



News Letter Journal

Weston County

January 12, 2017

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 131

Week 2

Her Honor

City's first woman mayor sworn in

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

When Deb Piana was officially sworn into office on January 3, she became the first female mayor in the history of Newcastle.

She was surprised it had taken so long for a woman to fill the seat.

"I am really surprised it took that long for a female to become mayor. There have been ladies in the past on the council that I thought would have done great," revealed Piana, who was elected in November after she qualified to run in the general election through a write-in campaign in the August primary.

It wasn't a desire to achieve a historic first that motivated the political newcomer to quickly put together a campaign and prevail over a seated member of the city council in less than three months time. Piana told the News Letter Journal that she had not originally planned on running for the office, but after the write-ins were counted she decided to move forward into the general election.

"As more and more people approached me, and I saw that people were really wanting a change, I decided to do it," Piana commented. She was pleased once the official tally was announced on November 8 and she knew that she had defeated



Deb Piana is not only the first female mayor of Newcastle, she is also the third generation of mayors in the McColley family. One of her major goals in her new position is to be more compassionate to the problems faced by citizens. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Don Steveson in a hotly contested race, but Piana was not the only one excited about her win.

Her father, former Mayor Don McColley, was happy to see his daughter's victory and proud that she will be following in his footsteps. He joined

several other members of Piana's family in the front row of chairs in the council chambers at City Hall to watch her be sworn in and conduct

— See Piana, Page 3

Legislators dive into new roles

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The 64th Wyoming Legislature began their 2017 General Session on January 10, and new legislators will be officially sworn in on January 11, the same day as governor's State of the State address to the joint session of the legislature. There won't be any new lawmakers representing Weston County this year, but the quartet of Republicans who represent this area did have to prepare for new committee assignments and roles in the legislature this year.

Representing Newcastle once again will be Representative Hans Hunt from House District 2 and Representative Tyler Lindholm from House District 1 after both won re-election in November. Neither of Weston County's senators, Curt Meier from Senate District 3 and Ogden Driskill from Senate District 1, were up for election in 2016, and both have returned to Cheyenne.

During this session, Lindholm hopes to work in his new position on the Minerals Committee on the landfill issues plaguing small towns across Wyoming.

"The landfill situation arguably is one of the biggest threats to small municipalities, which is my entire district," proclaimed Lindholm, who left the Ag Committee to take a seat on the Minerals Committee. He said Minerals deals specifically with the landfill issue,

— See Legislators, Page 8

Courthouse may start taking credit cards

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The Weston County Commissioners are considering allowing the use of credit cards to pay for fees and taxes at the courthouse after hearing from county officials that an inability to use cards to pay taxes or buy titles is probably one of the most consistent complaints heard from county residents.

"I see the value in it. I hear a lot of people want to be able to pay with a credit card at the counter or online, sometimes calling from a distance. I have to tell them 'No.' I also have

residents in Weston County that go elsewhere to do business so that they can use their credit card. They are willing to go to Crook County for services they need in the way they are accustomed to doing so. There is no way to calculate the lost revenue. We would be offering them something to entice them to stay and do business," County Clerk Jill Sellers said at the commissioner's January 3 meeting.

Commissioner Tony Barton revealed that he sees the same thing in Upton, noting that citizens do, in fact, go to different counties to pay sales taxes and

register their vehicles.

"We are losing some revenue there. It is hard to quantify what we are losing on recording fees," he said. "I am not so naive as to believe that we would turn it on and everyone's life would be easy, but down the road...It would serve our citizens better. I am in favor of it."

The commissioners have balked at allowing the use of credit cards in the past because of costs associated with the practice, and the proposal put before the commission last week would allow customers to pay with credit cards through the Instapayment system would

cost nearly \$18,000 to implement for the first year.

Although Instapayment will not charge the county transaction fees, that cost is a result of the need for Weston County to purchase a different system, called TylerTech, in order to be able to use Instapayment. The proposal from TylerTech for the Treasurer's Office will cost \$14,000 with an additional \$3,700 being charged for the Clerk's Office to be on the system.

"What happens is, the service is free but you have to have a platform to do it on," Commissioner Marty Ertman

explained.

Commissioner Tony Barton questioned what exactly the platform, TylerTech, could do, specifically whether or not customers could pay their taxes from home.

"I could see a benefit to logging in online to pay taxes and vehicle tags...I think it would save you guys a lot of time," commented Barton. Treasurer Susie Overman expressed that it may, but indicated she would have to have an employee monitoring those payments to make sure they are processed.

Annual fees would be

charged to use TylerTech after the initial setup, but it would cost significantly less than the \$18,000 the county would pay up front. While the Instapayment service would be provided to the county free of charge, customers would be required to pay a convenience fee.

Ertman explained that it will cost customers \$1.50 for charges under \$60, and anything over \$60 faces a charge of 2.9 percent. She asserted that courthouse employees must make certain that it is clear to

— See Cards, Page 7

Thinning grants available through NRCS

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The United States Department of Agriculture will invest \$225 million dollars in conservation projects across the country, and two of those projects will take place in northeast Wyoming. Three counties— Weston, Crook and Campbell— are slated to share \$1.28 million to be used towards the Forest Resiliency Project, which in the past has funded projects for better forage production for livestock and wildlife, as well as wild-fire prevention.

Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Paul Eitel and Weston County Natural Resource District Manager Lacey Sloan told the News Letter Journal that the \$1.28 million comes in the form of a partnership grant, with 10 partners throughout the three coun-

ties that will split the funds through a ranking system. Weston County also received an additional \$152,000 through grants to help with forest health projects strictly in this county.

"The grant will be set up on a ranking system similar to the current system we have," shared Eitel. He noted that all applicants will be ranked based on their criteria, and then the projects will be funded starting at the top until the money is gone.

Sloan acknowledged that this program offers the ability for continuous sign-up, and urged anybody interested to stop by and visit with Eitel or herself about applying for funding.

Northeastern Wyoming will have two years to use up the \$1.28 million in funding that the three counties applied for together. The money will all go towards forest health practices on private lands, and will

focus on tree thinning to help promote a healthy forest.

"This is all at no cost to the land owners. The NRCS and WCNRD were seeking these funds to help out the landowners," declared Sloan. She noted that one thing that helped the northeast region of the state receive this funding was a successful history in forest health practices.

"We had our foot in the door and boots on the ground, and that gave us some pull," maintained Sloan, who added that the application process was long and included a pre-application before local officials were allowed to proceed with the "full-blown application."

Any landowners interested in improving forest health on their private property are encouraged to contact either Sloan or Eitel at 746-3264 or stop by their office at 1225 Washington Blvd Suite 3.

Seeing is believing



County has experienced a visible decrease in smoking

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

A press release from the Wyoming Department of Health last month announced that the draft of an annual report on youth access to tobacco indicated that the state had experienced a slight increase, but was still well below the national average.

The 2017 Annual Synar Report draft for Wyoming is available online at <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/publications-and-reports/synar/>, but the county's prevention specialist said the change over the past decade in the attitude towards tobacco of young and old alike has been visible.

Tobacco trends in Weston County have changed significantly over the past dozen

years, according to Weston County Community Prevention Professional Kristi Lipp. She revealed that while survey results often don't provide an accurate assessment in counties with such a small population, her own perceptions of the community over that time make her confident the situation has improved.

"I don't like to speak for the whole task force, but I am comfortable saying that if you look at what we have done in the past and have been doing for 13 years, we have been very successful in starting to change those norms about tobacco use," commented Lipp, who recalled a time in Weston County when not a single restaurant was smoke free.

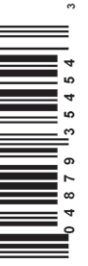
She can also remember, to this day, the day that Pizza Hut became the first in Newcastle to go smoke-free.

"I was in shock that we had one! Now if you look at the numbers, a majority of restaurants are smoke free. We made that transition, and started changing those norms," reported Lipp.

With this, according to Lipp, came a change in the way a majority of youth throughout

— See Tobacco, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Clear Hi 18, Lo 9	Friday Clear Hi 26, Lo 13	Saturday Clear Hi 30, Lo 13	Sunday Clear Hi 33, Lo 20	Monday Partly Cloudy Hi 35, Lo 21	Tuesday Clear Hi 36, Lo 24	Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi 40, Lo 29	INSIDE • Courthouse Damage, Page 3 • Community Man, Page 6 • Little Girl, Big Heart, Page 8 • Sports, Page 9



Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

Consolidation will fail here

A recently released annual report ranked Wyoming seventh in the nation in education quality, but our overall position was improved dramatically by the fact that the state ranked number one in education finance.

Unfortunately, the funding shortfall referenced in our page seven story, "School funding looms large," will probably result in the Cowboy State slipping in that particular ranking, but we're not particularly troubled by that.

What does worry us is a report that the legislature is considering the consolidation of some of the state's smaller school district as a way to generate cost savings in response to the lack of revenue available to fund education at the present level.

We whole-heartedly support the legislature's efforts to trim education spending, and acknowledge how difficult their choices will be, but think a consolidation of the two school districts in Weston County would be a significant detriment to not only the students, but also to the communities of Upton and Newcastle themselves.

While both towns would keep all of their students and schools under the consolidation proposal—which would simply eliminate some administrative and central office positions—we think one or both communities would suffer greatly from the loss of a superintendent who manages those schools and the services provided to those students.

In some of the state's larger districts, where superintendents are blessed by a cadre of assistant superintendents and other administrators who perform many of their duties, the majority of students and parents—and even some teachers—may have never met the superintendent. But that isn't the case in Newcastle or Upton, where the Superintendent of Schools occupies an important leadership role in not just the schools, but the community as a whole.

Neither of the small communities in Weston County can afford to lose a leader right now, and that is even more true for our schools, especially when you consider the fact that Wyoming was in the middle of the pack in the categories in last week's report that ranked schools based on achievement scores and student success. The state will have to be very careful to trim spending in areas that won't prove detrimental to our ability to rise in the rankings in those categories, and having a superintendent split time between the schools in Upton and Newcastle would undoubtedly harm student outcomes in both communities.

The legislature estimates that a little more than \$7 million could be saved by consolidating districts across the state, but that won't do much to address an anticipated \$1.8 billion shortfall by the end of 2022. At the end of the day, districts will still have to make cuts that have the potential to significantly harm student learning, and Upton and Newcastle will both need their superintendents to make sure that doesn't happen.

Deadline for Letters is noon on Friday

Teens favor government support for ag

Government hurts more than it helps with prairie dogs

Dear Editor,

Prairie Dogs are a deterrent to cattle, and cattle are threatened by prairie dogs everyday—especially recently. The government is trying to help with a cause many are worried about, but they are not realizing that prairie dogs have a great effect on the cattle industry.

There are many damages from prairie dogs to cattle, such as the grass being taken over by prairie dogs, and I think they should put prairie dogs on hunting list, and the government should quit trying to populate prairie dogs.

To begin, prairie dogs cause destruction to the grass the cattle eat, and prairie dog towns take over a plentiful space the cattle use.

The cattle need to have a great amount of space that has grass growing for them to eat, but when there is an abundance of prairie dog towns it makes it difficult for the cattle to find grass to eat.

Ranches need the grass to grow on their properties to feed their cattle. It is nearly impossible for the ranches to rely on the grass on their properties if most of it is taken over by prairie dog towns. Unfortunately, many ranches are taken over by an abundance of prairie dog town while the government is trying to populate prairie dog towns.

By putting prairie dogs on the hunting list it could benefit the federal government, ranchers and the town. When the prairie dogs are added to the hunting list, it will help bring in revenue. If ranchers allow hunters to come to their land, they can earn revenue for allowing them to shoot prairie dogs. The fee for hunting licenses could also be used wherever government chooses, so that is still a profit being made. Ranches would also benefit because they get prairie dogs killed on their ranch, and could actually make having prairie dogs a benefit.

The government is trying to populate prairie dogs, and over the years there have been many attempts, and the government wants to add prairie dogs to the endangered species list. Many believe it is just so that the prairie dogs cannot be killed any more.

As a result, both sides have spent bunches of

money because of the prairie dogs. The government has put money and time into trying to vaccinate the prairie dogs so that they cannot catch the plague. Ranchers have put bunches of money into trying to pay for hay because there is not very much grass.

The government is also attempting to build a safer spot for the prairie dogs on open land. One of the obvious flaws found in this idea is that the prairie dogs dig underground, so a fence is not the brightest idea.

Prairie dog population is very important to the government, so the government likes to watch the population of prairie dogs by coming and counting the approximate amount of them in an area. The government does many things to try and help increase the population of prairie dogs, even if it is not the smartest things to try and help.

There are many deterrents to cattle, but one of the many major ones is prairie dogs. Every day prairie dogs increase their towns, but that is a big threat to cattle. Prairie dogs cause harm to cattle by taking over their grass, and cattle get injured from prairie dog diggings.

—Kylie Auch

Subsidies are important for small ag operations

Dear Editor,

Droughts are certainly a problem in Wyoming, and ranchers sometimes have to rely on subsidies to get them through the hard times.

Agricultural subsidies should continue because they can protect food and local communities, help small farm owners, and keep farm families running their farms.

Protecting food and local communities is one of the advantages subsidies provide. Subsidies are one of the few pillars that keep farming communities running.

Large corporate owners are only in the Ag business for the money and not for the product. However, small town farm owners are here to keep their community thriving. Locals from these rural towns depend on their farmers to produce food for them to buy at local markets.

In 2010, Anuradha Mittal in an article titled "Agricultural Subsidies are Needed to Protect Food and Local Communities" in the Greenhaven Press,

Letters to the Editor

Trump doesn't want to get along

Dear Editor,

Mr. and Mrs. Skunk lived at the edge of the forest. They had twins named "In" and "Out."

When "In" was in the house playing, his brother "Out" was outside playing in the yard. When "Out" was in the house, "In" was outside playing in the yard.

One day "In" could not be found, though Mama Skunk looked high and low.

She asked her baby "Out" to help her look for his brother. "Out" came back shortly with his brother.

"How did you find him so quickly?" his mother asked.

"It was easy," he replied, "Instinct!"

And so it is with politicians. You can tell by the smell when they are not serving us well. It seems as if everyone in office is favoring someone other than us.

That makes trusting them difficult. That also paves the way for an "outsider" to harvest the votes that might have gone to a professional politician.

A talented grifter, using that knowledge and demonizing office holders or ex-office holders gains an electoral

advantage.

Telling lie after lie and even contradicting lies about his opponent to an audience of "true believers" cements his position as leader of the pack.

Uncritical "true believers" of a similar egomaniac led us into a "world of hurt" in the late 1930's. That was a catastrophe no one should ever have to experience.

Back then, the scapegoats were Jews, but now they are Hispanics and Muslims.

To paraphrase Rodney King, "Can't we all just get along?"

Apparently the policy of our newly elected leader is: "No, we can't! If Russia attacks our allies, the NATO Baltic states, we will not defend them because they did not pay us enough!"

That is very similar to the policy of the pirates of Tripoli during the late 1700's. That did not turn out so well for the pirates, and it will not turn out any better for us.

If we made a larger effort to inform ourselves, we would support better candidates and ultimately have better politicians.

If pigs had wings, they could fly. It must be time for a "do over."

Think about it!

—Jerry Baird



Need to talk to a public servant? School Board Trustees' contacts:

John Riesland (Board Chair)	746-2338
Tina Chick (Board Vice-Chair)	629-1010
Ronnie Mills (Board Clerk)	746-2473
Tom Wright (Board Treasurer)	746-2079
Joe Corley (Board Member)	941-1270
Dana Gordon (Board Member)	746-5116
Marcia Lambert (Board Member)	465-2268
Dean Johnson (Board Member)	746-9480
Dana Mann-Tavegia (Board Member)	465-2214
Superintendent Brad LaCroix	746-4451
Don Hansen (Attorney)	746-2761

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Student Views

Who



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What

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

Where

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Why

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

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—Dylon Tidyman

(Ed. note: The preceding letters were written for an assignment in Debb Proctor's Freshmen English class. Please send any responses to these letters to editor@news1j.com)

Looking for the leak



Scott Lindstrom uses a jet of water to loosen the soil around a broken water line in Frontier Addition on Monday. A leak at the curb stop at 104 Frontier Street caused a decent amount of ice to build up on the street over the weekend. City Engineer Mike Moore told the News Letter Journal that the leak began some time last Thursday evening, and city crews put out a ground-heater to thaw the ground over the weekend to begin working on the leak on Monday. Moore reported on Tuesday that the leak has been fixed, and that crews discovered it was caused by the water line pulling away from the curb stop. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Piana from page 1

her first council meeting last Tuesday evening.

"My dad brought it up to me that he is proud because I am actually a third generation mayor in the McColley family," acknowledged Piana, who revealed that her grandfather served as mayor in Chamberlain, South Dakota some time ago.

Piana, who grew up in Newcastle, said she hopes to make productive changes for the community while serving the voters who elected her to the position. She indicated that she plans to begin by opening the line of communication between citizens and the individuals elected to represent them on the Newcastle City Council.

"I would like to see the council listen. I think

we need to be more compassionate to people's problems and more open," maintained Piana, who asserts that everything should not be so "black and white" when it comes to handling the public.

The new mayor acknowledges that perceptions and attitudes may not shift so easily, but indicated that besides taking on the ever daunting task of fixing city streets, her main objective is bringing the community together and making them feel like one cohesive unit.

"The biggest challenge is going to be convincing others of the changes I want to happen, and maybe doing things different than they have been done before," professed Piana.

City Beats

Notes from the January 3 Newcastle City Council Meeting.

- Weston County Sportsman's Club President Dan Keierleber attended the meeting to discuss a proposed access road to the city's orange water tank that would pass through the club's shot gun range. Keierleber said the plan could threaten the club's ability to utilize the range, and expressed displeasure with city officials. Mayor Deb Piana expressed that she appreciated Keierleber's input, and informed him that negotiations were ongoing between the City of Newcastle and Clay

Andersen- the owner of the property on which the current road is located. She assured him that the council did not want to see the sportsman club leave.

- The council approved a resolution for Miners on Main that provides authorization for the facility to allow persons under the age of 21 to dine, with an adult, in the dispensing room at the new bar, which is located at Isabella's. Minors are not allowed to stand, sit or loiter within three feet of the bar itself, and must leave the dispensing room by 9 p.m.

- The drilling of Water Well #5 continues and City Engineer Mike Moore shared that the crews have hit 1,500 feet and installed some of the casing. The drillers must now drill another 1,000 feet to set intermediate casing.

- Chief of Police Jim Owens reported that all of the equipment stolen from the vehicle driven by Officer Brandon Vaughn to a training in Colorado has been recovered, with the exception of ceramic body armor. A warrant has been issued for the suspect, who is from Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

County fears settlement won't cover courthouse damage

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

At their January 3 meeting, the Weston County Commissioners instructed County Attorney William Curley to work with Clerk Jill Sellers to determine how best to ensure that the county receives a favorable settlement on an insurance claim filed for damages suffered when the Weston County Courthouse was flooded by a water line break last fall.

Weston County has officially received the first of three checks from their insurance company, and in the end the county will receive a total of \$44,930.76 for damages that occurred in the Weston County Assessor's Office and the Weston County Attorney's Office.

During their December 20 meeting, the Weston County Commissioners received an insurance claim update from County Clerk Jill Sellers, and determined that they did not believe that the amount is enough to fix the damages that were sustained during the

evening of November 21 when a water main that supplied the upstairs bathroom broke.

At the time of the December 20 meeting, no bids had been received on the remodeling and repairs needed at the courthouse, and the commissioners suggested that County Administrator Dan Blakeman get to work on that as soon as possible to determine if the insurance funds will be enough to cover the repairs.

"It doesn't sound like enough. I didn't think it was enough, I was very surprised," declared Sellers of the claim amount. "They said if the contract comes back for repairs different than what they paid us, we could submit that and they would consider them for payment as well."

The experience of filing a claim on the damage has been less than pleasant for county officials from the very beginning.

"It appeared to me and to others that their (the adjusters) tack and approach in filing reports were to save the insurance company money, and give us the short end of the

deal. There were very questionable practices involved," asserted Sellers, who reported that neither Weston County or the insurance company will be working with that specific adjuster in the future.

She also believes the insurance company will be willing to work with the county if the amount received by the county isn't sufficient to cover the cost of repairs.

"I think they would seriously consider it, if the estimate for repairs came back different than the adjusters recommended," maintained Sellers.

The first check received by the county was for \$11,413.15, and the second will total \$27,287.47. The last will be for \$6,230.14, and the funds will be put into the courthouse repair line item.

The insurance company is still waiting on the final assessment of damage and repair costs from the adjusters, which is why multiple checks are being sent. The first payment was essentially for personal properties, such as cameras, mouse pads, and other things that were damaged and thrown out.

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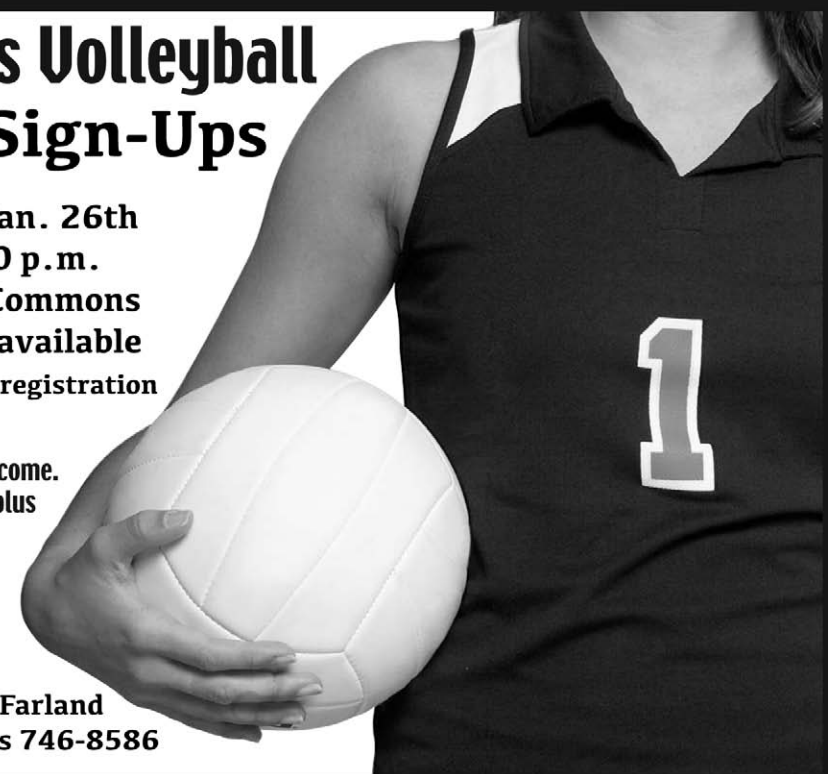
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Obituaries

Marjorie Ruth Wike Giffin
 Oct. 2, 1929-Jan. 4, 2017

Marjorie Ruth Wike Giffin (Margie) was born on October 2, 1929 - the only child of hardworking Cannon Mills employees Ada Estelle Millsaps Wike and Clayton Roosevelt Wike.

Despite being born at the onset of the Great Depression, Margie had an idyllic childhood in Kannapolis, NC, thanks to her father's ingenuity - "Clayt" (Trader, as he was known) Wike ran the first mobile grocery store in Kannapolis - all while holding down his Cannon Mills job. This provided Margie the ability to graduate from High School with honors, and attend both Furman University and Wingate College earning a Bachelor's degree from

each.

Furthering her education, Margie studied for and attained her Master's Degree in Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where in 1953 she met her husband (Reverend David Lloyd Giffin), in jail! Margie and David were both students at Southwestern participating in the school's robust prison ministry. Margie met the love of her life doing God's work, and remained his loyal partner from 1955 until David passed away in



Marjorie Giffin

2012, ending 57 beautiful years of marriage.

Margie and David were both Public school teachers in North Carolina and Virginia for over 30 years while David was a full-time Baptist Minister. Margie played an active role as a Pastor's wife - leading Women's Missionary Union groups and Lottie Moon Missions offering drives throughout the South.


In their lives, Margie and David devoutly served the First Baptist Church and Zion Hill Baptist Church in Fincastle, VA, Ross and Bethany Baptist Churches in Windsor, NC and Hartland Baptist Church in Morganton, NC.

— See **Obituaries**, Page 5


Braving the cold



Autumn Phillips and the Dixon children, Angel, Angela, Thomas and Faith, wait for the bus during last week's intense cold spell. The bitter cold also wreaked havoc among residences which were caught in the first serious episode of burst water pipes, leaving some without water for as long as four days. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

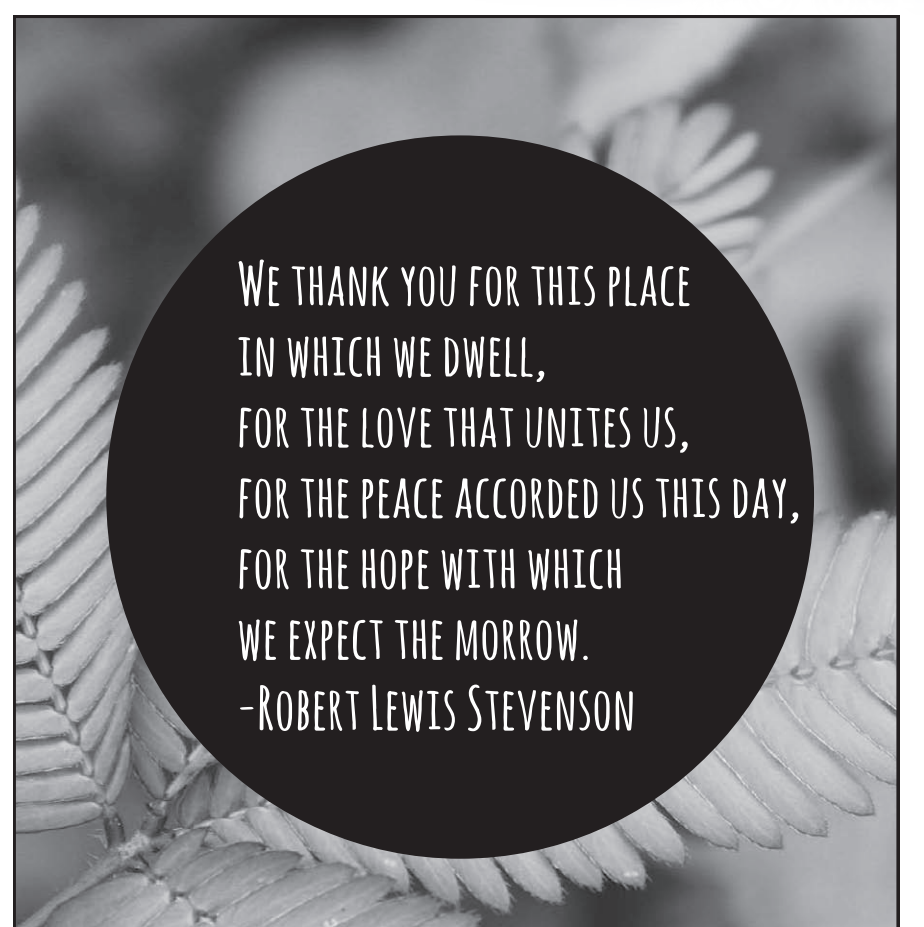


Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
 Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend meetings
 Fred M. Duncan, Worshipful Master • Robert E. Hamlet, Secretary



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:** Pastor Todd Olson, 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 CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 am; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 pm, Holy Eucharist. haydishall@hotmail.com
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Tsena Dinsza, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am.
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Greg James, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am.
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Tim Martinson, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 5 pm; Weekday Mass 8 am.
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley, 746-9712, Worship 10 am.
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm; AWANA Clubs 6:30 pm.
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-5542. Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer Service 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Youth Group Wednesday 6:30 pm; Christian Academy preschool & K-12 746-9663.
- **OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frezil Westerlund, Weston County Fairgrounds, Service Sundays 9:30 am. 307-941-2524
- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Michael Jarrell, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; 11:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service.
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, Evangelical Free Church meets at the Weston County Senior Services; Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am. Call 746-8091.
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 p.m. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am.
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer.
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Chuck Gadway 303-229-3103, 78 Old Hwy 85 and Pastoral Assistant Matt Dooley 949-0831. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:00 am.
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, Upton. Sunday Mass 11:30 am.
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366.
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Sharee Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am; Adult Study 10:30 am; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm. August 7, 14, and 21 church is at 9am. August 28--no church in Upton, worship is at 11am at Rev Johnson's home in Custer. September 4th and all sundays following, 9am Sunday School, 10am Worship, 11am Fellowship, and 11:30 Bible Study.



**WE THANK YOU FOR THIS PLACE
 IN WHICH WE DWELL,
 FOR THE LOVE THAT UNITES US,
 FOR THE PEACE ACCORDED US THIS DAY,
 FOR THE HOPE WITH WHICH
 WE EXPECT THE MORROW.**
 —ROBERT LEWIS STEVENSON

Daily Devotional Reading

Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18
Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew	Matthew
9:18-38	10:1-15	10:16-31	10:32-42	11:1-19	11:20-30	16:13-28

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society



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A PIECE OF HISTORY

January 8, 1892

Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Bonner are happy over the arrival of a little girl in their family this week.

Those who attended the Cambria Hose Company's dance speak very highly of the affair & enjoyed themselves very much.

Newcastle has the best prospects today it ever had. The promise & hopes are materializing into something definite & tangible.

It has finally been decided by Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins to close their store in Newcastle. Most of the dry goods will be sent to Cambria, & the groceries will be sent to the grading camps.

J.W. Smith will start a grocery store in the building next to Lindsey & Smith's Meat Market. D.W. Roderick will have charge of it.

January 11, 1917

Frank Hereford of Beaver Creek was in after a load of supplies Tuesday.

Mr. & Mrs. Overton of Clifton were Newcastle shoppers one day this week.

L.P. Warner, of Howard, was transacting business in the city last Saturday.

Walter Schoonmaker of Cambria was a business visitor in the county seat yesterday for a few hours.

Rumor has it that the Burlington Railway will soon establish a local terminal here, on account of the heavy traffic & the eight-hour law. The local freight leaving Edgemont & Gillette will make headquarters here.

Mr. & Mrs. Oran O. Hackney have moved to town

for the winter from their Hay Creek Ranch, & are occupying the Henderson Residence.

January 8, 1942

In Cooperation with the National Victory Program, the Newcastle High School, has offered its shop facilities to aid farmers & ranchers in keeping their equipment in good repair.

The local Red Cross has received more than enough donations to fill the county quota of \$1,000.00, according to P.S. Jackson, Chairman of the emergency drive.

Miss Bernice Bostrom, local teacher at Osage, returned Sunday from a vacation spent in North Dakota. She drove her car as far as Bismarck, & from there was forced to continue by

train & bus because of the bad roads & cold.

Miss Isabel Buthrue & Richard Ross were united in marriage Wednesday afternoon at one o'clock at the residence of Judge & Mrs. E.C. Raymond. The ceremony was performed in a setting of pink & white snapdragons, by Rev. J.D. Salter, rector of Christ Church.

A petrified joint bone measuring 16 inches across the joint knuckle was brought to Moorcroft by Walter Davis. The petrified bone is no doubt that of a dinosaur.

The frequent snows & the raging blizzard December 31, makes roads difficult to find & detours are being used in all sections of the Fairview area.

Should have seen it in color



Red Cross Ladies on the Court House steps circa 1914. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

Obituaries

from page 4.....

Margie and David spent many summers crossing the country to visit family in Wyoming, often taking their (surviving) nieces Nancy (Giffin) Bohannon, Jeannie (Thompson) Gainer, Bonnie (Thompson) Schreiber, Marjorie (Thompson) Beacham and nephews Don Giffin and (the late) Roy Thompson in tow.

In 1973 Margie gave birth to her only child Clayton (Clay Giffin), who survives her and resides currently in New York City. Margie and David raised Clay primarily in the Brushy mountains of Morganton and Lenoir, North Carolina, and they ultimately retired to Margie's family farm in Hiddenite, NC, in 1995, until moving to

Newcastle in 2012.

Margie passed away painlessly, quickly and peacefully of natural causes in the mid-morning on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 under the caring, capable and watchful eyes of the employees at Weston County Manor in Newcastle, Wyoming.

Margie leaves behind many friends and cousins in Virginia and North Carolina.

She is preceded in death by her parents and husband. Her sole survivor is her son Clay.

Services were held Monday, January 9 at 1 p.m. at Osage Community Bible Church, 348 Sheridan St., Osage, WY. Internment followed at Upton cemetery.

Worden Funeral Directors of Newcastle are in charge of arrangements.

Pete A. Kaiser

Oct. 25, 1937-Jan. 4, 2017

Visitation for Pete A. Kaiser will take place on Sunday, January 15 from 1-3 p.m. at Worden Chapel.

Funeral services will be on Monday, January 16 at 11 a.m. at Worden Chapel. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery. There will be a gathering of family and friends at the Newcastle VFW Post 2516 following services on Monday.

See next week's News Letter Journal for a full obituary.

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WHAT'S UP

January 2017

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs 12	5:30 p.m.	Elementary School Carnival	Elementary School
	5:30 p.m.	City Planning Commission	City Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri 13	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 14	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Sun 15	7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Mon 16	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Tues 17	8:00 a.m.	County Commissioners	WC Courthouse Annex
	12:00 p.m.	WC CowBelles	USDA Building
	7:00 p.m.	City Council	City Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
Wed 18	12:00 p.m.	Lions Club	WC Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	WC Weed & Pest Board Meeting	WC Weed & Pest Shelter
	6:00 p.m.	WC Humane Society	Shelter
	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Thurs 19	6:00 p.m.	WCHS Board Meeting	Hospital Board Room
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri 20	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 21	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement

Calendar Sponsored by **Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 12
 Suzi Hutchinson
 Mike Pessillo
January 13
 Charles Bean
 Jay Kachelhoffer
 Hayden Sylte
January 14
 Troy Cassey
 John L. Ellis
 Emalee Sweet
January 15
 Bill & Marcella Carson
January 16
 Charla Kachelhoffer
 Dawnnyell Nagle
January 17
 Rachel Sweet
January 18
 Lloyd Ahlquist
January 19
 Aaron Gordon Tunnell
January 20
 Lynn Moller
 Mike & Lee Dutcher
January 21
 Heather Stith
 Nikki Bloom

For a complete listing of events, for more information on these events, or to list your own event, visit the Chamber website at newcastlewyo.com

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 news letter journal

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Newcastle's Company Man

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

John Cummings is a life-long resident of Newcastle and it is common to see him walking around town. Despite a handicap, he is surprisingly self-sufficient and good natured and has no trouble navigating from place to place.

"I keep busy with my job at the police station. It will be 17 years this June 20th," Cummings stated. John has a remarkable gift with dates, being able to rattle off the exact dates of not only memories from his own life, but also of friends and celebrities.

He works at the Law Enforcement Center as a custodian, where he is known for his friendliness and hard work ethic, but he started his career as a public servant many years before he started keeping the police station clean.

"I was 17 years old when I started working on the garbage truck. Some guy wanted to retire and they needed someone to take his place, so I did," Cummings recalled, admitting that company loyalty is an important aspect of his philosophy on life.

"I would have been there for 43 years if I was still there, but I got hurt in 1994," Cummings related.

He explained that when he was working on the garbage truck, they used a kind of wire to grab and secure the garbage canisters, but on that fateful day 22 years ago, John tried to make sure the bucket was securely fastened when his hand was caught between the line and hundreds of pounds of metal and refuse.

"I got hurt on the truck," Cummings said, gesturing towards a glove covering his left hand. He uses his right hand for most of his work, and is hardly impeded by the handicap. He continues to work just as hard with one hand as he did with two, but he did have to give up his job with the garbage truck.

John's ability to make a transition in his job after such a serious injury is probably due in part to the fact that

this wasn't the first time John had faced difficulties with a physical impairment.

"I had polio when I was really young. They took me over to Hot Springs and told me right away what it was. They didn't know what it was up here," Cummings remembered.

He soon returned closer to home in Newcastle, but his stay was relatively short.

"I was in the hospital up here, but my mom decided it was best for me to go back home," Cummings shared. There wasn't much more the doctors could do, and young John went home to rehabilitate with the love and support of his family.

Poliomyelitis, commonly referred to as Polio, is a medical condition heard about only rarely anymore in America, as infection rates have tumbled from 350,000 in 1988 to only 100 cases reported in 2015. The disease weakens muscle tissue but leaves the rest of the body untouched in most cases.

The disease often targets the legs, as was the case with 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. John, on the other hand, is a strong walker, as he is a familiar sight walking from one end of town to the other.

Even though he was afflicted with polio at a young age, Cummings led a normal life. He played Babe Ruth ball with his brothers, and that is a time in his life he loves to reminisce about and share with others. He enjoys getting out and seeing everybody work and, whether it's shoveling the sidewalk or holding a door open, is always more than happy to lend a hand.

"I like to help people. I like to be nice to people," he said when asked why he was so drawn to helping even random strangers.

John may have developed that tendency from the constant source of comfort, support, and mentoring he enjoyed as a child, namely his mother.

"If it weren't for my mom, I wouldn't be here today.

She helped me quite a bit," Cummings professed.

John's lifelong support passed away a couple of years ago, and he still remembers the day it happened.

"I went in to tell her I was going to work. She wanted me to give her a blanket because she was cold, and after that she was gone," John recalled, admitting that her passing has been tough for him. She was the only family he had left that lived in Newcastle, and her presence has certainly been missed.

"There's no one around. She would be 85 if she was still alive," Cummings stated remorsefully.

He still has family around the area, however, and receives goodie baskets from sisters from time to time, and even just the mention of them brings a spark of delight to his eyes. John also finds help from around the community, and at times even from complete strangers.

"Sometimes, people give me a ride home. They see me walking, and they stop and ask me if I need a ride," Cummings said, noting that he rarely refuses and always appreciates a lift.

When it comes time to get groceries, though, John has a plan.

"When I go down to Decker's, I call the senior bus and they give me a ride from there. Sometimes I walk. (The bags) are heavy, but sometimes I can get it done," Cummings stated.

Despite the difficulties he's faced throughout his life, Cummings has retained an upbeat outlook and is rarely seen without a smile.

John still lives in his house with his ten year old Shih Tzu "Sweetie" who loves nothing more than to snuggle up with him while he watches the Hallmark channel. He admits he is drawn to its stories of romance and happy endings.

"I like them, but my brother calls them 'chick flicks,'" Cummings smiled, noting that although his family does not live in town, they still manage to plan fun outings.



John Cummings enjoys few things more than helping others, and this most recent snowstorm was no different as he pulled out his shovel and went to work in front of the News Letter Journal right after his interview. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

"My brother took me out to Las Vegas to play golf. We stayed there for a week. He paid for everything!" Cummings exclaimed, still shocked by the generous gesture years after.

Golf is a serious endeavor for Cummings, who made his own mark in Newcastle's history by sinking a hole-in-one on the second hole at the Newcastle Country Club.

"They came out to take my picture," John remarked. John rarely gets out on a tee box anymore, and said he only had one outing this year. "I used to play a lot more when my brother was alive," he lamented.

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

January 12	
Hearing Aid Institute	9:30 a.m.
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.
January 13	
Rolls	9:00 a.m.
Blood Pressure Check	9:30 a.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
January 16	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
January 17	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Helping Hands Mtg.	6:00 p.m.
January 18	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
WCSS Board Mtg.	9:00 a.m.
Toenail Clinic	9:00 a.m.
Lions Club	12:00 p.m.
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch

January 19

Trip to the Lodge	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.
January 20	
Rolls	9:00 a.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
January 23	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
Visually Impaired Support Grp.	1:00 p.m.
January 24	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Dementia Support Group	3:30 p.m.
January 25	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
Manor Here for Lunch	
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch
January 26	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.

Manor

January 12	
Food Fancy	10:30 a.m.
Manicures	2:00 p.m.
Scrabble	6:15 p.m.
January 13	
Greedy	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
Movie	6:00 p.m.
January 14	
Ring Toss	11:00 a.m.
Happy Hour	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
January 15	
Name Ten	11:00 a.m.
Church	2:00 p.m.
January 16	
Resident Council	10:30 a.m.
Cooking	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.

January 17

Ceramics	10:30 a.m.
Keepsake Krafters	2:00 p.m.
Stories	4:00 p.m.
January 18	
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.
Crossword	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
January 19	
Staycation	10:30 a.m.
Al and the Gang	2:00 p.m.
Social Hour	6:15 p.m.
January 20	
Inauguration & Hat Day	10:00 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
Movie	6:00 p.m.
January 21	
Quizball	11:00 a.m.
Movie	2:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.

January 22

Trivia	11:00 a.m.
Church	2:00 p.m.
January 23	
Wii	10:30 a.m.
Tony's Tunes	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
January 24	
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.
Keepsake Krafters	2:00 p.m.
Stories	4:00 p.m.
Cards	6:15 p.m.
January 25	
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.
Bean Bag	10:30 a.m.
Out to Lunch	11:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
January 26	
Chinese New Year Party	10:30 a.m.
Manicures	2:00 p.m.



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On to the next



Chairman Bill Lambert presents a plaque to Randy Rossman at his retirement party at the Weston County Courthouse late last year. When the Weston County Commission met last week, it was the first time in eight years that they did so without Rossman on the board. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Cards

from page 1.....

customers that they will be required to pay the fee.

“That could be a deterrent to using it. The asterisk that got me is that they will charge the same on a debit card...They are going to charge the same fees unless you take an electronic check,” professed Ertman, who also indicated that there are a minimum number of transactions the county will have to log to escape additional fees to cover the costs of the system’s providers.

“They expect transaction rates to be high enough to cover that and everything else,” declared Ertman, noting that every credit card has different contracts with different associated fees.

She argued that budget concerns may dictate that it is not the best time to start accepting credit card transactions because of the costs associated, and suggested that it may have been a better idea 10 years ago. She expressed concern over the possibility that the county could be charged

if there is not enough credit card use to ensure Instapayment is not losing money.

“This would make it easier for our citizens... And if we put off another year, the costs may go up,” maintained Sellers, who said she wished there was a way to truly quantify how much revenue the county is currently losing because an option to pay by credit card does not exist.

Ertman feared that the county may commit money to using the system, and find out that customers aren’t willing to pay the fees associated with using it, but Sellers asked that the commissioners keep the discussion open. The commissioners, in turn, requested that a questionnaire be provided for citizens at the courthouse to help them make their decision. Sellers indicated that she would keep gathering information to aid them in further discussions over the possibility of finding room in the budget for the next fiscal year to begin offering the service.

Commission Clips

Notes from the December 20 Weston County Commissioners Meeting.

- The commissioners approved a resolution authorizing the submission of a Federal Mineral Royalty Capital Construction Grant with the purpose of remodeling the assessor’s office space and basement office space after a water main break flooded those rooms.
- County Administrator Dan Blakeman is instructed to work with Pinnacle Bank President Justin Tystad on an agreement for the snow removal and upkeep of the parking lot located next to the Weston County Courthouse Annex. Pinnacle Bank kept ownership of the parking lot when selling the building in order to provide an in-town location for an ATM.

Notes from the January 3 Weston County Commissioners Meeting.

- Commissioner Tracy Hunt nominated Bill Lambert for Chairman and Tony Barton for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2017. Both nominations were approved unanimously.
- The Commissioners appointed Scott Sewell, Jill Pischke, Clay Branscom and Troy Lynch to the Weed and

Pest Board as well as George Bondora to the Weston County Solid Waste District Board. There are still a dozen openings on various county boards that remain vacant.

- The Weston County Gazette was chosen to be the official newspaper of Weston County by a unanimous vote. Newly elected Commissioner Ed Wagoner expressed that the decision is motivated by finances, and explained that publications are cheaper in the Weston County Gazette than they are in the News Letter Journal.
- In a continuation of a conversation from the December 20 meeting, County Clerk Jill Sellers told the commissioner’s she wants to update her office’s fee schedule to include an hourly rate for gathering the requested documents for large requests. The commissioners expressed some confusion over specific laws regarding charges for inspection of public documents, and requested that Sellers gather more information on the topic before a decision is made.
- The commissioners approved a motion that will allow for three offices to be

built at the Weston County Courthouse Annex. The project will include remodeling an area in the former Pinnacle Bank building for the Weston County Extension Office, and redoing the bathrooms to bring them up to code. A total of \$100,000 was budgeted for the project, and it is estimated that the work approved last week will use nearly \$99,000 of that line item.

- Douglas District Ranger Shane Walker of the US Forest Service discussed a proposed draft charter for a U.S. Forestry Cooperative Group with the commissioners. He explained the rules and outlined the purpose of the cooperative group, which is being formed as a result of meetings held here this fall regarding prairie dog management in the Thunder Basin National Grasslands.

- A proposal from API was approved for the fire alarm and sprinkler system at the Weston County Courthouse. The system will be more high tech than the one currently in place, and will feature more protection than is currently available. The cost of the new system totals \$377,510.

Tobacco

from page 1.....

Weston County think about tobacco, specifically when it comes to smoking. She explained that when a social norm changes, the behavior of youth will customarily change along with it.

Lipp shared that there was once a time where tobacco use was something you would be likely to see almost anywhere, but now, she said that if you look at the ball parks or other public areas, the chances of seeing someone smoking, especially near others, is not very likely. Lipp suggests that the fact that people are not smoking tobacco in public places—even though it is not prohibited by a local ordinance or policy—is an example of the norm change experienced in Weston County in the past decade.

“We still have smokers, but I think our smokers are more educated now. They have tried to quit, or are aware of the reasons they should. I hear people say ‘I smoke, but not in the house or the car with my kids.’ The whole norm has changed. I am not saying we don’t have kids in smoking homes, but it is more the norm that they are not,” Lipp asserted.

She credits some of this change to the work she and the Prevention Task Force have undertaken in the past, noting that the results may not be clearly visible in data from the Prevention Needs Assessment or other studies because those surveys fail to provide the whole picture. Additionally, Weston County’s PNA data from 2014 is not complete because a miscommunication caused a number of students to miss taking

the survey.

“It takes a long time to see that norm shift. We have been educating people for so long, and we are finally starting to see that change in numbers and experiences,” professed Lipp.

She maintained, however, that the news on spit tobacco use is not as good, and credits that to being a “Wyoming cultural thing.”

“Our spit tobacco numbers are still above the state average, not significantly, but right at or slightly above,” acknowledged Lipp, who said that numbers for tobacco smoking in Weston County had been below the state average on surveys from year’s prior to 2014 are viewed.

As for youth access to tobacco, Lipp admitted that a majority of the time the underage kids do not try to purchase them for themselves in a small community, but have someone of age purchase them. Synar conducts inspections in every community throughout the state to compile the report released last month by DOH, but Lipp said local law enforcement does not conduct compliance checks in Weston County.

“It is hard in a small community because you go to Deckers and everyone knows the kids, and that they aren’t old enough. When they do checks, it is typical to bring in kids from out of the county,” remarked Lipp, who admitted that she would like to find a way for law enforcement to conduct compliance checks here because citations could be issued to establishments that are caught selling to children under the age of 18.

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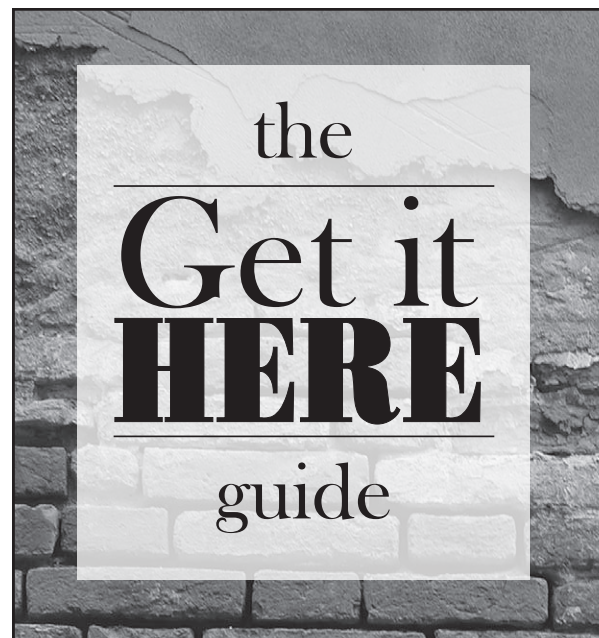
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The Christmas Wish

Local girl gives where it is needed most

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

Miracles come disguised as good people with kind hearts, no matter the size, and amidst the hustle of a season packed with marvelous toys and clothes hiding beneath the Christmas tree, it came as no surprise to family and friends when one Newcastle girl bucked the ordinary by making a truly extraordinary wish this Christmas.

Christmas is the holiday of giving, and that is a message that rings true in even the youngest of lives, as third-grader Preslee Fitzwater proved when her Christmas wish this year was “to help a family in need.”

“She’s always had a heart to help others,” said longtime family friend Jody Umphlett, who has watched Preslee grow up because she helped the family over the years by babysitting.

As good intentioned as Preslee’s wish was, she soon

learned that finding someone to help may be a more difficult task than it appeared.

“I asked my mom if I could get together with some of my friends and help a family in need this Christmas. My mom said that would be hard because no one has their hands out saying, ‘Help me!’” Preslee stated.

Having decided that waiting for someone to come to them and ask for help wasn’t going to work, Preslee and her mother resolved to seek out fourth grade teacher Mary Ragland. Through her work with Operation Santa: Kids Helping Kids, Ragland was able to steer the young girl to a local family that had fallen on hard times.

Unaware even of the identity of the family she was helping, Preslee did know it was a young family whose father was recently out of work and is struggling to get by. Preslee’s original plan was ambitious as she hoped to raise enough money to put all of the family’s utility bills in the black, but she soon learned she was working with a condensed timetable.

“At first I thought I could get enough, but when I heard that I only had a week until I had to give the money, I knew

I couldn’t get all of their bills,” the third-grader said.

Knowing time was of the essence, the young altruist quickly got to work in making her plea to the community.

“I just made a sign that said, ‘Please help a family in need this Christmas. Even just a little bit of money will help,’” Preslee said. Her fundraiser was a roaring success thanks to support from friends, family, and her mother’s clients.

“I got \$230 to help pay their water bill because that’s the only thing they could turn off,” she professed.

Gas and electric utilities won’t be shut off this winter courtesy of a program through Black Hills Energy, so Preslee identified the family’s most pressing need was to keep their water running. Without an income, the family’s father is afraid of having his children removed from his care if he can’t guarantee them access to basic necessities.

“His kids would need to take a shower or a bath and have water to drink, so I decided the water bill would be most important,” Preslee reasoned.

With so much riding on a quick but successful fundraising

campaign, Preslee spent her school days anxiously awaiting the bell and not knowing whether anyone would join in her endeavor.

“I would come home from school right before dance and I would check the envelope and ask how much money was donated, so I somewhat would know how much there was,” Preslee admitted.

Even though the water bill was covered, the third-grader wanted Christmas to be a special time for the family.

“I bought the kids a few outfits and some toys, and bought them Christmas dinner and a movie,” stated Preslee, who recognized her younger sister, Addison, for being a great help when it came to finding the perfect gifts for the secret Santa to give.

This is hardly the first time the sisters have banded together on an altruistic mission. The duo also fulfilled a long-time desire to operate a lemonade stand, but unlike a normal lemonade stand, she and her sister resolved to offer products to fit their customer’s needs.

“We had coffee and donuts in the morning, and lemonade and other snacks in the evening,”

Preslee smiled.

With the profits from their first escapade into the business world in hand, the sisters elected to take the most unexpected action and donate it to the Humane Society, and Preslee cited her sister’s love of animals as the inspiration for the heartfelt gesture.

Preslee also voiced that she hoped to take time this summer to walk the dogs at the pound and to visit the residents at the Manor. The young girl is unafraid to go out of her way to help anyone she sees being excluded, be it stranger or even family. Not wanting to leave anyone out, Preslee hopes to make the lemonade stand even more of a success this summer by inviting more family to get involved.

“I’m wondering if maybe we could include our cousins this next time. I’ve been trying to do things that are fun for all of us and not leaving anyone out,” Preslee mused.

Her desire to help others has grown and developed just as she has through the years, and it has been a very visible part of her life.

“She’s always had a good heart,” shared Umphlett, who

said she has always seen Preslee as a good-natured girl, but she’s seen that begin to expand beyond the horizon of simply having a sweet demeanor to actively helping others as Preslee has grown more aware of those around her.

“It probably started to manifest in the last two to three years as she’s started to notice the world around her and the needs of others,” Umphlett reasoned.

Whatever path has led the young girl to wanting to share goodwill with all those in need, she announced that her beliefs play a central role in her inspiration.

“I believe in God and God tells me to do nice things for no reason except to help others. I really wish I got to meet them and for them to say thank you, but I don’t care if they say thank you. I just want to help others,” Preslee professed.

“I just thought that was amazing. She did it without needing recognition,” Umphlett nodded.

Although Preslee’s one Christmas wish was fulfilled, she still got a Christmas of her own and received many gifts.

But her favorite gift this year was her own gift of giving.

Legislators

from page 1

and reported that it has been some time since a small town voice was on that committee. He intends to be that voice moving forward, and said he hopes to suggest a better funding model than the one that currently exists.

Hunt remained on both the Education and Ag Committee in the House, and while he admits there is not as much at stake in agriculture as education (see related story), the committee plans to work with various agriculture departments across the state to try and “get a feel for what their budgets are,” in an effort to help them cut back on non-essentials.

After the election, Driskill received a highly sought appointment to the Appropriations Committee, and told the News Letter Journal the work there has proved to be challenging, but that he has enjoyed the experience so far.

“We have all heard a lot about how tough times are and how rough they have been. That is for sure true, and you get a good vision of that on Appropriations,” commented Driskill.

He explained that this year’s budget is pretty well set, and said the real question facing the state is what to do in the next biennium, particularly with education.

After spending the last six years on the Select Water Committee, Driskill admits that is one area that will struggle to hold on to its present funding. In the past, according to the senator from Devils Tower, the legislature has taken funds from that area in times of economic hardship, but Driskill feels that water is critical to the infrastructure of small towns. As such, he believes keeping those funds intact is important, and Weston County’s other senator agrees.

Meier is also in tune to the fact that, historically, the legislature likes to cut water development funding, and he hopes to protect those funds through this session.

“Hopefully, we can hold on to that money... You can’t improve the things that need done without water,” asserted Meier. He reported dam construction is one of the big ticket items in the current water development budget, with \$96 million being spent across the state.

Meier also hopes to protect Wyoming from getting a “black eye” from the federal government when it comes time to consolidate nuclear weapons arsenals across the nation. He told the News Letter Journal that Wyoming could be facing an employment discrimination issue in Cheyenne, where it has been reported that some businesses are acting unfavorably towards the spouses of Air Force personnel at F.E. Warren Air Force Base.

“There are a lot of incidents. It is fairly prevalent. There are a lot of victims who didn’t come forward. We have given them that opportunity, and we are getting some pretty disgusting feedback,” fumed Meier, who hopes to fix the problem and protect Wyoming without the legislature having to impose too much control over private businesses.

Meier was also named the Chairman of the Senate’s Transportation Committee last month, and said one of his goals on that committee is to pass legislation that will provide punishments for people who form shell companies with the intent of buying vehicles and paying taxes out of state. The challenge will lie in protecting legitimate companies who make out of state purchases.

“It is frustrating because they don’t want to pay taxes, but they want to enjoy all the amenities of Wyoming life. They want the beautiful life, but don’t want to pay for it,” maintained Meier, who said that if the bill is passed, violators could face \$750 in fines and up to six months in jail when it goes into effect in July of 2018.

School funding looms large

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

A recently released annual report from the magazine, Education Week, ranked Wyoming seventh in the nation in education quality based largely on the state earning the top spot in the category of school finance, but it may be difficult to maintain that position in the state’s current economic situation.

According to all four of Weston County’s legislators, one issue that is of great importance— not only this year but for years to come— is education in Wyoming and how to fund the level of education residents of this state have grown accustomed to. Driskill reported that, over the next biennium, Wyoming is looking at nearly a \$1 billion shortfall in education funding.

“Education had about a \$500 million rainy day fund, and that entire fund has been spent to get through this biennium. The next biennium, we are looking at around a \$400 million, plus or minus, shortfall for education. We also have zero income from coal

bonus money, which funded constructing and maintenance of school facilities. We will have to deal with that as well. That is another \$100 million plus, if not \$200 million,” declared Driskill.

Lindholm revealed that, by 2023, Wyoming will be looking at nearly \$1.8 billion in shortfalls for education. While a lot of people are suggesting the use of the rainy day fund, Lindholm points out that Wyoming may have the largest reserve in the nation, but it is still not enough to cover the shortfall in education. The Legislative Stabilization Account, or rainy day fund, currently holds roughly \$1.7 billion.

That means legislators are looking for ways to generate more revenue to balance budgets.

“There is no funding for construction or maintenance of school facilities. It is going to be a big challenge finding a way to start funding again. No one likes to talk about new taxes or tax increase. I don’t either, and it is certainly not my first option, but something needs to be done in the future. There has to be some sort of

revenue flow for school facilities,” professed Hunt.

Driskill agreed, suggesting the legislature will be looking at a whole series of different proposals and measures to combat the shortfall in Wyoming. He admitted that while he doesn’t want to increase taxes, some kind of tax will probably have to be imposed on residents to keep schools functioning at their present level. He wants schools to find ways to decrease spending before he is willing to look at tax increases however.

“I am not willing to raise taxes until cuts are in place,” Driskill assured the News Letter Journal.

Lindholm predicted that the “face of education in Wyoming” is going to have to change over the next few years because of these shortfalls. He admits, however, that the exact form of that change is not clear yet. Lindholm said the situation is going to take some real thought from the legislature going forward, and acknowledged that the transition may not all occur during this session.

Ag advice for the next Prez

House District 2 Representative Hans Hunt has one more item to add to his list of achievements after he was selected earlier this year to serve on President-elect Donald Trump’s Agriculture Advisory Committee. To date, Hunt told the News Letter Journal, the experience has been “great,”

and he reported that is has been an outstanding networking opportunity. To this point he hasn’t had to dedicate a lot of time to the endeavor, but said he has appreciated the conversations he’s had with other committee members via conference calls and an e-mail chain.

“I have enjoyed net-

working. I have met a few of the others on the committee, and there are a lot of great people on there,” announced Hunt, who indicated he has participated in discussions regarding the committee’s recommendation for who Trump should nominate to be Secretary of Agriculture, and hinted

the eventual pick could be another member of the committee on which he serves.

According to the Republican legislator, the group as been asked to continue to serve as an advisory board after Trump takes office, and Hunt said he is looking forward to doing so.



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Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

High School Boys Basketball			
1/13	Buffalo Bison	V9 A	4 PM
1/14	Wheatland Bulldogs	V9 H	2:30 PM
1/16	Wright Panthers	9 A	4 PM
High School Girls Basketball			
1/13	Buffalo Bison	V9 A	4 PM
1/14	Wheatland Bulldogs	V9 H	2:30 PM
1/16	Wright Panthers	9 A	5:30 PM
High School Wrestling			
1/13	Newcastle Invitational	VJ H	10 AM
1/13	Torrington Tourney	VJ A	1TBA
High School Boys Swimming			
1/14	Douglas Invitational	V9 A	TBA
Middle School Boys Basketball			
1/19	Twin Spruce Junior High	A	4 PM

I'm sorry... I have to

One of my pet peeves is how people on social media are constantly going off about being offended about every little thing these days, so the rant I'm about to embark upon may seem a bit hypocritical... but I just can't stop myself.

This weekend I was reminded once again of a subtle, yet obvious, prejudice against females in sports.

"The boys' game will tip off at 7:00 on Friday, depending on the turnovers and fouls in the girls' game," I heard when I tuned in to listen to the Dogie post-game.

I know it doesn't sound like much, but what the heck in the world is that supposed to mean?

First of all, when games get physical, fouls should be called. And if girls are playing great defense, regardless of which side you are for, there are going to be turnovers. However, the attitude that women's basketball is nothing but a turnover and foul-fest is so incredibly sexist that it just ignites in me a fire that makes me want to scream.

In this weekend's games, the Lady Dogies lost an extremely close game to their rival Torrington. The game went down to the wire, with the Lady Blazers pulling ahead at the very end.

Anyone who knows expects the contest between these two teams to be a slugfest that isn't very pretty. That's how they have always played. However, the commentary at the end of the boys' game eluded to how the boys' game might be delayed next week due to the "fouls and turnovers" in the girls' game.

The statement was absolutely unnecessary. Given that our teams play back-to-back, those who tune in to listen will hear the games as they progress. There is no need to make any derisive comments on how either gender's games are played.

Are more foul calls called in girls' games? Maybe so. However, are they called because more fouls are committed or because officials are

— See **Karp**, Page 11

Wrestlers set to host Invite



Head Coach Lee McCoy demonstrates one of four take down techniques they worked on at practice Tuesday night. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

A dozen teams in town Friday

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Weston County's high school wrestlers didn't get a lot of opportunity to compete prior to Christmas because of weather cancellations, so the first weekend of 2017 provided a good indicator of what fans should expect from the squad when they host the Dogie Invitational on Friday.

It would appear the local grapplers can be counted on to give as good as they get in the Dogie Dome after the combined Newcastle/Upton wrestlers got off to a good start when they opened up 2017 with a dominant 57-18 beat-down against the Lusk Tigers last Tuesday, followed by a 12th place finish at the Shane Shatto Memorial Tournament in Douglas on Friday and Saturday.

"Things went pretty well in Lusk," head coach Lee McCoy began. "We had a couple of pretty good matchups at 113 with Trayton Dawson and 145 with Gavin Durfee, and Jacob Rhoades at 120 wrestled pretty well and got a win. The rest of our matches were pretty mismatched however."

According to McCoy, the final score was lopsided because the meet was kind of lopsided, given that Lusk is a young team without the experience of the Dogies/Bobcats. However, he noted that it was a good dual to have coming out of the holiday break, and that it was a good one for Lusk as well.

Picking up wins against their opponents were Reid Holmes (106), Dawson (113), Rhoades (120), Durfee (132),

Wyatt Corley (152), James Moberly (170) and Teigen Marchant (195).

After the warmup dual with Lusk, the Dogies/Bobcats headed to Douglas for a two-day tournament with 25 other teams in attendance. Schools represented ranged from 4A to 1A in size and included 12 of the 16 3A schools, so Newcastle/Upton had the opportunity to size up conference and state competition.

"We were pretty happy with our placing as a team, and individually we placed five of our kids," McCoy exclaimed. "This was a much better finish than we've had in the past at this tournament."

Placers for the Dogies/Bobcats included Holmes (106) and Bryce Womack (285) who finished fifth, while Dawson (113), Corley (152), and Marchant (182) all picked up sixth place medals.

Being able to wrestle anywhere from four to eight matches over the course of the weekend gave squad members the opportunity to gain valuable experience as the season moves forward.

"We had some close matches, some of which went our way while some didn't," McCoy began. "It was a really great opportunity for us because we haven't had a lot of matches given the weather cancellations before Christmas. We need those matches to expose our weaknesses. We need to have that good competition so we know what to work on and to give ourselves focus for the week."

One of the issues McCoy and his coaching staff identified as an area of weakness across the board was in take downs.

"We're giving up three take downs to every one that we throw, and that

— See **Wrestling**, Page 16

Ladies earn a split to start the year

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Having gone into Christmas break with a loss and a 2-4 record, head coach Tyler Bartlett and his crew were looking to right the ship when the Lady Dogies kicked off the new year by hosting the 2A Lusk Lady Tigers last Tuesday, and opened up 3A East Conference play when they travelled to Torrington to take on the Lady Blazers on Friday.

The ship appeared to be righted indeed when they tipped off against the Lady Tigers.

"I thought that was about as good as we've played defensively all year, and I thought we were really good in the full court where we created a lot of turnovers," Bartlett began. "They are a team who is really well-coached to run the flex offense and be disciplined in that, but you couldn't tell by watching that game because our defensive pressure took them out of a lot of the things they wanted to run."

Though pleased with his squad's defensive effort, Bartlett admitted he was a little disappointed with the offensive end of the game.

"Once again we didn't take advantage of a lot of the opportunities we created, whether that was missing layups or bunnies, or turning it over, but I thought it was a step in the right direction defensively," he nodded.

It has been said that defense wins ball games, and the Lady Dogies proved that to be true as they defeated Lusk 46-28 despite their offensive struggles.

The squad also finished the contest with very balanced scoring output spread throughout the team. Taylor Spain led with 13, but she was followed closely by Rachel Ehlers with nine, Lexus Voelker with eight, Rachel Henkle with seven and Sarah Henkle with five.

"You could really see in that game that we have different kids who can do different things, and they kind of embrace their role and we share the ball really well," Bartlett explained. "Sometimes that's because we are getting out in transition and pushing the ball, but it's always a good thing to be balanced offensively, especially this year."

Newcastle was looking to segue their win on Tuesday into another one on Friday as



Lexus Voelker scrambles after a loose ball with strong intentions of beating her opponent. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

they entered into East Quadrant conference play against the Lady Blazers in Torrington. It was apparent that both squads

were determined to come out on top as the contest was a hard fought, back-and-forth battle that came down to the very end.

Unfortunately, as time ticked off the clock, the Blazers led the

— See **Ladies**, Page 11

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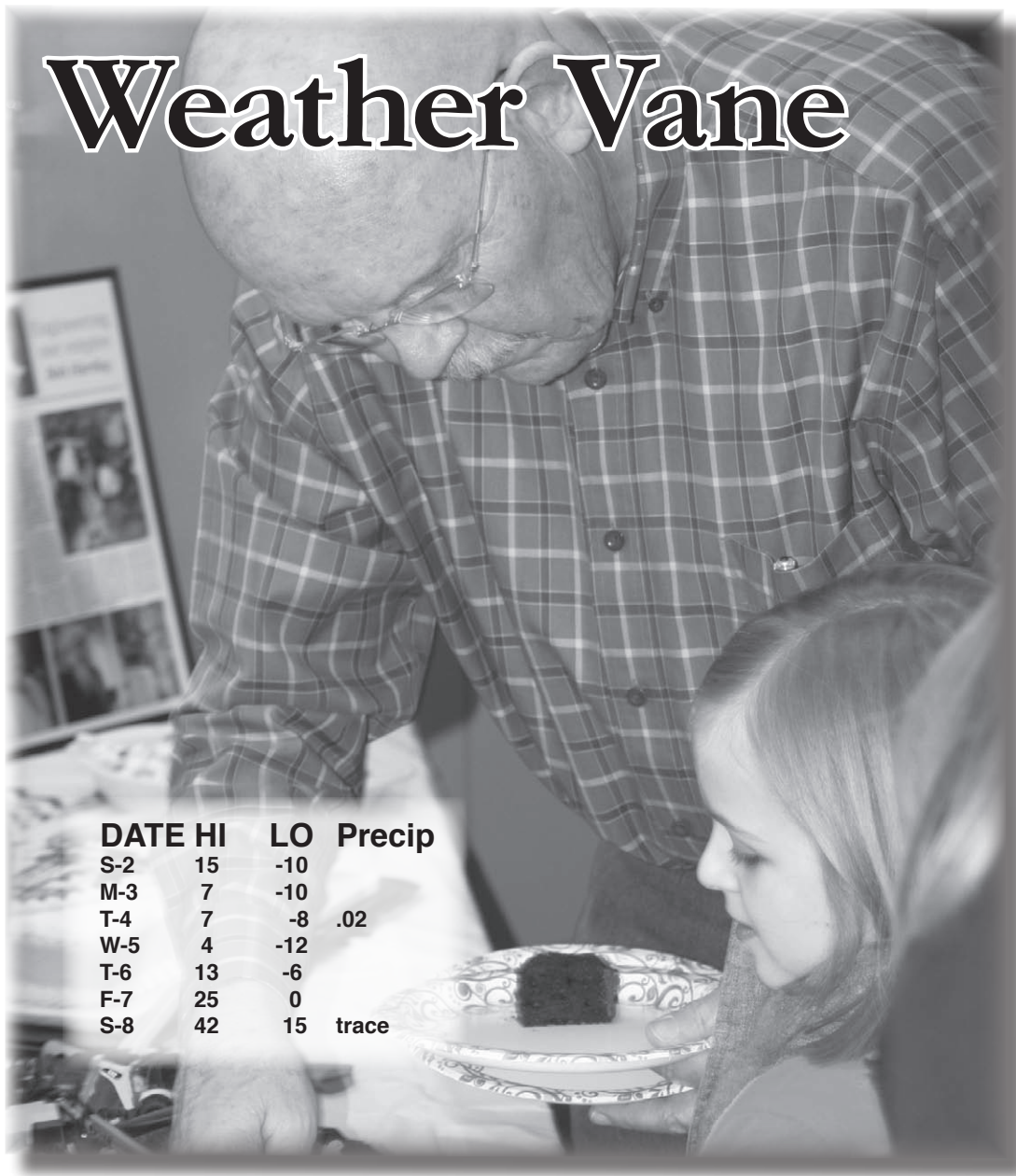
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Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note and mortgage dated November 2, 2009 executed and delivered by Kenneth L. Dickey, as Mortgagor, in favor of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., recorded November 3, 2009 as Rec. No. 715597, Book 318, Page 776, in the public records in the office of the county clerk of Weston County, Wyoming. The premises that are described in the Mortgage are as follows:

Northerly portion of Lot 1, Block 22, Original Town of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming, further described as follows: Commencing at the NW corner of Lot 1, Block 22, Original Town of Newcastle, which is marked by a 2" pipe with an aluminum cap inside of it and the point of beginning; thence S29°42'E along the West boundary of Lot 1 for a distance of 94.0 feet to an aluminum capped rebar; thence N62°58'E for a distance of 65.8 feet to an aluminum capped rebar; thence N12°04'W for a distance of 101.8 feet to an aluminum capped rebar; thence S60°17'W along the South side of West Winthrop Street for a distance of 96.6 feet to the point of beginning;

with an address of 208 West Winthrop Street, Newcastle, WY 82701.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., has served a written Notice of Intent to Foreclose the Mortgage by Advertisement and Sale pursuant to the terms of the Mortgage to the record owner or party in possession in accordance with the statute ten (10) days prior to the first publication of the sale.

The amount due and owing on the date of the first publication is \$141,312.27 which includes the unpaid principal and accrued but unpaid interest. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid balance at the rate of \$20.70 per day.

The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to W.S. § 34-3-101 et seq., (1977 Republished Edition) that the above described property will be at public venue sold by the Sheriff of Weston County, to the highest bidder at the hour of 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 7th day of February, 2017, on the courthouse steps of Weston County.

DATED this 6th day of December, 2016.

BY: Bruce S. Asay
Associated Legal Group, LLC
1807 Capitol Ave Suite 203
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-2888
Attorney for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

(Publish December 22 and 29, 2016 and January 5 and 12, 2017)

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Legal Notice

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Wyoming Refining Company to modify Tank 13 at the Newcastle Refinery, located at 740 West Main in Newcastle, in Weston County, Wyoming. The modification will consist of converting Tank 13 to gasoline and less volatile hydrocarbon service.

For the duration of the public comment period, copies of the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <http://deq.wyoming.gov/aqd/new-source-review/resources/applications-on-notice/> and at the Weston County Clerk's Office, Newcastle, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0003498 in your comment. Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 13, 2017 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests.

(Publish January 12, 2017)

Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated 11/07/2011 executed and delivered by Gerald J. Gesinger, ("Mortgagor") to Guild Mortgage Company, a California Corporation and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by said Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company, a California Corporation, and which Mortgage was recorded on 11/09/2011, as Reception No. 731214 Book 332 Page 0835 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and

The property covered by said Mortgage is described as follows:

LOT SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK TWO (2), BLACK HILLS VIEW ADDITION TO THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING

With an address of : 109 Frontier Ave. Newcastle, WY 82701.

WHEREAS, the property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale. Any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes Section 34-4-109(2003) that the foreclosure sale scheduled for 10:00 in the forenoon on 12/06/2016 at the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Weston County, State of Wyoming, has been postponed to 10:00 in the forenoon on 01/17/2017 at Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Weston County, State of Wyoming.

Guild Mortgage Company
By: Klatt, Augustine, Sayer,
Treinen & Rastede, P.C.
925 E. 4th St.
Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 234-2530

(Publish December 8, 15, 22, 29 and January 5 and 12, 2017)

Blotter

January 1, 2017
Assist other agency. Traffic stop Written Warning issued. Traffic stop Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. VIN inspection requested. Report of a dog at large.

January 2
Report of a dog at large, Impounded. Injured deer reported. Report of an injured deer. Motorist assist. Harassment complaint. Missing dog reported. Medical assist. Traffic complaint.

January 3
Abandoned vehicle reported. Juvenile complaint. Three VIN inspections requested. Missing dog reported. Minor accident reported. Medical assist. Harassment reported. Suspicious activity reported.

January 4
Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Medical assist. No Trespass Order requested. Report of a dog at large. Suicide attempted. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

January 5
Minor accident reported. Animal abuse complaint. 911 hang up. Accident reported.

January 6
Domestic problem reported, One arrest. Civil standby requested. Traffic hazard reported.

Civil problem reported. Found property. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic hazard reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Protection Order Issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.



January 7
Medical assist. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Report of dogs at large. Parking complaint. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Report of a dog at large. Fire reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Traffic stop, No action reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Laws of the State of Wyoming, W. S. 11-24-114, we hereby give notice that a list of unclaimed estray livestock taken up by brand inspectors at various locations during the past year is posted and is available for examination in the courthouse of this county.

(Publish January 12, 2017)

Foreclosure Notice

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated 3/26/2012 executed and delivered by Clint J. Louderback, ("Mortgagor") to Wells Fargo Bank, NA and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by said Mortgagors, to Wells Fargo Bank, NA, and which Mortgage was recorded on 04/09/2012, as Reception No. 734479, Book 336 Page 0272 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the Mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of said default, the Mortgagee declares to have become operative, and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued; and

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$180,546.97 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$175,317.77 plus Interest accrued to the date of the first publication of this notice in the amount of \$3,853.66 plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

WHEREAS, the property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale. Any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid;

NOW, THEREFORE Wells Fargo Bank, NA, as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 AM o'clock in the forenoon on 02/21/2017 at the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming, Weston County for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 5A, Replat of Lots 1 and 2, Ogden's Reservation, Upton, Weston County, Wyoming according to the plat thereof recorded July 22, 1982 as instrument number 477449.

With an address of: 1110 Kellogg St. Upton, WY 82730.

Together with all improvements thereon situated and all fixtures and appurtenances thereto. Dated: December 27, 2016.

Brian G. Sayer
Klatt, Augustine, Sayer,
Treinen & Rastede, P.C.
925 E. 4th St.
Waterloo, Iowa 50703
319-234-2530
319-232-6341

(Publish January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 2017)

Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note and mortgage dated December 17, 2010 executed and delivered by Jesse W. Stockler, as Mortgagor, in favor of Premier Home Mortgage, Inc., recorded December 20, 2010 as Rec. No. 724162, Book 325, Page 790, in the public records in the office of the county clerk of Weston County, Wyoming; as assigned to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), recorded December 20, 2010 as Rec. No. 724163, Book 325, Page 803, in the public records in the office of the county clerk of Weston County, Wyoming; as assigned to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, recorded June 7, 2012 as Rec. No. 736003, Book 337, Page 443, in the public records in the office of the county clerk of Weston County, Wyoming. The premises that are described in the Mortgage are as follows:

Lot Three (3) and the West forty five feet (W 45') of Lot Four (4), Block Seventeen (17), 1st Enlargement to Neiman Addition, Upton, Weston County, Wyoming according to the recorded plat thereof, together with improvements and appurtenances;

with an address of 1106 4th Avenue, Upton, WY 82730.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., has served a written Notice of Intent to Foreclose the Mortgage by Advertisement and Sale pursuant to the terms of the Mortgage to the record owner or party in possession in accordance with the statute ten (10) days prior to the first publication of the sale.

The amount due and owing on the date of the first publication is \$114,165.74 which includes the unpaid principal and accrued but unpaid interest. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid balance at the rate of \$13.74 per day.

The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to W.S. § 34-3-101 et seq., (1977 Republished Edition) that the above described property will be at public venue sold by the Sheriff of Weston County, to the highest bidder at the hour of 10:00 o'clock A.M. on the 21st day of February, 2017, on the courthouse steps of Weston County.

DATED this 30th day of December, 2016.

BY: Bruce S. Asay
Associated Legal Group, LLC
1812 Pebrican Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-2888
Attorney for JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

(Publish January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 2017)

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Card of Thanks

A note of thanks and appreciation to all the good people and organizations who helped me through Christmas at the hospital. May God Bless you all.
Annabelle Hamilton

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