

# News Letter Journal

Weston County

November 19, 2020

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 134 Week 47

## Gettin' a grip



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Newcastle Middle School sixth-grader Dane Crabtree gets the best of his opponent during the Oct. 31 meet in the Dogie Dome. See more photos from the meet on Page 9.

## No local attorney

### County loses public defender to state budget woes

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

A combination of budget cuts and understaffing has thrown the Wyoming Public Defender's office into a concerning situation that has been chronicled over the last year by several state newspapers. That situation has left Weston County without a public defender, according to County Attorney Alex Berger.

According to documents submitted to the State Budget Division of the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, the 10% cut to the public defender's office budget will equal roughly \$3 million in cuts, putting additional strain on an already overwhelmed office.

"As we all learned in the spring of 2019, when the Public Defender is not adequately funded or staffed, a constitu-

As long as we are fully staffed in Gillette and as long as crime/caseloads do not substantially increase, there should not be any impact on the communities in those counties."

— Diane M. Lozano,  
Wyoming State Public  
Defender

— See **Public defender**, Page 2

## City denied CARES funds

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

Purchased in 2005, the dispatch equipment used at the Weston County Law Enforcement Dispatch Center is outdated, if not completely obsolete, according to documents submitted by the city to the State Loan and Investment Board. The documents were submitted by the city through COVID-19 relief grant funding provided through the CARES Act to be used for purchasing new dispatch equipment.

Gilbert Nelson, Weston County's emergency management coordinator, reported that Newcastle asked for \$225,179 and Weston County requested \$475,000, for a total of \$700,179. Both requests were denied.

Newcastle Police Chief Sam Keller said the city is exploring other options for replacing the equipment. Nelson agreed that the equipment, especially radios, needs to be replaced, regardless of funding.

"They (radios) are dying and keep going down. This is a life-safety issue for officers and the community," Nelson said. "This is equipment that isn't going to be compatible soon. We have to find a way."

"In fact, the current system is so obsolete that the benefits of a new system are so numerous that we can't list them all, but the ability to control the spread of COVID while still doing the necessary work for the community is the most important factor,"

— See **Dispatch**, Page 7

## Commissioners vow to continue seeking COVID-19 variances

### Governor says nothing is off table to address spike in cases

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

As COVID-19 cases continue to climb across the state, with active cases about five times higher than they were a month ago, Gov. Mark Gordon said that he is considering every option when it comes to stopping the spread of the disease in a press conference on Friday.

Less than two weeks before Gordon's press conference on Nov. 13, Weston County commissioners made it clear that

they will continue to seek county wide variances to the COVID-19 guidelines. The state has denied previous requests, citing the county's "red zone" status.

On Nov. 5, Commissioner Marty Ertman said that while the state had denied the county's most recent variance request, the county would continue to submit variances. She blamed Weston County's "red zone" status on the high volume of cases at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp north of Newcastle.

"We need to question the guidelines if

the most isolated group has an outbreak," Ertman said. "It's an interesting time with the spike, but I have no problem continuing variances."

Chairman Ed Wagoner agreed, stating that the public needs to know that the commissioners are trying to open things back up in the county.

While Gordon has maintained that his preference is giving counties the ultimate call on public health measures

— See **COVID**, Page 7

## COVID kills Cookie Day

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

For the first time in years, Newcastle Elementary School will not have its annual Cookie Day to raise funds for Operation Santa due to COVID-19 concerns and restrictions. On Nov. 10, during the Weston County School District No. 1 board of trustees meeting, Principal Brandy Holmes explained that the team felt there was no safe way to continue the tradition.

Historically, the school's fourth grade class has raised the funds for Operation Santa and then shopped for the gifts. The students made cookies at school and at home to sell on Cookie Day.

With the funds they raised, students then purchased clothing items for those in need on a shopping trip with staff and volunteers. "We don't feel, given the COVID-19 situation, that we can safely do the fund-raising and the shopping," Holmes said.

— See **Cookie Day**, Page 2

## Alexander publishes horror book

Hannah Gross  
NLJ Correspondent

"I've always wanted to be a writer. That's been a lifelong dream," said Newcastle High School English teacher Michael Alexander.

And on July 5, Alexander published his first book, "Boarded Windows, Dead

— See **Alexander**, Page 8

NLJ file photo  
**Austen Kenney purchases Michael Alexander's new book, "Boarded Windows, Dead Leaves," during the Weston County Art Council's Warm Summer Nights on Main Street in Newcastle Aug. 21.**



### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 51, Lo 26



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 43, Lo 26



**Saturday**  
Mostly Sunny  
Hi 42, Lo 21



**Sunday**  
Sunny  
Hi 40, Lo 26



**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 44, Lo 26



**Tuesday**  
Mostly Sunny  
Hi 47, Lo 31



**Wednesday**  
Mostly Sunny  
Hi 46 Lo 25



### INSIDE

- New judge, Page 2
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## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

As the biggest shopping season of the year gets underway, please remember that where we shop really does matter to our community! When possible, let's support our friends and neighbors and their small businesses this holiday season.

**First State Bank will be closed on Thursday, November 26 for Thanksgiving.**



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## Public defender from Page 1 .....

tional crisis ensues, as well as creating an ethical crisis for the State Public Defender and her assistants,” the document states.

The budget cut will be felt directly in Weston County and surrounding areas with the closure of the Newcastle field office earlier this year. This office historically provided representation for approximately 210 cases annually in both Weston and Crook counties. Residents of those two counties needing assistance will now have to work with public defenders in Campbell County.

“Because these two counties are part of the 6th Judicial District, our office in Gillette is now handling the cases in both Weston and Crook counties. We have a contract attorney designated to these counties but the other attorneys will have to have some cases in Weston and Crook counties as well,” Diane M. Lozano, state public defender, said. “Our office staff in Gillette has to handle all the paperwork from both counties in addition to Campbell County as well. Our hope is that it will not impact anyone in your communities as each defendant will have an attorney.”

But, Lozano said, that could all change under certain circumstances.

“As long as we are fully staffed in Gillette and as long as crime/caseloads do not substantially increase, there should not be any impact on the communities in those counties,” Lozano said. “We are diligently monitoring the situation though.”

Jefferson Coombs, supervisor of the Gillette office, said that his office is feeling the impacts of taking on the caseloads of two more counties.

“Frankly, COVID-19 is a bit of a blessing because we get to appear by video and we don’t have to drive to Crook or Weston County,” Coombs said. “That saves us travel time.”

As public defenders, Coombs said, his office will do what they have to do to represent everyone to the best of their abilities.

“It is not ideal. The ideal situation would be having a public defender that covers those two counties, but with the budget being what it is, we will grin and bear it,” Coombs said. “We are still

## Gordon appoints new district judge

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Gov. Mark Gordon has appointed Stuart S. Healy III to replace District Judge Michael Deegan, who announced his retirement in August, of the Sixth Judicial District serving Weston, Crook and Campbell counties. Deegan’s retirement is effective Dec. 25. Healy’s appointment is effective Dec. 26, according to an Oct. 31 press release from the governor’s office.

According to the release, Healy has served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Wyoming since 2005, previously serving as an assistant county attorney in Sheridan County and as an attorney in private practice in Sheridan.

“He received his Bachelor’s, Master’s and Law degree from the University of Notre Dame. Healy, his wife Allison and daughter Moriah reside in Cheyenne,” the release says. “His daughter Emily and son Seamus are both in college.”

Gordon said in the release that the Judicial Nominating Commission once again submitted three outstanding candidates but that Healy’s experience as a federal prosecutor and as a county attorney will service him well in the Sixth Judicial District.

“I’m humbled by the governor’s faith in me to serve the people of Campbell, Crook and Weston counties as District Court Judge,” Healy said in the release. “I recognize I’m following a tradition of dedicated and excellent judges in this district. I intend to work hard to maintain that tradition.”

able to provide good counsel to those in Weston and Crook counties. We have to put in a little extra work and spend some extra time but we can do it. We are not at the point that we are overwhelmed and can’t provide coverage to those counties.”

Public defenders aren’t the only ones facing issues brought on by the office closure; county attorneys and staff on the other side have had to make adjustments as well.

According to Berger, the impacts on his office vary and include adjusting to work with different attorneys, scheduling conflicts and lack of proper information being provided to new attorneys.

“We have been working with no local public defender for a few months, so we have a good idea of how it will impact us,” Berger said. “First, all defendants are getting good representation from attorneys out of the Gillette public defender’s office. It is a learning process to work with different attorneys, but that is not a major issue.” Issues with scheduling can be

seen more in the courts than in the attorney’s office, Berger said. It can be somewhat difficult to arrange schedules that guarantee attorneys are here for court, he indicated.

“Third, the only major strain on our office so far is that the previous public defender did not give, or the current public defenders did not get, documents necessary for the county attorney to provide to the defense. So we are having to resend material, and it is causing some issues,” Berger said. “This is a strain that will decrease as all cases are assigned to the new attorneys from the state.”

According to Lozano, \$468,901 was budgeted out of the general fund last fiscal year for the public defender’s office that was in Newcastle. She noted that the county contributed an additional 15%, or \$82,749, bringing the budget total to \$551,659.

“In terms of office space, we were paying \$600 a month for the office in Newcastle and we had to pay for internet, phones and other office supplies,” Lozano said.

## Cookie Day from Page 1 .....

“That would mean taking them out in public, and we can’t.”

On average, Operation Santa helps 45 to 50 families or roughly 95 children, Holmes told the *News Letter Journal*, noting that this is children birth to 18.

“If a school-age child is in need of clothing, parents or guardians can contact me or their child’s school. We will help as much as we are able,” Holmes said. “Since we are not able to do our traditional fundraisers, our funds are limited this year.”

Holmes assured the school board that the school should be able to cover most of the needs at the school with funds in the account from previous years. She said that the school is working out the logistics of the help.


“If people would like to donate, they can send it to the school for Operation Santa: Kids Helping Kids. We also have had families volunteer to assist other families for Christmas. We can help coordinate this to maintain confidentiality,” Holmes continued. “If this is something they would like to do, they can contact the schools.”

# Countdown to Christmas

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# nlj OPINION

news letter journal

## Our View

# Stay local Shop local Support local

For as long as we can remember it has been custom to preach the need to shop local and support Weston County's businesses, not only during the holiday season but all year. With the intensity of the COVID-19 pandemic growing, now more than ever shopping local and staying local will offer benefits all the way around.

While staying in town and shopping locally, people will not only avoid increased exposure to the illness by limiting travel, they will be financially aiding the businesses, entities, organizations and governments that directly support them.

This year has been anything but normal or traditional. From global pandemics wreaking havoc on every aspect of life to the political absurdity that has occurred, not much of what we thought of as our ordinary, everyday lives has remained unscathed in 2020.

As we approach the holidays, and dread the thought of tradition and celebration with family members slipping away - even if only for a year - it is important to remember who we are, where we are and what keeps us together through good times and bad.

'Tis the season to remember what we are thankful for, to celebrate our families and communities, to give a little and praise a lot ... even though we know we do this in small-town America all the time.

There are people in this community who are tirelessly trying to adapt our customary celebrations of customer appreciation days, festivals, banquets and toy drives to new guidelines and regulations spurred by COVID in order to ensure these events can still happen. Those individuals not only deserve our thanks, but our support.

We are a community that rallies together in times of need. We come together to help one another. The recent United Fund of Weston County pie auction held at Decker's Market is proof that this "community came out like they always do." The sale raised over \$6,500 and this money will benefit 10 local agencies. This community supports one another, and we'd like to recognize the good will that just keeps on going on here.

Our hat is off to the community members who continue to spend their dollars to support local causes and businesses, and to the organizers of these annual events and everyone who steps up and finds a unique way to keep these traditions alive for the betterment of our community.

Keep up the good work, this community is behind you. Remember to shop local, stay local and support local.

It really does make a difference.

## Donkey's Limerick

Dear Editor,  
There once was a donkey who looked in the mirror. What the dim creature saw there caused it great fear.  
It saw an eruption of crime and corruption, And the poor beast shed a big tear.  
This donkey proclaimed himself "woke." He was P.C. in every word that he spoke.  
The jackass loudly brayed, if from his gospel you strayed, But all good "Deplorables" viewed him as a joke.  
The donkey was quite long of tooth, And always had trouble in telling the truth.  
He'd earned a fortune by grift, not hard work and thrift, But still expected approval in the voting booth.  
The donkey quickly



accused others of crimes, Committed by his own ilk, many times.  
With enough distractions committed, he was always acquitted, His defense paid for with your many dimes.  
The donkey said he had a wonderful plan, Invented by a bug-eyed one in his clan.  
It was road apple green, if you know what I mean, A great deal he called it, come on man!!  
But this pitiful creature was such a dumb ass, What he mistook for a window was a looking glass.  
All his promised free-stuff election, would destroy our nation, If donkey's socialist dreams ever would come to pass.

-- Jim Darlington

## Deadline for letters is noon on Friday

# Emotions set to run high over COVID response

It looks like a whole lot of people in Wyoming are fired up about the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths here in the Cowboy State.

Gov. Mark Gordon was about as emotional and angry as we have seen him during his press conference on November 13. He referred to a portion of our state's population as "knuckleheads" for not practicing social distancing or wearing masks.

Meanwhile in Casper, infectious disease specialist Dr. Mark Dowell and various elected officials were hooted off the stage recently by angry citizens when the officials tried to emphasize the dangerous state of health that they felt the people of Wyoming are dealing with right now. It was an ugly scene.

The anti-maskers feel statistics do not bear out the drastic measures being considered by Gordon and state officials. They look to neighboring South Dakota and how Gov. Kristi Noem has kept her state open.



Bill Sniffin  
My Wyoming

Noem's detractors claim that South Dakota is now one of the worst states in the country for COVID-19, noting the state is sending patients to Wyoming hospitals.

Gordon and his staff have reached out to business organizations for their input on the situation. Should he impose a mandatory mask mandate? Should he impose the same health restrictions that forced restrictions on businesses seen last spring?

My prediction is that members of these state groups will support a mask mandate but not a business shutdown. I am writing this on November 15. By the time you are reading this, some of these decisions may have happened.

Meanwhile, my friend Steve Mossbrook died in the Casper hospital one day after his 74th birthday from lung disease complicated by COVID-19. Now that spooks me. Steve was a slim and fit guy. He was a terrific golfer.

He was one of Wyoming's

early internet pioneers, creating Wyoming.com, and I had known him for 30 years. He had been in the hospital for two weeks and kept going downhill. He had been a lifelong smoker, and in recent years had been vaping. His lungs were not healthy. Still, the last time I chatted with him he was full of energy and anxious to launch some new programs.

Another good friend is Glenn Arbery, 69, president of Wyoming Catholic College. He caught COVID-19 and told me that he has had occasional headaches, chills, and very low energy for the past week. But he is on the mend, and he plans to get back to work next week. His case, although not ideal, made me feel a little better.

Long-time Powell Tribune Publisher Dave Bonner, 80, tested positive a few weeks ago after attending a University of Wyoming football game. "I have completed my public health COVID-19 quarantine and am just easing back into circulation," he says. He says he has not smoked since college and that may have contributed to his good result.

During the recent presidential campaign, it seemed like Joe Biden followers all wore masks and stayed out of harm's way. Donald Trump backers wore baseball hats, no masks, and lived a normal life.

On a national level, the whole idea of mail-in ballots totally reflects the Biden-mask ethic while the walk-in voters on election day reflected the Trump ideal. It truly was a visible image of a classic division in our country.

Here in Trump Country, where Wyoming voted 70 percent for the incumbent (more than any other state), you can understand why there could be so much resistance to mask wearing and a mask mandate.

So, what to do?  
Gordon is going to make a decision, and it will be a doozy either way. If he imposes a mask mandate, who will enforce it? If he doesn't, has he shirked his responsibility to keep Wyoming folks safe?

Meanwhile on Sunday morning's Meet the Press show, Biden's new chief of staff indicated that a four to six week national shutdown may be on the table as soon as Biden is

sworn in. That, plus a national mask mandate. These folks are serious. A whole bunch of folks out here in Wyoming will rebel.

It won't be pretty.  
As the weather turns cold and people huddle indoors, the chances of spreading COVID-19 increases.

Could today's weather in Wyoming be any different than this summer? We probably hosted 5 million tourists this summer, yet our total numbers of COVID-19 remained super low.

In August, when the state was being over-run by tourists, we had 608 active cases. Today we have 9,897 active cases.

These are difficult times for Wyoming when it comes to COVID-19. Be safe and be careful out there.

*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.*

# Why isn't the simplest solution best this time?

We human beings, with our big brains, our memories, our abilities to react and adapt, and the subtleties of our reasoning powers, also have a striking capacity for ignoring the obvious.

We think nothing of putting on a pair of sunglasses when it's bright outside.

If the pavement is too hot, we don't walk barefoot over it.

If it's 10 below zero outside, we put on a coat, or we turn on the heater in the car, or both.

If we're taking a casserole or a cookie sheet out of the hot oven, we protect our hands with a hot pad or an oven mitt. It's common sense. We'd get burned otherwise.

If we cut a finger or scrape a knee, we'll look for a Band-Aid.

If we have a headache, we take an aspirin. Sprained ankle? Where's the ice pack?

If the coffee is too hot, then we wait for it to cool - without consulting a blog, or reading a statement from the governor.

If we have a runny nose, we keep a tissue handy. If our hands are dirty before dinner, then we wash off

the crud.

If the family doctor says the ol' cholesterol is too high, then we take the pill as prescribed. If we have one kind of diabetes, we lower the potato chip intake.

If we have the other kind, then we take insulin (and go easy on the chips then, too).

If we don't understand the algebra problem, we pay attention, study up and do better.

If the picture is blurry, we take more time to focus.

If we knock over a glass of water, we get a towel and wipe it up. We don't ask what Donald Trump thinks, or Joe Biden. We just do the right thing.

If we've got more things than we can carry at the grocery store, then we find a cart.

If we drop a plate and break it, we reach for the broom - and a frothing cable TV commentator's opinion is irrelevant to the matter.

If there's frost on the windshield, we don't drive until we've scraped it off.

And if there is snow on the sidewalk, we find a

shovel. Don't we?

If we're hungry, we eat. When we're sleepy at night, we go to bed.

If we're hot and sweaty after a workout, or mowing the lawn, we drink some water.

If we stink in the morning, then we take a shower, and we don't forget the deodorant afterward.

If it's too dark, we turn on the light.

Wyoming's coronavirus infection count is setting a new record almost every day. Thousands more people are getting sick each week.

The hospitals are filling up.  
So are the funeral notices.  
If we have a rock in our shoe, then we stop, take off the shoe, turn it over and let the rock fall out.

Then we put the shoe back on and keep going.

We don't make a big deal of it, because it's not a big deal. We make the small effort, get rid of the rock, and go forward.

Now, why aren't you wearing a mask?

**Guest View**  
Riverton  
Ranger

News Letter Journal:  
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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

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


## WHY

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

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**Obituaries**

**JUNE ELEANOR GORSUCH**  
 June 4, 1935–Nov. 8, 2020



June Gorsuch, 85, died Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020, at the Avantara Saint Cloud.

June Eleanor Gorsuch was born to Richard and Loreen Schwarze on June 4, 1935, in Newcastle, Wyo.

**June Gorsuch**

She married Bob Borgialli in 1951 and had four kids. She then lived in Buffalo, Wyo., where she was a homemaker and worked on the ranch. In 1974, she moved to Custer, S.D., where she was a cook in a nursing home. This is where she met the love of her life, David Gorsuch. They were married June 4, 1976. In this union she gained eight step-children that she treated and loved as her own.

June had many hobbies including knitting, crocheting, sewing, cooking, and camping. She was very proud of her German heritage.

She was a loving wife, mom, step-mom, and grandma, and she loved the Lord with all her heart.

Staying behind to celebrate her life are her sister, Shirley (Ray) Berquist; her children, Bobby (Diana) Borgialli, Judy (Chris) Hansen, Cindy (Randy) Black, and Diane (Rick) Farris; her step-children, Duane (JoAnn) Gorsuch, Gene Loghey, Mike (Connie) Gorsuch, Robin

(Rich) Whipple, Christy Hashisaki, David (Tammy) Gorsuch, Jeff (Pam) Gorsuch, and Brian Gorsuch; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Public visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12 at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home in Rapid City, S.D. Masks are required.

A private family only funeral service was held on Friday, Nov. 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Burial will follow at the Fairburn Cemetery near Fairburn, S.D.

**BARBARA ANN VAN EVERY**  
 April 14, 1934–Nov. 15, 2020

Barbara Ann Van Every, age 86, passed away on Nov. 15, 2020, at Weston County Manor in Newcastle, Wyo.



Barbara was born on April 14, 1934, in Alva, Wyo., to Jay Smith Mahoney and Alta Lorene (Gray) Mahoney. She attended schools in Alva and Sundance, Wyo.

**Barb Van Every**

She married Robert (Bob) Van Every on May 27, 1961. They enjoyed 56 years together before Bob's passing in 2017. Two children were born to her previous marriage to Mickey Williams.

Throughout her life, Barbara was

employed in the business office at Weston County Hospital and in the activity department at Weston County Manor.

Barbara's love of animals was well known and she was active for many years in the Weston County Humane Society. Much to Bob's exasperation, there wasn't a dog or cat she didn't try to rescue if possible! She was an avid reader and took pleasure in walking her dog(s) daily until her health no longer permitted such enjoyments.

She was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Barbara is survived by her daughter-in-law, Maureen (Mert) Williams, and her stepdaughter, Susan Van Every, as well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, cousins, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her children, Michael Jay Williams and Donna Rae Williams; her parents; and her brothers, Gerald, Hiram, Leon, and Allen Mahoney.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

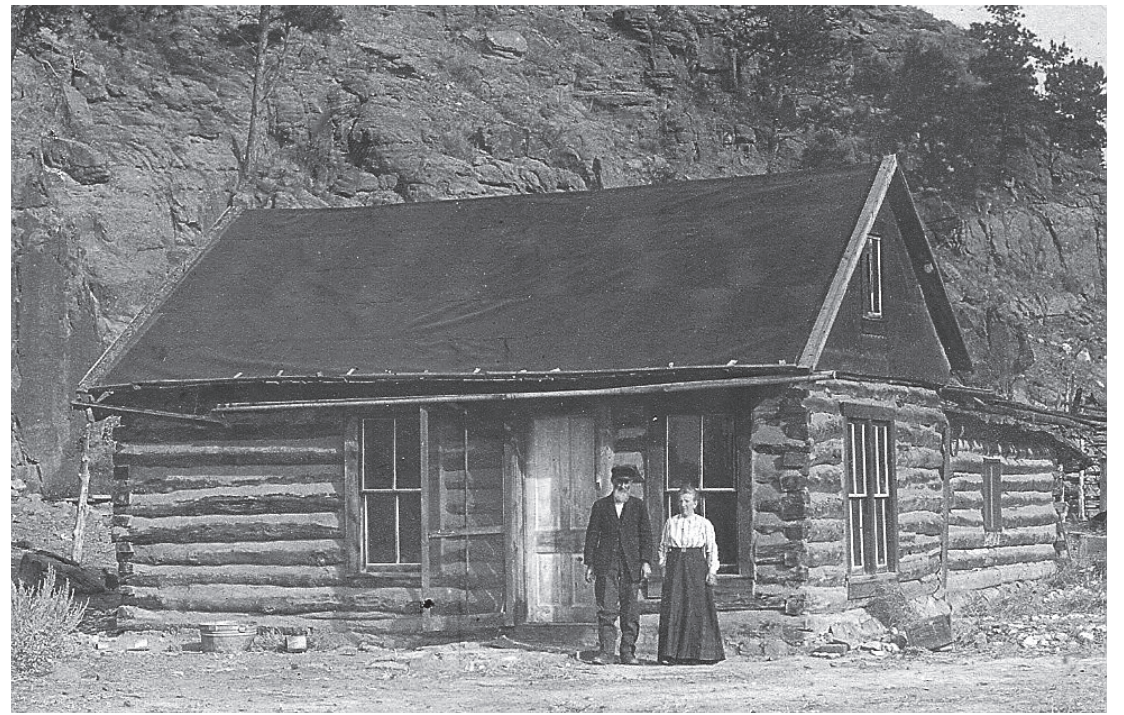
A memorial has been established to the Weston County Manor and the Weston County Humane Society. Memorials and condolences may be sent to the family in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railroad Ave., Newcastle, WY 82701. Condolences may also be expressed at meridianmortuary.com.

**Stone finally marks the grave of former Clifton postmaster**

Submitted by **Judy Strickling**

Delbert Strickling and his wife, Judy, have spent many years researching family history. Their research led them to cemeteries in Nebraska and South Dakota, not to mention mortuaries and even a dingy basement of an old mortuary in Nebraska.

Delbert is the great-grandson of Charles Flavius Carr, who is the subject of this article. Flavius, born in New York, was a cobbler by trade. He and his family moved west and lived in a log house, or cabin, at the mouth of Carr Canyon near the community of Clifton. Clifton was established near the railroad out on the old highway east of Newcastle. A few structural



Submitted photo

**C.F. (Flavius) Carr and his second wife, Sarah, in front of the cabin in Carr Canyon near Clifton.**

— See Carr, Page 6



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



**faith & values**

**Daily Devotional Reading**

- Nov. 13  
1 Chronicles 17:1-15
- Nov. 14  
1 Chronicles 17:16-27
- Nov. 15  
Psalm 121
- Nov. 16  
Psalm 122
- Nov. 17  
Psalm 124
- Nov. 18  
Psalm 125
- Nov. 19  
Psalm 126

*Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society*

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Wendy Owens, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydshall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 10 am
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 PM; Celebrate Recovery (18+) & Undeclared Youth (Infant- 12th Grade) Wednesday 6:00 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Brenda Torrie, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10:00 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 949-0869
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7:00 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- **OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frezil Westlund. 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

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

~ Psalm 73:26 NIV



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# Recapture

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago**  
**Nov. 23, 1995**

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway has just been notified that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving via the "Special Santa Train."

Bill Stearns just got a new buckle and new saddle. And just in time, too, because he needs a new saddle. Stearns said the saddle he won as the 1995 Senior Pro Rodeo bronc rider will stay in its place of honor in his house for about a week. After that, it will go to work along with him on the ranch.

Weston County held the 4-H Achievement Day Oct. 8 at Kitty Moats Elementary School in Osage.

Weston County School

District #1s physical education department is a gung-ho operation. No other PE department wins as many awards as this one does. Darren Heslep, who teaches PE at Newcastle Middle School, picked up where his coworker Kathleen Engle left off last year. Heslep was named the Wyoming Alliance of Health Physical Education (WAHPERD) Middle School Teacher of the Year for 1995 at the annual convention held in Cheyenne last week.

Girls' varsity basketball coach feels the season looks good with seven returning seniors and eight returning juniors. "This season arrives with much hope and promise," said Walker of the 1995 prospects.

The Blotter: Nov. 6 – Someone shot a BB in the front door of the old Wagon Trail Gun Shop. Sheep were strolling down 16. Nov. 9 – A calf escaped from the scales and was seen near the fairgrounds. A car went through a fence in Osage. Nov. 12 – a horse was in someone's yard.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Nov. 19, 1970**

The Newcastle Teen Club held their first organizational meeting last week for the purpose of organizing a dance. The Teen Club of Newcastle consists of two governing bodies, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board.

The Newcastle high school will present the all-school

play "Time Out For Ginger" this afternoon and tonight (Thursday). Performances will be at 1:30 and 8. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50c for grade school students.

The 1969-70 State Swimming Champs from Newcastle got underway with their first practice Monday. Ten boys are returning from last year's team including letterman Mike Kozisek, Terry Plato, Tim Chamberlain, Gordon Piscioti, Lloyd Hildebrand and Steve Koski.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Miller of Cheyenne Orchard Valley announce the engagement of their daughter, Merilee, to John D. Steuble, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Steuble of Newcastle.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Williams and Jerry and Mrs. John Barker and Susan were in Newcastle Thursday on business.

Thursday morning Wes Moore and Mike Ondrizek were brief callers at the Wayne Peterson home. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Popham were in Newcastle Wednesday on business and were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. art Williams hosted a "coffee" at the Western Café Friday night following the rehearsal for the wedding Saturday of Susan Barker and Jerry Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. David Petersen were shopping in Newcastle Thursday. Mrs. Felix Perino, Mary and Bob were callers in Newcastle Friday.

Mrs. Robert Abbott called on Mrs. Charlie Benne Saturday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Keith Barritt were coffee guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Weaver Friday evening after the Junior play.

**100 Years Ago**  
**Nov. 18, 1920**

With more than \$400 already subscribed and the drive for membership in the Red Cross but half over, Weston county again goes on record as loyal to the core.

J.L. Beard, president of the First National Bank, of Newcastle, underwent a minor operation in Denver the first of the week, and reports state that he is quickly recovering his old-time health.

The map of Osage field which was sent out to the subscribers of the *News-Journal* last week has resulted in a flood of letters all expressing commendation and praise of the work. Oil men throughout the country have gone on record as saying that it has been one of the best maps they have been able to obtain, and the publicity for the city of Newcastle is the best that this place will receive for sometime.

Arthur Edlund of the Diamond Bar was gathering cattle on Beaver Creek last week. F.W. Coates and son, Herbert, marketed a load of "murphies" in Newcastle Saturday.

R.A. Harper, Glen Crawford, Frank Fawcett, Jesse Scott and Gus Niles were riding on the Limestone for cattle Friday.

Did you hear those wedding bells chime out? This time they were for John Pettengill and Eleanor Towner, the South Timber schoolma'am. We wish them unending happiness and much prosperity.

Ray and Muriel Keef went after a ton of potatoes they purchased at Eckstrand's Saturday. Muriel took dinner at Wade's while they weighed the potatoes.

Ray Cummings and John Baugh started to the coal bank Sunday morning, but their feet got cold and they returned to the home fires.

Tony Olevette of Newcastle made a very hurried trip to Cambria last week. Mr. Chas. Dohrman of the Mount Pisgah country was shopping in Cambria last Thursday.

### HOWDY BAKERY IS TAKING ORDERS FOR THANKSGIVING PIES!

Apple, Cherry, Triple Berry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Rhubarb, Blueberry, Pumpkin, Peach, Pecan, Lemon Meringue, Coconut Crème and Chocolate.

Pick up is available on Wednesday, Nov. 25, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Howdy Bakery will be closed on Thanksgiving, Nov. 26

To order stop in bakery at 834 S. Summit or call/leave message at 307-941-0444

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### Weston County School District # 1 School Board Member Opening

Weston County School District # 1 has an opening for a School Board Member. Position runs from Dec. 9, 2020 to November 30, 2022. Deadline to apply is Dec. 7, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

Please send a letter of interest to:  
Weston County School District # 1  
c/o Board Vacancy  
116 Casper Avenue  
Newcastle, WY 82701



Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to the NLJ!

Email to design@newsjl.com

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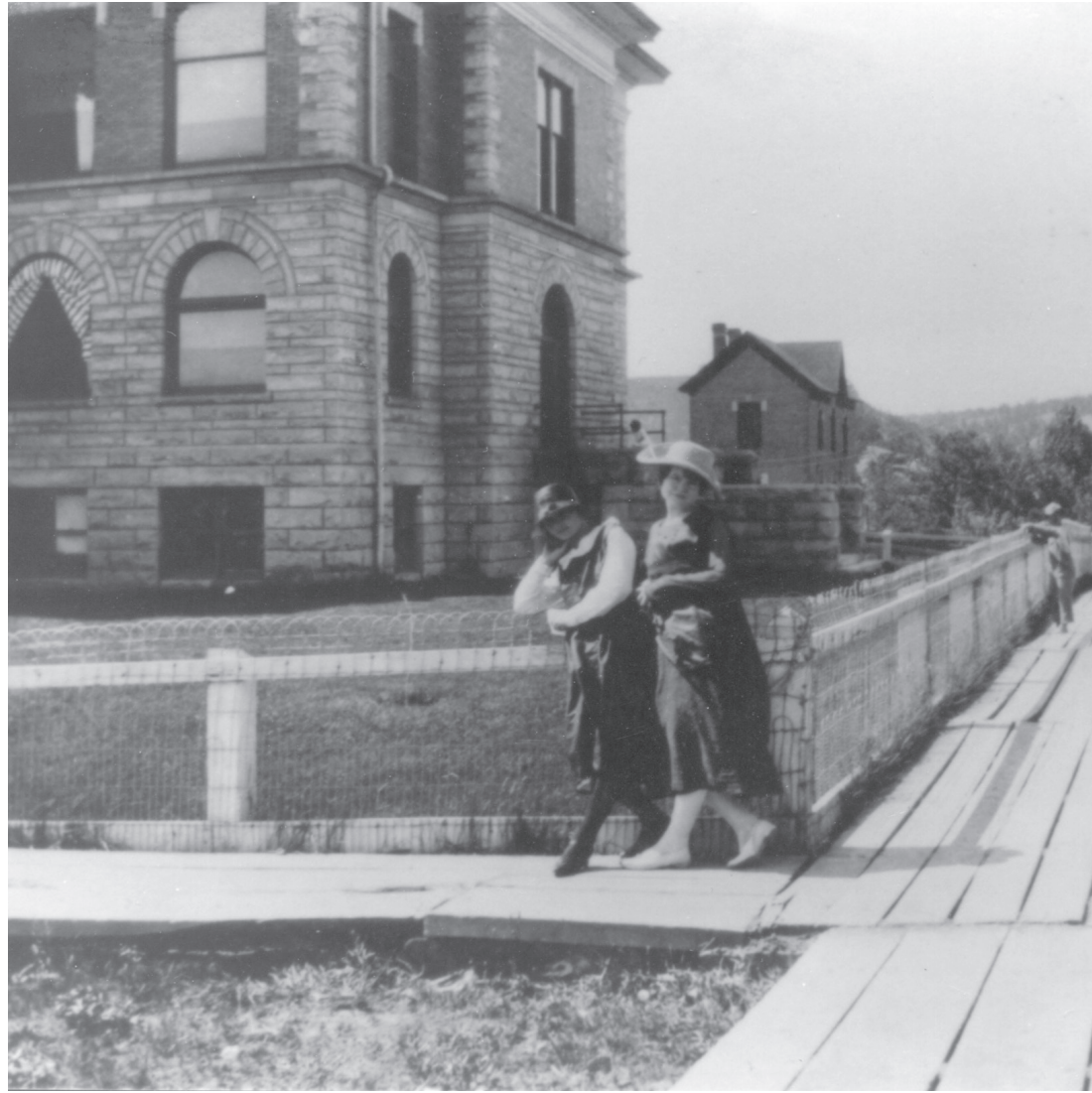
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Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society/Janed and Ed Pzinski Collection

This is a photograph of a couple of unidentified ladies near the Weston County Courthouse.

## WHAT'S UP

November 2020

### Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Location
Th Nov. 19	6PM	WCHS Board of Trustees Mtg.	Board Room @WCHS
	6PM	Veteran's Memorial Meeting	Michaels Room, Senior Center
	7:30PM	Masons #13	Masonic Lodge
Fri Nov. 20	4PM	FOCUS wine-pull fundraiser	Pizza Barn
	5:30PM	BINGO	VFW Hall
Tues Nov. 24	3:30PM	Alzheimers/Dementia Support	WCHS
	7-8PM	Alanon Meeting	Senior Center Family Room
	7:30PM	Eastern Star #30	Masonic Hall
Wed Nov. 25	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	WCHS

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

<b>Nov. 22</b> Walter & Connie Sprague	<b>Nov. 24</b> Suzette Miller
<b>Nov. 20</b> Joyce Jonasson Marion Minne	<b>Nov. 25:</b> Patrick Lane Alberta Hando
<b>Nov. 23</b> Sheila DeLaRosa Jordan Dowdy Renee Miller	<b>Nov. 26</b> Mike Ronning Sam Brott

Send your meeting and event announcements to [design@newsjl.com](mailto:design@newsjl.com)



For nearly 60 years, Dixon Bros has been hauling refined petroleum, propane, crude oil, and ammonium nitrate for customers on the eastern side of the northern Rocky Mountains. The Newcastle WY-based tank truck carrier runs approximately 100 tractors and 260 tank and dry bulk trailers.



On behalf of Wyoming Automotive Company I would like to thank my loyal customers and acquaintances for your many years of patronage. Your support made the business successful and allowed me work I enjoyed. My genuine gratitude to faithful employees Kelly, Ray and John.

— Sincerely, Terry Rich  
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THANK YOU

# For the Ages

News Letter Journal

## From liquor store to bar, then fashion shop

**Hannah Gross**  
NLJ Correspondent  
With Leonard Cash

Continuing his series on lot 8 of block 10, which was formerly home to the Stock Growers and Merchant Co., historian Leonard Cash picks up in the late 1920s after Mary McCrea sold the building to former Mayor Pete Kinney.

Cash is unsure of what Kinney used the building for, but after Kinney passed away, the estate was handed over to Ruth and Ethel Kinney on Jan. 20, 1931, according to courthouse files from Miscellaneous Record Book 6, page 246. They leased it to Max Lansom from 1936 to 1943, who used it as a liquor store in the 1940s. From 1943 to 1945, T.L. Graham leased the first floor

for a retail liquor business before Charles and Harold Grieves took it over in 1946 until 1950. In 1954, it became a ladies "ready to wear" store operated by Louise Cummings. After Ethel Kinney passed away, Ruth Kinney sold it to Lloyd and Jane Avery in 1978 in a contract for deed. The Averys turned around and sold lot 8 (and the party wall agreement with lot 9) to Tony, Darla and Tyrone Farella in 1984.

That brings us to the end of the records in the courthouse files, so now Cash will backtrack to his newspaper records from that time to give a more-detailed recapture.

According to the Nov. 1, 1928, *News Letter Journal*, Charley Durkee was cleaning up the building and installing furniture for his business, Newcastle Hardware and Supply Co.

"Charley was associated with his brother and father in business at Osage

and he knows what he is doing. We wish him success," the article says.

A few years later, the hardware store vacated the building, but an article from Oct. 20, 1932, said there were unconfirmed rumors that a jewelry store was to be opened by a man from Alliance, Nebraska.

An advertisement from the Nov. 3, 1932 newspaper, proved the rumors to be true. The Martin W. Morris Jewelry Co. was opening on Nov. 5, with a complete stock of watches, jewelry and novelty goods. It was also to offering watch repairs.

That summer, around July 27, 1933, Rosella Lemmon, who operated Rosella Beauty Shoppe, was moving her store right above Morris in the front room of the apartment section of the building, which was equipped, furnished and redecorated to fit her needs. A steam heating system was to be installed soon. An ad from the same issue promised "permanent waves and all lines of beauty work" with Lemmon's motto of "pleasing you means success to us."

A month later, the Aug. 31, 1933, paper announced that Morris married Frieda Lux on a Sunday morning in Alliance. The couple spent their honeymoon in the Black Hills before returning to Newcastle.

"Mr. Morris came to Newcastle and entered business early in the year and has formed a wide circle of friends during residence here," the article says.

The Oct. 12, 1933, issue reported that Morris held an auction sale at his shop on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, and the items sold "briskly and brought good prices." The sale was deemed "one of the most suc-

cessful merchandising events held in Newcastle in recent years." For the remaining three days of the week, he held a half-price sale on the leftover auction items.

"All advertising matter used for the auction sale was a product of the *News Letter-Journal* plant and Mr. Morris attributes much of the success of the sale to the effectiveness of this advertising," the article says.

On Aug. 9, 1934, the paper reported the unfortunate news that Frieda received word that her father Carl Lux passed away, so she was out of town visiting her family in Alliance. Lux was 84 years old and had six daughters and two sons.

After his successful auction, Morris held another auction the following year, but this time it was to close out his stock because he was discontinuing his business, according to an article from Oct. 18, 1934. The store was hosting two sales daily at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., starting Tuesday and going until everything was sold.

"Mr. Morris has been a fine business man, pleasant to deal with, respected and interested in civic affairs," the article says. "The two have made many friends in this community through their business as well as their associations outside of the commercial world."

The last day of the auction was Saturday night, according to the Oct. 25, 1934, paper.

"We want to thank the many friends and patrons who have been customers during the past two years. We are moving to Deadwood and hope that you will drop in to see us when you are there," the Morrises said in the Nov. 8, 1934, issue.

By Nov. 22, 1934, O.S. Cleveland was moving his bar and café from the Fendrick block to the former jewelry store. He made some changes and installed a lunch counter, electric stove and "improved his equipment in several ways."

A few months later, the Jan. 24, 1935, paper reported that Ora Cleveland "disposed of his interest" to Clark Spencer of Omaha, who owned a café and nightclub there. Spencer said he would provide entertainment for his patrons.

By March 16, 1935, Max Lamson obtained a liquor permit for the bar before he took over the business, naming it the Peerless bar (which eventually moved locations and became the modern-day Perkins Tavern).

Excitement followed Morris at his new jewelry store in Deadwood when he and E.O. Lampinen of the neighboring gold manufacturing shop were robbed on March 16, according to the March 28, 1940, edition of the *News Letter Journal*. Wesley Sammeli, 26, pleaded guilty to third-degree burglary, and was "held to circuit court under \$5,000 bond." He was arrested on a Friday night and admitted to the crime after hours of questioning. He buried an estimated \$3,000 to \$3,500 worth of loot near Porter Lumber Co. but dug it up and buried it in the cellar of the home of Ernest Scroggin, who was unaware of the crime.

On April 4, 1940, the paper further reported that Sammeli was sentenced to eight years in Sioux Falls state penitentiary by Circuit Judge Charles Hayes for grand larceny and two years for breaking and entering. The motive for the robbery, according to Sheriff Gregor Stewart, was that Sammeli had an "infatuation with a Deadwood woman who wanted money and jewels." He was married with two kids but separated from his wife.

Around Feb. 25, 1943, the Peerless bar was sold to Tom Graham after Lamson had managed it for five years. Two years later, possession of the business went to Charles Grieves and H.A. Grieves on Nov. 26, according to the Nov. 29, 1945, paper.

By Oct. 11, 1951, the building was no longer used as a bar. The paper

announced that Joe Cummings and his wife (originally from Guemsey) were opening Cummings Ready to Wear store, which featured clothing and accessory items for women. Cummings was once a manager for the former Red Owl store in Newcastle and operated Golden Rule in Custer, South Dakota.

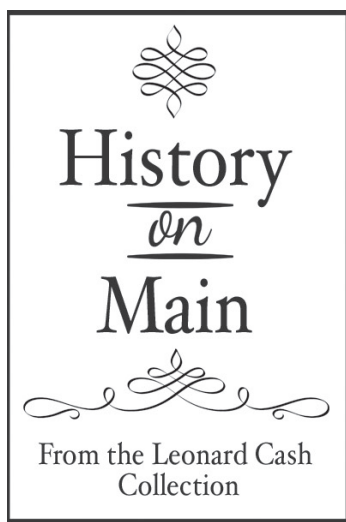
That was not the only store moving into the building. The Oct. 25, 1951, issue of the paper reported that Hilda's Beauty Shop was opening above Cummings' store on the second floor.

An article from Jan. 14, 1965, announced that the Cummingses (who now lived in Arvada, Colorado) sold their store to Lloyd and Jane Avery, who had been working with the business for several years. The name of the store was changed to Jane's.

Three years later, according to a report from April 25, 1968, the front of Jane's store was being remodeled. Some of the updates included the windows and doors, as well as the mirror finish paneling and shadow paneling. Additionally, the windows on the upper story were being replaced with a stucco design. The article also noted that Ruth Collins (formerly Kinney) was still the owner of the building although the Averys owned the business.

However, that changed, according to the Feb. 2, 1984, paper, which announced that Lloyd and Jane Avery had sold Jane's Fashion Center to Tony, Darla and Ty Farella, effective Feb. 6. The Farellas also purchased the building, and the shop's name was changed to Darla's Fashions. Annette Newlin, who managed Jane's for several years, was to still be the manager of the new store. The Averys were moving to Gillette to operate a women's clothing store there.

In 1998, the building was destroyed by fire, according to Cash, and it was rebuilt in the 2000s, but it sits empty today. Next week, Cash will begin a new series on the Fawkes' Drug Store.



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## Carr from Page 4



Submitted photos  
A younger C.F. Carr (Flavius) Carr, father of Lee, Charley and Carrie, below. At left, and above, Ken Carr and Delbert Strickling set the stone of Flavius Carr.



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remains can still be seen at the town site.

Flavius' wife, Julia, died in 1904 and he then married Sarah Furniss. In July 1907, Flavius was appointed as the first postmaster of Clifton.

While returning home from a visit in their buggy, the horses bolted, causing the buggy to overturn. Sarah was severely injured and Flavius, with a broken leg, crawled several miles after dark, arriving in Clifton about midnight. Men went in search of the accident site and found Sarah, still unconscious. Word was that Sarah never fully recovered from her head injury.

Several years later she passed away and is buried in Baltimore, Md., her previous home.

Flavius was listed for a Carnegie Hero Medal for the heroic act after this accident.

While living in Clifton, Flavius raised a garden and his produce won ribbons at fair. He tanned hides with a process that he developed himself, carved men's heads from the soft sandstone that existed in the area, and repaired shoes and other

leather goods.

On Nov. 7, 1922, Flavius passed away at his at the ranch of his son, Charlie Carr.

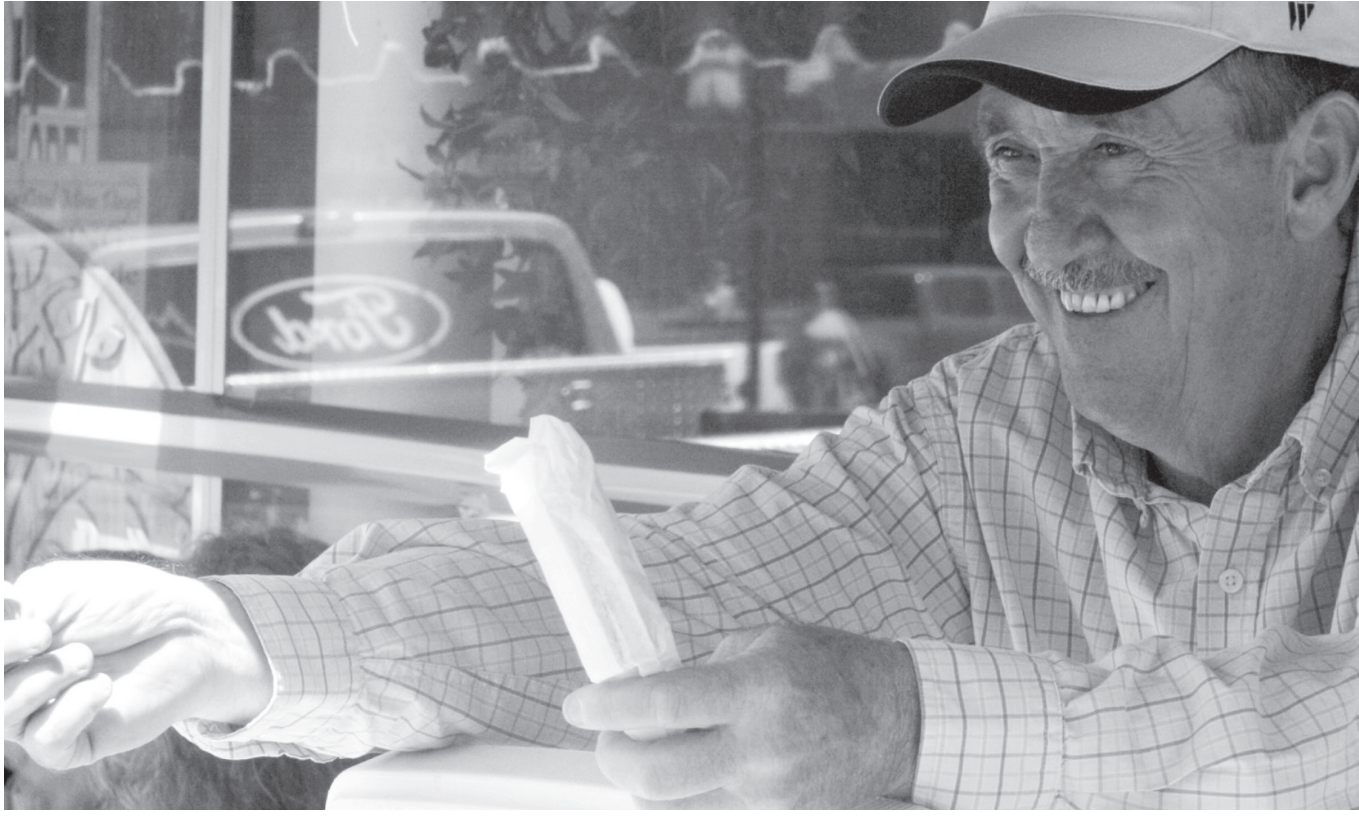
For years it bothered Delbert that there was no marker or headstone at his great-grandfather's gravesite in Custer, S.D. The archives for the Custer cemetery had no information of his burial. After a few years of research, Delbert finally proved his great grandfather, C.F. Carr, is buried beside his wife who had a headstone. Cousins Gerry Carr, Ken Carr, Kathrin Carr and Carroll Hinsdale's widow, Marice, volunteered to help with the expenses. Delbert, Ken, Kathrin and Carroll are all great grandchildren of C.F. Carr and Gerry is a great-great-grandchild.

Delbert's mother, Myrtle Carr Strickling, is a granddaughter of Flavius Carr.

In October of this year, Delbert and Ken Carr placed the stone on the grave of a man who died almost 100 years ago and is not forgotten, thanks to five cousins and Delbert's determination.



BLAST FROM THE PAST



Here's a photo from the News Letter Journal's archives of Mike Mills handing out popsicles on Main Street during Cambria Coal Mine Days, published on July 5, 2007.

COVID from Page 1

in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, he made it clear at his press briefing that this approach is obviously not working.

"All things are on the table," Gordon said. "We want to make sure that we address this issue before we completely lose all ability to respond to health crises."

Statewide, hospitalizations related to the illness are at an all-time high with 192 reported last Thursday; a month ago, the number of people hospitalized was 54. During his press conference, Gordon said that the region as a whole is suffering.

A Nov. 14 Forbes.com article by Suzanne Rowan Kelleher names what she considered the 10 riskiest states to visit due to COVID-19, all of which are in the Midwest. According to the article, Wyoming is the fourth-riskiest state, after North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa.

Kelleher says that not only does Wyoming not have a current statewide mask mandate but that the daily new cases per 100,000 is at 125.8 new cases daily, 403% above the "tipping point" threshold, with 43.4% of tests performed coming back positive.

According to the Wyoming Department of Health, as of Monday, Nov. 16, Wyoming had 10,147 active COVID-19 cases, 173 of those in Weston County. Since the beginning of the pandemic,

Dispatch from Page 1

the CARES Act funding narrative says. "Some of the benefits that will directly help our county battle the current pandemic and keep our community and our first responders safe from COVID-19 would be, mobile systems that would allow the law enforcement to do all of their administrative, emergency services and agency assists without having to come back into a squad room and possibly expose the entire office including other officers, dispatchers, detention officers and office staff."

It notes that the spread of the disease at the office could have devastating results, including higher costs for overtime for staffing in potentially multiple departments, fatigue, mental fatigue, and additional stress.

"One exposure from a single officer or deputy on a swing

shift would compromise the entire law enforcement center including dispatch, officers, deputies, IT staff, and detention officers," the document continues. "The new system would reduce the exposure to all first responders and the community by allowing the majority of law enforcement in the field and on call to perform their duties and administrative responsibilities independently."

The narrative noted that the center dispatches for the Weston County Sheriff's Department, the Newcastle Police Department, the Upton Police Department, the Weston County Fire District, Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department, Newcastle Ambulance Service and Upton Volunteer Fire and EMS.

This new system referred to in the application is the

Masks required at school sporting events

The Wyoming High School Activities Association updated its COVID-19 regulations for winter sports on Nov. 16. As the association prepares for the winter sports season to kick off soon, the updated plans for both basketball and wrestling will require the use of face masks for athletes, coaches and spectators.

"Face coverings are optional while participating but are required at all other times while in the building for everyone during practice (athletes and coaches)," the documents state, noting face coverings will also be required during events.

"Participants must always wear face coverings while in the building, except when playing during the game. Coaches must always wear face coverings while in the building. All event workers must always wear face coverings while in the building. Gloves may be worn when appropriate," the document states.

For spectators, face masks will be required regardless of who they are sitting with.

"Face coverings must always be worn while in the building. Face coverings must be worn regardless of social distancing and/or sitting with immediate family members," the document continues. "Schools will develop a plan to include visiting spectators in the total number of spectators allowed by the current health orders and directives."

Previously, the use of face masks was recommended but not required. As the COVID-19 situation continues to progress in the state, the association made what it said were appropriate updates to the guidelines. Noted in documents and press releases is that the goal of the association is to keep students playing sports and in school throughout the pandemic and that the guidelines are developed with that goal in mind.

Weston County has seen a total of 277 confirmed cases while Wyoming has reported 19,885 confirmed cases.

Weston County saw a decrease of con-

firmed cases on Monday by one, while the state added another 587 confirmed positives to its count. To date, Wyoming has recorded 144 deaths related to the illness.

Spillman-Flex system, which is used by law enforcement centers across the state. With the use of mobile units, the jobs of officers and deputies would be safer, more efficient and offer protection to them and the community from unintentional exposure to COVID-19, according to the document.

As emergency personnel continue to look for alternative funding sources, Nelson said, he believes the city was denied due to the number of funding requests received by the state.

"I sat there (in Cheyenne) from eight in the morning to four in the afternoon waiting for my turn to argue our application. They never got down that far on the list. I don't think they had the time to even read all the applications — there were just so many," Nelson said. "I think we fell victim to

circumstance."

Nelson said that a lot of other projects on the no-fund list were also valid and legitimate needs related to COVID-19 and community response.

"When you have applications that are funding personal protective equipment and HVAC, and then you look at a dispatch application, it doesn't sound COVID-19-related in comparison," Nelson said. "I think it really came down to the time the SLIB board had in reviewing the applications."

"We never even had the chance to justify the need. I feel if we had the opportunity to explain the situation, then we would have received the funding," Nelson added. "Now we are at the point that we have to come up with something else."



Newcastle High School A Honor Roll - Quarter 1

- List of students on the A Honor Roll for Quarter 1, including Alshouse, Bridger J., Corley, Kale Alan, Daniele, Jordan Terese, Deyo, Paige K., Drost, Dylan J., Gross, Hannah, Harrington, Tyrell E., Henkle, Rebecca J., Hopper, Alexcyra R., Jenkins, Skylar T., Jones, Kacy R., Laurence, Alaina Emily, Loeb, Chase A., Purviance, Zachary T., Ramsey, Grayson W., Ramsey, Gunner M., Thomas, Shayla D., Voelker, Mercedes A., Wehri, Hailey Nicole, Anderson, Ezra M., Benschhof, Bailey M., Chick, Avery Jasper, Clark-Brownlow, McKenzie L., Day, Gavin A., Drake, Mathew J., Hiser, Callie A., Humes, Robert M., Jenkins, Braden L., Johnson, Toby Allen, Lipp, LaKacee L., Mills, Autumn M., Munoz, Kayley, Orsborn, Zade Tanner, Perez, Angelyse L., Roberson, Slade L., Spencer, Isabella R., Troftgruben, Tristan M., Wynia, Logan C., Conzelman, MacKenzie K., Henkle, Heath Alan, Jerry, Lidia J., Orsborn, Holden I., McFarland, Hunter E., McVay, Gabrielle S., Mullen, Kendal D., Ostenson, Jaylen D., Perino, Quint M., Petersen, Mia E., Rose, Kathleen E., Shroyer, Trinity L., Stanton, Tieman E., Tavegie, Tell B., Tidyman, Shelby M., Tystad, Hogan E., Wheeler, Dakotta Ann, Beastrom, William J., Bickford, Daniel D., Christensen, Colter, Cole, Wyatt P., Crinklaw, Taylor L., Cummings, Amesa D., Day, Julie M., Garcia, Andrea T., Gorman, Quinn J., Harrington, Jayde N., Huey, Steven P., Lipp, Jerome James, Merchen, Marshall Joseph, Olson, Rebekah S., Orsborn, Zachary Kolton, Prell, Thomas L., Rose, McKenzie S., Schmitz, Brooklyn Lucille, Strickland, Nathaniel, Tavegie, Pate J., Unterseher, Thomas J., Vanderpool-Mobley, Colton, Wehri, Cole Thomas, Williams, Ava M.

Newcastle High School B Honor Roll - Quarter 1

- List of students on the B Honor Roll for Quarter 1, including Beastrom, Claire E., Beastrom, Emily, Bock, Carson R., Checketts, Sierra Kaye, Cox, James CD, Crinklaw, Peyton E., Fullerton, Christopher J., Gorman, Kilian E., Graham, Asia R., Gray, Gavin J., Haslam, Whispin D., Haynes, Elizabeth R., Hinshaw, Kayne M., Jeneroux, Chauconey G., Kenney, Dillon J., Koester, Lacie M., Liggett, Rya C., Lopez, Lara R., McFarlin, Dayton A., Murphy, Owen C., Olson, Honesty K., Peterson, Lyriquele Dawn, Steveson, Alaina J., Sweet, Morgan M., Cox, Duncan Roy, Gorman, Aidan D., Hadlock, Alana R., Hadlock, Leah M., Haugen, Emma R., Holmes, Cael D., McVay, Olivia A., Messmer, Kahlyn J., Scribner, Travis J., Tomlinson, Michael E., Whitney, Neil T., Baeza, Anasofia, Deyo, Cody C., Jerry, Shaylin D., Morgan, Dakota J., Tupa, Storee H., Ayers, Leticia R., Carter, Tara Lynn, Chappell, Shelby R., Cummings, Skyler D., Dixon, Angel Lynn, Dixon, Angela M., Drake, Camilla J., Hatheway, Teagan M., Lyle, Destiny J., Vaughn, Destiny M., Wolfe, Karla A.

Newcastle Middle School Principal's Honor Roll - Q1

- List of students on the Principal's Honor Roll for Q1, including Baird, Rachel J., Bau, Ivy L., Beastrom, Hailey N., Carter, Benjamin C., Checketts, Tal B., Corley, Jayden L., Dutcher, Raisa G., Hoover, Caleb R., Morrill, Elijah A., Morris, Julie A., Troftgruben, Thatcher W., Wheeler, Tayson J., Blumenthal, Kaitlyn E., Christensen, Callie L., Conzelman, Drew M., Fitzwater, Preslee A., McConkey, Collin O., Peterson, Holly M., Redding, Reagan I., Checketts, Ridge C., Dresden, Delainey S., Hoover, Gabe J., Morrill, Lillie C., Olson, Adalyn M., Paul, Sean M., Sandrini, John A., Scribner, Lucas J., Shroyer, Ashlynn G., Tavegie, Coen L., Von Eye, Kyndal J., Wheeler, Aria V., Wildermuth, Ashlynn M.

Newcastle Middle School A Honor Roll - Q1

- List of students on the A Honor Roll for Q1, including Bloom, Aspen J., Boyer, Karler L., Butler, Aidan E., Conklin, Taylor J., Corley, Heather L., Evenson, Dayne R., Halvorsen, Kimberly A., Hardy, Cage J., Hebbing, Brayden D., Huey, Sara V., Malone, Carmella M., Mills, Elizabeth J., Olson, Logan G., Rose, Ruth M., Rumore, Saleen G., Scribner, Samuel R., Stith, Cody M., Unterseher, Mischa A., Yanchunis-Gonzalez, Kyra, Ayers, Veronica R., Bau, Simon P., Boyle, Destini R., Cunningham, Samuel J., Erb, Cole S., Fladstol, Rylan D., Herrberg, Rurik J., Hinshaw, Jyzelle M., Huber, Kathryn S., Josephson, Emerret B., Knight, Baleigh K., Merchen, Sherri A., Mullen, Kahlen J., Munoz, Myreli, Perino, Cort W., Stith, Tyler D., Troftgruben, Theodore T., Allen, Kyan D., Baird, Tanner A., Bell, Emme J., Bergstrom, Adelyn G., Butler, Adam F., Crabtree, Dane L., Hardy, Gavin W., Hatheway, Landon J., Klemmetsen, Gregory M., Lichtenberger, Sage R., McCormack, Jensi I., Mefford, Gage M., Prell, Netanya M., Rawhouser, Mason J., Rose, Christian J., Smith, Haley M., Smith, Josie J., Thurgood, Aliya R., Vamer, Levi R.

Newcastle Middle School B Honor Roll - Q1

- List of students on the B Honor Roll for Q1, including Bergstrom, Brock L., Carr, Savannah R., Deyo, Hunter R., Esposito, Caden R., Fullerton, DeLaney J., Gorman, Liam M., Larson, Scott O., Lopez, Nickolas E., Martinez, Josiah X., Martinez, Triston K., Oliver, Daymon J., Olson, Isaiah T., Parks, Triston D., Pehringer, Tyson R., Sandoval, Briar ER, Smith, Chase J., Smith, Richard J., Williams, Andrew R., Allison, Cole B., Benschhof, Brooklyn R., Bynum, Tayshaun W., Derfield, Brayden L., Donner, Troy L., Doyle, Avery AF, Gramkow, Tradyn J., Halvorsen, Garrison G., Hansen, Cimaron A., Johnson, Arrianna R., Karr, Astrid B., Lorenz, Spencer R., McVay, Colin R., Munoz-Galvan, Yaqueelin, Pederson, Sydney R., Phillips, Ayden A., Rich, Jae W., Rich, Riley L., Shirk, Keegan B., Sterriker, Madison J., White, Nathan H., Allison, Taryn M., Bainer, Jonathan J., Blumenthal, Kendrick A., Carter, Lane B., Christensen, Antonio D., Cummings, Owen W., Davies, Denali R., Hildebrandt, Scottlyn R., Hunter, Aurora E., Liggett, Kaylee L., Lyle, Evan L., Martell, Kai J., Martinez, Jeremiah V., McGuire, Jaden O., Orban, Charles P., Page, Kendall J., Phillips, Daxton M., Rohde, Brianna D., Stuart, Brekyn F., Swentesky, Christine D., Swentesky, Hollie L., Szuma, Laeton M., Thompson, Dagan J.

Advertisement for Dish TV service featuring 'Blazing Fast Internet!', '2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE', and '\$59.99/mo. for 190 CHANNELS'. Includes logos for Dish, Xfinity, and Altitude.

Advertisement for Wesley Financial Group, LLC, titled 'We Cancel TIMESHARES for You'. Includes contact information: 866-603-5704.

Advertisement for First State Insurance, featuring a logo of a bull and contact information for Joanna Akers, Agent: 746-4411, 24 N Sumner, www.fsbnewcastle.com.



The seventh annual Holiday Bazaar took place at the Weston County Event Center Nov 7. Robin Neff, the organizer of the event since the start, said that it has always been a full crowd. Even with the uncertainties of 2020, she said it was well attended and only a couple vendors cancelled at the last minute. But those cancellations were picked up by three new vendors this year.

### Home for the holidays



Above and at left, tables of clothing, food items, crafts, and Christmas decorations were spread throughout the event center as a constant stream of people moved from table to table to look, talk, and buy their favorite treasures. Top right, Jay Whitney of J & M Gifts and Crafts, shows off one of his many decorations that are cut with a laser cutter he has been using for several years. At right, plenty of vendors were selling a wide variety of Christmas craft items during the bazaar.



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

## Alexander

from Page 1

Leaves,” a collection of nine short horror stories. He has received positive feedback for his book, but “a relatively consistent critique is that a lot of the stories utilize common tropes.” However, that was the intention behind the writings, so while he welcomes constructive criticism, Alexander said, there are some critiques horror writers learn to avoid.

Inspired by literary heroes such as Stephan King, H.P. Lovecraft, Robert Bloch and Richard Matheson, Alexander said, he has always been fascinated with the horror genre, and his love for horror was sparked during middle school when he studied the works of Edgar Allan Poe. Alexander said he loved magicians as a child and felt that what the writers of horror accomplished in a short number of pages was similar to what a magician like David Copperfield accomplished on the stage. Spending many of his childhood years with his paternal grandmother, Alexander was allowed to watch — for better or for worse —

any scary movie to his heart’s content, he said.

“I was spoiled as a child,” he said, with a smile.

Because of his love for writing, Alexander has been writing stories here and there for a number of years, but recently, he said, he reached a time in both his personal and professional life that allowed him enough free time to be productive in his writing. From the time of inspiration to the final revisions, it takes Alexander about a month to put together a story, and most of the stories in his book were written in the past year or two, although a couple were completed a few years before publication.

However, this is not the first time Alexander’s work has been published. Seven of the stories in his book, as well as a poem and two other stories, were previously published in various ways within the past year or so.

Alexander said the digital age has made the publication process easier and faster, although waiting can still be “painful.” He often sends his work

“I’m no good at building things with my hands, so I like to build things with my mind.”

— Author Michael Alexander

to multiple markets to see where it will “get a bite,” but he said he should send it to just one or two markets, get feedback and then make the necessary changes before sending it off to others. However, Alexander said, jokingly, that he’s too impatient for that.

His work has been published in Flash Fiction Magazine, SERIAL Magazine, Dark Fire Fiction and others, but he is most proud of his story “In the Hot Seat,” which was published by the J.J. Outré Review, an online market that is more “discerning” than other markets. According to Alexander, approximately 95% of submissions get rejected.

“It was quite an honor and really exciting,” Alexander said. “I’m proud of that.”

The inspiration behind his stories often comes from “very random” sources, and for one particular story, Alexander remembers standing in the kitchen washing dishes and hearing a train whistle. That whistle is what got the wheels turning. Writing a story is much like putting together a jigsaw puzzle, he said, in the sense that one must assemble the pieces and sometimes manipulate or turn them to fit. It can be “exciting” at times but also “terribly frustrating.”

Alexander said he likes writing because, despite the hard work, it’s also rewarding to watch the story grow and develop. Stepping back and looking at the progress he’s made gives him a “great feeling” of accomplishment, he said.

“I’m no good at building things with my hands, so I like to build things with my mind,” Alexander said.

Every story needs a theme and good

plot line, according to Alexander, and every writer needs to find what works for him. He added that it’s important to have a “willingness to return to a work and make necessary changes” but also to recognize that not all ideas are going to work.

“A good story needs to have a solid skeletal structure,” Alexander said. “I’ve certainly written some stinkers that I’ve abandoned.”

He hopes to continue writing more books and short stories and might even attempt a longer story in the future.

“That is the short-term goal to put together another collection,” Alexander said. “For now, I’m content to stick to short stories.”

A paperback version of his book, published under his full name Michael Jess Alexander, is available on an online bookstore, including Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Books-A-Million for \$6.99. A Kindle edition can be purchased for \$2.99. He also has a website for his stories and poems: michaeljessalexander.wordpress.com.



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November 19, 2020 — 9

COMING UP:

NMS Wrestling Quad in Dogie Dome  
NHS Basketball begins  
UHS

# Sports

News Letter Journal

## SCHEDULE

<b>NEWCASTLE:</b>			
<b>NMS Wrestling</b>			
11/21	Newcastle Quad	H	11AM
11/24	NE Districts @ Upton	A	9:30AM
<b>NMS Girls Basketball</b>			
11/19	Sundance HS	H	4PM
11/21	Wheatland HS	A	10AM
<b>NHS Boys Basketball</b>			
11/23	V9 1st Practice (Practice)	H	TBA
<b>NHS Girls Basketball</b>			
11/23	V9 1st Practice (Practice)	H	TBA
<b>NHS Wrestling</b>			
11/23	V9 1st Practice	H	TBA
<b>UPTON:</b>			
<b>UMS Wrestling</b>			
11/19	UMS vs Moorcroft	A	5PM
11/21	Quad @ Newcastle	A	11AM
11/24	NE Districts	H	1:30PM
<b>UMS Girls Basketball</b>			
11/21	UMS vs Wright	H	2PM
11/24	UMS @ Wright	A	4:30PM

## 'Rona could wipe out winter sports

At the beginning of October, I was totally jacked when the Wyoming High School Activities Association announced that winter sports had been given the green light to go for the 2020-2021 season.

Despite a couple of snags along the way, fall sports were able to finish out and athletes were able to enjoy their season even though those activities were a little bit different from what they were used to.

Unfortunately, in the last couple of weeks, Covid-19 has blown up across the state and in Weston County as well. It took a minute, but it was inevitable that it would finally get to us, but now I'm afraid that winter sports are in peril.



Sonja Karp  
Karpe Dogie

— See Karpe, Page 10



Tight squeeze



Newcastle Middle School wrestling kicked off their season a few weeks ago at home in the Dogie Dome where up-and-coming Dogies put their skills on display. At the Oct. 31 meet in the Dogie Dome, eighth-grader Karter Boyer sticks it to his opponent, above. At left, sixth-grader John Sandrini fights from the bottom to try and overtake his opponent. Look for more middle school wrestling action in the Dogie Dome on Saturday, Nov. 21, during the Newcastle Quad, followed by the Northeast Districts to be held on Tuesday, Nov. 24, in Upton.

Photos by Walter Sprague

## Winter sports still a go ... for now

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Wyoming High School Activities Association announced at the beginning of October that winter sports would be a go for the 2020-2021 season, and as of this week, that is still the plan by the activities association.

The increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the state and the region caused the WHSAA to work with the State Health Department to

revise the Smart Start guidelines for winter sports, however, and those were released on Monday morning.

The guidelines are more restrictive than the fall sports guidelines, but as of now, it looks as though the seasons will begin as scheduled. However, Newcastle coaches as well as those around the state, are nervously hoping that their sports will live to see the light of day.

"I have to admit when we started this school year I wasn't sure we were going to be having a season at all,"

began wrestling co-head coach Jason Wheeler. "Then when I heard we had the green light to go I was pretty excited!"

"I'm still nervous with the surge of all the cases in Wyoming and surrounding states, because who knows what will happen," Lady Dogie head coach Chad Ostenson admitted. "The winter sports are indoor, contact sports so that has me a little bit worried."

The new Smart Start guidelines which were vetted by both the WHSAA and the Wyoming Department of

Health continued the original outline, however there are a few big changes that will impact basketball and wrestling competitions.

The most notable change is that masks will be required of all persons in the building excluding only the athletes currently on the court or on the mat. Bench players, coaches, event workers and spectators must all wear masks and social distance when possible, even family groups that are

— See Sports, Page 10

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## Sports from Page 9

seated together.

“It’s going to take a little getting used to and there will be some challenges, but it’s also very do-able,” Ostenson nodded. “If that’s what we have to do to have a season, that’s what we’ll do.”

“This is not about us, if our kids want to have a season, we have to bite the bullet and do whatever we have to in order to make that happen,” Dogie head coach Allen Von Eye began. “Living out here in the Wild West, nobody wants to comply with PPE and that is making it difficult to guarantee that a winter season will take place.”

The seasons are still on track to begin on time, but just like the fall sports, things will look a little different. There will not be any multiple-day tournaments in basketball, however teams may have more than one contest in a day. Teams must be separated and the facilities sanitized between contests.

Teams must be socially distanced during warm-up times, each team must bring their own basketballs, and each game and overtime will begin with a coin toss to determine possession. This last requirement has been instituted in order to protect referees, not necessarily the players.

Teams will not be shaking hands before or after contests, and there are to be no pre- or post-game gatherings in order to assist in limiting exposure.

“If we take the precautions and follow the guidelines to limit contact, I’m hopeful we can make the season happen,” Ostenson stated. “It’s not a perfect situation, but there are definitely things we can do to make that happen.”

Changes made to the original guidelines for wrestling include that only two teams



NLJ file photo

**Basketball season will be under way in the Dogie Dome soon — provided everyone follows new guidelines set out by Wyoming High School Activities Association and approved by Weston County School District No. 1.**

per gym will be allowed to compete at the same time, and only one mat in the gym may be used. They may have up to three different duals in a day, however between matches, athletes must shower and change singlets.

“The smart guidelines are continually changing, so there is no guarantee that what we have now will be what we finish with. As long as we are able to have a season though, I will work with the guidelines, and be happy to just be wrestling,” Wheeler declared. “There is a bit of a silver lining to the guidelines because one of the rules is to wear a different uniform for each match, and we have several days with three matches, so we were able to get new singlets in order to have enough for the athletes to each have three.”

Another universal change to the Smart Start guidelines is that there are to be no team dinners during the season as that kind of situation was found to be a source for outbreaks during the fall.

Weston County School District No. 1 has instituted the restriction that NHS will not take part in any interstate competitions and, as such,

schedules had to be revised for the year as both wrestling and basketball have several competitions against South Dakota and Nebraska schools.

It’s not just Newcastle that has been looking for new competitors to take the place of interstate contests. This year Newcastle basketball teams will play Laramie before Christmas. Originally, the game was to be played in Newcastle, however, Laramie has to travel to Green River for a game on Friday, so traveling to Newcastle on Saturday was a little much. Therefore, Newcastle agreed to go to their house to play.

“We have wanted to get some 4A schools on our schedule for a while now. Everyone is short, so it worked out for us to do that this year,” Von Eye said. “It may not be as advantageous for the guys this year, but we’re excited anyway.”

So coaches and athletes are breathing a sigh of relief at this point, however they are also fully aware that the situation is fluid and things may change by next week, but for now, the Dogies are planning to start their winter seasons on Nov. 23.

## Karpe from Page 9

While I felt a pretty sweet sense of relief when the new Smart Start guidelines for winter sports came out on Monday, I’m still concerned about whether or not they will get to see their seasons to fruition.

As much as we want to downplay this virus, the fact is that it is here and it is influencing our lives. Downplaying it hasn’t stopped it from spreading, and the more it ramps up, the more likely it will be that we will again begin to shut down.

Schools, businesses and sports will be in jeopardy if we can’t all come to an agreement to do what we can to slow the spread.

Until we have a vaccine and a working knowledge of how this virus works, we need to take the proper precautions in order to give

schools, businesses and sports the chance to continue to function.

And the fact of the matter is that if we want to go to sporting events this winter, we are going to have to wear a mask. The WHSAA and the State Health Department has made mask wearing mandatory for everyone in the building excluding the players on the court, or the wrestlers on the mat.

Governor Mark Gordon, in a press conference on Friday morning, made it clear that Wyoming will be instituting more restrictive measures, though he didn’t identify anything specific at this time. He did say that decisions will be made throughout the next week, and stated that a mandatory mask mandate may be a possibility.

His goal is to help businesses survive the winter,

keep kids in school, and ease the pressure on hospitals around the state.

The Ivy League has cancelled its winter sports and put off spring sports until after Feb. 1, Lincoln, Neb., has postponed the start of winter sports for three weeks, and North Dakota has postponed their winter season until Dec. 14, thereby effectively avoiding competition until after the first of the year.

With states around us shutting down or putting off the start of the winter seasons, it may not be long for Wyoming. No one likes wearing a mask, but it’s time to put aside our individual issues with PPE and do what’s needed to try to keep our schools open and give our kids a chance to play basketball, wrestle and swim this winter.

THE NEWS LETTER JOURNAL

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With the significant rise in COVID-19 cases in Wyoming and surrounding communities, we are transitioning back to telehealth services full-time to ensure the safety and well-being of our clients, staff, and communities. Since we are practicing “social distancing” we will be suspending all in-office and in-person services and our buildings will not be available for walk-in foot traffic. We are here to serve you and are just a call away!

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**Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center is here for you during this difficult time.**

**County Contact Numbers 24/7:**

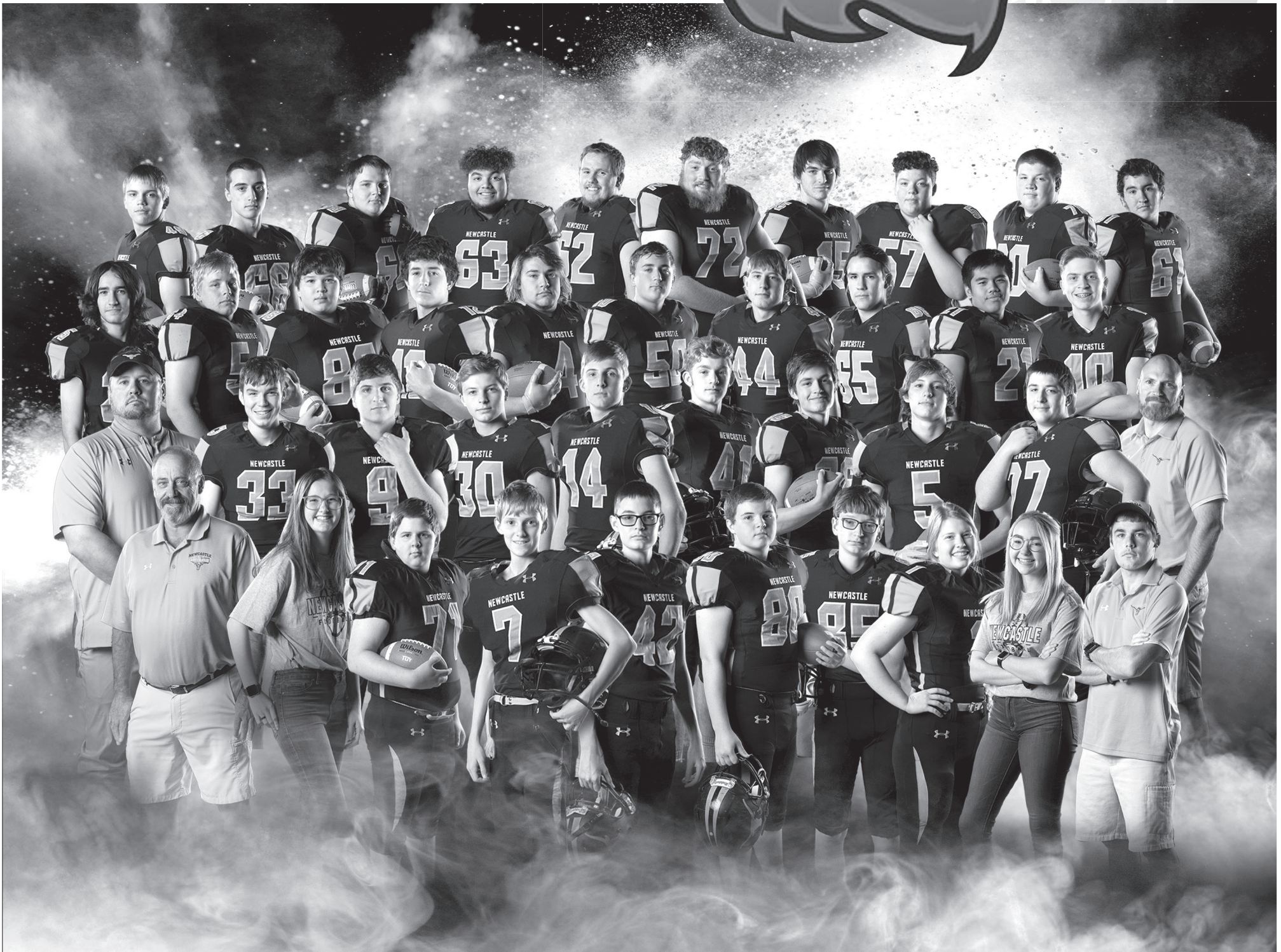
Sheridan (307) 674-4405  
Johnson (307) 684-5531  
Crook (307) 283-3636  
Weston (307) 746-4456

**In case of an emergency, call 911.**

# Newcastle Dogies

**High School  
Football**

**2020-21**



Top row from left: #49 Ian Simmons (9th), #66 Skylar Jenkins (12th), #60 Jaxson Lamb (10th), #63 Xavin Gallardio (12th), #62 Kayne Hinshaw (12th), #72 Kilian Gorman (12th), #56 Braden Jenkins (11th), #57 A.J. Evick (9th), #70 Darren Simmons (11th), Tanner Johnson. Second row: #25 Thomas Prell (9th), #54 Josh Womack (11th), #88 Zach Orsborn (9th), #12 Slade Roberson (11th), #4 Chauncey Jenerou (12th), #50 Quinn Gorman (9th), #44 Kale Corley (12th), #65 Jacob Prell (10th), #21 Christian Santos (12th), #10 Ezra Anderson (11th). Third row: Coach Brett Reed, #33 Dylan Drost (12th), #9 Tate Engle (10th), #30 Holden McConkey (10th), #14 Quint Perino (10th), #41 Colton Vanderpool-Mobley (9th), #86 Hogan Tystad (10th), #5 Aiden Chick (11th), #77 Kalen VanGundy (10th), Coach Conzelman. Front row: Coach Beehler, Manager Lidia Jerry (10th), Harry Lichtenberger, #7 Colter Christiansen (9th), #42 Skylar Cummings (9th), #80 Peyton Simmons (9th), #85 Yestin Davis (10th), #1 Emily Beastrom (12th), Manager Asia Graham (12th), Coach Christiansen.  
Not pictured: #61 Jace Hammond (10th).

**#GoDogies**

**#HornsUp**

**#HSFB**

**#JoinTheRide**

## Thank you to these community partners

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

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- Dixon Bros., Inc.
- Elliott Chiropractic
- Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware
- Grazers Restaurant
- Monument Health

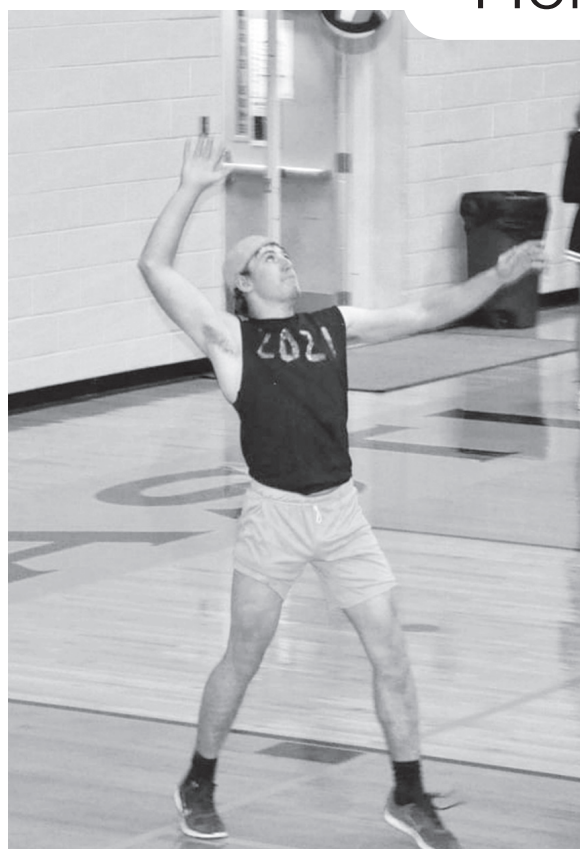


- Newcastle Equipment
- Newcastle Vision Clinic
- Northern Wyoming Mental Health
- Spearfish Forest Products
- Voelker's Autobody and Glass
- Weston County Health Services
- Wyoming Refining Company

**Become a member of the Varsity Club for only \$50/month. Call 746-2777 to make your business or family part of the team today.**



## Homecoming Week



Newcastle High School students and staff celebrated Homecoming Week with a bit of silliness and fund. At left, Alaina Laurence had her game face on as she got ready to snap the ball in the Annual Homecoming Powder Puff football game Nov. 10. Above, McKenzie Clarke-Brownlow (left) and Mercedes Voelker (right) have good-hearted fun during the Powder Puff football game. Seniors defeated juniors in the contest. Below left, Kale Corley serves it up in the Powder Buff volleyball game between the senior and junior boys during the Homecoming festivities on Nov. 9. Below middle, Axel Rose (Matt Conzelman) and Slash (Mike Pederson) pose for a quick pic and got right back to refing the Powder Puff game between the senior and junior girls. Below, from left to right: Jordan Daniele, Emily Beastro, Hailey Wehri, Alaina Laurence, Mercedes Voelker, and Sierra Checketts cheer on their senior Powder Buff volleyball team. Their support helped the seniors take home the win over the juniors.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Corley

# INSURANCE | Open Enrollment until December 7

## ACA Marketplace and Medicare

### Open Enrollment for Health Insurance has begun

Wyoming Department of Insurance (DOI) advises ALL Wyomingites to be aware of the Open Enrollment periods for both Medicare and the ACA Marketplace. Shop and compare choices and update your enrollment information. Wyoming now has two insurers on the Marketplace. Whether you are renewing a plan or are a new enrollee, Open Enrollment periods are an opportunity to evaluate your insurance needs and coverages.

**Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 to December 7, 2020.** During this time, people with Medicare can change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs.

**Wyoming Medicare** beneficiaries should review their health care needs for the upcoming year and determine if changes to their current coverage are necessary. Plan costs, coverages and drug prescriptions can change each year. Make sure your plan still meets your needs and budget. During Medicare Open Enrollment, anyone with Medicare can make changes to their prescription drug (Plan D) plans for the next year or change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan if available.

The Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program (WSHIIP) is a program to help people on Medicare understand their rights and answer their questions. Trained counselors help consumers understand Medicare, Medicaid, Medigap and long-term care insurance. There are numerous consulting firms around the state who offer these services for a fee, however the WSHIIP program is free of charge. To reach a WSHIIP counselor, call 1-800-856-4398. At this time, your name will be added to a return call wait list.

**Marketplace Open Enrollment** began November 1, 2020 and runs through December 15, 2020



for health insurance plans that will begin on January 1, 2021. Avoid any break in coverage by enrolling today.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) remains in place and subsidized insurance coverage is still available for those who qualify. The federal government operates the Health Insurance Marketplace (also called the Exchange) in Wyoming at: [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov). Be certain that you are looking at the official government site and not a look-a-like imposter site. Remember: always look for official government seals, logos and websites. The official ACA Marketplace website is at: [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov). Contact the DOI if you have any questions.

Talk with your insurance agent or go to the [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) website to become familiar with offered plans. Compare Marketplace insurance plans and rates. Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) and Cost Sharing Reductions (CSR) are **only available for plans purchased on the Marketplace.**

If you decide to purchase insurance off the Marketplace or Exchange, be a wise consumer and understand what you are purchasing. Licensed insurance agents may advise you what plan is best for you. Be especially cautious of Off-Exchange plans that seem too good to be true. Ask about exclusions, provider networks and hidden costs in Off-Exchange plans. Plans sold on the Marketplace are always Qual-

ified Health Plans (QHP), cover all of the ACA's Essential Health Benefits and must have appropriate provider networks.

If you receive health insurance through an employer, consider the following before selecting a coverage plan:

- **Look closely for changes:** Check with your HR Department about Open Enrollment (OE) dates for your employer plan and any plan changes that have been made. Employer plans may have changed since the last OE.

- **Take advantage of wellness incentives:** Your employer may offer wellness programs or money-saving incentives for healthy behaviors such as exercising regularly or not smoking.

- **Check out tax-free savings:** You may be eligible to open a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) or a health savings account (HSA).

If you are self-employed or if your employer doesn't offer coverage, you may face challenges in finding and keeping health insurance, but you still have choices.

- **Spouse plan:** Consider being added to your spouse's plan.

- **Individual insurance:** Consider purchasing private insurance to customize to your lifestyle, health and budget.

If you are unemployed, you likely had to determine how to continue your health insurance. Now is a good time to review your decision. Also check whether you or your family might be eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program CHIP.

In addition to insurance agents, the federal government also has trained navigators and certified assistants in Wyoming to help you at no cost. To find help, visit: [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) or contact Enroll Wyoming to reach a Wyoming Navigator or Certified Assistance Counselor for in-person assistance. Enroll Wyoming can be reached by calling Wyoming 2-1-1 (in Wyoming dial 2-1-1 or 888-425-7138) or visit the website at: [EnrollWyo.org](http://EnrollWyo.org).



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# Vickers honored as 2019 TOPS Queen

**Hannah Gross**  
NLJ Correspondent

When Alice Vickers became dissatisfied with her unhealthy lifestyle, she knew that she needed to do something about it. That's when she decided to join TOPS Club Inc., nonprofit weight-loss support organization. Not only did she make her goal weight, Vickers said, but she was recognized as the Wyoming 2019 TOPS Queen for all her hard work at a small rally in Douglas this past summer (normally a larger convention is held in Casper, but it was moved to Douglas due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns). She was presented with a certificate, roses, royalty pins and a tiara and sash.

"I was so honored," Vickers said. "You just feel pretty darn important."

TOPS stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, and once members achieve that status, they are called KOPS, which is an acronym for Keep Off Pounds Sensibly, to help members maintain their weight loss. The group was founded in 1948, and in 2019 alone, TOPS members "collectively lost nearly 241.5 tons," according to the club's website.

"I was pretty heavy," Vickers said. "I'm really glad



Submitted photos  
**Alice Vickers, at left, was recognized as the Wyoming 2019 TOPS Queen in Douglas. She reached her goal weight and looks and feels healthier, she says. Above, Vickers displays the pins and sash she received for her accomplishment.**

I went because they got me down to where I wanted to be."

Vickers started off by cutting out sweets and snacking from her diet, as well as limiting her bread consumption. She said that although she never cared for eating vegetables, she started eating more salads and low-calorie dishes. "I wanted to see that scale

go down every week," Vickers said.

Participants set a goal weight, which must be accompanied by a doctor's note to ensure that it's a healthy goal, and weigh in weekly at their local clubs. TOPS 218, one of the three Newcastle chapters, meets every Thursday morning at the Gateway

Fellowship Church on Old Highway 85 and is led by chapter leader Fran Goode. Chapter 218 was started in the 1970s by Grace Davis and Frieda Lincoln, who was queen for 2013. Both women still participate as "inspiration for the rest of us," Goode said. The club used to meet at the Weston County Senior Center until it was closed to the public because of the pandemic, so Gateway Fellowship Pastor Jon Anderson offered the church to them as a new meeting place.

"I think it's awful kind of him," Vickers said.

Weighing begins at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 8:30 a.m.,

followed by a brief meeting at 9, which opens with the organization's pledge. Members announce whether they have gained or lost pounds, and they keep a record book that shows their balance of "withdrawals" and "deposits," similar to a checkbook, with weight instead of dollars. A quarter must be paid for a weight gain, and small contests and challenges are presented to make it fun and motivational.

Vickers said that the people in her group soon became her friends and are a "great incentive" because they cheer each other on in their successes and encourage everyone in their failures. It can be challenging

to not revert back to old habits, she said, but now that she is at her goal weight, she both looks and feels healthier.

"I'm pleased I did it. It was a long struggle," Vickers said. "I look better, and I think my doctor is pleased."

When Vickers received a letter in the mail from the district leader announcing her nomination as queen, she thought it was a hoax or mistake and Goode had to tell her. "No, Alice, it's for real."

"I read it and I didn't believe it," Vickers said.

But there was no mistake, and the recognition she received in Douglas was a good motivational tool to stay healthy, she said.

Vickers encourages anyone who wants to lose weight to join the club. The first meeting is free, and after that members pay annual dues of \$32. Those interested can contact Grace Davis, who lives at the senior center, Fran Goode at 746-2386 or any of the club members of any of the three chapters. More information on the chapters can be found in the classifieds section of the *News Letter Journal*.

"We certainly welcome anyone who wants to come," Vickers said. "You look better, so you feel better."

## Homecoming court



Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

**Newcastle High School's 2020 Homecoming Court: Hannah Gross, Alaina Steveson, Emily Beastrom, Queen Claire Beastrom, King Kayne Hinshaw, Skyler Jenkins, Kale Corley, and Zach Purviance.**

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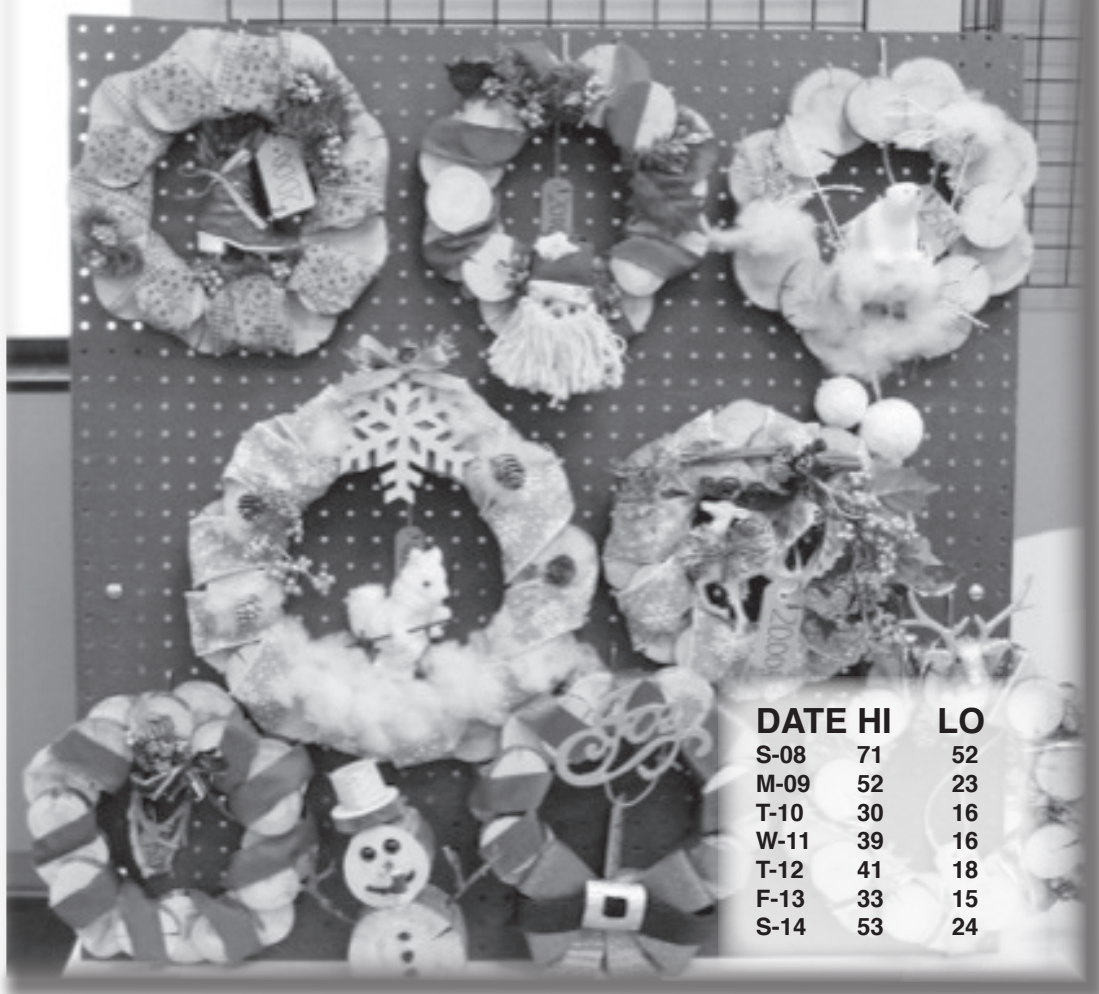
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**Happy Thanksgiving**

**The News Letter Journal**  
will be closed Thursday & Friday,  
Nov. 26 and Nov. 27, for the holiday

# Weather Vane



DATE	HI	LO
S-08	71	52
M-09	52	23
T-10	30	16
W-11	39	16
T-12	41	18
F-13	33	15
S-14	53	24

## Utility Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company) for authority to implement Integrity Rider Rates.

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

On October 29, 2020, BHWG filed its Application, together with testimony and exhibits, requesting authority to implement Wyoming Integrity Rider (WIR) Rates. The Company requests to implement its proposed WIR Rates, on an interim basis, on January 1, 2021, subject to refund, with final rates to be authorized on or before April 1, 2021. The Company's proposed 2021 WIR Rates are as follows:

Customer Class	Proposed 2021 WIR Rate (per therm)
Residential General Service	\$0.0069
Small General Service	\$0.0061
Medium General Service	\$0.0035
Large General Service	\$0.0022
On-system Transportation Service	\$0.0016

BHWG states its WIR is a mechanism designed to recover costs arising between rate review filings, stemming from the Company's investments in integrity programs aimed at improving system data and accelerating the replacement of higher risk pipe, including certain customer-owned yard lines. The Company states its WIR includes six categories of projects: Data Infrastructure Improvement Program; At-Risk Meter Relocation and Yard Line Replacement Program; Span and Exposed Pipe Replacement Program; Problematic Pipe Replacement Program; Transmission Integrity Projects; and Storage Integrity Projects. The Company states the projects included in the 2020 WIR filing were necessary integrity projects that improve the safety and reliability of the system for all customers.

The Company states its proposed 2021 WIR Rates include: the costs of qualifying projects completed and in service or expected to be in service between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, which includes historical costs through September 30, 2020 and forecasted costs for October through December 2020; a true-up to actual investment costs and related revenue requirement from the amount in the previous year's WIR rate; and a true-up of the revenue collected from customers to the amount reflecting the prior year's true-up investment. The Company states its proposed 2021 WIR Rates will have a monthly impact of \$0.46 on an average residential customer's bill and a \$0.87 impact on the average Small General Service customer's monthly bill.

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

Anyone wishing to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so in writing filed with the Commission on or before December 3, 2020. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please be sure to mention Docket No. 30026-36-GM-20 (Record No. 15641) in all correspondence with the Commission.

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

Dated: November 3, 2020.

(Publish November 12 and 19, 2020)

# Fun and Games

## DOCTOR'S ORDERS

53. All over again  
54. In real-time

55. \*It checks your heart health  
58. Road crew supply

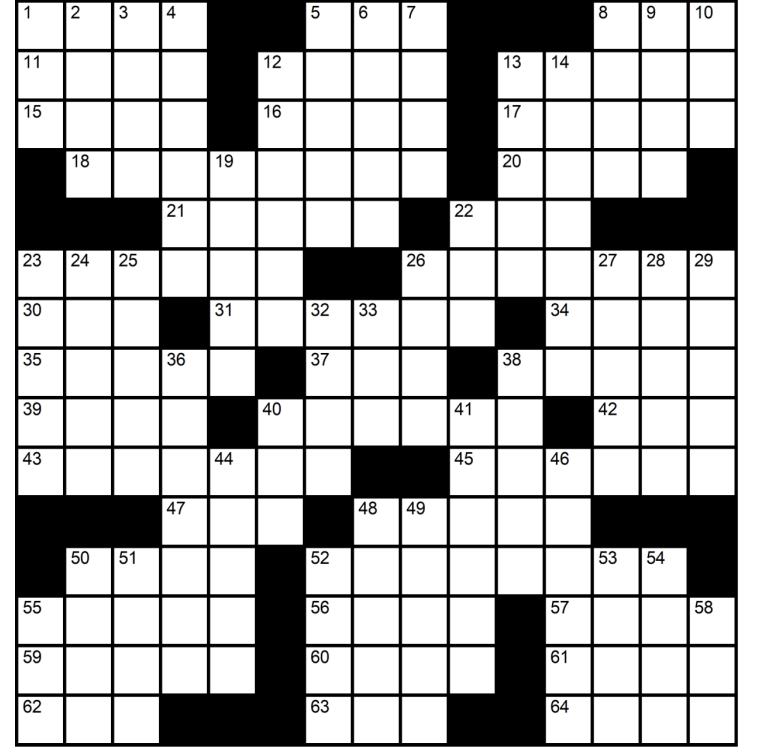
## ACROSS

- "Back to the Future" antagonist
- Government Printing Office
- Frugal driver's acronym
- 1952 Olympics site
- Afghanistan's neighbor
- Letter-shaped girder
- Wing-shaped
- Narcotics agent, for short
- Call it quits
- \*One way to improve health
- She played a TV genie
- Cunning
- Golfer's goal
- "Kiss the Cook" garment, pl.
- Keyboard instrument
- Prefix for before
- Greek god's libation
- Door-stopping wedge
- Full of meaning
- Fleur-de-\_\_\_\_\_
- Do penance
- Type of parrot
- \*Ask for procaine when at this office
- \*Unavoidable risk factor for many diseases
- Rock grinding
- \*Take a spoonful of sugar to avoid this taste
- Genetic info carrier
- Aqua-lung
- Criticism
- \*Annual \_\_\_\_\_
- Fill with spirits
- First rate
- Purl partner
- Vandalized a car
- Coconut fiber
- Bulgarian money
- Filling station filler
- More of the same
- Water carrier

## DOWN

- Feathery scarf
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Man
- Linseed
- Do without
- Last Supper cup
- Break down or analyze
- Fairy-tale beginning
- Internet share-able
- Stepping stone to gain
- Greenwich time
- \*Use a scalpel
- Like the Vitruvian Man
- \*Stay in bed
- \*Take antihistamines to avoid this kind of nose
- A pop
- \*Eat one a day?
- Rap sheet listing
- So out it's in
- \*Worn until a bone heals
- Piglet
- Lightly color
- Different spelling of emir
- Horsefly
- "Wizard of Oz" man
- \*Increase fluid intake
- Elsewhere, in a courtroom
- \*\_\_\_\_\_ test
- Maltreater
- Tattooed
- Gridiron position
- Record a movie
- Diogenes, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_\_ market
- Big name in chips
- Show worry

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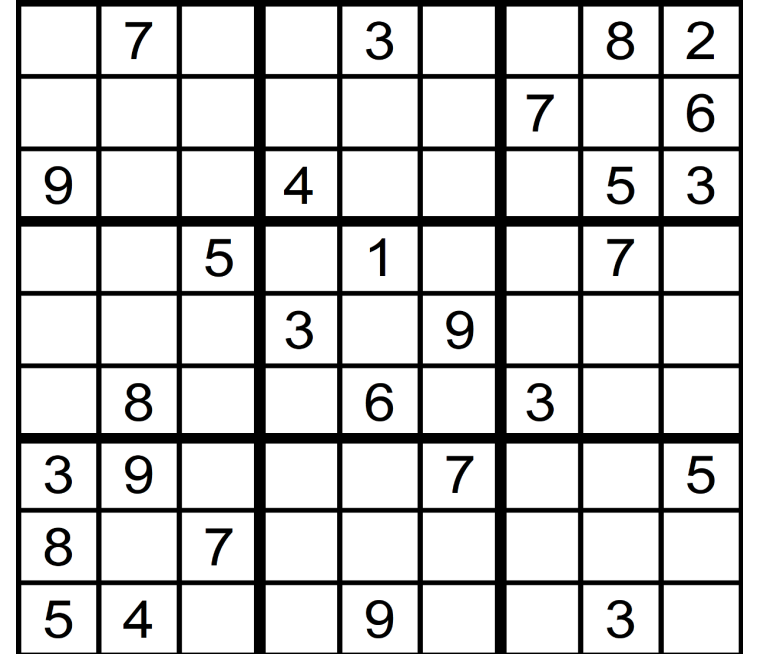
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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.**

## Last week's answers

G	L	I	T	Z	F	C	C	S	L	A	P		
R	A	D	I	O	R	I	O	C	H	O	I	R	
A	M	E	N	D	U	S	A	L	U	C	R	E	
F	A	S	T	I	N	G	T	H	A	N	K	S	
S	A	Y	B	I	A	S							
L	O	G	C	A	F	E	S	P	R	A	N	G	
I	R	O	N	L	O	G	S	S	A	V	E	R	
O	B	O	E	A	R	G	O	T	N	O	V	A	
N	I	S	E	I	K	A	L	E	K	I	E	V	
S	T	E	R	N	S	R	O	M	P	D	R	Y	
							H	O	L	Y	P	U	N
P	A	R	A	D	E	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	
A	L	G	A	L	A	C	E	I	C	H	O	R	
L	O	O	S	E	S	H	E	T	H	O	U	S	
E	D	G	E	E	A	T	Y	O	U	R	E		

1	7	6	3	2	4	5	9	8
9	5	2	8	1	7	6	3	4
3	4	8	5	9	6	1	2	7
8	9	7	2	5	1	3	4	6
4	1	3	7	6	9	8	5	2
2	6	5	4	3	8	7	1	9
7	8	1	9	4	5	2	6	3
6	3	9	1	7	2	4	8	5
5	2	4	6	8	3	9	7	1

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# Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



## Police shooting in Gillette

GILLETTE (WNE) — Cody William Amman, 31, has been identified as the man killed in an officer-involved shooting Friday night in Gillette.

Amman allegedly fired at a Gillette police officer early Friday evening and in turn, the officer returned fire.

Amman was taken to Campbell County Memorial Hospital, but died of gun shot wounds at 10:41 p.m. Friday, Campbell County Coroner Paul Wallem said Monday morning.

It is unclear where Amman was wounded or how many times he was shot.

The number of shots fired in the exchange also was not disclosed by the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, which is investigating the incident.

An autopsy is scheduled to be performed

Monday afternoon, Wallem said.

The exchange of gunfire followed a 911 report to the Campbell County Sheriff's Office at 4:21 p.m. of gunshots at a mobile home park near the 1500 block of East Second Street. When deputies arrived, Amman, who was said to be armed, had fled the area in a black and purple Nissan Acura, Undersheriff Quentin Reynolds said.

A Gillette Police officer later spotted the suspect's car and began tailing it down Boxelder Road near the Chara Hills subdivision.

While being followed, Amman abruptly stopped, got out of his car and began shooting at the officer, who has not been identified. The officer returned fire, hitting Amman. The officer was not hurt, but neither police nor DCI would release more details of what happened.

## Driskill is Majority Leader

CASPER (WNE) — Rep. Eric Barlow, R-Gillette, and Sen Dan Dockstader, R-Afton, will likely lead the Wyoming Legislature for the next two years after a remote vote of the Republican caucus Saturday morning.

Barlow, who now serves as house majority floor leader, is on track to replace Rep. Steve Harshman, R-Casper, as speaker at the conclusion of the Casper lawmaker's unusual second term this year.

The final tally in Barlow's favor, 32-18, came against Sheridan Republican Rep. Mark Jennings, a state GOP

activist who has never held a leadership position or a committee chairmanship.

Jennings said his impromptu run was an effort to give lawmakers who support all the tenets of the Republican Party platform a greater voice in the Legislature.

Several other members of the Legislature — Rep. Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale, and Rep. Mike Greear, R-Worland, staved off challenges of their own from more conservative opponents and appear headed to become majority floor leader and speaker pro

tempore, respectively.

Cheyenne Republican Rep. Jared Olsen was ultimately elected as whip for the House Republicans.

In the Senate, Dockstader will likely serve alongside new Senate Majority Floor Leader Ogden Driskill, R-Devil's Tower, and Baggs Sen. Larry Hicks, who is on track to replace Driskill as vice president of the Senate.

The appointments are not final, however. The leadership still needs to be approved by the full Legislature, including Democrats, Libertarians and Independents, to become final.

## EWC budget plan approved

TORRINGTON (WNE) — The Eastern Wyoming College Board of Trustees on Tuesday approved a plan for budget cuts proposed during a work session prior to its meeting.

EWC President Dr. Lesley Travers explained the college would be taking a 10% budget cut for the upcoming fiscal year and would be taking an additional 5% in budget cuts over the next four years, with the looming threat of additional cuts.

Travers recommended eliminating a position in the agriculture department, reducing athletic scholarships by 15% and establishing a program to encourage the early retirement of EWC faculty.

Trustees Randy Adams and John Patrick both expressed dissent with the idea of eliminating the agriculture faculty position. Patrick told the board to consider leaving the position

vacant as the vacancy would not change the budget forecast. Adams said he didn't like the word eliminate in this instance and recommended leaving the position vacant.

Travers clarified what Patrick had recommended and suggested the board implement a vacancy savings plan as opposed to the elimination of the position.

Travers brought up the possibility of an early retirement incentive program. She explained the college would recommend the offer to anyone who is 60 years of age and older. The program would provide 10% of their current annual salary. The offer would be available to 17 eligible college faculty members resulting in a cost to the college of \$96,000 to \$100,000.

Another facet of the early retirement incentive would be incoming newly hired faculty would receive 10% less pay.

## Police Blotter

**November 1**  
Bar Fight Reported. Welfare Check Requested. Report of Lost Property. Drug Paraphernalia Found, Medical Assist. Public Assist. Suspicious Activity Reported. Smoke Reported. Extra Patrol Requested. Assist Other Agency.

**November 2**  
Game and Fish Assist. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Found Property Reported. Assist Other Agency. 911 Misdia.

**November 3**  
Abandoned 911. VIN Inspection Requested. Reckless Driving Reported. Report of Multiple Dogs at Large. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Missing Dog Reported. Found Property Reported. Civil Matter Reported. Animal Issued Reported. Parking Complaint Reported. Natural Death Reported.

**November 4**  
Assist Other Agency. Threats Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. MIP Nicotine, Citation Issued. Motorist Assist. Medical Assist. Found Property Reported.

**November 5**  
911 Misdia. Theft Reported. Medical Assist. Dead Dear Reported. Assist Other Agency. Medical Assist. VIN Inspection Requested. Mental Health Issue Reported. Public Assist Requested. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued.

**November 6**  
911 Misdia. 911 Misdia. VIN Inspection Requested. School Walkthrough. Drunk Driver Reported. Disorderly Conduct Reported. Funeral Escort Requested. Public Assist Requested. Medical Assist. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Abandoned 911. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.

**November 7**  
Welfare Check Requested. 911 Misdia. Extra Patrol Requested. Suspicious Activity Reported. Extra Patrol Requested. Suspicious Activity Reported.

**November 8**  
Medical Assist. Medical Assist. 911 Misdia. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued. Juvenile Issue Reported. Assist Other Agency. Trespassing Reported.

**November 9**  
Ministerial Assistance Requested. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Arrest Warrant Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported. Medical Assist.

**November 10**  
Report of a Dog at Large. Report of Multiple Dogs at Large. Search Warrant Executed, Citations Issued. MIP Nicotine, Citation Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. VIN Inspection Requested. Fire Alarm Reported. Assist Other Agency. VIN Inspection Requested. Trespassing Reported. Suspicious Activity Reported. Arrest Warrant Issued.

**November 11**  
Found Property Reported. School Bus Arm Runner Reported. Extra Patrol Requested. 911 Misdia.

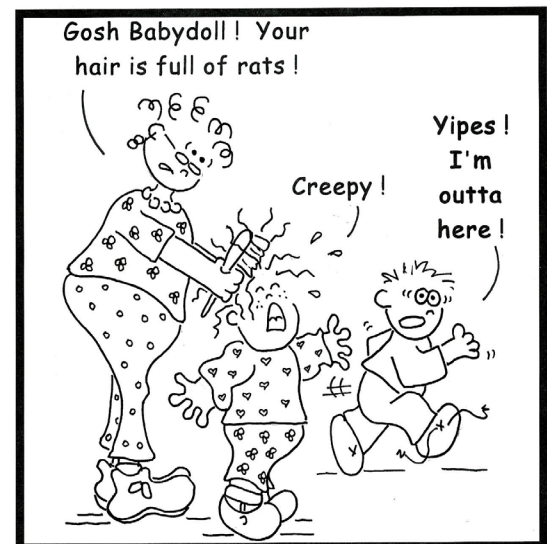
**November 12**  
School Walkthrough. Suspicious Activity Reported.

**November 13**  
VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. School Walkthrough. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. 911 Misdia. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported.

**November 14**  
Suspicious Activity Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Trespassing Reported. Traffic Stop, Verbal Warning Issued.



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# Republicans host dinner

**Hannah Gross**  
NLJ Correspondent

Republicans from Weston County and across the state of Wyoming gathered on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. to share a night of food and fellowship at the Newcastle Lodge to raise money for the Weston County Republican party and discuss the vision of the Wyoming Republican party. Kicking the night off with a prime rib meal at \$50 a plate, the attendees participated in door prizes, submitted bids to a silent auction and heard from three speakers who serve in leadership roles for the state Republican party.

The speakers stressed the importance of getting involved politically at the grassroots level, especially with the “high stakes” of this year’s presidential election. Vice Chairman David Holland opened the first speech by reminding the audience of the importance of the Republican Party and voting for Donald Trump.

“This party is the party of the people,” Holland said. “This party has a tremendous future if we remember who we are.”

Holland said the fight between Joe Biden and Donald Trump wasn’t over, and national committeewoman Harriet Hageman said they are working hard to make sure Trump is still in office in January because she believes “there is no way” Biden could have beaten Trump in any election.

“We know that the Democrats are trying to steal this,” Hageman said. “It’s going to be exposed that they cheated in this election.”

National committeeman Corey Steinmetz, husband of Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, agreed and asked the audience how many of them thought the election was legitimate, to which no one raised their hands. He followed up by asking how many thought the 2012 election was legitimate, and the audience gave the same response. Steinmetz continued to say that he believes the Democrats were perfecting how to cheat in 2012 for the 2020 election.

“2020 has just been an absolute mess,” Steinmetz said.

Hageman said the future



Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ

**Vice Chairman of the Wyoming Republican Party David Holland spoke at the Newcastle Lodge during a fundraiser dinner for the Weston County Republican Party. He told his audience that the fight of the election isn’t over yet and reminded them how important it is to get involved at the grassroots level.**

of Wyoming depends on the results of this election because Wyoming will be negatively affected more than any other state under the Biden administration because of the state’s large dependence on oil and coal production.

She said that if an administration gets in that the people don’t want, that’s only the beginning of the battle and they will do everything they can to fight for freedom in Washington, D.C, adding that leaders who won’t step up and protect their citizens “need to get out of the way.” It’s important that Trump remains strong, according to Hageman, because he stands between “us and tyranny.”

“We need to make sure he knows we support him,” Hageman said.

To do just that, the guests of the dinner signed posters and offered words of encouragement to Trump that will be sent to the White House. Steinmetz told the attendees that they could help by calling “battle-ground states” like Georgia and donating money to the Senate races. He said that many people are unaware and uneducated, so talking to them makes a difference because most of them

are “fairly open-minded.” “We have got to be incredibly vigilant,” Steinmetz said. “We have to get involved and save the nation.”

He said he believes that everything is going in the right direction and the outlook of the future is hopeful.

“Have heart — Donald Trump is going to get reelected,” Steinmetz said.

Hageman encouraged the Republican patrons to check out the Federalist Society website, if they wanted to watch other inspiring speeches that offer hope.

Although unable to attend due to a last-minute emergency, Chairman Frank Eathorne sent a letter that Weston County precinct committeewoman Kari Drost read out loud, reiterating what the other speakers had discussed.

“I commend the grassroots for helping keep Wyoming great,” Eathorne said in the letter.

Drost thanked Weston County for being so involved and filling every precinct committee position this year. She also thanked the Newcastle Lodge for its hospitality and everyone who donated door prizes and auction items.

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“For many families, venturing into a national forest to cut their Christmas tree for the holidays is a treasured tradition carried on for generations,” said Scott Jacobson, Public Affairs officer.

To purchase a Christmas tree permit online, visit Recreation.gov and search for Black Hills National Forest Christmas Tree Permit. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will need to set up or log in to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction. Each permit is \$10 for any tree, plus a \$2.50 processing/transaction fee. Users can purchase up to five permits per account. The permit must be printed and visible as you remove your tree(s)

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The forest service is using Recreation.gov as an added convenience to purchase a permit, as well as provide an alternative to in-person transactions at offices that remain closed to walk-in business due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many forest roads are subject to seasonal closures. Free Motor Vehicle Use maps are available online or by downloading the Avenza App.

Additionally, all fourth-graders throughout the United States receive a free Christmas tree permit, as part of the Every Kid Outdoors Program. If utilizing the online system at Recreation.gov, enter the voucher or pass number when prompted. Call your local Forest Service office for more information on the Every Kid Outdoors Program.

For more information on Christmas tree permits, contact the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor’s Office at 605-673-9200 or visit online at [fs.usda.gov/detail/blackhills/passes-permits/forestproducts/?cid=FSM9\\_012618](https://fs.usda.gov/detail/blackhills/passes-permits/forestproducts/?cid=FSM9_012618).



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