



News Letter Journal

Weston County

February 23, 2017

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 131

Week 8

Mentors for every age

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor.

A more commonly used term for those types of individuals is 'role model,' and while having good mentorship is important at all ages of a child's development, the specific type of mentorship youth need at different stages in their lives varies.

Weston County School District #1 Superintendent Brad LaCroix told the News Letter Journal in January mentoring is a real need for today's youth and that the need for productive role models could be higher than ever before. (See "Slow down and make time," on page 8 of the January 19 issue of the News Letter Journal)

Local schools obviously have a role to play in a community's effort to guide youth, and Newcastle chil-

dren are exposed to positive mentoring from the moment they step into kindergarten. That mentorship continues throughout their school career, but varies based on the needs of kids in different age groups.

According to Newcastle Elementary School Principal Brandy Holmes, the "little ones" are more receptive to input coming from older kids— whether that be high school, middle school, or older students in the same school. For this reason, NES utilizes a variety of methods of peer mentoring to best provide productive role models for younger students.

"We mentor a lot in that way, looking for those positive role models," acknowledged Holmes. She noted that it is extremely important for children in that younger age group to know that people support them and what they are doing.

In order to try to provide

— See **Mentors**, Page 6

It's Okay



Breann Small comforts her dog, Von, after getting his fractured leg wrapped by Doctor Dave at Salt Creek Veterinary Clinic last Friday. (Pam Penfield/NLJ)

No early signs of spring flooding

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

An early warming trend forced the Wyoming National Guard to mobilize to aid flood fighting efforts in communities along the Big Horn River in north-central Wyoming over the past week, but a recent report from the National Weather Service said that the western side of the Black Hills is only facing an average probability of flooding as we begin the spring thaw.

A press release from the National Weather Service announced that the first spring flood outlook for western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming was made available on Thursday, February 16, and potential for flooding on the western side of the Black Hills is no more than average.

"At this time, the probability of spring flooding from March through June is above average in the White River basin in southern South Dakota due to saturated soil conditions and above average precipitation over the winter. The Grand, Moreau, Bad, and lower Cheyenne River basins in northwestern South Dakota have an average probability of flooding due to ample snowpack over the winter months. The Little Missouri, Belle Fourche, and upper Cheyenne River basins have a below average probability of flooding due to dry conditions last fall," the release stated.

The actual flood outlook, which is available at <http://www.weather.gov/unr/springflood>, stated that the potential for spring flooding from March through June is near average in

the lower Cheyenne River Basin due to ample snowpack in the Black Hills over the winter months, but the latest snow course readings collected by the Natural Resource District Office in Sundance shows that warmer temperatures had already taken a toll on the snowpack by February 1.

Significant snowfall in the Newcastle area in the final week of January and first week of February were thwarted by warm temperatures between storms.

Those types of fluctuations had an effect on snowpack, and while Mallo experienced an increase in both depth of snowpack and snow water equivalent from January 1 to February 1, according to snow total readings from the Natural Resource District. Mallo logged a snow depth of 19.1 inches

on the first day of this month, and registered 3.6 inches of snow water equivalent. Those numbers were an increase over January 1 (14.9 inches of snowpack and 2.8 inches of snow water equivalent), but the additional snowpack recorded for the month didn't keep pace with the 30 year average.

While January's snow depth was at 97 percent of the 30 year average, February's totals were only at 78 percent of the average.

Little Bear Run, which is located south of Mallo, was able to maintain snowpack through February 1, with 16.6 inches of snowpack, equivalent to 2.8 inches of snow water equivalent, which is an increase of 4 inches of snow pack and .8 inch of snow water equivalent from the

month before.

The reading for snow water equivalent is 108 percent of the 30 year median.

With the snowpack hovering near average early in the month, and warmer temperatures logged over the past couple of weeks, Weston County may have already emerged from the first period of spring flooding danger, but the National Weather Service said in its report that nobody is out of the woods yet.

"The flood potential is still very dependent on weather conditions from now until the spring melt. The amount of additional snow and rain, the timing and rate of the spring thaw, and the timing of peak flows will have a significant effect on the flooding," the report stated.

Made for moms

New play takes a funny look at motherhood

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

"If you miss the show, you might as well pack your bags!" Shane Sellers laughed.

The Birdcage Theatrics Company has announced that it will be putting on its next show in March, and while women are likely to flock to the production, the longtime director thinks it will probably be in their husband's best interest to attend the performance with them.

Either way, he believes the community will really appreciate the original comedy about motherhood, especially since it will star a quartet of local friends.

"MOMologues" will feature Stephanie Bonnar, Sonja Karp, Carrie Manders and Jody McCormack in a tale of four friends who relive the trials of motherhood from start to finish.

"It's the good, the bad and the ugly of getting preg-

nant, being pregnant and then having kids," Karp chuckled.

While the material is mostly presented in a humorous fashion, McCormack believes that the message should have an impact for all parents. She reasoned that the play starts with "just getting pregnant," and noted that some people "have it really easy" while others have to work at it and spend tons of money for science to provide a solution.

"I think there is something from every character that every mom will resonate with," she proclaimed.

Murphy noted that every dad will be able to relate as well, and feels that they will remember when their own wife was going through the situations portrayed in the show. The play has something for both mothers and fathers to appreciate, and the entire cast guarantees it will make you laugh, but brace yourself—the script also possesses the potential to make you cry a little between chuckles.

That range of emotion is only possible with the right players. Sellers and co-director Dorothy Walker-Brown believe they have assembled



Sonja Karp and Jody McCormack show off their fake bellies during the casts ninth rehearsal. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

— See **Moms**, Page 3

Water flowing from new well

Stimulation technique increases production

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

Drilling began on Newcastle's Water Well #5 the end of last year, and while the drilling has reached a depth of 3,000 feet and is now complete, City Engineer Mike Moore informed the Newcastle City Council on February 6 that the well was not producing as well on the surface as expected.

As such, a stimulation technique was scheduled in the hopes of increasing water production.

"It's a little early to tell how well the well will perform," Moore reported to the council.

Petroleum engineer Tim Barritt, who is a Madison Well specialist, explained to the News Letter Journal that hydrochloric acid was used to create a

larger opening in the formation for the water to feed through.

Hydrochloric acid reacts with the limestone that makes up the Madison reserve that Newcastle has tapped into for all five of their water wells, and Barritt said that when the acid reacts with the limestone it creates CO2 and calcium chloride water that has to be flushed out before the water is returned to normal levels.

"This type of stimulation is a perfect fit for a Madison well. The hydrochloric acid reacts with the limestone and enhances the performance a lot," remarked Barritt, who noted that the state sets aside money for the completion of a project like Well #5 just in case this treatment is needed to stimulate the well after it is drilled.

Crews are catching samples to check acid levels in the water to determine if evidence of the acid stimulation is gone. They will then collect water for studies required by the EPA, and at this time, Barritt and

— See **Well**, Page 3

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Snow Showers
Hi 33, Lo 21



Friday
Overcast
Hi 29, Lo 14



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 28, Lo 11



Sunday
Clear
Hi 31, Lo 20



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 43, Lo 23



Tuesday
Clear
Hi 40, Lo 19

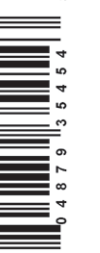


Wednesday
Clear
Hi 38, Lo 18



INSIDE

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- Regional Champs, Page 9





Tim Barritt and Mike Moore discuss the current state of Well Number 5. The recently completed well is currently producing over 700 gallons per minute after an acid stimulation process was used to up the water production. Right after completion, the well was only producing 100 gallons of water a minute. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Well

from page 1

Moore report that the well is producing over 700 gallons per minute, up from 100 gallons per minute before the treatment. This represents a larger production rate than the majority of the city's existing wells. Only Well #1 is outproducing the new well at this point, with wells two, three and four lagging.

"In two days, the well has produced 4,800,000 gallons of water," professed Barritt.

The next step for the well, after equipment is moved out of the way, is to test the pressure and rates of all five water wells. Moore explained that is neces-

sary to make sure the new well isn't affecting the production rates of the others.

"As of right now, all indications suggest that the influence on the other wells will be minor if any," suggested Moore.

Water quality will also be tested over a seven day period to produce a water quality report for the state before the city can move forward to tie it into the city's water system.

The total cost for a project such as this totals just over \$800,000, and both engineers reported that several years of work was involved to get the

project from start to finish.

Barritt remarked that Wyoming is lucky to have a program that funds water development so well through the state's Water Development Commission. He explained that if the well had not produced as anticipated, it would have been unlikely the city would have to pay for any portion of the project under the program. Since the well appears to be producing as hoped, however, the water commission will fund two-thirds of the project with the city responsible for the other third of the costs.

Watering the old way

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

While the city's new water well is capable of producing millions of gallons of water each day, it wasn't always so easy to provide quantities of water to the people who have called this community home.

Like a number of Wyoming towns, Newcastle once utilized a redwood pipeline to supply water to city residents, and while little remains of the old pipeline constructed around 1919, it is now causing some cloud on the titles of landowners in the area because of the easement the city still holds along its route.

"They didn't have plastic back then, that is what they used," former City Engineer Bob Hartley told the City Council when issues involving the easement were brought to their attention.

Hartley said the redwood pipes were held together by steel bands, and as it was filled with water the redwood would expand and seal the pipe.

"Clear up in the canyon above Beaver Creek there is a spring where a collection was built. They collect the water in spring boxes then pipe it back to town," Hartley told the News

Letter Journal. "The pipe came for miles down the canyon... There was a concrete water tank that has not been demolished that the redwood pipeline came into."

The pipeline, which Anna Miller Museum Director Bobbi Jo Tysdal said was out of service by 1928, ran 12 months out of the year and water flowed 24 hours a day and seven days a week to prevent freezing. The pipeline itself was six to eight inches in diameter, and those who travel the path the pipeline once took can see metal rings with some redwood still attached buried not far beneath the surface.

City Attorney Jim Peck alerted the council in November to the easement issue, explaining that he had recently been approached by a local realtor who requested that the city look into the easement because it shows up on "every title in the area." He shared that it was a 10-foot right-of-way that runs from the original spring all the way into town.

Hartley advised the council at the time that there is only a small portion of that right-of-way the City of Newcastle should maintain near Water Tank #3, and reasoned that the city is unlikely to ever again use the spring for its water supply, and that the redwood line had not been used for a number of decades.

Moms

from page 1

an amazingly talented local cast to pull it off.

"It required perfect casting in order for this to work," Sellers declared, and Walker-Brown said she is thrilled that the cast is doing so well with the material that they are already polishing specific aspects of the show.

"The last couple of seasons we have counted on outside talent to carry our (Birdcage) flag, but we have reverted back to making a play using local talent. This cast especially has proven to be most talented, and what we really push for is the collaboration that happens between players. These ladies have done what we have asked them to do," Sellers explained.

The quartet admits that the friendships they enjoyed before taking on this venture has helped produce immediate stage chemistry because their relationships are already natural. That has definitely helped them bring something to a script that is itself a product of collaboration between a group of women. MOMologues was written by Lisa Rafferty, Stefanie Cloutier and Sheila Eppolito.

The show will also mark the debut performance in a new venue for the Birdcage Theatrics Company, which has taken over the former T&A

Brewing Company at 222 West Main. The play will take the stage on back-to-back weekends in March, with shows scheduled for March 17, 18, 24 and 25. The side door to the building will serve as the main entrance, and it will open at 6:30 p.m. each evening, with the show beginning at 7:30. A cash bar will be available before the show and during intermission, and hors d'oeuvres are included with the ticket price.

"We really have to pay homage to Tea and Andrew Wright for allowing us to sublet this building from them. It gave Birdcage a home and we can play anything we want. It is a blessing to have this building," declared Sellers.

General admission to the first production in the new playhouse is \$25, with table seating costing \$30. Sellers noted that only 28 table top seats are available for each performance.

The show contains adult content and is not suggested for a younger audience, and ID's will have to be presented by individuals who want to purchase alcohol at the show.

Tickets for MOMologues are now on sale, with limited seating available for each showing. In order to guarantee your seats, contact Shane Sellers at 307-746-8378.

Happy National FFA Week!

February 18-25

FFA was established in 1928 as a group for young men interested in agriculture.

Today the organization's membership is comprised of nearly 650,000 young men and women with nearly 3,000 members right here in Wyoming. While the organization's roots remain in agriculture, members are also learning about science, careers, natural resource management, leadership and setting career goals. We applaud this organization that's helping grow future community and business leaders!



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Correction

In last week's front page photo compilation "A service by candlelight," we misidentified Deacon Ken Pitlick as Father Tim Martinson and Peggy Franklin as Elizabeth Goodart. We deeply regret the errors.

GUN SHOW

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Good Deed Lunch



Ivy Bau, Ryker Hesse, Jesse Tighe, Kendra Merchen, JR Graham, Jyzelle Hinshaw, Cimaron Hansen




Thank you Isabellas for hosting this month's Good Deed Lunch and partnering with Newcastle Elementary School to reward students who display good citizenship by helping others.

Elk Mountain School would like to thank

Delane Haynes Trucking

for their generous
donation



newsli.com

Mireles leads UW Law Team to Moot Court victory



UW's regional-winning law team, from left to right, is Kristina Mireles, of Newcastle; Ian Smith, from Jackson; Allison Connell and David Demic, both from Sheridan; and Brandon Rosty, of Casper. (Submitted Photo)

An all-Cowboy State University of Wyoming College of Law team recently took top honors in the annual Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, one of six regional competitions held nationwide, and Newcastle High School graduate Kristina Mireles helped

the squad earn the achievement. According to the press release from the University of Wyoming, the UW team last week competed in the Rocky Mountain Regional round at the University of Denver Sturm School of Law. The team—composed entirely of Wyoming students—

swept the competition, while also taking home individual honors.

Competitors were judged on oral and written presentations to determine the overall winner, and UW students swept the top three awards in the competition. According to the release, it is the first time that a UW student-led team has ever won first place in the international competition at the regional level.

Joining Mireles in the regional competition were fellow UW College of Law students Allison Connell and David Demic, both from Sheridan, Brandon Rosty from Casper, and Ian Smith from Jackson.

"They used their knowledge of water law, natural resources and international law to dominate the competition with a perfect 7-0 record against such schools as New York University School of Law, the University of Kansas School of Law and the SJ Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah," the release stated.

During the regional competition, students were given a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial

— See **Moot Court**, Page 7

Obituaries

Norman Everett Archer Apr. 23, 1942-Feb. 15, 2017

Norman Everett Archer of Saint Jo, Texas passed away on February 15, 2017 at Nocona General Hospital.

Norman was born to Everett and Alberta (Macho) Archer on April 23, 1942 in Goodland, KS. He graduated from Kanorado High School in the spring of 1961 and Parks Business College in Denver, CO in 1962. He was working in J.C. Penny's accounting department in Denver, CO, when his dad called and wanted his help at the farm.

While back at home in Kanorado, KS, he met Ann Baker and joined the Colorado

National Guard. In August of 1965, he and Ann were married. He worked as a book-keeper at a grain elevator in Colorado and while there his two sons, Ray and Jim, were born.

His career took the family to McCook, NE then to Newcastle, WY. He spent 35 years in Newcastle working for Jacobs Ranch Mine as a coal miner. When he retired from the coal mine, he found a new love, golf.

Norm and family enjoyed hunting in the Black Hills and Jackson Hole, and fishing

in New Mexico and the Red River in Texas.

Norm and Ann were snowbirds and loved to spend the winters in Mission, TX. Eventually, they sold their home in WY and moved their summer homebase to Saint Jo, TX. This brought them closer to their sons and grandchildren and enabled them to continue to

winter in Mission, with their snowbird family. In Mission, golf, RATS, shopping trips to Mexico, potlucks were some of the many activities.


Norman is survived by

his wife of 51 yrs., Ann, son and daughter-in-law, Ray and Julie Archer of Krum, TX, son Jim Archer of Grand Prairie, TX, grandson Wyatt Archer of Richardson, TX, granddaughter Macy Archer of Krum, TX, sister Carol Simmering of Quinter, KS, brother-in-law, Calvin Baker of Douglas, WY, a nephew, Cody Baker of Douglas, WY and three nieces, Shelby Baker of Cheyenne, WY, Laura Blickenstaff of Overland Park, KS, and Debra Turner of Littleton, CO.

Norm requested no services, but to remember the fun times and great stories. Please send cards to Ann Archer P.O. Box 640, Saint Jo, TX 76265.




Norman Archer



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



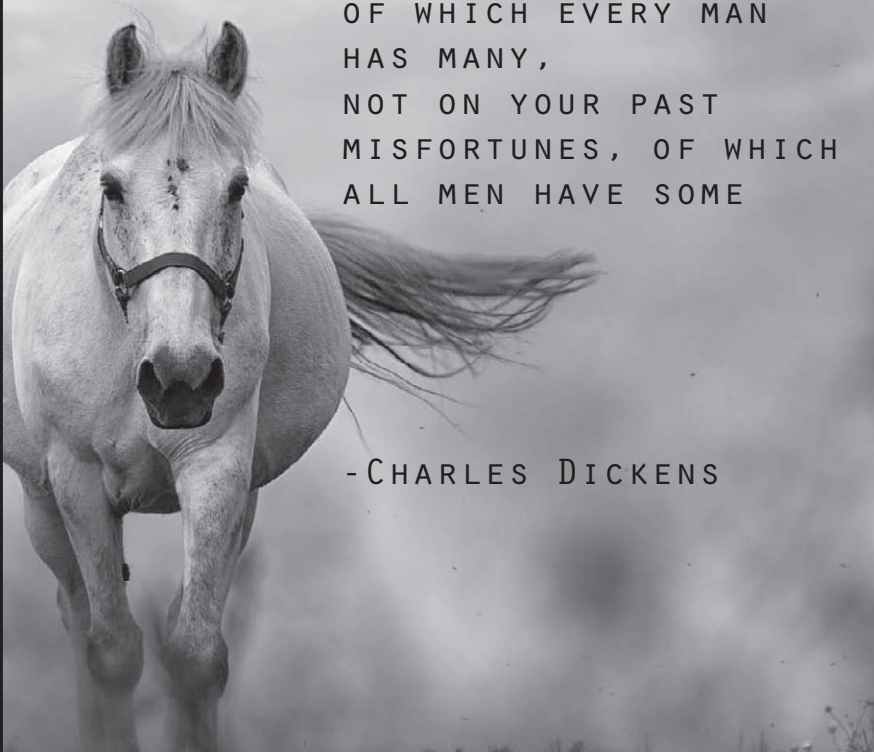
Faith & Values

- **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:** 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 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, 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 Gadoway 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.

REFLECT ON YOUR PRESENT BLESSINGS OF WHICH EVERY MAN HAS MANY, NOT ON YOUR PAST MISFORTUNES, OF WHICH ALL MEN HAVE SOME

— CHARLES DICKENS



Daily Devotional Reading						
Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26	Feb 27	Feb 28	Mar 1
1 John 5:1-21	2 John	3 John	Leviticus 19:1-18	Deuter. 6:1-25	Matthew 22:34-40	Matthew 4:1-11

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society



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A PIECE OF HISTORY

February 26, 1892

About 18 inches of snow adds to the pleasures of the stage ride between Moorcroft & Sundance.

C.E. Davis left last Saturday for Creede. He expects to be absent about six weeks.

Rev. Lutton has been in Sunday this week. He has a story to tell of a "Midnight Marauder" whom he vanquished with a fire shovel, cologne & rose-water helped to renovate him after the combat.

Frank A. Stitzer, the United States Deputy Revenue Collector of Cheyenne, arrived in the city Wednesday from Gillette. He is attending to official business.

Fred Potter, the gentlemanly night operator, who has been working at the depot for the past six months will return to his former home in Kansas about March 10th. He will be succeeded by Bernard Keys.

February 22, 1917

The Knights of Pythias Lodge celebrated their 53rd Anniversary at their lodge rooms Monday night by giving a program & reception.

Early Tuesday morning a number of our city residents were disturbed in their slumbers by being annoyed by someone trying to gain entrance to their homes. There is a bunch of petty thieves operating in our city, but thus far no report of any damage has been made other than at the Riordan.

The Board of Health decided to thoroughly fumigate the city school building because of the five recent cases of Scarlet Fever among school children. They commenced the work yesterday and will continue until early Sunday

morning, when they will air the building, and if no new cases of the disease develop school will open again on Monday, February 26th.

for the day. Senator Jefferies arrived this morning.

February 26, 1942

Sugar rationing will begin the first week in March, according to official notices received her this week.

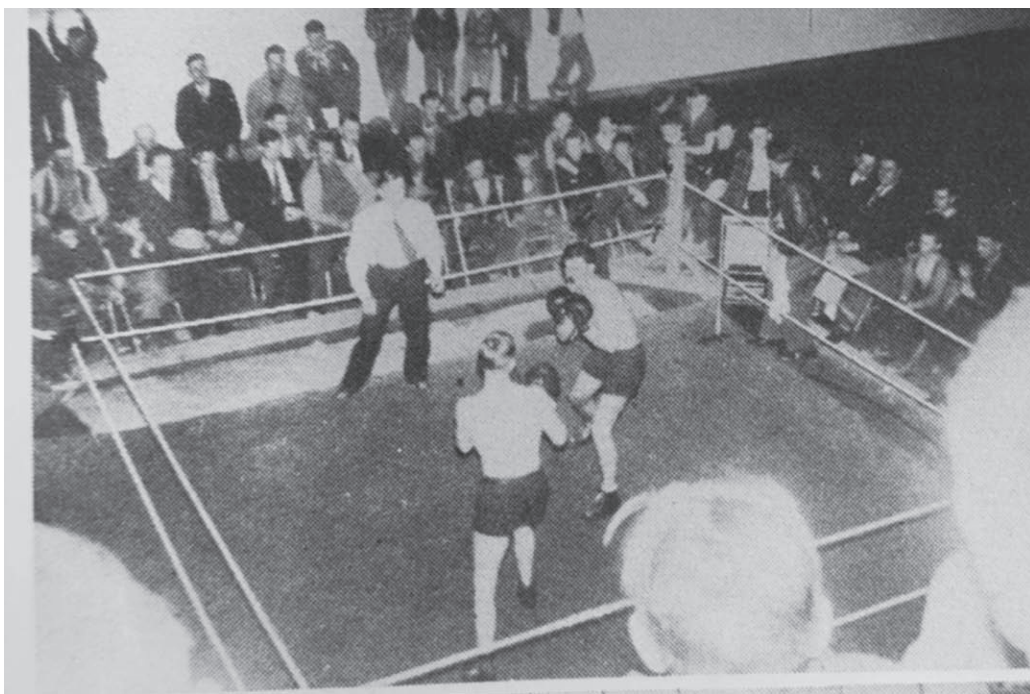
Blanks are being sent home with youngsters in the city schools & to rural people from the office of Miss Sybil Jackson, County Superintendent, on which a health record is to be given by the parents. A card for each person in Weston County under the age of 19 years is

Cecil Groner, & Noel Kimes were working on the Pisgah water line a few days last week.

Mrs. E.C. Mullin was hostess to the members of the Twentieth Century Club last Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Ralph Olinger reviewed a new biography by Katherine & Robert Pinkerton, "Two Ends to Our Shoestring." There were fourteen members.

Lawrence Scott, son of Mrs. Charles Sours of Newcastle, is listed as a prisoner of the Japanese on official govern-

Should have seen it in color



Boxing match at Newcastle High School. The boxers are unidentified 1942. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

County Commissioner James Sterling & Mrs. Margaret Sterling stopped off at Newcastle, Friday, in route to their home at Upton, from Denver. They had been visiting in Denver for the past few days.

C.E. Carpenter, who was Sergeant of Arms of the Senate, & Representative J.W. Cummings returned home Monday. Representatives Meek & Mrs. Meek returned Tuesday, and stopped in Newcastle

expected to be filed here & in Upton by the middle of March.

Last Saturday night, members of the Newcastle Fire Department assisted in the bringing under control a fire at the J.F. Bock Ranch near Osage. It is believed that flames started because of defective wiring. Some sheds burned, 60 tons of baled hay were destroyed, & about 20 chickens were killed. A valuable saddle was lost with one of the sheds.

George DeBow, Dan Patton,

ment reports.

Nine high school boys went to Lusk last night to represent Newcastle at matches with the Lusk High School Boxers. Reportedly the Dogie Scrappers are not in very good shape, but are pioneering so that boxing may become a recognized sport in Newcastle. Those who made the trip were Wilford Lowder, Dale Fryer, Keith Chittim, Bob Holwell, Billy Woods, Fred Slagle, Leonard Shuck, Chuck Taylor, & Jimmie Boulden.

Weston County Travel Commission
Budget Review Meeting
 Tuesday, March 7, 2016
 7:30 p.m.
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WHAT'S UP

February 2017

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs 23 7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri 24 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
Sat 25 8:00 a.m.	Light Rifle Competition	Weston County Sportsman's Club
7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Sun 26 7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Mon 27 7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Tues 28 12:00 p.m.	Facebook for Marketing Events Class	NACoC Office
12:00 p.m.	Alzheimers/Dementia Support Group	WC Senior Center
5:00 p.m.	66th Annual Shrove Tuesday Supper	Haydis Hall Episcopal Church
6:30 p.m.	Eastern Star	Eastern Star #30
7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
March 2017		
Wed 01 12:00 p.m.	Lions Club Meeting	WC Senior Center
12:00 p.m.	WCNRD Backyard Birding Workshop	WC Senior Center
5:30 p.m.	WC Friends of the Fair	WC Fairgrounds
7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Thurs 02 1:30 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary	WC Senior Center
6:30 p.m.	All About Slow Cooking	USDA Service Center Conf. Room
7:00 p.m.	Salt Creek Water District	Salt Creek Water District Office
7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
7:00 p.m.	WC Museum District	Anna Miller Museum, Newcastle
7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri 03 10:00 a.m.	World Day of Prayer	Christ the King Lutheran Church
7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 04 7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Sun 05 7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February 23
Don McColley

February 25
Mark Yeatman

February 26
Danny Williams
Courtne Ondriezok
Camden Doell Shrader

February 27
Rod Petranik
Corbin Doell

February 29
Jack Holwell

March 1
Logan Hershey

March 2
Cathy Butler Aldrich
Marcella Carson
Chris Escandon
Dayne Wammen

March 3
Kim Rhoades
Cody Allard

March 5
Tim & Kasee Braun
Todd K. Olson

Happy Birthday Dad/Grandpa!

On your special day of February 29, Wishing you blessings of love and sunshine, As you turn 80 plus 9. We love you dearly! Shelley, Jacque and families

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For the Ages

News Letter Journal

A Swedish Coffee Table for Two

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

Shirley Bergquist celebrated her 80th birthday this Saturday alongside over 150 friends and family at the Weston County Senior Center. She said she was particularly touched as family from as far as Utah came to visit.

Although her children have all moved away, Shirley loves her hometown of Newcastle.

"I thank God every day that I have been fortunate enough to live in this small area. I'm very blessed," Shirley admitted.

Her fond memories of Newcastle stretch back to her high school days, when Main Street boasted two dime stores and a traveling marching band. Like most kids in the Happy Days of the 50's, Shirley got her kicks by attending dances out in the country. Swinging the night away at an evening sock hop was a common occurrence during the hey-days of Rock and Roll.

"When we were young girls in high school, we went to Clareton. Clareton is down now, there's hardly anything left," Shirley lamented. "When we were girls, the highway didn't run clear to Clareton. It was gravel roads. My sister was going with a boy who lived on a ranch near Clareton. He was old enough to drive, so he would come in and get my sister, and I would ride out with them to the dance."

Dancing is hard work, especially when it goes long into the night. Knowing their guests would need a bite and that no services were near at hand, the folks at Clareton quickly came up with a scheme.

"They would make box lunches, and my sister and I would decorate them with crepe paper. They were really quite pretty when we got done, or we thought they were anyway. Then the men would bid on them at midnight for their supper," Shirley stated.

At first this was a boon for the young men who could show their affections for a sweetheart by being the highest bidder on a box made or decorated by their favorite starlet. But Shirley shared that the older men soon got wise and started offering more than their younger, less affluent associates.

"But the older men got onto that and would bid on the boxes. It would make the young men quite irritated because then the old men would sit down and eat with us girls, and the boys would have to go into the corner and pout," Shirley smiled.

Dancing was a craze that drew Shirley and her first love—and classmate—Billy Cattles together. Shirley shared they danced "two step mostly, waltzes, and the jitterbug. It was mostly local bands who played, and once in a great while they would play the polka. Billy and I could dance the polka, but not many could, so they didn't do it often."

The two grew closer together and married shortly after graduating. The newlyweds elected to stay in Newcastle as Cattles found work first with Dilt's Construction as a roustabout, then at the Wyoming Refinery. During that time he and Shirley had three children, but this happily-ever-after wasn't meant to be as Cattles succumbed to malignant lymphoma in 1970.

Widowed with three

children, Shirley started working in the school kitchen. It was a little over a year later—around St. Patrick's Day—that Annie, one of her teacher friends, asked her if she would like to go on a blind double date with a forest ranger named Ray Bergquist. She agreed on the condition that she could first find a baby sitter, which she promptly did. The date soon took a delightfully comedic turn that seems as well suited to the silver screen as to real life.

"The boy she was going with was a Ray too. But he was a little short guy, and my Ray was quite tall. So it was Big Ray and Little Ray, and they both worked for the State Forestry," Shirley laughed gleefully.

Annie decided to take the double date to the Flying V for a dance, and asked Shirley if she would like to ride out together, a proposition she was happy to accept.

"The doorbell rang and I thought, 'Oh heavens, they're here and I'm not ready!'" Shirley remembered. She rushed to the door to find none other than her cousin, who was in the Navy, in full dress uniform standing on her doorstep ready to visit her children.

"He had both Belinda and John on his knees telling them a story. The doorbell rang again, and sure enough it was Big Ray, Little Ray, and Annie," Shirley related.

"Big Ray came in and looked in the living room and saw this Navy guy sitting in the living room with two children on his lap. He kept looking and looking. I very hastily said, 'This is my cousin. He just dropped in,'" Shirley explained.

The rest of the night went off

without a hitch as they enjoyed a responsibility-free night out.

"We went on to the dance and had a great time. On the way home, Big Ray asked me, 'How many kids do you have?' 'Two?' 'Oh no, I have three!' I said. 'Ooooh!' he said. Well, I thought, I'll never see him again," Shirley confessed.

Luckily, this was not the case.

"He called me back the very next night."

Shirley's love of dancing had brought her a second chance for love, but she shared with a smile that it was two unlikely sources that drew them together. For Ray, it was Shirley's dog Spot. The young forester has an abiding love for dogs, and this little white terrier with a black spot on its lower back opened a door between the two that might not have opened otherwise.

It wasn't until later when Shirley—when Ray needed to stop by his trailer to pick up something he had forgotten—first laid her eyes on a beautifully intricate coffee table of many colors. At first attributing the craftsmanship to Ray, Shirley admired the genius and skill required to make such a piece. It later came to light the table was the handiwork of Ray's father, but the two had already fallen helplessly in love.

"You use different colored wood blocks and cut them like diamonds and put them all together. When you get done, you get a three dimensional view. It's pretty technical. It's a lot of working getting one put together," Ray illustrated.

Ray and Shirley tied the knot in 1972. Ray continued his work as a forester, including a five-year period where he



Shirley and Ray Bergquist pose with an intricately designed coffee table hand crafted by his father. Shirley was captivated by the handiwork that she originally believed to be her future husband's. A retired forest ranger himself, Ray has inherited his father's natural talent for woodworking. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

oversaw the inception of what would become the Honor Camp. A small caravan of just four trailers at that time, Ray shared that he and five to six inmates would trek around the hills planting and thinning trees while removing beetle kill.

Ray has been enjoying retirement, which allows him time to focus on woodworking. His current project is a personalized chest with evergreen trees and a Swedish, or Dalecarlian, horse. Traditionally painted red, the carved horses feature a stylized saddle, harness, and mane and have become symbols of Ray's father's homeland of Sweden.

The two found themselves with a full house after adding a fourth child to the mix. Their children have all since grown and moved away, so the family reunion that was called up for Shirley's 80th birthday was a special blessing.

Mentors

from page 1.....

productive role models for children at NES, Holmes explained that the school utilizes ideas like 'buddy reading' to make those mentoring connections. This program sets younger students up with older students who read with them. The older students can come from any of the district's schools, and the program develops role model connections while also helping the younger students excel in their school work.

Students at NES that are struggling in some areas are exposed to additional mentoring by the school utilizing older students that excel in an area the youngster may be interested in. Holmes shared, for example, that if a fourth grader is having issues at school, but is interested in basketball, a successful athlete may be utilized to make that connection and spark an interest in the child to succeed academically as well.

"That positive connection is important. Seeing someone doing good things can make a difference," Holmes commented, noting that children in the elementary school are in constant need of someone to look up to, whether they be adults or other students.

Newcastle Middle School Principal Kyle Gunderson expressed the need for positive role models for middle school students as well, but admitted that mentoring needs to come in a different

fashion.

"Most importantly, they need a positive role model, someone who is going to be there to listen more than talk. I think that middle school-aged kids get talked to a lot, given a lot of advice, but a lot of the time they just want someone to listen to them, someone they can trust," Gunderson professed.

While no specific mentoring programs are necessarily in place at NMS, staff members make it a point to be there for students and encourage them to work with each other.

"We work on growing and developing those relationships to help the students get through this time period in their lives," remarked Gunderson, who said student athletes are also exposed to additional mentoring in the form of coaches and teammates.

Students moving into high school once again are in need of a little different style of mentoring, and Newcastle High School Principal Tracy Ragland shared that research has revealed that strong role models for teens aren't identified by words, but rather the actions of potential mentors.

"They tend to derive their behavior based on what they see, and what the peer groups they associate with expects," stated Ragland. He noted that the school does utilize programs, such

as peer editors, to expose freshman to seniors who can act as role models. This program can even trickle down into the middle school and allow freshman to work with eighth graders.

Mentoring, according to Ragland, is also layered in the sports programs available at NHS. There, it is structured to show students what is expected of them moving forward in their sports career, whether those expectations be on the field or court—or in the classroom.

"We don't always call it that, but that is what it really is. We really have a lot of mentoring going on, but we don't say it as much as we should," admitted Ragland, noting that it is possible to see the effects of this type of peer mentoring throughout the school.

Ragland said that additional mentors for local high schoolers are identified in the community at times, but LaCroix admitted that some community mentoring programs may have been set aside as society changed in recent years, which means such efforts tend to be "hit and miss."

The Superintendent would like to see a rebirth in such community mentorships, and suggests that the key may lie in slowing down and letting go of the idea that we are all "too busy" to take on such responsibilities. He said that it may be as easy as simply

forming a relationship around a shared interest—fishing, woodworking, trapping, etc.

The elementary school principal agreed that the community would benefit if more adults became involved

in the lives of children—many of whom do not have positive mentoring in their lives outside of the school.

"The more positive role models children have, the more successful they will be," professed Holmes.

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

February 23		
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.	
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.	
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.	
February 24		
Cinnamon Rolls	9:00 a.m.	
Blood Pressure Check	9:30 a.m.	
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.	
Dance	7:00 p.m.	
February 27		
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.	
Visually Impaired Support	1:00 p.m.	
February 28		
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.	
Dementia Support Group	3:30 p.m.	

Manicures	2:00 p.m.
Dice	6:15 p.m.
February 24	
Greedy	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
Movie	6:30 p.m.
February 25	
Nammit	11:00 a.m.
Happy Hour	3:00 p.m.
Movie	6:15 p.m.
February 26	
Laughter	11:00 a.m.
Church	2:00 p.m.
February 27	
Wii	10:30 a.m.
Crazy Cart	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:00 p.m.
February 28	
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.
Mardi Gras!!	2:00 p.m.
Stories	4:00 p.m.
Cards	6:15 p.m.

Manor

February 23	
Jeopardy	10:30 a.m.

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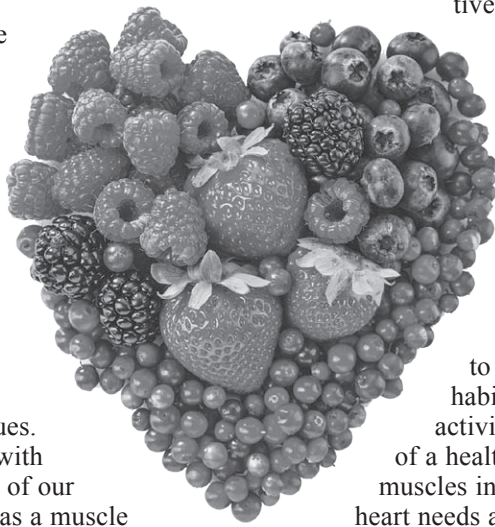
Wyoming Refining Company sponsored the U-14 "Newcastle Wild" girls indoor soccer team at the Black Hills Rapid 2017 Presidents Cup Tournament

Wyoming Refining Company

Par Pacific

Heart healthy habits for children

February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, killing more than 600,000 Americans each year. We don't usually think about children when it comes to heart disease or other heart-related ailments, but developing heart healthy habits at a young age is key to changing the tide when it comes to these issues. What we may not discuss with our children is the purpose of our



heart as a muscle and its usefulness in pumping blood through the body. Most of our kids are born with a healthy heart and it's important to keep it that way. While genetics play a factor for those affected by heart disease, the majority of cases are related to an individual's long-term diet and exercise habits, beginning at a young age.



Vicki Hayman
Extension Notes

Good nutrition is an essential component of quality child care. Children develop lifelong eating habits through early eating experiences, so promoting good eating habits by providing nutritious foods and by educating children and their families on nutrition should be a priority for all childcare providers. Food provides energy and nutrients needed by children during a critical period when they are growing and developing at a rapid pace. It's critical for early childhood providers to provide a solid foundation for positive eating habits, and to encourage the children in their care to taste new foods. Furthermore, it's important to provide alterna-

tives to snacks or meals the children might be used to consuming. Instead of eating chips or sweets, recommend an apple or some carrots instead. Instead of drinking a pop or sugary drink, offer a glass of water.

Good nutrition is only part of the equation to developing heart healthy habits for children. Physical activity is an essential part of a healthy heart. Just like other muscles in the human body, the heart needs a good daily workout. The American Heart Association recommends a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous aerobic activity every day. For young children, that daily activity should include a range of light, moderate, and vigorous activities. Simple activities like singing and dancing, or going on a nature walk can provide the daily light to moderate activity that all children need.

Heart-healthy habits for children are the same for adults, so the most practical and impactful way to teach children at an early age is by setting a good example yourself. The path to a healthy lifestyle begins in childhood. Heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity are becoming more common in children and young adults. Introducing the concepts of good nutrition and regular exercise are the best ways to help children develop heart-healthy habits at a young age and maintain a healthy lifestyle for the rest of their lives.

The most important thing to remember is that you are your child's role model. Your habits affect your children's habits. Starting these behaviors and activities early can make them lifelong habits. As always, please consult your health care provider with any questions or concerns.

Here are some heart-healthy tips for everybody:

- The American Heart Association recommends at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. This activity doesn't have to be 60 minutes in a row; it could be broken up into segments that fit the family's schedule. Remember to make it fun!
- Eat a well-balanced diet consisting of vegetables, fruits, grains, protein, and dairy. "Eat the rainbow" of colorful foods on your plate at mealtime.
- Decrease saturated 'solid' fats. They increase blood cholesterol.
- Include fiber found in grains, legumes, beans, and certain fruits and vegetables. Its benefits include not only keeping the digestive tract healthy, but also decreasing cardiovascular risk, slowing the progression of cardiovascular disease and reducing LDL, the lousy cholesterol.
- Reduce added sugar intake. Our kids have no need for drinking sugar-sweetened beverages like sports, energy or soft drinks – even if they are very active! Instead, enjoy water flavored with real fruit and/or vegetables. Having some sugar on occasion is

certainly no crime, but focus should be on a diet packed with real, whole foods.

- Swap junk with real, whole foods. Choose foods that are of good quality, and close to its original form as possible. Try beef skewers instead of frankfurters; light, fresh white fish instead of fish fingers; chicken tenderloins over chicken nuggets; and whole grains over the white stuff.
- Don't smoke cigarettes. Children who smoke or are exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of heart disease as they get older.

Moot Court

from page 4

arm of the United Nations. Each team prepares both oral and written pleadings (memorials).

The team is scored as a unit, and also with recognition and scoring for individual written and oral efforts.

This year's issue was framed around two problems: "In a time of drought, may one state tap into a shared underground aquifer even if it deprives another state of water?"; and "Must cultural artifacts taken from state A to state B by an oppressed minority of state A be returned?"

UW College of Law students took top honors in the oral and written presentations.

Mireles was this year's

runner-up in the oral portion of the competition, while Demic took the top spot. Rosty was third and Connell seventh, and according to the International Law Student Association organizers, it is the first time that the top three oralists came from the same school.

In the written portion, the UW Memorials Brief team placed first, helping the UW team claim an unprecedented clean sweep of the two major categories. The College of Law had previously taken home the honor of Best Memorial in 2014.

"We are extremely proud of this team of students from the University of Wyoming,"

said UW law professor Noah Novogrodsky, the team's faculty adviser. "They were more prepared than any other team there, and it showed."

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from nearly 90 countries representing more than 550 law schools competing.

The UW team now advances to the White & Case International Rounds in Washington, D.C. in April, where team members will compete against other qualifiers from around the world. The weeklong event culminates with the Jessup Cup World Championship Round.



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Newcastle Elementary School

Good Citizen Awards

February

Marley Giesinger - 3rd, Mrs. Wynia

In room 132, we have a student who stands out with all of the qualities of a Good Citizen. Each day this student comes in and asks how she can help out. Whether it be helping out with a classroom activity, helping with clean up, or helping someone who might be struggling, she always does it with a smile on her face and a great attitude. Other teachers have commented on how polite she is and how she is such a hard worker. I can always count on this student to be helpful, on task, friendly, and kind. Congratulations to this month's Good Citizen, Marley Giesinger!



Mischa Unterseher - 4th, Mrs. Giesler

When it comes to sweethearts, this young lady is a true inspiration to those who surround her. She remains one of our silent heroes within our bustling little classroom of eager, energetic, and rambunctious students. Daily, I witness her carefully checking progress on her assignments, while offering assistance to a fellow classmate that may be struggling. Words to describe this lovely young lady should begin with; appreciative, considerate, soft-spoken, trustworthy, and reliable. When others speak, she listens, when others hurt, she hurts with them, when others succeed, she cheers them on, when others struggle, she encourages. She is an excellent role model to her fellow classmates, and they genuinely care about her. As she walks into school each morning, I am reminded of her unique qualities. She treats her peers, as well as adults, with much respect, kindness, appreciation, and sincerity. Being named Good Citizen is an honor many desire, but few receive. Congratulations to our very own sweetheart, Mischa Unterseher!



Jordan Varner - 5th, Mrs. Ostenson

The person chosen for this month's Good Citizen meets all the criteria to hold this honor. This person is honest, helpful, and kind to others. He is also a hard-working student. This month's Good Citizen is a good friend to all of his classmates. He is quiet and polite and possesses a good sense for humor. This young man is willing to help out in the classroom, and he can be counted on to complete the task at hand. The qualities this young man has will help him accomplish whatever he sets out to do. Congratulations, Jordan Varner, our 5th grade Good Citizen award winner!



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Dogie duo performs in All-State Choir



Brady Wilkes and Aaron Fullerton sing to the tune of "Sweet Caroline" during last week's Singing Valentine. Wilkes and fellow Troubadour member Colin Heaton made this year's All-State choir selection. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

under the tutelage of a world-renowned director with Anton Armstrong of St. Olaf College. An internationally acclaimed director, Armstrong has garnered a reputation for putting on exceptional performances. As Wilkes and Heaton soon discovered, this reputation is a result of the rigorous demands the director places on his ensembles.

"This year's director was much more intense, which made it a lot better of an experience," Wilkes said. He explained it was the increased expectations that constantly pushed he and the other singers to rise to the occasion.

"He expected them to be on task every single second, which is very difficult for adolescents," Ellis admitted.

The strenuous auditioning process is designed in part to familiarize the singers with the selected music. This was a critical step, since Armstrong only had a limited time to assemble his ensemble, and time was needed to fine tune so the performance would meet his lofty expectations.

Ellis commented that Lutheran college programs call for strong religious music sung a-cappella, a tradition Armstrong incorporated into the State Choir's concert. None of the music was familiar to the young singers. Learning a completely new series of compositions may seem daunting, but Heaton commented that sometimes it is more difficult to unlearn a song's traditional rendition than starting from the ground up.

"The trouble I always have when learning songs I already know is arrangements are different than what you hear, because everyone writes it in different ways so you can't sing it how you think it's sung. You have to pay attention to the notes. But when you learn a completely new song you have no preconceived notion of how it's supposed to be sung," Heaton clarified.

The selection of music challenged the singers not only in their vocal range, but also expanded their linguistic horizons with "Fa Shu Ha," a Taiwanese melody. Singing in a foreign language is difficult since performers are required not only to pronounce the material correctly, but also to accentuate the emotion and expression of the lyrics.

"It takes a while to learn what you're trying to say, but once you know that and get the pitches that you need, it's a lot of fun," Wilkes affirmed.

"Eventually the words just become muscle memory and you can focus on the notes," Heaton agreed.

This is a common practice as choir has a longstanding tradition of being a conduit of cultural exchange. Cultural exchange doesn't have to be international, as many participants found common comradery in their fellow students for the love of music.

"It's a very cool experience where everyone cares about singing, and it just makes the whole experience so much better personally," Wilkes said.

The honor of making All-State also confers an official recognition of developed talent and commitment, qualities college programs are known to seek out and reward through scholarships.

With graduation just around the corner, Heaton hopes that his perseverance will pay off as he plans for the next step in his education. The senior shared that he plans to capitalize on his vocal talents by applying for a music scholarship at Casper College that would help pay for his true passion, theater, through a degree in multimedia communications. He auditioned for that opportunity this past Friday.


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Andy McKay
 NLJ Reporter

Two Newcastle students, senior Colin Heaton and sophomore Brady Wilkes, were selected for All-State Choir this year. Far from simply honoring talented musicians from across the state, All-State seeks to benefit students by offering them the opportunity to work under prominent directors to nurture their skills.

Heaton, a bass, and Wilkes, a tenor, are both leaders in their sections and are no strangers to the honorary choir, as they were making their second trip. The three day workshop was held in Cody this year, and was capped off with a concert.

Heaton and Wilkes told the News Letter Journal that they prepared for the tryout by spending countless hours rehearsing before and after school with choir director Jan Ellis, as well as practicing at home with a CD including accompanist music. They and students from around the region converged upon Gillette to audition—a high intensity activity as competitors in choir, band, and orchestra are all evaluated individually.

"You have to do certain excerpts, which are scales in your range. You also have to do parts of songs that will be used at All-State, but you have to sing it a-cappella. It's really nerve racking," Wilkes shared.

After singing the pieces they have been working on for months, they are given a sheet of music they have never seen before, which they then perform just a short 30 seconds later. This evaluation, called

sight reading, allows judges to assess the singer's understanding of music theory, as well as their singing talent.

"They put you in a room with someone who does a recording. They give you the first note and you have to do the rest on your own," Heaton said.

Hopeful singers knew full well that a single mistake could be the difference between success and failure in this environment of top-notch competition. This is especially true of younger singers whose vocal chords may not have matured, impeding their ability to reach a full conventional range for their voice type. There is some strategy to this, for students who lack range in lower notes can be requested to audition early in the morning when their voices are naturally deeper.

Ellis took multiple other singers to audition as well, and although they were not picked the choir teacher was quick to stress that students who underwent the grueling process had proven their mettle, regardless of whether they were ultimately selected or not.

"The fact that they practice and are courageous enough to audition and, whether they make it or not, they've already proven that they are some of the best," Ellis said. She added that out of the 700 who audition, only 180 are selected.

"It's very difficult to get into All-State because they only get one shot. They don't get any redo's. There's an awful lot of pressure," Ellis stated.

The All-State Choir continued its enduring convention of placing its singers

UW Fall Graduates

The University of Wyoming awarded degrees upon a number of students from Weston County at the completion of the 2016 fall semester. Courtney Lynn Dixon both Jennifer Marie Bayne and Straley earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. All three are from Newcastle.

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