

## Davis gets maximum sentence

**Bob Bonnar**  
NLJ Associate Publisher

A week after rejecting a plea deal that would have allowed Michael Davis to serve 14-18 years in the state penitentiary for pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the 2011 shooting death of Katy Coffee, District Court

Judge Thomas Rumpke imposed the maximum sentence of 15 and a half to 20 years on Davis when the defendant chose to maintain his guilty plea in spite of the judge's rejection of the plea agreement.

"If you persist in this guilty plea, the outcome of this case may be less favorable than the plea agreement," Rumpke told Davis when a new

sentencing hearing was convened at 9 a.m. this Monday.

Davis answered with a simple, "Yes sir," when the judge asked him if he had chosen to maintain his guilty plea, and Rumpke then allowed a trio of advocates to speak on the defendant's behalf before taking a short recess to consider the sentence he would impose.

Davis' wife, Alison, was the first to testify on his behalf, and she described her husband of 26 years as an active neighbor and community member who served on numerous boards and as a volunteer firefighter in addition to working with youth in various capacities—particularly in

— See **Davis**, Page 3

## A service by candlelight



(Top left) Father Tim Martinson of Corpus Christi Catholic Church reads from the Book of Psalms during Thursday's HLC candlelight service. The night honored all those from Newcastle who have passed away this past year. (Bottom Left) Elizabeth Goodart hands a lighted candle to LeRoy Dummer which he placed with the slowly growing multitude of fellow candles. The congregation was encouraged to personally ferry the candles of loved ones in a deeply touching display of symbolism. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

## Dollars for Osage dump

*DEQ suggests county matches closure grant*

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ Reporter

The Central Weston County Solid Waste District is in the process of finishing up the transfer station that they will utilize to collect and store the district's solid waste before transferring it to another facility, but the district lacks the funds to finish that job or tackle the closure of its existing landfill.

In the week prior to the February 7 Weston County Commissioner's Meeting, County Commissioners Ed Wagoner and Tracy Hunt, met with two representatives from the CWCSWD (Cyndi Crabtree and Joe Wood Jr.) and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Craig McOmie, who is the manager of that agency's Landfill Remediation/Cease and Transfer Program to discuss the district's next move, and the group discussed those options last Tuesday.

"Osage is about 95 percent complete. They are waiting on power and are needing some gravel for the road. The bids came in, and the lowest is \$29,500 to finish the electric. The low bid on gravel is right around \$10,000," reported Wagoner, who is also the Chair of the Weston County Solid Waste District Board.

He reported that McOmie suggested the county use \$170,000 of county consensus funding that is earmarked for solid waste disposal to finish up the work required to convert the CWCSWD operation from a landfill to a transfer station, and explained that the commission can decide exactly where to use those funds as long as they are applied to the disposal of solid waste.

According to Wagoner, the district is looking at roughly \$700,000 to close the CWCSWD landfill, but the cost could be lower depending on the amount of soil needed for cover. He said McOmie proposed that the county use \$40,000 of the \$170,000 to finish the transfer station, and put the rest towards a match for a grant to close the landfill.

"The DEQ is sitting on \$5 million (statewide) for closure. If the commission earmarks \$130,000, that would be the 15

— See **Osage Dump**, Page 6

## Skateboard ban stays in place

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ Reporter

Several months ago, a number of city ordinances were presented to the Newcastle City Council to be reviewed, based on the belief that many of them were outdated, and at their February 2 meeting, Newcastle City Councilman Steven Ladwig asked the board to consider changing the current ordinance that effectively prohibits the use of skateboards downtown after noting that another Wyoming community recently lifted its own ban.

Currently, skateboarding and bicycles are not allowed on the sidewalks downtown— from Railway to Summit Avenue— by city ordinance. Skateboards can not be used on the streets either, and Ladwig opened the Mayor/Council report portion of the meeting by asking the rest of the council to consider amending the ordinance or eliminating it

altogether.

"I want to do away with that. Cheyenne's law was amended and passed third reading," announced Ladwig, who was referring to a vote of that city's council in November that allowed skateboards to be used "as transit" downtown.

Ladwig said he is concerned that skateboarders in the area may not be aware of the current laws surrounding the activity, and displayed some confusion about the law himself when he voiced the belief that skateboarders should be viewed in the same manner as pedestrians when they are on the road.

"Skateboarders, I thought, would be considered pedestrians and rather than have the vehicle have the right-of-way, the skateboarders would be considered pedestrians and have the same rights on the road," professed Ladwig.

Police Chief Jim Owens

asserted that the use of skateboards in the street was prohibited by law, and as such should not be given the right-of-way over vehicles lawfully on the road. He further noted that skateboards and bicycles are both prohibited on the sidewalks by city ordinance.

"Skateboards are prohibited on the street— period— because they are a toy and it is against the law to ride them down the street. They are prohibited on the sidewalks by city ordinance specifically, and so are bicycles on the sidewalk by city ordinance specifically," explained Owens, who recalled that the ordinance restricting skateboard use on Main Street was created after business owners complained to the city because fast-moving skateboarders were creating a hazard for their customers.

The Police Chief said he

— See **Board Ban**, Page 6

## School district rec fund running low

**Andy McKay**  
NLJ Reporter

While school districts statewide are concerned over the possibility of decreased state funding in the years to come, the local school board is already being confronted with shortfalls in the recreation fund it governs that is generated by local tax dollars.

The Weston County School District #1 Board of Trustees, which also sits as the governing board for the Eastern Weston County Recreation District, is faced with a 25 percent decrease in the revenue generated by the local mill levy that funds the district, and cited that as their reason for denying a request for \$1,000 from the Post-Prom party committee at their meeting on February 8.

The board had cited the 25 percent shortfall at their previous meeting on January 25 when they only approved an amount of \$1,000 for a \$2,140 request for the annual 4-H Camp held at Mallo, and last week's request spurred another vigorous discussion

over the various funding requests that are fielded by the board each year.

The Post-Prom party, which is designed to be a deterrent for delinquency by offering students a fun and safe environment following the dance, takes around 40 volunteers to run successfully and usually entertains 180 kids. Though the entirety of the board recognized the benefits of the program, some were uncertain whether it was appropriate to dig into the recreation board's coffers.

"We gave (4-H) less money than we did last year, and even that amount concerns me," Rec. Board Chair Tina Chick confessed. "If we're going to have the money to do the things we've already committed to, I feel that we need to stop spending."

The majority of the money generated by the mill levy is used to cover utility and operations costs at the Kozisek Aquatic Center each year, and a year ago another significant portion of the fund was dedicated

— See **Rec Fund**, Page 7

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**Thursday**  
Clear  
Hi 56, Lo 32



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 54, Lo 35



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 53, Lo 37



**Sunday**  
Clear  
Hi 58, Lo 37



**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 47, Lo 31



**Tuesday**  
Clear  
Hi 48, Lo 35

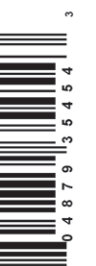


**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 50, Lo 30



### INSIDE

- Landfill Questions, Page 6
- A Busy Priest, Page 7
- Excellent Explorers, Page 8
- Sports, Page 9



# DOGIES SPEECH & DEBATE



Back row: Michael Alexander, Arianna Anderson, Colin Heaton, Sean Hopper, Lindsey Burling. Middle row: Anna Gettinger, Hunter Vaughn, Madison Frazee, John Barker, Heather Michaelis, Heather Donner. Front row: Markie Whitney, Brenna Watkins, Makayla Hofner, Kinlee Whitney, Austyn Vaughn, Emily Freytag, Lexi Krogman (Photo courtesy of Lifetouch)



**WESTON COUNTY  
HEALTH SERVICES**

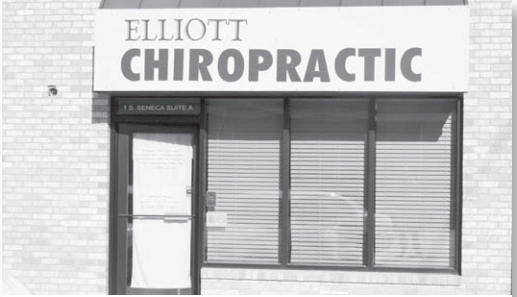
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# Sweethearts



Top: Sydney Baker enjoys sparkle fun at the texture table. Bottom: In the Elmo class, Natalie Shoemaker and James McGill share their Valentine's day smiles during their party at the Weston County Children's Center on Tuesday. (Pam Penfield/NLJ)

# Davis

from page 1

the sport of rodeo, where Davis served as a rodeo clown many years ago.

"Youth in our community flock to Mike," Alison told the judge, explaining that she believes kids were drawn to her husband because he "has fun with them while treating them as valuable individuals."

She said that he had spent 28 years as a volunteer fireman, 18 years on the Weston County Weed and Pest Board and been involved with the Salt Creek Community Center Board in addition to participating in neighborhood Bible studies, but revealed that things began to change when Mike joined a fraternal organization in Newcastle in 2008.

Alison testified that prior to joining the organization, "Mike was a social drinker," but she indicated that he began to drink to excess when he came to town twice a month for meetings.

"He would return home from these times intoxicated," she said tearfully. "Our family life and his work performance were affected by this."

Alison told the judge that Mike voluntarily sought counseling for alcohol abuse in February of 2015, several months before he was arrested in December of that year for shooting Coffee, and said he "began to seek the Lord" in the summer of 2015. She assured Rumpke, who had expressed concern over a lack of remorse from the defendant as a reason for rejecting the plea deal, that Davis had indeed expressed sorrow over Coffee's death.

"I have been witness to many hours of tears and remorse for his actions," she stated, adding that Davis has helped fellow inmates on a number of occasions since his arrest 15 months earlier, and had also spent the time he was incarcerated recording books on tape for school kids and recording books of the Bible to be used in assisted living facilities. She told Rumpke she believes Mike has lessons to share with other troubled individuals.

The defendant's father, Lloyd, spoke briefly in support of Davis, noting that his son had worked for him for 27 years and lived only 50 feet away.

"I wanted to say a lot more than I am going to say, and a lot of it is not good, but Mike asked me not to," Lloyd Davis testified, indicating that his son had told him there was already enough hurt and pain as a result of Coffee's shooting.

The advocate who spoke longest in Davis' behalf was his minister, Todd Olson of the Cambria Community Church in Newcastle, who testified that he has been meeting with the defendant for an hour a week for over a year at the county jail.

He too expressed the belief that Davis felt remorse for the crime.

"He pretty much broke down and cried the whole time, realizing that he made bad choices," Olson revealed, indicating that he feels Davis has taken responsibility for his actions.

"He has never said anything like, 'they got the wrong guy' or 'they made a mistake,' or that he deserves a less sentence or shorter time," Olson testified. "He put on the big boy boots and has taken responsibility for what he's done."

The minister supported the claim made by Davis' wife that the defendant had provided a positive influence to other inmates while incarcerated, and echoed Alison's perception that he is not the same man who shot Coffee in her home on the west side of Newcastle in June of 2011.

"He's changed drastically while in jail. He has been a blessing to other inmates, and there's been a change in the county jail with other inmates," said Olson.

The minister admitted that he has encountered inmates in the past who engaged in such acts to make a good impression on a judge or jury, but said he didn't believe Davis was motivated by any such desire.

"I tell you what, he's not doing it for you guys," Olson asserted, stating that he doesn't believe Davis represents a threat to society.

"I believe that Mike is going to be a blessing to other people and make up for lost time with his family," he concluded before asking Rumpke to make a decision that would provide

the appropriate result for the families of both Coffee and Davis.

At the conclusion of the minister's testimony, the judge asked Davis if he would like to allocute to the crime he had pled guilty to, and the defendant indicated that he did not wish to speak.

Rumpke deliberated for less than a half hour before returning to the courtroom to pronounce Davis' sentence. He explained to those assembled in the courtroom that he felt it was important to choose a penalty that would be appropriate as a specific deterrent to Davis' ability and willingness to commit another crime, but also a suitable deterrent for the community to demonstrate how such a serious crime is handled by the court.

Rumpke said he had read letters from individuals who believed Davis should be sentenced to time-served (which was determined to be 434 days at that point) and probation, as well as those who asked for the maximum penalty.

Ultimately, the judge said that he believed that a sentence of simple probation undermined the seriousness of the crime—which he referred to as a homicide—and that the fact that Davis was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm at the time of the killing had to be considered.

"I am greatly concerned with the fact that you had a firearm and should not have had a firearm," Rumpke said before announcing the sentence. He indicated that in addition to the concern over Davis' violation of a federal law that forbid him from possessing a firearm, he imposed the maximum penalty because the defendant had concealed his involvement in the crime for more than four years.

Attorney Lynda Black, who represented the County Attorney's Office in the trial, indicated that the prosecution still intended to dismiss an additional compounded felony charge as both sides had agreed in the original plea bargain, and the judge informed Davis' attorney, Nick Carter, that he had 30 days to appeal the decision that was made in court on Monday.

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Sponsored by Weston County Children's Center/Region III Developmental Services with financial assistance provided by Weston County School District #1 and Title VI-B Funds



# MAKING THE GRADE

We would like to commend all participants on their grades and congratulate the winners.

**Emeree Tavegie, K-2**

**Dayne Evanson, 3-5**

**Gabriel Rose, 6-8**

**Grace Rose, 9-12**

**Lilly Ralls, Christian Academy**

**Allie Lunstra, Random Draw**

Students with A's and B's, or 3's and 4's on their Report Card can register at First State Bank. Four winners are drawn and are paid \$10 per A and \$5 per B, up to \$50 per student.



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The Auxiliary is looking for addresses for all current members serving in the military from Weston County. We will send care packages to each one about shoebox size. Please call Ellen Butts at 307-746-4251 with the current address of the service member.

Thank you,  
Barb Hansen, Sr. Vice President.  
Auxiliary #2516 • Newcastle, Wyoming



**Obituary**

**Bernice Mae Hess**  
Dec. 6, 1922-Feb. 1, 2017

Bernice Mae Hess, 94, passed away on February 1, 2017. Cremation has taken place and services will be held at a later date. Friends and family can leave written condolences and sign her online guestbook at the funeral home website [www.blackhillsfuneralhome.com](http://www.blackhillsfuneralhome.com)

**Birth**

**Paisley Joyce Lambert**

Cole and Shannon Lambert of Pine Bluffs, Wyo. are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Paisley Joyce Lambert on January 20, 2017. Grandparents: Bill and Marcia Lambert of Newcastle. Great-grandparents: Norma Lambert of Sterling, Colo. Paisley weighed in at seven pounds and was 20.5 inches in length.

# Library announces reading and discussion series

Beginning on March 15, the Weston County Library book discussion group will host "Impact of War," a reading and discussion series featuring nonfiction books from four time periods.

The discussion group will meet the third Wednesday of March, April, May and June of 2017 in the library meeting room from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. The program is free and open to the

public. To register and borrow books, contact the library at 746-2206.

Participants in "Impact of War" will read

— See **Library**, Page 5

*This lovely lady is celebrating her 69th birthday for the 11th time! Her children would like to invite all friends and family of Shirley (Schwarze, Cattles) Bergquist to help her celebrate!*



*Please join us for an open house at the Weston Co. Senior Center Saturday, Feb. 18 between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.*



*Our family would like to wish Richard and Barbara Dinges a wonderful 60th wedding anniversary on February 22nd.*

## Breakfast of soldiers



Homer Hastings displays an issue of the St. Louis Star-Times at the monthly VFW Free Veteran's Breakfast at the Senior Center. The headline reads "War Declared" which marked the turning point in history when America joined WWII after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. (Andy McKay/NLJ)



**Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.**  
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
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# 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:** Father Tom Campbell, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sunday, Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. haydishall@hotmail.com.
- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Tsena Dinsaa, 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, Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- 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 Gadow 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.

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.*  
-Ecclesiastes 3:1



Daily Devotional Reading						
Feb 16 John 8:1-20	Feb 17 John 8:21-47	Feb 18 John 8:48-59	Feb 19 1 John 1:1-2:6	Feb 20 1 John 2:7-29	Feb 21 1 John 3:1-24	Feb 22 1 John 4:1-21

*Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society*

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# Recapture

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

**February 19, 1892**  
Joe Duling was in Edgemont Saturday night.

The pay roll in Cambria next payday will be the biggest in the history of the mines.

Dr. B.B. Kelly was in Newcastle Monday & moved his family into the rooms over the Bank of Newcastle.

Henry Castle has been out to Beaver & Mush Creeks the past week to look over the locations of county bridges with a view of contracting. He went as far as AU7 & Fiddleback Ranches.

Some of our ambitious young men have got a bad case of the "Creede Craze."

**No Newspaper from February 19, 1917**

**February 19, 1942**  
The First State Bank of Newcastle, has sold \$49,550 in defense bond to 110 Weston County people since the first day of May, 1941.

Planes at the Newcastle Flying Field are grounded until an inspector comes and offi-

cially declares it a "designated airport."

Friday the 13th was an unlucky day for Joe Trujillo, 60, who was struck & seriously injured on U.S. Highway 16 four miles West of Upton by a car with Montana plates. Trujillo, a herder employed by Morris Williams of Sundance, was getting some sheep off the road when the automobile hit him.

The preliminary hearing of

P.H. Albright will be heard before Justice of the Peace Dorothy E. Shank today at ten o'clock. Albright was charged with embezzlement and has been held in the county jail here.

The faces of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, & Lincoln now stand forth on Rushmore Mountain in all their completed splendor.

*Should have seen it in color*



L-R Bill McKay, Nat DeHaven, John Henderson in the door way, Fred Coates sitting and holding his child, Joe Duling is holding the horse with the hat on its head. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

## Library

from page 4

and discuss Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, discussion led by Lucille Dumbrell; Lilac Girls, discussion led by Pat Morgan; Thirteen Days, discussion led by Phyl Sundstrom; and One Hundred and One Nights, discussion led by Cathy Dunford.

The books address a variety of themes relative to war, as well as a variety of locations and time frames. Books may

be borrowed from the local library via interlibrary loan, or purchased by the participants. Due to changes in how the book discussion groups are organized this year, four different leaders will be in charge of the discussions.

The program is supported by the Wyoming Humanities Council. Reading Wyoming has provided a reading and dis-

ussion series to nonprofit organizations around the state for many years, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Wyoming State Legislature through the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.

For more information on council programs, call 307-721-9243 or visit the council website at [www.thinkwy.org](http://www.thinkwy.org).

## Accomplishments

### NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONOR ROLL

The Northern Wyoming Community College District announced its fall 2016 semester honor rolls last week, and Newcastle's Ronald Tremelling was listed on the Vice President's Honor Roll.

For full-time students to earn a place on the Vice President's Honor Roll, they must maintain full-time enrollment by completing 12 credit hours or more with letter grades of A, B, C, OR S and a semester GPA OF 3.5 or higher. Credits counted in S graded classes may not exceed one credit.

The Northern Wyoming Community College District includes Sheridan College, Sheridan College in Johnson County, and Gillette College.

### NHS GRAD GETS NEBRASKA DEGREE

Newcastle High School graduate Madison Manders was one of 219 students who completed their certificate, diploma or degree programs in Summer and Fall 2016 from Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. A total of 160 students completed during the fall term while another 59 completed in the summer.

The names of the students will be listed in the program in the College's commencement ceremony in May, and Manders, who received her Associate of Arts degree, is eligible to participate in those commencement ceremonies.

### UW HONOR ROLLS

The University of Wyoming this month announced that

three students from Weston County— Newcastle's Payton Nikol Crawford and Abigail L. Gettinger and Upton's Mikala D. Crain— on the 2016 fall semester President's Honor Roll.

The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly enrolled undergraduates who earned a 4.0 grade-point average for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

Jodi Barker and Samuel M. Cabello, also of Newcastle, were listed on the 2016 fall semester Provost's Honor Roll, which consists of undergraduates who have completed at least six but fewer than 12 hours with a minimum 3.5 grade-point average for the semester.

The University of Wyoming also lists 14 students from

Weston County on the 2016 fall semester academic Dean's and Dean's Freshman Honor Rolls.

Newcastle's Calbi Ausmann, Gideon D. Baldwin, Jennifer Marie Bayne, Madison S. Crawford, Alex L. Henkle, Abigail Hutchinson, Dakota Dawson McCormack, Mykel J. Owens, Cody Lee Sackett and Scottlyn C. Wiggins were on the list, as were Upton's Kierra K. Brown, Eben S. Cowger, Erin Lynn Crawford and Seth W. Jones. These honor rolls consist of regularly enrolled undergraduates above freshman standing who earned a 3.4 or better grade-point average, and freshmen who have earned a 3.25 or better grade-point average. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

## WHAT'S UP February 2017

### Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
<b>Thurs 16</b>	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:00 p.m.	WC Concert Association Concert	Crouch Auditorium
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
<b>Fri 17</b>	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
<b>Sat 18</b>	5:00 p.m.	Wild Game Potluck	The Beer Hut, Osage
<b>Sun 19</b>	7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
<b>Mon 20</b>	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
<b>Tues 21</b>	8:00 a.m.	County Commissioners Meeting	Courthouse Annex
	12:00 p.m.	WC CowBelles	Antlers Restaurant and Lounge
	1:00 p.m.	Pesticide Applicator Training	USDA Building
	4:15 p.m.	Jewel Cave Rock Presentation	WC Library
	7:00 p.m.	City Council	City Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
<b>Wed 22</b>	6:00 p.m.	WCSD #1 Board Meeting	WCSD #1 Admin Building
	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
<b>Thurs 23</b>	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
<b>Fri 24</b>	10:00 a.m.	WCHS Open House & Chamber Coffee	WC Health Services
	11:30 a.m.	WC Library Board Meeting	WC Library
	7:00 p.m.	Western Ramblers Dance	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall

### Calendar Sponsored by Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

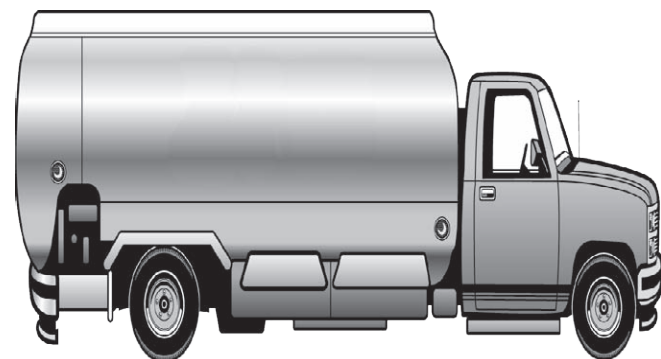
For a complete listing of events, for more information on these events, or to list your own event, visit the Chamber website at [newcastlewyo.com](http://newcastlewyo.com)

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 16** David & Delores Sylte
- February 17** Billy Quick
- February 18** Jerry Baird, Jerry & Annette Koester, Jasper Bloom, Krystal Crinklaw
- February 21** Tina Sundstrom, Irene Tunnell
- February 22** Shane Sweet, Richard & Barbara Dinges
- February 23** Don McColley

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A pair of Newcastle High School students, Dusty Neate and Bryce Womack, were awarded the bid to create signs for the Weston County Courthouse Annex at the Weston County Commissioners' February 7 meeting. The students are creating the signs in Ag class, which prompted the commissioners to question the fairness of awarding the bid to the duo over those submitted by businesses whose bids reflect the overhead costs associated with producing the signs, but eventually awarded the bid for four steel signs— to be hung on the outside of the building— to the students. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

## Osage Dump from page 1.....

to 20 percent match for the grant, and the DEQ would come up with the rest to put the landfill to sleep," commented Wagoner, who maintained that McOmie assured the group that the DEQ could make the closure of the landfill happen if the county invested the remaining balance.

Chairman Bill Lambert raised concern regarding how much the county previously gave the district from that chunk of county consensus money, and Commission Marty Ertman stated that the county had given them the money to provide a local match

for the transfer station under construction.

Commissioner Tony Barton acknowledged that it could be advantageous for the countywide solid waste district to use those funds instead of the Osage district utilizing them, but Wagoner said that he thinks the county will best be served by closing the central Weston County landfill as quickly as possible.

Neither Wagoner nor Hunt were comfortable providing a recommendation at the time on what route the county should take, and the commissioners decided to

forgo making a decision and revisit the topic at a later date.

"I still think it is up in the air about whether this is our— the county's— problem. So many things are not clear to me, and it does not seem viable to have a transfer station going forward for the county. The whole thing just stinks of poor planning, and I don't know what it was that caused those people to open a dump there in the first place. I'm guessing to be in compliance with the DEQ," professed Hunt.

**Commission Clips**  
*Notes from the February 7 Weston County Commissioner's Meeting.*

- County Clerk Jill Sellers reported that the county will be reimbursed by its insurance company for 10 hours of overtime work performed when a water supply line for the upstairs bathroom in the courthouse ruptured last fall. The leak caused extensive damage to the two lower floors of the building, and Sellers said the company has expressed the desire to work with the contractor who will perform repairs on the building to coordinate those repairs with the cost estimates produced by the adjusters who generated those estimates.
- County Administrator Dan Blakeman shared that Weston County received \$110,000 of the \$150,000 that was requested through an emergency grant from the State Loan and Investment Board. He explained that while it would have been nice to get approval for the entire amount of request, he believes the county was fortunate that it was able to access the emergency funding under the state statutes that govern use of the fund.
- The Weston County Courthouse Annex is nearing completion, and the focus of the project has been on preparing the building for occupation by the University of Wyoming Extension Office before the end of the month. The extension office announced on Tuesday that they will be moving into the space February 21-23. It is hoped that the remainder of the work on the building will be complete by the first of March.
- Sellers told the commissioners that Caleb Thompson, the new manager of Mallo Camp, had presented a number of questions to her regarding comp time, overtime, benefits and holidays. She noted the unique nature of his position, and indicated that answers to his questions were not easy to provide. His questions also led to a number of other potential human resource issues, and Sellers asked the commissioners to consider utilizing an outside company to help navigate some of these issues in light of the fact that the county does not have a designated human resources officer.

## Board Ban from page 1.....

believed the prohibition was necessary, and noted that the hazard posed by skateboarders in this community is even more real because the majority of those his officers make contact with aren't children, but young adults, which means that the potential for serious injury to pedestrians is even greater because the boarders are larger and capable of moving at higher speeds.

"Contrary to what people would think, the skateboarders are not 9 to 13 years old. Our skateboarders are between 17 and 25 years old, and start up on the (hospital) hill before coming down Washington Street to come down Summit and right down the middle of Main Street weaving in and out of cars," Owens described.

In response to Ladwig's

concern that skateboard users weren't aware of current law, he reported that all the "regular skateboarders" in town have been warned at one time or another about the law.

"The skateboarders in town know if we see the younger kids on their skateboards downtown, the officer will make contact with them and advise them that they can't ride their skateboards on the sidewalks downtown," remarked Owens. "Again, we have very little issues with the younger kids, it's the older people that we have the problem with."

After the discussion, the council made no changes to the city ordinance prohibiting the use of skateboards on the sidewalks on Main Street, which can carry a fine of up to \$60 for violators.

**City Beats**  
*Notes from the February 6 Newcastle City Council meeting.*

- City Engineer Mike Moore reported that he was recently approached by the Newcastle Little League group regarding the installation of lights on the little league fields. The individuals representing the league assured the council that they were only asking that the city help coordinate the installation of the lights, and were not asking for funds to purchase the equipment. According to the group, it will be at least a year before the lights could be purchased and installed, and Moore recommended that the council's Parks Committee review the plans.
- Moore reported that the city has again been contacted by a company called Mobil Light regarding the company's desire to install a 120-foot tall data pole in the city's right-of-way on Salem Ave. A number of concerns were voiced over the request, including the proposed location, and the council has not made a decision regarding the request. City Attorney Jim Peck remarked that he had suggested the company look into purchasing private property instead of utilizing a city right-of-way.
- City Clerk Greg James informed the council that there will be a change to how the city handles employee comp time. Employees will be allowed to accumulate up to 24 hours of comp time that can either be used by the end of the fiscal year or paid out on the last pay date before the end of said year. There will not be an option to carry comp time over into the new fiscal year. James reported that city employees agreed that this is an appropriate change.

# Future landfill a long way off

Weston County resident Mark Pollat attended the February 7 Weston County Commissioner's Meeting to question the board about how the three mill levy approved by voters in November for solid waste disposal in the county would be spent.

Wagoner explained that it will be the waste district's board that makes such decisions moving forward.

"The commissioners appointed five board members, and the district is run by those members like the hospital district," explained Wagoner, who said that no decisions have been made at this point regarding how much residents will pay—in addition to the mill levy—to dispose of

solid waste.

"The fees are yet to be determined. Everyone in the county will have the same fee," commented Wagoner, who noted that garbage collected by the cities of Newcastle and Upton will be run over the scale at the same price per pound as is charged to everybody else.

According to Wagoner, those tipping fees will be used to pay for the everyday operations of the landfill, while the mill levy will be utilized for the creation of the landfill. The WCSWD will not see any of those mill levy funds until 2018, however, and Wagoner said this puts the actual creation of a new landfill three to five years away. He said costs to get a landfill up and

going can reach \$2.5 million, and noted that the mill is anticipated to generate approximately \$360,000 a year at the county's present valuation.

Once the debt is recovered from the creation of the landfill, the mill levy can be reduced.

Pollat was also curious to where the landfill will be located once the funds are available to begin work.

"A lot depends on what we can find," remarked Wagoner, who said a larger landfill would have a longer permitted lifespan. He said a lot will depend on soil conditions, and indicated the belief that the WCSWD would be looking for a piece of land that is at least 40 acres.



All-but retired priest Father Tom Campbell prepares for service on a brisk Sunday morning. After moving across the country for most of his professional career, Campbell is looking forward to settling down in the beautiful Black Hills. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

# The Raspberry Priest

Andy McKay  
NLJ Reporter

The Episcopal Church has been casting around for someone to lead their church services, and they believe they have found the perfect fit in retired priest Father Tom Campbell. For the past three years, he has served as priest for various churches around the Black Hills that had lost their leader before eventually coming to the assistance of Christ Episcopal Church in Newcastle.

A native of Spearfish, Campbell related that he had a rough childhood, as he had to provide for himself starting back in the sixth grade by working his grandfather's acre farm, which boasted raspberry bushes and chickens.

"I would pick 15 pints of raspberries, put them on my bike, and ride three miles into town and sell them at the grocery stores. Then I'd ride back and do it again. I did that for years every summer. Raspberries put me through my first two years of college," Campbell stated.

Though he was baptized and confirmed as a child, Campbell explained he began his walk as a Christian during his days at Augustana, a Lutheran school in Sioux Falls. Having something of a vocal talent, he auditioned for the Augustana College A Capella Choir. The choir, which only performed hymns and other Christian tunes, introduced him to the passion of worship.

"All that spiritual, religious music really got to my soul," Campbell said.

He also cites Elizabeth, a young nurse who tended to him after breaking his neck, as a major influence in his walk as a Christian. They grew closer during those early days, establishing a strong foundation for a marriage that has surpassed half a century.

The priest shared that his path to the cloth was a gradual one rather than one revelatory, eureka moment. Though it was a process involving a strong commitment and work ethic on his part, Campbell maintained it was a design that was beyond him.

"God was there and God was placing things in front of me," Campbell said.

An ordained priest of the Episcopal Church for 52 years, Campbell explained his ministry work has been in the capacity of a tent-making

priest. This is in reference to the apostle Paul, who was known for spreading the gospel across the Mediterranean while plying his trade as a tent-maker to make ends meet.

"I make my living and provide for my family through secular employment, but I work for the church at the same time without salary," Newcastle's new Episcopal priest said.

With a passion for education, the priest has taught history, sociology, philosophy and a myriad of associated subjects at five different colleges while simultaneously functioning as a priest for a church—or churches, as was often the case—in need.

Campbell has worked as chaplain, professor, headmaster, and counselor from South Dakota, Virginia, California, Texas, and back again. Throughout this process, he has continuously been drawn back to working with youth. His last position in education was as a senior chaplain for over 600 children, ranging from 2 years-old to senior in high school. He described that as "the hardest work I ever did, but very extremely rewarding," but having technically retired years beforehand, Campbell decided it was his time to bow out.

"After three years, I told my boss I was about to hang it up. I love teaching and being a chaplain, but I also knew I had been retired for ten years and I had two full-time jobs, and that was crazy," Campbell said, noting that upon coming back to his childhood home in Spearfish, the Campbells had planned to finally slow down.

"We've been all over the states, but we came back home to the Black Hills for retirement. Well, that lasted about two months," Campbell chuckled.

While he is in retirement "only working two, maybe three Sundays a week," Campbell doesn't have any intention of slowing down any time soon for more reasons than just work. He and his wife want to spend more time with their four sons and ten grandkids, who the grandfather tries to wrangle together each year at an annual get together coined Camp Campbell.

"I think it's in my DNA that I have to be busy. I have to work. I could not retire to the front porch in a rocking chair reading a book. No thank you! I cannot ever see myself not working," Campbell confessed.

## Rec Fund from page 1.....

to providing a Community Recreation Director in a partnership with the City of Newcastle. Coupled with the decrease in property tax revenue, these commitments mean that less money is available to meet special funding requests from entities like 4-H and the Post-Prom Committee.

As the board debated the request, it was pointed out that even more groups that offer the same service of keeping kids in a safe, structured environment could be coming to ask the board for financial assistance, and Trustee Joe Corley voiced the shared worry that approving the post-prom request would encourage more groups to petition for stipends from a

shrinking source. "I feel obligated to do something. It's just a matter of trying to figure out and compromise on what. There are a lot of kids who go there who need to go there to stay out of doing other things... It's a hard one to figure out," Corley lamented.

School Board Chair John Riesland (who volunteered to personally match up to \$570 in donations that the 4-H group could raise to make up the shortfall in meeting their request at the previous meeting) suggested that the it may be more appropriate for the group to field the request when meeting as the school board—since the event was directly associated with a school sponsored activity.

"Prom is put on by the Junior class. Why can't we, through the school board, donate something from the board budget and keep the rec. board out of the red. I mean, it's still going to our students," Riesland said, referring to a specific account in the school district budget set up for the board's expenditures.

Members, however, had difficulty finding common ground on how to best utilize dwindling school district and recreation district budgets to meet student needs, especially in the light of the uncertainty surrounding future education funding in Wyoming.

Ultimately, the board voted against a proposal to provide \$500 to the group.

### School Notes

Items of interest from the WCSD #1 Board of Trustees meeting on February 8.

- School District Attorney Don Hansen brought to the board's attention two Supreme Court cases that he said may impact the district at some point. The cases featured a pair of lawsuits filed by the Wyoming Tribune Eagle in Cheyenne against the Laramie County School District over charges assessed to the newspaper to produce emails that had been requested and against the city of Cheyenne over the public's access to a city-formed team's meetings. The newspaper lost both cases.
- Special Education Director Tobey Cass announced that this year's Special Winter Olympics ski competition in Jackson was canceled due to disruption of power to the city's premier ski resort over the past week. He said they still planned on holding the dance even with the events being canceled.
- Newcastle Middle School Principal Kyle Gunderson reported the results of the Weston County Spelling Bee. The top two finishers—

- Gabby McVay in first and Avery Chick in second— will continue on to the state competition on March 12 in Rock Springs.
- WCSD #1 Superintendent Brad LaCroix expressed persistent concerns revolving around this legislature's consistent attack on school funding this session. "I'm not sure they understand their role versus ours," he proclaimed. "There's lots to fight about right now, but money is not one of them."
- The board was asked for input regarding an upcoming change to school policy in how janitorial staff are compensated for their services for non-school related activities in school facilities. Hansen reported that there are three different charges- rent, deposit for damage and cleaning, and personnel costs—that could be used to charge for the space. "Whatever the total of those are is what is due. I don't think it really changes what the district is doing, it will just be better organized," the attorney said.



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**Children's Center Receives Daniels Fund Grant**

The Weston County Children's Center/Region III Developmental Services announced today that they have received a \$5,191 Daniels Fund Grant.

WCCC/Region III provides early intervention and special education services for birth to school age children who have developmental disabilities and delays in Crook and Weston Counties. They also provide preschool for children ages two through five and full day/full year child care for infants and children to age twelve.

"The Daniels Fund Grant will allow us to replace our audiometer which is 20 years old. This new machine will provide efficient and accurate hearing screenings and will expedite hearing referrals, medical treatments and speech/language therapies," stated Jane Rhoades, Executive Director.

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative. Visit [DanielsFund.org](http://DanielsFund.org) to learn more.

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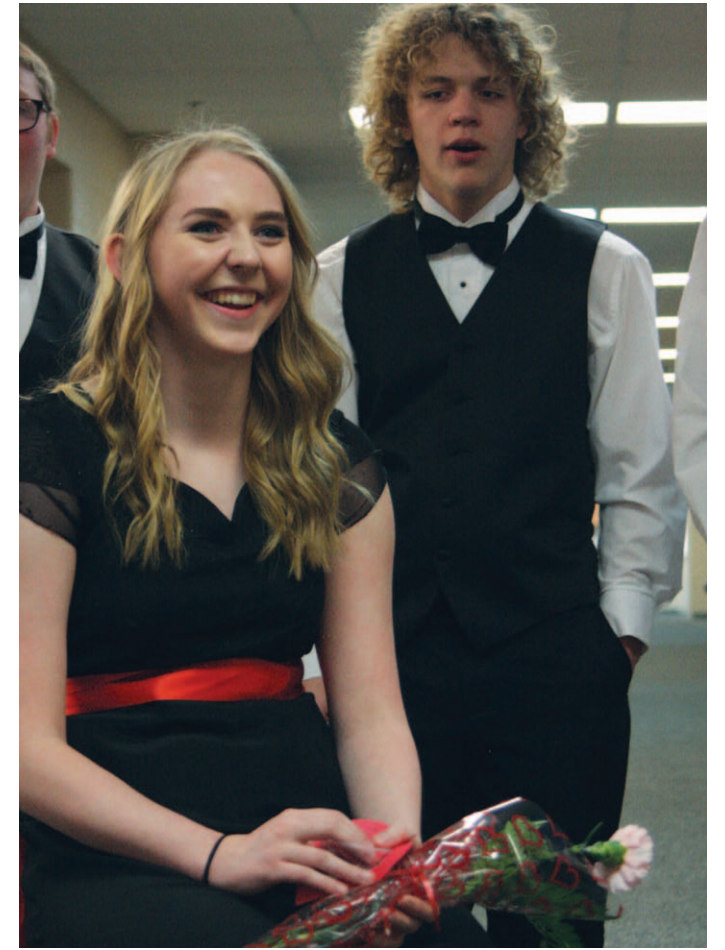
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# Generations

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## Sweet serenade



Left: Sophomore Kolby Piscioti and Senior Colin Heaton serenade Mary Roland and Jenny Willard during their Singing Valentine event. Students and staff were treated to personal performances from the Troubadours and the Gemtonz who crooned for those whose sweethearts had hired their services. Right: Heaton and the rest of the Troubadours sing "Sweet Charlotte" to Senior Heather Michaelis, who is also a member of the Gemtonz. Like the others who received the honor, Michaelis was presented with a rose and an assortment of chocolate truffles. Two members of the Troubadours, Heaton and Sophomore Brady Wilkes, were selected for All-State Choir this year, a story that will be covered in next week's issue. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

# Explorers win top honors for fourth time



Explorers Post 66 enjoys familiarity with the vast variety of fire fighting equipment thanks to the hands-on experience in training they receive from the fire department as part of its mentorship program. The group tallied over 1,400 volunteer hours this past year thanks in large part to their advisor Lt. Mark Christiansen. Many Explorers make use of their experience after graduating from the program by continuing on as firefighters or in the forestry service. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

### Advisor claims national recognition

Andy McKay  
NLJ Reporter

The Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department's Explorer Post 66 was recognized with the Post of the Year award for an unprecedented fourth consecutive time. In a com-

petitive field of over 5,000 posts nationally, the award is a tangible expression of the post's consistent tradition of excellence and dedication.

"We've won it four times in a row, which has never happened nationally. It takes a lot of hard work and a lot and a lot of hours," confirmed acting Explorers Chief Tabitha Pillen.

Exploring, a subsidiary of Boy Scouts of America, is a one-on-one mentoring program for young adults from ages

14-20 to gain hands-on experience with trained professionals. Ranging from aviation to the arts, law enforcement to skilled trades, posts are sponsored by local agencies or companies who hope to impart a love for lifelong learning. While it is not unheard of for smaller communities to lay claim to an Explorer program, they rarely have as much success as Post 66 has enjoyed in recent years.

"We're lucky enough to have a post in a town of 3,600,

and then for that town to win best Explorer Post for the last four years is beyond amazing!" said Post 66 advisor Lt. Mark Christiansen.

Bringing home the prestigious trophy is a tremendous feat in itself, but it risks being overshadowed this year as Christiansen was presented with a rare commendation at this year's national ceremony.

"Mark was nominated and presented with the William H. Spurgeon III Award. It is basi-

cally presented to people who show an enormous amount of leadership and excellence in working with youth. It's only been presented 26 times nationally," proclaimed Pillen. The award is the highest recognition attainable in the Explorers program.

Christiansen humbly admitted his gratitude for the distinguished award, but emphasized that the kids are what was most important, and quickly acknowledged that the mentorship came from many more outlets than just himself.

"This program is about the kids. It's not just me. It's all those other guys who are sitting down there (at the Fire Hall) away from their families. They are here to help and teach the kids in this community," Christiansen stated.

His words are reflected in the program as a surprising number of graduates have gone on to pursue careers in the profession.

"Usually we have quite a few kids out of the program who go on to become firefighters," Christiansen said. Past members include Caleb Munger and the local department's new Fire Chief, Austin Baker, as well as numerous other volunteer and professional firemen and forestry workers scattered throughout the Black Hills area.

But not all who join the Explorers do so to become firefighters. For Pillen, it was a deeply personal reason, as her brother Wyatt was an active member of the program before he passed away in a car accident.

"I originally began the Explorers program because I wanted to fulfill the dreams my brother was no longer able to do myself. It still is for my brother, but it eventually became much more important in my life than I originally thought it would," Pillen said.

She added that she sometimes drives by the Fire Hall just to see if anyone else is there. She frequently goes in if someone is, a common practice for all the Explorers at Post 66. With the Fire Hall feeling like a second home, learning new and sometimes sophisticated techniques comes naturally for Explorers who have near constant access to these first responders eager to share their experience.

"You're only as good as the people you have around you, and we have great kids here. As a department as a whole, we're here for them. Not just the kids, but the whole community. It's a brotherhood. It's like a second family," Christiansen shared.

As an outreach program from the fire department to the community's youth, Explorers is offering children an insight to the value of taking time to serve those around you. And while the Explorers Post is meant to equip teens with the tools needed to be successful later on in life, its mentors have not lost sight of the importance of allowing them to still be kids.

"They still need time to be kids. They don't need to grow up just yet. We don't put them in harm's way, but they're right there," Christiansen explained.

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