

News Letter Journal

Weston County

August 19, 2021

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 135 Week 33

Manders to make court appearance

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The preliminary hearing in the case against Paul Manders for murder in the second degree has been postponed to Sept. 1, following a request for continuance from the public defender's

office, according to documents filed in Sixth Judicial Court in Newcastle.

Rick Weisheimer, a Gillette-based assistant public defender, signed a motion to continue the preliminary hearing stating that, due to the gravity of the allegations, the defense needs "additional time to properly meet

with Mr. Manders to discuss the facts and circumstances of his case in an effort to provide him with effective assistance."

The hearing was originally scheduled for Aug. 4.

Manders has been charged with the murder of Vernon Clyde in

Osage after an ongoing property dispute, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

The disputed property, according to court documents, is near and around 410 Metz St. in Osage. The location of the skid steer and body of Clyde appear to be in an area designated as

being part of a county roadway and not part of the named property.

"On July 27, 2021, at approximately 6:19 p.m., the Weston County dispatch center received a 911 call from Paul Manders who provided that an

— See Manders, Page 2

Rallying through



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Throughout the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Aug. 6-15, groups of bikers enjoy the hospitality of Newcastle, as they stop by during various rides. On Aug. 6 a group from Lyons, Ohio, (near Toledo) refreshed themselves at Perkins Tavern, before hitting the road again. Above, Jim and Angie Kesler prepare to continue their road trip.

Stulken is new county attorney

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Deputy County Attorney Michael Stulken is expected to be appointed the new Weston County attorney, following the resignation of Alex Berger. Stulken was the only person to submit a letter of interest to the Weston County Republican Party.

The Weston County Republican Party Central Committee held a public meeting on Aug. 14 to meet with those who professed an interest in the position. The group was to select three names to forward to the Board of Weston County Commissioners, which would then select one person from the list. But Stulken was the only one interested.

Stulken has lived in Weston County for approximately 16 months, he said during his interview. During that time, he has served as the deputy Weston County attorney, as well as attorney for the City of Newcastle.

"During this time, I have created many positive relationships with the people of Weston County, as well as aiding in the creation of an environment whereby the Weston County

— See Attorney, Page 7

County seeks to fill coroner spot

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

With both the Weston County coroner, Cindy Crabtree, and the deputy county coroner, Marina McIlvain, incapacitated due to medical issues, Crabtree has been relying on Crook County coroners to help when needed, according to information provided on Aug. 3 to the Board of Weston County Commissioners.

The board, with no previous knowledge of the circumstances, discussed possible options and determined that Crabtree could deputize one or two people to temporarily assume coroner duties until she returns to duty or that the board could enter into a memorandum of understanding with Crook County.

Michael Frolander, Crook County coroner, discussed the situation over the phone with the board, stating that his office had

— See Coroner, Page 7

District prepares for new school year

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Summer has passed and the schools in Weston County School District No. 1 are filled with teachers and administrators preparing to welcome back students starting Aug. 24, when several participate in jumpstart days. Classes begin on Aug. 25.

Principals from each school said that while it is hard to predict what the school enrollment will look like this early in the year, although all three are encouraged by the enrollment of several new students already.

"At the elementary school, we have had over 20 new students enroll," Brandy Holmes, elementary school principal said. "However, we may find some previous students do not return once we start. So, numbers are difficult to predict this year."

High school principal Bryce Hoffman reported that as of Monday, Aug. 16, there were 242 students enrolled in the school. He noted that some of those are new students but that some former students will not be returning to the district.

Kicking off the 2021-22 school year are several welcome-back events, including a celebration at Newcastle Middle School on Aug. 23, an open house at Newcastle Elementary School on Aug. 24 and jump-start days for both sixth- and ninth-graders at the middle and high school on Aug. 24. Fall sports have already kicked off the season with practices on Aug. 16.

According to Tyler Bartlett, middle school principal, the sixth-grade jumpstart day for new students last year was received well by the students and

— See School, Page 2

Taking it for a spin

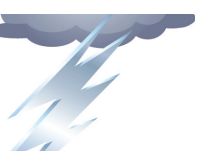


Photo by Braden Schiller/NLJ

Laurette Hoagland demonstrates spinning wool onto an e-spinner (electric spinning wheel) at the Weston County Event center during the Weston County Fair.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Thunderstorms
Hi 71, Lo 53



Friday
Showers
Hi 67, Lo 46



Saturday
Sunny
Hi 78, Lo 56



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 81, Lo 55



Monday
Sunny
Hi 87, Lo 56



Tuesday
Sunny
Hi 82, Lo 53



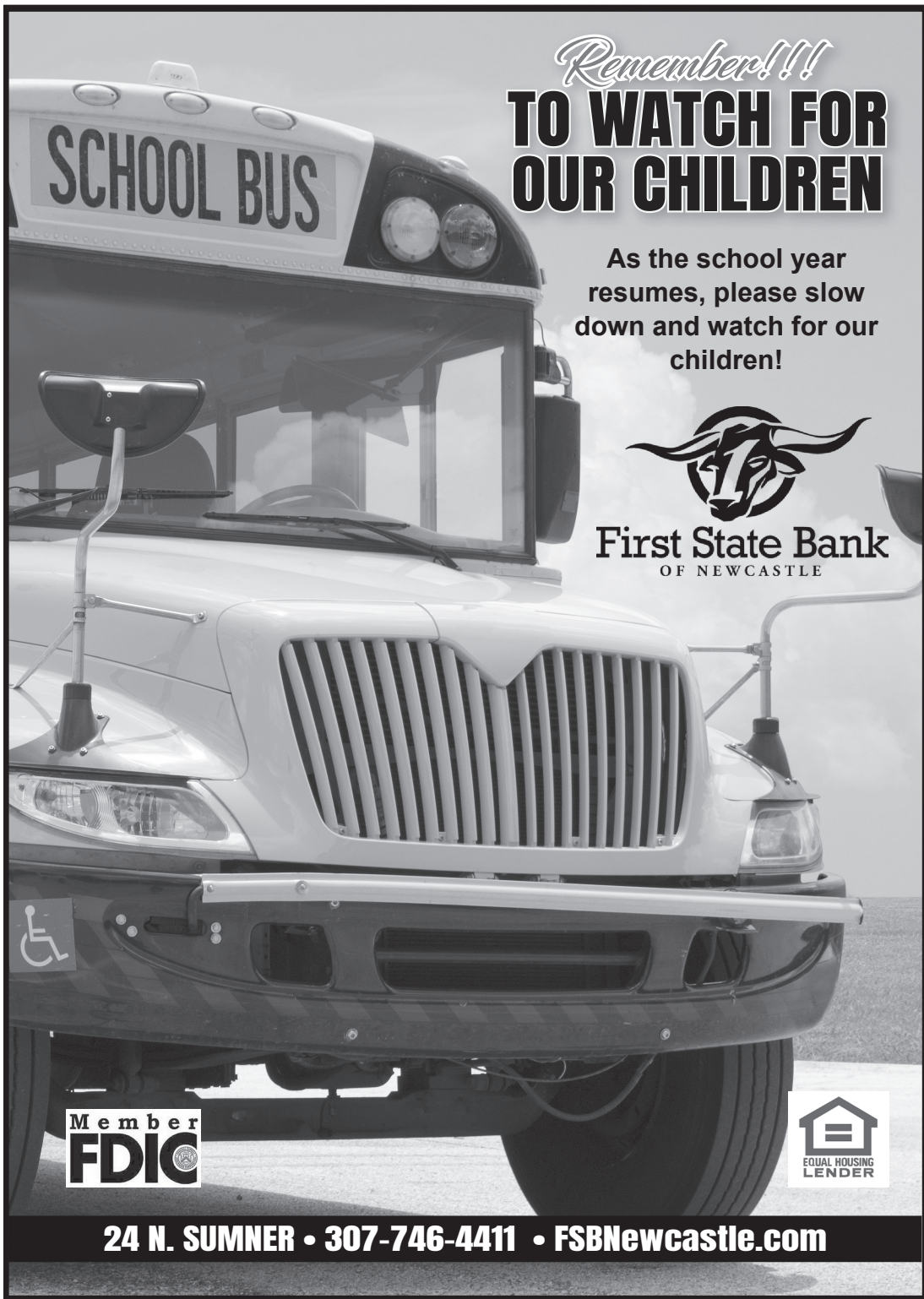
Wednesday
Sunny
Hi 81 Lo 54



INSIDE

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Remember!!!
TO WATCH FOR OUR CHILDREN

As the school year resumes, please slow down and watch for our children!

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Manders from Page 1

unknown person had come at him with a 'skid steer' and that he (Manders) had killed him," the affidavit says.

Deputy Dan Fields, who arrived at the scene, said that it appeared to him that the victim, later identified as Clyde, had been shot while sitting in a John Deere skid steer parked east of 410 Metz St. The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation was contacted to help with the investigation.

DCI agents, the affidavit states, discovered four .45 caliber shells at the scene, and witnesses stated that they had heard four gunshots.

Clyde sustained three gunshot wounds, according to results of an autopsy performed by Dr. Thomas Bennett, a Sheridan-based forensic pathologist.

"During the autopsy, Dr. Bennett noted three gunshot wounds to Clyde; specifically to Clyde's right temple, right side of mouth and center of chest," the affidavit says.

Blood splatter found across the left and rear interior of the cab of the skid steer, to Clyde's left and rear side, according to the document, further

indicates that the splatter occurred while the skid steer was at rest and not in motion.

Blood spatter on one of the joysticks of the skid steer, according to the investigating DCI agent, did not indicate "a hand being present on the joystick at the time of the blood splatter," the affidavit states.

Upon execution of a search warrant for 410 Metz St., agents discovered an iPhone that reportedly was used to call to the dispatch center and several others about the shooting incident.

The agents also found a "loaded black Rock Island Armory brand 1911 style pistol chambered in .45 caliber with brown colored grips." The brand and type of ammunition loaded in the pistol matched the four .45 caliber casings located at the scene, the document says.

Manders is currently being held in the Weston County Detention Center on \$150,000 bond, cash or commercial surety bond.

If convicted, Manders faces no less than 20 years in prison with a maximum sentence of life in prison. A fine of no more than \$10,000 may also be added to the sentence.

School from Page 1

community. Due to the success of that pilot program, both the high school and middle school are joining in this year.

The idea, Bartlett explained, is to invite students who are new to the school to start the school year before the first day of classes for all students. On the jumpstart day, students will experience the bell schedule, learn to navigate the new school and classrooms, interact with teachers and administration and find out what is expected of them overall.

This year, Bartlett said, students will enjoy donuts, fruit and juice from Decker's Market in the morning. Pinnacle Bank staff will grill food provided by Woody's Food Center for lunch for the middle school jumpstart day.

All students attending Newcastle Middle School and their parents are invited to a back-to-school celebration on Aug. 23 at the middle school. The day's events include an open house and advisory meeting, ice cream social, a meeting with Bartlett and a back-to-school dance for students sponsored by the Newcastle Middle School student council.

Newcastle Elementary School will also host an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 24. The purpose of the evening is for students and parents to meet teachers, see their classrooms and drop off

any needed materials before the first day of school.

School secretary Dawn Williams reported that the elementary school will again be providing student materials for the classroom. Parents, however, will be responsible for backpacks and tennis shoes for physical education classes.

Supply lists for the other schools vary, depending on classes and teachers. Teachers, however, may request additional supplies throughout the school year.

The district has announced that it will again provide both breakfast and lunch to all students, free of charge.

The first official day of school for all students in the district is Wednesday, Aug. 25, according to the calendar and information from district principals.

All returning students can access registration documents via the district website, wcsd1.org. However, all new students will need to contact the school office they will be attending for paper registration forms.

This year, according to technology director Beau Gregory, the school district website may look different because the district recently upgraded the website.

"This website is supposed to be easier to navigate, more user friendly, especially for those on phones," Gregory said.

In addition to the website, parents and students will have access to a phone app sharing relevant school information. This app will be used to notify users of calendar updates and any other important information that needs to get out quickly.

The app is called the School News app by Edlio, Gregory said. The app can be downloaded on either iOS or android phones by searching "School News by Edlio."

Once the app is downloaded, parents and/or students can search for the appropriate school. After selecting a school, you are able to enable push notifications and receive updates with an alert directly to your device, Gregory explained.

"All of the news and events posted to our website are posted here (School News) for easy access. You can also add multiple Edlio-powered schools and/or districts to gather all news, events and alerts in this one app," Gregory said in an email. "We'll send push notifications out to keep you updated on urgent news."

All schools in the district will keep their doors locked during school hours. Parents and visitors can be buzzed in at the doors closest to the front office.

For anyone riding buses to school this year, please see page 16 for the full route schedule provided by the district.

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nlj IDEAS

Our View

Thanks for the transparency

The News Letter Journal would like to commend the Weston County Republican Party for their due diligence in making sure that the selection of the new county attorney was as transparent as possible.

Chairman Kari Drost advertised the meetings in our paper as well as on the radio stations as soon as she was aware of the resignation. She also made sure it was known that the public was more than welcome to attend the meeting, not just republicans.

In a situation surrounding the representation and prosecution of Weston County it is crucial that the public have access to as much information as possible on the potential candidates. Inviting them to attend the meeting was an applauded effort by the Republican Party to aid the public in becoming involved in

the process. While the Weston County Republican Party Central Committee is ultimately responsible for voting on the candidates interested in the position, choosing three to send forward to the Board of Weston County Commissioners, the public was able to ask questions and listen to the interview.

Despite only one name being submitted for consideration, Weston County Commission Chairman Marty Ertman applauded the Republican Party for their due diligence in soliciting as many names as possible. While Commissioner Tony Barton was concerned with there only being one name for consideration, because of the statute, he did note that Weston County is in a unique situation with a small population.

Need to talk to a public servant?

County Commission Members' contacts:

Ed Wagoner	746-2108
Marty Ertman (Chair)	746-2351
Don Taylor	746-8582
Tony Barton	756-2561
Nathan Todd	468-2381
Becky Hadlock (County Clerk)	746-4744

www.westongovw.com

Deadline for letters is Friday

The end of 'Afghanistanism' in our lifetime – about time?

Yes, it is time to get out of our 20-year never-ending war in Afghanistan.

But first, let me tell a bit about editorial writing, including how the name of this far-off country relates to it.

Three decades ago, when I was a hell-on-wheels editorial writer for a local newspaper, it always seemed important to me to write forceful editorials about local issues. I was rewarded for those efforts by measured changes in my communities, the wrath of various portions of the population, and awards from journalism organizations.

But I stayed away, at all costs, from three other types of editorials. My three gripes were:

Way back then, I abhorred what was called "blind boosterism," which is over-the-top local promotion of just about anything. This column is not about that.

Another type that I disliked were editorials that I called "thumbsuckers," where the writer whined about some per-

sonal grudge.

The third kind is what used to be called "Afghanistanism." This was a slur you cast toward some editorial writer who,

instead of dealing with local topics, would write stirring missives about happenings around the world. Your local readers, interested only in local affairs, cared very little about this far-away stuff and criticized these editorial writers for straying way far from where they should be focusing their attention.

Afghanistanism? I am writing about this today in the context that perhaps, finally, our longest war is coming to an end. President Joe Biden swears he is going to get our troops out of that God-forsaken country by Sept. 11, ironically the 20th anniversary of the greatest attack ever on our country's shores – the 9/11 attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

In recent years, just about every columnist or editorial

writer has written about this crazy never-ending war and, no, it was not writing about some far-away obscure place any more. Afghanistan was a place where thousands of our finest young men and women were making huge sacrifices. And for what?

Within a year of the 9/11 attacks, our forces had blasted that country to bits and pretty much demolished the folks who planned the terrorism. They retreated so far into the hills and their caves that the threat was contained.

But then the U.S. found out what so many countries had found out before it – Afghanistan is an out of control mess. The former USSR found that out and some folks think the folly of Russia's war in Afghanistan bankrupted their country and led to an end to that country's status as a superpower.

Afghanistan has been a money pit over and over. The USA had spent \$2 trillion. And that was back when a trillion bucks was really a trillion bucks!

We lost 2,200 lives and saw 20,000 more of our people

injured. For what? When we leave there, it will revert back to what it was before. An opium poppy-growing patchwork of tribes and fiefdoms that fight against each other as much as they fight against the outside world. They will practice hideous offenses against women and girls and it will just be awful. These folks are barbarians.

I will tell you what the definition of insanity is in one word: Afghanistan. Others define insanity as doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Like I said, Afghanistan.

My generation had its own version of this nightmare called Vietnam. Only that war killed 58,148 young American men and women. With a death toll like that, we managed to stop the insanity after just eight years.

Those folks who died in Vietnam were folks my age. My classmate Harlan Bilden never got to see his 20th birthday. Another classmate Larry Halverson was shot up and died later at the age of 57.

I am proud to be friends of Vietnam veterans Pat Schmidt,

Bob Spengler, Andy Gramlich and Dan Whetstone. Some of these guys have COPD from Agent Orange, two were shot, and they all probably have some PTSD from their experiences. These four men appear normal but they carry their wounds.

Of the 2.7 million American soldiers who served during Vietnam, some 304,000 suffered serious injuries or crippling wounds. Some 75,000 were considered seriously disabled.

The National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois has an incredible and informative wing about the Vietnam War. Well worth the visit.

Getting back to the subject at hand: Should we get out of Afghanistan? Duh.

We need to concentrate our efforts on Asia and leave the Middle East behind.

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



Bill Sniffin My Wyoming

Abuse and circumvention of the Advice and Consent Clause

The framers of the Constitution inserted the Advice and Consent Clause to ensure joint decision making between the president and the Senate in the exercise of the treaty

making and appointment powers. What happens when the aims, purposes and spirit of that clause are abused or circumvented by either one of the joint decision makers? We focus this week on the ability of presidents to thwart the constitutional blueprint for advice and consent of the Senate.

Presidents possess considerable means to abuse and circumvent the Advice and Consent Clause, thus frustrating the aims of the framers' constitutional design. Consider, for example, the ability of a president to utilize executive agreements and recess appointments to bypass the Senate.

A president may circumvent the Senate and its role in the treaty power, and thus the framers' emphasis on joint or collective decision making, by resorting to the use of executive agreements, which do not require the advice and consent of the Senate. For a variety of political and policy purposes, a chief executive will prefer unilateral or independent authority to the requirement of winning the consent of the Senate, which invites defeat of a treaty proposal. Presidents have been wary of submitting treaties to the Senate — "the graveyard of treaties" — ever since Woodrow Wilson endured the defeat of his beloved proposal for the United States to join the League of Nations at the conclusion of World War I.

Presidents of both political parties have turned to executive agreements to avoid the Senate. For example, in 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt struck with Great Britain the famous destroyers-

for-bases deal, which provided a critical lifeline to England at a desperate moment in its war with Germany. FDR asserted statutory authority for his action. Richard Nixon utilized an executive agreement in 1973 to negotiate the Vietnam peace agreement.

Over the years, the White House has invoked as authority for executive agreements: the president's claimed authority to represent the nation in the field of foreign relations; the president's authority to receive ambassadors and foreign ministers; the president's authority as Commander in Chief; and the president's duty

to "take care that the laws be faithfully executed." There is no precise boundary between executive agreements and treaties. The Supreme Court has upheld executive agreements as valid, particularly when they are grounded in statutory delegation or an existing treaty. Nevertheless, the use of executive agreements gives rise to controversy since they evade the constitutional checks and balances achieved by the Senate's role, Alexander Hamilton's observation in Federalist No. 75, that treaties "are omniscient" in foreign relations, and the framers' determination that the formulation of American foreign policy would reflect, not unilateral presidential power, but the collective wisdom of the president and Congress acting in concert.

The appointment power was created to provide a constitutional means for filling an office created by congressional enactment of a statute. Failure to fill an office would render meaningless the purpose of investing Congress with the authority to create offices, and undermine the ability of government to function efficiently. Occasionally, a vacancy in an office may occur while the Senate is in recess, neces-

sitating a presidential power to make "recess appointments." Thus, Article II, section 2 of the Constitution declares: "The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session."

Since the presidency of James Madison, most occupants of the White House have interpreted the Recess Appointment Clause broadly, so that they could fill any existing vacancies, including those that first occurred while the Senate was in session. Rather than nominate someone who might be defeated, presidents could wait until the Senate was in recess to make an "appointment." When Congress returned, the name of the appointee would be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent, but by that time, the appointee/nominee would have acquired valuable experience in the position, making it more difficult for senators to oppose the nomination. The circumvention of the Senate in this manner is what has given rise to controversy over the years.

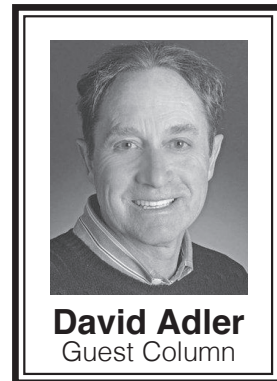
President Ronald Reagan was clever in gaming the system. He used recess appointments for the purpose of undermining the Legal Services Corporation, a governmental agency created to provide legal assistance to the poor in civil cases. In his first year in office, President Reagan made no appointments to the board of directors of the corporation. In his second year, for the purpose of ensuring that holdovers from Jimmy Carter's term did not dominate the board, Reagan made seven recess appointments at the end of 1981. Over the next couple of years, Reagan nominated people to the board, but then withdrew their names before the Senate could act on the nominations. With the vacancies intact, Reagan proceeded to fill the openings with recess appointments, a strategy that enabled him to control the agency from

1981 through 1984, even though none of his appointees was ever confirmed by the Senate.

Recess appointments of federal judges, including the 15 Supreme Court Justices who have ascended to the High Bench through the recess process, are a matter of special concern since their appointment carries, as Article III of the Constitution provides, tenure during "good behavior," which can mean, generally speaking, a lifetime appointment. Recess appointments have been upheld by the Supreme Court, but it remains disturbing that recess judges, who will exercise the same weighty authority as those that have been subjected to the advice and consent of the Senate, will not have been vetted or scrutinized by the Senate.

The tools and powers available to the president to circumvent the checking and balancing mechanism of advice and consent in matters of treaty making and the appointment power remain a matter of concern and controversy. This is not to say that the Senate — the joint partner in treaty making and appointments — is not without its own devices to frustrate the constitutional design for collective decision making. We turn next week to the ways that the Senate can foil the president's ambition.

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 U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts by both Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress. Adler's column is supported, in part, through a grant from Wyoming Humanities, funded by the "Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation" initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Adler can be reached at david.adler@alturasinstitute.com.



David Adler Guest Column

News Letter Journal: WPA and NNA Award Winner

WHO



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WHAT

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

WHERE

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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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Thank you! Thank you!

We are humbled by the strong financial support and presence at the Jr. Livestock Auction. We appreciate all of you for embracing our family during this challenging time.

— The Joey Johnson Family

Obituaries

GERRY LINDA CLARK
April 25, 1956—
Aug. 14, 2021

Gerry was born April 25, 1956, to Charles and Lavonne Clark. She came home to Red Water near Spearfish, S.D. She also lived in Moskee in the summer and the family eventually moved to Newcastle, Wyo., when she was about 3. She received some of her early education at Gertrude Burns School and later had an in-home tutor. She also attended school in Thermopolis, Wyo., and college classes at Sheridan College. Her next home was Billings, Mont., where she resided in her own apartment for about 25 years.

She met her first challenge when she was born with cerebral palsy, but never let that keep her from doing or trying whatever she wanted.

She liked to play the “Wahoo” marble game when she was younger. She was also a 4-H club member and showed her horse “Velvet” at the county fair. She spent many hours on her computer keeping in contact with family and friends.

While in Billings, she worked for the college in the mail department delivering mail to the different departments. She was also an annual volunteer for the Salvation Army as a Christmas season bell ringer and always participated in the yearly walk for MS. Although her donations were never large, she always donated to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital fund. She loved the holidays, especially Christmas when there could

never be too many decorations or lights. She even left Christmas lights up and lit in her room at Weston County Manor the year around.

She had her share of medical issues throughout her life. In November of 2011 she developed a brain bleed which resulted in her moving from Billings back to Newcastle where she lived the remainder of her life but never gave up hope of returning to Billings.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Lavonne Clark; grandparents, Nate and Hilma Clark and Bun and Betty Conger; and many aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her sister, Shirley Cole and husband Larry, nephews, Scott Johnson

(Terra Kennah), and great-nephews, Christopher Johnson and Tanner Johnson, all of Newcastle; nephew, Steven Johnson of Wheatland; aunts, Jackie Dale and Angela Ross and uncle John Ross of Sturgis, S.D.; and many cousins.

Funeral services for Gerry will be held Thursday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Meridian Mortuary. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery, Newcastle.

Memorials may be made in Gerry’s name to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. 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.

— See Obituaries Page 6



Gerry Clark

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Celebration of life for

Jane Baldwin

Drinks and brunch will be served Saturday, Aug 21 • 11-2pm Newcastle Country Club

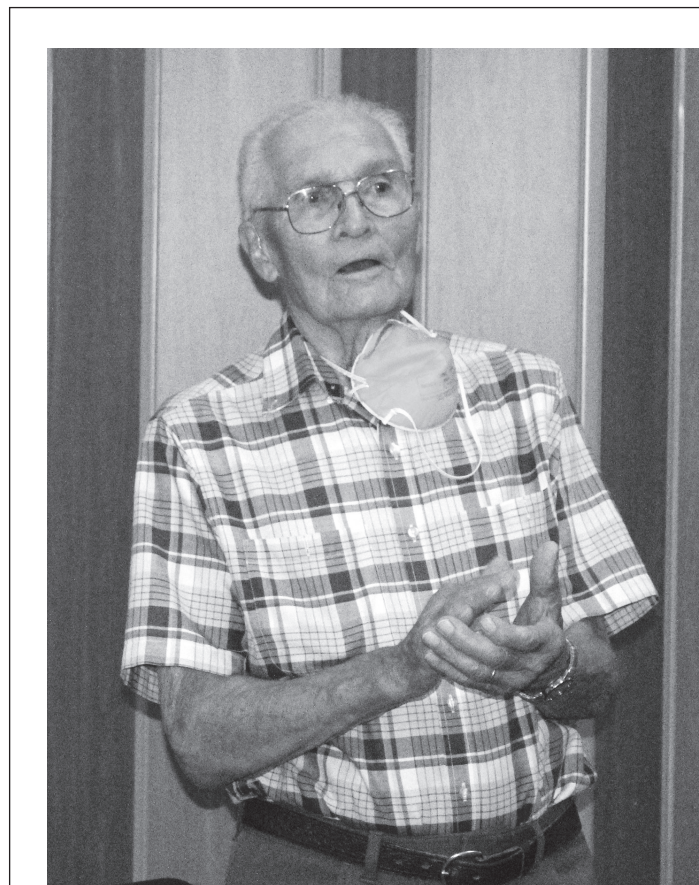
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Happy 101

On Saturday, Dr. Willis Franz celebrated his 101st birthday at Newcastle United Methodist Church. A dinner of barbecue sandwiches, potato salad, fruit, ice tea and lemonade was enjoyed by a full hall. A large birthday cake was also served. The event was well attended, as Newcastle honored one of the most respected persons in Newcastle. Dr. Franz served as a physician in Newcastle for more than 38 years, often having to perform surgery during the oil boom days. Dr. Franz’s great-grandchildren (below) sing him a birthday song. They are, from left, Leta Ayers, Veronica Ayers, Saleen Rumore, Amanda Ayers, Ben Tinsley, Will Tinsley, and Emma Tinsley. At left, Dr. Willis Franz celebrates his 101st birthday with family and friends at Newcastle United Methodist Church on Saturday.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ



faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

Aug. 20 Joshua 6:1-27	Aug. 24 Joshua 24:1-18
Aug. 21 Joshua 21:43-22:9	Aug. 25 Joshua 24:19-33
Aug. 22 Joshua 22:10-34	Aug. 26 Judges 13:1-25
Aug. 23 Joshua 23:1-16	<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>

- **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:** Interim Pastor Ben Roberts, 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

For there is one God and one mediator between God and human beings, Christ Jesus, himself human.

~ 1 Timothy 2:5

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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago
August 22, 1996**

And the General Election is only a few months away. Weston County Republicans and Democrats took advantage of Tuesday's sunshine to head to the polls for the Primary election. Close totals in a few races promise an exciting General Election in November. By ten o'clock Tuesday night, write-in votes for Upton's mayoral race were still being counted, leaving the two runoff candidates in doubt.

The city council named a new chief of police at Monday's meeting. The new chief is James Berge, who is from Crystal, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis. Berge starts Oct. 7, at annual salary of \$34,000.

The Blotter: Aug. 12 – A man complained that the crossing arms on the railroad tracks should stay up longer, in the event that a second train follows

the first. Aug. 14 – Chickens were reported in the street on East Cambria. A woman complained that three or four dogs harassed her when she went to dump her garbage. Aug. 15 – A porcupine was reported in the front of a man's lawn. A woman complained about a verbally abusive bar patron.

It's the one true love of his life — baseball and he wants to see how far it will take him. Aaron Berger has been playing baseball since he was six years old. Since then, he has gone on to become Newcastle's best baseball player. Now, he's preparing himself for college, where he'll continue to play baseball.

Nearly 100 young men and women competed at the Gymkhana in Upton over the weekend. The highpoint winners in the 14-18 category are Alecia Vigil. The reserve highpoint winner is Shane

Thompson. The third and fourth highpoint winners are Kara Townsend and Jessi Huether.

Twenty-nine Weston County cowgirls and cowboys competed in the Aladdin Youth Rodeo. Will Lambert won the barrel buckle with a fast time of 17.87. He was also third in the breakaway roping with a 7.45.

**50 Years Ago
August 19, 1971**

The Newcastle TV association will hold their annual meeting of stockholders on Friday, Aug. 27. The meeting will be at the National Bank of Newcastle hospitality room. Election of officers will be held and plans made for a dues drive.

The directors of the Newcastle Day Training Center and the Newcastle Association for Retarded Children announce the hiring of a new director and director's aide for the center.

Lauris Lloyd Tysdal of

Newcastle was graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor of science degree in farm and ranch management. The commencement exercises were held Aug. 6.

A free back-to-school movie will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 at the Dogie Theatre in Newcastle. The free movie "Lost World" is sponsored by the Howdy Do Drive In, Newcastle Floral and Gift Shop, Dogie Drive In and Newcastle Men's Store. The tickets are available from the sponsors.

Police Chief Bob Pease reports two recent replacements on the Newcastle police force. Steve Doughty and Louis Johnson are the new policeman to replace Freeman Mark and Dave Barber.

Two stained windows were broken Sunday at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Newcastle. The Newcastle Police Department reports the windows were broken by rocks, possibly from a sling shot.

Jane Gaskill showed the grand champion Columbia ram and also showed the grand champion Columbia ewe at the Weston County Fair.

Janie Manke, Randy Farella, Elana Sears and Mike Seppala won the all-around honors at the Weston County junior rodeo held Saturday and Sunday in Newcastle.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Grubb and family and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Petersen were callers at the Harriet Petersen home Sunday.

T.R. Cochran was a Monday dinner guest at the Felix Perino home. Mr. and Mrs. David Petersen and daughters were social callers at the James Chittim home Saturday afternoon.

**100 Years Ago
August 18, 1921**

O.C. Kerney, of Broadview, Mont., who will be Newcastle's superintendent of schools for the coming year, arrived in the city last Saturday. He was accompanied by Mrs. Kerney and their three year old daughter Katherine.

Louis "Red" Huggett of this city was married to Miss Elizabeth Rhind of Narin, Scotland, at the Presbyterian Church in New York City on July 5.

A couple of local homesteaders had hard luck on their return trip from their respective homesteads thirty miles out Hampshire way early this week. They said it was about 10:30 Monday morning when they started for Newcastle visiting at several neighbors and shortly after noon the performance began. Engine trouble and tire trouble and wind and dust — and the Ford just plain "lay down" — then came rain and mud. To increase their troubles gasoline supply threatened exhaustion — entailing a ten mile walk.

Prospects are good for the shipping of several head of high class dairy animals to this community early in September, according to word received from Earle G. Reed, agricultural agent of the Burlington railroad.

Arrangements have been completed for the Newcastle baseball team to enter the Denver Post baseball tournament, which will be held in the Colorado metropolis for ten days, commencing August 26 and ending September 4.

Last Sunday at Sheridan the Elks team of that city defeated the Newcastle team, 7 to 1. The second game of the series which was played on the following day, was stopped in the third inning on account of rain.

Mrs. Charley Young of Hampshire nearly had her right leg torn off below the knee when a shotgun was accidentally discharged in the kitchen of the ranch home Monday morning. The shot mangled the flesh almost into a pulp, and imbedded pieces of her stocking and dress in the mass, but did not injure the bone. Mrs. Young was hurriedly brought to the city by her husband and Lyman Allen for medical treatment.



Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society/Sherri Boothroyd collection

This is a picture of cowboys saddling up in Upton at the 1921 horse sale.

WHAT'S UP August 2021

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Aug. 20-21	8-NOON 1-5PM	WC Health Services Hiring Fair WC Health Services Hiring Fair	Weston County Health Services Weston County Health Services
Fri. Aug. 20	5:30PM 7-10PM	BINGO Western Ramblers Dance	VFW Hall Weston County Senior Center
Sat. Aug. 21	7AM 11AM-2PM 5PM	PRECorp's 76th Annual Meeting Jane Baldwin Celebration of Life Benefit supper, auction, dance for Lori Johnson	Upton Middle School Newcastle Country Club WC Senior Center
Sun. Aug. 22	11AM-3PM	American Legion All Veteran Picnic	Dow Park
Tues. Aug. 24	11AM 3:30PM	6th and 9th Grade Jumpstarts Story time Alzheimers/Dementia Support	Middle school/high school Library Zoom
Wed. Aug. 25	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday WCCC Development Screening First Day of School	WCHS Upton WCSD#1
Thur. Aug. 26	2-4PM 5-7PM	Donna Bombeck Retirement Party Farmer's Market	First State Bank Lobby Pinnacle Bank
Aug. 27-28		NE Wyoming Battle of the Bands	Newcastle Lodge
Fri. Aug. 27	11:30AM 5:30PM 5:30PM	WC Library System Board Mtg. Singer/Songwriter Showcase BINGO	Library Meeting Rm. Newcastle Lodge VFW Hall
Sat. Aug. 28	9AM-5PM 11AM	Upton Gun Show Battle of the Bands	Upton Community Center Newcastle Lodge
Sun. Aug. 29	9AM-3PM	Upton Gun Show	Upton Community Center



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— Josie Smith



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— Callan Smith

Know what's going on

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News Letter Journal

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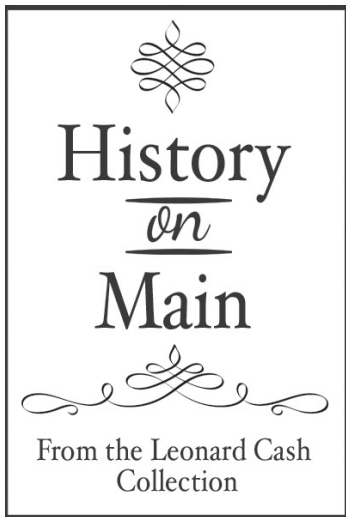
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For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Large dance held at gas station grand opening



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent
With Leonard Cash,
historian

For the past four weeks, Leonard Cash has been going through the history of Weston County Bank, which was located on 204 W. Main Street (lot 1 of block 11). However, the bank building burned down in the 1912 fire, and when the bank reopened, it was located in the present-day Cashbox Ceramics store. So, the lot remained empty until 1929 when lots 1 and 2 became the site of a gas station, owned by Craig Chevrolet Co., which is where we pick up this week.

According to an article in the Feb. 7, 1929, issue of the local paper, Lane Construction Co. received a carload of bricks to begin construction on the filling station.

By May 30, 1929, it was scheduled to open on June 8. Manager Thomas Shoemaker planned to give away coupons at the grand opening for a free half gallon of motor oil with the next refill, and toy airplanes and rubber balloons were to be

passed out for the “kiddies.” That evening, the community was invited to a free dance hosted in the garage of the station.

“It occupies lots that have been a hole in the ground for about 15 years and the fine building is a credit to our principal street ... completely equipped to give up-to-the minute service to auto owners whether it be gasoline, oil grease job, battery or tire service,” the article says.

On June 13, 1929, the paper reported that the grand opening was a success, and the management team was well pleased with the turnout. Bringing in a “spirit of festivity,” there were more people in town at one time that day than any other in the last year, the report says. Throughout the day, patrons watched a demonstration of motor oil qualities by a factory representative, which was both informative and time worthy. At 8 p.m., the “big dance” began and “attracted a crowd that packed the large room to capacity and overflowed into the street,” with music furnished by the Black Pirate Cambria Casino Dance orchestra from Kansas City, Missouri.

The Aug. 1, 1929, issue of the paper announced that T. Schonoled of Denver joined the management team to take charge of the body and paint shop.

“Drive in and let them take a shot at the damaged car body or fender,” the article says.

A few months later, Chevrolet had plans to construct an addition, according to a news report from Jan. 2, 1930.

Changes in management came around April 28, 1932,

when the Newcastle Service Station was leased to Charles Martens and W.K Paulson, who were the owners and operators of Wyoming Oil & Gas Co.

Joe Slenker, a mechanic, took over the lease a year and a half later, announced a September 1933 issue, and he added an agency for Essex Terraplane automobiles.

According to courthouse files in Miscellaneous Record Book 7 from Sept. 17, 1934, there was a party wall agreement between Martens and Walter and Margaret Dickey, owners of the adjoining lot to the service station.

By Dec. 20, 1934, the station received new shipments of 1935 Model Terraplanes, including two sedans, a coupe and a coach. Four more vehicles arrived in March.

The Jan. 10, 1935, issue of the *News Journal* announced that Ford Motor Co. appointed E.C. Hunt as their dealer in the region. A year later, around Feb. 19, 1936, Slenker of Newcastle Service Station assumed the dealership for Ford Motor Co., changing the name to Slenker Motor, reported the Feb. 19, 1936, paper.

Three years later, Slenker no longer ran Ford dealership, so according to the March 2, 1939, issue, the Wyoming Motor Co. was moving to the Martens building. The building was renovated and redecorated, and J.E. Oliver was the new manager. The Wyoming Motor Co. was formed by locals to offer a complete line of Ford, Mercury, Lincoln Zephyr and Lincoln automobiles. The gas produced came from fields in Wyoming and from the Barnsdall Corp.

“They quote Mr. Ford’s statement that ‘many adjectives have been used to describe cars, but only say this year’ this is the car that we have always wanted to build, it speaks for itself. See it,” the article says.

Unfortunately, the motor company was victim to a fire around Dec. 13, 1945, possibly caused by a bale of cotton waste stored in the basement under the tire rack. Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire, but when the tires and tubes started to burn, the visibility decreased. Martens reported the estimated damage to be about \$5,000.

In August of 1956, Naramore Ford Sale became the new dealer, but by March 19, 1959, a new building was being constructed on West Main and Second Avenue. The new building would have a display room for three cars, an office and a service department area. The shop was to be built of block, while the rest was made with glass and brick trim.

On July 27, 1959, Naramore Ford Sales opened for business and manager Joe Naramore invited the town to visit the new location.

Since the building on block 11 was vacant, B and H Skelly Service, owned and operated by William Holwell and Howard Sorenson, opened up its business there around Oct. 8, 1959.

By the Oct. 19, 1961, issue of the paper, the B and H Repair Shop was named the GMC dealer for Newcastle and already had a 1962 truck on display.

According to an article from July 13, 1967, Naramore sold his business to Ed Siel and

Blake Williams from Denver. The Sept. 21, 1967, paper said they had their grand opening, and the 1968 Ford Mercury was on display, along with other Lincoln and Ford trucks.

A year later, Jack Walkup joined the Ford sales department, reported the Oct. 24, 1968, issue, and on Feb. 8, 1973, it was announced that a body shop managed by Clifford Wilson was opened.

Williams eventually bought Siel’s interest in the company because Siel purchased an interest in the McGee Murphy Ford in Rawlins, stated an article from Sept. 12, 1974. The company was renamed Blake Williams Ford.

A news report from March 5, 1981, announced that Roger Anderson of Cheyenne purchased the shop from Williams and Don McColley, changing the firm’s name to Roger Anderson Ford Inc. Mike Waggener was hired as the salesman to work with another salesman, Roger Lindley. Anderson grew up in Montrose, South Dakota, graduating from Dakota State at Madison. He was a free agent for the Kansas City Chiefs football team until he was injured, and later, he played for the Continental League in Omaha.

That wraps up the discussion on the gas station that was in the building, so Cash will discuss the history of the National Bank in next week’s installment of “History on Main.” However, Cash wanted to announce that after we finish up this block and do an article on the Chief Hotel, “History on Main” will be discontinued indefinitely unless a sponsor for the series can be found.

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

FRIDAY Aug 20

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

MONDAY Aug 23

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

TUESDAY Aug 24

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

WEDNESDAY Aug 25

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

THURSDAY Aug 26

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

Obituaries

from Page 4

JOEY LANCE JOHNSON Jan. 21, 1970–Aug. 7, 2021

Joey Lance Johnson, 51, passed away Saturday, August 7, 2021, at his home in Thermopolis, Wyo., surrounded by family and close friends. He fought a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

Born Jan. 21, 1970, in Newcastle, Wyo., he was the son of Garry and Barbara (McDaniel) Johnson. With fond memories of his childhood, Joey graduated from Newcastle High School, then attended Casper College earning several national awards in livestock judging. He then attended the University of Wyoming acquiring his bachelor’s degree.

Joey began teaching agriculture education and FFA in Cody, Wyo., then in Belle Fourche, S.D., as well as Rock River, Wyo. He met his future wife, Melissa McCumber, while teaching in Rock River and working

on a master’s degree at the University of Wyoming. On Oct. 7, 2000, he married Melissa in Thermopolis. The couple first lived in Newcastle, but soon moved to Powell, Wyo., when Joey became the livestock judging coach and Ag pavilion manager for Northwest College.

His collegiate livestock judging teams placed in the top three nationally and he coached a national champion individual at the Dixie National Contest. He was also the Wyoming FFA Foundation executive director. While living in Powell, the couple started a family.

Joey loved his three boys dearly. He spent countless hours driving to junior golf tournaments, selecting and fitting livestock, and planning camping and hunting adventures. He always made

sure their birthdays and holidays were special. Joey and Melissa enjoyed an occasional get-away, but most of their time was spent working as a team raising their three boys and spending time with extended family.

In 2005, Joey returned to teaching Ag and FFA in Meeteetse, Wyo. In both Belle Fourche and Meeteetse he coached several state champion teams and several of those went on to rank in the top five nationally. The family eventually moved to Thermopolis. Joey later worked as the 4-H and Youth Development Educator for Hot Springs County. He grew the program and volunteer base in several areas and had coaching success again in livestock judging. In addition to 4-H he helped coach a few local FFA teams and even coached golf for one

year, earning State 2A Golf Coach of the Year.

Besides his coaching accolades, he was a Wyoming State FFA officer, a Wyoming National FFA officer candidate, and bred and raised the 1998 National Champion Suffolk Ram. He was a 2004 Honorary Wyoming State FFA Degree recipient, the 2008 Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Agriculture Advocate of the Year, and the 2013 Teacher of the Year for Park County School District No. 16 and 2018 Thermopolis MS Parent Partner Award recipient.

He served on the Park County Fair Board, Wyoming State Fair Advisory Board, and the Thermopolis Golf Board. He was a member of the Wyoming Vocational Ag Teachers Association, Association of Extension 4-H Educators and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Newcastle.

Joey leaves behind his wife of 20 years, Melissa, and children, Hardy, Hadley, and Hayden, all of Thermopolis; mother, Barbara Johnson, and sister, Marni Hossfeld of Newcastle; and seven nephews and one niece.

He was preceded in death by his father, Garry; and grandparents, Gordon and Jean Johnson, and Floyd and Marion McDaniel.

A Celebration of Life will be held Sept. 25, at 10 a.m. at the Hot Springs County School Auditorium in Thermopolis.

In Joey’s memory, donations may be made to Wyoming FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 7311, Sheridan, WY 82801 or Hot Springs County 4-H, 328 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

Mortimore Funeral Home is assisting the family. Messages may be offered at mortfh.com.



Joey Johnson

Benefit Supper, Auction & Dance for Lori Johnson

Aug. 21, 2021 • Weston County Senior Center

AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE:

Frederick Remington replica of “Bronc Buster”, 3/4-size violin, full-size violin, Denver Broncos BBQ basket, large ceramic Piggy bank, 2 compound bows, computer desk, donated baskets & much, much more.

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Attorney from Page 1

Attorney's Office is respected in the community. This is in addition to my over decade and a half of experience as a practicing attorney, whereby I have a wide variety of experience," Stulken said in his letter of interest.

During the interview, Stulken was asked several questions regarding the Republican Party platform, including his stance on gun rights, abortion and assisted suicide.

"Everyone should be able to have their firearms without government intrusion," Stulken said, noting that there are several situations in which people should not have guns, including those with criminal backgrounds.

The attorney stated that he is 100% against abortion. But the attorney said that in the case of assisted suicide, he believes people should have the right to choose when they die.

When asked about COVID-19 regulations, Stulken said that his perspective is that "it is each individual's choice" and that "business owners should be allowed to run their business how they want."

As far as criminal prosecution goes, Stulken said he plans to continue to address crime in the community. He added that

Who Is Michael Stulken?

Michael Stulken majored in political science at Black Hills State University from 1998 to 2001 before receiving his juris doctorate from the University of Wyoming in 2005, according to information provided to the Weston County Republican Party.

He began his career in law as a clerk for the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District in Casper. He then worked as an attorney in Green River for Mathey Law Office and the Law Offices of Stulken and Tynsky.

In 2019, Stulken moved to Gillette, where he worked as an attorney at Stulken Law.

In March of 2020 he began his job as deputy county attorney. He also began working in April of 2020 as a general practice attorney for Stulken Law/307 Law.

Shortly after relocating to Weston County, Stulken became city attorney for the city of Newcastle (July of 2020). He resigned in July of 2021 to focus on the county attorney duties after the resignation of former County Attorney Alex Berger.

his experience shows a large amount of substance abuse issues in the county and he would like to see rehabilitation over punishment continue to be the focus.

"It is not always about punishment, when you throw someone in jail, that doesn't help them," Stulken said. "It doesn't do anything."

Stulken said that every situation is different and the process followed on determining punishment and rehabilitation depends on the situation and

the individual in question.

After the interview, Party Chairman Kari Drost called for a motion to send Stulken's name to the county commissioners for consideration.

"One of the goals of the party is to look for elected officials that will instinctively do the right thing. Do you all as a committee think that Stulken is one of them? Are you comfortable putting his name forward to the commissioners?" Drost asked before the motion was made and passed.

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Coroner from Page 1

covered the Osage shooting death late last month and would continue to aid Weston County until the issue was resolved.

Sheriff Bryan Colvard, who was present at the meeting, explained that Weston County has used resources from Crook County in the past. He noted that when Tracy Hunt served as coroner, the county used Crook County pretty regularly.

"We had a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with them. They would respond to coroner calls, and all Tracy (Hunt) had to pay for was equipment. They (Crook County) would bill the coroner's office," Colvard said. "I believe we utilized them quite a bit over the years."

The sheriff also said that several individuals in the community could be deputized by Crabtree.

"We are in this weird place," Chairman Marty Ertman said.

"Not that weird, just a different scenario. We

went eight years with a 20% coroner," Colvard said, noting that Hunt was extremely hard to contact when he was coroner.

While Colvard said he supported both options, he believed that deputizing a deputy coroner would make the most sense. He encouraged someone with the county to reach out to Crabtree to get her opinion.

The board approved a motion to establish an MOU with Crook County for emergency situations that required a coroner. The motion included reimbursing Crook County for expenses.

Commissioner Ed Wagoner, before making the motion to create the MOU, urged Crabtree to deputize a person from Weston County to fill the role until she was able to return to duty. Clerk Becky Hadlock was tasked with reaching out to Crabtree to provide an update at the next board meeting on Aug. 17.

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INSURANCE | ROOF CONSIDERATIONS WHEN BUYING/SELLING

When homes are being sold, it is common practice for buyers to request inspections on the property which often includes the roof. The inspections are conducted to identify any potential issues with the property that need to be addressed prior to closing on the sale. Oftentimes, the inspections are required by the mortgage companies providing the purchase loan for the buyer. Occasionally, the buyer's insurance company may require an inspection of the roof to determine its condition for underwriting purposes.

Roof inspections serve several purposes:

- To determine if the roof has any damage which may be of concern to a purchaser.
- To draw a clear line distinction between the former and new owner's homeowners insurance policies.
- To aid the mortgage company and insurance underwriter in determining the risk.

Roofing Inspections and Certifications:

- Inspection and certification criteria are not the same. Be sure to ask what criteria will be considered. If the roofing contractor advises that a new roof is needed, ask the contractor to specify the roof's damages or issues that necessitate repair or replacement in order to obtain a clear understanding for the determination.
- Certifications are NOT a warranty; they are simply the contractor's opinion of the roof's condition based on specified criteria. Opinions vary so it is always good to get several opinions.
- Roof certifications are not necessarily binding on either party, but inspections may carry significant weight in the underwriting/mortgage process.



General items that a licensed roofing contractor or inspector will consider:

- **Age of the roof.** Some roofs will fail inspection just due to their age. This may warrant replacement of the roof.
- **Installation of the current roof.** Was the roof material installed correctly? Are there obsolete shingles like T-locks? Were the new roofing shingles installed over older shingles, so there are multiple layers of shingles on the roof? (Check your local building codes for limits on the number of layers or roof installation requirements before a complete roof replacement is required.)
- **Condition of the roof.** Is the roof worn? Do the shingles show

non-weather effects such as old age or poorly made shingles? Is there weather related damage such as wind and hail?

Things to consider if inspection notes damage:

- **Buy/Sell contract.** The contract between buyer and seller should specify who is responsible for roof repair or replacement.
- **Damage.** What is the extent of damage? Does the roof need to be replaced or can it be repaired? What is the cause of the damage?
- **Coverage.** Is the damage covered by the policy? If the damage is caused by age, wear and tear, or improper installation then most will exclude coverage.

• **Claims.** Homeowners may need to file claims with their insurance carrier if the inspection identifies damage and cannot be certified. Keep in mind, the insurance claim will follow the homeowner, even if the certification is being requested by a new purchaser before they assume ownership of the property.

• **Deductibles.** Are the damages above the cost of your deductible? Do you have **Actual Cash Value** coverage or **Replacement Cost Value**? If you have Replacement Cost Value (RCV) coverage, your policy will pay the cost to repair or replace the damaged property without deduction for depreciation. If you have Actual Cash Value (ACV) coverage, your policy will pay the depreciated cost to repair or replace the damaged property.

• **Quotes.** It is always a good idea to get several repair or replacement quotes prior to filing a claim. This helps to determine if the damages will exceed your deductible should you choose to file a claim.

Homeowners Insurance Considerations.

All policies are not the same and offer different levels of coverage. Know the difference between ACV and RCV coverage and what it will mean for your out-of-pocket expenses should you need to repair or replace your roof.

Become familiar with your policy. Determine what types of losses are covered and what deductibles may apply. Some policies have separate deductibles for wind and hail losses.

Whether or not you are planning to sell your home, know how to make your roof resilient. In general, keep your roof in good condition. The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) provides recommendations on how to mitigate damage to your home.



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.



Haylie Beastro and Mike Pederson are doused in green powder by Nikki Bartlett, below, during the 21 Wellness Coalition Color Run held Saturday, Aug. 14. The event was hosted by the coalition and Sources of Strength. The purpose of the run, according to community prevention specialist Kristi Lipp, was to create something fun and uplifting that will bring the community together as well as get the word out about the coalition and Sources of Strength program. The coalition is a community support group that provides prevention and aid to the people of Weston County. At left, Liana Scribner welcomes the color yellow at the second color station of the race. Below left, Kim Scharf and Darcie Crabtree show off their colors after finishing the 5k race. Bottom photo, Nick Lopez is doused in yellow during the second color station of the color run.

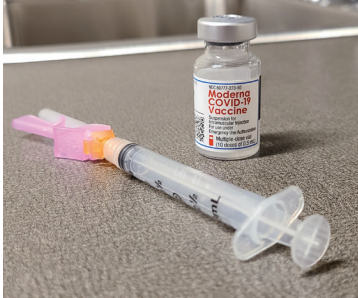
Photos by Alexis Barker and courtesy of Kristi Lipp

Color run!



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Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

NLJ claims nine awards

Bri Weigel
NLJ Correspondent

The National Newspaper Association Foundation recently released results for the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest and Better Newspaper Advertising Contest, and the *News Letter Journal* brought home nine awards, including a first-place general excellence award.

According to an NNA press release, “a total of 509 awards were won by 83 member newspapers in 33 states.” While the Iowa Newspaper Association earned the “Best of NNA” award with 74 winning entries, an honor Wyoming won in 2020, the Cowboy State still stood strong with a second-place finish. Wyoming earned 66 awards, ahead of third-place Texas with its 44 wins.

“I’m incredibly proud of our staff. You don’t win a national championship every day, and I hope these awards help people recognize how much of a blessing they are to the community,” said Bob Bonnar, publisher and co-owner of the *News Letter Journal*. “Because of their talent and dedication, Newcastle and Weston County can depend on having a newspaper that rivals those in communities much larger than ours in terms of both quality and service.”

Matt Adelman, publisher of the Douglas Budget and Glenrock Independent, as well as being president of the NNAF, congratulated the *News Letter Journal* staff on its wins. According to Adelman, NNAF is the new educational arm of NNA. NNAF is in charge of the contest, convention, educational training and community outreach. Adelman explained the impact of award-winning news for the publication’s community.

“I think it validates the fact that they (community members) already view you as a good newspaper, or it proves to them that you are a good newspaper,” Adelman said. “Exposure reinforces the fact that they know you’re doing a good job and that other people can see that too.”

The *News Letter Journal* staff won two first-place awards this year, one in the general excellence category for non-daily publications with a circulation of less than 3,000. The judge commented on its strong use of photography and a variety of news.

“To be recognized nationally for the work that our small team does every week is very rewarding. We have a small, but mighty team that I am thankful for and very proud of. We greatly appreciate all the support from this community, and we thank you for sharing your lives and stories with the *NLJ*.”

— See Awards, Page 11



On Aug. 6 and 7, 12 sprint cars participated in the 8th Annual Sagebrush Shootout, the non-wing 600s class. The big event, held at Weston County Fairgrounds race-track in Newcastle, was well attended with plenty of fun from the mini-sprint cars to dirt bikes. The final event of the season will be on Saturday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. Above, Lukas Rerakof concentrates as he rides his dirt bike down the home stretch. Below right, Jason Robbins skids almost completely sideways around a curve. Below left, Hunter Rhoades, of Fort Collins, Colo., checks a tire in preparation for Friday night’s events. At left, two drivers battle for position on turn one.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Kickin’ up dirt



Auction Saturday to benefit Lori Johnson

KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Reporter

A benefit supper, auction and dance will be held at the Weston County Senior Center on Aug. 21 at 5 p.m. to raise funds for Lori Johnson. The money will go toward medical bills accrued from a log-splitting accident she had last winter and ongoing medical care for her injuries.

“It’s just nice to know that your community and friends and family support you,” Johnson said.

Pastor Mick Bohn of Foursquare Lighthouse Church, which Johnson attends, helped organize the benefit, and he said it’s important for community members and church members to support each other in their time of need.

“It gives us the ability to do much more than what we could do all by

ourselves,” he said. “It’s the Christ-like thing to do to help our brothers and sisters.”

Bohn hopes that this benefit will help relieve the stress of a financial burden for Johnson, as well as encouraging and showing support to her.

Many people have stepped up to help Johnson in other ways too, including Julie Peterson. Johnson has always been so generous — always helping others — so she felt it was only fitting to lend a hand to Johnson, Peterson said.

“She (Johnson) has helped so many people do so many things. The show of support will mean a lot to her,” Peterson said.

The community of Newcastle and Weston County has always been eager

— See Johnson, Page 10



Photo by Siri Karr/NLJ

A benefit auction, dinner and dance will be held for Lori Johnson on Aug. 21 at the Weston County Senior Center, with doors open at 5 p.m. The proceeds will go toward medical expenses accrued from a log-splitting accident Johnson had last winter.

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Tysdal recognized as the heart of agriculture

Bri Weigel
NLJ Correspondent

A rural way of life, a tight-knit family and strong friendships fill the days of Weston County resident Dana Tysdal. Her peers recently recognized Tysdal's contributions to the community and Wyoming agriculture with the 2021 Heart of Agriculture Award. Tysdal is one of 17 women in the state to receive the award this year.

According to email correspondence with Scott Cotton, "The Excellence in Agriculture Symposium is one of the signature events of the UW (University of Wyoming) Agriculture/Horticulture Team, which we started three years ago. As part of it, we work with the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, Wyoming Woolgrowers Association, Wyoming Farm Bureau and others to identify and recognize one female agriculture producer from each county with the Heart of Agriculture Honoree Award."

Cotton is a senior University of Wyoming extension educator in agriculture, rural living and disaster resilience.

Cotton said that Tysdal's nomination read, in part, "Dana can be found spending days on a swather, moving, gathering and vaccinating cattle. A primary 'gopher' for her family running for parts, she also has been known to feed chickens, cats and dogs as well as helping clean houses or driving sick neighbors to the doctor. Active in many Newcastle organizations she loves her role in the Weston County Cowbelles, including providing the 'thought for the day' at meetings and being active in demonstrations at 4th Grade Ag Days. Stepping up into any role needed, Dana is the 'heart' of agriculture."

Cotton explained that nominations focus on active engagement in agricultural and exemplary community engagement. The nominations are largely solicited by the aforementioned organizations and other female producers for each county. Cotton said that if counties receive more than one nomination, a committee of previous winners and representatives from the organization select the county's winner.

While Cotton kept the name of the nominator private, Tysdal revealed that Nancy Darnell submitted her nomination. Darnell won the award in 2020, so she chose to pass on the recognition to her good friend this year. She spoke highly of Tysdal's work ethic on the ranch, as well as her dedication to the Weston County community.

"I considered the title of it, The Heart of Agriculture Award, and first off I thought, well that's a really meaningful thing of women in ag (agriculture) because they are the heart of the family, the heart of the ranch or farm," Darnell said. "I could think of no one that had a bigger heart and a bigger heart for agriculture than Dana."

Tysdal said the award surprised her, but she joked that she's not shocked to find Darnell behind the nomination.

"(I've) always known that way of life. (I) don't know anything different. It's just what we do!" Tysdal said of her life on the ranch.

Tysdal said she's lived on a ranch in Weston County since she was 5 years old, when her



Dana Tysdal

parents bought a ranch and the family moved from Newcastle. She grew up on Beaver Creek, and her children still live on that same ranch with Tysdal's mom. Tysdal and her husband now run their own ranch where they have a cow-calf operation and raise hay. While the altitude limits Tysdal's gardening, she is still active in the garden club, and she enters flowers and house plants in the Weston County Fair flower show. Darnell said Tysdal is also a leader in the local Methodist Church, as well as several other community organizations.

"Most farm and ranch wives are very big-hearted people, but I thought Dana epitomized that," Darnell said. "People up in her area, when they have something they need help with, they think of Dana, and she does it for them."

Tysdal said her favorite thing about living and working on a ranch is the versatility and freedom. She cherishes being her own boss, running the ranch as a family affair. Tysdal said she can't imagine being stuck indoors, and she likes living at 6,000 feet, even in the winter. She walks 2 miles a day, no matter the weather, a routine she's maintained for almost 30 years, she said. Despite a busy life on the ranch, Tysdal said she found friendship in her rural community by socializing through the clubs and organizations she's passionate about.

"Those people are much more important than any job or dollar," Tysdal said.

Tysdal will be honored for her contributions to the Weston County community and Wyoming agriculture on Aug. 20 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ruthe Williams Conference Center on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. Mary Flitner, author of "My Ranch Too" will be the keynote speaker at the event, according to Cotton.

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Johnson from Page 9

to pull together and show its support to others, Peterson said. So many people have offered a helping hand to Johnson, it's impossible to name them all, according to Peterson.

"Everybody pitched in and did what they could do," she said.

The community is invited to

attend the benefit on Saturday evening for an enjoyable evening, in addition to showing their support for Johnson.

The doors open at 5 p.m., with supper served at 5:30; donations will be taken. There will be a silent auction, live auction and a dance, with music provided by the Western

Ramblers.

A Frederick Remington replica of "Bronc Buster," violins, Denver Broncos BBQ basket, compound bows and much more are to be included in the auction.

"It's one of those times (that) saying thank you isn't quite enough," Johnson said.

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3D archery shoot is big success

Walter Sprague
Art and Culture Reporter

Friday through Sunday, Aug. 13-15, Cambria Bowhunters of Wyoming held its 38th annual 3D Archery Shoot at Jim and Kathy Dixon's ranch near Mallo Camp. Celebrating the group's 43rd year, over 220 archery enthusiasts came out for the three-day event, said Glen Reed, club president. Kathy Jones, one of the club coordinators, said some had been camping out for a couple of days.

"People come from Colorado, Idaho, Montana, the Dakotas," Jones said, "It's a big event. They come from all over."

Those who shot were from 3 to 88 years old, Reed said. All children who shot received a participation trophy.

He said the club cleared brush and piled it up and did other groundskeeping maintenance at the Dixon's ranch. The Dixons then let them use their beautiful forested land for the event.

"The ranch is a little flatter than other places around it," Reed said, "That helps a lot. It allows everyone to be able to walk around to the different targets in such a beautiful forest."

There were 45 winners in different events. The winner of the Bull-Shooters Award (an award given to the silliest person or the one who had the most extensive vocabulary) was Carl Lenardson of Newcastle. Reed said the award is passed on every year and is just for fun.

The Overall Shooting Award went to



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Sami O'Neal, from S. Dakota, shoots at a 3D turkey with a traditional recurve bow. Others pictured, from left, are Jared Boehmer of Arizona, and Thomas Carr, Thad Carr, and Scott O'Neal, all of Nebraska. Below left, Tim Fleck of Rozet takes aim at a 3D deer. Below right, Newcastle postmaster Craig Ausmann takes aim.

Tony Lenardson, Carl Lenardson's son, also of Newcastle.

The shoot is one of the major fundraisers for the bowhunters group. With a barbecue, egg toss and novelty shoots aplenty, the funds raised go toward the functions of the club. Reed said the money

helps pay for such things as supplies and rental of the clubhouse on Main Street in Newcastle.

"Awesome shoot," commented club member Kara Lenardson on her Facebook Page. "Everyone should try to come next year, second weekend in August."



Awards

from Page 9

These awards would not be possible without this community's support through advertising and readership," said Kim Dean, account manager and managing editor of the *News Letter Journal*.

Adelman said Wyoming placed first and third in general excellence, as the Glenrock Independent took third place, a feat he deemed "pretty impressive for the top award." Adelman added that Wyoming sets high standards for journalism, especially when compared with states that have many more publications.

"We push each other, and we set the bar really high," Adelman said.

Alexis Barker and Dean also won first place in the Freedom of Information Act category for their story that exposed cost overruns in the new game warden station, according to Bonnar.

"The icing on the cake this year is most definitely taking first in both the freedom of information category and general excellence for small weeklies. The freedom of information award is especially exciting because of the hard work and lots of time Kim and I both put in on the stories, and it was an open category, putting us against papers of all sizes across the nation," said Barker, a reporter and news editor for the *News Letter Journal*.

Reporter Walter Sprague won second place in the story series for best non-profile feature story for his entry titled, "Saving Lucy." Barker also won two awards in the story series for best health story with a third-place finish for her work on an entry titled, "Polio to COVID," and an honorable

mention for her story on staff cuts at the hospital. The staff took third place for best use of photographs in an open category. Staff member Siri Karr also won a third-place award for best classified section.

Amy Menercy, who designs pages and advertisements for the *News Letter Journal*, won honorable mention for best front page design. Bonnar, along with his wife and co-owner, Stephanie Bonnar, won honorable mention in an open category for the Community Service Award and their work on a project illustrating the Code of the

West and COVID-19.

Winning national awards speaks to the strength of Wyoming news. Adelman said community newspapers are the most trusted news in small communities across the country. News that reflects local happenings that is produced locally means the market is understood, and the publication is not "just regurgitating information," according to Adelman. He said those producing community news care about the community because they live there, too. Adelman also stressed the importance of trust between the community,

the publication and individual reporters. If trust is compromised, he said, consumers will stop reading and the publication will suffer.

"Vetting news is critical, otherwise you get fake news. Without vetted, professional news that has been researched with multiple sources, then you end up with opinion, not news. And those opinions are often not true," Adelman said of large media corporations. "Community newspapers don't blur that clickbait line — opinion and news are clearly marked. They are vetted, so you can trust it."

Weston County Health Services

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Thank you!

Thank you Reuben and Shelly Ritthaler for purchasing my 2021 Market Steer.

— Troy Christensen



THANK YOU!

Thank you Mike Phillips for buying my Reserve Champion market rabbit.

— Madi Derifield



Thank you!

Thank you Decker's Market for buying my 4-H market goat.

— Brayden Derifield



THANK YOU!

Thank you Bill Haynes for buying my 4-H market goat.

— Madi Derifield



Thank you!

Thank you Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware for buying my 4-H market swine.

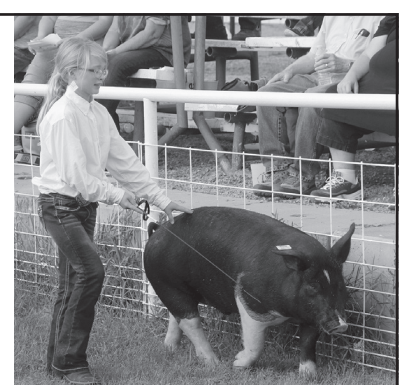
— Brayden Derifield



THANK YOU!

Thank you 21 Electric for buying my 4-H market swine.

— Madi Derifield



Thank you to all the donors, volunteers, and committee members of the Weston County Jr. Rodeo. We had a blast!

— Jayannah Webber, Josie Smith, Callan Smith

A very special thank you to Bev Krell and families for the \$250 Gary Krell Memorial cash award I won in the poles.

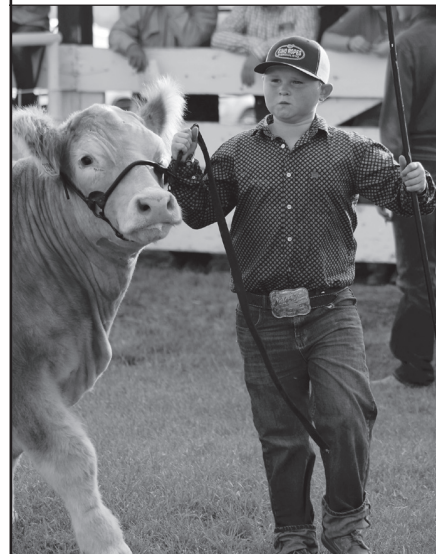
— Josie Smith



Thank you!

Thank you Powder River Energy Corp for buying my Reserve Champion 4-H Market Steer. Your support of the Jr Livestock sale is greatly appreciated.

— Cooper Miller



Landfill Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and Chapter 1 of the Solid Waste Rules and Regulations, the City of Newcastle has submitted a closure permit application for the Newcastle Landfill.

This facility will cease disposal of solid waste. The 39.3-acre facility is located approximately 5 miles south of the City of Newcastle. More specifically, this facility is located in Section 15, T44N, R61W, in Weston County, Wyoming.

The Department of Environmental Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste Division (DEQ) has issued a proposed permit for this facility. Copies of the permit application, the DEQ's review of the application, and the proposed permit can be viewed at DEQ's Casper office (152 N. Durbin St., Casper, WY 82601), at the Weston County Public Library (23 West Main St., Newcastle, WY 82701), and the Weston County Clerk's Office (1 West Main St.,

Newcastle, WY 82701).

Any interested person has the right to file written comments, including objections on the proposed permit. The period for providing comments on the proposed permit, shall begin on **August 12, 2021** and end on **September 20, 2021**. Any written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on the last day of the notice period. Comments must be submitted in writing to the Department of Environmental Quality, Todd Parfitt, Director, 200 West 17th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002 or submitted using the DEQ comment portal provided at <https://shw.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com/>.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish August 12 and 19, 2021)

Meeting Notice

NOTICE OF EASTERN WESTON COUNTY PUBLIC RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that regular meetings of the Eastern Weston County Public Recreation Board, State of Wyoming, are held each month following the regular scheduled school board meetings on the second and last Wednesday of each month with the exception of the following: The following months will have only one monthly meeting: June (second Wednesday); July (third Wednesday); November (second Wednesday); and December (second Wednesday). Meetings will be held in the board room at the Administration Building at 116

Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming, unless otherwise notified and such meetings are open to the public.

Notice is also given that official minutes of the Eastern Weston County Public Recreation Board meeting of such board, including a record of all official acts and of all warrants issued, are available for inspection by any citizen during regular office hours, at the office of the clerk of said district, at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming. Official minutes are also available for inspection on the Weston County School District #1 school website at: www.wcsd1.org.

(Publish August 19, 2021)

Meeting Notice

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Notice is hereby given that regular meetings of the Board of Trustees of Weston County School District # 1, State of Wyoming, are held each month at 7:00 p.m. on the second and last Wednesday of each month with the exception of the following: The following months will have only one monthly meeting: June (second Wednesday); July (third Wednesday); November (second Wednesday); and December (second Wednesday). Meetings will be held in the board room at the Administration Building at 116 Casper

Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming, unless otherwise notified and such meetings are open to the public.

Notice is also given that official minutes of each regular or special meeting of such board, including a record of all official acts and of all warrants issued, are available for inspection by any citizen during regular office hours, at the office of the clerk of said district, at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming. Official minutes are also available for inspection on the Weston County School District # 1 school website at: www.wcsd1.org.

(Publish August 19, 2021)

Public Notice

ATTENTION HOME-BASED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

A home-based educational program shall meet the requirements of a basic academic educational program pursuant to Wyoming law.

It shall be the responsibility of every person administering a home-based educational program to submit a curriculum to the local Board of Trustees each year showing that the program complies with the requirements of

Wyoming law. Failure to submit a curriculum showing compliance is evidence that the home-based educational program does not meet the requirements of Wyoming law. This should be done prior to the start of the school year. For copies of forms to report the basic academic program, contact the Superintendent's office at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming, 82701 or 307-746-4451.

(Publish August 19, 2021)

Bid Notice

CALL FOR BIDS RADIOS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Newcastle, Wyoming will receive sealed bids for the purchase of the following: Vehicle Radios and Handhelds. Must include all Subscriptions services, and on-going maintenance charges.

Complete specifications and related bid requirements for interested persons are available at Newcastle Police Department located at 25 N. Sumner St., Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

Each bid must be received by the Newcastle City Clerk at the office of the Newcastle City Clerk, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, on or before 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day of September, 2021 to be considered. All bids will be opened on the 7th day of September, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. by the Governing Body of the City in the City Council Chambers located at 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701. The successful bidder, if any, shall be announced by the City at such time as the Governing Body of the City may determine appropriate, but no later than thirty (30) days from the date of bid opening. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted if it is determined that none of them would serve the public interest. If a contract is awarded, it shall be awarded to the bidder whose equipment and/or materials meet or exceed the minimum specifications of the bid and is, in the discretion of the Governing Body of the City, the best equipment and/or materials for use

by the City at the lowest bid price. Such factors as options, warranties, maintenance and repair statistics, and product design and function, in addition to bid price, shall be considered by the City in awarding this bid.

Each bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Bid for RADIOS". Each bid must state an approximate installation date and schedule if the bid is accepted. In any event, installation must be made within (180) days from the date the bid is awarded and contracts are signed.

In accordance with Wyoming Statutes Sections 16-6-104 through 16-6-107, preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery, software and provisions produced, manufactured, supplied or grown in Wyoming, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the State.

The City reserves the right to waive any informality. The acceptance of any bid does not become final and contractually binding upon the city until a formal written contract is executed by the City and the requirements of Wyoming Statute Section 15-1-113 have been met.

Dated this 16 day of August, 2021
CITY OF NEWCASTLE
Sam Keller Chief of Police

(Publish August 19 and 26, 2021)



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Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Gas prices up 2.8 cents

GILLETTE (WNE) — Gasoline prices in Wyoming continued to tick upward last week to an average of \$3.53 a gallon, but there are signs that the momentum may change course.

Wyoming gas prices rose 2.8 cents per gallon in the past week, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 494 stations in Wyoming. Gas prices in Wyoming are 17.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.36 a gallon higher than a year ago.

The price in Campbell County was right at the state average of \$3.531, placing it

among the 10 counties with moderately high prices. The highest in Wyoming were in Teton (\$3.969), Lincoln (\$3.839), Uinta (\$3.819) and Sweetwater (\$3.754) counties.

The counties with the cheapest gasoline prices were Albany (\$3.419), Hot Springs (\$3.409), Sheridan (\$3.299) and Park (\$3.276).

The cheapest station in Wyoming is priced at \$2.85 a gallon while the most expensive was \$4.29 a gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.18 a gallon

today, which is up 3.5 cents per gallon from a month ago.

It's the highest prices for gasoline since 2011-2014, when gas prices nationally averaged about \$3.50 to \$3.60 a gallon.

"Motorists have seen average gas prices edge slightly higher over the last week, even as the price of oil saw selling pressure. This leads me to believe that the tide may soon turn on gas prices, so long as we don't see hurricanes target the country," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

Cody opens COVID wing

CODY (WNE) — Cody Regional Health is turning an entire wing of the hospital into a COVID-19 ward as case numbers and hospitalizations have spiked in recent weeks.

Hospital spokesperson Ashley Trudo said the move was due to a significant increase in COVID patients at the walk-in clinic, emergency department and acute care/critical care units.

The COVID treatment ward, which had been up previously for an extended period until cases dropped off late in the winter, holds eight single occupancy beds, with the capability to convert the rooms into double occupancy for a total of 16 beds with an additional three ICU beds.

The COVID wing is currently at full capacity with all eight single beds in use. Trudo said it's

taxing health care staff, as the hospital is also short staffed and COVID-19 patients require more staffing than most other patients.

As of Tuesday afternoon there were 57 active cases of the virus in Park County, with 20 new cases reported in the last day.

It's the most cases since the surge in January.

Trudo said CRH is working closely with the county and state health officials to follow hospital policies and guidelines from The Wyoming Department of Health and Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Treating providers are using the most up-to-date recommendations from the national institutes of health and infectious disease society of America to provide the best care to our community members who fall ill," she said.

No timed park entry for now

CODY (WNE) — Timed entry restrictions on travel into Yellowstone National Park will not be a policy to expect anytime soon, but it's well within the realm of possibility in the future, said Park Superintendent Cam Sholly.

"I don't think it needs to be implemented next year or the immediate future," he said.

Timed entry was introduced in major corridors at Glacier and Rocky Mountain national parks this summer. Sholly said if such a measure were introduced at Yellowstone, it would be most likely limited to the busier West and South entrances where traffic lines

sometimes stretch as long as a mile, rather than the East and Northeast entrances closest to Cody.

Traffic mitigation is a very present issue in Yellowstone. This year, the Park is on pace to see a record 4.5-5 million visitors and broke its June visitation record with nearly 1 million attendees in that month alone. There were 1.08 million visitors in July, an all time record for any month at the Park.

These crowds have slowed down traffic flows, while the "bear jams" and "bison jams" make matters even worse. But Sholly added, even on some

of the worst traffic days, congestion usually dissipates by midday at the busiest gates.

Traffic is not evenly distributed throughout the Park, most problems occurring in certain hotspots like Old Faithful, Midway Geyser, Norris and Canyon Village. Other locations, especially on the eastern half of the Park, are usually much less clogged with vehicles.

When it comes to managing traffic jams in the Park, Sholly said the Park will opt for lower hanging fruit when it comes to restrictions, with parking limits likely one of the first solutions.

Teton Pass speed limit reduced

JACKSON (WNE) — Pending internal approvals, the Wyoming Department of Transportation is set to reduce the speed limit on Teton Pass from 55 to 45 mph.

The proposed change is the result of a speed study that the Teton County Board of County Commissioners and Teton Backcountry Alliance requested from WYDOT in July 2020.

The impetus was concern about safety at the top of the pass where recreationists and motorists intersect, particularly in the winter when people park up high to ski.

WYDOT District Traffic Engineer Darin Kaufman said the speed study showed that people typically drive the upper elevations of the pass at lower speeds, and the department generally starts to set speed limits

within 5 mph of how quickly 85% of people drive along a given byway.

But it also takes other factors into consideration. Kaufman said both applied on Teton Pass.

"People were driving that speed already, and also it's a different environment," he said. "The grade and the curves, they kind of control what's going on regardless of anything else."

On Teton Pass people were generally driving slower than the posted 55 mph speed limit at the top of the pass, the study showed.

The fastest that 85% of drivers rounded the summit was 49 mph in the summer and 42 mph in the winter.

That and road conditions like the grade and curvature on Teton Pass gave WYDOT the data needed to lower the speed.

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Here's a photo from the News Letter Journal's archives. Subjects unknown. Email reporter@newsnj.com to share any information about this photo or event.

