

Upton schools double enrollment

Virtual schooling sparks 54% increase

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

While K-12 enrollment decreased overall across the state, Upton's school district, Weston County School

District No. 7, experienced a 54% increase in enrollment numbers, the result of a K-8 virtual program provided by the school to students across the state. The district's student body

population increased from 471 in 2021-22 to 725 in 2022-23, according to a Nov. 29 press release from the Wyoming Department of Education. Enrollment data from 1991-92 to the current school

year, available on the department's website, shows that this is the first time the district has seen enrollment over 475. Last school year, the district hit 471 students, up from 222 students in the 2020-21

school year. At 222 students, the district was seeing its lowest enrollment in the past 20 years. Overall enrollment ranged from — See Enrollment, Page 6

Chickens get green light

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

After a seventh-month battle for the right to raise backyard chickens, fowl fans were granted their wish by the Newcastle City Council, which officially adopted the ordinance after its third reading on Dec. 5, 2022. The ordinance was approved on all three readings, with councilman Don Steveson as the sole naysayer each time. "I'm very excited that the chicken ordinance passed, and I feel like I fulfilled a campaign promise when I got elected to the City Council," Councilman Tyrel Owens said.

— See Chickens, Page 2

Illness may be impacting attendance

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Due to illness among performers, coupled with unpredictable weather, the choir concerts for Newcastle High and Newcastle Middle schools have been postponed until Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. While all absences cannot be attributed to illness, all three schools in Weston County School District No. 1

— See Illness, Page 7

Time with Santa



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

After the Parade of Lights on Saturday, Dec. 3, Santa Claus and his chief elf went to The Antler's where children could sit on his lap and tell him what they want for Christmas. Christmas music, hot chocolate, and cookies were available in the adjoining room. Above, Santa talks with Ashlyn Leonard about her Christmas wishes. Any children who missed seeing Santa in person can send their Letters to Santa to the News Letter Journal. See how on Page 7.

City council withdraws appointment

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The Newcastle City Council voted to remove former City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James from the Planning and Zoning Commission on Dec. 5 after

they had voted to appoint him to the open seat during the council's Nov. 21 meeting. After that vote, several council members expressed concern with James' hasty appointment, and the lack of advertisement on the opening. Councilmen Ty Owens and Daren Downs, as

well as Councilwoman Ann McColley, all stated that they were blind-sided not only by the quick appointment of James to the seat but also by the fact that they were unaware there was an open seat.

— See Appointment, Page 2

Bringing 'Paws'-itivity to residents of the Manor



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

What started out as a joke to pass a little time on a slow day soon grew into an idea to brighten the lives of Weston County Manor residents, and as a result the three newest certified nursing assistants at the nursing home aren't your typical nurses. In fact, they aren't nurses at all — but furry, four-legged creatures that bring smiles to both staff and students.

Gracie, a 7-year-old black Lab, joined her owner, Kristina Nieskens, a CNA at the Weston

County Manor, as she made her rounds on a quiet day a few weeks ago. Nieskens had asked if she could bring her dog to work for the residents, and her co-workers thought it was "hilarious" and put Gracie in scrubs and gave her an official name tag.

"To be honest, it just kind of started," Nieskens said. If that day had been a job interview, Gracie would have passed with flying colors.

"She's meant for it. She's good and calm. She loves the attention — and the food," she said. "She's just by my side and doesn't leave me."

"If Kristina's moving, she is moving," added Meredith Tolley, activity director/NSA manager at Weston County Hospital District.

Everyone loved having Gracie around, and Nieskens inspired her co-workers to bring their pets to work as well. If one dog could be a "spirit booster," why not bring in more?

Social worker K.C. Bergstrom brought Tom, a golden doodle, and secretary Lisa Weir brought

Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ

Alice Cunningham, Weston County Manor resident, smiles as she pets Gracie, owned by certified nursing assistant Kristina Nieskens. The residents so enjoyed Gracie's company that other employees have also brought their pets in to bring joy and smiles to Manor residents.

— See Manor, Page 8

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Snow/Wind
Hi 16, Lo 11



Friday
Cloudy/Wind
Hi 20, Lo 14



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 27, Lo 3



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 17 Lo -3



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 14, Lo 0



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 19, Lo -3

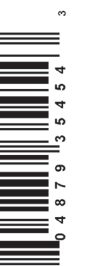


Wednesday
Cloudy
Hi 3, Lo -13



INSIDE

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WE HAVE GIFT CARDS

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Jan Farella photo

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Bau joins WCSD No. 1 board

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The December 7 meeting of the Weston County School District No. 1 board of trustees is always exciting because new members are sworn in after winning election and new board officers are chosen, but this year, it included some additional flair due to the selection of Paul Bau for the seat left vacant by the sudden retirement of long-time trustee Ronnie Mills.

Mills resigned on Nov. 9, leaving the board to find a replacement to fill out the remaining two years of his term. His resignation followed the Nov. 8 general election, and at the time, trustee John Riesland suggested that the board appoint Marcia Lambert because she was the candidate who didn't win in the general election, but had the next highest number of votes.

Going into the election, voters were to choose four names from the list of candidates for the four open seats on the school board. The top four vote-getters were Sean Crabtree, 1,121; Dana Gordon, 1,009; Joe Prell, 941; and Jason Jenkins, 684. Of the four, incumbents Gordon and Jenkins were re-elected. Lambert, also an incumbent, had 682 votes, putting her in fifth place. Others on the ballot included Bau with 611 votes and incumbent Tom Wright (642 votes). Steven Gale (176 voters), Tyler Mills (478 votes) and Gillian Sears

(480 votes) also appeared on the ballot. After extensive discussion on November 9, Riesland's motion to appoint Lambert ultimately failed, and the board instead chose to collect letters of interest from those individuals who wanted to fill the seat. On Dec. 7, the board met with the four candidates who submitted letters — Bau, Lambert, Tyler Mills and Stanley Jasinski — before appointing Bau on a 5-3 vote to fill the remaining two years of Mills' term.

Voting for Bau were trustees Dana Mann-Tavegia, Jason Jenkins, Billy Fitzwater, Joe Prell and Sean Crabtree. Voting for Lambert were Riesland, Dana Gordon and Tina Chick.

After Bau's appointment, the board switched gears, and took on the task of electing their officers to serve for the next year.

The excitement continued as nominations for the positions of both chairman and vice chairman were contested. Riesland became the new chairman when he edged out Mann-Tavegia in a 5-4 vote, but Mann-Tavegia rallied and was elected vice chair over outgoing board chairman Tina Chick.

Fitzwater and Jenkins were then elected without opposition to the other two officer positions, and will serve as clerk and treasurer, respectively.

To watch the full board meeting, please visit the News Letter YouTube page.

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- All participants required to wear same type of clothing week to week for weigh-ins.
- Participants not allowed to weigh in on any scale other than that at weigh-in location.

Lit!




Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Second place in the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce Lighted Parade went to Ferguson's Vintage Christmas. The family decorated one of their vintage cars with holiday lights for the Dec. 3 Main Street event.

Appointment from Page 1

"I think that might be one of the problems with our local government. We just appoint people without giving an adequate amount of notification to people that might be interested," Owens said. "We need to try and drum up some support instead of shoeing someone into the position."

Councilman Don Steveson, the only council member to vote against removing James from the commission, stated over the phone that the openings were not something that the city usually advertises and that usually there were not very many interested.

"That might be something that is the problem," Owens suggested.

He explained that he didn't know an appointment was on the agenda on November 21 and voted yes, but has since regretted his decision to do so.

"Greg (James) is more than welcome to apply. I don't think appointing someone like that is fair," Owens said.

James, who was in the audience at the meeting, reported that there were no statutes requiring

the city to advertise. He had previously served as Newcastle's mayor before becoming clerk-treasurer for several years, and recalled that the city had struggled to fill positions previously.

"Months would go by without any interest," he said.

Owens argued that if more people knew about the open seat, then more people might want to apply. He noted that if there is no additional interest, then James will "be right back in there."

"I have nothing against James, but it should be advertised," Councilman Lance Miles said.

Following the discussion, a motion to remove James from the board and advertise the open seat for two weeks was approved by the council, with only Steveson voting against it.

"We will run the ad for two weeks to see what kind of applications we can generate," Owens said.

To watch the full recording from the council meeting, please visit the News Letter Journal YouTube page.

Chickens from Page 1

After several back-and-forth discussions and reviews due to concerns raised by various parties, the finalized ordinance addresses some of the concerns, including coop upkeep, permit applications and violation fees.

According to Section 6.c.(3) R-1, subparagraph 3(g), to acquire a permit, which is good for one year, interested persons must submit an application with a \$20 fee. A suggested requirement to obtain neighbors' consent was removed before the ordinance's final approval.

Only six chickens, which must be hens, are permitted to each lot, and each chicken must have 3 square feet of interior space. The coop has to be covered, fully enclosed and predator-resistant and must be cleaned once every two weeks.

Those in violation of any of the ordinance's requirements are subject to a fine of \$20 per violation. If any chickens are found running loose, the chicken owner must pay a \$20 fine for its return, in addition to a \$3 per day fine each day the chicken is lost to cover the city's expenses for housing and upkeep.

Councilman Don Steveson said that he is not against the ordinance itself because citizens should have the right to do what they want on their own property, but all of the constituents that came to him were against the ordinance, and he wanted to give them a voice.

"I was trying to support my constituents," Steveson said. "I felt I was supporting the voices that came to me that

didn't want it."

Owens said he feels "kind of bittersweet" about the new ordinance because he understands that some people are adamantly opposed to chickens within city limits, but he is glad the uphill battle is over.

"We're always going to be in an agree-to-disagree situation," Steveson said, adding that it's important to respect differing opinions.

"I realized it was a point of contention in the community, but we had a public meeting, the News Letter Journal ran a poll, and it seemed like the majority of the people were in favor of backyard chickens," Owens said. "Now we can move on to talk about something else."

A full copy of the ordinance can be requested from the city.



nlj IDEAS

Our View

News online is on time

Our loyal subscribers have probably noticed that the weekly print edition of the News Letter Journal doesn't arrive in Newcastle as early as it used to...at least not on a consistent basis.

We understand the frustration of not being able to grab the newspaper off one of the racks in town at lunch-time on Wednesday, and we are certainly sorry for those occasions when you haven't been able to snag your copy until Thursday.

While we would like to promise that such delays are a thing of the past, this week's promised winter storm will undoubtedly hinder our distribution efforts also and we are anticipating that it may be difficult to get the papers here from our new printer in Douglas on Wednesday morning - or afternoon.

Even without the threat of bad weather, we're afraid that the weekly arrival of our printed product may continue to be erratic because the number of working printing presses in the region continues to

decline, and our industry is suffering bottlenecks because of it.

We are committed to continuing publication of the printed News Letter Journal each week, and thank you in advance for your patience on those weeks when circumstances conspire to keep it off the racks until Thursday.

We also want to remind you that subscriptions to the online newspaper are not at the mercy of over-booked printing presses or Wyoming's dangerous winter driving conditions. You can still see your newspaper online every Thursday before noon if you purchase an online subscription - or upgrade your current subscription to a print/digital combo. Our website also offers a number of features that we can't find room for in our print edition, and we encourage you to check out what's new at newsjlj.com while you wait out the looming storm.

Be safe and have a great week!

POLL of the WEEK

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

- Yes
- No

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

News Letter Journal:
WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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WHAT

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

WHERE

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WHEN

News Letter Journal is published each Thursday at 14 W. Main Street in Newcastle (Weston Co.) WY 82701. Periodicals postage paid at Newcastle, WY. USPS No. 389-940. Deadline for advertising is the prior Friday at noon.

WHY

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

The holiday season is now in full swing

For many, that means Thanksgiving to Christmas, and for others, like me, the "holidays" begin October 31 and end January 1 — Halloween to New Year's Day, one holiday per month as it were.

I don't get overly excited about those days, but my AIC does. The holidays provide the perfect excuse to indulge excessively in the glorious sugar confections plastered on the shelf of every store. Yes, I speak of candy.

There are great debates on the best candies out there. Some are die hard chocolate fans, while others prefer a gummie or hard candies. Regardless of your favorite, sweets are a...um...sweet business for the manufacturers of them. According to Candyshop.com, Americans were poised to spend \$3.1 Billion dollars on Halloween candy alone. According to their stats, that

is a whopping \$28 dollars per person that choose to celebrate Halloween. Inflation probably bolsters this number, but take into consideration that Californians alone will purchase over a million pounds of just Reese's cups and you can see that it is a booming business indeed.



Dustin Bergerstrom
Dusty Mind

Hot Tamales. The top ten is rounded out by Sour patch kids, Hershey's Kisses, Snicker, Tootsie Pops, and Candy Corn (which according to Comedian Lewis Black is neither candy nor corn — and was all made in 1911).

With these being the best, what did the website consider the worst? Good & plenty ranked as the 10th worst, then black licorice, Tootsie rolls, Mary Janes, Smarties, Wax cola bottles, Necco Wafers, Peanut Butter Kisses, Oddly Enough Candy Corn appears again, and the #1 worst Candy?

Circus Peanuts. (I think we can all agree here. these Styrofoam like faux goobers are pretty horrific.)

The poll also included a state by state breakdown in pounds of the top three candies by state. How do we rank our candies in Wyoming? Coming in at #3 was Dubble Bubble Gum with 18,782 pounds, #2 was Salt water Taffy at 22,503 pounds, and the #1 here is Reese's cups at a whopping 23,987 pounds.

So that covers Halloween, but what about other holidays? Is it pie, cake, or maybe cheesecake? How about none of the above? According to Zippia our favorite Christmas treat

here in the Cowboy State is Egg Nog. Personally, I like Eggnog, once a year, just to remind me that the nutmeg laced concoction is indeed tasty, but that once a year is enough to also remind me that it is unkind to the ole digestive system.

According to a light hearted moment by Ronald Reagan, it was the reason for the invasion of Grenada. Without nutmeg you can't have eggnog, and without eggnog you can't have Christmas. Other states tended to go for spice laced items like candy canes, peppermint bark, cinnamon rolls, and gingerbread.

No matter if you agree with the polls or disagree, the 2 month period between October 31st and January 1st is a girth increasing, sugar coma inducing joy. Take it with a light-hearted approach and let yourself indulge on occasion. After all, the rest of the year can be a chore, and we all need a bit of a reward at the end of it.

Worst winter road in America - Snow Chi Minh Trail

“Dear God, please help us get through this awful mess of a highway. If you get us through safely, so help me, we will never do anything bad again.”

Prayers like the above and many more variants emanate from folks in a long line of cars stranded in blizzards on a horrible stretch of winter highway called the Snow Chi Minh Trail along Interstate 80.

Like so many Wyomingites, our family has been there so many times.

This area is commonly referred to in the last four decades as the “Snow Chi Minh Trail.” Where did that name come from?

My generation knew about the Ho Chi Minh Trail because it was the main supply chain route for the bad guys during the Vietnam War back in the 1960s and 1970s.

Some recent research credits a couple of old codger newspapermen as being responsible for coming up with the “Snow” version of this name for this treacherous stretch of interstate highway.



Bill Sniffin
My Wyoming

John Waggener, an archivist and historian for the American Heritage Center at University of Wyoming, is my go-to expert. He wrote the recent

best-selling book Snow Chi Minh Trail and he now has tracked down the origin of the name.

As a Wyoming journalist back in the 1970s, I complained constantly about road conditions on Interstate 80. I would love to claim credit for spreading

the name. Alas, John did not discover that I was the clever writer who coined the term.

With his latest research, he now cites famed Denver Post columnist Red Fenwick with referring to the road as follows. Fenwick wrote it is a “White Elephant” — of course referring to the snow and to a road that Wyoming now had to deal with. He called it the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Then, pointing to the Vietnam reference, he said folks in the Laramie-Rawlins area “call it that not because it is so frequently bombed, but because southern Wyomingites are convinced that the engi-

neers who designed it were bombed. ‘Bombed’ is a silly synonym for plastered, zonked, crocked.” Fenwick wrote this on Feb. 21, 1971.

It was a month prior to that time that our family had our first horrible winter experience on that highway. We were returning to the Cowboy State after a Christmas trip to visit relatives in Iowa when we got stranded in a white-out between Laramie and Rawlins. It was just terrible. It scared me to death and I complained about it extensively in my column in the Wyoming State Journal in Lander.

But it took another old pro, Phil McAuley, editor of the Casper Star-Tribune, who five days later took issue with Fenwick's column by writing: “He (Fenwick) should know better. It's no longer called the Ho Chi Minh Trail. It's now called the Snow Chi Minh Trail.” Not sure who McAuley was quoting but the name stuck from then on, according to Waggener's research.

At the point McAuley had written his story, the road had been open for four months and already had been closed 200 hours according to then-Highway Department

Superintendent Ross Stapp.

Waggener said truck drivers had started to use the term shortly after those February newspaper columns.

Fenwick died in 1982 in Cheyenne at the age of 73 and McAuley died in 2001 at the age of 74 in Casper. Both were legendary newsmen in the region.

Wyoming people have complained for 51 years about the location of the road. Anybody with local knowledge knew that the current mountain route was a disaster, especially in the six months of winter. They all preferred the current route of US Highway 30.

Waggener has done more research than anyone on that road and he recently sent me a few more nuggets that he thought would be interesting to our readers.

Waggener writes: “I had heard stories about an earlier survey for a route that was even closer to the mountain! I did find a reference to this, so I did make note in my book but nothing more than that. However, since my book came out in the fall of 2020, I have now confirmed there was such a survey.

“This survey shows the Feds

had a proposal to locate the road south of the town of Elk Mountain. The road literally would have passed at the foot of Elk Mountain via Halleck Pass. The road would have been several miles closer to Elk Mountain where the snow and blowing snow impact would have been even greater.

“You will see on the late 1950s survey a “red line,” which is the route that eventually was selected and a proposed “blue line” that passes south of the town of Elk Mountain.”

It is hard to imagine the level of stubbornness that would cause these national officials to make these stupid decisions about the site of the roadway. We all have paid the price for this ever since. Thanks John, for sharing this historical information.

Bill Sniffin is a retired newspaper publisher who has penned a number of books about Wyoming. Check out additional columns written by Bill at www.billsniffin.com, and find volumes from his coffee table book series, which have sold over 30,000 copies, for sale at the News Letter Journal.

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- Rep. JD Williams (307) 334-2545..... jd.williams@wyoming.com
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Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

Check out the News Letter Journal at newsjlj.com



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HUBBARD

Obituaries

HOWARD CRAFT
April 25, 1941–Dec. 5, 2022
Howard Emil Osterlund Craft passed away on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, at his home in Gillette, Wyo., at the young age of 81.

Howard was born on April 25, 1941, to Emil and Pearl (Landry) Osterlund in Sault Saint Marie, Mich. He moved to Arvada, Wyo., at just 11 months old, with his mom and siblings. Howard and his sister, Donna (Osterlund Craft)



Howard Craft

Means, were later adopted by Rexford Raymond and Edna Fern Craft in 1949 after his mother died when he was 8 years old. They were then raised on a ranch in Rocky Point, Wyo., where he attended rural school close by until eighth grade.

Howard was involved in FFA shooting sports and rodeo as he went through high school. He was also named freshman class president. After graduating from Campbell County High School in 1960, Howard joined the United States Army the same year. Howard served as part of the Vietnam war with combat engineers. He was stationed in Germany as a sharp shooter and a Green Beret, returning home after three years. After returning from the service, Howard started his next adventure in Miles City, Mont., where he attended college during the day and worked nights at the boys' home. Soon after, Howard met Jenny "Honey" Dirks; they were married and were blessed with Shirley Ann Craft in 1965. They later divorced.

In July of 1969, Howard met the person whom his daughter and grandkids would call the love of his life, Mary Lois (Thomas) Craft. They were wed in June of 1970. Howard and Mary's son, Douglas Howard Craft, was born in February of 1971, and just three years later,

Stacy Yvonne (Craft) Reynolds came along in July of 1974.

Mary and Howard were also foster parents for a short time after their children were born. Howard was always a very influential part of the Campbell County community, being very active in hunter safety, shooting sports, and 4-H programs for many years.

Howard and Mary owned and operated Craft Mobile from 1970 to 1972. For a short time, from 1976 to 1981, they were also owners of Campbell County Concrete. From then, Howard began working for Mountain Bell from 1981 to 2003.

After retirement, Howard worked various other jobs to keep himself busy, as a tire cutter, staff at the Pioneer Manor, and lots of time traveling as a driver for local dealerships. His favorite hobby was, without a doubt, shooting trap. He found a knack in hunting and fishing. He always had a love for dancing, it usually carried him to the Newcastle Senior Center almost every Friday night with a pot of Howard's homemade chili for the band. Howard will be remembered most for his dedication, his helping hands, and his more than ornery personality.

Howard is survived by his sister, Yvonne McDonald of Cederville, Mich.; his daughter, Shirley Craft of Casper, Wyo.; granddaughter, Katrina (Gary) Derbish of Laramie, Wyo.; grandson, Ethan Craft of Casper; great-grandchildren, Lucian and EmiClaire Derbish of Laramie; daughter, Stacy (Thomas) Reynolds; grandson, Blaine Reynolds (Krista Lohman); granddaughters, Ginny (Dustin) Behnke, Arianna Reynolds (Aaron Mitchell), Bailey Reynolds, and Taylor Reynolds; great-granddaughter, Isabel Reynolds, great-grandson Nicholas Behnke; granddaughters, Alexis Craft of Indiana, Alissa Craft (Kyler Herndon), and Patience Craft; great-granddaughter, Alayia Rounsaville, all of Gillette; along with several other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Howard is being welcomed

home by his parents, Emil and Pearl Osterlund and Ray and Fern Craft; his sisters, Delores (William) Wright and Donna (Jerry) Means; his brothers, Clark (Jean) and Glen Izzard; his son, Douglas Howard Craft and grandson, Sethen Reynolds.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 12, at Gillette Memorial Chapel, with Erik Bergquist officiating; interment followed at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery.

Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel, 210 W. 5th St., Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at gillettememorial-chapel.com.

MARJORIE JEANETTE FAWCETT HUBER

March 4, 1936–Dec. 7, 2022

Marjorie Jeanette Fawcett Huber was born March 4, 1936, at the family ranch on Beaver Creek to Frank and Pearl (Schultz) Fawcett, the youngest of four children. Being the youngest, Marge had a wonderful childhood and loved reliving memories with great stories about her siblings, her family, and life growing up on the ranch.

Marge spent her early school years at the Sweet Country

School on Beaver Creek, then in Newcastle, Wyo., in her teen years.

Marge married her high school sweetheart, Jack Ray Huber, Aug.

1, 1953. The couple made their first home at the gas plant near the Cheyenne River. They later moved into Newcastle where Jack built their home on Pine Street.

Marge was a devoted mother and homemaker but also worked at several places over the years, including Decker's, the National Bank and the senior center and as a home health caretaker. Marge and

Jack owned and operated the Sears and Roebuck Catalog Store in Newcastle from 1972 to 1980.

Small but mighty, Marge enjoyed gardening, playing cards, and going to dances. In her younger years Marge and Jack loved fishing, camping and Sunday drives with the kids. Most of all, Marge loved spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She never met a stranger and was quick to volunteer her help to anyone who needed it. Whether it was help with a luncheon, a phone call to a friend or giving you vegetables from her garden, she preferred being a worker instead of the one who took credit. She delivered Meals on Wheels for several years until she was unable to do so.

Marge passed away Dec. 7, 2022, at Weston County Manor in Newcastle after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

She is survived by her daughters, Jeanette Huber of Clarkston, Wash., and Patty (Chuck) Bartlett of Newcastle; her son, Richard (Vera) Huber of Newcastle; grandchildren, Eric (Natalie) Bartlett of Maple Valley, Wash., Kelly (Don) Reilly of La Quinta, Calif., Jamie (Brian) LeJambre of Lander, Wyo., Christa (Patrick) Lacey of Newcastle, Libby Huber of Newcastle; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and her sister, Ruth Moore of Yuma, Ariz.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jack Huber of Newcastle; grandson, Heath Bartlett of Newcastle; sister, Mary Capps; and brother, Bill Fawcett, also of Newcastle. Donations may be made to Weston County Senior Center in Marjorie's name.

Funeral services will be held on Dec. 16, at Weston County Senior Services at 2 p.m.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railway Ave., Newcastle, WY, 82701 or expressions of sympathy may also be made online at meridianmortuary.com.



Marjorie Huber



Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to the NLJ!

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faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

December 16 Psalm 75	December 20 Isaiah 8:21-9:7
December 17 Isaiah 38:1-20	December 21 Luke 1:1-25
December 18 Isaiah 7:1-25	December 22 Luke 1:26-56
December 19 Isaiah 8:1-20	<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (open to all) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Kenli Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 pm; Undeafened Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy, 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday Mass 5 pm
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ~ James 5:14



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**25 Years Ago
Dec. 18, 1997**

Giving kids an alternative to dropping out of high school is what Newcastle High School Principal Brad LaCroix hopes a new "school within a school" pilot program will do. Similar to independent study classes, the program will give kids an opportunity to say, "This is my chance to take on my own responsibilities."

Mount Rushmore Broadcasting, Inc., owner of several area radio stations, filed an application for a new Class A FM radio station which should be operational some time in 1998, according to General Manager Tim Swanson. The application proposes operation of 6,000 watts effective radiated power from a 74-meter-high antenna, which will be located north of Newcastle.

Frank Mondell and Mabel Brown were two names that immediately popped into City Council members' heads Monday night when Mayor Greg James mentioned the American Heritage Center's Wyoming Citizen of the Century search. The Heritage Center hopes to honor those individuals who have made a significant impact on the state during the Twentieth Century and to determine which of them has left the greatest mark.

Larry Sanson and Sandy Thiel of Rehabilitation Enterprises of Northeast Wyoming (RENEW) recently received 1997 Exemplary Care Grant Awards at the 9th International Instructor's Conference for the Crisis Prevention Institute.

**50 Years Ago
Dec. 14, 1972**

A request for federal assistance for improvements at O.C. Kerney field in Newcastle has been approved by the federal government.

The school ice skating rink near the high school will be open for use this weekend. The warming building will be open this skating season under the direction of Bruce Hokanson.

The Weston County United Fund has distributed a total of \$6,800 to nine participating agencies. Fire completely destroyed a two-story wood frame building in Osage late Saturday evening. Two young men, Dan Bau and Doug Jones, were living in the building but were in Newcastle for a



National Guard drill at the time of the fire. All their possessions were lost in the fire.

Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Boal of Upton announce the marriage on November 29, of their daughter, Susan, to Dr. Jochen Thormann of Bad Naulheim, Germany.

The V.L. Thorpe home on South Summit Street was aglow with Christmas Thursday evening as members of Chapter AG, PEO celebrated Christmas and the 11th birthday of the chapter.

The antique white banister of the open stairway, wound

with streamers of red velvet resembled a giant peppermint stick; white milk glass composites filled with red velvet apples graced the tables and red scented candles filled the air with the fragrance of bayberry, cranberry and pine. A Christmas tree adorned with homemade decorations was a conversation piece as each member chose a favorite ornament to take home for his own tree.

**100 Years Ago
Dec. 14, 1922**

Interest in the mail order

menace that is threatening disastrous results to Newcastle merchants is growing. Many patrons of the mail order houses have written to the News-Journal giving their reasons for doing so. We are going to publish all of them with the hope that it will work to a better understanding between local business men, and men and women in Newcastle and in every part of the county.

The Osage public school has been standardized and accredited by the Wyoming State Board of Education. All the rooms were dismissed Monday to see Mr. Tidball place the Wyoming standard school shield on the high school building.

The new town at the M.H. Shield Coal company camp is soon to receive an official name which will probably be "Peerless," according to an announcement made recently by Mr. Shields, says the Gillette News.

Newcastle camp No. 5955, the youngest camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, held its first regularly called meeting last Friday evening in Masonic temple and initiated over 40 candidates.

From the vault ...



Photo courtesy of Weston County Historical Society from the Alice Walter Ritthaler collection. Pictured are Walter Ritthaler, Raymond Ritthaler, and Glenn Barr.

Weston County Courthouse

will be closing at noon on Dec. 23 for observance of Christmas Eve, and will be closed Dec. 26 for observance of Christmas Day. We will be open again for regular business on Dec. 27.

*Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Christmas Services*

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses:
Dec. 24 5PM St. Anthony, Upton
Dec. 24 7:30PM Corpus Christi
Dec. 25 Midnight Corpus Christi

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:
Dec. 31 5PM Corpus Christi
Dec. 31 8AM St. Anthony, Upton
Jan. 1 8AM Corpus Christi

Epiphany of our Lord:
Jan. 7 5PM Corpus Christi
Jan. 8 8AM Corpus Christi
Jan. 8 5PM St. Anthony, Upton

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:
Jan. 9 7AM Corpus Christi

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WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

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Send your event listings to design@newsj.com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar, sponsored by Pinnacle Bank.

Fri. Dec. 16	9AM 9AM-5:30PM 10AM-2PM By Appt. 1PM 5:30PM	Caramel Rolls Holiday Open House & Used Book Sale M.N. Stroh Book Signing COVID Booster Clinic Bridge BINGO	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Library W.C. Library W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center V.F.W. Hall
Mon. Dec. 19	9AM 1PM 6PM 7PM 7PM	Exercise Class Computer Clinic W.C. Children's Center Directors Mtg. Alcoholics Anonymous Newcastle City Council Mtg.	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Children's Center W.C. Senior Center City Council Chambers
Tues. Dec. 20	9AM 11AM 1PM 6PM 6PM	W.C. Commissioners Mtg. Story Time Bridge & Dominoes Helping Hands Foundation Board Mtg. American Legion Riders	W.C. Courthouse W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Newcastle Lodge
Wed. Dec. 21	6:30-8:30AM 7-9AM 9AM NOON	Wellness Wednesday Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class & Toe Nail Clinic Lions Club	W.C. Health Services Upton Medical Clinic W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center
Thur. Dec. 22	7AM 1PM 7PM	TOPS #218 Crafts & Bridge Alcoholics Anonymous	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center

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Please color the image for the corresponding age group below



Ages 6 & Under



Ages 7-10



Ages 11-16

ENTRY FORM

Drop off your entry form and colored page by Dec. 15 at: News Letter Journal 14 W. Main St., Newcastle WY 82701 (307) 746-2777

CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____
 PARENT'S NAME: _____
 PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



Community & appreciation

With chili, homemade chicken noodle soup, and cinnamon/caramel rolls provided by Joe's Food Center, FirstTier Bank of Upton, held a Christmas Open House on Friday, Dec. 9. Yasmine Schlater, employee of FirstTier, said she was pleased with the turnout and the quality of the food. She took pleasure in helping some of the visitors by serving them cinnamon rolls. Also provided to guests was a bevy of small gifts. Above, Debbie Huckins and her mom, Marsha Huckins, who worked for FirstTier for 24 years, inspect the bounty of gifts given out to the public. Below, FirstTier employee, Yasmine Schlater, grabs a cinnamon roll to serve to one of the guests.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ



Enrollment

from Page 1.....

a peak of 370 in 1994-95 to the lowest enrollment of 222 in 2020-21. That's when Weston No. 7 got into the virtual education game.

"There are five statewide virtual education programs in Wyoming. Three of those decreased in size (Big Horn No. 1, Niobrara No. 1, and Sweetwater No. 1), most likely because students returned to their brick-and-mortar school after the COVID-19 pandemic in-person learning changes," the release says. "Sheridan No. 1 saw an increase of 31 students or a three percent change, while Weston No. 7 increased by 54%, going from 471 students to 725 due to their virtual program."

According to Weston County School District No. 7 Superintendent Clark Coberly, the district contracts with Tech Trep Academy for its K-8 virtual schooling program, and the additional students are virtual and completely off-site.

"We partner with a company (Tech Trep) that provides the services to these students under local and state virtual education guidance," he said. "We do not hire additional staff, as they are all hired by the company."

The district receives an additional \$2.2 million in funding from the state to cover the cost of the extra students, based on the district's average daily membership, or ADM.

According to Linda Finnerty, communications director for the Education Department, ADM is one of the numbers the state uses to determine the total funding for a school district. She noted that enrollment is not the same as ADM, explaining that ADM is calculated at the end of the school year and includes all students who enter and exit during the year that may not be counted on the fall enrollment.

"If a student was already attending within the school district, the funding would remain in place as it already was. If they were not, then additional funding would accompany the students to the district," Finnerty said. "State funding does not differentiate between a virtual student and a brick-and-mortar student; the district receives the same per pupil amount."

The cost of the program contract, Coberly said, is based on the increase to the ADM received by the district because of the additional students. "We currently divide the increase in enrollment amount (\$2.2 million), 90% to them (Tech Trep)

What is Tech Trep Academy?

Tech Trep Academy is a tuition-free, public school program tailored to the needs of each unique student, the academy's website says. The programming is available in seven states: Idaho, Tennessee, Indiana, Wyoming and Arizona, as well as Utah and Colorado through My Tech High.

According to the Wyoming portion of the website, Weston County School District No. 7 offers a Tech Trep education for Wyoming K-8 students. Those students are enrolled in Upton Elementary School and Upton Middle School while learning off-site.

"We understand parents want to choose the curriculum that will work best for your child," the website says. "Each family is provided a full core curriculum for each student (grades K-8) at no cost, as well as a full array of optional curriculum resources and courses."

For more information on the virtual schooling option, please visit wy.techtrepacademy.com

for their cost of operating the program, 10% we keep for our share of the costs incurred," Coberly said. He noted that the district has limited additional costs that are offset by the increase in enrollment.

The contract with Tech Trep, and the district offering virtual education, is something the board of trustees considers annually, he said.

Statewide, enrollment in school's dropped by 325 students for the current school year. According to the department's press release, 28 school districts had a dip in enrollment, 19 increased and one remained the same. Information on the department's website shows that Weston County School District No. 1 experienced a slight increase in ADM, going from 773 students in 2021-22 to 778 in 2022-23. According to the data, Newcastle's school district's enrollment peaked in 1994-95 with 1,142 students. The lowest enrollment in the past 20 years was seen in 2017-18, when 754 students were enrolled in district schools.



‘Hillbilly’ talent



Photos by Hannah Gross/NLJ

The Newcastle Area Christmas Homeschool Organization presented its annual Christmas Talent Show at Gateway Fellowship Church on Thursday evening, Dec. 6. There were songs, poems, comedy and more performed by a variety of ages at this year’s hillbilly themed production. Clockwise from above: “The Boys” perform the country version of “Jingle Bells,” rewritten as the “Rusty Chevrolet.” From left are Connor Stolhammer, 15, on the guitar, Samuel Ferguson, 16, and Isaiah Anderson, 14, singing, while Sean Shipp, 15, drives the steering wheel; Dominic Lanctot, 9, sings “How Great Thou Art,” while his sister, Madeline, (not pictured) accompanies on the piano; Lizzie Carr, 6-year-old daughter of Robb and Meg Carr, does a solo of “God is My Refuge”; Sisters Rose, 20, Mary, 10, and Karen, 14, bring many laughs to the audience during their performance of “It’s All About Me.”



Illness from Page 1

have experienced absences due to illness in recent weeks, with state and local health professionals reporting increases in influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (or RSV) and COVID-19. Both Newcastle Elementary School and Newcastle Middle School saw an increase in absences the week after Thanksgiving, Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, according to reports obtained from school administrators.

Information provided by Newcastle Elementary School Principal Brandy Holmes showed that grades K-5 had 149 total absences between Nov. 28 and Dec. 2. This number is nearly double the 76 absences reported from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21 — and higher than the 83 absences recorded from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 one year ago — but Holmes insisted many of the absences were not related to illness.

“The numbers from the week of the 28th are not completely accurate when looking at illness,” Holmes said. “We had almost 50 kids absent on Monday the 28th. The majority of them were out for reasons other than

illness, many traveling for the holiday. We have several families with multiple children in attendance,” she said, noting that when families are gone, it has a bigger impact on absences. Holmes did report, however, that the school has seen a “wave of illness” come through as we move into the heart of winter.

Newcastle Middle School also had an increase in absences the same week, as compared with the previous month. According to numbers provided by Principal Tyler Bartlett, 68 absences were reported the week of Nov. 28, while 45 absences were reported for the week of Oct. 17. In this case, however, the situation appears to be an improvement over a year ago, as the school had 83 absences from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 of last year.

Absences at Newcastle High School for those weeks were close to 2021’s reported absences. The school logged 79 absences from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, up slightly from 73 tallied between Oct. 17 and Oct. 21, and also a bit higher than Nov. 29 to Dec. 3,

2021, when the school recorded 72 absences.

Both the middle school and high school calculated their absences by taking the total number of absences for the reporting week and dividing it by 5 or 7 depending on the class hours at the respective schools. This allowed for a reporting of the days missed and not class periods missed, according to NHS Principal Bryce Hoffman.

As reported in last week’s page one story, “Cold and flu season is upon us,” Weston County’s public health nurse, Sarah Gregory, said the community has seen an increase in influenza A and B, as well as an increase in cases of COVID-19 and RSV. She noted that it is hard to report specific numbers because of delayed timelines in reporting.

The Wyoming Department of Health lists flu activity in the state as moderate, with several counties moving toward local geographic spread, according to the department’s Nov. 29 overview report. It notes that both influenza A and B viruses

are circulating in various communities, predominately the H3N2 viruses reported across the country.

Health care providers in 21 counties have reported influenza-like illness activity, with a reported 393 influenza cases confirmed between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19, according to the report.

According to Deborah Hockett, infection preventionist and employee health professional for Weston County Health Services, from Nov. 4 to Dec. 3, WCHS conducted 33 influenza tests and 24 RSV tests. Of those, 10 tests came back positive for influenza A and four tests for RSV came back positive in kids 5 and under.

Kim Deti, public information officer for the Department of Health, said that influenza reporting and testing is influenced by several factors and that it is very important to remember that there is not a “case count scoreboard.”

“Many people are never tested, and not all tests are reported to us consistently from health care providers,” she said. “That said, health care providers across the state have reported

overall increases in influenza activity over the past several weeks. Influenza transmission in Wyoming is currently considered to be high.”

Deti noted that the majority of providers are reporting influenza A viruses circulating more than others.

“We are likely seeing a significantly more active influenza season than we have for the past two seasons. We continue to encourage seasonal flu vaccinations as the best tool to fight influenza,” she said. Gregory said that the Weston County Public Health office is still available for flu shots.

As for data on colds and RSV, Deti said those are not considered reportable diseases in Wyoming.

“We are aware that RSV is active in the state and know that it is a particular concern for very young children. There is not a vaccine to prevent RSV,” Deti said.

She noted that COVID-19 also continues to circulate across the state and that the department encourages everyone to stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccine.

WHAT’S UP?

Does your organization have an event coming up? Would you like it to be placed in our What’s Up Calendar of events?

Send your event info to design@newslj.com for the News Letter Journal’s weekly What’s Up Calendar.

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Kids, mail or email your Christmas list to us, so Santa can see it in the newspaper!

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All letters must be received by December 15 for inclusion in our Letters to Santa special section.

LETTERS TO Santa

Special Section Prints Thursday, December 22!

A Special Section From **News Letter Journal**

PERSON OF THE YEAR

WHO WILL IT BE?

Who made a difference in Weston County this year? Or in your life? Or in the life of your neighbors? Nominate that someone who gave a little extra for the **News Letter Journal Person of the Year Award!**

Send nominee’s name, contact information and a brief explanation of why this person deserves nomination to: News Letter Journal, PO Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701, Email to editor@newslj.com, or drop off at 14 W. Main Street. Please include your name and phone number as well.

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A night at the museum



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

The Anna Miller Museum held its annual Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 2. Along with cookies, hot chocolate, and hot cider, there were also children's crafts. The Western Ramblers played Christmas carols in The Living Quarters room, offering a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy the event. Above, Maggie Makousky helps Alice Keeler and Taylor Lenardson as they paint a couple of Christmas pieces of art. Below, the Ramblers play Christmas carols for a small, cozy gathering in The Living Quarters of the Museum.



Manor

from Page 1.....

Tom's mother, Hazel, to the nursing home.

"I think it just boosts their (the residents) mood," Tolley said.

Because Nieskens is on the floor, working up close and personal with the residents, Gracie gets the most interaction out of the three dogs.

As Nieskens goes from room to room, Gracie is right on her heels and lays in the room as she interacts with the residents. Nieskens brings treats for the residents to give Gracie, and there are tennis balls lying around for them to throw. They also enjoy playing ring toss with Gracie.

"It just brightens their day," Nieskens said. "They just love it."

By the end of the day — and 15,000 steps later — Gracie is tucked out and needs her own day off.

"When I don't bring her, they (the residents) ask, 'Where's the puppy?'" Nieskens said.


Gracie enjoys it too. Nieskens said she's had the lab ever since she was a puppy. Recently, her family had to put their other dog down, so Gracie was depressed and in need of a pick-me-up.

"She loves the lovings that she gets," Tolley said. "Being able to love on her just when she's in the room is special to the (residents)."

According to petsforth-elderly.org, not only can pets be good for morale, but they might actually provide health benefits as well.

"Studies have shown that the bond between people and their pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owners," the website says. "Some of the health benefits of having a pet include decreased blood pressure, decreased cholesterol and triglyceride levels, decreased feelings of loneliness and increased opportunities for socialization."

Regardless, it has undoubtedly brought more joy to the Manor and the staff, and the new "nurses" do not plan on stopping anytime soon.



Here Comes Santa Claus

The name Santa Claus evolved from Sinter Klaas, a shortened form of Saint Nicholas in Dutch. Saint Nicholas was a monk in what is modern-day Turkey, known for his generosity and dedication to helping children and the needy. His feast day was eventually celebrated across Europe on the anniversary of his death, December 6, each year. The History Channel reports that Dutch settlers eventually brought the tradition to New Amsterdam (now New York City), and when stores began to advertise Christmas shopping in the 1820s, newspaper advertisements often featured images of Santa Claus. Clement Clarke Moore's 1822 Christmas poem entitled "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" (also known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas") helped cement our modern-day image of a jolly and generous Santa Claus traveling on a sleigh led by eight flying reindeer.

The Origins of Eggnog


Love it or loathe it, eggnog is a holiday season tradition that has stood the test of time since the early medieval years in Britain. A PBS food blog reports that the drink, originally known as "posset," featured a number of pricey ingredients — milk, sherry, eggs, sweeteners, spices and even figs — that made it popular with the upper classes and often used in toasts to good health and prosperity. Colonists in America carried on the tradition, using milk and eggs from their own farms and replacing sherry with more accessible whisky or rum.

Fun Fact

The ninth reindeer, **Rudolph**, first appeared in 1939 when Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store, told his story to help generate holiday traffic for the store.

Not-So-Fun Fact

One cup of eggnog weighs in at **343 calories with 19 grams of fat**, according to Self Magazine.



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December 15, 2022 — 9

Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Wrestling
12/15/22 VJ Buffalo HS @Upton H 5PM
12/16-17/22 VJ Battle in the Big Horns A NOON

Men's Swimming
12/16/22 VJ Cheyenne South A 5PM
12/17/22 VJ Cheyenne South A 10AM
12/22/22 VJ Newcastle Triangular H 4PM
12/29/22 VJ Buffalo HS A 11AM

Ladies' Basketball
12/15/22 V9 Sundance HS A 4PM
12/16/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON
12/17/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON

Men's Basketball
12/15/22 V9 Sundance HS A 4PM
12/16/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON
12/17/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON

Gross punches state ticket

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Junior Ramsey Gross dove into his 2022-2023 swimming season by securing a place at the state meet in the 50 Freestyle, the 100 Freestyle and the 100 Backstroke at the Powell Quadrangular on Friday and the Cody

Invitational on Saturday. Although he was the only qualifier for the Dogies in the first weekend of competition, head coach Doug Scribner was pleased to see the rest of the team get off to a great start as well.

"I was really happy with how the guys swam over the weekend," Scribner began. "The boys like com-

peting and they compete hard and race well, and to start the season with Ramsey qualifying in three events and then to have three guys swim lifetime [personal records] in their events is great. That means they are starting this year faster than they ended last year."

Those who had lifetime PR swims

include Nate Strickland, who shaved off .39 seconds in the 50 Freestyle, Logan Olson who dropped 9.66 seconds in the 100 Freestyle, and Samuel Scribner, who also swam a PR in the 50 Freestyle where he dropped .23 seconds and was within

— See **Swimmers**, Page 16

Losing stinks

We've all heard the old cliché that winning isn't everything, but losing stinks.

It's a cliché for a reason — it's true. But, there are varying degrees of losing that stink worse than others.

I've always held the belief that it is much better to lose by a margin of 12 or more than to lose by one, two or three, because when the score is that close at the end of the game, you will always have the nagging thoughts of woulda, coulda, shoulda that haunt you.



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

If we would have made only two more free-throws.

If we could have shot our usual percentage from the three-point line.

We should have held out for last shot and kept the ball out of their hands.

Blowouts aren't good either, because they can feel pretty demoralizing, but I still think I'd rather lose that way than in double overtime on a buzzer-beater three-pointer, shot from the hip from downtown.

I spent the opening weekend of basketball watching my fill of hoops on the NFHS. The Burns Winter Classic Tournament has evolved to become a pretty big event, so I was never without an option.

Over the course of the three days,

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

Lady Dogies light it up at Burns

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies broke out of the chute last weekend to start their 2022-23 basketball season at the Burns Winter Classic Tournament. Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew cruised to easy wins against Pine Bluffs on their home court on Friday, then Lingle-Ft. Laramie in their first game in Burns on Saturday, winning 60-31 and 63-25 respectively.

After an hour and a half break, the ladies were back on the court again to take on the No. 1-ranked returning 1A state champion, the Lady Cyclones of Southeast, who gave Newcastle all they could handle and who just edged them out on a buzzer-beater three-point shot in double overtime to take the 57-56 win.

"The first two were really both really good games for us and a great way to start the season," Ostenson determined. "The third one was also really good for us. It wasn't the right end, but it was a good learning experience for us."

In their opening contest, the Newcastle ladies were off and running, going up 11-0 before Pine Bluffs was able to get on the board. As such, the Lady Dogies led 16-2 at the end of the first quarter, and extended their lead to 31-10 by the half-time break.

"We were really playing well," Ostenson reported. "We got out and ran, and did some things that were really good."

The third and fourth quarters were much the same, with Newcastle out-scoring Pine Bluffs in each and ultimately took the 60-31 win.

The Lady Dogies had four players in double figures, with Jaylen Ostenson finishing with 19 points, freshman Sydney Pederson had 12 in the first varsity game of her career, while Shelby Tidyman and MacKenzie Conzelman each scored 11 points. Conzelman also went 3-6 from beyond the arc on the day.

"Mack shot really well and it was fun to see Syd get in there and do some good things," Ostenson said. "We shot really well from the line, shooting 81%, which is great."

On Friday, the Lady Dogies came out firing against the Lingle-Ft. Laramie Lady Doggers, and this time it was Ostenson with the hot hand. The senior hit five threes in the first quarter alone and helped to lead her team to a 29-5 lead by the beginning of the second. Ostenson would go 8-13 from beyond the arc by the end of the contest.

Newcastle out-scored the Lady Doggers 19-9 in the second, broke even going 11-11 in the third, then finished out the game 4-0 in the fourth giving them their 63-25 margin of victory.

Ostenson again led scorers, with 29 points, Tidyman was next with eight, Oakley Checketts scored seven points, Conzelman and Hunter McFarland each had six, Tiernan Stanton finished with

— See **Ladies**, Page 16



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Oakley Checketts is back on the court for the Lady Dogies and was thrown in feet first to varsity ball last weekend at the Burns Winter Classic. Here she holds off a Lingle defender as she drives into the paint.

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Dogies struggle in opening weekend

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Newcastle High School Dogie basketball team had their first taste of varsity basketball last weekend as they tipped off their season at the Burns Winter Classic Tournament on Friday and Saturday. Head coach Allen Von Eye knew going in that the weekend would be a learning experience for his rookie squad, and he was correct as Pine Bluffs, Lingle-Ft. Laramie and Southeast each presented the Dogies with adversity.

“It was a tough weekend,” admitted Von Eye. “But there were some good things that we took out of it, and we got a good look at where we need to get to in the next three months.”

Unfortunately, the Dogies would come out of the weekend collecting three losses, dropping their contest against Pine Bluffs on Friday 36-66, then to Lingle-Ft. Laramie 7-53 and Southeast 25-64 on Saturday.

“It wasn’t pretty, but there were definitely some positives that we could take from our first game against Pine Bluffs,” Von Eye insisted. “Their pressure hurt us a little bit right away because we do lack some discipline in our footwork which led to turnovers when we ran into pressure, but I like that we responded better in the second half and started attacking a little more.”

The Dogies trailed 37-12 at the end of the first half, but was able to execute more offense in the third and fourth quarters, and even out-scored Pine Bluffs 16-13 in the final frame of play.

Six Dogies ended up in the scoring column, with Zander White leading with 10 points. Quint Perino was close behind with nine points, Wyatt Cole had six, William Beastro and JJ Lipp each added four points apiece and Thatcher Troftgruben rounded out the scoring with three.

“I actually felt pretty good coming out of that game,” Von Eye said. “Obviously, there were a lot of things

NHS Men’s Basketball

Burns Winter Classic Tournament 12/9-10/22

Newcastle v. Pine Bluffs 12/9/22: 36-66
Quint Perino: 9 points, 2 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal
Zander White: 10 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals
Wyatt Cole: 6 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals
JJ Lipp: 4 points, 3 rebounds
Will Beastro: 4 points, 4 rebounds
Thatcher Troftgruben: 3 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal
Teddy Troftgruben: 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal

Newcastle v. Lingle-Ft. Laramie 12/10/22: 7-53
Quint Perino: 2 points, 2 rebounds
Zander White: 2 rebounds
Wyatt Cole: 2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal
JJ Lipp: 3 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal
Will Beastro: 1 steal
Thatcher Troftgruben: 1 rebound
Teddy Troftgruben: 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal

Newcastle v. Southeast 12/10/22: 25-64
Quint Perino: 7 points, 4 rebounds
Zander White: 5 points, 4 rebounds
Wyatt Cole: 7 points, 4 rebounds
JJ Lipp: 4 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal
Will Beastro: 1 rebound
Marshall Merchen: 2 points, 1 rebound
Connor Stohlhammer: 1 rebound
Thatcher Troftgruben: 3 rebounds, 2 assists
Teddy Troftgruben: 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal

that we saw that we needed to work on, but I was happy that they didn’t roll over and kept fighting. We saw some growth in some areas throughout the game, so there are things to work with.”

The next game was against Lingle-Ft. Laramie on Saturday. The Doggers put on a 1-2-2 full court press and then fell back into the 1-2-2 half court defense, and Newcastle puts a squad on the court who have never faced that kind of full court pressure, so it was new to everyone.

The pressure was so intense that the Dogies didn’t get a shot off for a long time, and when they did finally get the ball across half court, they started to push a little too much and tried to force offensive opportunities — which didn’t bode well for the team.

Newcastle got off a total of 18 shots for the entire contest and turned the ball over 43 times, nearly double the turnovers of the other two contests.

Of course, Lingle kept the full court

press on for the entire game despite mercy ruling Newcastle and forcing a running clock in the fourth quarter.

“Yeah, that was a little unnecessary as no one really learns from that at that point of the game,” Von Eye said, frowning. “But the frustrating part for me was the mistakes we made that we didn’t have to make.”

With just one game between contests, the final opponent the Dogies faced were the Cyclones of Southeast. Though they were another athletic team, according to Von Eye, they weren’t at the level of the Doggers.

“We were more aggressive and did a better job offensively, but we are still a work in progress,” Von Eye said. “Defensively, they really weren’t all that good, but we didn’t attack like we should have and our defense hurt us as well in that game.”

Perino and Cole led the team, scoring seven points each, White had five, Lipp had four and Marshall Merchen got in the scoring column with two points for the team.

“We have some guys who are brand new to the game, and the rest lack varsity experience, so we will be growing throughout the season. I feel like we are behind in the execution of our defense, so we will definitely be working on that going forward,” Von Eye said. “We are in a baptism by fire situation this year, so we will be getting back to basics this week as we have a lot of work to do to get where we want to be.”

The Dogies will have their work cut out for them as they play three decent basketball teams again this weekend at the Stateline Shootout. According to Von Eye, Sundance will be pretty good, Belle Fourche is strong again, and Lead will be coming in with everyone back from last season so they will be improved.

The Dogies will travel to Sundance on Thursday to open up the tournament with action, tipping off at 4, then will host Belle Fourche at 4:15 and 7:30 on Friday and Lead at 1:45 and 5:15 on Saturday.



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ
Sophomore Thatcher Troftgruben fought through a Cyclone double team, to get off a shot against Southeast in Burns on Saturday.

Grapplers gut it out in Lusk

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Dogies/Bobcats opened up their season with a long, one-day tournament in Lusk Friday. With 15 teams on hand, a round robin format, a girls’ division in addition to a boys’ division, and wrestling the whole thing on only two mats, the Dogies found themselves in the gym for 15 hours before all was said and done.

“We got there at 7 in the morning and didn’t leave until after 10 that night, so it was pretty brutal,” head coach Lee McCoy began. “But they are able to draw teams from Nebraska and Colorado, so that was good, and most of our kids got in quite a few matches, so that was also a good thing.”

Though it was a long day, Upton’s Haven Vrana in the 106-pound weight class was dominant, as well as Newcastle’s

Jacob Prell at 195. Both went undefeated and finished first in their weight classes.

Kyah Miller of Newcastle also dominated in the first girls’ division of the season, going 5-0 and taking first at 130.

“It’s nice for Kyah to have the opportunity to show what she can do,” McCoy said. “After wrestling against boys for three years, she is finally getting to dominate against girls.”

Jackson East (Upton) finished

second in the 120 weight class, going 4-1, losing only in the championship round.

“Jackson wrestled really well,” McCoy said. “The kid he went against in the finals is a returning state champion for Lusk. It was a fairly close match until he just ran out of gas in the third period and ended up getting pinned.”

Upton freshman Landon Norman did well at 113, and his classmate Caden Vrana performed well in the JV division taking first place at 106.

“Landon lost a couple of close ones,” McCoy said. “And 113 was a pretty tough weight class, so I was glad to see him do well in the opening weekend.”

Newcastle’s Courtney Matthews (120) and Madison Hespe (110) finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in their first ever varsity wrestling tournament.

“I was excited for Courtney and Madi to get on the mat, and it was their first time ever competing, so it was great to see them each win a match,”

NHS/UHS Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Lusk Invite 12/9/22

Varsity Team Results:

- Moorcroft 367.5
- Lingle-Ft. Laramie 236
- Glenrock 182
- Newcastle/Upton 170
- Wright 158
- Lusk 137.5
- Kelly Walsh JV 122
- Sundance 97
- Hulet 91
- Hanna Elk Mountain 67
- Saratoga 67
- Hemingford 56
- North Park 44.5
- Newell 35
- Sioux County 30

Individual Varsity Results:

- Haven Vrana 1st Place 5-0
- Landon Norman 8th Place 1-3
- Jackson East 2nd Place 4-1
- Simon Bau 12th Place 0-2
- Alek Hamady 12th Place 0-2
- Casey Matthews 8th Place 1-2
- Trey Schneider 8th Place 1-2
- Thomas Prell 12th Place 0-2
- Jacob Prell 1st Place 5-0
- Heath Henkle 8th Place 1-3

Individual JV Results:

- Caden Vrana 1st Place 3-0

Individual Women’s Results:

- Madison Hespe 5th Place 1-4
- Courtney Matthews: 4th Place 2-3
- Kyah Miller 1st Place 5-0

McCoy said, smiling. “It’s tough for them because in practice with them being both so new, they really didn’t have a true understanding of what happens in a match. I know they were both pretty nervous going into it on Friday, but after their first match, they adapted and seemed to really enjoy themselves. Even when they got beat, they were being competitive.”

Overall, McCoy was pleased with how his team performed in their first competition of the season.

“We saw things we definitely have to work on, but those pre-season tournaments are great for the kids and for coaches to see

areas that need attention,” he said. “But for the most part, I liked our intensity and I thought we were in fairly good early season shape.”

This week will test the team’s stamina as it is going to be a busy one for the Dogies/Bobcats, and McCoy anticipates his athletes could accumulate up to 10 matches over three days of competition.

On Thursday, the squad will host their home opener in Upton as they welcome Buffalo, beginning at 5 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, the team will head to Worland for the Battle of the Big Horns with action beginning at noon on Friday.

Newcastle’s

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Karpe

from Page 9.....

I saw the losing by a close margin and getting blown out happen several times — including watching our own Lady Dogies and Dogies play.

The Lady Dogies cruised pretty easily through their first two contests of the weekend, winning by a comfortable margin, but then in their third game, they found themselves in a battle against the returning state champions, and the No. 1-ranked Lady Cyclones of Southeast, which is a 1A school.

Don’t let their classification fool you though. Southeast is a veteran, talented team and it showed last Saturday. That, combined with the Lady Dogies experiencing a rather uncharacteristic shooting dry spell, meant that the game was close throughout.

Jaylen Ostenson hit a buzzer beater three-pointer to send the game into overtime, then pushed it to double OT when she scored two points in the final seconds again.

With around eight seconds to go in double OT, Newcastle was up by two. However, the Lady Cyclones threw up a three-pointer from way outside and sank it. It was the only three-point shot the team had made throughout the entire game.

The Lady Dogies then had 2.1 seconds remaining to try to win, but a snafu with the clock table clueed Southeast onto what the team had planned, so it was foiled and Newcastle lost by one point.

While it wasn’t a game where the loss would be considered heartbreaking, it was one where it was certainly frustrating to lose in that fashion.

On the other side of the coin, the boys’ second game of the tournament resulted in losing by a blowout. While it didn’t feel good, as I watched I was less impressed with Lingle than I was with our team.

The Dogies struggled throughout the contest, but the coach kept the full court press on Newcastle for the entirety of the contest, despite mercy ruling them in the third quarter. When you’re up by more than 30 points, there is no excuse to keep up full court pressure. It’s not a learning experience for your players and all it does is leave a bad taste in the mouths of the team on the losing end.

Again, losing by a landslide is no fun, but I believe I would rather have that happen than to lose by one at the last second. Yes, you have a lot to learn from a big loss, but there’s just not the same woulda, coulda, shoulda that results from a close one.

Weather Vane

	DATE	HI	LO
S-04	57	16	
M-05	34	19	
T-06	27	14	
W-07	30	09	
T-08	34	12	
F-09	50	16	
S-10	46	18	

Public Notice

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated August 23, 2011, executed and delivered by Randy Lee Hise to Premier Home Mortgage, Inc. and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by Randy Lee Hise, a single man (the "Mortgagor"), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Home Mortgage, Inc. and which Mortgage was recorded on August 23, 2011, as Instrument No. 729397, Book 330, Page 0893 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and WHEREAS, the mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A
 Assignment dated: 05/28/2020
 Assignment recorded: 06/01/2020
 Assignment recording information: Instrument No. 767813, Book 391, Page 208
 All in the records of the County clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, Wyoming.

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

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$147,942.59 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$136,232.70 plus Interest accrued to the date of the first publication of

this notice in the amount of \$8,322.45, plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

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

NOW, THEREFORE Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on January 17, 2023, at Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, 82701, for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 7 of the Duff Gray Third Addition to the Town of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming. With an address of: 1663 Sage St., Newcastle, WY 82701

Together with all improvements thereon situate and all fixtures and appurtenances thereto.

Date: 11/11/2022
 Brian G. Sayer

C. Morgan Lasley
 Marcello G. Rojas
 The Sayer Law Group, P.C.
 925 E. 4th St.
 Waterloo, Iowa 50703
 319-234-2530
 319-232-6341

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 11 day of November, 2022 by Brian G. Sayer as attorney of The Sayer Law Group, P.C.

Shannon Saul
 Notary Public

(Publish November 24 and December 1, 8 and 15, 2022)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that regular meetings of the Board of Trustees of Weston County School District # 1, State of Wyoming, are held each month at 7:00 p.m. on the second and last Wednesday of each month. There are a few exceptions to that rule: May (Tuesday, May 9th and Wednesday, May 31st), September (Tuesday, Sept. 12th & Wednesday, Sept. 27th). The following months will have only one monthly meeting: June (second Wednesday), July (third Wednesday), November (second Wednesday) and December (second Wednesday). Meetings will be held in the board room at the Administration Building at

116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming, unless otherwise notified and such meetings are open to the public.

Notice is also given that official minutes of each regular or special meeting of such board, including a record of all official acts and of all warrants issued, are available for inspection by any citizen during regular office hours, at the office of the clerk of said district, at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming. Official minutes are also available for inspection on the Weston County School District # 1 school website at: www.wcsd1.org

(Publish December 15, 2022)

DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY

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ACROSS

- Make change
- Used in combination to denote the middle
- *Ammo material
- Star
- The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
- Neutral shade
- Orderly arrangement
- Romanian monetary unit
- Button on electrical outlet
- *Frosty's nose
- *Gingerbread Man, e.g.
- Drench
- What a willow did?
- Famous song by The Jackson 5
- Cone-shaped quarters
- *Snow mover
- A bit of water
- Pakistani language
- Measured in knots
- Tatted fabric
- "A Visit from St. Nicholas" poet
- Tropical edible root
- Paintings in Orthodox church
- Not swim or swum
- Frozen puddle accident
- Small skullcap
- Dresden's river
- Captain's turf

DOWN

- Agha, alt. sp.
- Artist Chagall's first name
- Poet Pound's first name
- Draws close
- Fungus damage (2 words)
- Shake's cousin?
- * fishing
- Two, in cards
- Station finder button
- Not final
- Curved molding
- Kind of nurse
- Bouillons
- Laudanum ingredient
- Saturn's wife
- As opposed to widow

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3	1	9						2
		2						
		6	1					5
			8		5			
	2				9	6		
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Last week's answers

S	T	A	B		B	O	B		F	E	T	A						
T	A	C	O		T	U	B	A		S	O	L	A	R				
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3	5	1	8	4	7	2	9	6
4	2	9	1	6	5	3	7	8
1	4	8	2	5	6	9	3	7
5	9	7	4	8	3	6	1	2
6	3	2	9	7	1	5	8	4

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN CONTROL OF A BANK HOLDING COMPANY

The FEATAN Revocable Trust (Thomas A. Holt, Trustee), and Thomas A. Holt as trustee of the FNB 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan, Heather A. Eklund Living Trust (Heather A. Eklund, Trustee); Raymond A. Holt Revocable Trust (Raymond A. Holt, Trustee), all of Buffalo, Wyoming; the Holt Family Trust (Denise A. Holt, Trustee) of Ranchester, Wyoming; Robert Holt and Lori Holt, both of Littleton, Colorado, intend to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to retain voting shares; and all to be approved as members of the Holt family group, a group acting in concert, which controls 25 percent or more of First National Buffalo Bankshares, Inc., Buffalo, Wyoming (the "Company"). The Company controls First Northern Bank of Wyoming, Buffalo, Wyoming and First State Bank of Newcastle, Newcastle, Wyoming. The Federal Reserve considers a

number of factors in deciding whether to approve the notice.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, One Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64198. The comment period will not end before January 4, 2023, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact Jeffrey Imgarten, Assistant Vice President, at (816) 881-2073. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the notice if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

(Publish December 15, 2022)

Legal Notice

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY PUBLIC NOTICE:

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Axia Energy III, LLC (CMP100766) to conduct well completion and re-completion activities (F031015) in Niobrara and Weston County, Wyoming. The proposed permit includes requirements to conduct well completions or re-completions using best management practices to reduce emissions of regulated pollutants associated with such activities to the extent practicable and to monitor, maintain records and report emissions from the completions or re-completion activities.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F031015 and permit number P0035946 under permits. This material may also be viewed online, at the above URL, utilizing a public computer at the Niobrara County Library, Lusk, Wyoming and Weston County Library,

Newcastle, Wyoming. Additionally, for the duration of the public comment period a copy of this public notice is available for public inspection at the Niobrara County Clerk's Office, Lusk, Wyoming and Weston County Clerk's Office, Newcastle, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0014316 in your comment. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Division's website (<http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>). Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 16, 2023 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish December 15, 2022)

WCSD#1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 NOVEMBER 2022

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$2,373.56
BAM DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION AND	
CITY OF NEWCASTLE	\$970.00
ELDER EQUIPMENT LEASING OF WYO	\$4,128.02
FRONTIER HOME RANCH AND HDWE	\$860.74
MARCO	\$994.87
MASTERCARD	\$4,418.85
MASTERCARD	\$1,002.62
MASTERCARD	\$1,032.22
MASTERCARD	\$1,092.00
MASTERCARD	\$649.01
NEWS LETTER JOURNAL	\$2,136.00
NORCO LLC	\$837.42
PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC	\$3,330.00
PIZZA BARN	\$554.00
RANGE	\$1,221.53
MICHAEL SEARS	\$608.40
SWIFTREACH NETWORKS LLC	\$1,391.25
TRAVELODGE- THE INN LANDER	\$629.85
UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC	\$3,381.52
WCSD-FOOD SERVICE	\$1,177.60
WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES	\$631.92
WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES	\$5,172.60
WOODY'S	\$830.96
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$1,758.78
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$10,826.23
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$18,217.01
COMFORT INN WORLAND	\$1,320.00
EASTER WYOMING EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$984.84
GUITAR CENTER	\$796.00
EMILY HISER	\$673.92

MARCO	\$2,733.59
MASTERCARD	\$2,177.37
MASTERCARD	\$2,964.16
NORCO LLC	\$855.96
POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORP	\$5,958.20
QUALITY INN & SUITES	\$2,273.26
RAMKOTA HOTEL CASPER	\$1,196.00
RICKY PHILLIPS	\$951.54
SUPER 8 WHEATLAND	\$1,536.00
WAYNE'S HEATING SERVICE	\$778.60
WOODY'S	\$582.62
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL:	\$96,009.02
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$1,526.55
HELPING HANDS	\$630.00
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR-30	\$1,325.27
SUMMIT PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC	\$932.28
4R VINYL GRAPHICS & DESIGN	\$580.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$766.99
MASTERCARD	\$1,671.22
JENNIFER PROFFER	\$617.58
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR-30	\$3,947.38
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$864.39
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL:	\$12,861.66
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$2,787.52
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$3,001.26
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL:	\$5,788.78
PRAIRE FARMS	\$1,261.13
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$11,525.15
PRAIRIE FARMS	\$1,309.27
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$8,902.98
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL:	\$22,998.53
LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC	\$31,091.00
BLACK HILLS HEATING	\$32,400.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL:	\$63,491.00
GRAND TOTAL:	\$201,148.99

(Publish December 15, 2022)

Legal Notice

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY PUBLIC NOTICE:

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Axia Energy III, LLC (CMP100766) to conduct blowdown and venting activities (F031014) in Niobrara and Weston County, Wyoming. The proposed permit includes requirements to conduct well blowdown and venting activities using Best Management Practices (BMP) associated with manual and automated blowdown/venting episodes associated with liquids unloading, wellbore depressurization in preparation for maintenance or repair, hydrate clearing, emergency operations and equipment depressurization, and to monitor, maintain records, and report emissions from the well blowdown and venting activities.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F031014 and permit number P0035947 under permits. This material may also be viewed online, at the above URL, uti-

lizing a public computer at the Niobrara County Library, Lusk, Wyoming and Weston County Library, Newcastle, Wyoming. Additionally, for the duration of the public comment period a copy of this public notice is available for public inspection at the Niobrara County Clerk's Office, Lusk, Wyoming and Weston County Clerk's Office, Newcastle, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0014318 in your comment. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Division's website (<http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>). Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 16, 2023 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish December 15, 2022)

Newcastle City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

Mayor Pam Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Gualtieri; Council members Don Steveson (via phone), Ann McColley, Daren Downs, Lance Miles and Tyrel Owens. Also present were City Attorney Dublin Hughes, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff and City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the agenda. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Lance Miles to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, November 21, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: None
CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: Naomi Miglia for her 37 years of service with the Newcastle Recreation Board.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: None
CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL:

Tuff Streeter and Don Cooksey were present referencing Mondell Airports new hanger. Request was made for the City to contribute 2% of the cost which would be \$18,905. Decision was made to put this item on the agenda for December 19, 2022.

Bruce Perkins was present to request extended hours of operation being midnight on December 13, 2022 to midnight on January 1, 2023. Tyrel moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Gualtieri swore in Police Chief Charles Bowles

Councilman Owens reported on the Chapter 56 Permit. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to move forward with obtaining the Chapter 56 permit. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Gualtieri referenced Ordinance No. 6, Series 2022 which heading reads AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF NEWCASTLE ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 13 SERIES 1985 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; The keeping of chickens shall be allowed subject to certain criteria. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Lance Miles to pass Ordinance No. 6, Series 2022 on the third and final reading. **MOTION CARRIED.** Councilman Don Steveson was opposed.

Mayor Gualtieri reported on the parking situation by Little One's Childcare. Daren Downs moved, seconded Don Steveson to put no parking signs on the Summit Avenue, westerly side, between the intersection of Summit Avenue and Wolcott St, and the alley which intersection Block 23 in the Original Town of Newcastle, Wyoming. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ordinance No. 13 (1949; 16-15) was discussed. Consensus was that this ordinance needs to be updated.

Liquor License for Curley Que's LLC was read. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve this liquor license. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff referenced the Public Works report for projects and work done.

He also stated the cleaning of Lagoon cell B was \$26,260 over what was anticipated. Mr. Stumpff then requested a Streets committee meeting to discuss a couple unimproved roads, a meeting was set for December 12, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Gualtieri introduced new Police Chief Charles Bowles. She then reported calls of service: November were 650, from November 22 to December 5, 2022 – 118 calls with 33 for CSO and 85 for the PD.

City Attorney Dublin Hughes had no report. City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty had no

report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None
OTHER BUSINESS: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to remove Greg James from the Planning Board. Discussion was had. **MOTION CARRIED.** Don Steveson was opposed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Referencing contracts W.S. 16-4-405 (iii) and real estate 16-4-405 (vii) Tyrel Owens motioned, seconded Ann McColley to suspend the rules and go into executive session at 8:14 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to return to regular session at 9:37 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** No action was taken coming out of this executive session.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Lance Miles to pay the claims against the City dated December 5, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 9:39 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Claims: Gerd Achenbach, deposit refund, \$67.97; Ameri-Tech, supplies, \$9,936.59; Applied Concepts, speed sign, \$3,164.00; BCN, long distance phone service, \$102.38; Bearlodge Engineering, engineering services, \$13,545.13; Black Hills Energy, energy services, \$10,905.45; Bobcat of Gillette, parts, \$96.81; Bomgaars, supplies, \$1,772.54; Cambria Supply, parts/supplies, \$1,400.91; Campbell Co. EMS, emergency services, \$8,333.33; Century Link, E911 Services, \$1,957.36; City of Newcastle, wa/sw/ga/, \$524.72; Contractor's Supply, supplies, \$224.70; Jeffery & Deb Crabtree, deposit refund, \$179.24; Decker's Market, supplies, \$69.18; Devin Dickey, deposit refund, \$90.04; DRM Inc., Boyd Ave. contract work, \$68,437.80; Doug Dumbrell, municipal judge, \$1,078.40; Dustbusters, salt, \$5,052.02; Emergency Apparatus, pump test, \$4,671.20; Energy Laboratories, laboratory testing, \$320.00; Engineering Associates, Well No. 5, \$11,935.82; Farnsworth Services, portable sanitation/Sage St., \$3,458.00; FOCUS, quarterly distribution, \$1,250.00; Government Jobs, annual job posting, \$788.00; Hughes Law, attorney fees, \$3,500.00; L.N. Curtis & Sons, compressor service, \$2,119.60; Mastercard, training/supplies/fuel, \$2,553.34; Matthew Bender, WY court rules, \$87.43; Midwest Injection, biosolid removal, \$540,706.94; Minuteman, tire repair, \$20.00; Matthew Murry, deposit refund, \$82.91; Newcastle Chamber, quarterly distribution, \$2,500.00; Newcastle Recreation, quarterly distribution, \$9,500.00; News Letter Journal, advertising, \$1,000.00; Norco, cylinder rent, \$80.52; Normont Equip., DuraPatcher rent, \$7,000.00; Northwest Pipe Fittings, part/supplies, \$19,083.78; Pomp's Tire, tires, \$1,746.00; Range, telephone service, \$868.65; Rick's Electric, electrical work, \$1,561.19; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning services, \$200.00; Salt Creek Water Dist., sewer services, \$555.00; Bryand Streeter, monthly distribution, \$1,333.33; Lucky Teigen-Grummons, FD cleaning services, \$300.00; Torgerson's, street sweeper repair, \$12,793.89; Tracey Tupa, reimbursement for asphalt, \$366.87; Becky Vodopich, cleaning services, \$300.00; WC Children's Center, quarterly distribution, \$2,250.00; WC Treasurer, energy/phone services, \$1,176.71; WC Humane Society, quarterly distribution, \$4,500.00; WC Senior Services, quarterly distribution, \$7,500.00; Wyoming Apparatus, NFPA testing, \$2,069.50; Wyoming Association of Rural Water, membership, \$475.00; Wyoming First Aid, supplies, \$355.04; Wyoming Home Services, quarterly distribution, \$1,500.00

Pam Gualtieri, Mayor
ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy Haggerty

(Publish December 15, 2022)

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 WEST WARWICK STREET NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

The City of Newcastle will receive bids for the construction of "City of Newcastle, SOUTH SUMMIT AVENUE WATER IMPROVEMENTS, 2022" until 1:00 P.M., local time, 22 December 2022, at the Newcastle City Council Chambers, 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle, WY, at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work consists of installing 1552 LF of 6" water line, two fire hydrants, reconnecting water services, culvert replacement, patch and overlay, and various incidental items.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Owner:
CITY OF NEWCASTLE
10 WEST WARWICK STREET
NEWCASTLE, WY

Engineer:
Bearlodge Engineering & Surveying
420 Cleveland Street
Sundance, Wyoming

Contractors wishing to be placed on the bidders list or to obtain Contract Documents must obtain the documents electronically through the "Projects Out for Bid" link on the Bearlodge Engineering & Surveying website at www.bearlodgeengineering.com, or can download the documents directly from QuestCDN (Quest eBidDoc #8339683). Contractors should contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in downloading and working with this digital project information.

A pre-bid tour will be held on **19 DECEMBER 2022 @ 10:00 AM** starting at the Newcastle City Council Chambers, 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle WY.

Contractors shall be required to submit proof of at least three years of experience in municipal water construction. The proof shall consist of at least three projects completed within the last three years, along with references for each project. Any specialty subcontractors shall be required to submit proof of experience of at least three years for specialty work to be performed. The proof shall be submitted with the bid

(Publish December 8 and 15, 2022)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF EASTERN WESTON COUNTY PUBLIC RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that regular meetings of the Eastern Weston County Public Recreation Board, State of Wyoming, are held each month following the regular scheduled school board meetings on the second and last Wednesday of each month. There are a few exceptions to that rule: May (Tuesday, May 9th and Wednesday, May 31st), September (Tuesday, Sept. 12th & Wednesday, Sept. 27th). The following months will have only one monthly meeting: June (second Wednesday), July (third Wednesday), November (second Wednesday) and December (second Wednesday). Meetings will be held in

the board room at the Administration Building at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming, unless otherwise notified and such meetings are open to the public.

Notice is also given that official minutes of the Eastern Weston County Public Recreation Board meeting of such board, including a record of all official acts and of all warrants issued, are available for inspection by any citizen during regular office hours, at the office of the clerk of said district, at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming. Official minutes are also available for inspection on the Weston County School District # 1 school website at: www.wcsd1.org.

(Publish December 15, 2022)

**VISIT THE NEWS LETTER JOURNAL ON
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND
ONLINE AT NEWSLJ.COM**

**FIND LEGAL NOTICES ONLINE AT NEWSLJ.COM UNDER
THE 'NOTICES' TAB**

City Ordinance

**ORDINANCE NO. 6, SERIES 2022
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF
NEWCASTLE ZONING ORDINANCE NO.
13 SERIES 1985 AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING
BODY OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE,
WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING,
ORDINANCE NO. 13 SERIES 1985 IS
HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 6. DISTRICT REGULATIONS

**Section 6.c.(3) R-1 – Single-Family
Residential District, subparagraph (3) is
amended to include subparagraph 3(g):**

(g) The keeping of chickens shall be allowed subject to the following criteria:

A person seeking to house chickens on their property shall submit an application and 20.00 fee. The application will state the name, address, and phone number of the applicant. If the applicant's residence is situated in R-1, the applicant shall be given a permit, subject to these requirements, lasting one year starting on the acceptance date of the application;

The maximum chickens per lot shall be six, all chickens must be hens and all references to chickens in this section are to be interpreted as hens;

Adjacent property means all parcels of property that the chicken owner's property comes into contact with at one or more points;

At large is defined as any chicken being outside the confines of the owners fenced in property during the day or outside of the coop at night;

Chickens shall be provided with what is commonly known as a chicken coop that is covered, fully enclosed and predator-resistant. Chickens shall be protected from predators by being enclosed in the coop from dusk until dawn;

During daylight hours, the chicken hens shall have access to the coop at all times. If the chickens are permitted outside of the coop, then the area which they have access to must be secured, with a fence surrounding the chicken owners property, a neighbors fence cannot be used to meet the requirements of this section, and wing feathers shall be clipped to prevent the birds from flying and escaping;

The coop and the fenced in property of the owner shall be cleaned and maintained so as not to cause excessive smells or odors, dust, or attract excessive insects or vermin. The frequency of cleaning shall be once every two weeks;

All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a weather-resistant container designed to prevent access by insects and animals. No live feed is permitted;

Chicken coops must be set back five (5) feet from adjacent property as well as the chicken owner's dwelling unit. Interior space of chicken coops are required to have (3) three square feet per chicken;

Power for heating lamps must use either Romex or outdoor rated electrical wiring and if extension cords are used they must be 14 gauge or more. If outlets are installed then the outlets must be equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI);

Any person owning chickens within this district shall be subject to inspection by the Community Service Officer for compliance purposes of this section. Any person found in violation of this code may have their permit revoked;

Any person in violation of the criteria above shall be subject to a fine of twenty (20) dollars, with each day the violation continues to constitute a new violation;

For chickens that are at large, twenty (20) dollars shall be accessed to the chicken owner to receive their chicken back from the city, and three (3) dollars per day shall be assessed for the housing and upkeep of a lost chicken.

Section 6.d.(3) R-2 – Single- and Two-family Residential District, subparagraph (3) is amended to include subparagraph 3(g):

(g) The keeping of chickens shall be allowed subject to the following criteria:

A person seeking to house chickens on their property shall submit an application and 20.00 fee. The application will state the name, address, and phone number of the applicant. If the applicant's residence is situated in R-2, the applicant shall be given a permit, subject to these requirements, lasting one year starting on the acceptance date of the application;

The maximum chickens per lot shall be six, all chickens must be hens and all references to chickens in this section are to be interpreted as hens;

Adjacent property means all parcels of property that the chicken owner's property comes into contact with at one or more points;

At large is defined as any chicken being outside the confines of the owners fenced in property during the day or outside of the coop at night;

Chickens shall be provided with what is commonly known as a chicken coop that is covered, fully enclosed and predator-resistant. Chickens shall be protected from predators by being enclosed in the coop from dusk until dawn;

During daylight hours, the chicken hens shall have access to the coop at all times. If the chickens are permitted outside of the coop, then the area which they have access to must be secured, with a fence surrounding the chicken owners property, a neighbors fence cannot be used to meet the requirements of this section, and wing feathers shall be clipped to prevent the birds from flying and escaping;

The coop and the fenced in property of the owner shall be cleaned and maintained so as not to cause excessive smells or odors, dust, or attract excessive insects or vermin. The frequency of cleaning shall be once every two weeks;

All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a weather-resistant container designed to prevent access by insects and animals. No live feed is permitted;

Chicken coops must be set back five (5) feet from adjacent property as well as the chicken owner's dwelling unit. Interior space of chicken coops are required to have (3) three square feet per chicken;

Power for heating lamps must use either Romex or outdoor rated electrical wiring and if extension cords are used they must be 14 gauge or more. If outlets are installed then the outlets must be equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI);

Any person owning chickens within this

district shall be subject to inspection by the Community Service Officer for compliance purposes of this section. Any person found in violation of this code may have their permit revoked;

Any person in violation of the criteria above shall be subject to a fine of twenty (20) dollars, with each day the violation continues to constitute a new violation;

For chickens that are at large, twenty (20) dollars shall be accessed to the chicken owner to receive their chicken back from the city, and three (3) dollars per day shall be assessed for the housing and upkeep of a lost chicken.

Section 6.e.(2) R-3 – Multi-family Residential District, subparagraph (3) is amended to include subparagraph 3(h):

(h) The keeping of chickens shall be allowed subject to the following criteria:

A person seeking to house chickens on their property shall submit an application and 20.00 fee. The application will state the name, address, and phone number of the applicant. If the applicant's residence is situated in R-3, the applicant shall be given a permit, subject to these requirements, lasting one year starting on the acceptance date of the application;

The maximum chickens per lot shall be six, all chickens must be hens and all references to chickens in this section are to be interpreted as hens;

Adjacent property means all parcels of property that the chicken owner's property comes into contact with at one or more points;

At large is defined as any chicken being outside the confines of the owners fenced in property during the day or outside of the coop at night;

Chickens shall be provided with what is commonly known as a chicken coop that is covered, fully enclosed and predator-resistant. Chickens shall be protected from predators by being enclosed in the coop from dusk until dawn;

During daylight hours, the chicken hens shall have access to the coop at all times. If the chickens are permitted outside of the coop, then the area which they have access to must be secured, with a fence surrounding the chicken owners property, a neighbors fence cannot be used to meet the requirements of this section, and wing feathers shall be clipped to prevent the birds from flying and escaping;

The coop and the fenced in property of the owner shall be cleaned and maintained so as not to cause excessive smells or odors, dust, or attract excessive insects or vermin. The frequency of cleaning shall be once every two weeks;

All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a weather-resistant container designed to prevent access by insects and animals. No live feed is permitted;

Chicken coops must be set back five (5) feet from adjacent property as well as the chicken owner's dwelling unit. Interior space of chicken coops are required to have (3) three square feet per chicken;

Power for heating lamps must use either Romex or outdoor rated electrical wiring and if extension cords are used they must be 14 gauge or more. If outlets are installed then the outlets must be equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCI);

Any person owning chickens within this district shall be subject to inspection by the Community Service Officer for compliance purposes of this section. Any person found in violation of this code may have their permit revoked;

Any person in violation of the criteria above shall be subject to a fine of twenty (20) dollars, with each day the violation continues to constitute a new violation;

For chickens that are at large, twenty (20) dollars shall be accessed to the chicken owner to receive their chicken back from the city, and three (3) dollars per day shall be assessed for the housing and upkeep of a lost chicken.

Section 6.f.(2) M-H – Mobile Home District, subparagraph (3) is amended to include subparagraph 3(h):

(h) The keeping of chickens shall be allowed subject to the following criteria:

A person seeking to house chickens on their property shall submit an application and 20.00 fee. The application will state the name, address, and phone number of the applicant. If the applicant's residence is situated in M-H, the applicant shall be given a permit, subject to these requirements, lasting one year starting on the acceptance date of the application;

The maximum chickens per lot shall be six, all chickens must be hens and all references to chickens in this section are to be interpreted as hens;

Adjacent property means all parcels of property that the chicken owner's property comes into contact with at one or more points;

At large is defined as any chicken being outside the confines of the owners fenced in property during the day or outside of the coop at night;

Chickens shall be provided with what is commonly known as a chicken coop that is covered, fully enclosed and predator-resistant. Chickens shall be protected from predators by being enclosed in the coop from dusk until dawn;

During daylight hours, the chicken hens shall have access to the coop at all times. If the chickens are permitted outside of the coop, then the area which they have access to must be secured, with a fence surrounding the chicken owners property, a neighbors fence cannot be used to meet the requirements of this section, and wing feathers shall be clipped to prevent the birds from flying and escaping;

The coop and the fenced in property of the owner shall be cleaned and maintained so as not to cause excessive smells or odors, dust, or attract excessive insects or vermin. The frequency of cleaning shall be once every two weeks;

All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a weather-resistant container designed to prevent access by insects and animals. No live feed is permitted;

Chicken coops must be set back five (5) feet from adjacent property as well as the chicken owner's dwelling unit. Interior space of chicken coops are required to have (3) three square feet per chicken;

Power for heating lamps must use either Romex or outdoor rated electrical wiring and if extension cords are used they must be 14 gauge or more. If outlets are installed then the outlets must be equipped with ground-fault

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange

New energy office planned

CASPER (WNE) — The Wyoming Energy Authority is advancing its efforts to streamline economic development across the state.

It's been several months since the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration awarded \$595,000 to the state to create the Wyoming Energy Regional Economic Coordination Office as part of an ongoing federal initiative aimed at supporting coal communities in search of new economic engines.

"The purpose of this grant is to help bring information and resources out into the Wyoming communities, and to the businesses," said Anja Richmond, the Energy Authority's program director.

Its focus is fourfold. The Energy Authority intends to partner with businesses pursuing net-zero-carbon energy ventures, Richmond said, "so that they can be working and identifying what their needs are, and then reach out to the state and the resources we have to help address those



challenges that they have."

It aims to help communities embrace energy development, from increasingly familiar new fields like advanced nuclear and carbon capture, utilization and storage to broader issues like electrification and energy efficiency.

It'll also focus on giving tools to existing businesses that can "pivot them to new opportunities," Richmond said.

The new state office will conduct a county-by-county assessment of existing projects and future potential, she said, "basically so that they have an idea of what their strengths are in that county for energy development."

And it will create a plan, Richmond said, for an economic transition that prioritizes the well-being of communities across the state.

"We know that it's a big shake-up," she said. "There's going to be significant changes as far as where revenue is coming from, where it's going, where jobs are."

This story was published on Dec. 12, 2022.

Church leader loses privileges

CASPER (WNE) — The University of Wyoming suspended the privileges of a Laramie church elder to reserve a table in the school's student union after the elder targeted an LGBTQ student by name last week, UW President Ed Seidel announced Wednesday.

"Following a review of the Dec. 2 incident in the Wyoming Union involving the harassment of a UW student by an individual external to the university, we have determined that these actions violated the university policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment," Seidel said in his message. "Given this, the individual's privileges to reserve a table in the Union

have been suspended for one year."

On Friday, Laramie Faith Community Church elder Todd Schmidt, who told the Star-Tribune on Monday that he's been preaching at the university for 17 years, displayed a sign on his table that said: "God Created Male and Female and [the student's name] is a male," multiple sources told the Star-Tribune on Monday.

A university official told Schmidt to remove the student's name, and he complied, university spokesman Chad Baldwin said Monday. Because Schmidt complied with the request, he was

allowed to stay, Baldwin said. Baldwin told the Star-Tribune on Wednesday that the university's decision followed a "deeper assessment" specifically of Schmidt's using a student's name on his sign. The Star-Tribune asked ASUW student senator Tanner Ewalt if students might push to have Schmidt's tabling privileges permanently revoked. "I will be," Ewalt responded.

Swilling also said he's "relatively certain" that "a large number of students" will push for permanent revocation of Schmidt's tabling rights.

This story was published on Dec. 8, 2022.

Funding for crisis stabilization unit

SHERIDAN (WNE) — The Sheridan County Board of County Commissioners approved \$2.5 million in funding to help construct a behavioral health and crisis stabilization unit at Sheridan Memorial Hospital.

Commissioners initially approved a resolution June 21 expressing support for SMH in developing and operating a behavioral health and crisis stabilization unit. With the new resolution, the board confirmed financial backing for the support.

The \$2.5 million will be allocated over the next four years, according to the new resolution, which was approved unanimously by the board Tuesday.

On Nov. 16, the State Loan and Investment Board awarded SMH a \$5.9 million grant to

develop the facility, contributing to the overall cost of the project at \$12.8 million. The SLIB grant requires a one-to-one match.

Sheridan Memorial Hospital partnered with local, regional and statewide stakeholders to develop its plan to enhance community partnerships addressing mental health care needs for the region. Hospital officials said they look forward to working with partners, foundations and community members in making the critical project for the community a reality, The Sheridan Press previously reported.

The project will launch quickly as the SLIB grant designates that it must be completed by 2026.

This story was published on Dec. 8, 2022.

Business avoids \$100k fraud attempt

GILLETTE (WNE) — A Wright business avoided a \$100,000 fraud attempt this week.

A 60-year-old man reported Tuesday morning to the Sheriff's Office that someone posing as a Geek Squad employee tried transferring \$100,000 from a company bank account, said deputy Tyler Cox.

A 48-year-old woman had been contacted via email by someone purporting to be with Geek Squad claiming the business, KJ Grim Enterprises, owed money for past services.

She called a number provided in the email and was put in touch with the suspect who then remotely gained access to the computer. The suspect, who has

not been identified, tried transferring the \$100,000 from the account but the transaction was flagged and never went through.

No money was lost and the business owner was told to contact the FBI online to report the fraud.

This story was published on Dec. 7, 2022.

For more statewide news visit NLJ online at newslj.com and click on the 'statewide' tab

City Ordinance Cont.

circuit interrupters (GFCI);

Any person owning chickens within this district shall be subject to inspection by the Community Service Officer for compliance purposes of this section. Any person found in violation of this code may have their permit revoked;

Any person in violation of the criteria above shall be subject to a fine of twenty (20) dollars, with each day the violation continues to constitute a new violation;

For chickens that are at large, twenty (20)

dollars shall be accessed to the chicken owner to receive their chicken back from the city, and three (3) dollars per day shall be assessed for the housing and upkeep of a lost chicken.

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(Publish December 15, 2022)

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Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for
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Weston County Health Services is currently accepting
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Employment Applications can be found on our website
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Zoe Brown, Briar Sandoval and Daymon Oliver finish reading their essays and answer questions from NHS Social Studies teacher Sonja Karp and Wyoming Rep. for House District 2, JD Williams, pictured at right.



Newcastle High School social studies teacher Allen Von Eye held a mock Congressional Hearing night at the school on Dec. 6 to give his students an opportunity to “testify” their knowledge about the U.S. Constitution and the American political system as a part of the “We the People” curriculum. This challenges the students to understand the philosophical and historical foundations of the Constitution, how it ties to ideas set forth in the Declaration of Independence, how it has changed through time (to fix its original ‘failures’), and how it ties to the 21st century,” Von Eye said.

Photos by Hannah Gross/NLJ

Ladies

three points, while Jayde Harrington and Pederson each added two to round out the scoring.

The Lady Dogies had only one game between their Lingle-Ft. Laramie contest and their match-up against Southeast, who proved to be a much tougher opponent than their previous two.

“Southeast is a good team who brought everyone back from their state champion team last season,” Ostenson began. “They were also big, especially for a 1A team. They had three 5-foot, 10-inch players who had some size to them, so they were pretty tough inside.”

After shooting around 40% (three point, two point, and free-throws) in the first two games, the Lady Dogies struggled from beyond the arc and from the charity stripe against the Lady Cyclones, going 23% from three-point land and only 39% from the line.

Ultimately, free-throw shooting would be a factor in the team’s 56-57 double overtime loss.

“I was sitting there afterward thinking, what else could we have done,” questioned Ostenson. “We

worked on our post defense a little bit this week in practice, but what it really came down to was shooting free-throws. If we had shot even 60% instead of 39% from the line, we would have won it in regulation.”

After shooting the lights out in the first two games, the Lady Dogies struggled against Southeast, and it was a battle throughout the contest with the lead changing hands pretty often. Newcastle led by two at the end of the first quarter, then again at the half, but the Lady Cyclones out-scored them in the third and fourth quarters.

In fact, Jaylen Ostenson would come down the court and hit a buzzer beater shot from three to send the game into its first overtime. She was also able to get her own offensive rebound and score two points to push the contest into the second overtime.

Newcastle had taken the lead by two, but some key missed free-throws at the end of the second OT left the door open for Southeast who hit their first, and only, shot from beyond the arc to take the one-point lead with 2.1 seconds remaining on the clock.

Coach Ostenson set up a play, and

the team executed it to perfection to get a shot off, but there was a mistake at the clock table. They started the clock after the ball left the in-bouncer’s hands instead of when it was caught, so the next time the team ran their play, Southeast was ready for it and foiled the final shot attempt.

“I was pretty happy with how we ran that the first time, given that there were three players out there who had never done it,” Ostenson said. “And, even though it’s no fun to lose, I think we got so much more good out of that game than we did out of the other two.”

The squad also played most of the second overtime with three starters sitting on the bench. Tidyman and Harrington fouled out late in the first overtime, and McFarland did early in the second overtime. Therefore, Checketts, Pederson and Hailey Beastron were called on to finish out the game in a pretty highly pressurized situation.

“We put Syd and Hailey in cold from the bench, and we threw Oakley into situations that she has never been in, considering this was only the third

NHS Ladies’ Basketball

Burns Winter Classic Tournament 12/9-10/22
Newcastle v. Pine Bluffs 12/9/21: 60-31
Jaylen Ostenson: 19 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 block
Shelby Tidyman: 11 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals
Hunter McFarland: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Tiernan Stanton: 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 block
MacKenzie Conzelman: 11 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 2 steals
Oakley Checketts: 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal
Jayde Harrington: 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Hailey Beastron: 1 rebound, 2 steals
Sydney Pederson: 12 points, 5

rebounds
Brooklyn Benschoff: 1 assist
Newcastle v. Lingle 12/10/21: 63-25
Jaylen Ostenson: 29 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals
Shelby Tidyman: 8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals
Hunter McFarland: 6 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists
Tiernan Stanton: 3 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists
MacKenzie Conzelman: 6 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
Oakley Checketts: 7 points, 2 rebounds
Jayde Harrington: 2 points, 9 rebounds, 1 block
Hailey Beastron: 2 rebounds
Sydney Pederson: 2 points, 1

rebound, 1 assist
Julie Morris: 2 rebounds
Brooklyn Benschoff: 1 rebound
Newcastle v. Southeast 12/10/21: 56-57 2OT
Jaylen Ostenson: 23 points, 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 steals
Shelby Tidyman: 14 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
Hunter McFarland: 3 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
Tiernan Stanton: 1 block
MacKenzie Conzelman: 10 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists
Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 3 rebounds
Jayde Harrington: 3 points, 8 rebounds
Sydney Pederson: 1 rebound

high school game of her career,” Ostenson said. “It was great to see those players step up, and I think our depth is going to be so much better this year than it has been.”

Ostenson again finished as the leading scorer and put up her first double-double of the season, with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Tidyman and Conzelman were also in double figures, scoring 14 and 10 points respectively, while Checketts, McFarland and

Harrington each added three points.

This week is the annual Stetline Shootout Tournament with tip-off on Thursday as the Lady Dogies travel to Sundance to take on the Lady Bulldogs starting with JV at 4 p.m. Then Newcastle plays host to Belle Fourche and Lead on Friday and Saturday. JV will play Belle Fourche at 2:30 and varsity at 6 p.m. on Friday, and on Saturday JV plays Lead at noon with varsity tipping off at 3 p.m.

Swimmers

.16 seconds of swimming a 3A state qualifying time in that event.

“Logan put in a lot of work over the summer, and he and Nate also swam between girls and boys seasons,” Scribner explained. “So they are looking good and should qualify pretty quickly.”

The Dogies swam only two relays over the weekend, given that Saturday’s event was a pentathlon, which excludes relay events. As such, the team book-ended Friday’s meet with the 200 Medley Relay to start, then finished with the 400 Freestyle Relay.

“The 200 Medley Relay looked pretty good. Logan had a good start on the 50 Backstroke in that relay, and he went a 33, which is pretty good for him. Samuel

had a good swim going 35 seconds on his breaststroke leg,” Scribner described. “Our backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle are pretty strong, so we just need to find someone to do the butterfly leg and then we will be pretty strong in the medley relay.”

Though the team didn’t compete in the 200 Freestyle Relay, Scribner noted that after watching the boys in the 50 Freestyle on Saturday, he believes that the relay is looking to have some good potential as there are four guys who swam it under 29 seconds.

The 400 Freestyle Relay is the last event of the meet, and by that time Scribner admitted that the team of Harrison Gross, Ramsey Gross, Strickland and Samuel Scribner were pretty tired.

“I think that we just need more yards to get in shape to be able to finish that relay strong,” Scribner said. “I think we should end up with four under a minute, so they will be pretty fast.”

The Dogies all swam in the JV division at the Pentathlon in Cody on Saturday. As such, the team won the division, scoring over 200 points more than second-place Cody. Cody won the varsity division by a landslide, however.

In the 100 Freestyle, which is the first of five events, the Dogies finished in first through fifth place. Ramsey Gross was first with a time of .54 seconds (a 3A qualifying time), Scribner was second, Olson third, Strickland fourth and Harrison Gross was fifth. Archer Ohnstad also competed

NHS Men’s Swimming results table with columns for Newcastle @ Powell Quad, Team Results, Individual JV Results, and Newcastle @ Cody Pentathlon.

and finished in 13th place.

Ramsey Gross also finished first in the 50 Backstroke, the 50 Butterfly and the 50 Freestyle.

“If Ramsey had competed at the varsity level, he would have finished in a three-way tie for 10th in the 50 Free where he finished in 24.92 seconds,” Scribner explained. “I wanted to see where he would have been ranked in

the varsity division. There was a lot of speed at the meet though, and the first-place varsity finisher in the 100 Free went 49 seconds, so it’s going to be another fast year.”

Samuel Scribner was first in the 50 Breaststroke and was second in the 50 Free, where he just missed out qualifying for the state meet by .16 seconds.

“I’m doing the same thing I did with the girls — keeping

track of times and using resistance — in practice, and I think it’s going to help cut time pretty quickly,” Scribner explained. “I think the way they swam on Friday kind of opened their eyes to the potential they have, and maybe lit a fire.”

The Dogies will travel to Cheyenne South for a dual on Friday and then another dual on Saturday.

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