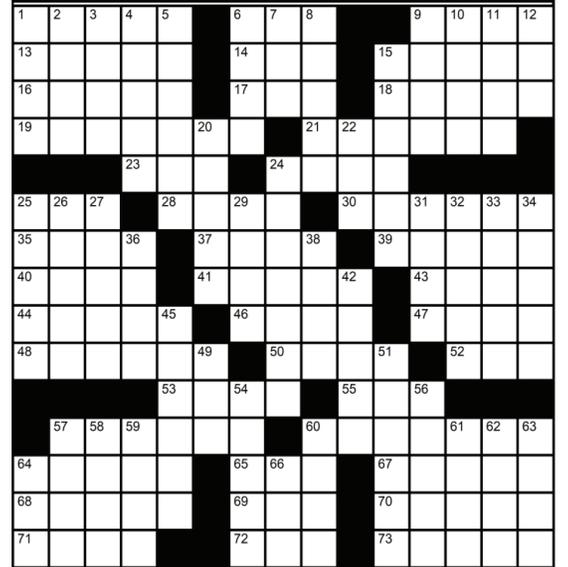
- Build a collection
- Economic measure acronym
- *Beverly Goldberg's schmoopie
- Use an ÈpÈe
- Neither here ____ there
- Tall ancient monument
- Daisy-like bloom
- Much of it about nothing?
- Commotions
- *She's 'Bow' to Dre in TV sitcom "Blackish"
- *Mother to Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth March in novel and movie
- Before tac
- Ripped
- Part of Super Bowl entertainment, pl.
- Homesteader's measure
- *"Game of Thrones" Lannister and mother to Joffrey, Myrcella and Tommen
- Douses
- Adjutant
- Article of faith
- Genuflecting joint
- *TV mother to Alexis and David, "friend" to Jocelyn Schitt
- "Will be," as sung by Doris Day
- Perform in a play
- Load sixteen tons, e.g.
- Peacock's pride
- *Mowgli's adoptive mother
- Apartment
- Skeleton in a lock
- Part of a jousting outfit
- Spelling competition
- *Mother to Carlton in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"
- "Well, I'm a-standin' on a corner in ____, Arizona," from the Eagles "Take it Easy"
- Country's LeAnn ____
- Hoover's agency acronym
- Piano practice piece, e.g.
- Church song
- What Usain Bolt did
- Poisonous substance
- *Wife to Papa, mother to Baby
- Sum it up
- Go on a buying spree

DOWN

- Way, way off
- ____ Verde National Park
- Naysayer's favorite prefix?
- What bloodhound is after
- Croatia's neighbor
- Nibble away
- Affirmative action
- Movie trailer, e.g.
- Elementary particle
- *Claire Dunphy and Mitchell Pritchett's mother
- Soothing lotion ingredient
- Bell and Barker, e.g.
- Christopher Kimball's "Milk ____"
- ____'s razor
- Part of a circle
- Tiresome
- Questioner
- *"Mamma Mia!" mamma
- Do this or forever hold your peace
- '80s band "Quiet ____"
- Catch one's breath
- ____ a peak
- Bone-chilling
- Europe's "boot"
- Short for seconds
- *She played Ricky Schroder's stepmom on "Silver Spoons"
- Defendant's excuse
- Religious belief
- ____ Khan
- Plural of #39 Across
- Below, prefix
- Impede

- "Everywhere you want to be" credit card
- Muslim holy man
- Plural of velum
- *Ellen, Scarlett's mother in "Gone with the ____"
- Like the best accommoda-
tions
- War god in Norse mythology
- Make one's way
- Dashboard acronym
- *Kunis, Hahn and Bell as
"____ Moms"

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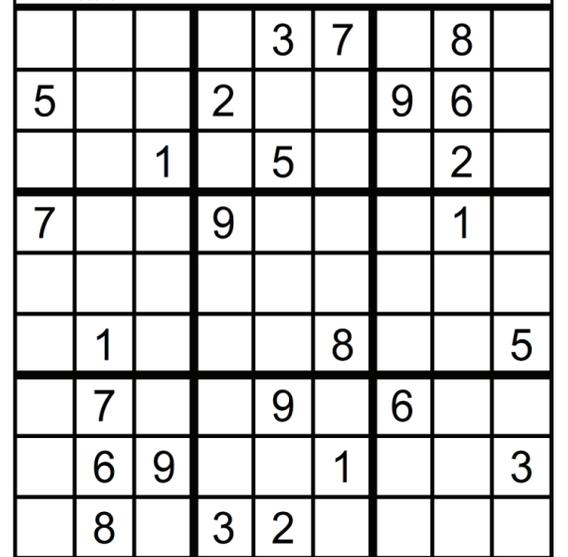
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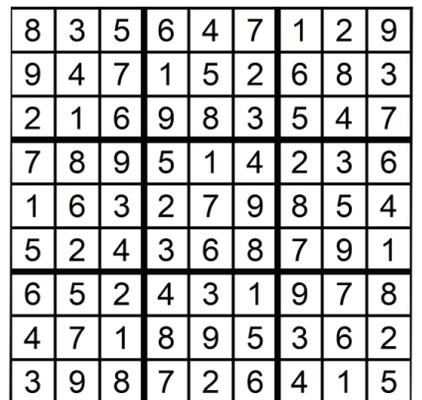
*Free date changes anytime up to 60 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 90 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$29 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your travel Consultant for details.



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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



“Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.”
— Mark Twain

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Procedural Rules and Special Regulations, notice is hereby given of the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company), for authority to pass on a Transportation Rate Adjustment (TRA) rate decrease of \$0.0035 per therm to all of its customers.

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

2. On April 15, 2021, BHWG filed an Application for authority to pass on a TRA rate decrease of \$0.0035 per therm to all its customers, effective June 1, 2021. The Company is requesting a TRA rate of (\$0.0004) per therm, which reflects a decrease of \$0.0035 per therm from the currently effective rate of \$0.0031 per therm. The Company's TRA provides for an annual adjustment in order to align rates with delivery costs incurred. This is the final year BHWG's TRA is effective, with the collection period ending on May 31, 2022. Any remaining balance at that time, positive or negative, will be transferred to the Company's Gas Cost Adjustment FERC Account 191.

3. BHWG states that its TRA only consists of the Surcharge TRA rate in this final effective year. The Company states the adjustment reflects a decrease in TRA costs to Wyoming

customers over the twelve-month period ending May 31, 2022. BHWG also states it will apply its TRA decrease uniformly to each tariff schedule and its proposed rate of \$0.0035 per therm will refund an estimated \$76,188 to its customers during the period June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

4. This is not a complete description of the Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at BHWG's business office and at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, or online at: <http://psc.state.wy.us/>.

5. Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest, or request for a public hearing in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before May 17, 2021. A proposed intervention or request for hearing must set forth the grounds under which they are made and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket Number 30026-41-GA-21 (Record No. 15766) in your communications.

6. If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or want to make a statement, a protest, or a public comment, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications-impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711.
Dated: April 16, 2021.

(Publish April 22 and 29, 2021)

City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MINUTES MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021

Mayor Pam Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Gualtieri; Council members Tyrel Owens, Don Steveson, Lance Miles, Ann McColley and Daren Downs. Councilman Michael Alexander was absent. Also present were Department Heads City Police Chief Sam Keller, City Engineer Mike Moore, City Attorney Michael Stulken and City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ann McColley moved, seconded Don Steveson to approve the agenda for Monday April 19, 2021 as amended, adding Kathy Beehler ref 5K race. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ann McColley moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, April 5, 2021 and the minutes of the Executive Session on Monday April 5, 2021 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: None
CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None
CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: Mayor Gualtieri read a proclamation, proclaiming April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in Newcastle.

The Children's Center presented a letter requesting summer sewer averaging for 2021. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Monument Health Clinic presented a letter requesting summer sewer averaging for 2021. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

An application for a plumbing license was presented from Lawrence Claussen Plumbing, requesting a Plumbing Contractor's License, Plumbing Contractor Lawrence Claussen, Master Plumber Lawrence Claussen. All fees have been paid and proof of license, insurance and bond have been provided. Don Steveson moved, seconded Lance Miles to approve this plumbing license. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL: Barbie Turner ref Chamber of Commerce reported on the success of the Easter Carnival. Martha Bickford had resigned as co-director of the Chamber of Commerce effective March 1, 2021. The Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the Annual Weston County Fair Parade and the pig wrestling event.

Garrett Borton noted the 6th annual RPM Days would be held June 4th through the 6th. The parade will be Saturday June 5th starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be a breakfast at the First State Bank parking lot Saturday morning June 5th.

Kathy Beehler requested consideration for holding a 5K run during the All School Reunion Saturday July 3rd beginning at 8:00 a.m. Consensus was to proceed with the plans.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Don Steveson handed out the monthly budget revenue and expenditure report.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James reminded the Council of the budget meeting on Monday April 26th at 5:00 p.m. He also handed out the preliminary proposed budget for review.

City Engineer Mike Moore reported on advertising for project and machinery bids to be opened at the May 3rd City Council meeting. The permits have been issued for the new Dollar General Store. Notices have been sent out to residents regarding the Salem Street storm drain project. Mr. Moore noted there will be a variance request at the next Planning & Zoning meeting.

City Attorney Michael Stulken presented Ordinance No.1, Series 2021 on third and final reading. The heading reads: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-20 OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WYOMING MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING THE CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TREE ADVISORY BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Don Steveson moved, seconded Ann McColley to pass Ordinance #1, Series 2021 on third and final reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

City Police Sam Keller reported on calls

for service, 1328 year to date and 228 for the month of April. Chief Keller recommended a \$.50 per hour raise for Ashley Knowlton for completing the Academy dispatch course. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chief Keller reported officers Riebel and Barker were attending the Academy. Chief Keller requested permission to begin advertising for the vacant officer position and that was granted.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Daren Downs ask for consideration to designate the west side of Railway from Main Street to the Alley as no on-street parking. That will be considered at the next Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ann McColley moved, seconded Don Steveson to suspend the rules and go into executive session reference personnel at 7:27 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Daren Downs moved, seconded Ann McColley to return to regular session at 8:29 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Ann McColley moved, seconded Don Steveson to pay the claims against the City dated April 19, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.** Daren Downs moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 8:33 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Claims: Alpha Communications, April 2021 tower rent, \$95.00; Ameri-Tech Equipment Co., parts, \$250.00; American Business Software, website maintenance/community calendar, \$111.58; BCN Telecom, Inc., long distance service, \$192.76; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, employee medical insurance, \$39,907.00; Burns Insurance Agency, Inc., notary bonds, \$100.00; Culligan Water Conditioning, bottled water, \$52.00; DB's Auto Mart, 2008 Ford F-350 plow truck, \$10,500.00; Deckers Food Center, housekeeping supplies, \$144.41; Delta Dental of Wyoming, employee dental insurance, \$2148.00; Eastern Wyoming Equipment Co., Inc., parts/supplies, \$3767.29; Energy Laboratories, Inc., water sample testing, \$88.00; Farnsworth Services, Co., Inc., portable sanitation, \$1000.00; Ferguson Waterworks #1116, parts, \$229.99; Gateway Travel Center, fuel purchases, \$2614.14; Heartland Kubota, LLC, rotary cutter, \$1425.00; Hurricane Services, PD car washes, \$50.00; Jeffery Lush/Children's Home Society, forensic interviews, \$450.00; Mastercard, fuel purchases, \$1882.86; Minuteman Lube Center, FD oil change/lube, \$73.99; Modern Marketing, Inc., pens, \$1025.50; Newcastle Police Dept., reimbursements, \$52.47; Newcastle Volunteer Fire Dept., reimburse supplies, \$1077.58; News Letter Journal, envelopes, FD, \$41.34; NORCO, Inc., welding cylinder rent, \$26.35; Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc., pipe fittings, \$3379.07; Office Shop Leasing, copier lease, \$71.45; One Call of Wyoming, utility locates, \$22.25; Postmaster, stamps, \$440.00; Range, city share phones, \$341.30; Range, E-911 data service/phone service, \$978.79; Rapid Delivery, Inc., parts delivery, \$13.23; Jessie Redo, reimburse CDL, \$85.60; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning, \$200.00; Short Stop Fuel Mart, fuel purchases, \$4036.01; Melissa Stubbs, reimburse notary filing, \$18.00; The Radar Shop, parts/repair, \$241.90; Uber Geek Computer, firewall software, \$469.66; Valli Information Systems, credit card service, \$100.00; Becky Vodopich, city office cleaning, \$300.00; WEBT, employee life insurance, \$105.25; WESCO Gas, propane, \$12.40; Weston County Peace Officers Association, membership, \$240.00; Weston County Treasurer, youth services/airport expenses/tax handling fee, \$1715.01; Weston County Humane Society, food fee, \$3.00; Woody's Food Center, housekeeping supplies, \$99.52; Wyoming Dept. of Transportation, license plate, \$5.00; Wyoming First Aid & Safety, first aid supplies, \$47.22; Wyoming Plant Company, new trees, \$885.70; Wyoming Rents, LLC, motor grader rent, \$13,351.28.

Pam Gualtieri, Mayor
ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Greg James

(Publish April 22, 2021)

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 W WARWICK NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

Separate sealed BIDS for the **Lagoon Biosolids Removal 2021** will be received at the Newcastle city office until 5:00 P.M. May 3, 2021. Bids will then be opened by the Newcastle City Council at, 7:15 PM DST May 3, 2021, during the regular council meeting, and read aloud. The project will consist of removing approximately 25,000 cubic yards of in-place biosolids from the city's lagoon facility and disposing of.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
City Engineer's Office, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of
The City Engineer, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701. Payment for each set is \$10.00 (non-refundable). Also, contract documents will be available at www.questcdn.com. For questions call (307) 746-3535.

A pre-bid meeting will be held April 28, 2021 1:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Pursuant to W.S. 16-6-106 "preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery and provisions produced, manufactured or grown in Wyoming, or supplied by a resident of the state, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the state".

Dated: 4/09/2021
Mike Moore, P.E.
City Engineer/City of Newcastle, WY

(Publish April 15 and 22, 2021)

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 W WARWICK NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

Separate sealed BIDS for the **Chip Seal 2021** will be received at the Newcastle city office until 5:00 P.M. May 3, 2021. Bids will then be opened by the Newcastle City Council at, 7:25 PM DST May 3, 2021, during the regular council meeting, and read aloud. The project will consist of installing approximately 12,100 SY of chip seal and fog seal.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
City Engineer's Office, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of
The City Engineer, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701. Payment for each set is \$10.00 (non-refundable). Also, contract documents will be available at www.questcdn.com. For questions call (307) 746-3535.

A pre-bid meeting will be held April 29, 2021 3:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Pursuant to W.S. 16-6-106 "preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery and provisions produced, manufactured or grown in Wyoming, or supplied by a resident of the state, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the state".

Dated: 4/09/2021
Mike Moore, P.E.
City Engineer/City of Newcastle, WY

(Publish April 15 and 22, 2021)

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NEWS LETTER
JOURNAL
ONLINE AT
WWW.NEWSLJ.COM

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having occurred and all prerequisites to foreclosure having been met, notice is hereby given that the mortgage given by Edward C. Kiesling and Beverly A. Kiesling, Trustees of the Edward and Beverly Kiesling Trust Dated the 16th day of October, 2014, mortgagors, in favor of Pinnacle Bank Wyoming, mortgagee, dated August 13, 2018, recorded August 14, 2018, in Book 380 of Photos, Page 242, in the Records of the Clerk of Weston County, Wyoming, given to secure payment of a note in the original amount of One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars and 00/100 (\$126,378.00). A modification of mortgage was recorded on December 20, 2019, in Book 388 of Photos, Page 913 of the Records of Weston County, Wyoming, and a modification of mortgage was recorded August 18, 2020, in Book 392 of Photos, page 700 of the Records of Campbell County, Wyoming. The amount due as of April 8, 2021, is One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Dollars and 16/100 (\$139,553.16), plus accruing interest, fees and costs. Said mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of default the owner of the Note and Mortgage declares to have become operative and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the mortgage or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued. Written notice of intent to foreclose

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 W WARWICK NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

Separate sealed BIDS for the **Salem Street Reconstruction 2021** will be received at the Newcastle city office until 5:00 P.M. May 3, 2021. Bids will then be opened by the Newcastle City Council at, 7:20 PM DST May 3, 2021, during the regular council meeting, and read aloud. The project will consist of installing approximately 876 lineal feet of 24" concrete curb and gutter, and 1460 square yards asphaltic concrete pavement 6 inches in thickness.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:
City Engineer's Office, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701
Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of
The City Engineer, City of Newcastle, 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701. Payment for each set is \$10.00 (non-refundable). Also, contract documents will be available at www.questcdn.com. For questions call (307) 746-3535.

A pre-bid meeting will be held April 28, 2021 3:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Pursuant to W.S. 16-6-106 "preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery and provisions produced, manufactured or grown in Wyoming, or supplied by a resident of the state, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the state".

Dated: 4/09/2021
Mike Moore, P.E.
City Engineer/City of Newcastle, WY

(Publish April 15 and 22, 2021)

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 W WARWICK NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

Separate sealed BIDS for a **Salsco, Inc Mini-Track Paver Model TP44-TD** or approved equal will be received at the Newcastle city office until 5:00 P.M. May 3, 2021. Bids will then be opened by the Newcastle City Council at, 7:10 PM DST May 3, 2021, during the regular council meeting, and read aloud.

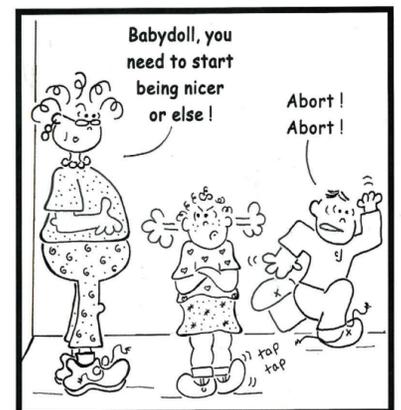
Specifications may be obtained from or examined at the office of the City Engineer who can be contacted at (307) 746-3535.

Pursuant to W.S. 16-6-106 "preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery and provisions produced, manufactured or grown in Wyoming, or supplied by a resident of the state, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the state".

Dated: 4/09/2021
Mike Moore, P.E.
City Engineer/City of Newcastle, WY

(Publish April 15 and 22, 2021)

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



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DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY

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By: Michael J. Lansing
Chapman Valdez & Lansing
125 West 2nd Street
P.O. Box 2710
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 237-1983

(Publish: April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 2021)

Police Blotter

March 28 Medical Assist. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Complaint. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Medical Assist. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Medical Assist. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large. Medical Assist. Bar Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.
March 29 Report of a Dog at Large. Medical Assist. Hazardous Cable Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop. VIN Inspection Requested. Report of a Dog at Large. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.
March 30 Assist Other agency. Abandoned 911. Assist Other Agency. Funeral Escort Requested. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Assist Other Agency. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Complaint. Assist Other Agency. Suspicious Activity Reported.
March 31 Natural Death Reported. 911 Misdialed. Traffic Control Reported. Minor Vehicle Accident Reported. Suspicious Person Reported. Search Warrant Executed. Hazardous Conditions Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. Abandoned 911. Abandoned 911.
April 1 Medical Assist. Traffic Hazard Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Fire Reported. Assist Other Agency. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. 911 Misdialed.
April 2 Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, No Action Taken. VIN Inspection Requested. Report of Two Dogs at Large, Dogs Released to Owners. Report of a Dog at Large, Impounded. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.
April 3 Suspicious Activity Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Report of a Dog at Large. Assist Other Agency, Citation Issued. Medical Assist. Motorist Assist. Overdue Motorist Reported.
April 4 Overdue Motorist Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. Misdialed 911. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Civil Standby Requested.
April 5 VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Injured Animal Reported. Suspicious Activity Reported.
April 6 Barking Dog Reported, Impounded. Medical Assist. Traffic Complaint. Assist Other Agency.



April 7 VIN Inspection Requested. Public Assist. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large.
April 8 Public Assist. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Medical Assist. Report of an MIP Tobacco, Citation Issued. 911 Misdialed. VIN Inspection Requested. Medical Assist. Medical Assist. Suspicious Activity Reported. Medical Assist. Suspicious Activity.
April 9 Assist Other Agency. 911 Misdialed. VIN Inspection Requested. 911 Misdialed. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Medical Assist.
April 10 Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. 911 Misdialed. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. 911 Misdialed. Suspicious Activity Reported.
April 11 Medical Assist. Medical Assist. Downed Power Line Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Motorist Assist. Abandoned 911.
April 12 Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Reckless Driving Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Disorderly Conduct Reported. Assist Other Agency. Protection Order Issued. Report of a Dog at Large, Impounded. VIN Inspection Requested. 911 Misdialed.
April 13 Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Theft Reported. Theft Reported. School Walkthrough. Traffic Complaint. Assist Other Agency. Assist Other Agency. Theft Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. Found Property Reported.
April 14 School Walkthrough. VIN Inspection Requested. 911 Misdialed. VIN Inspection Requested. 911 Misdialed.
April 15 Abandoned 911. School Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. School Walkthrough. Arrest Warrant Issued. Report of a Dog at Large, Verbal Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.
April 16 Abandoned 911. School Walkthrough. Suspicious Person Reported. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Traffic Control Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Drunk Driver Reported.
April 17 Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported. Driving Complaint. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large. 911 Misdialed. Theft Reported.

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Gas prices rise again

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Wyoming gas prices have risen 3.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.90 per gallon as of Monday, according to GasBuddy.com's daily survey of 494 stations in Wyoming. Gas prices in Wyoming are 5.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago, and stand \$1.03 per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest gas in Wyoming was priced at \$2.56 per gallon Monday, while the most expensive was priced at \$3.38 per gallon, a difference of 82 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline was unchanged in the last week, averaging \$2.85 per gallon Monday. The national average was down 2.2 cents per gallon from a month ago, and stands \$1.07 per gallon higher than a year ago.

'Grow a little extra' launches

EVANSTON — First Lady Jennie Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative is partnering with the University of Wyoming Extension to launch a new program under the Food from the Farm + Ranch banner called Grow a Little Extra. Instead of reinventing the wheel, this collaboration uses existing resources to create a sustainable solution to hunger. Wyoming Hunger Initiative Regional Directors Dr. Caitlin Youngquist and Lori Dickinson, both from University of Wyoming Extension, spearheaded this effort to encourage gardeners to Grow a Little Extra this year in order to provide produce for their neighbors in need. The Grow a Little Extra campaign will target three groups in Wyoming: home gardeners who can "grow a little extra" to share with local food pantries, existing community gardens that can dedicate one or two sections to growing food specifically for local food distribution agencies, and churches or community organizations who want to start a new garden to grow food for the community. Anyone in the state of Wyoming who enjoys gardening is encouraged to grow an extra row or two and donate the produce to their local Cent\$ible Nutrition Program, where it will be weighed and distributed to local anti-hunger organizations. Wyoming Hunger Initiative has distributed seed packets to all twenty-three counties and the Wind River Indian Reservation for anyone interested in picking them up free of charge at their local extension office. Infrastructure grants are available for organizations who wish to expand an existing community garden or start a new one to grow produce specifically for sharing with families and organizations in need.

Cheney outraises challengers

CHEYENNE (WNE) — With more than a year left until Wyoming's 2022 primary election, Congresswoman Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., reported a strong start to her campaign's fundraising efforts last week, accruing roughly \$1.5 million in contributions over the first quarter of 2021 and outraising the challengers that have emerged since her vote to impeach former President Donald Trump. The \$1.54 million raised in the first quarter by Cheney, who has held Wyoming's sole House seat since 2017, reflects a higher quarterly amount than any she has reported during the past three elections, according to Federal Election Commission reports. Her campaign closed the first quarter of 2021 with roughly \$1.43 million in cash on hand. A pair of her competitors, led by state Sen. Anthony Bouchard, R-Cheyenne, also had noteworthy starts to their fundraising efforts. Bouchard, who was the first to announce his campaign against Cheney following her impeachment vote of Trump in January, raised roughly \$334,000 in the first quarter, with about \$164,000 in cash on hand heading into April, according to his FEC report filed last week. Another state lawmaker running against the incumbent congresswoman, Rep. Chuck Gray, R-Casper, trailed both Cheney and Bouchard in first-quarter fundraising. Gray reported roughly \$173,000 in contributions, with about \$133,000 of that coming from his own pocket and another \$5,800 coming from his father. Last week, Trump issued a statement suggesting he will be backing a candidate in the race in the near future. His statement came shortly after Cheney, who has repeatedly condemned the former president's role in inciting a mob's attack on the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6, told Fox News' Neil Cavuto that she would not support Trump if he was the GOP nominee for president in 2024.

Yellowstone roads start to open

CODY (WNE) — As of Friday, select roads and services in Yellowstone National Park are now open to the public for the summer season, weather permitting. Visitors should expect modified operations that are subject to change based on future conditions and public health guidance. Roads that will be open to the public by Friday include the West Entrance to Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs to Old Faithful (via Norris), Norris to Canyon Village, the North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs to Northeast Entrance (open year-round). The East Entrance outside Cody is scheduled to open 8 a.m. May 7. The road between Canyon Junction and Tower-Roosevelt will be closed for the 2021 season. Face masks are being required in all visitor facilities in Yellowstone National Park. Masks are also required on NPS-managed lands when physical distancing cannot be maintained, such as hiking trails, overlooks and parking areas. This requirement is in support of President Joe Biden's Executive Order, that mandates maskwearing on federal property and spaces. Initially, some NPS and partner services will be limited and or modified, especially in the early spring. The Park works with partners to safely provide visitors services such as camping, lodging, dining, retail and activities, educational programs, fuel and automotive repair shops, and urgent care clinics. These services will be available through Yellowstone's lodges, Delaware North general stores, Yellowstone Forever, Yellowstone Park Service Stations, Inc., Medcor at Yellowstone.

FEMA launches helpline for funerals

ROCK SPRINGS (WNE) — Wyoming residents who lost a loved one to COVID-19 may apply for federal reimbursement of funeral expenses to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020, for a death related to COVID-19. The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia. Funeral assistance is intended to help with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation, and this assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per applicant. The following documentation is needed to submit the application: An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States. Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses and dates the funeral expenses were incurred. Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources. For more information about this assistance, visit www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance. The dedicated toll-free phone number to call is 844-684-6333. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives are available to assist callers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Business Bulletin

News Letter Journal

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CARD OF THANKS

Card of thanks
 The family of Ed Porter would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the kindness and support we have received during Ed's illness and passing. We truly appreciate all the phone calls, cards, flowers, food and memorial donations to our family. Your love, prayers, hugs and expressions of sympathy will be remembered.
 Cindy

Sarah, Christy, Heather and families

YARD SALES

Moving Sale
 Sat, April 24, 8-5pm only. Small chest freezer, 12 gauge pump shotgun, 22 rifle (needs work), electric start lawn mower, books, kitchen stuff, dolls, clothes, furniture, etc. 10 Ranch Market Rd. Please DON'T come early!

Living Estate Sale
 117 Frontier, April 23 8:30-5pm, April 24, 8:30-12:30pm.

FOR SALE

Vehicles
 '51 Pontiac Coup, '81 orange Chevy 4x4 pickup six cylinder, runs very strong, nearly no rust. '83 Hallmark P.U. camper on trailer, '02 red PT

Cruiser, '89 Honda 125 Trail motorcycle. Call 307-746-2386.

Furniture

Antique long dresser w/ tall mirror \$175, hutch \$60, recliner \$30. Call 307-746-2386.

MISC

Tree trimming
 Affordable Tree Service LLC. Tree trimming, removals, pruning or clearing. Call Mike 307-941-1049 or Jason 307-941-0193

Book

The Buckhorn Book is ready for distribution. \$20 with post paid. Call 307-257-2109.

Meeting

Annual meeting BREAD will be April 25, 1pm at the BREAD office. All interested

invited. 16-1tc

FOR RENT

One bedroom
 1 bed apartment. Call 307-746-5541.

Ground level

Apartment for rent, two bedroom, ground level, \$500/mo + utilities all electric. Call 307-746-4076 or 5175.

Furnished

1/1 fully furnished apartment with utilities, available now & 3/2 manufactured home with large yard and shed, available now. Please call 307-746-8081 or 307-746-5711.

HELP WANTED

Looking for housekeeper, laundry person, front desk & bartender help. Apply

in person at Fountain Inn.

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

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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 newcastlewyoing.org/.
 The City of Newcastle is an equal opportunity employer.

NEWCASTLE APARTMENTS
 has 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments for rent. HUD subsidized. Section 8. Rental based on income. 2115 Delaware • Newcastle, WY (307) 746-9330 TDD 1-800-877-9975
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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 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. WCHS performs post offer, pre-employment drug screening. EOE.

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LEAVING *a* LEGACY

During the summer of 2019, Newcastle High School seniors Markie Whitney, Shelby Davis, and Kaitlyn Wardle painted the Sources of Strength mural in the high school hallway. The program is directed by Kristi Lipp, with artwork overseen by NHS art teacher Jimmie Josephson.

The idea behind the wall was to allow students to paint inspirational messages or images as their own legacies to adorn the Newcastle High School hallways for friends, families, and future generations to enjoy.

I decided to incorporate the mural into my English classroom after the juniors completed ACT testing. I wanted to give them something different after the heavy ACT prep we had completed, the actual ACT test, and we were headed into a short school week with Spring Break coming up.

We had just completed our nonfiction/memoir unit which incorporated the main theme of "Legacy." Students wrote their own legacy chapter, presented on the main messages within the text we read, "The Last Lecture," by Randy Pausch, and we completed the unit with the paintings.

I had only expected this to be a short assignment, but the students took it seriously, and we realized we had a lot more artists throughout the school than those who only take art classes. Students even came together to help each other paint their visions for those who think they are painting illiterate.

My requirements were simple but heartfelt. I asked the students to create a rough draft of their painting on scratch paper before actually painting. I requested that the painting represent themselves, be positive and inspirational to stay true to the Sources of Strength messages, and that they were to think of it as their NHS legacy.

Upon completion they needed to write an explanation about the meaning behind their painting and how it was their legacy. They also presented their bricks to their classmates as part of the speaking and listening standards.

Choir teacher Jan Ellis witnessed one of the class presentations. She told me she was moved by how the students opened up enough to not only

Jessica Troftgruben
Guest Columnist

paint something meaningful, but also give a presentation about it to their classmates. It was fun to watch other grade levels become excited about painting their own bricks.

When I had my classes painting, there were many other students who also began to participate even though they weren't in my class. Senior Emily Beastrom, also a Sources of Strength member, has become inspired by the mural and has ideas for future murals to incorporate school spirit, student participation, and the positivity of what Sources of Strength stands for.

"I painted my view of the beautiful expressive landscape of the state I call home. It is where I grew up and hopefully a place I will come back to in the following years of my life. It's where I met a lifetime of friends, experience a variety of activities, and finally where I went to school, all encompassed in a brick."

— LaKacee Lipp

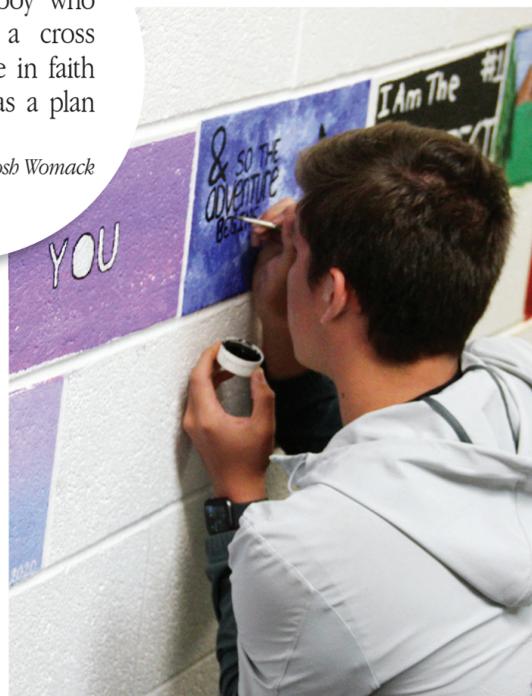
"My grandpa always said to find your happy place and do not let go of it. My happy place is God's country. I have found that the wilderness is where I can go and get away from today's world."

— Chris Fullerton (painted mountains)



"I chose a cowboy who is kneeling at a cross because I believe in faith and that God has a plan for everyone."

— Josh Womack



Kahlyn Messmer, above. Zade Orsborn, at right. Hayden Overman and Braden Jenkins, below.



Photos by Hannah Gross/NLJ

"I chose to paint a silhouette of a person lifting weights with the quote, 'The only bar I go to...'. I have really begun to fit the weight room in my schedule. With the passing of my grandma, who I was really close to, I wanted to go lift. Also as a teen athlete, I know drinking could potentially hurt me in some pretty bad ways. The quote is also referencing that instead of going to the typical drinking type of bar, the weight room barbell is the only bar I go to."

— Braden Jenkins

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