

News Letter Journal

Weston County

March 23, 2017

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 131 Week 12

In tune with moms



Jody McCormack and Sonja Karp chuckle during a scene of Momologues, the original comedy about motherhood. The Bird Cage Theatrics production opened March 17 to a crowd that could barely contain their laughter. Those who missed the heart felt comedy about the real life ups and downs of having and raising children have another opportunity, Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, to see the play featuring four local friends that came together to entertain. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

City starts spring cleaning

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The City of Newcastle will begin their first spring cleaning project of the year on April 3. On this date the public works department will begin cleaning the alleys throughout town, starting at the south end of town and moving north.

On March 20, City Engineer Mike Moore informed the Newcastle City Council that ads would be run in the News Letter Journal, as well as door to door notice being provided to

— See **Spring Cleaning**, Page 3

Given, not Lent Pantry seeks donations

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

The Bread Office, a food pantry for those whose income is below the poverty level, reported record high numbers of patrons amidst a decrease in food donations this winter season. Some once-reliable sources for donations have disappeared, which has left volunteers desperate to find other means.

“When our board met in January, one of the things that came up was the need for resources for the needy in our community,” Bread Office board member Chris French said.

With this in mind, the board decided to reach out to churches for their much needed alms. As Lent was coming up, the stars aligned for French as she engineered a 40-day challenge for the religious observance to give an item a day

— See **Giving for Lent**, Page 8

Hard choices: Legislators lay out budget cuts

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The 64th Wyoming Legislature wrapped up their 2017 General Session on March 3 after 37 business days in Cheyenne. The two houses saw a total of 485 bills and resolutions numbered for introduction, and a total 147 budget amendments were made.

On March 13, Weston County’s quartet of local legislators attended a luncheon hosted by the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce to share the highs and lows of this year’s session. All four expressed that tension had been high this year, particularly between the leadership in the House and Senate, but the end result was a balanced budget and a number of bills passed that lawmakers believe will benefit the Wyoming people.

This session saw a major focus on the budget due to revenue shortfalls across the state, and a number of cuts were made to the budget, which House District 1 Representative Tyler Lindholm admitted does not usually happen in a non-budget session, when it is more likely that additional money will be appropriated in a supplemental budget. In order to tackle the budget shortfall senators and representatives alike explored avenues to increase revenue across the state, identify areas to make cuts, and find ways to stimulate economic growth throughout Wyoming.

“We have been driving a Cadillac government for sometime,” Lindholm declared before asserting that it was time to dial spending back and drive a “Chevy pickup.”

Senator Ogden Driskill, who represents Crook, Campbell and Weston Counties, revealed that Wyoming scaled the budget set during last year’s session down to \$2.8 billion from a budget high of \$4.1 billion, according to the senator.

“The state budget is at 2002 levels, and employment is at 1998 levels,” professed Driskill, noting that these

statistics demonstrate that state government has been slashed to levels not seen for nearly two decades.

To combat revenue shortfalls, the legislature authorized the spending of funds from the Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA), more commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund. The Department of Health is authorized up to \$10 million to fund emergency detention and involuntary commitment obligations under Title 25 while the Wyoming State Penitentiary is authorized up to \$15 million to cover major maintenance, operations and emergency needs.

As of March 3, Fiscal Year 2017-2018 appropriations from the General Fund, the Investments and Projects Account or SIPA, LSRA and other reserve accounts totals \$3,127,521,720. The two largest portions of the monies are designated to Health at 28.14 percent of the total budget, and Higher Education, which includes the University of Wyoming and community colleges, at 21.14 percent.

Rate increases were made in a number of places by the legislature to help produce additional revenue, including an increase for state registration of a vehicle that will increase that cost to \$30 instead of \$15 for passenger vehicles. Game and fish fees relating to licenses, permits, applications, stamps and watercraft fees were also increased anywhere from eight to 12 percent according to House District 2 Representative Hans Hunt.

The goal, according to Hunt, is to make Wyoming Game and Fish self-sufficient, and the lawmakers who attended last week’s gathering also recognized efforts to make the Wyoming Department of Transportation self-sufficient as well.

“The large take away, through the doom and gloom, is that we have a balanced budget and education is funded. The state government is operating, and we are finding ways to boost the economy while looking at deregulation to expand the economy,” maintained

Lindholm.

Water Issues

Both Omnibus water bills, House Bill 86 and Senate File 56, were passed during this year’s session, but not without a lot of discussion taking place first. House Bill 86 represents the construction portion of water development projects throughout the state, while Senate File 56 provides the funding for the study and planning portion of water development projects. Senator Curt Meier, who represents Goshen, Niobrara and Weston Counties, expressed a dissatisfaction in the amounts being spent in each portion of the Omnibus water bill, specifically questioning the amount set aside for the planning portion.

“Two to three times more is spent studying than what we are putting out in the development fund,” proclaimed Meier, who indicated that a “come to Jesus” meeting was had with the Water Development Commission over the issue.

Driskill agreed, and said that this is a direct issue for cities and towns, who would benefit if the budget was adjusted to get away from the heavy study and survey activities, and one local resource specialist agreed.

Weston County Natural Resource Manager Lacey Sloan questioned if the legislature was looking at removing the requirements surrounding water funding to allow for more boots on the ground and less studies to be required.

“We have fought this before. It costs \$300,000 plus for a study. It don’t make sense,” declared Driskill, but it was revealed that some members of the local delegation voted against a bill introduced in the senate that would have decreased those requirements because they feared the bill did not address some concerns.

“They left a hole for defining public benefit. That is why it was killed by the House,” commented Lindholm. Hunt noted that he was one of 60 representatives in Wyoming— that’s all of them— to vote against the bill.



Senator Ogden Driskill took time during the Legislative Lunch hosted by the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce on March 14 to discuss financial issues throughout the state. Driskill served on the Appropriations Committee for the first time this session and was able to provide a lot of insight into the inner workings on state financials. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Meier also acknowledged that water funding was hit pretty hard this year, and revealed that this seems to be an area that the legislature likes to take from during tough times. He argued, however, that water funding is crucial to smaller municipalities.

Economic Development
In order to try to address the state’s economic issues, and a belief that they are worsened by the state’s dependence on the mineral industry to fund government, Senate File 132 was passed by legislators. It authorizes the development of the ENDOW Initiative, which is a 20-year comprehensive and coordinated economic diversification strategy.

“I think it’s a little late in the game,

but it’s a good way to go,” commented Lindholm. The initiative involves input from the Wyoming Business Council and other officials in the executive branch, the University of Wyoming and community colleges. It provides for the creation of specific geographic locations known as business development and innovative zones, and creates a coordinator of economic diversification to oversee the 20-year strategy implementation.

Education
Education funding throughout Wyoming took a major hit during the economic downturn recently experienced throughout the state. Currently,

— See **Legislators**, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Chance of Rain
Hi 63, Lo 39



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 54, Lo 32



Saturday
Clear
Hi 60, Lo 38



Sunday
Chance of Rain
Hi 52, Lo 34



Monday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 56, Lo 37



Tuesday
Chance of Rain
Hi 52, Lo 36

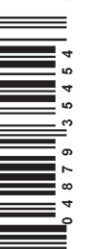


Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 58, Lo 35



INSIDE

- Drug Bust, Page 3
- Best in Business, Page 8
- Sports, Page 9
- Bike Path, Page 10



But first... a selfie



Students pose for a selfie during a musical piece while rehearsing for the eighth grade production of "S'Cool," a pop-rock musical that delves into a teenager's struggle to navigate high school in the age of technology. The performance will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 23 at Crouch Auditorium. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

Protect your piggy bank

We have the tools to help

You can worry about identity theft, or you can take smart steps toward protecting your finances and your credit. Our team researched numerous tools available for protecting our customers from the ramifications of identity theft. We chose IDTheftSmart. Our team would like to tell you more about this important product. Give us a call or stop by to sign up. A small monthly fee can bring you peace of mind!



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City police make marijuana arrest

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

On March 7, Newcastle Police Officer Joshua Pike—with assistance from Detective Brandon Vaughn—arrested one person on felony possession of marijuana charges after making a traffic stop when he observed the individual turning from the wrong position.

Shelly Phomsouvandara, 25, of North Dakota was stopped at the Gas n' Go in Newcastle

earlier this month, and after a search of the vehicle was conducted enough marijuana was found to spark a felony arrest for her, and a misdemeanor possession of marijuana charge for her companion.

During the search of the vehicle, officers seized two different plastic bags. One contained 7.2 ounces of marijuana and the other held 9 ounces of the drug in plant form. Another six containers were also found, and they contained two ounces

each. Also in the vehicle were five containers holding marijuana joints, three different types of marijuana edibles and one gram of THC wax.

A person in the State of Wyoming can be charged with a felony if they possess more than three ounces of marijuana, and under Wyoming Statute 35-7-2031 face up to five years in prison and no more than \$10,000 in fines.

Phomsouvandara is currently out on bond.

Spring Cleaning from page 1.....

residents, prior to the alley clean-up starting. The purpose of the notification is to encourage individuals to remove property from the alley, and be aware that the clean-up crews are coming.

"Things that are in the alleys that appear to be trash will get picked up... We are giving them the opportunity," Moore told the News Letter Journal, indicating that his crews will not be removing personal property as large as vehicles, but will instead utilize the Newcastle Police Department to address any vehicles that remain in the alley when cleaning begins.

Moore anticipates some locals will take advantage of the opportunity presented by the city's efforts to leave more than just day-to-day trash in the alleys, but said the city is prepared for this. He acknowledged that they also anticipate some possible adverse reactions to the clean-up, but asserted that the task needs to be completed for city operations to run smoothly.

"A lot of the alleys are narrow and there are brush and trees growing along them... Those tight areas make it difficult for the garbage trucks, and that is one primary reason we are doing this," announced Moore, who said another reason lies in drainage issues that are encountered in the alleys and the need for maintenance crews to be able to blade those roads.

Alley cleanup is not the only spring cleaning

project the city plans on starting within the next couple of weeks. Moore shared that starting this Friday, crews from the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp will begin cleaning paper from around the fence at the landfill.

"Crews will also work on cleaning up Dow Park on April 14 prior to the Easter celebrations," reported Moore. Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp crews will also trim and clean the cemetery at the end of May.

City crews will also be getting the restrooms at the ballfields opened and ready after the Newcastle Soccer League requested that they be open. He acknowledged that if a freeze is expected the restrooms may have to be closed once again due to the lack of heat in the buildings, and the chance that the pipes could freeze.

Public space clean-up is not the only thing supported by the city, and Moore reported that they would be willing to look into providing dumpsters for neighborhood clean-up days if citizens want to take the initiative and organize such an effort.

"We are receptive to the neighborhood clean up. It falls in line with the alley clean-up," commented Moore, who maintained that the city is not conducting neighborhood clean ups themselves, but want residents to know the opportunity is available.

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City Beats

Notes from the March 20 Newcastle City Council meeting.

• Weston County Travel Commission Secretary Norma Shelton requested the City of Newcastle work with her to fill out an application for a "Welcome to Newcastle" sign for the south entrance to town. The application, according to Shelton, must come from the city and will be filled out by her and City Engineer Mike Moore. The council approved a motion to submit the application, noting

that the Travel Commission would be responsible for care of the sign.

• Mayor Deb Piana shared that she had attended a meeting at First State Bank last week with representatives from Black Hills Energy, noting that the individuals from BHE are working with the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce and other local residents to create a community development organiza-

tion. She said it seemed to her that the group is moving forward with establishing a board.

• Police Chief Jim Owens reported that calls for service for 2017 continue to rise, and so far this year the department has seen 871 calls compared to the 802 at this time last year. He credited part of the rise to an increase in officer initiated contact due to the force being fully staffed.

Correction

The FOCUS feature article in the March 9, 2017 edition of the News Letter Journal, Stacie Hoxie was identified as Stacie Hixie. The News Letter Journal deeply regrets the error.

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Legislators from page 1

Wyoming is experiencing \$200 million in education shortfalls, with funding for K-12 education at \$1.5 billion.

On top of this, lawmakers explained that coal bonus monies have disappeared and those dollars directly funded maintenance and construction of school facilities. This leaves nothing to fund repairs and construction, and legislators predict it will take some time for that money to start coming in again.

Both the House and the Senate started bills to confront the education funding shortfall. The bill introduced on the House side included options to increase revenue for schools, while the Senate took the stance that the budget should be cut before raising taxes or fees to make more funds available. Both bills were alive at the end of the session, and that was something that was not expected to happen.

Senator Ogden Driskill revealed the Senate largely believes the amount Wyoming spends per student to achieve nearly the same test scores as surrounding states is significantly higher. Local legislators presented statistics that show Wyoming spends \$17,414 per year on each student, and the next highest in the area is Montana at \$15,102, while Colorado spends \$10,502 and Idaho is at \$9,553. Utah spends just over \$9,000 less per student than Wyoming at \$8,111.

"Enrollment is down and spending is up," declared Senator Curt Meier, who noted that Wyoming not only spends the most per student but also is number one in the Rocky Mountain

area for teacher salaries and has the best school facilities in the nation. He also revealed that Wyoming has the third lowest sales tax in the nation.

Driskill admitted that funding education in Wyoming is a highly charged issue and that the search for a solution has proven to be painful. He remarked that finding a consensus on the topic is extremely hard, and suggested that the House was not as willing to look at cuts.

"Nobody wants to see tax increases," Hunt acknowledged while explaining that an increase in sales tax was suggested, but not approved.

Lindholm admitted that the education funding dilemma is a "tough deal," but professed that the House's bill provided coverage for at least a portion of the shortfall while the Senate's bill did not.

In the end, a compromise was reached with an estimated \$34.5 million in education funding cuts sent to Governor Matt Mead's desk to sign, with the impact varying by district. A portion of the money to continue funding education through the current biennium will be drawn from the Rainy Day Fund, and the legislature will tackle the issue again next year.

"The best thing is to go back in and look at it. We are talking about kids. This is a very emotionally charged topic," professed Lindholm.

"There are some hard choices. That is why the senate wants to find a way to provide the same education for less— to look at all the options," Meier reasoned.

Bills of Interest

Bills of Interest from the 2017 Legislative Session as presented by Wyoming State Senators Ogden Driskill and Curt Meier and State Representatives Hans Hunt and Tyler Lindholm

AGRICULTURE

House Bill 26, Bark Beetles program funding

- Allows the state forester to spend up to \$500,000 from the emergency fire suppression account to aid bark beetle mitigation projects
- House Bill 230, Hemp Farming
- Authorizes industrial hemp farming as an agriculture crop
- Allows the University of Wyoming to grow industrial hemp for research projects
- Senate File 148, Agriculture tax valuation • farmstead
- Allows for land used for farmstead structure, which support agriculture purposes, to be valued at the same value as the agriculture land is supports.

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill 19, Sales from Remote Sellers

- Provides for the collection of sales tax for remote sellers
- House Bill 82, Local Optional Sales and Use Taxes
- Authorizes a county to impose an optional local tax that has to be approved by the voters
- House Bill 56, Mobile homes
- title status upon permanent foundation
- Provides procedures to surrender and cancel the title of a mobile home that has been installed on a permanent foundation for the purpose of a mortgage and taxation
- Senate File 57, Motor Vehicle Franchise exception
- Authorizes a motor vehicle manufacturer, like Tesla, without dealerships within the state to sell motor vehicles directly to consumers
- Senate File 70, Manufacturing Machinery Exemption Sunset Date
- Extends the sunset date for sales and tax exemption for manufacturing equipment to December 31, 2027

NATURAL RESOURCES, STATE LANDS and WILDLIFE

House Bill 270, Gray Wolf Damage Compensation Eligibility

- Designates gray wolves as trophy game animals in specific areas for damage compensation eligibility
- House Bill 61, Collection of Antlers and Horns
- Prohibits antler and horn collection on private property without permission

EDUCATION

House Bill 8, Student Data Privacy, Security and Transparency

- Amends the current data security plan and requires a protocol to remove personally identifiable information from data being collected and used by the Department of Education in order to protect students identity
- Requires the State Superintendent to establish guidelines for the school district's collection of personally identifiable information
- House Bill 9, Student

Ownership and Privacy Rights

- Establishes that students currently enrolled at community colleges or the University of Wyoming have an expectation of privacy in the electronic writings and other electronic communications created by the student, regardless of whether the writing or communication is stored on an electronic device belonging to the academic institution
- House Bill 40/Senate File 36, Education Accountability/ Education•Leader Evaluation and Support
- Amends statutes to meet federal requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and modifies the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act and the requirements for leader evaluation and support
- Senate File 37, Education
- Hathaway Scholarship Program • 2
- Modifies the Hathaway program Success Curriculum requirements to measure and account for academic rigor starting in the 2018•2019 school year

HEALTH

Senate File 42, Opiate Overdose Emergency Treatment

- Allows pharmacists to directly provide opiate anti•overdose drugs without a prescription
- Senate File 89, Presumptive Disability for Firefighters
- Provides a presumption of occupational disability for various diseases and conditions that may be caused by firefighting work hazards
- House Bill 182, Abortion • Ultrasound Information
- Requires physicians to provide a patient with the opportunity to view an active ultrasound and to hear an audible fetal heartbeat before certain non•emergency abortion procedures

WORKFORCE

House Bill 84, Worker's Compensation • Delinquent Employers

- Creates the ability for employers who are delinquent on worker's compensation payments to make an installment payment agreement
- House Bill 111, County Collective Accounts
- Authorizes a group of county governments to establish a collective system to report payroll, pay premiums, process injury reports and manage claims
- House Bill 209, Disparity in Wages and Benefits Between Men and Women
- Authorizes the Department of Workforce Services to update and expand a 2003 study/report on the disparity of wages and benefits between men and women in Wyoming

MILITARY

House Bill 74, Agent Orange and Health Awareness Month

- Establishes the month of August as Agent Orange

Awareness month to recognize those who have been exposed

*Senate File 53, Veterans Hiring Preference

- Provides veterans and surviving spouses preference prior to the interview process in public employment
- House Bill 90, Concealed Weapons • Military Family Applicants
- Adjusts statute to allow concealed weapons permits to active duty military spouses

PUBLIC SAFETY

Senate File 115, Malicious Cruelty to Animals

- Makes various types of cruel acts that could either harm or kill an animal on private or leased land a felony
- Senate File 32, Peace Officers Recordings
- Further defines when public access to peace officer recordings shall or may be allowed or limited

TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 280, Vehicle Registration Requirements

- Creates requirements for the license and registration for vehicles operated by Wyoming residents
- House Bill 78, Salvaged Titles • Updates
- Revises procedures to acquire a salvage title if the vehicle is damaged or deemed a total loss by insurance companies
- Senate File 170, Unmanned Aircraft
- Sets requirements and limits for drones and other unmanned aircrafts

TRIBAL AFFAIRS

House Bill 76, American Indian Education Program

- Directs the State Board of Education to review and ensure the history, heritage and contributions of the Wyoming tribes are addressed in state standards
- House Joint 8, Federal Responsibility for American Indian Healthcare
- Resolution urges the United State Congress to continue to provide 100 percent Federal coverage through Medicaid for American Indians

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

House Bill 116, Abortion Amendments

- Sets penalties for the sale or transfer of any aborted fetus, cells or tissue from an aborted fetus for experimentation
- House Bill 159, Homeless Minors
- Authorizes a minor who is emancipated and homeless to obtain a birth certificate and enter into legally binding contracts for housing, employment, motor vehicles, student loans and establishing a bank account
- House Joint Resolution 2 for a Balanced Budget Amendment
- Petitions the United States Congress to call a convention of the states for the purpose of proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States



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Thinking OUTSIDE the Book

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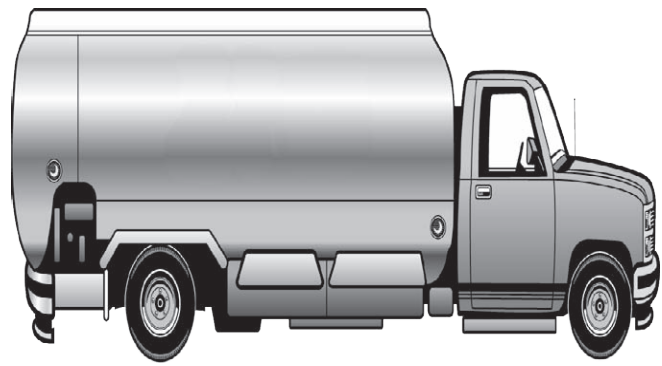


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Adult T-shirts (xxl) \$15.00
Youth T-shirts (xs, s, m, l, xl) \$10.00

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All proceeds go to help support our High School athletics and organizations.

Any questions, please call Kim Conzelman at 941-1851 or stop at the Newcastle EWC Outreach Office (Room 120)

Not so wicked



Susan Sharkey masquerades as the Wicked Witch of the West at the Upton Chamber's 5th annual Festival of Tables and silent auction on Saturday. The Chamber raked in \$3,100 at its main fundraiser for the year which boasted tables of various themes specially decorated by its sponsors. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

Upton Chamber Notes

Items of interest from the Upton Chamber of Commerce meeting on March 9

- Chamber President Summer Stephens reported the Weston County Travel Commission approved \$1,200 to repaint the metal "Welcome to Upton" signs.
- The Chamber has requested \$750 from the Travel Commission to replace the soil for the flowers around the downtown area. They have also sent information to the state to petition for funds to rebuild the Weston Inn, the town's only motel, which succumbed to a fire at the tail end of 2016.
- Planning is underway for the Easter Egg Hunt and movie showing on Sunday, April 16. Weston County Health Services was thanked for donating a pallet of bottled water for the event, although the water is expected to also be used for later events.
- Stephens shared that their website's views have increased as the Chamber increases its integration by promoting upcoming events on its online calendar. Its photo contest is currently underway for shots highlighting the community's unique qualities, with two separate award categories for students and adults.

Giving for Lent

to the Bread Office, in place of traditional abstinence.

"People are always having a difficult time finding something to give up for Lent. This way they could embrace an idea that would benefit their community," French purported.

The idea was originally intended to raise awareness in the community by petitioning church groups to get on board, but French has hopes it will spread to individuals.

"We've issued the challenge to churches so a youth group or a church itself could donate 40 items, but I think the greater good will come from the whole community participating. We have a huge box (at the Methodist Church), so people can donate as they come in during the week too," she shared.

Several churches have set up large containers to house the donations until the end of Lent, but French shared that some of those she has spoken with are

keeping up with it domestically.

"They may have a place in their house, like a collection box or whatever it may be, so they're going through that ritual. Others may just wait 'til the last day of Lent, and go out and get 40 things and deliver it," French said.

"I'm hoping that enthusiasm is carrying over and people are actually participating. I hope people embrace the idea not only for Lent, but for the entire year," she added.

Seeking help from various quarters, the Bread Office has also begun a partnership with Rapid City's Panera Bread where they receive periodic shipments of donated leftovers from the bakery chain. This new assortment is a welcome addition to the pantry that has been struggling, partially due to a downturn in donations.

"There was a group in town that normally did a food drive for us in early December, but that didn't happen this last

year. Our resources were down because of that, but our clientele that we're serving has increased significantly," French said.

Their strain has only been compounded with an unprecedented uptick in demand. The average month sees between 70-80 sacks of food doled out to those without, but in November they handed out 96 sacks. That number ballooned just two months later.

"The total number of food bags given out in January was 149. At the end of November we had 195 monthly clients, and at the end of January we were at 283," French reported.

She attributes this mounting demand to "the downturn in the economy and just things that have been happening in our community. We had 17 new clients in November who have never used our services before," French stated. That number nearly doubled to 31 in January.

Christmas time routinely sees more need than the rest of the year, but that does not explain these rising figures which include families and the elderly. While the Bread Office often uses its monetary donations to purchase certain goods, they have had to resort to paying for basic items they had not run short of before.

"January was an exception as far as the amount of money she spent, and the type of items she purchased," French reported.

For any interested in donating for Lent or any time thereafter, the Bread Office accepts canned goods and non-perishable items, personal care products, paper products, and monetary donations. They also take in plastic sacks and used plastic or glass bottles for dispensing products they purchase in bulk, like detergent or soap.

"We're never at full-capacity, so the need is always there," French confirmed.

High caliber



Left: Brandon Sims inspects rifle parts during the gun show at the Weston County Senior Center on Saturday. Right: Mike and Patty Aldrich strike up conversation with guests to their table at the show. (Jess Yarnes/NLJ)

Good Deed Lunch



Cameron Mills, Aubri Slycord, Jace Rich, Hailey Beastrom, Brock Bergstrom, Baleigh Knight



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

ALLEY CLEAN-UP

The City of Newcastle is to start an alley cleaning project beginning April 3 to clear vegetation and physical obstructions in the city ROW. This is being done to enable greater working area for the necessary day to day activities for city maintenance and garbage pickup. Work will start in the alleys south of Cascade and Highland Avenues and progress northward in the Frontier addition and then throughout the city. Residents are requested to remove personal items in advance such as vehicles, trailers, tires, rubbish, etc.

Elk Mountain School

would like to announce Kindergarten Screening for all potential kindergarten students for the 2017-2018 school year.

Any child in the district who is five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2017 is eligible to sign up for a screening which will take place at Elk Mountain School Tuesday and Wednesday, April 18th and 19th.

Please call the school:
605-749-2258 Ext. 1 by April 13th
to set up an appointment or you may email
Jan Fry at janice.fry@k12.sd.us

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Obituaries

Carl "Bill" Hansen
May 19, 1926-Mar. 18, 2017
Carl William (Bill) Hansen, 90, Newcastle, died, Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Custer Regional Senior Care. Carl was the eldest of eight children of Carl and Ella (Toth) Hansen. He was born on the Walgren place near Horton, WY on May 19, 1926.



Bill Hansen

Bill was raised on the family ranch near Horton and in Newcastle. He attended grade school and high school in Newcastle, graduating in 1944. Bill then enlisted in the US Army (WWII) in 1944. He served two years in the European Theater (England, France and Germany). Bill was a combat infantryman and on the journey over on the *Queen Elizabeth* with 10,000 troops on the ship he was designated to go up into the crow's nest (100' in the air) to watch for enemy boats and aircraft. He landed at LaHarve, France, where the 106th Division was "Hitting the Battle of the Bulge" and used a BAR rifle.

He returned home from service and worked in the oil fields at Newcastle, the City of Newcastle, then working for Sioux Oil Company (now Wyoming Refining Company), Bill retired after 23 years with the refinery in 1989. On June 8, 1952 he married Lorna Allen at the Methodist Church in Newcastle and they have made their home in Newcastle since that date. Two children were born, Chris and Darlene who now live in Spearfish, SD.

Bill was a member of the Country Church at Four Corners, WY, First United Methodist Church and the VFW. Being the oldest of eight children, he learned to work at an early age and took on many needed tasks when his dad was away at work.

He was a man of many talents. Bill had the joy of spending summers at their Ponderosa Cabin after retirement, spending many hours cutting and splitting firewood. He loved to fish, hunt, walk and drive his Subaru. One of the delights of his life after retirement was a venture to remodel the Country Church building at Four Corners. He restored the old pews and built new ones, cut and hauled wood to church and worked wherever he was needed. The time spent working on the church

and attending was so special to him, with a renewal of his faith in God and the joy of fellowship.

Bill is survived by his son, Chris Hansen and daughter Darlene (Travis) Sears, all of Spearfish, two brothers; Fred (Barbara) Hansen, and Jack (Betty) Hansen, four sisters; Rose (Ervin) Allen, Lorraine Davis, Shirley (Roy) Borgianni, and Helen (Corbin) Nicolls, all of Newcastle, WY, one aunt, Elizabeth Cummings, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Lorna Allen Hansen; parents, Carl and Ella Hansen; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ross and Lorella Allen; one brother, Jimmy Hansen; and one sister-in-law Zelpha Hansen; brothers and sisters -in-law; Ariel and Roosevelt Cole, Junior and Bertha Allen, Russell Davis, and David and Anna Marie Rawhouser.

Bill's Celebration of Life will be held at the Westin County Senior Center on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation starting at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at the Boyd Cemetery at Four Corners, WY. In Lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established. Kinkade Funeral Chapel, Sturgis, SD is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com

Ray O. Dare

Feb. 18, 1929-Mar. 8, 2017

Ray O. Dare was born February 18, 1929 on a homestead in the Clareton area, Weston County, Wyoming the son of Morton and Leeva York Dare. Ray was educated in Newcastle, Wyoming graduating from Newcastle High School in 1947. He was employed at various jobs in Newcastle including Updike Brothers until 1955. He then moved to California and worked at several refineries and chemical plants until working for the department of Defense for twenty one years, retiring in 1989. At this time he moved to Athol, Idaho.



Ray Dare

He enjoyed building, fixing and repairing almost everything. He also loved painting doing several hundred oil paintings in his lifetime. In 1957, he married Katherine Gunderson, they were later divorced in

1966.

Survivors include step daughters, Louise Konakis and Loretta Girton both of California; also surviving are numerous nephews and their children. Four step granddaughters and their children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, half sister Ethel, and brothers Woodrow, William, and Ivan Dare, sister June Barker.

Ray was a member of Eagles Aerie #486 of Cour D' Alene, Idaho.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. at Worden Funeral Chapel in Newcastle with Rev. Mick Bohn of the Newcastle Foursquare church officiating. Burial followed at Greenwood Cemetery under direction of Worden Funeral Directors of Newcastle.

Jayne Jean Morgan Green

Jan. 3, 1970-Mar. 8, 2017



Jayne Green

Jayne passed away March 8, 2017 at the Campbell County Hospital in Gillette, Wyo. after a long battle with cancer. Jayne was born January 3, 1970 in Gillette to Kathleen Porter Morgan and Eugene Morgan, the youngest of three children. She graduated from Campbell Co. High School in May 1984. In childhood and throughout life Jayne is remembered as a daredevil. She loved to experience new things such as skiing, dirt bikes, sky diving, rock climbing and hot wheeling. June 6, 2015 she was married to David Green the love of her life in Rapid City, S.D.

Jayne is survived by her husband David of Gillette, parents Kathie and Gene of Utah, grandmother Fern Porter of Newcastle, sister, Kelley Brooks (Tom) of N.D., brother Edward of Gillette, four nieces, two nephews, two great-nephews, uncle Daniel (Sandra) Porter of Gillette, Edward (Cindy) Porter of Newcastle, Mike Porter of Osage, aunts Ruth Liggett of Newcastle, Sandy (Jake) Clouse of Thermopolis and numerous cousins. Jayne was preceded in death by grandfather, Daniel Porter and aunt Mary McGlaughlin.

Memorial services were held at 10 a.m. on March 14, 2017 at St. Mathew's Catholic church in Gillette with Father Cliff Jacobson officiating.



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 Dinsna, 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 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 Tim Martinson, 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.

Proverbs 13:20
Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Daily Devotional Reading

Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29
Psalms 16	Psalms 17	Psalms 22	Psalms 25	Psalms 26	Psalms 27	Psalms 28

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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

*No Newspaper Article for The Week of March 26, 1892
March 29, 1917

At a meeting of the Weston County Fair Association held Saturday night, directors for the ensuing year were elected as follows: A.M. Nichols, Carl Kugland, E.P. Coyle, Richard Everts, & Ira Bowker. It was voted that the directors should contract with Baxter Adams. Rudolph Kain of Moon, S.D.

was shopping in Newcastle last Friday.

Mrs. C.M. Lerche was in Cambria Tuesday and Wednesday with a display of millinery.

Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Knapp & daughter Emogene were shopping in the city last Saturday.

The Dow Motor Co. received two more car loads of Chevrolet cars Monday, and the Parker Garage a car load of

Fords, Tuesday.

G.L. Sherwood came in from the XA Ranch today on business.

The Newcastle Light & Power Co. offices have been moved to the new location in the Mondell Flat.

March 26, 1942

Five Firemen were initiated last Thursday night at a special meeting of the volunteer Fire Department, four to expand the regular membership to 20 men; and one to replace Robert Adams, who left yesterday morning for Army services.

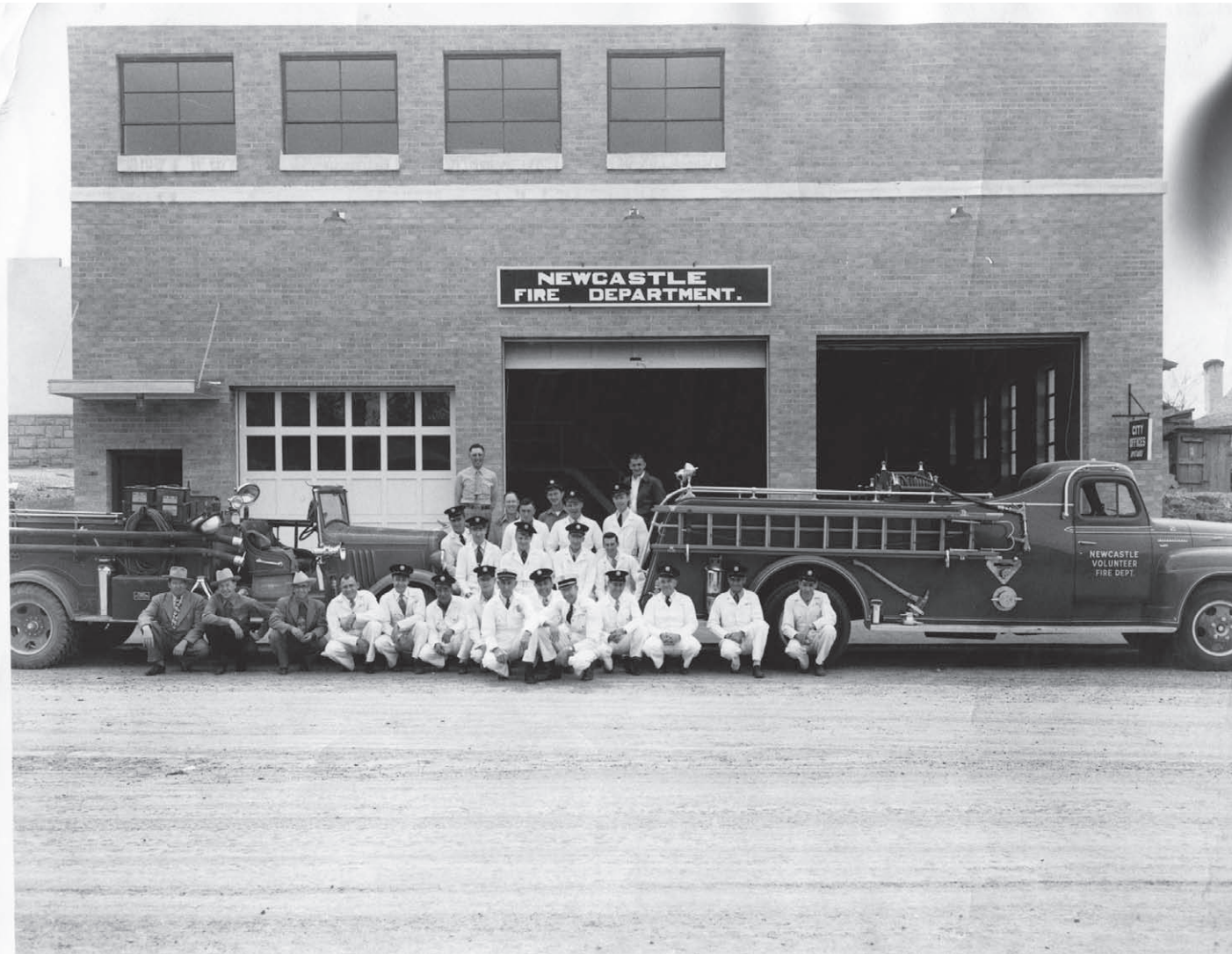
Mrs. Josie Musso of Four Corners has been on the sick list for several days.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Musgraves & daughter, who have been visiting here the past week, returned to their home at Laramie Wednesday.

A Buckingham Truck bound for Denver overturned on Highway 85 about 4 miles out of Newcastle about 5 p.m. Tuesday, completely demolishing the cab & tractor. The driver S.L. Clayton miraculously escaped injury, and the load carried was only slightly damaged.

Announcement was made of the marriage of Miss Mary Stok to Robert Adams, on Monday, March 23, at Sundance. Mrs. Adams is operator of the Wyoming Beauty Shop, and is well known in Newcastle. Mr. Adams is the son of Mr. & Mrs. John Adams of this city, & has been employed for several years at the Ward Lumber Company, until his departure yesterday morning for induction into the armed forces.

Should have seen it in color



Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department in front of City Hall, circa 1950's. If anyone can identify these men in this photo, please contact the Anna Miller Museum. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

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WHAT'S UP

March 2017

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs 23	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	WCHS Board Meeting AA Meeting	Hospital Board Room WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri 24	9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Cinnamon Roll Friday WC Library Board Meeting Bingo Western Ramblers Dance MOMologues	WC Senior Center WC Library VFW Hall WC Senior Center 222 W. Main St.
Sat 25	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Light Rifle Competition Restore a Door Paint Class NA Meeting MOMologues	WC Sportsman's Club The Antler's Cambria Church Basement 222 West Main St.
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. 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Alzheimers/Dementia Support Group WCNRD Beef Herd Management Vegetable Gardening: Soil Types Eastern Star AA Meeting	WC Senior Center USDA Conference Room EWC Newcastle Outreach Eastern Star #30 Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
Wed 29	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	WCSD #1 Board Meeting Real Foods Class NA Meeting	Administration Building UW Extension Weston County Cambria Church Basement
Thurs 30	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Easter/Spring Table Centerpiece AA Meeting	EWC Newcastle Outreach WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri 31	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Cinnamon Roll Friday Free Tax Prep Newcastle Little League Sign-Ups Bingo	WC Senior Center 23 W. Main St. WCHS Library VFW Hall

April 2017

Sat 01	11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Free Hair, Nails & Makeup NRA Banquet Newcastle High School Prom NA Meeting	W.C. Sports & Western Wear WC Senior Center Crouch Auditorium Cambria Church Basement
Sun 02	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

March 23
 Leonard & Renee Nack
 Dee Tupa
March 24
 Amanda Lesmeister
March 25
 Lindsey Ottema
 Kiana Cade
 Janita Cox
 Abby Terry
 Camary Sallee
March 26
 Deb Sewell
 Katara Cade
 Charlotte Taylor
March 28
 Tate Wammen
March 29
 Sheldon Murphy
 Taylor Crinklaw
April 1
 Marlene Dixon
 Dana Tysdal
 Charlotte Doell
 Brice Stanton
April 2
 Lacie Koester

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Generations

News Letter Journal

Birds of prey



John Halverson with the Black Hills Raptor Center brought four different birds of prey to the Newcastle Middle School on March 15. During his presentation, students not only had the opportunity to learn about different raptors in our area but also met each the of the four species in person: Hendrix, an American Kestrel; Big Bad Wolf, a Gray Phase Eastern Screech-Owl; Phoenix, a Ferruginous Hawk; and their newest addition, a Short-Eared Owl. All of these birds have been imprinted by humans and therefore will never be able to survive in the wild. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

FBLA sends 12 to Nationals

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Newcastle Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter competed in the State Leadership Conference last Friday and Saturday in Cheyenne and returned home with a record 12 national qualifiers.

The conference consists of two days of competition in a variety of events, with the top 10 kids in each advancing to finals. The top four finalists at the end of competition advance to the National Leadership Conference, which is being held in Anaheim, California at the end of June through the beginning of July.

“The weekend was awesome,” exclaimed advisor Alysha Engle. “We took 21 kids and they competed in everything from project and team events to individual categories, and they just did great!”

Finishing first in Publication Design was the team of Anna Gettinger, Flint Hossfeld and Arianna Anderson. For this category, the team was required to design a publication for a movie. The task consisted of making up a movie and all the elements to promote it.

“Their movie title was ‘Your Guess is as Good as Mine’ and they had to come up with the target audience and create materials that would appeal to that audience,” Engle explained. “They did a full body character cut-out along with a movie poster. Those two elements were required and then they also had to come up with the other elements as well. To that end, they created a t-shirt, a cereal box, a magazine cover and a newspaper clipping.”

The project events consist of Community Service and Partnering with a Business. The Community Service team of Cameron Quigley, Triston Roberson and Sawyer Roberson finished in fourth place while the Partnering with a Business team of Jade Roady, Daytona Bennett and Alyssa Umphlett picked up third.

Totes of Hope is the award winning community service project that FBLA created three years ago and is carried on each year. This program provides food to students and families in need on a weekly basis and is currently serving 90 families. FBLA sponsors a silent basket auction each year in order to raise money to purchase the food, and they also sponsor the Movie Ticket Christmas Tree each year at the Dogie Theater. For the competition, the students compile everything the project does and present it to judges at the state conference.

“Three kids help fill the totes on a weekly basis, and then we put 90 gift tags on the tree, and if you go to the movies and buy a ticket along with a snack, those tickets get put in with their totes at Christmas so each kid gets that gift,” Engle stated. “We used to do the tree at ShopKo, but because you never knew what gift kids would get, we decided to do the movie tickets so that everyone would get the same gift.”

The Partnership with a Business event is one that the Newcastle chapter has also had success with in the past. Last year, Sierra LaCroix and Abby Gray placed at Nationals with their project in which they partnered with the News Letter Journal, and this year Roady, Bennett and Umphlett are

hoping to repeat that feat.

While FBLA continued to do a video preview of the News Letter Journal each week, this year their actual partnership was with the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce. In addition to the weekly previews, the team produced infomercials for the Chamber’s premier members.

“Since we didn’t have anyone interning at the News Letter, I didn’t think that would be a very strong partnership so we went with the Chamber. Because the News Letter is part of the Chamber, we were able to continue the weekly preview of the paper as a form of electronic advertising and help them out with that,” Engle explained. “For the premium members of the Chamber, the kids started to make infomercials for them. Megan Kenney has the A/V class, so she and Zach Schuessler made one for Pinnacle Bank. American Enterprise did the same sort of project for the Chamber by doing infomercials, and because Pinnacle Bank paid Megan for the one she did for them, she was able to present in that category as well.”

Catherine Orban, Mikenna Waggener and Taylor Ford picked up fourth in the final team event, Marketing. In this category, the team must take tests and score within the top ten in order to compete at State. There the team is presented with a scenario and competitors are given a certain amount of time to come up with pros, the cons and then their solution.

Help Desk and Job Interview are each individual events, and Newcastle had three punch their tickets to Nationals in those categories. Hossfeld and Waggener placed third and fourth in Help Desk respectively, and Quigley finished fourth in Job Interview.

In the Help Desk category, the students must place in the top ten in the tests, like in Marketing. Similarly, at state they are presented with a scenario where they have to trouble shoot and problem solve.

“The scenario is basically a customer service situation, and they get 10 minutes to prepare how they will fix the problem,” Engle stated. “This year they were given a computer encryption problem in which a gentleman had to recover files before he went to a meeting, so it was pretty cool.”

The qualifiers will head to California on June 22 and will return on July second. The National competition is not funded by the school district, but the Newcastle FBLA chapter has a benefactor who has provided much needed financial assistance over the past couple of years.

“Don Jording determined to use his late wife’s scholarship fund to aid in the costs of attending the national conference. Last year he called me and wanted the FBLA kids to use it, and then he called a couple of weeks ago asking me to let him know if we had qualifiers,” Engle said. “I called him from the bus on the way home with the news, and he’s giving us a \$3,000 donation. That helps so much for our kids to be able to go.”

In addition, each year the chapter sells Krispy Creme Donuts as a fundraiser for the trip, so that will be coming soon.

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