

News Letter Journal

Weston County

December 22, 2022

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 136 Week 51

Leg committee assignments announced

Weston County will have a strong voice on ag issues

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Weston County is well represented in terms of agriculture in the 67th Wyoming Legislature

this year as both Sen. Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle, and Rep. Allen Slagle, R-Newcastle, will serve on agriculture committees on their respective sides of the State Capitol,

according to a Dec. 2 release from the Legislative Service Office.

As previously reported in the Dec. 1 story "Weston wields legislative power,"

Weston County legislators will occupy leadership spots in both the Wyoming House of Representatives and Wyoming Senate after Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, was

elected Senate president and Rep. Chip Neiman, R-Hulett, was elected majority floor leader for the Legislature's
— See **Committees**, Page 2



Ready for Santa's arrival

Taking a night drive to look at all the homes decked out for Christmas is an annual holiday tradition for many — and Newcastle's residents did not disappoint this year. Above, the Akers home, on 6th Avenue, is decorated for a shining example of Christmas spirit, complete with snowflakes, reindeer and even an arch of lights. At right, the James home on Cascade Street also had reindeer, accompanied by a bevy of blow-up decor that include the Grinch, a gingerman, and even a Minion. Newcastle's youngsters also prepared for Santa, by writing letters to the bearded one, which you can read in the News Letter Journal's special Letters to Santa & Greetings section, inside this edition!

Photos by Tyler Sage/NLJ



BLM to burn slash

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Between now and April, the Bureau of Land Management Newcastle Field Office intends to burn various slash piles on agency-administered lands in both Crook and Weston counties, according to a Dec. 12 press release from the agency.

"All prescribed burn projects are conducted in accordance with approved burn plans and burning is contingent on fuel moisture and weather meeting appropriate treatment

— See **Burn**, Page 2

Pines has new owner

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

With hotel management experience in their home country of Nepal, father and son, Ram and Ayush Dhakal, are looking forward to meeting the Newcastle community after purchasing the Pines Country Inn from previous owners Jins Ulahannan and his wife, Rachel, around November 2021.

Born and raised in India, Jins desired to reach the people of his home country with the Gospel, so he and his wife have moved to Missouri with their two daughters, Jada and Joanna, to begin their Christ for All Tribes ministry.

— See **Pines**, Page 2

Living in an artist's world

NHS alumna displayed in Yellowstone Art Museum

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

From the never-on-time high school free spirit to art professor at the University of Montana in Billings, Newcastle High School alumna Keeara Rhoades realized a dream in her art career by becoming the 16th artist in residence at the Visible Vault in the Yellowstone Art Museum.

"For any artist, to have a museum exhibition is a goal," Rhoades said. "It's really been an incredible museum."

"Keeara has been an exceptional partner to the YAM. We feel honored to have her participate in the residency," said Lisa Ranallo, museum curator of the permanent collection.

It was quite a journey for Rhoades to reach this point, and that journey began with the grounding of her hometown of Newcastle.

"I was grounded my whole upbringing — I was literally grounded," she said.

Growing up as a free spirit with no concept of time in her artistic mind, Rhoades often found it a challenge to follow the structural rules of her family and her small town, especially being on time.

"She was grounded a lot because she didn't pay attention to curfew," said her mother, Teena

— See **Rhoades**, Page 8

Submitted photo

Keeara Rhoades, an NHS alum, is now an art professor at the University of Montana, and some of her art work is displayed at the Yellowstone Art Museum. She specializes as a multimedia artist, and this is a video still called "Margins and Arm Ends" from her "The Shape of a Corner" film she created for the YAM exhibit. She dedicates this scene to her grandmother, Peggy Cool Franklin.



WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
Hi -12, Lo -18



Friday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 5, Lo -6



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 34, Lo 19



Sunday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 41 Lo 19



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 39, Lo 31



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 45, Lo 34



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 44, Lo 27



INSIDE

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- Santa Letters! Inside!



Committees from Page 1.....

67th session by the Republican caucus on Nov. 19.

Both will assume their new positions on Jan. 10, the start of the legislative session. They will be sworn in beginning at noon, according to the press release.

While Neiman's role was made official by the caucus vote, Driskill will be referred to as president-elect until the entire Wyoming Senate holds a formal vote before the swearing-in.

Appointed by Driskill, Steinmetz will serve as chairwoman of the Senate's agriculture committee. Serving on the committee with her are Sens. Tim French, R-Powell; Larry Hicks, R-Baggs; Bob Ide, R-Casper; and John Kolb,

R-Rock Springs. Steinmetz will also serve alongside Chairman Charles Scott, R-Casper, and Sens. Bo Biteman, R-Ranchester; Evie Brennan, R-Cheyenne, and Chris Rothfuss, D-Laramie, on the Senate's education committee.

On the House side of the Legislature, Slagle will serve on the Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources committee with Chairman John Eklund, R-Cheyenne; and Reps. Bill Allemand, R-Midwest; Lane Allred, R-Afton; Dalton Banks, R-Cowley; Jon Conrad, R-Mountain View; Barry Crago, R-Buffero; Bob Davis, R-Baggs; and John Winter, R-Thermopolis.

Burn from Page 1.....

condition on site," the release says. "Smoke may be visible from the surrounding areas during burning operations and days following as slash materials consume."

The purpose of the burns, according to the release, is to remove the slash materials created by commercial timber harvests and hazardous fuel reduction projects in the office area.

Weston County projects include Sherwood, Beaver



Stockade, Bear Run and the Newcastle Fire Defense Zone with a target of approximately 1,500 acres.

In Crook County, projects target approximately 700 acres of slash piles, including Moore Canyon, Proctor, Jackpot and Goldie Divide areas.

Anyone needing more information on the burns is encouraged to call the Newcastle Field Office at 746-6600, Matthew Spring at 746-6645 and Scott Manahan at 746-6607.

Pines from Page 1.....

"As much as we loved our five and half years owning and running the Pines, we felt called to give it up and go into missions," Rachel said.

Ram Dhakal has 15 years of hotel management experience in Nepal, as well as with the travel agency there, so he knows what it takes to manage the business, keep it clean and bring happiness to the customers.

"The Dhakal family comes from not only a business background in hospitality but also a cultural one. They will go out of their way to make sure guests feel at home and that they have an enjoyable stay," Rachel said.

Ayush Dhakal is the co-owner of the inn, but because he is traveling out of town in Nepal, for the time being his father has been running the shop.

The Dhakals plan on running the

business in much the same way as the previous owners, but they have made some minor changes. They have made charger outlets more accessible, upgraded the Wi-Fi and increased the cleanliness. Ram added that they are talking with an engineer in hopes of expanding and adding more rooms.

"We believe it will be run well. The new owners displayed an earnest desire to not only uphold the reputation and values of the business but also to improve on it," Rachel said.

As a boy, Ram read about the United States and said he was fascinated by its beauty and the government's policies to both protect the environment and offer easy access to visitors. It has always been his dream to travel to the U.S.

And that dream became true in

“The Dhakal family comes from not only a business background in hospitality but also a cultural one. They will go out of their way to make sure guests feel at home and that they have an enjoyable stay.”

— Rachel Jins

2004 when he moved to the San Francisco Bay area, doing various jobs. He said he is very grateful to the U.S. government for giving him the opportunity.

While his son worked part time as he was attending college, the two decided they wanted to run a hotel together. After searching the market, the Pines Country Inn popped up, so they explored the Newcastle area.

"I found such a beautiful people in this area," Ram said. "This Pines Country Inn, I found better than other places."

Even though the hotel does not have many rooms, Ram said he was impressed by the welcoming environment. Several of his customers have told him that even though there were cheaper rates at other places, they still choose to stay at the Pines because of the pleasant atmosphere.

He said the previous owners were very friendly and took care of the place very well, keeping the cus-

tomers smiling.

"The customers say, 'You are doing the same thing, we really love it and feel very happy to stay here,'" Ram said. "A lot of nice people come to stay."

Ram hopes Pines Country Inn feels like home and said he thinks of the customers as friends and family. He is grateful for the support and warm welcome from the community.

"I really appreciate everyone here, and I want to say thank you to everyone," Ram said.

Ram still lives in California, doing odd jobs here and there, such as driving for Uber, and traveling. Ram has visited Guam and places all over Europe, but now he likes to see different sites in the United States.

"I feel very happy," Ram said.

INSURANCE

HOLIDAY MISHAPS

Are you properly insured this holiday season?

The holiday season is a time to focus on friends and family, not worry about whether your insurance coverage is adequate. As you prepare to celebrate the season, you may dream of a white Christmas or envision dancing sugar plums; however, the Wyoming Insurance Department suggests you review your insurance policies to avoid some possible holiday nightmare scenarios.

Auto Insurance

A family member borrows your car and has an accident: Your auto insurance policy will provide coverage for your relative as a permissive driver. However, the coverage could be reduced and if they are in an accident your premium may increase.

You borrow someone else's car and get into an accident: The auto policy on the borrowed vehicle provides primary coverage. If no coverage exists, your auto policy might provide coverage. Talk with your agent or insurance company to find out if your auto coverage extends to a friend or family member's car.

You have plans to travel Canada or Mexico by vehicle: Most standard homeowners and rental insurance policies provide coverage; however you are responsible for the policy deductible and there are limits. Some auto policies provide coverage for this situation. Talk with your agent or company on both policies (homeowners/renters and auto) to find out under which policy you should report your claim.

Someone breaks your car's window and steals gifts from the back seat: Most standard homeowners and rental insurance policies provide coverage; however you are responsible for the policy deductible and there are limits. Some auto policies provide coverage for this situa-



tion. Talk with your agent or company on both policies (homeowners/renters and auto) to find out under which policy you should report your claim.

Homeowners Insurance

Someone steals the holiday decorations from your front yard: A standard homeowners policy typically provides coverage, subject to policy deductible and coverage limits. These items are also generally covered if you have a condominium or renter's insurance policy.

Presents are stolen from your home: Standard homeowners insurance policies provide coverage with special limits for certain goods, such as electronics and jewelry. Standard condominium and rental insurance policies provide similar coverage. Check your policy for specific item

limits, and be sure to add new items to your policy as soon as possible to ensure you are covered.

Your coworker slips and falls on your icy driveway at your New Year's Eve party: A standard homeowners insurance policy can provide limited medical payments coverage if your guest needs medical attention. If a guest sues for additional damages, the standard homeowner's insurance policy should provide liability coverage. Check with your insurance agent or company to be sure you have adequate liability limits.

An ice or snow storm causes a tree to fall through the front window of your house: Home damage and tree removal (if the tree fell due to the weight of ice or snow) is generally covered by a standard

homeowners insurance policy minus deductible. Check your policy to find out what coverage you have.

A menorah falls over and lights a curtain, causing a house fire: A standard homeowners insurance policy will cover your home and belongings destroyed by a fire, up to policy limits. Standard policies typically provide additional living expenses if you are unable to live in your home due to damage from a fire or other disaster.

Credit Card Theft

Someone uses your credit card to buy a big screen television: The purchase might be covered as part of your contract with your credit card company. Standard homeowners insurance policies typically provide some minimal coverage toward your legal obligation to pay your credit card company. However, there is no coverage if, for example, a family member entrusted with the card mistakenly bought a television. Federal law also limits a cardholder's responsibility as long as the credit card company is promptly notified per the cardholder agreement.

Health Insurance

You drink some bad eggnog and end up in an urgent care facility while you are out of state: Your visit is typically covered under most health insurance policies. If you plan to travel, remember to take your health insurance information for all family members—including your identification cards and contact details—with you. Co-payments with urgent care visits are typically lower than co-payments for emergency room visits. Before leaving, check with your insurance company about in-network healthcare providers at your destination. Depending on the type of policy you have, if you receive medical care from an out of network provider, you may be subject to higher out of pocket costs.



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

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nlj IDEAS

Hot or not gift list 2022

This week I decided to stick with the holiday spirit and delve into gifts and spending. I was curious what the popular gifts were this year — and from decades past. After pondering that blast from the past, I began to wonder just how much the average American would spend on gifts and how it compared with numbers from previous years.

First and most fun — in this overgrown kid's opinion — was the list of popular gifts for this year, and random samplings of years past. I searched both "popular gifts" and "popular gifts for children" for 2022. According to Goodhousekeeping.com the top 10 gifts are as follows.

10. Peel and Reveal Lip Stain. Apparently this is a TikTok-famous product, with mystery colors. Goes on indigo, and as it dries, it changes.

9. Cloud Slides is another TikTok-famous product that looked to me like a canvas jail shower shoe.

8. The Mushroom Mug appears to be a coffee cup with a mushroom cap lid. I guess if you are looking for a hookah-smoking caterpillar, this could be the place to start.

7. A 3-in-1 Charging Station. Finally something practical on the list. You can dock your phone, watch and airpods if you are so inclined.

6. UGG Ultra Classic Mini is again all over TikTok and the Gram and, as are typical of UGGs, costly and ugly.

5. UI Self-heating Coffee Mug is perfect for those frosty days and keeps drinks at a piping hot 130 F.

4. A Mini Pocket Projector. I can't tell you how many times I have been somewhere and thought, "gosh, I wish I had a projector to put a movie on and annoy the masses."

3. The Reversible Octopus Plushie. What more can I say that 75,000 positive reviews on amazon haven't?

2. 100% Pure Mulberry Silk Pillow Cases. I got nothing.

And finally coming in at #1. Rechargeable hand warmers. Let's be honest, these would make a great gift in this area.

Moving on to the kids' gifts, and I have a lot of opinions on this. I believe in giving both fun and educational gifts. STEM gifts are great for the entire family to get involved, and board games as well, so what did the New York Post list as the top gifts?

10. Melissa and Doug Examine and Treat Pet Vet Play Set. Looks to me like an animal torture in training kit,

but I am sure the younger children get it.

9. Marvel Action Figure Sets. Action figures have always been popular throughout the decades.

8. The NERF N-Strike HyperFire Toy is probably as popular with adults as with kids, judging by the videos I see on various social media.

7. Rainbow High Series 3 EMI Vanda Fashion Doll. I have no clue what this is, other than it looks like a bobblehead Barbie.

6. Vtech Kidi Zoom SmartWatch DX2. Has the shape and look of an Apple watch, probably prepping them to stare at their wrist or phone all day as adults.

5. Monster Jam Garage Playset. Not going to lie, I would totally play with this one.

4. VTech Level Up Gaming Chair. This was a toy-of-the-year finalist. It is a learning tool for young children and can double as a snack chair.

3. Fisher Price DJ Bouncin' Beats Interactive Musical Learning Toy. I foresee this one lasting all of a day before it, umm, disappears

2. 25th Anniversary Pokemon Elite Trainer Box — 25 years of bizarre made-up creatures, and people are still trying to catch them all.

And finally at #1, the Paw Patrol Chase 2-in-1 Transforming City Cruiser toy car.

Having listed those, I will say there are other websites that probably list a whole other world of opinions on the top gifts and toys.

So exactly how much will be spent on holiday gifts? While inflation has people a bit strapped for spending on much but essential goods, the average household will drop \$1,455 this year on gifting. This number is in line with the spending from last year, but consumers are looking for more ways to save. Coupons, flash sales and last-minute clearance items will be some of the biggest ways that those dollars will be stretched.

Last, it would behoove all of us to remember that this is a season of sharing and joy. No matter what holiday you celebrate or what faith you follow, kindness and sharing the joy go a long way toward brightening everyone's life. Oh, and if you are curious about the top gifts every year since 1920, check out <https://stacker.com/retrospective/top-holiday-toys-year-you-were-born>. It is pretty interesting to see how things have trended, from simple to incredibly technical in only a century. The Pet Rock was my first Christmas' hottest gift. What was yours?



Dustin Bergstrom
Dusty Mind

POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION:
When does your family open Christmas gifts?

- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- Both

Go to newsjlj.com to vote!
Look for results in next week's News Letter Journal.

RESULTS:
Do you think this year's cold and flu season is worse than last year so far?

- Yes.....73% (16 votes)
- No.....27% (6 votes)

Check out the News Letter Journal at newsjlj.com

News Letter Journal:
WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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Rob Hicks
Owner



Stephanie Bonnar
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Bob Bonnar
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Kim Dean
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Alexis Barker
News Editor



Katelynn Slaamot
NLJ Reporter



Sonja Karp
Sports Editor



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent



Walter Sprague
Arts and Culture Reporter



Don Botkin
NLJ Correspondent

Office Manager: Siri Karr
Graphic Designer: Amy Menerey
Circulation: Ann Cottrell
NLJ Correspondent: Avery Chick
Photographer: Nicole McFarland
Photographer: Tyler Sage

WHAT

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

WHERE

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WHEN

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WHY

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

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

A love letter to my wife Nancy for her birthday

What a life. It has been an amazing 58 years.

This is my love letter to my wife Nancy on her 76th birthday, which was this past week.

Our story starts with a tale of two young kids in Iowa a long time ago. For me, it was love at first sight.

We first met when I was an 18-year-old cub reporter in my first weeks on the job as sports editor of the local newspaper in little Harlan, Iowa. My editor handed me a folder full of black and white newspaper photos.

He told me the high school yearbook staff needed some pictures to fill out their annual and would I walk over to the school, just down the street, and give them this folder?

Off I went.

My home town was 320 miles east of there. It was a tiny little town called

Wadena. Back then it was a humble little place. In 1964 it was Iowa's version of

Appalachia. It was amazing that I was able to get out of there. I left there a week after graduating from high school.

Back to my story: I walked into the Harlan high school building and found my way upstairs to an area set aside for the yearbook staff. There was the prettiest girl I had

ever seen, sitting there, working on yearbook pages.

She noticed me and gave me a big smile. I handed her the photos and she thanked me. She had the bluest eyes I had ever seen. Then she went back to work.

My head was swirling. My immediate thought was, that was the prettiest and nicest girl I had ever seen in my life. My feelings at the time are as clear today as they were back 58 years ago: "Could a poor guy like

me from a funky little town ever have a chance to have a fantastic girl like that?"

No way, I decided, as I headed back to work.

It should be pointed out I was just six months older than Nancy. But I looked much older. My boss made me wear a sport coat and tie and she assumed I was in my mid-20s.

Later I was lonely young kid sitting with my head down reading a book in a booth at a local restaurant when someone walked up and said, "Hi." It was her. She worked there, and being the friendly type that she was, she saw me there alone, came over and chatted. She wanted to cheer me up.

A few minutes later her boyfriend showed up, a young man named Darrel who was wearing his letter jacket. I knew him as a star of the football team, which I had been reporting on.

Although we stayed on friendly terms, I realized Nancy was already spoken for. This went on for six

months. She gradually realized we were the same age.

We were starting to click and I finally asked her on a date. She ditched her old boyfriend the next day and well, the rest is history. Our history.

I got the prettiest girl and the nicest girl. Later she worked at a small college so I could go back to school there. She always kept me going. She was Chief Financial Officer of all our businesses.

After almost six decades of being together, four kids, 13 grandkids, three great-grandkids, her bout of cancer, her lifetime of MS, we still feel a great sense of romance. Our song is the 1960s ballad Unchained Melody. Our kids love to play that song when we are celebrating something.

My life has been one of aggressive business and being super competitive. She has spent all these years taming me down and making me a nicer person.

She brought stability to my life. We joke that she raised me as her fifth child. Men

like me never mature until they are 60. We sort of grew up together.

Her life has been all about volunteerism with empathy and humility. She was awarded Wyoming's Jefferson Award in 2011 for her exceptional community work.

So here we are. If life is a game, we are nearing the end. Rather than thinking we are in the fourth quarter of a football game, I prefer thinking we are in the middle of the seventh inning of a baseball game and it is time for a stretch.

And there is nobody I would rather spend that stretch time with than Nancy. Happy birthday honey!

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.

NEED TO TALK TO A PUBLIC SERVANT?

Weston County Commission Members' contacts:

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

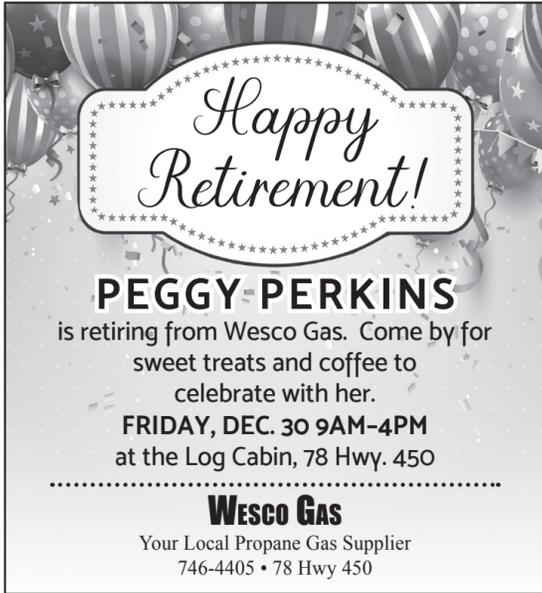
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Contact information for Wyoming State Legislators:

Sen. Ogden Driskill
Ogden.Driskill@wyoleg.gov or (307) 680-5555
Sen. Cheri Steinmetz
Cheri.Steinmetz@wyoleg.gov or (307) 534-5342
Rep. JD Williams
jd.williams@wyoleg.gov or (307) 334-2545
Rep. Chip Neiman
Chip.Neiman@wyoleg.gov or (307) 290-0366



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is retiring from Wesco Gas. Come by for sweet treats and coffee to celebrate with her.
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CenturyLink participates in the Lifeline program, which makes residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers may qualify for Lifeline discounts of \$5.25/month for voice or bundled voice service or \$9.25/month for qualifying broadband or broadband bundles. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be either a wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to qualify.

CenturyLink also participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides eligible households with a discount on broadband service. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

For both programs, a household is defined as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Services are not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in these programs. Consumers who willfully make false statements to obtain these discounts can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from these programs.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, visit <https://www.centurylink.com/aboutus/community/community-development/lifeline.html> for additional information about applying for these programs or call 1-800-201-4099 with questions.



Obituaries

PAUL MARSHALL KIPPER —Dec. 11, 2022

Paul Marshall Kipper, 71, fun-loving family man and long-form conversationalist, died on Dec. 11, 2022, at 7:15 p.m., was momentarily resuscitated by true love's kiss, then departed this world for good at 7:17 p.m.

Paul married his college sweetheart, Bonnie, 50 years ago. He was later surprised to learn that their ancestors had neighboring farms in Dakota Territory in the 1870s, and spent the rest of his life marveling at other "small world" connections. Together Paul and Bonnie raised four children of whom he was exceedingly proud, each of them marrying spouses he considered his children as well: Kari and Ryan Dodson, Rory and Sarah Kipper, Cassie and Ryan Chandler, and John and Maggie Kipper. His long career at the Internal Revenue Service called for the family to relocate every few years — they lived in six states over the course of their life together. Along the way, Paul and his magnetic personality collected an impressive constellation of friends, so many of whom are more aptly described as extended family.



Paul Kipper

It wasn't until retirement that Paul and Bonnie sat still long enough to consider travel fun, and began wandering further afield. Together they explored Italy, Guam, Vietnam, Singapore, and Cambodia. Many have been regaled with tales from his week-long "deployment" on the USS Boxer, arguably his favorite adventure of all.

In every facet of his life, Paul was a study in laser-focused but boundless passion. His hobbies were manifold: he was an avid and skillful golfer, a devoted philatelist, a bourbon connoisseur, and a fossil hunter. He bought and lovingly restored classic Thunderbirds, played accordion, piano and organ, flew radio-controlled airplanes, made his own wine (under the label "Pour Paul's"), and watched classic movies.

Loyalty was his superpower and tradition his drug of choice. For years he single-handedly kept Coca-Cola afloat. Local business owners could set their clocks by Paul's arrival, and then expect to lose a few minutes to friendly chit-chat. He will live on in the traditions he started: stashing scratch-off lottery tickets in Christmas stockings, playing his wine glass with his thumb at the end of a holiday meal, and — his McDonald's favorite — playing "1 or 2," wherein one guesses the number of French fries pinched between his fingers.

Paul was a kid at heart and, as such, was terrific at playing silly games to entertain children — he was constantly stealing noses. Goofing around with grandsons, Fletcher, 6, and Hudson Kipper, 17 months, was the delight of his final days. Though his cooking left much to be desired, he excelled at kid cuisine like "chili on eggs on toast" — the name is the recipe — and

"bologna and cheese people" — insipid sandwiches punched out with gingerbread-man cookie cutters to encourage little appetites.

From the time his kids came along, the family cabin in Wyoming and its raft of improvement projects figured large into every summer. He toiled all day for the promise of a few hours each evening playing nickel slot machines in a Deadwood, S.D., casino. When there was the opportunity to go to the beach in Delaware, he would feast on piles of crab, play putt-putt, and draw a crowd with his signature sand sculpture of an alligator finishing a meal of a human leg.

Family was Paul's cornerstone, coming as he did from a large and tight-knit one, which includes cherished siblings George Kipper, Carol Voorheis, Lynne Ashe, and Louise Berdahl. Since his relatives are geographically dispersed, he logged tens of thousands of miles driving to make visits. It is said that while doing so, he darkened the doorstep of a McDonald's in every single state of this fair union. A true road warrior, he was known for his zero-dark-thirty departures and reciting each passing road sign.

The sun rose on very few Sundays that he wasn't in the front pew at St. Mark Lutheran Church, but his fellow regulars will tell you that he didn't sit down before making his rounds as the unofficial Church Lady Greeting Committee. He sang tenor in the choir and occasionally even lent his skills as an accordion player, something learned under duress as a child and dusted off later in life to irritate his wife.

The man survived so much, from aneurysms to car accidents, and a cancer diagnosis that gave him two months to live 17 years ago. It was perhaps a bit surprising that he was so unceasingly positive. He was always quick with a bad joke (think great effort for small reward), but even when the punchline fell flat it unfailingly lifted everyone's spirits as they joined in a collective groan. He was a skilled haggler who doggedly but respectfully got exactly what he sought from every interaction — customer service representatives everywhere will be doffing their caps in respect and breathing a sigh of relief. Gregarious and thoughtful, Paul only needed a tiny nudge from Bonnie to turn his outgoing nature and generous spirit into a life of service — he helped set up for the weekly local farmer's market, started the gardens at the Red House, delivered Meals on Wheels, and was a member of the local Rotary Club. His positivity and kind spirit were infectious, he lived well, laughed hard, and the world is better for having had him in it.

There will be a public memorial service at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1900 Cape La Croix Rd., Cape Girardeau, Mo., at 2 p.m., Jan. 7. In lieu of flowers, Paul and his family ask that you commit to an annual flu shot to protect yourself and your loved ones and consider a donation to Lutheran World Relief or The Wingman Foundation, causes close to his heart.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

FREIDA LINCOLN Dec. 31, 1934–Dec. 16, 2022

Freida Lincoln, 87, went to be with her Lord Jesus Christ after a short illness at Weston County Health Services in Newcastle, Wyo.

Freida was born the youngest of six children to Roy and Gladys Cummings of Monroe, Wash. She graduated from Monroe High School then worked as a nanny to twins Jeff and Jimmy in Bremerton, Wash.

In 1955, Freida attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho, for two years. Her father's sister, Aunt Ethel and Uncle Will Fowler lived in Newcastle and provided a room until she decided to remain here. She worked as a nursing assistant in pediatrics at Weston County Memorial Hospital. One day a man named Harold Lincoln was invited to play cards at cousins Betty and William Roark's house. Harold and Freida were married in 1959.

Freida raised five kids along with cleaning private homes where she met her lifelong friend, Grace Davis. She also cleaned the forest service office and cooked for the daycare center. Later she was head cook and pie maker for Michael's Senior Center on Main Street. After her retirement, she volunteered her time for helping with funeral coffees, taking money at the front desk, and various other small jobs when the center moved to the former elementary school.

She was one of the founding members of the local T.O.P.S. group, and remained a member for the rest of her life. In 2013, Freida became the Wyoming State TOPS Queen for her weight loss success, an accomplishment of which she was very proud. She loved to sing, performing while in high school and college for friends and family

weddings, as well as choir groups like the local Joy Singers at church.

A sweet lady with a pleasant demeanor, remembered as the neighborhood peace-maker by boyhood friends of her kids, always ready with a smile, she will be missed.

She is survived by two brothers, Keith and Jim Cummings, both of Ellensburg, Wash.; children, Jeff (Crystal) Lincoln of Meridian, Idaho, Nathan (Gloria) Lincoln of Platteville, Colo., Beth (Jim) Anderson of Kuna, Idaho, Sheila Cole of Newcastle, and Chris (Melissa) Lincoln of Arvada, Colo.; several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents, sisters, Ethel and Wanda, and brother, Wayne.

A memorial service will take place at a later date.

Online condolences may be written at fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com or sent to 1035 McArthur Street, Newcastle, WY 82701.

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

— See Obituaries, Page 5



Freida Lincoln

faith & values

- **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. Kenti Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- **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 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; Undeafened Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 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 Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 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
- **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:** Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
~ Matthew 1:21



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**25 Years Ago
Dec. 25, 1997**

The city of Newcastle may come to the rescue of kids and adults who reluctantly put their ice skates away when the school district eliminated its ice skating pond near the middle school. City Engineer Larry Price said an ice skating pond had been planned for Centennial Park anyway.

Kitty Moats youngsters shared children's views of Christmas with residents at the Manor and Mondell Heights. Brittany Hamilton, daughter of Monte and Francie read her special story to Rhetta Strom.

Retailers count on the Christmas shopping season to bolster the year's sales. In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, December sales constitute one-seventh of the year's sales. In Newcastle, store owners are reporting a fairly good holiday shopping season.

Citing higher grade point averages for the kids involved in athletics, Newcastle High School Athletic Director Dave Versteeg will bring forth a plan for pay increases for his coaches to the January School Board meeting.

**50 Years Ago
Dec. 21, 1972**

Bob Crosby's Donkey Ball will be this evening (Thursday) at the Newcastle



**100 Years Ago
Dec. 21, 1922**

Reports are reaching Newcastle that Moorcroft has ambitions of becoming a county seat, and that a plan is being formed there for the purpose of getting new legislature to take slices from Weston, Crook and Campbell counties.

As soon as it gets dark Christmas eve, Sunday, December 24, one of the big trees west of the city hall which has been decorated and strung with electric wires and colored globes will be lighted up, and the program arranged for Newcastle's community Christmas tree will be started.

The coldest day Newcastle has experienced this winter was last Sunday when it was 14 below zero.

A surprise party was given last week for Frank Massoglin, who left Tuesday evening for Milwaukee, Wis., where he will attend school. About midnight a delicious lunch was served consisting of cake, sandwiches and coffee, after which the guests departed wishing Frank the best of luck.

Quite a crowd of Cliftonites went to Dewey Saturday night to attend the Yeoman dance and believe me it was some rousing old dance or any way we suppose it must have been as the crowd of Cliftonites did not get home until 24 hours later.

High auditorium. Game time is at 8 p.m. and will feature the men's faculty members in the first half against the women faculty members and the Future Farmers of America vs. the Future Homemakers of America in the second half. The winners will hold a playoff.

Paul R. Gaskill, Newcastle, was awarded the Columbia Sheepman of the Year award at the recent meeting of the Columbia Sheep Breeders Association of America.

Independence Rock in central Wyoming has been chosen as a focal point for Wyoming's observance of the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. The proposal for a Thunder Basin Grasslands

Prairie Park in Weston County along with three other proposals were deferred for a later decision depending upon funding.

The Weston County library will be closed Saturday afternoon, Dec. 23, but will be open as usual from 10 a.m. to noon. A party will be given for the children who attend the story hour on Saturday mornings from 10 to 11. There will be a gift exchange at the party and the children are asked to bring a gift for either a boy or girl costing about 50 cents.

Mary Beth Williams and Roger Heard, Newcastle High School vocal music students will be participating in the All Northwest Choir at Portland, Ore., Feb. 15 through 19.

Obituaries

from Page 4

LAWRENCE 'LARRY' PATZ

Nov. 8, 1948—Dec. 17, 2022

Lawrence "Larry" Patz passed peacefully at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center at Sturgis, S.D., on Dec. 17, 2022, after a long and trying health issue.

Larry was born on Nov. 8, 1948, to Albert and Ella Patz in Pound, Wisc. He attended school there and graduated in 1966. Larry's proudest high school achievement was the success that he had in the FFA program, often bragging about how good his crop science projects would do.

Upon graduation Larry served in the United States Army for four years, and was stationed in Germany for a duration.

Upon discharge, Larry began working at various oil field and bentonite companies in and around Wyoming. He spent a majority of his time (30

years) working for American Colloid in Upton, Wyo., as a heavy equipment operator. Here he made numerous friends. When they closed the plant in Upton, Larry hired on with R and S Shearing and traveled the United States performing demolition work. He truly loved the travel and the job. He was always talking about the cool things they tore down and the unique localities that he had the chance to work. Larry excelled at the work he did and was dedicated. He retired from R and S at age 67.

Although Larry never married, he looked upon his nephew, Allen, and nieces, Angela and Marji, as his own, assuring that each of them received a horse for their eighth birthday, and always had a good rifle to hunt with and something cool under the Christmas tree. Larry could always be

counted on to celebrate each one's successes as if they were his own child. Upon the births



Lawrence Patz

of his great-nephew, Devon, and great-niece, Ella, Larry quickly took them in and shared in their life journeys. He could be expected to call nearly every day to check in and see how things were going and to listen to our stories.

Near the end of Larry's journey two great things occurred in Larry's life that made us all very proud. First was TJ Trandahl and his family coming into Larry's life. They were there for Larry when we couldn't get there and helped

draw Larry closer to God. Secondly was, because of TJ's friendship, Larry choosing to be baptized and accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Larry is survived by his mother, Ella Patz; nephew, Allen (Bobbie and Ella) Patz; nieces, Angela (Marcus, Devon and Cheyenne) Myers and Marji Patz.

Larry was preceded in death by his father, Albert; and his brother, Allen.

Larry's interment will be in Pound, Wisc., this Christmas season, with a Celebration of Life to be held this spring in Upton.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Fort Meade VA Hospice program.

Friends may sign his online guestbook and leave condolences for the family at blackhillsfuneralhome.com.

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Lil' Dogie Lunch



Bristol Boylan, Anna Evenson, Corvin Stoudt, Noah Wilson, Hunter Finley, and Aurora Johnson



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

Open Seat Available

The Newcastle Planning Board has an open seat. Please submit letters of interest to City Hall located at 10 W. Warwick. This seat is for a 3 year term. Individuals must be a City resident and a registered voter.

Application forms are also available at City Hall.

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WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

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Is your group or organization hosting an event? Send your event listings to design@newsli.com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar, sponsored by Pinnacle Bank.

Fri. Dec. 23	9AM By Appt. 1PM	Caramel Rolls COVID Booster Clinic Bridge Christmas Eve Holiday, Closed BINGO	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center Anna Miller Museum V.F.W. Hall
Sat. Dec. 24	4PM 5-6PM 5PM 5PM 7PM 7:30PM	Christmas Eve Service Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Service	Christ Episcopal Church First Baptist Church Four Corners Country Church Corpus Christi Catholic Church First United Methodist Church St. Anthony, Upton
Sun. Dec. 25	12AM 10AM	Midnight Christmas Service Christmas Dinner (see ad on page 9)	Corpus Christi Catholic Church W.C. Senior Center
Mon. Dec. 26		Christmas Holiday, Closed Christmas Holiday, Closed	Anna Miller Museum W.C. Senior Center
Tues. Dec. 27	11AM 1PM 3:30PM	Story Time Bridge & Dominoes Alzheimers/Dementia Support	W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center Zoom
Wed. Dec. 28	6:30-8:30AM 9AM	Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class	W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center
Thur. Dec. 29	7AM 1PM NOON 7PM	TOPS #218 Crafts W.C.H.S. Foundation Mtg. Alcoholics Anonymous	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Health Services Board Rm. W.C. Senior Center

86%

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Source: The Wyoming Market Study, 2022; by Coda Ventures

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Wrestling
1/6-7/23 VJ Shane Shatto Invitational A NOON
Douglas
1/13/23 VJ Newcastle Invitational H 9AM
1/14/23 VJ Blazer Duals A NOON

Men's Swimming
1/12/23 VJ Buffalo HS A 4PM
1/14/23 VJ Douglas HS A 10AM

Ladies' Basketball
1/6/23 V9 Torrington HS H 4PM
1/12/23 V9 Wright Jr/Sr HS A 4:30PM
1/14/23 V9 Rapid City Central HS A TBA

Men's Basketball
1/6/23 V9 Torrington HS H 4PM
1/12/23 V9 Wright Jr/Sr HS A 5:30PM
1/14/23 V9 Rapid City Central HS A TBA

Karpe Diaz

I've been really trying to find a way to enjoy winter. I really have.

I don't like the cold and snow, but I've realized that if I can't find some sort of joy from the season, I will simply have to endure the season without joy.

So I've been trying.

Winter sports are my favorite because of basketball (of course), so aside from all the nuisance that snow causes on a small scale, such as having to shovel your walks, ruining travel plans, making getting around on the streets treacherous, making my black (sigh) car dirty, and being accompanied by frigid temperatures, snow also really interferes with sports schedules!

Last year, the girls missed out on their opening weekend

of hoops because of a crazy winter storm, and this year, both the boys and girls lost two pre-season games because of the blizzard that has been named Diaz.

I find the name a bit ironic, given that it is Hispanic in nature, therefore not a name one generally associates with a snowmageddon type of storm, but I'm not in charge of naming blizzards, so what do I know?

At any rate, as I watched the storm develop and dump all over the surrounding communities, I did find some happiness in the fact that we here in Newcastle — the banana belt — didn't suffer like the Northern Hills.

However, when your basketball schedule involves having teams from Belle Fourche and Lead, S.D., needing to travel on roads closed by mounds of drifted and blowing snow, it doesn't matter how hard you got hit by the storm. They are simply not going to be able to get through the white stuff to get to the tournament.

So, on Thursday as I watched all of our winter sports' weekend schedules get annihilated by Diaz — basketball, wrestling, and swimming — I was finding it extremely hard to find anything positive to say about winter.

I didn't have to pout too long though, because the athletic directors quickly worked to save a bit of the weekend, and the varsity basketball teams were able to make up their Thursday game against Sundance on Friday, and some of the wrestlers were able to gate-crash the tournament in Wright on Saturday, so that was awesome.

And though the swimmers missed out on a couple of duals in Cheyenne over the weekend, they actually have a few competitions over the winter break, so all things considered, they will get plenty of action before school resumes in January.

With the resurrection of some

— See **Karpe**, Page 7

Newcastle men making progress

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The second weekend of the hoops season was salvaged on Friday as Winter Storm Diaz rolled in and threatened to derail the annual Stateline Shootout tournament. Though the contest against Sundance was postponed for a day, the two teams were able to play on Friday, whereas the games against Belle Fourche and Lead did not take place due to South Dakota schools being kept homebound because of closed and/or treacherous roads.

Head coach Allen Von Eye felt better about his team's performance after last weekend, but admitted that there is still work to be done as the Bulldogs got the better of the Dogies, 65-46.

"I was really glad that we were able to get that game in," Von Eye began. "We showed improvement from last weekend, and we needed to get on the court with a pretty decent team, because we can't simulate that level of play in practice."

The Dogies started strong against the Bulldogs, jumping out to an 8-0 lead with three minutes ticked off the clock. The squad had four consecutive trips where they scored, and also four consecutive trips where the defense was able to force turnovers on Sundance.

"We started off pretty solid on offense, which is great to get that momentum going," Von Eye reported. "With a young team, oftentimes a slow start is a condemnation of how the rest of the game is going to go. Players can start second-guessing themselves and start to lose confidence, so it's really important to get off to a fast start."

Newcastle pulled ahead to a 10-2 lead with 3:03 remaining in the first quarter, but then went on a six-and-a-half-minute scoring drought, while the Bulldogs pulled their offense together and added 12 points to pull ahead 14-12 with 5:10 remaining in the half.

— See **Men**, Page 7



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Quint Perino had the hot hand for the Dogies against Sundance Friday. The senior finished with 23 points, which was half of the total points scored by the Dogies.

Ladies take a win

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Head coach Chad Ostenson's ladies' basketball team took advantage of their only game over the weekend to finish the preseason with momentum as they cruised to a 58-36 win over the Lady Bulldogs of Sundance. After it appeared as though the annual Stateline Shootout Tournament would be postponed until a later date, the weather let up enough for the squad to make up the contest in Sundance on Friday.

"Mother Nature has been rough on us the last couple of years," Ostenson said, with a sigh. "But at least we were able to get one game in, which is good."

The Lady Bulldogs slipped from the No. 5 spot in 2A to just being out of the top five last week, but they roster a talented squad who gave the Lady Dogies of Newcastle a fight. However, after suffering from some offensive adversity against Southeast Saturday, Newcastle didn't appear to have any issues with putting the ball through the hoop against Sundance as they hit 9-19 attempts from beyond the arc, and were 51% in their overall shooting efficiency on the night.

"Sundance is going to be pretty dang solid for a 2A team, because they did some good things," Ostenson admitted. "We shot a lot better from three, but our shooting from two needs to improve. We missed too many bunnies, and we have got to do better when we are right there by the basket."

The two teams traded quarters out-scoring each other. Newcastle pulled ahead to a 20-6 lead after the end of the first with Jaylen Ostenson scoring 14 of her team's 20 points. They also had a big third quarter where they out-scored Sundance 17-6.

The Lady Bulldogs, however, got the better of Newcastle by beating them 11-9 and 13-12 in the second and fourth quarters, respectively.

"We defended the flex offense quite a bit better against Sundance than we did against Southeast, so that was good," Ostenson reported. "We also threw the 1-3-1 half court trapping defense against them in the third quarter which also looked pretty good."

Ostenson would finish the contest as the Lady Dogies' leading scorer, draining 23 points. MacKenzie

— See **Ladies**, Page 7



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Sydney Pederson saw some good minutes against the Lady Bulldogs last Friday. The freshman scored six points in the Lady Dogies win over Sundance.

Last-minute save proves fruitful for a few

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Last week began with an action-packed schedule for the Newcastle/Upton wrestling team, however, as a snowmageddon blasted the surrounding areas from Tuesday through Friday, the regularly scheduled competitions — which included a dual with Buffalo on

Thursday and the Battle of the Big Horns tournament on Friday and Saturday — blew away like so much drifting snow.

Fortunately, head coach Lee McCoy was able to wrangle one day of competition for those of his team who could make the trip on Saturday, and four wrestlers crashed the Christmas Duals in Wright, and in the holiday

NHS/UHS Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Christmas Duals in Wright 12/17/22
Individual Varsity Results:
106: Caden Vrana 2-0
113: Haven Vrana 2-0
126: Kyah Miller 1-4
138: Thomas Prell 5-0

spirit, joined with the Wright Panthers to compete. As a team, the Panthers/Dogies/

Bobcats finished the day in third place out of 16 teams.

Two Bobcats, Caden and Haven Vrana, as well as two Dogies, Kyah Miller and Thomas Prell, took the opportunity to get some mat time before the winter break and hopped on the bus for Wright on Saturday morning.

"The weather sure put a wrinkle in our plans for the week," McCoy said, with a

sigh. "But, it was kind of a blessing in disguise, because the four kids who went had some good matches. It was kind of nice to be able to just concentrate on them and give them a lot of attention."

Caden Vrana, in the 106-pound weight class, won his first match after his Hulett opponent was disqualified

— See **Grapplers**, Page 7

Ladies from Page 6

Conzelman finished with nine, Hunter McFarland scored eight, Sydney Pederson went 2-3 from beyond the arc for six points, Shelby Tidyman and Tiernan Stanton had four points each, Oakley Checketts added four points and Hailey Beastrom chipped in one to round out the scoring.

"I'm glad we got that game in, because otherwise it would have been a long time between games," Ostenson said. "We shot really well from three, and we have several players who can be a threat from beyond the arc, but we definitely have things to work on before we start conference

play in January." The Lady Dogies have three weeks to work on getting better at the little things as they head into Christmas break. After school resumes, they will be back in action as they host their home opener against the Torrington Lady Trailblazers

on Friday, Jan. 6. Athletic directors and coaches are also working on a plan to make up the Belle Fourche and Lead games, which Ostenson thinks will probably happen sometime in February.



Photos by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Jayde Harrington went up strong against two Lady Bulldog defenders in Friday's contest against Sundance. Harrington was a force for the Lady Dogies on defense in the team's win as they finish up their pre-season schedule. At left, a picture says a thousand words. The Lady Dogies shot well against the Lady Bulldogs in Sundance last Friday, going 47% from beyond the arc.

NHS Ladies' Basketball

Stalene Shootout 12/16/22
Newcastle v. Sundance: 58-36
 Jaylen Ostenson: 23 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 6 steals
 Shelby Tidyman: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals
 Hunter McFarland: 8 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal
 Tiernan Stanton: 4 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals
 MacKenzie Conzelman: 9 points, 1 assist, 1 steal
 Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 1 assist
 Jayde Harrington: 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 2 blocks
 Hailey Beastrom: 1 point, 2 rebounds
 Sydney Pederson: 6 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
 Julie Morris: 1 assist

Grapplers from Page 6

for repeatedly locking his hands. At the time of the DQ, the two grapplers were tied. In his second match, he was pitted against a Sheridan opponent, and, according to McCoy, Caden toyed with him for about 30 seconds then took him down and pinned him less than a minute into the match.

Haven Vrana (113) started out with a good match against a wrestler from Campbell County who gave him

some competition, but Haven got the pin in 3:28, then made quick work of his Tongue River opponent, pinning him in 21 seconds.

"We bumped Haven up to 113 to try to give him some good competition, because there weren't a lot of kids at 106," McCoy explained. "He still dominated his matches, but I think it was better than it would have been at 106."

Miller wrestled in the men's division

at 126 pounds and got five matches on the day. She won her second match against a Sheridan opponent by pinning him in 1:54. According to McCoy, she was fairly competitive in the other matches, but got overpowered a little bit as time wore on.

"The match against the Sheridan kid was exciting, because they were both getting after it," McCoy explained. "Then she hit him with a fireman's carry and put him on his

back and pinned him — so that was pretty fun!"

McCoy identified one of the huge highlights of the tournament as Thomas Prell going undefeated at 138, winning five matches.

"Thomas really had an outstanding tournament, and was much improved from last weekend," McCoy said. "He had five quality wins and it was nice to see him implementing things we've been working on in

practice and improving 100% over last weekend in Lusk."

Prell and Miller both did a much better job wrestling off the bottom, which McCoy had identified as a weak area team-wide the previous week in Lusk.

The dual scheduled with Buffalo has been postponed to sometime in January, and the team will get things started back up with a tough two-day tournament in Douglas on Jan. 6 and 7.

Men from Page 6

NHS Men's Basketball

Stalene Shootout: 12/16/22
Newcastle v. Sundance: 46-65
 Quint Perino: 23 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal
 Zander White: 9 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal
 Wyatt Cole: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists
 JJ Lipp: 2 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists
 Will Beastrom: 1 rebound
 Thatcher Troftgruben: 3 points, 4 rebounds
 Teddy Troftgruben: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
 Pate Tavegie: 3 points

"Our defensive resistance needed to be much stronger throughout the whole game," Von Eye said. "When you look at their shots, they got about 31 shots in the paint from about four feet out. It's tough to win

games when you are giving them so many great looks."

The Dogies went into the half only down nine points, so well within reach of regaining the lead.

"It was nice to jump out ahead like we did at the beginning of the game, so we can see some good things, but we have to learn how to maintain that throughout the game," Von Eye stressed. "But this is a learning process, and I really feel like the guys applied some things that we've been working on, and they started to execute better again in the second half."

Unfortunately, turnovers were once again a problem for the Dogies, and Sundance was

able to take advantage of those extra offensive possessions to extend their lead, finishing the third quarter with a 50-32 advantage. Newcastle finished the contest with 25 turnovers, but defense also did its work by forcing 20 turnovers on Sundance.

The Bulldogs narrowly outscored the Dogies by one point in the final frame to take the 65-46 win.

"One thing I was really pleased about, was that the guys were able to execute some things we put in on the fly that they haven't practiced yet," Von Eye said. "We had barely hit on pressure defense so far this year, but when we

drew it up during the last part of the game, the kids responded really well. That was invaluable for us as a teaching moment."

Quint Perino was dialed in and he finished the night as the Dogies' leading scorer, racking up 23 points. Zander White was next with nine, Wyatt Cole added four points, Thatcher Troftgruben and Pate Tavegie each chipped in three while JJ Lipp and Teddy Troftgruben scored two points each.

The Dogies now have three weeks to work on getting better before they open up conference play against the Torrington Trailblazers who come to town on Friday, Jan. 6.

Karpe from Page 6

sports activities over the weekend, coupled with the possibility of making up the missed basketball games, and the wrestling dual against Buffalo, I was finding it possible to try to get back into a positive state of mind about winter.

And then I looked at this week's wrap up of standings for basketball...

Here we are, heading into nearly a three-week hiatus from the sport, and I'm looking at conference teams who have already played six, seven, or even eight games in preparation for the kick-off of conference games in January, while Newcastle has only

played four.

Granted, it's one more game than the girls got last season prior to Christmas break, but it truly is frustrating to see Wheatland and Douglas going into the break with twice the number of games under their belts than either our girls or boys.

Obviously, there's nothing that can be done about the gap between the games played by other teams and ours, so I'm going to try very hard to recognize the fact that we didn't get hit that hard by Diaz, and that we got to make up a bit of what we missed, but I don't know how successful I will be in being able to Karpe Diaz.

NOTICE

If paying the 2022 property taxes in full, they are due and payable any time before December 31, 2022 to avoid interest.

The Weston County Treasurer's Offices will be closed Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of the New Year holiday.

Payments may be made the following ways:

- In person, at the Weston County Treasurer's Office at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY. Interest will be waived if taxes are paid in full on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.
- At the FirstTier Bank in Upton, WY, please take your statement with you. The full amount must be paid by Dec. 30, 2022 to avoid interest.
- In person, at our satellite office located in the City Hall Building in Upton, WY. We will be in Upton on Dec. 14th and 21st, 2022.
- By mail to Weston County Treasurer, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY 82701. It must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2022 to avoid interest.
- On our website at westongov.com. Go to the Treasurer's link and click on the "Pay Property Taxes Online" link. The total amount of taxes may be paid on or before December 31, 2022.

Susan Overman, Weston County Treasurer

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Challenging beauty: A snapshot of the arts

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

“I am a very vivid dreamer. I remember all of my dreams — I always have,” Keeara Rhoades said.

Those dreams inspire many of her art projects. Combining her subconscious thoughts with her love of art history, Rhoades collects old photographs from wherever she can, and uses them in her pieces. This is what folks can expect if they stop to take in her 33-minute multimedia exhibition, “The Shape of a Corner,” which is being featured at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Mont.

“This immersive multimedia installation includes a stop-motion animated film, lyrical soundscape produced in collaboration with musician, Brian Wetzstein (Rhoades’ husband), as well as photographs and original 1860s era glass-plate negatives translated into the film,” a YAM press release states.

Rhoades said art often takes “something that could be complex” and shows its beauty and complexity in a simple way. For her, she said, she often does the opposite. She takes something simple and makes it complex, finding beauty — and even challenging beauty.

“(I) warp that literal thing and try to push the boundaries of something that might otherwise be cliché and move it into something that might be more immersive ... and challenge its form,” Rhoades said.

“Keeara’s dedicated studio practice allows her to deeply explore complex conceptual themes beautifully expressed through her technical and creative proficiency as a multimedia artist,” museum curator Lisa Ranallo said.

“This was a project that needed to be seen, and it was created on-site.”

The ending scene of her film is called “Hidden Mothers,” and is inspired by the Victorian era. Because the mortality rate was so high at that time, Rhoades said, many mothers wanted to photograph their infants.

Because there was usually an additional sitting fee for mothers to be in the photo, usually just the infant was photographed, but the mother, cloaked by a blanket or a curtain, held the baby in the background to keep it calm and still so the photo wasn’t distorted.

Inspired by that, Rhoades used herself as the hidden mother, holding a porcelain doll. During the scene, the exposure builds up until she gradually comes into full visibility. Rhoades explained that this illustrates how mothers are often “under the cover” — or invisible — not receiving any credit yet fulfilling a “vital role.”

“That’s just a mother’s thing,” she said.

“Keeara has the ability to build very complex worlds and interpret them through a myriad of media and skills to share with viewers. This requires not only a strong intellect and talent, but years of experience and understanding of our field. She is just an extraordinary artist,” said Hanita Schwartz, a fellow artist and Rhoades’ best friend.

Both Schwartz and Rhoades are in the early stages of a collaboration art project, and while it’s too soon to share the details, they are excited to be working on it together.

“I admire Keeara’s good heart, integrity, generosity and persistence — her ability to engage in deep conversations and complex topics while being a compassionate listener. Her loyalty as a friend is unmatched,” Schwartz said.

Rhoades from Page 1



Submitted photo

Keeara Rhoades, formerly of Newcastle, is pictured in costume at the YAM Masquerade Ball in October where she photographed guests on her exhibition backdrops.

Ratts. “She was my challenge child. And it’s really hard when everyone else in the family uses the other side of the brain. ... She’s the only one who’s artistic in the family.”

But that free spirit is what formed Rhoades into the artist she is today. Ratts acknowledged that Rhoades didn’t misbehave maliciously, so it was hard for her as a parent to navigate cultivating her daughter’s artistic potential but still enforcing the rules.

“She didn’t do it out of disrespect. ... She’s on a different plane,” Ratts said. “It was a little harder, but she turned out amazing. ... She’s a very inspirational professor, and we’re proud of her.”

Although she didn’t always appreciate it at the time, now that Rhoades has been on her own out in the world, she’s grown to appreciate her small-town upbringing. She is now married to Brian Wetzstein and raising a family on her own, and said she relies heavily on the structure she grew up with.

“There’s something about how I grew up in Newcastle that gave me the idea to move out on my own and go do stuff,” Rhoades said. “That small-town sentiment can help you push the boundaries of what your influences are.”

Rhoades’ area of expertise is in photography and art history, and she remembers always taking pictures, posing siblings and friends whenever she had the chance.

“That was always kind of my language. I received my first camera when I was 8 years old,” she said.

She took a few sculpture courses at Newcastle High School, but because photography wasn’t available she wasn’t able to develop that passion until after graduating in 1996.

She went to Chadron State College to study pre-med, and art was never on her radar. During an organic chemistry class, however, a professor told her she was a visual learner, and that’s when the wheels started turning. She changed her major and graduated with a degree in photojournalism and graphic arts in 2000.

“That has really been an enlightening aspect to my life,” Rhoades said. “I think that I find



that motivating in a lot of ways to work with that form.”

“She’s very driven. She sees things the rest of us don’t see,” her mom added. “When she focuses on something, she can see it in her mind and knows how she wants it to turn out.”

After college, Rhoades went to work for a corporation in Indianapolis as a web designer and took some art classes on the side.

“There’s something about how I grew up in Newcastle that gave me the idea to move out on my own and go do stuff ... That small-town sentiment can help you push the boundaries of what your influences are.”

— Keeara Rhoades

“I just decided I wanted to go into full-on art school and learning everything about the arts,” she said.

In 2005, she earned her bachelor’s degree in fine arts, summa cum laude, for photography and art history at the Herron School of Art and Design, Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis.

For Rhoades, studying art history allowed her to find role models in artists such as Rembrandt and Leonardo Da Vinci. As she started learning the history of art, she understood everything else in the world — material, time and even math — through the lens of art.

“I never realized how art really is philosophy,” Rhoades said. “Because I’m a very visual thinker, art is my way to see and express and relate.”

Rhoades moved to Seattle and

obtained her master’s degree in fine arts at the University of Washington in 2008. She taught as an art professor until 2016 when a teaching position for a photography and media art program at the University of Montana opened up.

Rhoades decided to take the job because it allowed her to be closer to her hometown roots, and “do what I love to along the way.”

Ratts said Rhoades has made many sacrifices on her journey, and although the Billings position was a “step down in the college world,” it was a better job situation for her family.

“She chose to come to Montana to be closer to home,” Ratts said.

And that opened the doors for Rhoades to display her art at YAM. Normally, the artist in residence position only lasts a year, but due to the pandemic, Rhoades’ work has been on display for three years and occupies one of the main galleries.

“We were especially interested in her as a multimedia artist with ideas for interacting with our visitors. Due to the pandemic, the residency was put on hold, and Keeara could continue working for a second year and a half in the museum’s art studio,” Ranallo said.

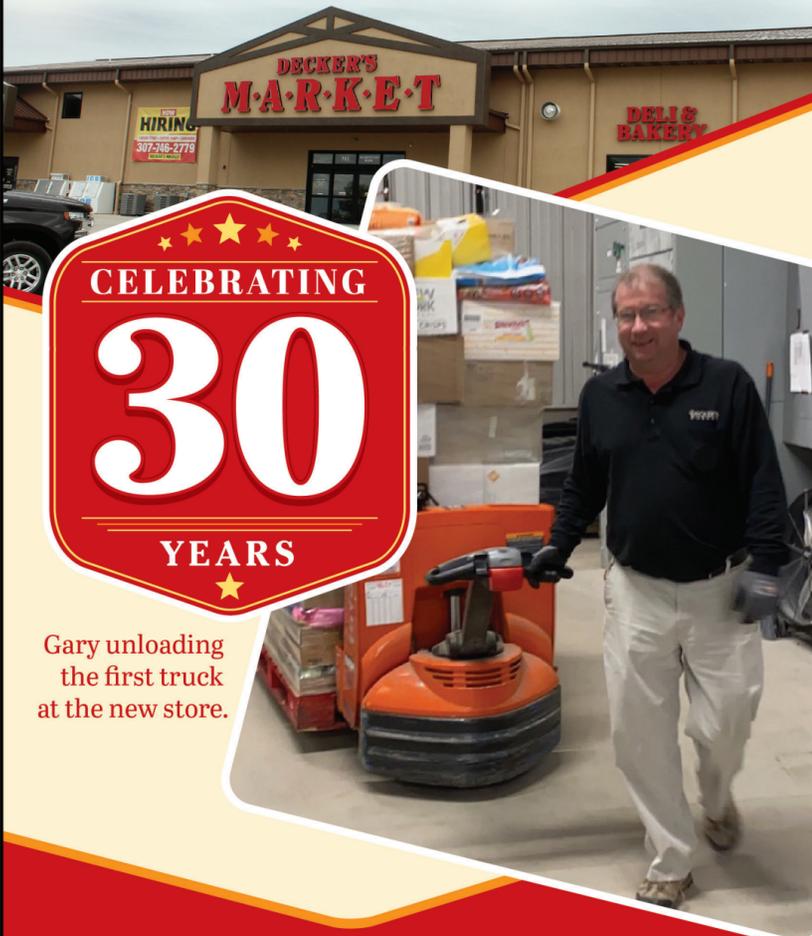
“I’m glad to see her accomplishments are being recognized. She’s very talented,” Ratts continued. “Of course, as her mother, it’s one of my prouder moments. ... She does amazing work, and she’s a wonderful artist.”

Rhoades is now working toward tenure and is hoping to have her work displayed in a second museum. Meanwhile, she is keeping herself busy by working on collaboration art projects with her Israeli friend, Hanita Schwartz, and her students.

“Collaboration is huge because I want my students to critically think and problem solve,” Rhoades said. “I always work collaboration into my advanced classes.”

Her media class is currently working with a ballet studio in Billings that will premier “Alice in Wonderland” in March, so her students are making the animations and digital backgrounds to be projected during the live performance.

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Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

Winter is upon us

The snow on the ground and ever-shortening daylight hours are a sure sign that winter is upon us. Along with feeding chores and breaking ice on tanks and troughs, the season brings industry and association meetings. I was glad to meet with the Johnson County Wool Growers at their annual meeting in early November, and I had the chance to meet with my fellow ag-focus extension educators from across the state at the University of Wyoming Extension conference in Casper a few weeks ago. I hope to see some familiar faces at the



Micah Most
Trail Notes

upcoming Natural Resources Rendezvous in Casper, hosted by the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, the Wyoming Wool Growers

Association, and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

The amount of daily sunlight might be shrinking, but the cost of agricultural inputs is certainly not. Decisions on whether or not to prepay for fertilizer before year's end, drought effects driving up the price of harvested forages and global turmoil that is contributing to new fuel price records are making the already stressful work in agriculture even more so. Add to that mental load the pressures of the holiday season, and the burden might become too much to bear. The good news is this: folks in agriculture never have to bear it alone.

Family, neighbors and community members can often offer the support to help someone through a rough patch, but sometimes that help can fall short. Through no fault of their own, they may simply not have the skills or tools to get to the heart of the matter. It can also be difficult for a person to feel comfortable asking for help. Does that sound familiar? I think

— See Most, Page 14

Newcastle parish finally gets its priest

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

“Since I was just a pup, I loved learning about God,” said Kenli Barling, the new rector of Christ Episcopal Church.

Due to traveling, Barling’s only been here for about a month, but she said she already feels welcomed by the community.

“It’s been a delight. The folks in Newcastle are really friendly,” she said.

The Newcastle parish has been without a priest for a few months. Before that the priest from Buffalo commuted three times a month, so the head bishop assigned Barling to the Newcastle region, which also includes Wright and Sundance. Worship is conducted weekly in Wright and once a month in Sundance.

“This is the first time in 20 years we’ve had a full-time priest living here,” said Janet Hutchinson, junior warden and pledge clerk of the church. “We’re real pleased to have a full-time minister.”



Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ
Rev. Kenli Barling moved to Newcastle in October as the new priest at Christ Episcopal Church. She is looking forward to meeting everyone in the community.

Growing up in Meeteetse, Barling said, she always enjoyed learning about God and remembers writing and filing Scriptures on recipe cards for her own use as a junior high student. Her mom told her that was what concordances were for, and bought her one as a high school graduation gift.

Barling was ordained as a priest in 2020, and served as a deacon before that. Before landing the position in Newcastle, she traveled to churches across the state to see what their needs were as the “minister” for congregational care for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming.

“She’s very uplifting and full of the good news,” Hutchinson said. “She just brings a spark to the church with her enthusiasm.”

Barling hasn’t always been Episcopalian, but she has lived all over Wyoming and held many jobs throughout her life, including a teaching position in her hometown. During that time, she considered herself to be “church shopping.”

— See Barling, Page 14

Christmas carols



Photos by Hannah Gross/NLJ

Bracing the frigid winter air, a group of carolers met at the First Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 18, to spread some Christmas joy in the community. Above, Melissa Lanctot directs the singers at Weston County Manor. Next to her are her daughters, Madeline and Lydia Lanctot, and Harrison Gross. Left, Lilabeth Hach sings, “We wish you a Merry Christmas” to the group of carolers after they returned from the cold to warm up at the church with hot chocolate and cookies.

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Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 25th

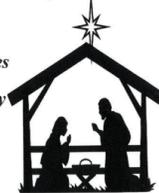
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Newcastle Dogies

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2022-23




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6th Grade
 Front row: Serenity Kline, Karlie Washburn, Brianna Schofield, Adrianna Schofield, Lilly Patterson. Back row: Coach Crystal Stevens-Benson, Natalie Dean, Olivia Watt, Jasmyne Reynolds, Breelee Loeb, Kaia Pederson, Hana Alexander



Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography

editor@newsj.com

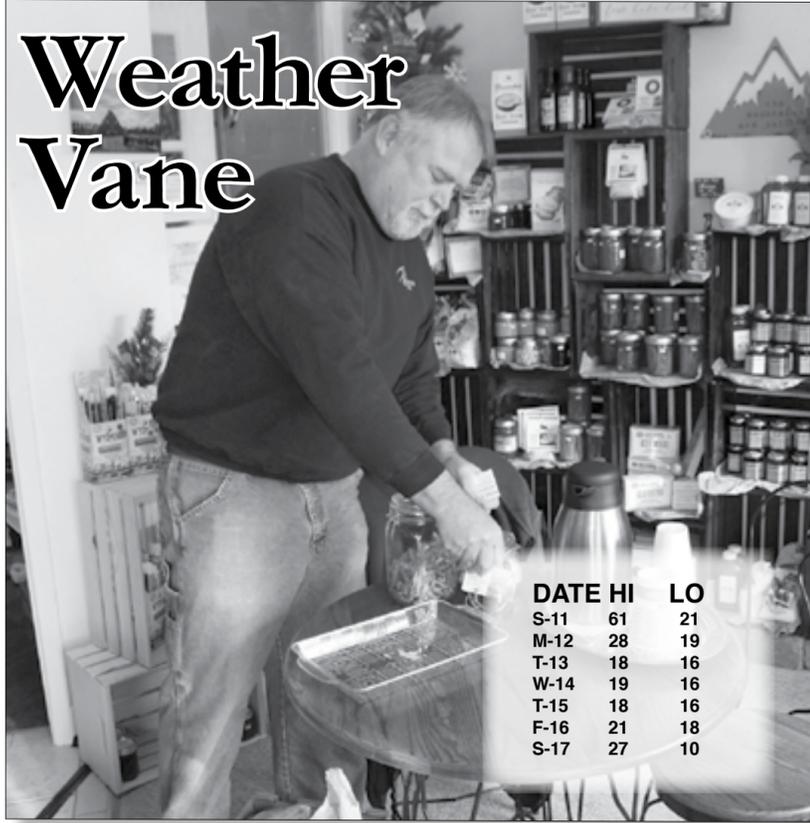
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W-14	19	16
T-15	18	16
F-16	21	18
S-17	27	10

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Missing men found dead

GILLETTE (WNE) — Two men who drove onto the frozen Keyhole Reservoir trying to rescue a man missing in the water became lost in the open water themselves Thursday night and were found dead Sunday.

The man who was first lost in the water, along with another man who rode with the two found Sunday, were each taken to Campbell County Memorial Hospital for treatment Thursday night, according to a Crook County Sheriff's Office statement.

The rescue and response efforts began when a man was reported to have fallen through the ice while riding a utility terrain vehicle on the ice covering Keyhole Reservoir at about 9:10 p.m. Thursday.

The man who called 911 had made it out of the water and was lying on the ice. Three locals arrived on the scene driving a UTV onto the ice about the same time the Pine Haven Fire Department and EMS responded.

Witnesses said they lost sight of the UTV as it

drove across the frozen reservoir. The vehicle and citizens were believed to have driven into open water.

The first person to fall through the ice was found that night during a search by the Crook County Sheriff's Office, Keyhole State Park employees, emergency personnel from Pine Haven and Moorcroft and Wyoming Game and Fish.

A second person, believed to be one of the three who drove onto the lake after, was found and removed from the ice.

The two men pulled from the ice were taken by ambulance to Campbell County Memorial Hospital. The other two were not found at that time.

The search was suspended at 11 p.m. Thursday until Friday morning because of wind gusts, snow, poor visibility and cold temperatures.

Recovery efforts continued through the weekend. The two missing men were found about 4 p.m. Sunday.

This story was published on Dec. 18, 2022.

N/ARCHIVE
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Buchanan sworn in as judge

TORRINGTON (WNE) — Former Wyoming Secretary of State Edward Buchanan was sworn in as the newest judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court of Wyoming on Friday, Dec. 9.

Buchanan served in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 2003 to 2013. He was appointed by Gov. Matt Mead to serve the remainder of Secretary of State Ed Murray's term after Murray's resignation.

Buchanan, who was then elected to a full term in 2018, ran for re-election in 2022. He resigned last September to accept the judgeship position in Torrington.

During Buchanan's swearing in ceremony, several members of the Wyoming judiciary and state government spoke on behalf of his suitability for the position, which was attended by Sen. John Barrasso and Gov. Mark Gordon.

"Winston Churchill said, 'Sometimes men stumble on the truth. Most of them get up immediately, dust themselves off and hurry along. But a few of them stay and examine it,'" Gordon said. "That is what Ed does, he looks for the truth, he often finds it, sometimes he stumbles on it, but he is always consistent and wants to make sure he has the truth."

This story was published on Dec. 16, 2022.

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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

A	M	E	N	D	M	I	D	S	N	O	W
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6	4	8	5	9	2	7	1	3
7	9	3	4	1	6	5	8	2
2	5	1	7	8	3	9	4	6

- VACATION DESTINATIONS**
- ACROSS**
- Walt Whitman's dooryard plant
 - Bag, \$ Paris
 - Sound of astonishment
 - Smell of baking bread, e.g.
 - Self-importance
 - Ma Bell, e.g.
 - List of Catholic saints
 - Bobbsey twin
 - Donor's bequest
 - *Country to see Stonehenge
 - *Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle
 - Tokyo, in the olden days
 - Way off freeway
 - Gremlin or pixie
 - Assistant
 - Crunches alternative (2 words)
 - Mountain lake
 - Thailand, pre-1939
 - Parlor piece
 - *Maldives continent
 - Plaudit and pomp
 - Unadulterated
 - Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
 - Red carpet purse
 - Pelvic bones
 - Gives way under force
 - Like acne-prone skin
 - Pose a question

- Letter opener
 - Morse code dash
 - *Grand Canyon state
 - *Broadway state
 - Loaded
 - Marbled bread
 - Bad car
 - South Pacific sailboats
 - "_____ Milk?"
 - Related on mother's side
 - Unload on eBay
 - Gilligan's home
 - Tap, e.g.
- DOWN**
- Spike, as in punch
 - Iraq's neighbor
 - Like a maxi skirt
 - Soap plant
 - *One of two countries to see Niagara Falls
 - Mail a package
 - Agha, alt. sp.
 - Gloria Estefan's hit
 - Disease-causing organism
 - One of algae
 - Diagnostic test
 - One-trick unicorn?
 - Sluggish
 - _____canceling earbuds
 - Ambulance squad, acr.
 - RE/MAX agent, e.g.

- *Amalfi Coast country
- Kenyan tribesman
- Amazon "club"
- Vegas cube
- Cone-shaped quarters
- Throat dangler
- *Mona Lisa city
- Go stealthily
- Nervous biting victim
- *Haleakala, island
- Accent mark
- Software plug-ins
- Barack Obama, pre-pres.
- Waived
- Frustration, in a comic book
- Laughing African predator
- *Swiss or Italian skiing destination
- Steak option
- "White Wedding" Billy
- Eagerness
- Post-deductions amount
- Yemen's neighbor
- College cadet program
- ACL location
- Uncle Sam wanted this

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Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth

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December 22, 2022

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Weston County Children's Center is now accepting applications for full and part time positions to include administrative assistant, kitchen assistant, classroom aides and subs, and maintenance.

Please apply in person at 104 Stampede. WCCC is an EOE.

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Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for a custodial position. Applications are available on the school website at wcsd1.org or at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY., during normal office hours. Positions will be open until filled. EOE



Washakie County Planner Position Available

Full time Planner for Washakie County. Person responsible for administration of the planning department. Job description and benefits at www.washakiecounty.net. Salary dependent on qualifications and experience. Email application to clerk@washakiecounty.net. Open until filled.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST



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Barling from Page 9

She belonged to a Bible study fellowship, and as a part of the leadership, she was required to serve in a church. Barling's father and two sisters went to an Episcopal church, so when a local Episcopal church needed a children's leader, Barling and her friend volunteered, and she stuck with it.

It was a learning experience from the beginning, and she soon fell in love with the "beautiful liturgy" of the denomination. She was baptized into the church when she was 50 years old, and it has all unfolded since then.

"I think it's a fascinating religion because it is a curious one — in the sense that curiosity is OK," she said. "It's been a great journey."

Barling hopes to instill love and inclusivity into the congregation — something she believes her congregation understands already.

"They're a very loving congregation, and that's the center of the Episcopalian belief," she said. "I would like to let people know that diversity is appreciated — diversity of beliefs, diversity of gender."

Barling defines inclusivity as "every manner of gender identity, every manner of beliefs, meeting people where they're at."

"You don't need to have a perfect match to be part of a group that's ready to learn, love, care, move in God's grace and see people as God's creation and marvelously made," Barling said.

She wants to help people in their walk with God by growing along with them.

"Along in that walk, if people are looking for more spirituality in their lives, somehow I can lead that or help. We can walk together on that path, meaning that we're

trying to figure ways outside the box — not just in church every Sunday," she said.

In the past, Barling has enjoyed book studies with many different denominations, and she enjoys group studies where everyone is learning together, rather than one person teaching and the rest listening. She said she was excited to see the people of Newcastle so involved in their churches.

"That's great that there are so many churches and that they are connected in a faith," she said. "It's good if you all don't think exactly alike — that's what makes it juicy."

Although she's busy unpacking and getting settled in, Barling is getting to know people in whatever ways she can and hopes to meet with the ministerial association soon.

"I've heard it's a fabulous one," she said.

The members of the

“I would like to let people know that diversity is appreciated — diversity of beliefs, diversity of gender.”

— Kenli Barling

Episcopal church help out with the food truck that WYO Help organized to come to Newcastle once a month, and already Barling has spent a Saturday volunteering at the food truck.

"She's a very hard worker," Janet said.

"I call her a good ol' country girl," said Hutchinson's husband Mike, who serves as the senior warden at the church.

The weekly worship service is held at 4 p.m. on Sundays, and Barling decided to leave

it in the evenings, so she can teach at Wright in the morning without having to drive home in the dark. She also began a prayer and meditation night on Wednesday nights that the whole community is welcome to join.

"We're pretty flexible, so we're willing to do anything she wants to try," Mike said.

Barling has been especially impressed with how hard the congregation in Newcastle works. The congregation is small, so everyone pitches in to get the job done, whether it's maintaining the building, selecting the music or creating the bulletins.

"Everybody works together," Mike said. "That's how we've been able to keep going. We're really hoping to grow. We have a lot to offer the community."

Barling is "very available," according to Mike, and is willing to help anyone with

their needs. Whether it's for baptisms, marriages, and funeral services or "just a friend to talk to" and wanting to seek the Lord.

"We're just blessed ... (and) very thankful to have her," Mike said.

"She has a lot to offer in the community and the church," Janet said. "We just hope the community will welcome her and be willing to let her get involved. ... We're all in this together to love and serve the Lord."

Barling has two grown daughters — the oldest lives in Oregon with two sons and the youngest lives in Fort Collins. She can't wait to get plugged into the community and, as a sports lover, she's excited to attend volleyball, football and basketball games.

"I don't see myself leaving soon," Barling said. "Already I cannot imagine moving away."

Most from Page 9

there is a proud, stubborn streak in most of the farmers and ranchers I know. While that "cowboy up" attitude can be the factor that keeps an operation running, it can also contribute to a crisis. Wyoming has the highest suicide rate in the country. National data show that workers in agriculture have significantly more deaths by suicide relative to the population average. Taken together, these reveal that Wyoming agricultural producers are more at risk than many other Americans.

The 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline was activated nationwide this summer to provide free, confidential, 24/7 support for people in crisis. The 988 Lifeline

is available to anyone at any time who may be experiencing suicidal ideation, mental or emotional distress or substance abuse. Dialing 988 will connect directly to the Veterans Crisis Lifeline and offers access to personnel trained to support veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members and their families and friends.

There may be hesitation by some in agriculture to reach out to the 988 Lifeline because farmers and ranchers experience very specific stressors that may not be well understood by staff. For example, a recommendation to take two weeks off for recovery and healing is not helpful for a primary operator who

Upcoming Events

Pesticide Private Applicator Recertification

Jan. 30: Buffalo, 1-5 p.m., Fairgrounds Community Building

Jan. 31: Kaycee, 1-5 p.m., Red Wall Community Center

Feb. 13: Lusk, 8 a.m.–noon, or 1-5 p.m., location TBA

March 11-13: Wyoming Bee College, Cheyenne

has livestock to feed. Because of this, the AgriStress Network, in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture,

has created the AgriStress Helpline: 833-897-2474. This free and confidential service is available for people who work in the agriculture industry, and the network is currently active in Wyoming, Texas, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Support staff that receive calls are trained in agricultural topics and are sensitive to the unique pressures and challenges faced by farmers and ranchers. More resources and information can be found by searching online for the AgriSafe Network.

This time of year can evoke a range of emotions. The sights, sounds and scents can trigger painful memories of years past or remind us of a person not there to celebrate

with us this year. I ask that we all be gentle with each other and with ourselves this holiday season. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or call 833-897-2474 to reach the AgriStress Helpline.

Until next year, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Micah Most is the Agriculture and Natural Resources educator with University of Wyoming Extension serving Johnson County. He can be reached at 307-684-7522, mmost@uwyo.edu or connect on Facebook and Instagram @ UW Extension Johnson County.



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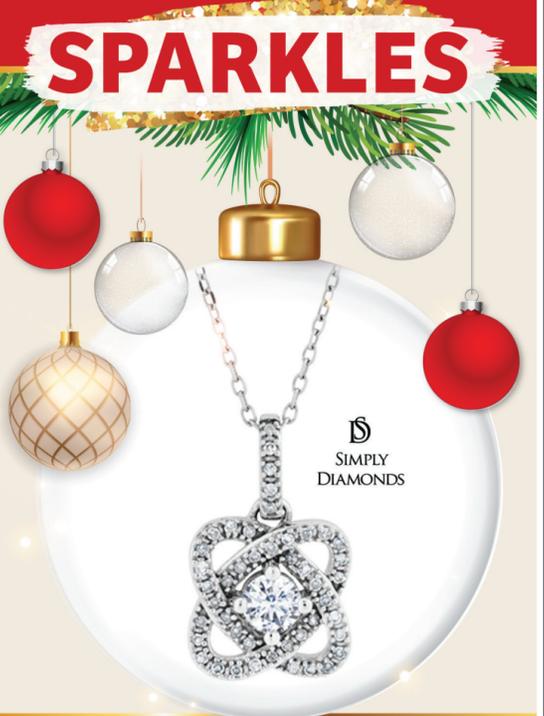


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2022 A LOOK BACK

the year's top stories

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All the news, that made the news ...

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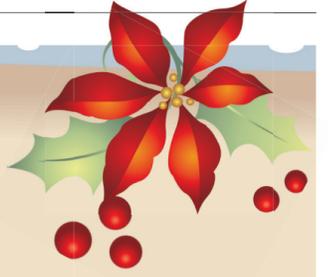
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Santa

& Holiday Wishes



Dear Santa,
all I want for Christmas is...

I like rainbow unicorns and I want a rainbow bike.

Adalyn Tupa, 4
Love,

Dear Santa,

A Spiderman toy.

Liam Flores, 5
Love from

Dear Santa:

I want a robot.

Azen Kline, 5
With Love,

Dear Santa,
all I want for Christmas is...

I really like to do stuff. I really want to play games with my Mom. I wanted hundreds of bows and arrows and guns.

Jacob Etchford, 5
Love,

Dear Santa,

I need some headphones and guns.

Charles Sadler, 5
Love from

Dear Santa,
all I want for Christmas is...

I want a nerf gun and I want a stuffie and a bow and arrow and a book. That's it. And a Santa hat.

Zoey Jewett, 5
Love,

Dear Santa,

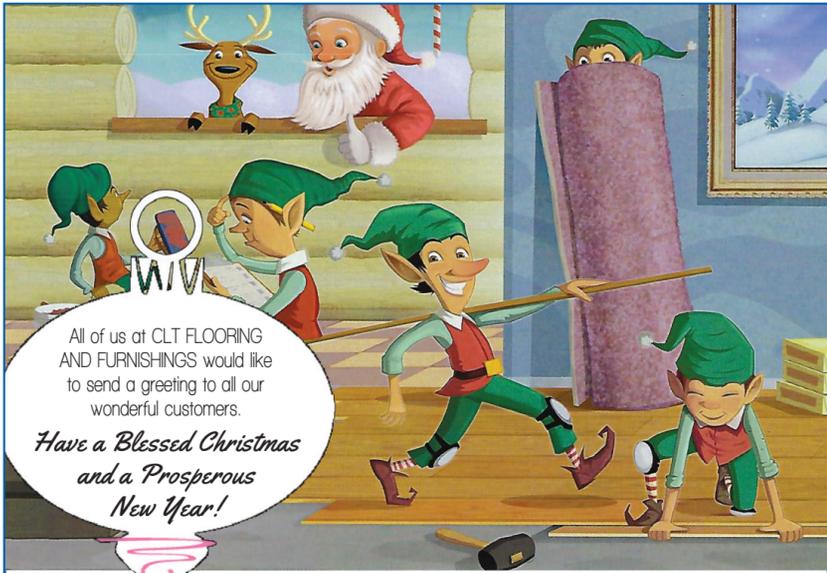
I want Buzz Lightyear, Woody, a pirate, a toy gun, a toy car, and a toy fish.

Ronan Shaw, 5
Love from

Dear Santa:

I want some toy reindeers. I want a toy Santa. I want a tree I can decorate with ornaments. A toy snowmobile and a guy because the other one is broken.

Tavern Liggett, 5
With Love,



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Dear Santa:

Can I have a bouncy ball that squishes and goes back to its shape. Oh, and a nerf gun.

With Love, Adinn Boone, 5

Dear Santa,

all I want for Christmas is...

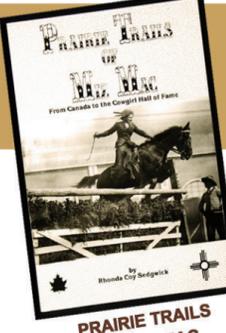
I want a dolphin and I think that's all.

Stryker Croucher, 5

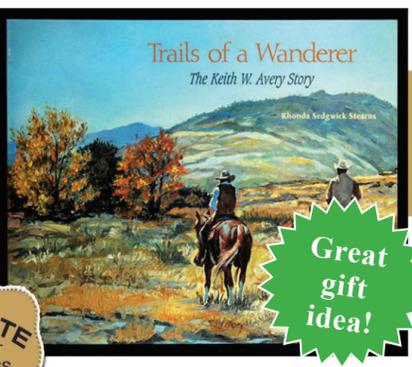
Love, *[Signature]*

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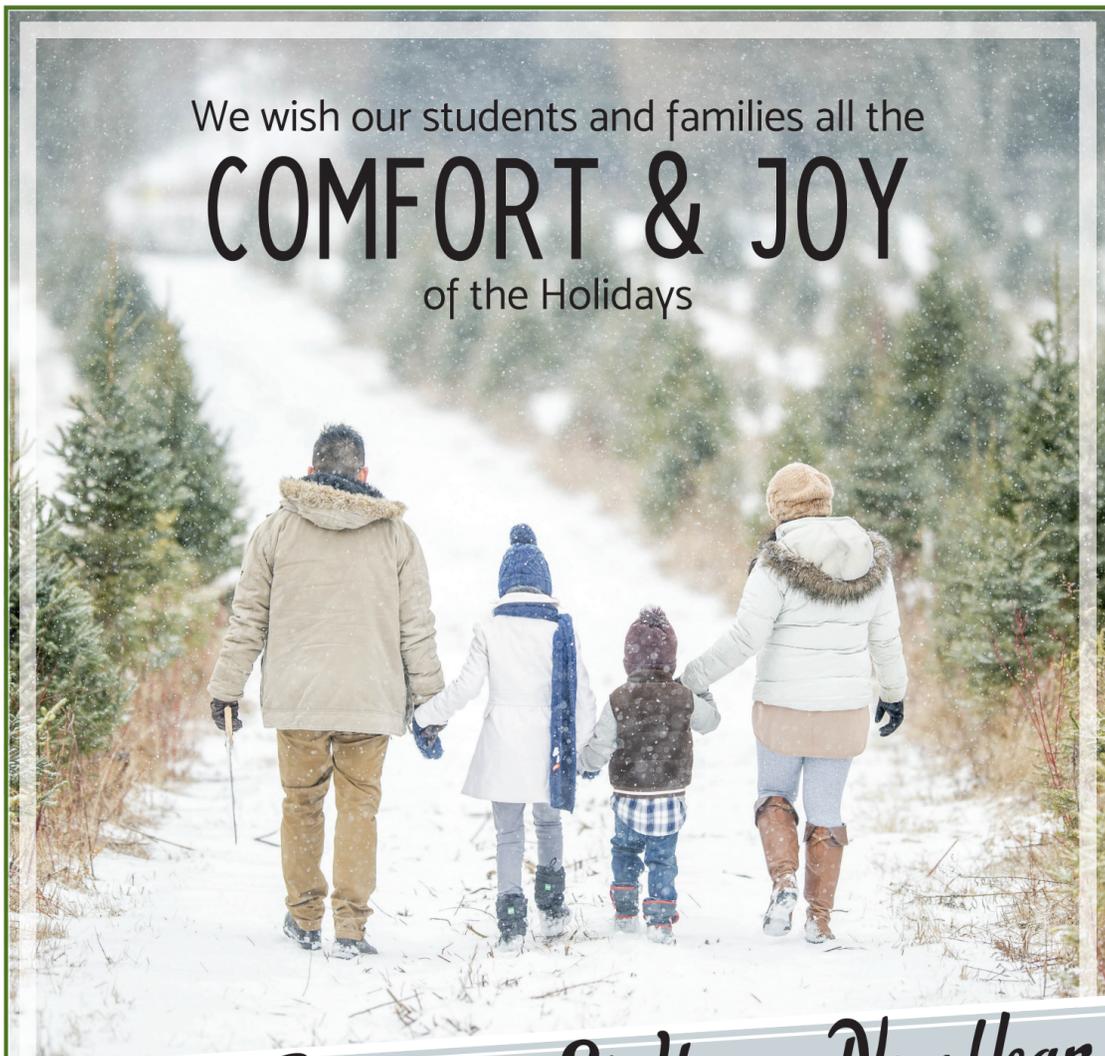


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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We are always grateful to have enjoyed the joyous sound of this community's children in our classrooms and hallways. Thank you for the faith and trust you put in us as we navigated the challenges of 2022.

Weston County School District #1 • wcsd1.org



Look for the winners of the NLJ Christmas Coloring Contest in next week's edition!



The Christmas spirit was alive and well in Crouch Auditorium on Sunday, Dec. 11, for Weston County Community Cantata's presentation of "Love Came Down at Christmas," by Joel Raney. The community looks forward to this annual production, and around 250 people came to experience the talent of the choirs. The youth and adult handbell choirs performed several song selections, then a short intermission was held before the cantata choir began. Mark Sylte narrated the cantata, and the cantata closed with the audience joining the choir to sing "Silent Night." Above, Sophie Gray and Lizzy Foote perform with the youth handbell choir, Bells of Glory, under the direction of Elaine Wilcomb. Upper right, Joyce Diedrich, who started and directed the cantata for a decade, still sings in the choir. At right, Walter Sprague presents cantata accompanist Karen Spears with a gift for sharing her time and talent with the choir. Below, the handbell choir performs.



Photos by Kim Dean and Hannah Gross/NLJ

**Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses:		
Dec. 24	5PM	St. Anthony, Upton
Dec. 24	7:30PM	Corpus Christi
Dec. 25	Midnight	Corpus Christi
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:		
Dec. 31	5PM	Corpus Christi
Dec. 31	5PM	St. Anthony, Upton
Jan. 1	8AM	Corpus Christi
Epiphany of our Lord:		
Jan. 7	5PM	Corpus Christi
Jan. 8	8AM	Corpus Christi
Jan. 8	5PM	St. Anthony, Upton
Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:		
Jan. 9	7AM	Corpus Christi

746-4219 • 19 W Winthrop • Newcastle, WY • 82701

Christ Episcopal Church of Newcastle, its Priest, Rev. Kenli Barling, and members, would like to wish the community a Christ-filled Christmas. As we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Lord, may His presence be with you in the coming year and always!

**Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.**

 **Christ Episcopal Church of Newcastle**
310 Summit Ave., Newcastle WY 82701
(307) 746-9684



Merry Christmas!



Ranchers Feed & Supply, Inc.
Newcastle, Wyoming

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The staff of the News Letter Journal would like to wish everyone a

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you for your patronage in 2022.
We look forward to serving you in 2023.

We will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 & on Monday, Jan. 2

NEWS LETTER JOURNAL
14 W. Main St., Newcastle WY 82701 • (307) 746-2777





For Black Friday, both Attic Treasures and Rancher's Feed and Supply held Christmas Open Houses, complete with goodies and guests. At Attic Treasures, there was coffee and a hot champagne drink, along with all kinds of brownies, cookies, and a meat and cheese tray, were available to all who came in. Rancher's featured guest vendors, allowing them to offer their wares along with special discounts at the store. Far left, Carmen Simon visits with Linda Hunt at Attic Treasures. At left, Martin and Jami Gomez.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Black Friday fun



Above, MacKenzie Jackson looks through clothing for sale at the table for Donner's Hope Shop, run by Janet Donner and Sharon Callander, who are wearing festive hats. At right, Barb Crow enjoys a cup of coffee and talks with Jordan Blake and Archie Callander, who are manning the table for Operation Santa at Rancher's Feed and Supply.



Merry Christmas
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TIM CARR
Aug. 16, 1965
- Jan. 25, 2020

Merry Christmas
- Deb Carr



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Merry Christmas

FROM ALL OF US AT
Advanced Communications
1807 W. Main St. • Newcastle, WY • (307) 746-9614 • M-F 9AM-5:30PM

Merry Christmas
from all of us at Mondell Heights Retirement Community

Charlotte Williams	Arlys Alger
Donna Gochanour	Louise Habig
Lyle Ackley	Charlotte Dotson
Merilyn Scheck	Wally Rich
Marilyn McKenzie	Faye Jackson
Orrin (Bo) Pickett	Lois Johnson
Stan Rennard	John Berdahl
Rita Cook	Mike & Arielee
Bubbles Brown	Dutcher

Don, Ruth and the entire Mondell Staff

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Merry Christmas



& Happy New Year!

FROM WAYNE AND DENISE ANDERSON

WAYNE'S HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from our ENTIRE TEAM

WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

1124 Washington Blvd., Newcastle WY 82701
www.wchs-wy.org | Hospital 746-4491
WC Newcastle Clinic 746-6720 | WC Upton Clinic 468-2302
Manor 746-2793 | Therapy Services 746-3720
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WARM AND BRIGHT.

From cozy nights by the fire to gathering 'round the glowing tree, we're grateful to fuel the memories you create this holiday season.

BN
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The Chick family- David, Tina, Aidan and Avery

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dachick@ft.newyorklife.com
1 South Seneca Avenue, Ste. B Newcastle, WY 82701

LET THE CHILD IN YOU COME OUT TO PLAY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. OUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOUR FAMILY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NEWCASTLE EQUIPMENT

RON, MARY, CHRIS, TONIA, KYLE, KAYLA, KARBEN, TYLER, ASHLYNN, & NANCY

Happy Holidays

from your local library!

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UPTON BRANCH: 722 4TH STREET, UPTON, WY, (307) 468-2324

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From all of us at **Voelker's Auto Body and Glass**

We would like to thank everyone for their support in 2022!
(307) 746-9378

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



Celebrate the Season
Here's to all good things this holiday season.



Jeff Virchow, CFP®, AAMS™
Financial Advisor
224 West Main Street
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-2667

MKT-981C-A



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Dear Santa,

all I want for Christmas is...

I want a gator. I wanted a cross bow and I want a bow and arrow. And I want a gun.

Orrin Owens, 5

Love, DR R

Dear Santa:

I want Woody, remote control snake, and a nintendo switch. IF I get a second one I want a remote control spider. And a remote control car and like an alarm clock for alarm stuff in my room.

With Love, Grant Simmons, 5






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10 Stampede St. - (307) 363-0999 - parpacific.com





Merry Christmas!

Ruth Taylor, Janice Heard, Kayla Mills, and Rebecca Reinhart



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Joy wonder
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The Spirit of Christmas

WISHING YOU BLESSINGS AND JOY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

Drive-up will be closed Saturday, Dec. 24



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Merry Christmas
& Best Wishes in the New Year



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nlj Complete this form, clip it and mail with check or credit card information to News Letter Journal, P.O. Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701; or order by phone at (307) 746-2777.

Like a weekly letter from home, they'll be reminded of your thoughtfulness all year long!

