



# News Letter Journal

Weston County

January 21, 2016

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 130

Week 3

## Miners recollect industry changes

Todd Bennington  
NLJ Reporter

With the announcement last week that the country's second largest coal producer, Arch Coal, has filed for bankruptcy, the NLJ spoke with two industry veterans who recalled their decades spent at what is now Arch

Coal's East Black Thunder Mine.

### THE OLD TIMER

Now in his early 80s, Bill Anderson didn't enter the coal industry until he was in his 40s, beginning work at what was then Jacobs Ranch, owned by the Kerr-McGee Corporation, in 1976.

A logger earlier in life, Anderson

said he began with Weyerhaeuser in Washington State at age 18, also working in Alaska for a period. He said his job as a high climber scurrying to the tops of trees didn't bother him in the slightest.

Still, Anderson said he was content to leave that industry, coming over from Custer for an opportunity at the

mine. There, he began as a motor-grader operator before working his way into training and eventually a supervisory role.

Anderson recalled the Jacobs Ranch operation as a small, seemingly familial one.

"When I was there it was probably a closer knit family type thing.

Everybody knew everybody when it wasn't so big," he remembered, mentioning he served as pitcher on the company softball team at a time when employees carpooled to work.

Kerr-McGee sold its operations to Rio Tinto's Kennecott Energy in 1998,

— See Mining, Page 7

## No easy answer

Alexis Shultz  
NLJ Reporter

City and county officials have lamented the amount of revenue distributed to local governments by the State of Wyoming for a number of years, and according to a group of local legislators, that situation isn't likely to improve given current revenue projections.

The Newcastle City Council invited lawmakers that represent Newcastle in the Wyoming State Legislature to discuss economic issues and possible solutions for financial shortfalls encountered by local governments, particularly those in smaller, less affluent communities in Wyoming, to a gathering at City Hall last week, where they learned that the state isn't likely to increase its investment in communities anytime soon.

All four legislators, Representatives Hans Hunt (R-Newcastle) and Tyler Lindholm (R-Sundance) and Senators Ogden Driskill (R-Devils Tower) and Curt Meier (R-LaGrange), were present to listen to those council members in attendance, as well as express

— See City, Page 6

## Upton Town Hall move is unlikely

Todd Bennington  
NLJ Reporter

At a Jan. 12 public workshop, Upton Town Council members reversed course on a proposed plan to move the city hall and police department to the underused Upton Community Center, though no formal action was taken on the matter.

Councilmember Travis Beck listed the three possibilities the town is considering for revamping its government offices as (1) the community center move, (2) combining the police department and city hall into the same building, and (3) the construction of an

— See Upton, Page 3

## Slush puppies



Last week's hint of winter weather was apparently fit for man and beast, as Dan Duvall and his furry companions don't seem to mind encountering a bit of snow and slush on their daily trek. (Jessica Yarnes/NLJ)

## Hospital still holding payment on electronic systems

Alexis Shultz  
NLJ Reporter

February of 2016 will mark a year since Weston County Health Services expressed their frustrations with Billings Clinic and the issues continue.

Billings Clinic, a hospital system in Montana that aids WCHS with the Cerner and Lawson systems that represent the bulk of the hospital's electronic records, has been working with the facility for some time to try and resolve a number of system shortfalls experienced by WCHS since implementation.

"Tickets are down," WCHS CEO Maureen Cadwell said, referring to the "tickets" that are submitted when system problems occur. "We are doing

well, I think, but we still have one that has been out there for a very long time."

Cadwell reported on the progress being made with Billings Clinic to the Weston County Health Services board on December 17, and noted that the specific "ticket" that has been a "thorn in their side" has been a problem since day one.

WCHS continues to work with Billings Clinic, and both Cadwell and Attorney Jim Peck admitted that during a recent conference it was revealed that a number of facilities across the state are facing similar issues with their electronic paper work. Cadwell believes that through continued work on the system, issues are being resolved, but a number of

items that were promised when the local hospital agreed to adopt the systems are still not being offered to them.

For instance, Cadwell reported that the barcoding system that will be used to check items out and is necessary to speed up processes at the hospital is still not being implemented like it was supposed to. She explained that they had been told by representatives from Billings Clinic that this project would be part of Phase Two, and expressed disappointment that it is still not available after three years of utilizing the Cerner system.

"Online bill pay is not being held up in Cerner— not Billings Clinic, but by Cerner," Cadwell announced. She noted that this is a major concern

because the installation was paid for and WCHS still doesn't have the ability to access the service. She admitted that this particular feature may not have represented a large sum of money, but insisted that she is frustrated over the principle the company should be upholding in providing the service its customer paid for.

Another option that WCHS has wanted to access in its systems is the ability to upload wound images to personal files in order to provide a baseline for all doctors. Cadwell proclaimed that this option is not available at present, and that a price quote has not been provided either. Issues have also been identified in the area of quality control, according to Cadwell, and Billings Clinic has finally agreed

that WCHS was supposed to have access to the option but is not sure how to make it available to them. The company originally argued that this service was not included in the package purchased by WCHS.

Cadwell announced that, despite the list of negatives, a number of issues have been resolved recently. She maintained that payment has not been provided to Billings Clinic since the last one approved in October, and she does not suggest that payment be made yet at this time.

"I'm inclined not to pay them until they fix those issues that have been there since the beginning," declared Chairman Jill Sellers, and there was general consensus on the part of the board to continue to hold that line.

## Fair Board hears concerns about rate increases

Alexis Shultz  
NLJ Reporter

For some time now prices to rent the facilities at the Weston County Fairgrounds have been modest, but after posting a loss of \$80,000 in 2015, the officials determined something had to be done to fix the issue. As a result, the Weston County Fair Board approved a rate increase that proved quite significant for those who have operated events at the facility for years.

Jill Pischke, with the Full House Horse Sale, approached the board on January 12 to discuss the steep increase in the prices. It will cost significantly more for the event to access the same facilities as they have

in previous years, according to Pischke, who claimed that after the rate increase is applied it will cost 75 percent more this year than it has in the past.

"Last year for this same sale, for a week's worth of arenas— give or take— and stalls, it totaled \$2,200," announced Pischke. She noted that if the individual prices for all facilities accessed for that week were totaled for the upcoming event, the cost would reach \$3,860, which represents a 75 percent increase.

Pischke explained that through early conversations she had learned that RPM Days, which will be in its second year, will be receiving a 33 percent discount for the weekend event.

That organization rents the facility from "gate to gate," and she was looking for the same kind of consideration or discount for her event.

"You have to think, what does this town have to offer for this sale? What are the economics of staying here, the quality of the facility? I love for it to be here, but I would like to get the same amount of a discount—or some discount," Pischke pleaded, adding that she is not afraid to pay for the event, but asserting that a 75 percent increase is quite steep in one year.

WCFB President Zane Marty made it clear that an exception was not made for RPM days when it came to the amount

they would pay, but that they were the first event that wanted the facility from "gate to gate," and an amount had to be set for renting the entire property.

"We were trying to come up with a whole facility usage that is from gate to gate. We were just trying to come up with that, and it just happened that they were the first ones that wanted to rent it gate to gate," declared Marty, maintaining that he did not want people to assume that RPM Days was given a discount. The price agreed upon for the event totaled \$3,000 a day, which is also a steep increase compared to what was charged for the same event last year.

"Obviously we want events

to come here, but we don't want to be cost prohibiting. When we rent the facility like that for \$3,600 a week I understand some costs are associated with that, but if the prices get too high events may move," explained WCFB Vice President Craig Deveraux, who also operates the horse sale with Pischke. He indicated that the hit that would be taken by losing events to pricing would not be ideal either, while admitting that as a member of the fair board he took place in the group's discussion regarding rates and had agreed to them.

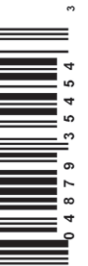
WCFB Treasurer Ellen Mackenzie agreed that the increase was significant, but that some multiple use scale needed

to be developed in order to make costs more affordable for events that wanted to rent multiple parts of the facility for multiple days. She stressed that one of the things that prompted the discussion over rate increases was a desire to get away from people approaching the board with claims that certain events or individuals received cheaper prices than were offered to them.

"There are also going to be perks for the fairgrounds. More than likely, each camper space will be rented for three days... We are going to rent 25 stalls for the month, and they only get used for a week," stressed

— See Rates, Page 3

<b>WEATHER FORECAST</b>	<b>Thursday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 34, Lo 20	<b>Friday</b> Mostly Sunny Hi 45, Lo 29	<b>Saturday</b> Mostly Cloudy Hi 47, Lo 25	<b>Sunday</b> Cloudy Hi 34, Lo 18	<b>Monday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 30, Lo 15	<b>Tuesday</b> Mostly Sunny Hi 35, Lo 25	<b>Wednesday</b> PM Snow Showers Hi 42, Lo 29	<b>INSIDE</b> • Staffing Soccer, Page 8 • Go grappers!, Page 9 • Bank bought, Page 12 • Hot water, Page 16





# Opinion

## News Letter Journal

### Our view

## We will set our own trends, thank you

*Now we've got to accelerate the transition away from old, dirtier energy sources. Rather than subsidize the past, we should invest in the future -- especially in communities that rely on fossil fuels. We do them no favor when we don't show them where the trends are going. That's why I'm going to push to change the way we manage our oil and coal resources, so that they better reflect the costs they impose on taxpayers and our planet. And that way, we put money back into those communities, and put tens of thousands of Americans to work building a 21st century transportation system.*

— President Barack Obama  
State of the Union, January 12, 2016

It was refreshing to hear Barack Obama drop all pretense, and finally (and honestly) declare that his administration is waging war on the fossil fuel industry, and coal in particular.

While the admission that he will spend his final year taking further steps to erode the industries that have long been the lifeblood of Wyoming's economy is frightening, it is even more alarming to hear the gusto our Chief Executive expresses in his indication that he and the elite thinkers who populate the metropolitan centers of this nation are somehow obligated to do us a "favor" by showing us where "trends are going."

Even if the science of man-caused climate change is accurate (and agreement over that is nowhere near as widespread as the President claimed in his address), it serves to reason that these great and benevolent thinkers from the country's most populated areas are the greatest consumers of energy and largest drivers of any climate change created as a result of mineral extraction and production.

In other words, it makes far more sense to let the consumers create and identify trends before we force suppliers to respond to them. If this nation is truly moving away from the use of fossil fuels to produce energy, then the nature of business dictates that those parts of the country that supply such energy will follow the trend when the market dictates that we do so.

Unfortunately, Obama's words confirm yet another fear that those of us who live in the country's heartland have expressed, and that is the now-obvious assertion that this President is, and has been, committed to attacking our very way of life. For the past seven years, we have been mocked and ridiculed for voicing concerns over our leader's War on the West. (Remember his claim in 2008 that those of us who live in the heartland "get bitter, they cling to their guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them.") His insistence that we must be forced to adhere to his vision for the future for our own good is as offensive as it is foolish, and it proves that we weren't as paranoid as he claimed.

His offer to "put money back into those communities" is just as ridiculous because Wyoming's state budget is always balanced and the unemployment rate is consistently below the national average. Based on his own words, the President apparently intends to eliminate our jobs and tax base so the federal government will have another bankrupt state to rescue. (It's also important to note that basic economics dictate that the "21st century transportation system"—whatever that is—is certain to be implemented in more populated parts of the country long before it is built here, so it will be decades before any of those mythical jobs can pull us out of the hole he is digging for us.)

This state's top elected officials have persistently battled against Obama's "environmental agenda," and greeted the moratorium on new federal coal leases announced shortly after the State of the Union with the usual round of angry rebuttals. Nobody disputes that Wyoming's leaders have "fought the good fight" in this arena, but the barrage launched by the White House last week clearly demonstrates the ineffectiveness of those efforts and the administration's confidence that it will continue to prevail in such matters.

Call on our leaders to fight harder and smarter. Shrugging our shoulders and saying "we tried" obviously won't cut it anymore.

### Letters to the Editor

#### Let's hit Trump and his ilk with a hickory stick

Dear Editor,  
Nonsense!

Utterly no absurd idea spewed by a narcissistic, thinly haired, "wannabe" national politician will propel us into a peaceful, prosperous future. But, it has propelled him into undeserved prominence in national polls.

The incessant negativism of FOX News has so skewed the perception of our condition that over half of us believe that our children will be worse off than we are. Nearly two-thirds of us believe that only the rich can get ahead. Over half believe that our economy is in the tank.

Some of that may be temporarily true to some extent, but we will come to our senses and throw the politicians (or candidates) of gloom, doom and despair out.

Has mass media so mesmerized us that we no longer can see through their propaganda and form our own opinions?

They would manipulate us by manipulating our opinions to our disadvantage. A good way to avoid being duped by the unscrupulous is to identify the multitude of lies, half-truths and innuendo they employ. Once the falsehood is discovered, its purpose is defeated.

Plain old common sense can identify a majority of the lies they use.

Eight out of ten believe that we will suffer a large scale attack. Not going to happen. We have a military force larger than the whole rest of the world. Most of our states are larger and better armed than most of their countries.

Sooner rather than later we will identify the congress critters who have their own agenda rather than the well being of our country as their highest priority.

Altogether too often our elected lawmakers spend their time being entertained by lobbyists who offer very large kickbacks in exchange for favorable treatment when the budget bill is considered.

Don't you just want to take them to the woodshed and give them a few licks with the hickory stick?

To forestall their just desserts, these politicians have erected a formidable barrier of sub-committees, committees, bureaus, departments of, etc.

It's a jungle out there and we will have to wade through it.

The alternative is to just give up and let those philistines have their way with us. It has happened that way before. It is a choice, but the outcome is not pretty.

—Jerry Baird

#### Allah Barackbar

Dear Editor,

In his house full of mirrors, Barry sees no cause for fears, if he says something, then that makes it so.

We should just debase, dissin' the "Religion of Peace," and forget about Paris and San Bernardino.

His priorities are quite strange, with gun control and "climate change," being very high on his to-do list.

It's long been his contention, than no one should mention, such a thing as a radical Islamist.

Those who follow the crescent moon and star and shout "Allah Achbar," should not get our panties in a wad.

We shouldn't be fretting, and just bring in refugees without vetting, then they would love us and forget their Jihad.

Our Dear Leader's Plan, to give 150 Billion to Iran, has really got those Ayatollahs towing the line.

Those who think it's fine to tell, lies to the evil infidel, all think this stupid deal was fine.

The latest terrorists Barry let out, promptly gave a great shout, and set right off to slaughter and scar.

Just the most recent to be let go, from their vacation in Gitmo, some swear they shouted "Allah Barackbar!!"

This wasn't even a bad trade, like for Bo Berghdahl was made, I can't fathom anyone could really be quite this dense.

Or is it part of Barry's goal for the Nation, a promised Fundamental Transformation? Any other way it's looked at doesn't make sense.

—Jim Darlington



### Who



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### What

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

### Need to talk to a public servant?

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Randy Rossman	746-2965
Tracy Hunt	746-8898
Tony Barton	756-2561
Cheryl Kregel (County Clerk)	746-4744

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## We should never forget the American ideal

The United States is a place of opportunity free from persecution and discrimination... Or is it? Muslims who have lived in the states for several years, and have shown nothing but loyalty and respect for this country, are suddenly being persecuted and discriminated against for the actions of a few terrorists overseas who claim to worship as Muslims.

We, as a nation, need to decide what our identity is and maintain it and carry it out. We need to stay consistent with our beliefs, whatever we decide those may be. We claim that we are a nation that sees no race, religion, or ethnicity and yet we bring about questions of how to keep Muslim citizens locked up for their religion and beliefs.

We are a nation of hypocrisy with our claims of freedom of religion. We have identified the values that we claim to possess and own as being an accepting nation, no matter the religion or belief, as long as the individual or group of individuals work hard and pull his or her own weight. This is known as the American dream. Yet we have persecuted basically every race at one point in time throughout our history.

Native American Indians are the original habitants of America and are, in reality, the only non-immigrants to exist. Yet one immigrant after another settles here and pretty soon second and third generation Americans are persecuting immigrants who just happened to have come to America later than they did.

The persecutors become the perse-

cutted; it is a perpetually vicious cycle that will lead to our demise. We need to stand as a nation united under God, instead of falling to hypocrisy, selfishness, and distrust.

My dad's mom's mother is full blood Italian. My great grandmother stepped off of a ship on the East Coast straight from Agnone, Italy in the early 1900s as a seven year old. Her father had come over before the family, looking for work, to save up and afford them a trip to America. When he finally sent for them, they met in New York, and traveled all the way across the states to settle in Tooele, UT. Maria, my great grandmother, never told anyone outside the family that she was Italian because she knew that she would be treated differently, ultimately more poorly, at school and life.

I am the third generation to come from those Italians with a dream, to have been born a United States citizen, and I know I can speak for us all when I say that America is where our loyalty was and is at always. Of course, there were Italian immigrants who did not believe in the American dream and who did not support the nation's beliefs.

However, it is never fair to punish many for the actions of a few radical extremists. The ones that came before me left Italy for opportunity, just as all the other immigrants that came before them had. Almost everyone living and

working in the United States had been an immigrant or came from someone who had, at one point or another, come here in search of a new and better life. We all must remember that we are descendants of immigrants and cannot come to America looking for opportunity and expect others not to do the same. That is large-scale hypocrisy; it needs to stop.

The solution, however, is a lot more complicated than the problem. I refuse to accept President Obama's belief that it is necessary and even good to bring all these Muslims into our country. We simply do not have the jobs to support 500,000 more people at this time. Now, if and only if he had strengthened our economy enough and increased our jobs enough to support all of the unemployed United States citizens, along with the half a million new citizens, bringing Muslim refugees into the country would be a different story. However, it is not.

Sorry Barack Obama, but if "if's, and's and but's were candy and nuts we'd all have a merry, good Christmas."

But they are not, and quite frankly, immigration is already very controversial without such a vast increase in such a short amount of time. All I am really saying is that large-scale discrimination is something we always end up having to apologize for, yet we continue to do it. However, there is and never will be

any law that can make it illegal to glare at certain people as they walk down the street, to treat them differently at work for their beliefs, skin color, or country of origin, or to make them feel ashamed for being true to themselves and chasing their dreams. That is something that has to do with the presence of good moral values and respect for human life and the basic rights that come with it.

Illegal immigration into this country is not what this article supports. I am simply addressing a moral wrinkle that I have seen and stating that it needs to be fixed immediately. I firmly believe that all the United States citizens should be put at the top of the priority list (all religions included). However, equal treatment and opportunity for all should come next on that priority list, as the constitution says it does.

The United States is a place of opportunity free from persecution and discrimination... as long as we choose to keep it that way. It really comes down to the golden rule that Mrs. Lipp drilled into our heads as kindergartners— one should treat others with the respect that he or she wishes to be treated with.

I think it is safe to say that the entire world has something to learn from her caring and loving heart. We claim that we are a nation that sees no race, religion, or ethnicity, and yet we act on oppressing those who accept Muslim beliefs. That is not what makes America great.

Let's get back to that.



Abi Deveraux  
Dev's Deliberations

### Where

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### Why

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

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# Rates from page 1

Deveraux, who had stepped aside from his board position momentarily to speak on behalf of his event. The perks for the fairgrounds, according to Deveraux, would be in the extra revenue brought in from camper hook up rentals as well as vendor fees, and that the event will be also paying for stalls, even though they may not actually be used.

"We went overboard and are being generous at 25 stalls for a month, and for the rest we are paying the nightly fee," Pischke added. She also pointed out that the cost figures presented were based on the most expensive figures for the largest amount of space that would be used.

WCFB Secretary Justin Mills professed that the fair board needs to remain consistent and honest with the rates charged for everyone, but he agreed that a 75 percent increase over the course of one year may be a little steep.

"I think it is only fair that we work on a step up process...I would like to see it done over two to three years," proclaimed Mills, who reasoned that the additional time would allow traditional users to adjust their budgets accordingly.

Deveraux announced that this is something that could be workable for this particular event, but signaled that at some point the WCFB would have to consider the standpoint of organizers of the Full House Horse Sale, who could easily move their event to a facility in another community that may boast advantages that include easier access for sellers and buyers alike.

"In my opinion, the fairgrounds is here to help promote community growth. When you hold an event and you fill this town up and sell all the rooms out...We have to cover our costs, but we have to walk a tight rope with what is good for the community," Deveraux stated.

Fairgrounds Manager Randee Davies interjected that last year the fairgrounds lost an astonishing \$80,000 and that "we are under the finger of the commissioners to not lose \$80,000 this year," in pointing out that the fiscal responsibility of the facility needs to be considered.

"That is something for the commissioners to look at as well. Events in this community really enhance the community. When you sell rooms for a week it is awesome for the town, and I think this is what the facility is for...I am not saying we should operate at a loss though," Deveraux quickly acknowledged.

Marty stepped in and reported that the costs for other facilities throughout the state was investigated when prices for the local fairgrounds were considered. He said there was no other places in the state where a facility like Weston County's could be rented for six days at even close to the cost being charged. Deveraux argued that the access to airports and rooms has to be looked at as well, noting that other fairgrounds have better access to those things.

"If we are going to come in at \$3,800, we probably don't rent the fairgrounds on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, and I don't see how that helps the fairgrounds," Deveraux observed.

Mills went back to what he was previously saying, and explained that his idea is for the board to take the difference between last year's total and the current year's estimated total and divide it by three, which would allow for an increase to occur over a three year period before the total 75 percent increase would take place.

"The new rate would be about \$3,600 and the old rate was \$2,200. How about we do a \$450 increase this year?" suggested Mills, noting this would create a flat rate of \$2,650 for this year. Over the next two years the price would "stairstep up."

Deveraux and Pischke confirmed that if the WCFB agreed to that arrangement, they believed it was satisfactory. Mills made the motion to approve those rates for the Full House Horse Sale, and it was approved unanimously, with Deveraux abstaining from the vote due to his relationship with the sale.

The fairgrounds new rates can be found by contacting Davies at the fairgrounds office.



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# Upton from page 1

entirely new PD building.

Those council members in attendance spoke favorably of the second option, which involves locating both the PD and city government in the current city hall building, as well as the space behind city hall formerly occupied by the Red Onion Museum.

City Superintendent Mark Lindstrom suggested the costs involved would probably be roughly equal in the end, especially for the first two options.

"We're looking at about the same amount of money both ways we [could] go by the time we get done," he reported.

"Here we build walls and there's some electrical work," Lindstrom continued, speaking of the community center. "Over there (city hall), it's total electrical work in the back -- total flooring, ceiling, walls, insulation ... bathrooms -- everything like that."

Beck, too, stated his belief that all the options represented roughly the same overall cost, though he acknowledged a new PD building might include some additional expenses.

He continued, saying that residents have approached him to voice their opposition to a move to the community center, though none seem willing to

appear before the town council in order to do so.

"If this room filled up this would be an easy decision," Beck stated "... At this point I think we've exhausted our options as far as having open workshops. I think a decision can be made."

Upton resident Sam Haptonstall agreed, telling Beck that people he'd spoken with also seem to prefer the convenience of having city hall located in the central part of town but haven't seen fit to say so at the several public workshops that have been held on the issue.

"They've had their chance," Haptonstall said.

Given the council's turn away from the community center move, however, the lack of vocal opposition was perhaps less relevant than had the council continued to move forward with the plan.

Deputy Clerk Kelley Millar questioned whether parking would be an issue should the PD and city hall be combined, while Clerk Rona Barker said she believes the city hall's current location near the post office represents a convenience. Barker further said she doesn't believe a move to the community center would affect traffic into city hall significantly.

Mayor Dustin Upton appeared late for the meeting and was informed by Beck that Councilmember Nathan Todd had stated his preference for combining the city hall and PD and keeping them downtown.

"I think I'm leaning that way as well," Beck added.

Millar mentioned that more oversight is needed at the community center regardless of what decision is made, as city staff haven't been able to devote the time necessary to managing the facility's use.

Fire Chief John Strong told those present he felt security cameras at the center could be a reasonable solution. They wouldn't cost too much and could be monitored from city hall, he said.

"Just putting them up, even if you're not watching closely, will make people think a little bit more," he reasoned.

Upton said he would begin focusing more on the renovation of city hall based on what he'd heard.

"We'll hold off on this (the community center option) and start working plans down at city hall," he concluded.

Councilmembers Mark Mitchell and David Watt were not present for the Jan. 12 discussion.

## Pathway of Progress

**Personalized tiles will be placed in the new entrance to the hospital displaying our community support for generations to come. Become a part of history with Weston County Health Services.**

Tiles are 12" x 12" and will be set in a pattern that allows every engraved tile a special placement. Three lines of text can be added. Copy can be up to 20 characters per line, includes spaces and punctuation. Tiles are available for \$150. Logos can be added to the tile for an extra charge.

*Deadline for placing orders is January 29th.  
No orders will be taken after that.*

**Please call Norma Shelton at 746-2896 for more information.**

CHARLES AND RUTH ECKBERG AND FAMILY      MIKE & JOANN FARNSWORTH      SEW YOUNIQUE, INC. DON & MARLENE STOVER      THE BICKET TIM, MARY JODY ANN

### Best Little Tidbits

Discussion items at the Jan. 12 meeting of the Upton Town Council included the following:

- Travis Beck was appointed vice-mayor and general government commissioner; Nathan Todd was appointed police and fire department commissioner; Mark Mitchell was appointed water and sewer commissioner; and David Watt was appointed streets and landfills commissioner. Mayor Dustin Upton noted the appointments were essentially the same as last year.
- First Tier Bank and First State Bank were named the town's official banks. The Weston County Gazette was named official newspaper.
- Votes were taken to reappoint Patrick Crow as municipal judge and Mark Hughes as the town's legal counsel.
- The council cast votes to authorize the sale of alcohol at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Jan. 23 at the community center, the Fireman's Ball on Feb. 6, and the Festival of Tables on Mar. 19.
- Rare Element Resources' Linda Tokarczyk appeared to encourage the council to submit comments, both individually and as an entity, on the draft environmental impact statement recently released by the U.S. Forest Service for the Bear Lodge Project. Public meetings on the matter are scheduled for the Crook County Courthouse in Sundance on Jan. 25 and the Upton Community Center on Jan. 26. Both meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Clerk Rona Barker professed that the town had not yet been contacted by the Forest Service about the meeting.
- Judy Keller reported that the Upton Senior Center will host a bake sale with coffee and fresh cinnamon rolls available the morning of Feb. 12. City Superintendent Mark Lindstrom is working on getting some new lighting for the center, she also mentioned.
- A special meeting regarding the potential purchase by Dan Hart of city property adjacent a building he owns was set for Tuesday, Feb. 2.
- A hearing to approve the liquor licenses of local drinking establishments was set for 7:30 Feb. 9 at the community center.
- The council voted to hold a budget amendment hearing on Feb. 9 in order to increase the general fund by (1) \$5,500 to purchase a Komodo tractor with mower deck, (2) \$15,000 for CASE loader repair work, and (3) \$500 for printing fees for an emergency plan created by Councilmember Mark Mitchell.
- An ordinance vacating and abandoning portions of Cedar Street and 5th Avenue in the Neiman Addition passed on second reading. Mayor Upton excused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest.
- A resolution was passed in support of a state Mineral Royalty Grant application for the purchase of a new fire truck.
- A vote was taken to approve a Community Gas Grant application for \$2,500 to be used toward city office renovations.
- Upton Housing Authority has reimbursed the Town of Upton \$300 of the \$96,046 used for the Senior Housing Remodel Project. Mayor Upton said he is appreciative of the reimbursement, calling it a good start.
- At the suggestion of City Superintendent Mark Lindstrom, the council voted to discontinue a well project undertaken with funds from the Wyoming Water Development Commission. A potential \$50,360 liability to the town is a point of concern, and Lindstrom said a letter will be drafted to the Water Development Commission explaining the town's reasons for ceasing the project. According to Lindstrom, the well in question can still be used for irrigation or other non-potable purposes.
- The council went into executive session in order to discuss a personnel issue as allowed by Wyoming Statute 16-4-405.

### Keeping the Ranch in the Family by Dallas Mount, PSI (Feb. 8, 5 - 7 p.m.)

Join us at the office! Knowing the overall profitability of a ranch is important, but knowing how each part of the ranch contributes to the bottom line dollar is essential. Identifying the most and least profitable parts of a ranch will assist ranch managers/owners in making informed decisions to keep the ranch in the family- far into the future!

**(Social hour to follow at T & A Brewing Company to visit with guest speaker Dallas Mount)**

All workshops provided by the WCNRD are free and open to the public and are held at the USDA Service Center (unless otherwise noted).

**1225 Washington Blvd. Newcastle, WY  
Call (307) 746-3264 for more information**

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*A Message from Weston County Public Health*

**If you know someone who is in crisis:  
Take a step forward**

- G**et involved; first tell the person you are concerned and tell them why
- R**ecognize the signs of someone who is depressed or suicidal
- A**vailability of means. Remove any firearms, drugs or sharp objects that could be used for suicide
- C**ore symptoms of major depression are a "down" or depressed mood for more than two weeks
- E**ncourage the person to see a counselor, physician, minister, or mental health professional immediately

**If YOU are in crisis:  
Take a step back**

- G**etting help is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of strength
- R**ealize you're not alone; there are people who care about you and want to help
- A**void alcohol drugs and other methods of self-medication especially if you are in crisis
- C**ontact a friend, family member, teacher, minister who can be with you during this crisis
- E**veryone's recovery is different; don't give up. With help, comes hope

For more information and resources, go to [www.gracefor2brothers.com](http://www.gracefor2brothers.com)  
Call 911 or the National Suicide prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-talk (1-800-273-8255)



The Wyoming State Historical Society is looking for artifacts, like these shown at the Anna Miller Museum, for their annual "Top Ten Artifacts" project. The program started last year for the state's 125 year anniversary and became popular enough to turn into an annual event. (Jessica Yarnes/NLJ)

# State's top artifacts sought

Wyoming's cultural institutions are invited to nominate what they consider to be their most significant artifact to the Wyoming State Historical Society's "2016 Top Ten Artifacts," project. According to WSHS president, Tamsen Hert, the success of this program kicked off last year in conjunction with the state's 125th anniversary, and was so overwhelmingly popular that the Society decided to make it an annual event. Last year nominations were received from forty-one public cultural intuitions throughout Wyoming. Judges selected the top 25, and then the public voted on the Top Ten which were announced last November. After the Top Ten were announced the Society presented certificates and posters to the winners. Postcards and notecards, available by contacting the Society, were also created featuring an image of each of the 2015 Top Ten. This year the nomination phase closes on February 15 at 5:00 p.m. The guidelines and nomination forms can be accessed at [http://www.lib.uwyo.edu/wyoming/top\\_ten\\_historical\\_artifacts/home\\_wyoming\\_artifacts.cfm](http://www.lib.uwyo.edu/wyoming/top_ten_historical_artifacts/home_wyoming_artifacts.cfm). Any public cultural institution that holds artifacts can participate.

## Obituary

**JoAnna Bruce**  
**Mar. 7, 1927-Jan. 14, 2016**  
JoAnna (Jody) Bruce, 88, of Newcastle Wyoming passed away Thursday the 14th of January at the Weston County Manor surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on March 7, 1927 in Newcastle Wyoming to Walter and Nellie Boulden. As a young girl she lived on various ranches in Weston County with her parents and family. She attended public school in Newcastle and graduated in 1945 from Newcastle High School.

On Nov 6, 1946 Jody married the love of her life Willis Bruce. The young couple then moved to the Bruce Ranch where they raised their family and she helped with the various labors of a ranch wife

which she enjoyed immensely. Jody was a member of the United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star and the Weston County Cowbells. She hosted and attended community Bible Studies in the Claretan area.

She enjoyed being a homemaker, ranch wife and took great pleasure in caring for her family. She loved to clean, bake and cook for Holiday dinners, hungry cowboys for branding and haying crews and if anyone stopped by the ranch she always had something for them to eat. She hosted a poker party every year for her husband on his birthday and to celebrate their anniversary. She learned

to crochet so she could make every family member an afghan specific to their wishes.

Survivors include her son Tom (Shari) Bruce and daughter Nancy (Bryan) Borton. Brother Billy (Lois Ann) Boulden and Sister Frances VanBuren. Grandchildren; Shane Bruce, Shauna (Loren) Hamburger, Cory (Blue) Borton and Heidi (Chuck) Schultz. Great Grandchildren; LeShae, Stetson, Ashley and Bailey Bruce, Carson and Holly Schultz. Great Great Grandchildren; Landon and Logan.

She was preceded in death by her husband Willis Bruce, parents Walter and Nellie

Boulden, Brother Walter James Boulden, Grandson Shad Bruce, Granddaughter Holly Borton, Great Grandson Dakota Bruce, Brother-In-Law Gary VanBuren and Nephew Jeff VanBuren.

Services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday the 19th of January at the Weston County Senior Center with Steve Langer officiating. A viewing was from 1 to 2 p.m. prior to funeral services. Burial was at the Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle.

Pallbearers were Don Cool, Clint Slagle, Scott Sewell, Troy Tavegia, Ty Christensen and Owen Lampert. Honorary pall bearers are all the hungry cowboys she fed over the years.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to the Weston County Manor.



**JoAnna Bruce**

# NOTICE

## Weston County has the following positions available:

WC Planning & Zoning	1 Position	3 Yr. Term
CWC Solid Waste Disposal (Osage Dump) Board	1 Position	4 Yr. Term
WC Fair Board	1 Position	4 Yr. Term
WC Historic Preservation	4 Positions	3 Yr. Term
Predatory Animal Control Board 1 Sportsman	2 Positions	3 Yr. Term

Anyone wishing to apply may submit a letter of interest to the Board of Commissioners. The positions will be opened until filled. You will also find the list of positions on the website: [www.westongov.com](http://www.westongov.com)

Anyone with questions please contact the Weston County Clerk's Office, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

[newsfj.com](http://newsfj.com)



### Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.

Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
*Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend meetings*  
Brad Troftgruben, Worshipful Master • Glen Gordon, Secretary



# Faith and Values



- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm.
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626.
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Pastor Todd Olson, 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 pm.
- **CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 am; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 pm, Holy Eucharist. [haydishall@hotmail.com](mailto:haydishall@hotmail.com)
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am.
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Greg James, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am.
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Weekday Mass 8 am.
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley, 746-9712, Worship 10 am.
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Bible Study 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Teaching Service 6 pm; Wednesday Service 6:30 pm.
- **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** Mike Wiles, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service 5 pm; Eita Nova Youth Group Wednesday 6:30 pm Christian Academy.

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Mark Thurman, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 a.m. Children's Church and 11:45 am. Contemporary Praise & Worship Service.
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, Evangelical Free Church meets at the Weston County Senior Services; Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am. Call 746-8091.
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 p.m. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am.
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer.
- **NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, meets at Haydis Hall (Next to Christ Episcopal Church), 746-5542. Sunday Worship 6 pm.
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Gary Force, 78 Old Hwy 85, Pastoral Assistant Matt Dooley 949-0831 and Joe Story 605-891-9954. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:00 am.
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, Upton. Sunday Mass 11:30 a.m.
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366.
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Sharee Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 a.m.; Adult Study 10:30 a.m.; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm.

## THE SPIRIT OF TIMELESSNESS



Cathedrals are amazing feats of architecture and construction, intended as monuments to God's glory. Ages old, they are powerful and imposing structures that still stand stately and sure, undefiled by change. With God as our foundation, we, too, can possess spiritual beauty, strength, and stability. Build your life on faith in His promises this week as you worship in His house. Your spirit will be timeless.

### Weekly Scripture Reading

John 17:1-26	Acts 9:1-25	Acts 9:26-43	John 10:1-21	John 10:22-42	John 11:1-27	John 11:28-44
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*Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society*

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*The sponsors of this feature do so with the hope that more people will attend the church or synagogue of their choice on a weekly basis*





# Working in the weather



Hospital construction is in full swing, even on the snowy morning of January 14th. Despite the week of winter weather, crews have been making progress on building renovations. The hospital is still accessible via the alternate entrance on Boyd Avenue. (Jessica Yarnes/NLJ)

# Recapture A PIECE OF HISTORY

January 27, 1916  
100 years ago

While returning from a professional visit on the prairie a week ago last Saturday evening about 8 O'clock, Dr. Wells had an accident that might have resulted in fatality. He was

coming along the county road near the Getchell place on Sweetwater and making one of the short turns in the road, he struck a patch of ice. His car slid over the bank and turned turtle.

The celebrated Hawaiian

singers & players will appear at the Newcastle Opera House Monday evening January 31st.

Born to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mendenhall, January 23, 1916, a baby girl of regulation weight.

About 4 O'clock on January 19th the news was telephoned up & down Cold Creek that Jackson Vout had passed away.

January 30, 1941

75 years ago

Wyoming Governor Nels H. Smith has been named honorary Captain of Wyoming University's Cage Team of 1941.

Mrs. Flora B. Rose, mother of Mrs. Paul Warner,

Fred, Joe, & Alice Rose, Mrs. Roy Ferguson, Mrs. Chas. Ferguson, Ariel, George, & Pauline Warner spent Friday at the Warner home.

A good crowd attended the Clareton dance Saturday night.

Mr. & Mrs. Millard Good, Miss Pearl Proconier, & Albert Tavegia spent Thursday evening at John Thompson's. Mr. & Mrs. Good have moved to Osage where they will make their home.

The Weston County Chapter of the American Red Cross met in the library last night and re-elected Mrs. A.J. Benesl to serve as chairman.

## Should have seen it in color



Dr. Wells & son Elmore (with the hat on Dr. Wells' left) pose for a photo with three unidentified boys. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

## WHAT'S UP

### January 2016

#### Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs <b>21</b>	6:00 p.m.	WC Health Services	Board Room
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri <b>22</b>	11:30 a.m.	WC Library Board Meeting	Library
	1:30 p.m.	WC Weed & Pest	Weed & Pest Office
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
	8:00 p.m.	Comedy Night	T & A Brewing Company
Sun <b>24</b>	2:00 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Mon <b>25</b>	1:00 p.m.	Low Vision Support Group	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Tues <b>26</b>	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Hospital Board Room
	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star	Eastern Star #30
Wed <b>27</b>	7:00 p.m.	WCSD #1 Board Meeting	Administration Building
Thurs <b>28</b>	11:45 a.m.	WC Health Services Foundation	Hospital Board Room
	12:00 p.m.	Chamber General Membership Mtg.	Chamber Office, Visitor Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri <b>29</b>	1:00 p.m.	Renee Blare Book Signing	WC Library
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sun <b>31</b>	2:00 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Catholic Church

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- January 21  
Heather Ann Stith ♣
- January 23  
Cassie Cassey  
Jean Piana
- January 24  
Leonard Cash
- January 26  
Jamie Hileman  
Tristin Wermers
- January 27  
Tom Sylte
- January 28  
Donna Mann
- January 29  
Hannah Rosenau  
Madison Rosenau
- January 30  
Cheryl Gulley
- January 31  
Brendon Newman

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

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

## Anniversary Celebration!

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746-2020

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*Celebrating our First Year!*



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**City** from page 1.....

their thoughts on the topic. "I know the state is down, but we are hurting and we are hurting bad," declared Mayor Greg James at the beginning of the January 11 meeting.

He noted that some of the pain being felt by the city has to be laid "at the feet of the legislature," at which time he directly mentioned the large sum of money lost by Newcastle when the sales tax on groceries was eliminated. "So far there is a loss of \$810,000 for the City of Newcastle alone," asserted James. He said that city officials understand that county consensus grants were supposed to replace that lost revenue, but he indicated that the amount of funding being designated to Weston County has continued to dwindle. As a result, the city's infrastructure improvement efforts have decreased Newcastle's cash reserves by more than \$2 million since FY 2012-13.

James acknowledged the revenue shortfall that is looming over the entire State of Wyoming, but maintained that the city has significant needs that need to be addressed, specifically the number of roads throughout the community that are getting to a point where they are beyond repair.

"I understand the shortfalls the state is facing, but with almost \$2 billion in a rainy day fund account...if this isn't a rainy day, you will have to tell me what is," proclaimed James, who questioned the purpose of the legislature in sequestering large sums of money in this account in recent years.

"It's going to be tough," Meier admitted, reporting that the state is looking at roughly a \$1 billion shortfall in revenue over the next year. He said the rainy day fund is likely to be accessed for the budget the legislators will begin considering when the session begins in February.

"We have to look at the rainy day fund and how to make it run to the light at the end of the tunnel," Meier professed.

Driskill reinforced Meier's statement by explaining that while there is \$1.86 billion in the rainy day fund, those dollars are viewed to be best used as "one time money," and should not be looked at as "a fix" for the issues facing Wyoming and its municipalities.

"It is there, but there is no structure on when the rainy day fund gets used," Hunt injected, explaining that while the funding exists, there is no outline for when and how legislators will access that money.

City officials who may have hoped to hear that the legislature would be willing to distribute those funds to local governments were quickly disabused of that notion.

"I'm not here to make you cry, but times are tough," Driskill said. He pointed out that a 10 percent hit has been taken on the state's investments in the stock market, the price of oil is currently at a 12-year low, and natural gas prices are at an all time low as well.

City officials predicted that the mineral industry would rebound, however, and suggested that savings accounts should be used to shore up crumbling municipal infrastructure until it does. They presented a list of proposed projects for the City of Newcastle for the coming fiscal year, and lamented that there isn't likely to be enough in city coffers to cover the cost of undertaking them (see Sidebar).

"Oil is going to come back and those coal mines aren't going," interjected City Engineer Bob Hartley. He explained the importance of the projects that are being pushed aside due to a lack of funding at present, and suggested that Newcastle is not the only municipality in Wyoming facing the same situation. He said a number of other small communities are also facing economic hardship, and reasoned that state government should help them through this rough patch.

"We need something to get us through a couple of years, and if it doesn't come back, then we will all fall on the knife with you," Hartley stated



Representative Tyler Lindholm listens as Senator Ogden Driskill lays out the state's financial picture for membes of the Newcastle City Council. (Alexis Shultz/NLJ)

**Proposed Water and Sewer Projects in Newcastle for Fiscal Year 2016-17**



<b>3rd Avenue</b>		
Water Line:		\$354,701
Pavement:		\$182,000
Total:		\$536,701
<b>Stampede Street</b>		
Paving:	\$1,048,000	
Total:	\$1,048,000	
<b>Frontier Addition</b>		
Water Line:	\$320,000	
Pavement:	\$1,332,959	
Total:	\$1,652,000	
<b>West Wentworth</b>		
Water Line:	\$133,000	
Pavement:	\$83,000	
Total:	\$216,000	
<b>East and West Winthrop</b>		
Water Line:	\$306,000	
Pavement:	\$182,000	
Total:	\$488,000	

**Total Cost For All Projects: \$3,961,701**

(Source: Handout presented by Newcastle officials to state legislators at their January 11 meeting.)

after Driskill expressed skepticism over a recovery in the oil and coal industries in the near future. Meier agreed with that assessment, disclosing his belief that Wyoming would be lucky "to be out of the woods in 10 years."

Hartley also expressed frustration with the way state funding has been distributed, and expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of it that has been designated for "economic development." In his opinion, maintaining infrastructure a major component of economic development, and he was particularly distraught over the perception that more significant amounts of funding are provided to larger municipalities that already boast larger amounts of tax revenue.

The legislators suggested that while it is unlikely that additional funding will come to local governments from the state this year, a better approach may lie in an effort to allow cities and counties to generate more of their own income.

"You guys can't even help yourself if you want to because the state won't let you," declared Driskill, referring to the difficulty that exists for cities who wish to establish their own specific use tax that would help address the lack of funding available to aid smaller cities in repairing infrastructure that is deteriorating rapidly.

Driskill maintained that taxes will have to be increased on some level to fund the necessities, and expressed the need to have people in the community support and approve an additional tax if the city has the opportunity to establish a specific purpose tax.

"The bottom line is, in order to make education, healthcare, and your roads better, a tax increase is going to happen if you want these things to happen," Driskill proclaimed. He was quick to point out that he is not advocating a tax increase, but suggesting that he would favor allowing the people of a community to vote to approve local tax increases for specific purposes.

Meier did say he believed

that there is a possibility to do something to benefit smaller municipalities through State Land and Investment Board grants. He explained that funding for those grants could be weighted to favor the "poor" counties, but insisted a formula would have to be established that would put the money where it is needed most.

"We need to move the money to where it is going to go to work, and part of it is reprioritizing the money that we do have," Meier announced. He said that there is flexibility attached to taxation at the local level, but Hartley argued that in the case of taxes, the City of Newcastle needs to be able to implement their own taxes and "take care of their own destiny," without being linked to the county, which is the case at present.

Meier expressed some caution over such an approach, though, noting that taxes that are just imposed inside a town can serve to encourage businesses to run their operations beyond city limits.

"The issue over taxes is, businesses will relocate out of town if they have a need to relocate. In 10 to 15 years,

when you grow, the businesses will not locate inside city limits," Meier professed.

Hartley still argued that the decision on whether or not such taxes are levied should lie with those who live in a community, and James noted that such tax measures are not necessarily "a fix," but certainly should be considered as a tool in the current situation.

"You said this is maybe a problem that will last up to a decade. Are we going to meet here year after year? Besides basically telling everyone they can't have their project, what are you doing to do to increase revenue?" queried Councilwoman Kara Sweet.

She received no specific response to that question, but legislators agreed to investigate the possibility of having SLIB money specifically available for poor communities, although Meier was quick to warn that it would not be a significant amount of money. The group also agreed to explore ways the legislature could allow for a more flexible local tax structure, primarily one that would allow voters to approve additional sales tax collections for individual cities.

**City Beats**  
 Items of interest from the January 4 meeting of the Newcastle City Council

- The City Council approved a number of contractor licenses. These licenses included multiple electrical licenses as well as a plumbing license.
- Mayor Greg James appointed the city council members to their standing committees for 2016. After hearing no input from the council the list was approved unanimously. Police Committee: Roger Hespe, Don Stevenson, Linda Hunt Personnel/Finance Committee: Roger Hespe, Don Stevenson, Todd Quigley Water/Sewer/Fire Committee: Don Stevenson, Roger Hespe, Todd Quigley Streets/Alleys/Buildings Committee: Linda Hunt, Kara Sweet, Steve Ladwig Sanitation/Community Appearance Committee: Todd Quigley, Kara Sweet, Steve Ladwig Parks/Cemetery/Recreation Committee: Linda Hunt, Kara Sweet, Steven Ladwig Land Committee: Appointed As Needed
- City Clerk/Treasurer Charita Brunner once again expressed the need for a voting delegate to be appointed for the WAM Winter Workshop. Don Stevenson announced that he was going to try to attend the workshop, and was unanimously voted to represent Newcastle and act as the voting delegate.



# Mining from page 1.....



**Bob Anderson, who retired in the mid-1990s, remembers the small, tight-knit nature of early mine crews.** (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

not long after Anderson's retirement, and most of the mine's employees from that era have either retired or passed away, Anderson figured.

He recalled the job at the mine as one that enabled him and his wife, Geraldine, to support a large family.

"Kerr-McGee was a good outfit. We had our gripes, but we could gripe about anything," he said.

As for his own, Anderson indicated he wasn't in tune with some of the changes that occurred at the mine over the years. He remembered the mine running only three trucks when he began, and he said he preferred the three-shift format to the 12-hour schedule the mine now operates on.

"I liked it a lot better before they went to twelve hours," he said. "That was kind of hard on me. I was getting kind of old by then."

Kerr-McGee was very strict about dust control, Anderson stated with approval, though a mine rescue team wasn't in place in those early days.

"The worst thing for me always was when somebody got hurt," he said, mentioning one memorable tragi-comic instance, though he couldn't recall the casualty's name.

"He was lying there ... and somebody said, 'Well, we ought to go get an ambulance and take him to town,' and I said, 'Anybody know where the hospital's at?'"

In another incident, Anderson recalled racing in his pickup at breakneck speed with a rattle snake-bitten Bob Buffington. Buffington survived — both the bite and truck ride — passing away much later in 2014.

Even so, Anderson characterized Kerr-McGee as a safety-conscious company, and there were no fatalities in his time at the mine that Anderson could recall.

Anderson described various high jinks and shenanigans among himself and his crew, but said it never got in the way of productivity.

"The superintendent was Paul Anderson at the time," he recalled. "He asked me one time, 'How do you get more production out of your crew than the others?' I said, 'I don't know. I don't haul a load of dirt or a load of coal. Them people just do it.' ... He wanted me to write an article, and I said, 'No, I ain't writing no article.' The crew is the one who gets you production."

Anderson, who golfs, plays in the band the Western Ramblers, and maintains an extensive hat collection, which he said he's trying to give away to his grandchildren, stated he can't fathom the idea that area mines might someday close. He said he worries about the

economic impacts.

His own decades at the mine were full of more economic ups than downs, he recalled, though he mused, "Sometimes I wonder if they didn't get too big."

## THE RECENT RETIREE

Sundance-born Glen Reed, a graduate of Newcastle High School, finished up his 38 years at the East Thunder Mine last July.

He started at what was then Jacobs Ranch in 1977, shortly after Anderson did, and remembered being part of Anderson's crew.

For Reed, employment at the mine has literally been a family affair.

"My dad worked out there for 20 years. I had an uncle that worked out there for 20 plus years. My son worked out there for six years, and my mother even worked there. She had the custodial contract for the building," Reed stated.

Having finished his career as a production supervisor overseeing the running of shovels, trucks, and support equipment, Reed has seen the mine change hands from Kerr-McGee to Rio Tinto to present owner Arch Coal.

Like Anderson, Reed said Kerr-McGee was his favorite outfit to work for because of the small number of employees involved.

"The crew was family," he said of those days. "Friday nights you parked your equipment in the shop and everything shut down for the weekend. Well, it's been a lot of years since it's been that way."

The mine now runs 24-7, including holidays, and what were crews of a dozen or so people when Reed started in 1977 have grown to number in the hundreds.

In comparison to the several trucks per shift Anderson recalls, Reed estimated the mine runs anywhere between 110 and 130 per shift. Some are as large as 400 tons.

Still, Reed said it's been interesting to watch how things have developed over the years and see how different companies have taken different management approaches. He recalled Kerr-McGee as a particularly image-conscious company, its roots in the oil industry, which shut down equipment once a year for a complete overhaul and repainting. Rio Tinto, on the other hand, took a unique approach to people management, he remembered.

"As a supervisor, probably one of my toughest jobs was keeping people motivated, because I had to support the decisions [of management] and had to try to make my people support it," Reed explained of his own position.

Reed said he saw a lot of people who were perhaps ill-suited for mine work come and go over the years. Though most jobs at the mine aren't physically demanding because of the equipment utilized, he explained, there's still a lot of stress involved due to the long hours, sometimes difficult terrain, and dangerous nature of some of the work.

"Most of the people who say, 'Oh, I could go get a coal mining job,' don't understand that it's a 14-hour day for the average person," said Reed, factoring in the commute involved.

However, Reed, who has two sons, credited his decades spent at the mine with allowing him to retire just short of his 60th birthday.

"I can honestly say that, financially, if it wasn't for the coal mine, who knows where I'd be. I probably wouldn't be retired," he figured, mentioning also the insurance and other benefits that go along with the job.

"This part of Wyoming in particular," he further reasoned, "the coal mining has made better lives for a lot of people ... If it wasn't for the coal mines and all the other businesses they support, our economy would be horrid around this [part] of the country."

Asked about Arch Coal's financial difficulties, Reed acknowledged that the current pressures facing the industry are more intense than they've been in the past, but said that he's seen coal take similar dips before.



**Glen Reed retired last year and has seen the mine operate under three different owners.** (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

"In 38 years I've seen a lot of peaks and a lot of valleys. One time at Jacobs Ranch they cut us back to four days a week because coal wasn't doing well. It wasn't two years later that we were working twelve-hour shifts. It's a lot like the oil industry. Maybe not quite so volatile because of the amount of coal," he reasoned.

Reed said he feels the federal government's regulation of emissions could be approached differently, perhaps with an emphasis instead on new and better technologies. As for alternative sources of power, like wind and solar, he stated that while they have their place, he thinks it's unlikely they will become energy mainstays any time soon.

Many people, he feels, don't stop to fully consider the role coal plays as the primary means of the generation of electricity.

Reed, who is looking forward in his retirement to indulging in his hobby of cabinetmaking and possibly doing some traveling, noted that a substantial coal reserve remains in the Powder River Basin. Not one to give into pessimistic predictions, Reed asserted that even if mining operations were shut down today, plenty of work would still remain in terms of reclamation.

"These mines," he said, "would still run quite a while with a reduced work force, of course, just to reclaim it."

Still, if eventual closure comes, Reed said he doesn't believe the refinery and local ranches will be enough to support the area's economy in a state anything comparable to what it is today.

"If they close the coal mine," he said soberly, "Newcastle will be a ghost town."

The NLJ is looking for others involved in the mining industry, past and present, for possible future profiles. Interested parties can contact NLJ Reporter Todd Bennington at news@newslj.com



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# Generations

News Letter Journal

## Story time



Lizzie Callison, Netanya Prell, and Taryn Clyde read aloud from books they'd chosen for the occasion at the WCSD #1 Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday. The three first-grade students were accompanied by their teachers: Kelly Tidyman, Denise Ehlers, and Nick Gray. (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

## Four coaches for MS soccer

Todd Bennington  
NLJ Reporter

The WCSD #1 Board of Trustees voted to authorize a total of four coaches for the newly created boys' and girls' seventh- and eighth-grade soccer teams at their Jan. 13 meeting, before voting against a proposal that would have allowed middle schools students to play two school-sanctioned sports simultaneously.

The vote in favor of maintaining a total of four soccer coaches (two head coaches and two assistants) came at the suggestion of Superintendent Brad LaCroix. Previous plans had suggested that a total of three coaches (two head coaches and an assistant) would be recruited to administer the program.

In support of his argument, LaCroix mentioned the possibility of a coaching absence causing game or practice scheduling problems and also gave the example of a scenario in which an injured student in need of being taken to the hospital would necessitate a parent taking over coaching a game.

"I just think it puts the district in a better situation for a successful program and the safety of those children who do participate," LaCroix went on.

In response to a question from Trustee Joe Corley, Middle School Principal Todd Quigley said it shouldn't be difficult to fill the four positions.

"I believe the head coaches are in place," answered Quigley. "Mr. [Robert] Munger and I have visited about the possibility of two assistants. I believe we're okay as far as where we're at."

Trustee Ron Mills asked about the gender distribution of the coaches, and Quigley said that to his knowledge both head coaches are female, while a male assistant coach has also been recruited. Quigley stated the male assistant coach would likely go to the boys' team.

Following the unanimous passage of the motion to establish four coaching positions, the board addressed the second reading of a proposal initially put forward by Trustee Tom Wright meant to allow middle school students

to participate in two school sports during the same season, such as track and soccer or football and cross country.

"My only concern is the wear and tear on a young body, but Trustee Wright has convinced me that should really be a parent's decision," said LaCroix.

Even so, LaCroix said he would still like to get the input of the district's athletic trainer should the proposal go to a third and final reading.

Trustee John Riesland spoke against the proposal, saying he believed it would cause scheduling conflicts.

"I think it would be very difficult to manage," he figured. "I don't think that would be the best thing for kids."

Trustees Tina Chick and Dana Gordon agreed, both also wondering how scheduling would play out.

"Don't most practices occur after school," asked Gordon. "Don't you have to be at practice the day before an event in order to be able to participate? How could you be able to be at two different practices at the same time?"

Wright answered that he believes the middle school should afford students the opportunity of exposure to as many sports as possible and that questions about scheduling and conditioning are really a question for coaches, parents, and students to decide for themselves.

Ron Mills, however, worried that dual participation would hurt the new soccer program -- for which the trustees have established a 15-student minimum turnout in order to field a team -- by splitting participants' focus.

Board Chair Bob Bonnar stated his belief that valid points had been made both for and against the proposal, but said he could not support it.

"My concern in moving forward with this, and the reason I will vote against the motion myself, is the burden it puts on the district," he said, noting the potential for unreasonable demands for accommodation and other foreseeable problems.

Mills and Wright cast the only votes in favor of the motion, which died on its second reading.

### School Notes

Discussion items at the Jan. 13 meeting of the WCSD #1 Board of Trustees included the following:

- Student Council Representative Sierra LaCroix and Student Council Advisor Brian Giesinger presented on Project Unify, which aims to break down stereotypes about people with intellectual disabilities through sports. Now in its initial phase, Giesinger said the plan is to begin by sending some student council members to participate in Special Olympics skiing activities at Terry Peak.
- Principal Brandy Holmes reported the elementary school has started the second half of the school year with the same enrollment as the fall, which she said she doesn't recall having happened in her time with the district. A lot of assessment-related work has been done at the elementary over the past few weeks, she continued, with an eye toward increasing efficiency.
- Curriculum Director Sonya Tysdal reported the Science Standards Review Committee

will meet again in February with the hope of presenting their recommendations for the state's K-12 science standards to the Board of Education in March. She said she expects new standards will likely be in place by the beginning of next school year. Tysdal added she will be keeping an eye on the state legislature with a view toward coming to a better understanding of what Every Child Succeeds, the federal legislation replacing No Child Left Behind, will actually mean for the state.

- Business Manager Deb Sylte told the board her office is working on finishing reports for the end of the calendar year. Confusion and uncertainty in relation to the Affordable Care Act has caused some delays, she mentioned.
- Principal Todd Quigley reported middle school enrollment is at 203, up by a couple of students from the beginning of the school

year. An eighth-grade musical will be presented to both the school and public on Feb. 29, he continued, and the middle school science fair will be held at the end of January. 38 students are scheduled for a trip to Washington D.C. at the end of March, he also mentioned.

- High School Principal Tracy Ragland noted the district currently uses three separate programs for at-risk youth at the high school. A move to a single online system is being considered, he said, the rigor of which he described as higher than what the district presently uses. Ragland stated the new system also offers increased student-oversight capability. The new online system will cost \$700 per license as opposed to \$500 per license for the present system.
- Ragland noted for the board that, oddly enough, the new Every Child Succeeds Act con-

tains a pardon for heavyweight boxer Jack Johnson, who died in a car crash in 1946. Johnson was convicted in 1913 under the Mann Act, though his prosecution is widely considered to have been motivated by racial animus.

- Community Rec Director Jessica Bettorf reported a New Year's walk she organized attracted 15 participants on short notice. She said she hopes to hold the walk every Jan. 1.
- Superintendent Brad LaCroix presented the board with draft copy of a revised strategic plan for the district. He asked that the board take it home to read, consider, and make comments on.
- The board voted to extend LaCroix's contract with the district for one year. With the extension, LaCroix will remain superintendent without any further action from the board until July 2018, Trustee Tom Wright explained.

## UW President's Honor Roll



The University of Wyoming lists four students from Weston County on the 2015 fall semester President's Honor Roll. Upton's Kailee Loberg received the honor,

as did Payton Crawford, Abigail Getting and Mitch Weigel, all from Newcastle.

The President's Honor Roll consists of regularly enrolled undergraduates

who earned a 4.0 ("A") grade point average for the semester. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

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# Sports

## News Letter Journal

### Schedule

Girls Basketball			
01/22	V9	Buffalo Bison	A 4 PM
01/23	V9	Worland Warriors	H 2:30 PM
01/25	9	Wright Panthers	H 5:30PM
Boys Basketball			
01/22	V9	Buffalo Bison	A 4 PM
01/23	V9	Worland Warriors	H 2:30 PM
01/25	9	Wright Panthers	H 4 PM
Wrestling			
01/22	VJ	Chadron Invitational	A 10 AM
01/23	VJ	Chadron Invitational	A 9 AM
Boys Swimming			
01/22/16	V9	Buffalo Triangular	A 4:00PM
01/23/16	V9	Worland Invitational	A TBA
MS Boys Basketball			
01/21		Lusk Tigers	A 4 PM
01/26		B Team @ Gillette Rec	A 3:30 PM
01/26		Sage Valley Eagles	H 4 PM

# You pin, you win

## Grapplers dominate Newcastle Invite

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Newcastle/Upton grapplers finally got to wrestle in the Dogie Dome when they hosted the seventh annual Newcastle Invitational last Friday, and they showed fans what they have been missing by scoring 196 points and winning the tournament with 30 more tallies than their closest competitor.

"We had a great tournament," head coach Lee McCoy exclaimed. "We placed 12 out of 16 wrestlers, and eight of those were in the finals."

Six schools from around the area sent teams to compete, including the Lusk, Sundance and Lead varsity squads as well as the Gillette, Sturgis and Rapid City Central junior varsity teams.

The Newcastle/Upton squad was represented by 16 athletes, seven of whom competed in the 106, 113 and 120 weight class divisions and two at 145. Having multiple entries in those weight classes meant that the possibility of each placing first was nonexistent, but they were able to score points for the team based on their wins throughout the day.

Placers for the Dogies/Bobcats included Trayton Dawson (113), Zach Schuessler (145), Wyatt Corley (152), James Moberly (160) and Bryce Womack (285), who all claimed first, while Payton Connolly (126), Ricky Larson (138), and Teigan Marchant (182) earned second place honors. Placing fourth was



Teigan Marchant proves his recovery from an early season injury is nearly complete with a quick pin in Tuesday's dual meet against Glenrock. The Dogies topped the Herders 46-29. (Bob Bonnar/NLJ)

Donovan Prell (120), and placing sixth were Aaron Fullerton (106), Jacob Chavez (106), and Alan Baker (120).

"We definitely had some kids go through and do what was expected," assistant coach Matt Clark nodded. "Trayton won his first two matches by a

pin and the final match by decision, 7-1. The guy he wrestled in the finals was from Sturgis and Trayton had lost to him in triple overtime last season, but he came out this year and showed him he improved."

— See **Wrestling**, Page 11

## The game of life

I've been around sports all of my life, so I am very aware that there is so much more to the institution than just winning and losing games. A team will put in hours of preparation for 32 minutes of competition, and the mental aspect of the game is just as, if not more, important than the physical.

To be successful in your sport requires dedication, commitment, discipline, sacrifice, a strong work ethic, and the list goes on.

A recent interview with Newcastle Dogie Basketball head coach Allen Von Eye got me thinking about the impact that participation in sports has, and it reaches far beyond simply competing.

When discussing the squad's recent win over a tough opponent, Von Eye relayed the post-game conference he had with his team following the contest.

"We are just so much more proud of them than we can ever state, because they simply do not give up. They had every reason to give up, but they just don't do it. That is a direct reflection of their character and of how they are going to succeed in life as well. They have the attitude that says, 'I'll give it my best shot. I still may lose and I still may get blown out, but if that's going to happen I'm darn sure going to go down swinging.' There are very few things that you can control in the game, or in your life, but your effort and your attitude are a couple of them."

When he said this, it really struck me that this is exactly what being successful in anything you endeavor requires. More often than not, if something comes easily, it may not be as worthwhile as it would if it requires effort. Those who succeed do so because of their hard work and determination, and failure is an integral part of success. An individual's character is also a great indicator of

— See **Karp**, Page 11



Sonja Karp  
Karpe Dogie



Jacob Hobbs and the rest of the young Dogies continue to show rapid improvement after resurrecting the boys' swimming program this winter, and they'll take the show to the Bighorns this weekend. (Bob Bonnar/NLJ)

## Different strokes for different folks

Young swimmers identify their strongest events

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Dogie men's swim team participated in just their second regular season meet last Saturday at the Douglas Invitational, and despite coming in fourth out of four teams had a very good showing, according to head coach Doug Scribner.

"It was a good meet for us given that we had everybody drop time in pretty much every event in which they swam," he stated. "Our goals for

the meet were for the boys to swim an event they haven't before and they also had to improve their time in an event in which they had previously competed. The guys did a really good job of achieving those goals."

Though it was a small meet, the competition the Dogies were up against was strong, with swimmers from Natrona, Douglas and Buffalo, and the pool in Douglas also offers another challenge as it is a meter, rather than a yard pool. As such, swimmers times are converted prior to the meet so each is aware what they have to do in order to improve their times.

Armed with that information, Matt

Tidd dropped nearly two seconds from his 50 Freestyle, and Dalton Phillips knocked 30 seconds off his 500 Freestyle while the 400 Free Relay team dropped their time by 15 seconds.

"I always stress to the kids, boys or girls, that the 400 is a really good race because it's at the end of the meet and you're tired, but you have to go out and be competitive. If you can go out and be fast, you know you're getting better so I was glad to see us drop time there," Scribner nodded.

"Dalton is improving in the back

— See **Swimming**, Page 10

## Frosh ices road win for Dogies

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Dawg House in Wheatland was rocking last Saturday with Dogie and Bulldog fans, but with a calm that belied his age, freshman Cade Ostenson stepped up to the line for a one and one that could put his team up three with 1.8 seconds to go in the Southeast Quadrant Conference matchup.

The bleachers, which were filled with orange and black, erupted as he easily drained the first and then the second free-throw to seal the Dogies' 44-41 victory and improve the squad's overall record to 7-2 on the season. The win also marked the first time the Dogies had defeated the Bulldogs on their home court since 2006.

A Cam Quigley to Taylor Allen in-bounds tip play moments before had given the Dogies the go-ahead bucket, and then great pressure defense by Newcastle caused a Wheatland turnover on the next possession, with Ostenson picking up the steal and drawing the foul that sent him to the line.

As the team's leading scorer, Allen had been relatively quiet in the first three quarters, only having picked up seven points, but he lit it up with four and half minutes remaining in the fourth. He drained nine huge points for the Dogies as they chipped away at the Bulldog lead that had been as much as eight during the second half.

Head coach Allen Von Eye had stated prior to the contest that he knew picking up a win in Wheatland is not an easy thing to do, but he was confident his team had the potential to make it happen.

As per usual this season, the Dogies started

— See **Hoops**, Page 10

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# Girls collar the Bulldogs

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Lady Dogies continue to roll, as they trampled the Lady Bulldogs last Saturday in their own Dawg House 64-44. Head coach Tyler Bartlett was understandably pleased with how his team played, given the difficulty of picking up a win in that particular venue.

"The score got a little closer at half-time, but the only time they had the lead was in the first quarter, and then we pulled away in the second half like we've done in the last couple of games," Bartlett explained. "It is great when we do that as it makes the fourth quarter pretty comfortable for us."

The Big Three —Alyssa Dawson, Hannah Cass and Abby Gray — led their team in scoring with 22, 15 and 10 points respectively, and also accounted for 17 rebounds, eight assists, eight steals and one block between them.

Having a trifecta of talented, play-making guards is something every team would love to have and every other team would hate to compete against.

The game on Saturday illustrated

perfectly the advantage this situation has for the Lady Dogies and the adversity it presents to their opponent.

"Abby started the game strong and then tapered off. Then Hannah picked it up and led the way during the middle of the game and then tapered off. Then Alyssa started to light it up in the fourth quarter to finish strong," Bartlett grinned.

"Abby ended up with the most shots out of those three because she started off so good and so aggressive. Right out of half, Hannah set the tone both offensively and defensively, and then of course Alyssa gets hot and her team mates did a great job of getting her the ball. Those three are the staple of what we do. They play off of each other and help each other and help their other teammates as well. They also are key in facilitating other people to score," Bartlett observed.

The coach was quick to note that, though talented, the three players can't win games on their own and gave props to his team as a whole for the "W".

"You look at it and we only had 11 turnovers to their 30, so we got that many more possessions. Then we out

rebounded them by about a dozen, so we ended up with about 20 more shots than they did, which gave us better chances at scoring. As a team, we are doing what we need to be doing to come out on top," he nodded.

Seven other Lady Dogies contributed to the win, with Kendra Back scoring eight points, grabbing six rebounds and picking up three steals. Rachel Ehlers added four points, two rebounds and two steals. Rachel Henkle grabbed five boards, Alyssa Umphlett brought down three rebounds, added one assist and nabbed two steals, Sarah Henkle had two points, one rebound and one steal, Kaprina Jones added one point and three rebounds and Abi Deveraux rounded out the stats with two points.

Though happy with the way his team played, Bartlett did admit that there are aspects of their game that still need to improve. The squad was able to get themselves to the charity stripe for 39 attempts at free throws, but only capitalized on 20 of those opportunities.

"Drawing as many fouls as we did is a good thing. To get to the hoop and then the line is great, but we do have to

do a better job at taking advantage of those opportunities both from the line and at the rim," Bartlett determined.

Another area of concern for Bartlett is the relatively slow starts his squad has experienced as of late.

"To take care of business in the third quarter really seems to be a thing that we are doing lately. We are finding ways to extend leads to take the game away from our opponent and make it less competitive, which I think is really important especially on the road, but we have got to get better at starting strong. It's not that we are starting poorly, I just don't think we are playing up to our ability early in games," he analyzed.

Bartlett stated that he is definitely looking to address those things as his team goes forward, but also noted that the girls are obviously executing the way they want, getting the looks they want, and doing the things they want to do, so he is not overly concerned.

The Lady Dogies improved their overall record to 8-1 with the win against Wheatland, but the schedule for the upcoming weekend will definitely be a test for the squad as they enter into Northeast Quadrant Conference

play against two tough teams back-to-back.

The team will travel to Buffalo on Friday and then will take on undefeated Worland at home on Saturday.

"This weekend is obviously going to be super tough. If you look at the NE Quad, all four teams have eight wins, Worland is ranked number one in the state, we are third, Buffalo is fifth and I'm betting that this week Douglas will make it into the top five of the rankings as well," Bartlett predicted.

Coaches and players will be working hard this week in practice to prepare for taking on two very different, but talented, teams and according to Bartlett, are looking forward to the challenge.

## Lady Basketball

Newcastle @ Wheatland 1-16-16: 64-44

Alyssa Dawson: 22 points, 5 rebounds, 3 steals  
Abby Gray: 10 points, 5 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 steals  
Hannah Cass: 15 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 1 block  
Abi Deveraux: 2 points  
Kendra Back: 8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 steals  
Rachel Henkle: 5 rebounds  
Kaprina Jones: 1 point, 3 rebounds  
Rachel Ehlers: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals  
Alyssa Umphlett: 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals  
Sarah Henkle: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 steal

## Hoops from page 9

the game strong. Although the Bulldogs got on the board first with a three from downtown, that did not seem to faze the Newcastle squad. They proceeded to come down the court on the next possession, and answer back with a three of their own.

"They hit the three, and with a team that's fragile, that can be a real downer. We talked all week about how we just could not give up open threes, but after an extended possession, that's what happened because of a miscommunication on our part," Von Eye admitted.

"However, we came back and ran our offensive set just like we planned, got a beautiful look, and Taylor [Allen] knocked down the answer and you could just see the kids say 'now it's on,'" he smiled.

The Bulldogs did outscore the Dogies 16-12 in the first quarter, but Newcastle settled in during the second and matched their opponent point for point to go into the locker room at half still down by only four, 20-24.

Von Eye noted that the Dogies' weakest moments thus far in the season have been in the second and third quarters, so during the half time break, coaches stressed to the team the importance of coming out strong in the third in order to stay

in the game.

"We did try to go down the path where we let up a little when we came out of the locker room," Von Eye sighed.

"We turned it over a couple of times, but defensively we didn't give up buckets so we kept the game manageable, and that was great to see out of our kids," he grinned.

One of the aspects of this year's team that Von Eye has noted repeatedly is their tenaciousness in never giving up regardless of the circumstances of the game, and last Saturday was no exception.

"We knew they would go on runs in the second half. It was inevitable. It was at their place, and they play and shoot well there. It all just depended on how we weathered the storm and responded. They did go on a little run in the third, extending their lead to eight, and then we chipped it back to three by the end of the third."

"Early in the fourth, they extended their lead to eight again, but like I've said in just about every situation that we've been in like this, I never had the feeling as a coach that 'oh man, here we go.' In a 3A game, things can go south in a big hurry, and we just didn't let that happen," he nodded.

With the game still close to start the fourth quarter, not surprisingly the last eight minutes

of the contest was a nail-biter for all in attendance. Momentum went back and forth with Wheatland once again extending their lead and then Newcastle cutting it back to within a couple of possessions, until they ultimately pulled ahead to take the win.

Allen filled up the stat line and led the team with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals and 2 blocks. Ostenson scored 12 points and grabbed 2 rebounds and 2 steals, Vincent Oedekoven added 7 points and 4 rebounds, while Quigley had five points, 1 rebound and 4 assists. Cooper Karp had 2 points, 6 rebounds and 3 assists, Dawson Norton added 2 points and 1 rebound and Kaullen Sundstrom rounded out the stats for the Dogies with 1 assist.

Von Eye attributed much of the win to the Dogies' defensive effort throughout the contest.

"The kids battled the whole game. Our worst quarter defensively was the first one and it was still good. We executed our game plan almost perfectly with the exception of a couple of open looks on the perimeter, and one or two times we got stuck on the post a little too high which allowed them an entry pass, but overall our kids did what we needed them to do," he nodded.

The Dogies are up against a true test of their

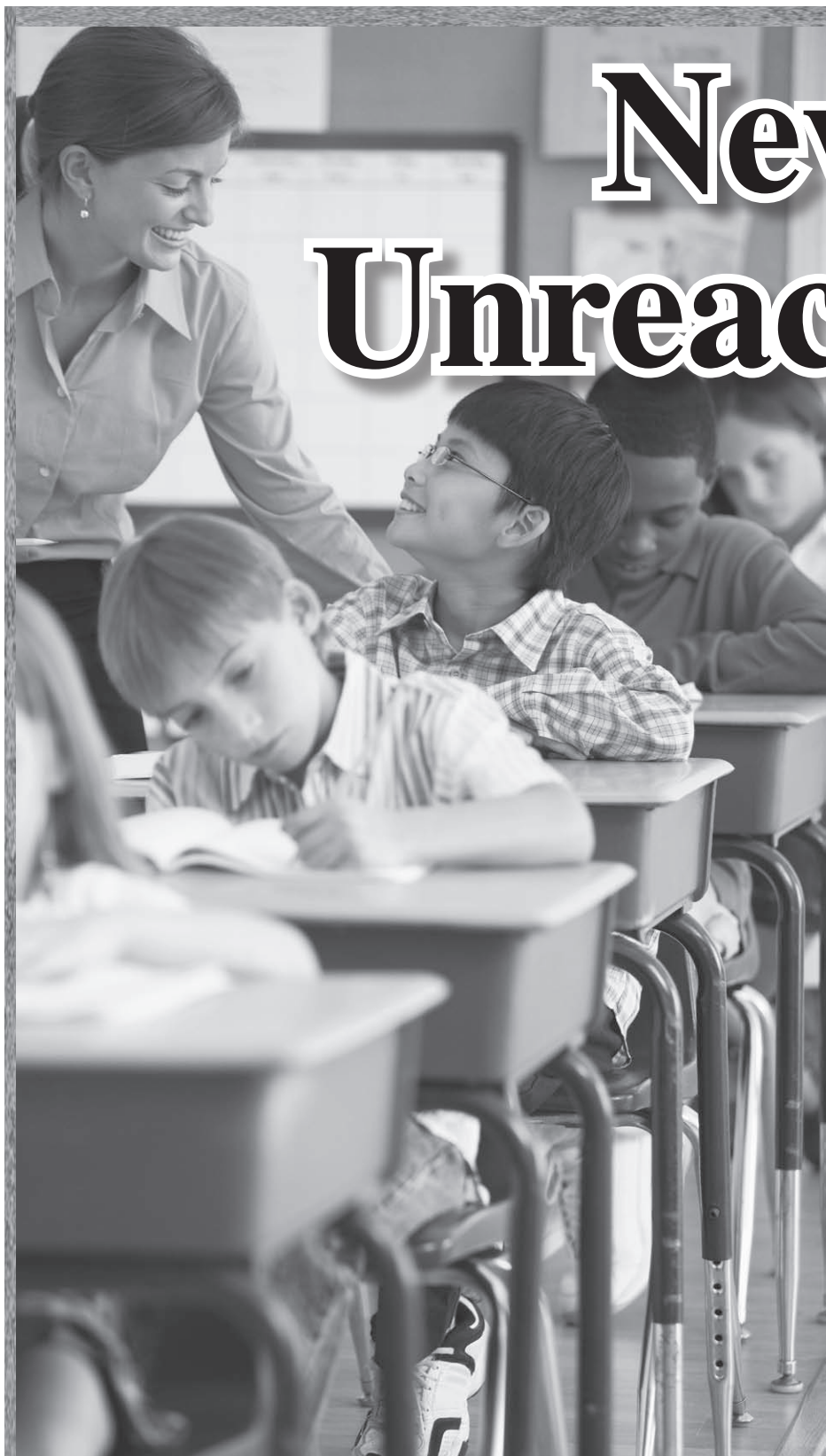
game this weekend as they prepare to take on the number one-ranked Buffalo Bison on their home court on Friday, and then host the fifth-ranked Worland Warriors on Saturday.

"These are two very good basketball teams," Von Eye began. "They are athletic and they are very physical, however they aren't as deep as they have been in previous years. Realistically, that fact has evened, or maybe even tipped the scale in our favor. We are also not overly deep but when they can go 10 or 11 deep, at 84 feet both ways, it's so hard to compete when you can't match those numbers. It will be difficult and will take some work, but we are so excited to see what happens. There are some changes that we can make and some things that we can put in that will give us a shot at taking care of our business."

## Basketball

Newcastle @ Wheatland 1-16-16: 44-41

Taylor Allen: 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks  
Cam Quigley: 5 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists  
Cooper Karp: 2 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists  
Cade Ostenson: 12 points, 2 rebounds, 2 steals  
Vincent Oedekoven: 7 points, 4 rebounds  
Dawson Norton: 2 points, 1 rebound  
Kaullen Sundstrom: 1 assist



# Never be Unreachable

*We can't plan when someone will struggle, but we can be ready to help.*

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## Swimming from page 9

stroke which is one of his strongest, and the time drop he had in the 500 was great, though not unexpected as this was his second shot at the race. When you swim this race the second time, we often see the big drops happen because it takes once to prove to yourself that you can actually do it," Scribner laughed. "After you finish it the first time, you know what you're doing, so you just swim the second time and that usually pays off."

Because his team is young and lacks some experience in the pool, Scribner is determined to get each of his swimmers into every event in order to see where their strengths lie and where they fit best before the Conference Meet, which is fast approaching.

"The thing I see in practice, and now after our second meet, is that the boys are really starting to find their strengths, so in addition to switching up the individual events I'm going to start doing some different lineups with the relays as they learn what strokes are their best," he explained.

Among those who have demonstrated a proclivity and talent for a particular event are Zach Benshoof who is strong in the breast stroke, Eythan Riley who has already qualified in the 100, 200 and 500 free, and Jacob Yeatman who has clinched the 50 Free, 200 IM, and 100 breast stroke for his State Meet slate. Scribner was quick to note that Riley and Yeatman, though already qualified, continue to improve in each of their events.

"Eythan wants a 4A qualifying time for the 400, and he was only two-tenths off the time on Saturday. That's his event, so he's going to try to swim that again this weekend in order to achieve his goal. Jacob ended up swimming a 57 in the 100 Free, which was his goal. When he swam the 200 earlier in the day he was looking a little tired, but then he

swam the 100 and looked great, winning the heat by about five seconds," he explained.

One negative for the team on the day was that they were missing three athletes due to various reasons.

"Because we were down guys, I had to scratch two relays so that hurt our team scoring. I'm not sure the kids really get what their absence means until they see that happen. When they miss a meet it hurts the overall team score. It gets real for them," Scribner stated.

Next up for the Dogies is an overnight trip to Buffalo for a meet on Friday and then on to Worland on Saturday, where Scribner expects to see all of the 3A teams except Rawlins, whom the squad may not get a chance to see until the Conference Meet.

"This weekend we will try some different things with relays to see who fits where best, and will also continue to mix it up in the individual events as well," Scribner indicated.

## Swimming

Newcastle @ Douglas Invite 1/16/16

1. Douglas 290 3. Buffalo 199  
2. Natrona 226 4. Newcastle 189

<b>200 Medley Relay</b>		
4 Dalton Phillips, Matt Tidd, Eythan Riley, Jacob Yeatman		2:28.01
<b>200 Free</b>		
2 Jacob Yeatman		2:36.44
7 Kaden Curren		4:30.07
<b>200 IM</b>		
5 Jacob Hobbs		3:28.72
<b>50 Free</b>		
2 Eythan Riley		29.83
5 Matt Tidd		30.85
<b>100 Free</b>		
1 Jacob Yeatman	3AQ	1:04.13
6 Zach Benshoof		1:23.59
<b>400 Free</b>		
2 Eythan Riley	3AQ	4:55.88
6 Dalton Phillips		7:13.28
<b>100 Backstroke</b>		
3 Dalton Phillips		1:36.93
4 Kaden Curren		2:12.59
<b>100 Breaststroke</b>		
6 Matt Tidd		1:34.82
7 Jacob Hobbs		1:41.91
9 Zach Benshoof		1:56.73
<b>400 Free Relay</b>		
7 Riley, Benshoof, Yeatman, Tidd		4:28.37
11 Hobbs, Allard, Phillips, Merchen		5:30.04
30 Kyle Allard		1:55.19
<b>400 Free Relay</b>		
7 Jacob Yeatman, Eythan Riley, Dalton Phillips, Jacob Hobbs		5:04.09

If you or someone you care about is in immediate crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255



WESTON COUNTY  
Prevention Task Force

NATIONAL  
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LIFELINE  
1-800-273-TALK  
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org





# Patriots nominated for award

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Reporter

A pair of Upton/Sundance Patriots are among those who will be considered when the Wyoming Chapter of the National Football Foundation will determine the state's Top Football Scholar Athletes from a field of 101 nominations from 35 high schools and the University of Wyoming, according to Wyoming Chapter President Jeff Felton of Cheyenne. Nominees from each of the state's five participation classes will be honored, including two

from the University of Wyoming.

Sundance's Cole Inghram and Upton's Rourke McPeters were nominated from the 1A classification.

"A back and a lineman from each division will be nominated as a finalist from the list of nominees. In determining our Scholar-Athlete finalists, academic achievement is weighted 40 percent, football performance is weighted 40 percent and school and community leadership is weighted 20 percent. Many times, the school and community Leadership component can be the tie breaker when everything else is close. An athlete's minimum grade point average

to be considered for a nomination is 3.0," Felton explained.

He said the finalists would each receive a \$1,200 scholarship at the chapter's annual banquet in Laramie on March 19. From the group of finalists, one top scholar-athlete will be awarded a second scholarship and be the state's nominee for Western Chapter Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Each nominee will have his name entered at the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, and the Western Region's top scholar-athlete will be recognized at a banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.



Cade Ostenson swishes the first of two free throws with less than two seconds on the clock to seal a Dogie victory in Wheatland on Saturday, but Coach Allen Von Eye said his entire team is displaying the character that is needed to overcome early deficits and other challenging situations to pull games out down the stretch. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

## Karp

from page 9

the potential for success.

Last night, as I contentedly pondered these concepts while absentmindedly listening to the television, a commercial came on that I had seen several times, but in my current state of mind the message it sent truly infuriated me.

For those of you who are friends with me on Facebook, this will sound familiar as I was driven to rant (which is something I very rarely do on social media).

The commercial is for Scrubbing Bubbles and features a teenage daughter who is dying her hair, and treats her mother with incredible disrespect by rolling her eyes, flat out refusing to do as her mother asks, and continuing to do as she wishes all the while trashing her

parent's bathroom with purple hair dye.

As if that behavior wasn't abhorrent enough, the commercial goes on to show the mother cleaning up after her disrespectful daughter accompanied by the company's slogan - "We work hard so you don't have to."

Coming on the heels of my conversation with Von Eye, the message this commercial seemed to be sending was exactly the opposite of what young people should be receiving when it comes to learning how to succeed in life.

When I compared the depiction of that teenage girl to the way Von Eye described his players, the character of each were at opposite ends of the spectrum and unfortunately, more people will

probably see that commercial than will ever experience playing on a sports team.

It not only makes me angry, but it also makes me sad that society seems to be accepting the kind of behavior displayed on the commercial, as evidenced by the fact that someone came up with the idea as a way to appeal to Americans to buy their product. That a company would invest in this advertising strategy has me assuming that they think the behavior is socially acceptable.

Maybe the slogan of the Scrubbing Bubbles campaign should just be "We work hard." Maybe then we'd see commercials showing people who embody the character traits needed in order to succeed in life.

## Wrestling

from page 9

"Schuessler won all four of his matches with a pin. He was trailing in his final match, but he stuck with it and got a pin, and with a pin you win," Clark grinned.

After a bye in the first round, Corley also won each of his matches with a pin and used his signature move to stick his opponent in the championship match.

"Wyatt got the pin with his stack move, which he executes when he is on top and pulls his opponent's head down and pushes him forward, so he rolls up onto his shoulders," Clark explained. "He ends up pinning most of his kids with that move, and he's been very successful with it this year. Even some of the best wrestlers haven't been able to defend it when he is able to get it locked up and executed. It's always exciting when he pins someone like that, because we know what's coming, but maybe they don't."

In his second week back in action Marchant picked up second place, which Clark noted was great for him individually as he seems to be settling back into competition. Though newcomer Marshall Rhoades did not place in the tournament, he did add two more wins to his season record.

"We are improving every week and Friday was a great example of that," nodded McCoy. "We've tried to adjust our competition schedule to get our kids on the mat with the very best wrestlers in the region. We're getting better on our feet, and learning how to control a match through staying in good position and wrestling smarter."

McCoy did note that his squad

still has a lot of work to do in the practice room, however.

"We need to continue to improve in all positions, but especially on the bottom. I didn't like how we were giving up so many points at the end of periods," he nodded.

The Dogies/Bobcats kicked off competition this week with a dual against a tough Glenrock team at home on Tuesday evening and then will travel to Chadron for the Chadron Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

"Chadron is a big tournament with 30 teams from Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota," Clark explained. "It draws from quite a few places, big and small, and will be one of our toughest tournaments of the year. It's great to get the experience from these tough competitions as we draw nearer to the Regional Meet."

### Wrestling

Newcastle Dogie Invite 1/15/16

1. Newcastle/Upton 196
2. Gillette JV 166
3. Sturgis JV 165
4. Rapid City Central JV 152
5. Lead 123
6. Sundance 77
7. Lusk 76

106: Reid Holmes	DNP 1-2
106: Aaron Fullerton	6th 3-3
106: Dylan Thompson	DNP 1-2
113: Jacob Chavez	6th 1-3
113: Trayton Dawson	1st 3-0
120: Alan Baker	6th 2-3
120: Donovan Prell	4th 4-2
126: Payton Connolly	2nd 3-1
132: Gavin Durfee	DNP 0-2
138: Ricky Larson	2nd 3-1
145: Zach Schuessler	1st 4-0
152: Marshall Rhoades	DNP 2-2
152: Wyatt Corley	1st 4-0
160: James Moberly	1st 4-0
182: Teigan Marchant	2nd 2-1
285: Bryce Womack	1st 2-0

# INSURANCE

*Review Your Coverage*



Wyoming Insurance Commissioner Tom Glause urges consumers to review their insurance coverage and make sure they have addressed winter season risks.

"Winter brings severe weather, dangerous driving conditions, extra heating, and winter activities — all of which can involve consumers' insurance in one way or another," said Glause. "It is a good time for consumers to review their coverage and make sure they are prepared."

**Residential property owners and renters** should know what their policies cover if their homes are damaged by winter storms. Homeowners insurance may cover:

- Damage caused by wind, trees or falling limbs or collapse of a structure due to the weight of ice or snow.
- For renters, the landlord's homeowner's insurance generally covers the exterior of a rental property. However, renters should purchase renter's insurance to cover the loss of their belongings.
- Medical payments to a person on your premises with your permission for slip and fall accidents on ice or snow.
- Frozen pipes caused by extreme cold provided the damage is not caused by the homeowner's negligence.
- Loss of valuables stolen from the policyholder's automobile. Theft from a home or auto is generally covered by homeowner's insurance, but jewelry and electronics may have a value that exceeds limits.

**Travel Insurance** - Winter weather can close airports and delay or cancel flights. Travel insurance can help pay emergency medical bills, and may cover lost luggage and expenses caused by delayed or cancelled flights.

**Auto Insurance** - Comprehensive and collision coverage for private passenger autos will provide protection for most winter related accidents such as fender benders or tree limbs falling on cars. Standard auto insurance policies do not cover snowmobiles. Consider buying separate insurance if purchasing or renting a snowmobile.

Assisting neighbors and friends remove snow with a plow attachment on a private passenger auto should not create problems. However, using a personal auto for a snow removal side business may require a commercial policy.

**Winter Fire Safety** - Check all heating sources. All heating systems, including fireplaces, can be dangerous if they are not used and maintained properly.

- **Vents & Chimneys** - All fueled heaters must be vented to prevent dangerous carbon monoxide build-up. Have flues and chimney connections inspected and cleaned regularly as creosote and carbon deposits can create a fire hazard.
- **Give Space Heaters Space** - Keep all combustible materials away from heaters. Place space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, walls, curtains, or anything that burns. Turn off space heaters when you leave home or go to bed.
- **Liquid-Fuel Safety** - Use only manufacturer recommended fuel and let the heater cool down before refueling it. Refuel heaters outdoors where spills won't present a fire hazard.
- **Gas Fueled Heaters** - Check vents periodically to make sure they aren't blocked. Never install unvented gas heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms. Carbon monoxide can build up to dangerous levels in any small, enclosed space.
- **Wood or Coal Stoves** - Place an approved stove board under wood or coal stoves to protect the floor from heat and stray embers.
- **Fireplaces** - Protect your home from sparks by using a fire screen made of sturdy metal or heat-tempered glass.
- **Electric Heaters** - Inspect electric heater cords for cracks or other damage and have an electrician replace frayed, cracked or damaged cords.

**More Information** - For additional information on insurance matters, go to the Wyoming Department of Insurance website at: [www.doi.wyo.gov](http://www.doi.wyo.gov).



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## Tell it on the mountain



Representatives of the Black Hills National Forest visited Elk Mountain School District for Fire Prevention Week last October. Smokey the Bear and Engine Captain Austin Baker, from the Hell Canyon Ranger District, gave a presentation and showed off their new Type 4 Wildland Fire Engine. Pictured are Smokey, Triston Martinez, Ashton Block and Baker on the ground, and Westin Buckland, Bryton Syverson, Tegan Martinez, Tristin Williams and Essah Syverson. Aaliyah Banks is not pictured. (Submitted Photo)

## Commissioners discuss hauling on county roads

Todd Bennington  
NLJ Reporter

The county's receipt of two letters from Black Hills Bentonite rekindled discussion of commercial usage of county roads at the Jan. 5 meeting of the Weston County Commissioners.

The letters, which respectively addressed the company's potential mining and hauling of bentonite clay within the county, were interpreted by the commissioners as seeking waivers of liability for company actions.

County Administrative Assistant Dan Blakeman told the commissioners that during his former employment with Crook County, Black Hills Bentonite was among several companies that had entered into hauling agreements with Crook County.

"I think the question should be [posed] in a letter back to Black Hills," stated Blakeman, "'Are you planning to use county roads to haul bentonite?' ... If that is [the case] then we have an agreement we'd like [them] to look at."

Commissioner Marty Ertman noted that Black Hills is requesting a signature from the county, though Blakeman scoffed at the notion that the county should immediately sign anything.

"I will tell you that once you sign that you don't have nothing on them," Blakeman said "... I think we start the process by saying, 'Come to the table with us just like anybody else would.'"

Black Hills Bentonite representatives should be invited to the county commissioners' next meeting, Blakeman went on to say.

Ertman worried, however, that if arrangements were made between the county and one particular company or industry, comparable agreements would have to be made with others.

"We are going to walk down this path that we're going to pick on one industry again," she said.

"I think this has to be thought out. Once again, let's not shoot from the hip. Let's think this out about every industry."

Ertman went on to say that such arrangements could possibly backfire on the county and would also require the involvement of the sheriff's office in order to enforce. Tolls can't be legally charged by the county and weight restrictions would require scales, she noted.

"I think what [our] agreement should be is if you're going to use our county roads, we would ask that you would be conscientious, that you would maintain the speed limit, that kind of thing. When you start picking on one industry, they start pointing fingers at all the other industries that use that road. We have to be kind of careful on that," she said.

Board Chair Bill Lambert asked Blakeman about what arrangements with particular industries Crook County has in place for hauling, and Blakeman answered that such agreements are mainly for bentonite and gravel, with Crook County receiving payment on a per-ton basis. The most problematic aspect of hauling in Crook County, Blakeman continued, has come in terms of spring weight limits imposed by the county to prevent road damage.

Commissioner Tracy Hunt, who described the letters as ambiguous, said he would like to see from Black Hills Bentonite exactly what regulations they are concerned about.

"We should ask them ... exactly what is it they need to inform the [state Department of Environmental Quality] of that we need to provide them," he told his fellow commissioners "... They're requesting that [we] issue a letter stating that there are no zoning or land use planning regulations that prohibit the development of their proposed mining operations ... What I think we need to do is find out from them what regulation that they believe they are subject to that would require some input from us."

Geographic Information System Coordinator Fran Lehman informed the commissioners that the county land use plan only refers to DEQ

requirements for cleanup after bentonite mining. She said she had also presented the letters to the county's planning and zoning board, but the board didn't see a need to address them.

Commissioner Tony Barton stated that though it would be voluntary on the part of Black Hills Bentonite, he would like to see the company enter into an agreement if they are in fact interested in being good stewards of county roads. Commissioner Randy Rossman also stated he was in favor of some form of agreement.

"If you're interested in a legal analysis, here's the problem," explained Hunt, a former County Attorney. "If ... they don't give something up or agree to provide you gain in the agreement, then the agreement itself is void for lack of consideration ... The question becomes what is the consideration on their part. What do they gain or forego?"

"Maybe just goodwill," Barton suggested, to which Hunt responded, "And maybe that's adequate. I don't know."

Blakeman described Crook County's agreements as revolving around good stewardship, with companies paying into funds to support use of the specific roads they utilize. The commissioners seemed uncertain about what specific roads Black Hills Bentonite intends to use for hauling in Weston County, though Clay Spur Road was mentioned in discussion at several points.

As the conversation came to a close, Hunt spoke cynically of Black Hills Bentonite's intentions.

"What they want to do is shift the regulatory burden to us in this letter," he suggested. "What they want to be able to say when it's all over is, 'You told us we didn't have to do nothing.'"

Blakeman said he will invite company representatives to appear at a county commission meeting and will also ask the company about the specific regulations with which they're concerned.

## Purchase finalized

Todd Bennington  
NLJ Reporter

County Attorney William Curley notified the Weston County Commissioners at their Jan. 5 meeting that the county's purchase of the Pinnacle Bank building for \$225,000, which the commissioners had voted to authorize in September, has now been finalized.

Curley told the commissioners that an exact agreement for the use of the ATM and parking area adjacent the building remains in need of ironing out.

Pinnacle Bank President Justin Tystad had stated at a December commission meeting that the bank intends to maintain its ATM presence, and Curley acknowledged that the bank will want to keep the area clear for ATM users, though county employees may be able to park in a portion of the spaces.

Curley said he is committed to working out a suitable arrangement and reported to the commissioners that the county already maintains contract rights to the parking spaces should the bank consider selling them.

It was also noted by Curley that Tystad has provided evidence of proper hazard and premises liability insurance for the building, which had also been at issue.

Curley further brought to the commissioners' attention the fact that the budget line item account, from which the county took the \$225,174 in order to purchase the building, is now in the red. The County Building and Equipment Upgrade line item contained only \$193,000 at the time of purchase.

"As we sit here today, the County Building/Equipment Upgrade line item is in a sense overdrawn," Curley told those present. "No problem with the state auditor. You've got the money in the budget, but the state auditor suggested that by resolution at the next regular meeting, which would be today, a resolution be passed transferring sufficient money from another line item or line items ..."

The state auditor's office, Curley further reported, had suggested that a budget amendment process be initiated for purposes of transparency and record keeping.

"I know it's a visual thing and I don't have a problem with public [transparency]," Commissioner Marty Ertman responded, "but I think that the papers have been very good at explaining how much we're paying for this building, [and] that we're buying this building ..."

Ertman went on to clarify with Curley that neither the department nor overall budget were in the red, just the line item, a comparatively less serious issue. Whether or not a simple motion or a resolution was required to change the line item was a point of dispute between the pair.

County Treasurer Susie Overman interjected that she had spoken to County Auditor Vikki Nunn, who had told her that no action at all was necessary.

"She said it was good to go like it is," said Overman, later adding, "Let it ride itself out until the new budget comes out."

Curley countered that an amendment to the budget would "create a real nice paper trail." He further stated that taking no action was contrary to the advice given him by Pam Robinson, administrator of the Wyoming Division of Public Funds.

"Why was this line item picked when there was another one right above it that had enough in it to pay the \$225,000," Overman questioned the board, referring to a county equipment account.

Curley responded that the apparent reasoning had been that the money was taken from the account most appropriate in terms of function.

"I have a lot easier time telling [residents] the county bought a new building with building money than it bought a new building with equipment money," Curley explained.

Chairman Bill Lambert told the board that he probably needs to take some of the criticism, because he was unfamiliar with the building purchase process, as were many county officials. Overman noted that the last building the county had purchased was the Upton library in 1966.

Ertman opined that the budget amendment process should have been started from the time the decision was made to buy the building, a statement to which Lambert agreed.

"The damage has been done already," she said, suggesting the county just make a line adjustment. "Why we're going to the effort of that? I think the papers have done a good trail for us. We should have started in the beginning and we didn't do it."

Lambert asked the board whether or not they were inclined to take any action on the matter, to which they answered in the negative, and no motions were made or other action taken in regard to line item adjustment or amendment of the budget.

## Maps and trail permits

The 2016 Black Hills National Forest motorized vehicle permit and maps are already available from Forest Service offices, vendors or online and residents are being encouraged to pick them up before venturing into the Black Hills National Forest.

A Motorized Vehicle Use Permit is required for any motor vehicle traveling on motorized use trails in the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming.

South Dakota Black Hills National Forest motorized vehicle permits can also be purchased online at: <http://www.blackhillsparks.org/black-hills-national-forest-atv-permits/> but Wyoming motorized trails require a WY off-road recreational vehicle permit and can be purchased online at: <http://wyotrails.state.wy.us/ORV/Permits.aspx>.

Motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs) are the official map for designating all roads, trails and areas available for public motorized travel on the National Forest. Visitors should not rely on any other maps for making decisions about motorized travel on the Forest.

MVUMs are available from a local Forest Service office, local vendor and online. The Forest Service reports that this coming weekend, the MVUM will also be available for download directly to your Smart Phone from Avenza. The MVUMs are compatible with iOS mobile devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch) and Android (4.0.3 or newer) mobile devices. Instructions for downloading the MVUMs online and for Smart Phones can be found on the Black Hills National Forest webpage at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/blackhills/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5203036>

A downloadable MVUM version, compatible with newer Garmin GPS units, is available on the Forest MVUM page. The MVUM will also be available for viewing in Google Earth mid-January.

The BBNF also announced that users are responsible for ensuring that the most current MVUM is installed on their device, including the new 2016 map. Users should check with their local Forest Service office if they have further questions about the map and/or permits.

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**nlj**  
news letter journal

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# Weather Vane



DATE	HI	LO	Precip
S-3	44	17	
M-4	—	—	trace
T-5	—	—	.03
W-6	—	—	.02
T-7	—	—	.02
F-8	—	—	.02
S-9	—	—	.03

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE WHCC KITCHEN ROOFTOP PROJECT AT NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

Notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Corrections, has accepted as complete, according to plans, specifications, and rules governing the same, the work performed under that certain Service Contract 05SC0066431 between the State of Wyoming, Wyoming Department of Corrections and Sheet Metal Specialties, Inc., whose address is: 1220 E. Yellowstone Highway (PO Box 1243) Casper, Wyoming 82602 for the work performed, materials, equipment, or tools furnished or used and services rendered for the substantial completion of the WHCC Kitchen Rooftop Project, at the Wyoming Department of Corrections WHCC, Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming and the contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore; that the Department of Administration and Information will cause said Contractor to be paid the full amount due him under said contract on March 1, 2016. The date of the first publication is January 21, 2016.

(Publish January 21, 28 and February 4, 2016)

**Deadline for Legals is noon on Friday**

**Probate Notice**

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT, SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

**In Probate IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WINIFRED TAVEGIA, deceased Docket No. PR-8026**

**NOTICE OF PROBATE**

**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE:**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 6th day of January, 2016, an Application for Summary Decree of Distribution was filed in the Sixth Judicial District Court by Patricia Baker in the Matter of the Estate of Winifred Tavegia, deceased. The Application requests that a Summary Decree of Distribution be entered in this State and that the decedent's assets in this State be administered according to those proceedings.

Any objections regarding the issuing of a Summary Decree of Distribution should be filed in the office of the Clerk of District Court, on or before twenty (20) days of the last publication of this notice, and if such objections are not so filed, unless otherwise allowed, they will be forever barred.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2016

Hon. John R. Perry  
District Court Judge

Attorney for Petitioner:  
Bethany A. Gross  
Throne Law Office, P.C.  
424 North Main Street, Suite 201  
P. O. Drawer 6590  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
(307) 672-5858

(Publish January 14 and 21, 2016)

**Election Notice**

**PROCLAMATION & NOTICE WESTON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT ELECTION WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016**

Notice is given that on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Weston County Hospital District will hold an election to fill three (3) Weston County Hospital District Trustee Positions, each for a four (4) year term.

The filing period for these positions is from February 3, 2016 through February 23, 2016. Applications for a Weston County Hospital District Trustee position are available at 1124 Washington Blvd., Newcastle, Wyoming, 82701 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or online @ HYPERLINK "http://www.wchs-wy.org" www.wchs-wy.org. Weston County Hospital District Secretary, Georgenna Materi, is the filing officer.

(Publish January 14 and 21, 2016)

**Gwamma** by JaNel M. Farnsworth @



**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF CONTRACTOR'S SETTLEMENT WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 STATE OF WYOMING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 22nd of February, 2016, final settlement will be made by Weston County School District No. 1 of Newcastle, WY for and on account of the contract of Van Ewing Construction for the WCSD No. 1 EIFS Replacements and that any person, co-partnership, association or corporation who has an unpaid claim against said Van Ewing Construction for or on account of the furnishing of labor, materials, team hire, sustenance, provision, provender or other suppliers used or consumed by such Contractor or any of the subcontractors in or about the performance of said work, may at any time upon to and including said time of such final settlement on said 22nd of February, 2016 file a verified statement of the amount due and unpaid on account of such claim with the

Weston County School District No. 1  
116 Casper Avenue  
Newcastle, WY 82701

Failure on the part of a claimant to file such statement prior to such final settlement will relieve said Weston County School District No. 1 from all and any liability for such claimant's claim.

Name of Owner  
Weston County School District No. 1  
By: Greg Gregory  
Maintenance Director

(Publish January 14, 21 and 28, 2016)

**Fun and Games**

**SUPER BOWL**

**ACROSS**

1. October stones
6. "The \_\_\_\_\_ bone's connected to the back bone"
9. Show appreciation
13. Set to zero
14. Down Under bird
15. James Blunt's "\_\_\_\_\_ Beautiful"
16. Actor Owen
17. Credit card rate
18. Bone-chilling
19. To begin with
21. \*NFL Commissioner
23. Doh, re, mi, fa, \_\_\_\_\_, la, ti, doh
24. Beacon light
25. Actors' group
28. First name in jeans
30. Russian grandmaster
35. Heidi's shoe
37. Bulgarian money
39. Actress Watts
40. Indian music
41. 100 centimes
43. \*Teams have an offensive and defensive one for the game
44. Frenchman's love
46. Charlie "Bird" Parker's sax
47. Pop group "N \_\_\_\_\_"
48. \*Like Super Bowl 50
50. Virginia Institute of Marine Science
52. Epitome of easiness
53. Margarita fruit
55. Throw one under it?
57. \*Expensive big game purchase
61. \*Three-time Super Bowl MVP
65. Some are bright
66. Chain letters
68. Defier
69. Mr. Ed's remark
70. Young newt
71. Do like phoenix
72. Sunbathes
73. High or low card
74. "The Second Coming" poet

**DOWN**

1. Black and white "killer"
2. Fox coat, e.g.
3. "Clueless" catch phrase
4. \*Played this year at \_\_\_\_\_ Stadium
5. End of "cholesterol"
6. Asia's "\_\_\_\_\_ of the Moment"
7. Rascal
8. Rid of impurities
9. Like most U.S. campuses
10. A siren's song, e.g.
11. Seed cover
12. Banana skin
15. Beefeater
20. Elf perch
22. Acorn producer
24. Mollusks with two shells hinged together
25. Scrawny one
26. Remember this battle
27. "Taras Bulba" author
29. Wang or Bradley
31. \*Walter Payton does it in "The Super Bowl Shuffle"
32. Tissue growth
33. Yemeni neighbor
34. \*Given name of man the trophy is named after
36. Cheap trinket
38. Not in favor
42. Fast food option
45. Dog stand staple
49. Jodie Foster's '08 movie "\_\_\_\_\_s Island"
51. \*Game day
54. Mythological princess of

**Colchis**

56. Fixed look
57. Not a word?
58. One of #65 Across
59. Bit attachment
60. Links to a posted photo

**61. First one on a ship**

62. Pavarotti's song
63. Hitler's Eagle's \_\_\_\_\_
64. Aphrodite's lover
67. \*Represented last year by Seahawks

**CROSSWORD**

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72						73				74			

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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**

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1	3	6	2	9	5	8	4	7
8	5	4	3	7	1	9	6	2

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**Self-Help**

ALANON (Help for family & friends of alcoholics) meets every Monday night at 7 p.m. Mondell Heights.

HELPING HANDS FOUNDATION OF WESTON COUNTY. Applications are now available for help. Please contact Glenna at (307) 468-

2316 or Marion (307) 746-2928.

Veterans Outreach & Advocacy Program (Wyo.Dept. of Health/BHD). OEF/OIF veterans eligibility, (307) 630-3230. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting every Thursday morning at the Weston County Senior Center. Contact Ellen Butts, 746-4251.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting on Tuesday at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact Joyce Brown 746-3696.

SAFE RIDE, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays only from 4 p.m.-2:30 a.m. Donations accepted. There is an account at Pinnacle Bank for donations as well. Call 629-1682.

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# Heating Up

*Pool participation growing in response to changes*



The Kozisek Aquatic Center is drawing consistently larger crowds, thanks largely to additional recreation opportunities that are being offered, and a recent effort to increase pool temperatures to make the experience more comfortable for young and old alike. (Sierra LaCroix/NLJ)

**Abby Gray**  
NLJ Reporter

For the past four and a half years, Kathy Beehler has done an outstanding job of making the Kozisek Aquatic Center enjoyable for both children and adults, and this year has been no exception, with her tremendous dedication to making the pool a better place for all of its users.

Water aerobics at the local swimming pool has been making an appearance for the past couple of months, but the program has never been as booming as it is now. The sessions take place Monday through Friday, from 5:30-6:30 pm, and the courses only cost a dollar for each session for anyone interested in participating.

For those who might feel as if they do not know what they are doing, have no fear. Water aerobics are led by Sierra LaCroix on Mondays, Jenna Piper on Tuesdays, Candi Stanton on Wednesdays, and Kathy Beehler on Thursdays, all of whom have a firm grasp of the activity and the manner in which to produce the best results for its participants.

There is no instructor to lead the class on Fridays, however all of the facility's lifeguards are willing to supply a comprehensive list of exercises that can be performed without an

instructor. Although there is lap swim occurring at the same time as aerobics, there is plenty of room for anyone to hop into the pool and get a good workout, without putting too much strain on his or her body.

Beehler reports that upwards of 10 people a night have been in the pool making themselves healthier, and it is never too late to join the fun!

In the past few weeks, many people have wandered into the facility asking questions regarding the weight room, and Beehler was ecstatic to announce that the weight room in the Kozisek Aquatic Center will now be available in the evenings for anyone 18 years or older. The manager of the facility has high hopes regarding the success of this recent addition.

"It will help us create more interest from parents who want to come work out while their children go and swim for a while," Beehler reasoned.

The use of the weight room will be handled just like the pool, as anyone interested in working out will simply sign in at the front desk, and pay two dollars to use the machines that are available. Passes are still applicable for the weight room, and additional monthly passes solely for the weight room can be purchased as well, making the situation much easier for

any interested individuals. A lifeguard will be present at all times in order to assist those who may not be familiar with all of the equipment offered.

With this new feature, Beehler and company expect to see many more faces at the local swimming pool.

Perhaps most exciting to facility users is Beehler's announcement that the temperature of the pool will be warmer than they've grown accustomed to. Beehler said she is aware that the pool has been on the cold side for the past couple of years, and she has taken it upon herself to fix the problem. She has advocated for the pool to be warmer, and is putting a tremendous amount of effort into making it even more enjoyable.

"We have increased the pool temperatures, and I am hoping to increase it a little bit more. Our pool is right around 84 degrees, and I'm gathering other pool's temperatures in hopes to notch ours up a couple degrees more," she revealed.

The rising pool temperatures have already made a major impact on the number of swimmers each night. Beehler said that before the recent change, there were about four or five people who came to swim. In recent weeks,

that number has skyrocketed to around 10 to 15 swimmers each night, and even more on the weekends.

Frequent lap swimmer Sierra LaCroix noted that the temperature change is obvious.

"Normally it takes me about a 100 (meters) to feel comfortable in there. Now, I get in and instantly feel pretty warm," she professed.

Beehler stressed that it is extremely important for people to come swim, stating that it is great exercise for children and adults alike, even though it does not feel so strenuous on the body. The local Community Activities Director, Jessica Bettorf, also chimed in on the matter.

"I think it is a great opportunity for people to get out and try something they have never done before. Swimming is great exercise, and it is fun for family time. All the way around, I think it is a great facility," she agreed.

The recent improvements to the Kozisek Aquatic Center have come from a lot of hard work and dedication on Beehler's part, and she believes she is beginning to see those efforts pay off. Community members have been more frequent in their visits to the facility, whether it be the weight room, water aerobics, birthday parties, or simply open swim, and she said there is no sign of that slowing down.

## Rec Director pitches adult open gyms

**Todd Bennington**  
NLJ Reporter

When the City of Newcastle and the Eastern Weston County Recreation Board (made up of members of the Weston County School District #1 Board of Trustees) created a position for a Community Recreation Director, officials from both entities said their primary motivation was a desire to increase usage of existing facilities in and around Newcastle.

The person hired to fill that position told the school board at their meeting last week that she is eager to make the district's gymnasium's more available

for community use by holding adult open gyms, and later in the evening that group, acting as the Rec Board, set the admittance fee for the planned open gyms to be held at WCSD #1 facilities at a dollar per person.

That vote, and the agreed upon fee, came at the recommendation of Bettorf, who proposed the nominal fee at the January 13 meeting as a means of paying for an employee to supervise open gym sessions.

Bettorf told the board the money, which would be collected at the door, would go into the activity account from which the gym supervisor would then be paid.

"I think that makes perfect sense. I think a dollar is reasonable," said Rec Board Member Bob Bonnar, noting the same amount is charged for use of the Kozisek Aquatic Center pool. "We've got a rec fund that can see this."

Board Member Joe Corley questioned whether an existing pass for use of the pool should include admittance to open gym sessions as well.

Bonnar opined that he believes it should, though rates, he said, might have to be adjusted in the future if expenses weren't being met.

"I would say that pass is a pass for the open gyms as well. We're motivated to increase usage of these

things," said Bonnar.

In response to a question from Rec Board Chair Tina Chick about a pass allowing for use of both the weight room and pool, Bonnar said he believes the city, hospital, and refinery have been offering their employees such a pass.

"That option has been available. Those are just the only entities that have taken it to this point," he elaborated.

Board Member Tom Wright, who contended it is the duty of the rec board to determine prices and not that of the rec director, suggested that the one-dollar open gym fee be set immediately but that Bettorf be tasked

with exploring some options for yearly or seasonal facility passes.

Contrary to Bonnar, Wright said he didn't believe the pool pass should automatically extend to open gyms, citing how money is currently distributed for maintenance purposes.

Bettorf clarified for the board that the open gyms she has planned will for the time being be for adults over the age of 18, but that she hopes to be able to offer family and youth open gym options eventually.

The motion to set the one-dollar fee was made by Wright and seconded by Bonnar. It was passed by the board unanimously.

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