



News Letter Journal

Weston County

November 14, 2013

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 127 Week 46

Disposal of medical waste easier

By Denice Pisciotti of NLJ

Law Enforcement agencies in recent years have become dedicated to helping with the disposal of prescription drugs, to prevent potential contamination and misuse, and through those efforts Newcastle

Police Department, in conjunction with Weston County Sheriff's Office, now have a MedReturn Drug Collection Unit available all hours of every day at the Weston County Law Enforcement Center.

"One of the major problems in our country right now is the diversion

of prescription drugs. It's as big of a problem as the contraband type drug," reported Newcastle Police Department Chief of Police Jim Owens.

Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police sponsored the installment of the MedReturn box that currently resides in the lobby of

the Law Enforcement Center. NPD monitors the box with certain security requirements, because of its contents, such as video surveillance.

"We have to maintain the box, we have to track everything that goes into the box. There is a set procedure. I am the only one that can open the

box. When I open the box, the bag that is inside, I have to seal it immediately and weigh it. Then I have to track what I have as far as weight for the prescription drugs because we are tying it into the National Drug Take

— See Disposal, Page 7

Prairie dogs under debate

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

In what would prove to be a contentious meeting, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Tom Whitford went before the Weston County Commissioners last Tuesday to give them a preview of a public presentation he is scheduled to give in regard to proposed amendments to the 2009 Prairie Dog Management Strategy. The 2009 management strategy is itself an amendment to the Thunder Basin National Grassland Land and Resource Management Plan of 2001.

The presentation, which is scheduled to take place Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the USDA Hell Canyon Ranger District Office in Newcastle, will give the public opportunity to provide written and spoken comment on the proposed changes. Similar events are also scheduled to take place in Douglas, Wright and Cheyenne.

According to Whitford, the amendment proposal consists of changes sought by the State of Wyoming, with several additions developed by the Forest Service. The proposal centers on the following, reproduced verbatim from Whitford's slides:

- Establish ¼ mile buffer around all private and state land within and adjacent to Category 1 and 2 colonies to control prairie dogs

— See Prairie Dogs, Page 3

County supports Rare Earth

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

At their Tuesday, Nov. 5, meeting, the Weston County Board of Commissioners opted not to vote on a resolution in support of Rare Element Resources but instead drafted a letter of support urging a timely resolution to the permitting process the company is currently undergoing.

The letter, addressed to the U.S. Forest Service, reads in part, "we are anxious to minimize the time to negotiate each hurdle RER must clear in order to pursue their investment of time and money in our area ... Accordingly, we are asking that

— See RER, Page 3

"I can't help my kid, but I am helping somebody else's ... it was good to hear, it makes me smile just thinking about it."

— Brandon Hermes

Changing lives ... one human at a time

By Denice Pisciotti of NLJ

When the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., occurred nearly a year ago, individuals all across the United States wanted to reach out to help the community in any way they could. Surprisingly, though, it was Nutmeg — a yellow Labrador mix with bright eyes and floppy ears — that had the privilege of comforting children at the elementary school in Connecticut on their first day of the 2013-2014 school year. The dog's ability to make people feel good about themselves, though, can be traced back to a year earlier, right in Weston County.

After being relinquished to the Weston County Humane Society, Nutmeg lived in a foster home with Dianna and Jared Williams because the shelter was full. She lived there until she was placed in Project LOVED at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp on Oct. 7, 2012, explained Neela Beardsley manager of the Humane Society.

Inmate Brandon Hermes was the dog's primary trainer at WHCC. Nutmeg, or Kita as she was known then, was quite a handful he recalled, getting into everything. She was quick to learn though, and enjoyed doing what she was asked. The training proved to be just as enjoyable and rewarding for Hermes as it was for the lab. The inmate said he had never owned a dog before he became a primary caregiver in Project LOVED, but he joined the program because he wanted to change.

"I came into the program with, I would say, an attitude of 'I don't care,' so this has put heart back in me," he admitted. "This program to me is probably the best thing the Department of Corrections has ever offered."

Hermes also admitted to the News Letter Journal he had a germ phobia, but working with dogs has relaxed his fear. Caring for the dog is a 24/7 job at the Honor Camp, so for handlers their entire schedule revolves around the canines, reported the inmate. Taking them outside, exercising them, and giving attention and time to the dogs is important, he noted.



Photo courtesy of Lori Ratchelous

Nutmeg, formerly known as Kita, was a rescue dog at Weston County Humane Society before becoming a therapy dog whose duties included greeting children at Sandy Hook Elementary.

In the program there are also different roles. Primaries are the main caregiver to train the animals, the secondary handler is next in line and then there are also babysitters who watch the animals while the others go to places in the camp where the dogs are not allowed. He feels lucky to have a job in the computer lab at the camp that allows him to take a dog with him.

"They try to get everybody to rotate with the dogs so they become socialized with everybody. And everybody has a different technique of teaching, too, so they all learn something different from everybody," added the trainer.

Working with the dogs has not only influenced Hermes but other inmates involved in the program as well. Having someone else to care for has brought many of them out of their shell, helping them become more social.

"Having a dog is like having a best friend in here because you have someone to talk to. Their love is unconditional," Hermes smiled.

Every Thursday evening, Beardsley visits the camp to assist the inmates in training the canines. The dogs go through obstacles, consisting of a tire, a two-by-eight, rail road ties and a teeter totter. Everyone associated with Project LOVED participates in the designated area.

"It's a good program. I like it. I don't care what kind of a day I have had, a dog will always make me smile, make me laugh and bring me out of a bad mood. There ain't nothing better here than the dog program. The rules we have up here, if we get in trouble we get kicked out of the dog program — the deterrent is the dog program. I don't care what anybody does you ain't going to get me to do anything wrong because I appreciate the dog program, what it stands for and what it does for me and for other people," Hermes said earnestly.

What Nutmeg learned at the Honor Camp helped her when she went into the Freedom Service Program, a short two months after she met Hermes. On Dec. 14, 2012, the dog went to the Freedom Service Dog Program, a non-profit organization that rescues dogs and trains them for individual client needs. After graduating, she went to live with Lori Ratchelous, a social worker in Cheshire, Conn., where Kita became Nutmeg, the therapy dog who would work with students at Sandy Hook in August.

Ratchelous told the News Letter Journal that Nutmeg has a couple of different jobs with the general assisted therapy practice where she is

— See Nutmeg, Page 8

City, county hold off funding FOCUS

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

After meeting with recently hired interim director Donna Howard last Monday and Tuesday respectively, city and county officials opted to withhold funding from FOCUS (Foundation for Caring, Understanding, and Services) for the time being.

The FOCUS agency, which seeks to provide a host of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, has experienced a troubled recent history marked by a high turnover rate and alleged conflicts among board members and staff.

Howard, who began work with the agency on Sept. 25, and who is at present its only employee, explained to Newcastle City Council members and Weston County Commissioners that calls to the agency are currently

being forwarded to a cell phone she carries and that she is taking steps with FOCUS board members to revamp the agency.

"The board is working on an action plan I presented to them and that they adopted at their last board meeting," she told the city council. "It's a foundation-building action plan. It starts at the very bottom, making sure that we review everything from the ground up. The first step was reviewing the board member process ... There are positions on the board available for persons to come apply. We've extended that to the community. At this point, we haven't had anyone come forward to [express interest]."

Howard further explained that she hopes to see the FOCUS board grow to at least seven members, with a

maximum of nine possible, and that she predicts it will take about three months before a full-time executive director is hired and in place.

Howard, who is currently limited by the board to working 30 hours per week and who maintains a full-time job elsewhere as director of Crook County Senior Services, said she was hired for her experience with helping such troubled programs right themselves. She further explained that, though hampered by dwindling funds, she has provided services to five "clients" since she started in September, and a job description for the executive director position and discussion of the agency's bylaws will be on the agenda for the upcoming FOCUS meeting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Though they expressed appreciation for Howard's efforts, city council

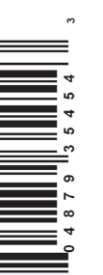
members were united in expressing a lack of confidence in the organization as it has existed for some time.

"I am very uncomfortable making a recommendation to release any allocated funds until I see some pretty good evidence that this program is fully functional ... and that we have buried a lot of the problems, rumors and otherwise, that have been plaguing this organization for many, many years," mayor Greg James told Howard. "I don't think it would be in good faith with the public to release those funds until we have something fully functional."

City attorney Jim Peck and police chief Jim Owens were also critical of Howard for having not made better contact with law enforcement

— See FOCUS, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi 44, Lo 27	Friday Sunny Hi 43 Lo 27	Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 43 Lo 238	Sunday Snow/Wind Hi 31, Lo 15	Monday Sunny Hi 39, Lo 21	Tuesday Mostly Sunny Hi 42, Lo 25	Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi 40 Lo 28	INSIDE: • Sentence, Page 3 • Pilot, Page 6 • Tested, Page 8 • Coach, Page 9



Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

FOCUS needs new leadership

The Newcastle City Council and Weston County Commissioners were right to withhold funding from FOCUS until the organization can clearly demonstrate that the public resources expended to support the agency are being properly utilized, and that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are getting the services FOCUS was created to provide.

Interim Director Donna Howard appears sincere in her desire to bring direction to the organization, but as the *interim* title clearly indicates, her presence alone can't provide the kind of long-term assurances elected officials should require before again committing to fund the organization with public dollars.

The problems associated with FOCUS— funds unaccounted for, a high rate of turnover among board members and employees alike, and an unwillingness to operate the agency with any degree of public transparency whatsoever— have existed for well over a year.

That clearly indicates those problems are the result of poor leadership on the part of two or three board members who have been responsible for representing the community and governing the organization for the past year or more, and are ultimately the responsibility of the person who has presided over that board for the duration of its recent troubles.

For that reason, we believe that in order for the community to renew its partnership with FOCUS with any degree of confidence, Board Chair Milinda Wineteer must resign from the board immediately. We also suggest that the person who replaces her as chair should be one of the board's newest members. Those who have been on the board for any longer than the past few months are, quite frankly, too invested in the current— and obviously dysfunctional— pattern of leadership, and it is unlikely they could manage the organization without repeating the mistakes of the past.

Proof of that lies in the fact that the board — on which the longest-serving members all hold leadership positions — continually refuses to comment publicly on the agency or its operation. To make matters worse, that leadership continues to claim that "inaccuracies" and "misinformation," are responsible for the poor public perception of FOCUS. At the same time, they offer no specific examples of misinformation or inaccuracies, electing instead to offer no information at all.

This newspaper has attended a number of recent meetings of the FOCUS board in an effort to provide a clear and accurate picture of the operation, but has been thwarted in those attempts by improper closed sessions or carefully scripted actions that involved motions being made, seconded and unanimously approved without any discussion or explanation at all.

Although information pertaining to victims served by FOCUS is rightfully confidential, these discussions have pertained to the operation of the agency, and not to any specific victims. As such, any effort to prevent the public from witnessing those discussions is being undertaken for no other reason than to protect the reputations of board members by misleading residents — through omission — about the health of the organization and the manner in which it is being managed.

We've attempted a number of times over the past several months to meet individually with the board chair to discuss the situation and gain a greater understanding of the problems confronting FOCUS, but Wineteer recently called to inform the News Letter Journal that she would not be able to attend a meeting that had been scheduled because a private attorney had advised her not to speak with the media at all. If she can't speak to the media — and by extension the community — about the public agency she is supposed to lead, Wineteer has no business representing the taxpayers of Weston County on the board of that agency.

We believe every member of the FOCUS board truly desires that the organization provide the best level of service possible to victims, but it is time for Wineteer and those who occupied positions of authority with the agency throughout its recent slide to take responsibility for the role they've played in that slide and step aside so others can move forward.

We are confident that when such resignations take place, individuals who have expressed concern over leadership at FOCUS will be more than willing to assume vacant positions on the board and ensure that victims get the services they need.

Letters to the Editor

Voters should think about experience

Dear Editor,

Liz Cheney said she is running because Mike Enzi is not conservative enough. He rates near the top, so how conservative should he be? Only a radical Tea Party individual would be more conservative and we don't want that. Mike is also criticized for his compromises. This country was built by compromise. The writing of the Constitution was an exercise in compromise. The Democratic Senate and the President are perfect examples of no compromise.

The question is asked, what Mike has done in the Senate. The truth is he has more than 30 bills signed by a president.

There are probably few senators who can match that. He has numerous proposals related to health care including insurance across state lines, tort reform issues, making government employees subject to public health regulations.

Another common expression is "get rid of all of them and start over." Can anyone imagine what a mess that would be? Think of your local city council if they had to start over with completely new people. It is very difficult to find good people who are willing to dedicate a few years to running our government. There are already too many incompetent ones.

Fox recently rebroadcast clips of Mike's senate speeches from 2010 in which he predicted precisely what would happen if the ACA were enacted. He was 100 percent correct. That is because Mike is one of the few people who read the bills before he votes on them. He understands the consequences of what laws do and this understanding comes from experience.

Wyoming is fortunate to have the representatives we do, but it is difficult to find competent people to run for these jobs. The organization requires years of participation before any power is acquired. Mike has attained a level which few office holders reach. Some people reach the level of power, but do not have the knowledge to use it. Mike does have that knowledge and he uses

it wisely. He is not one of the publicity seekers who is continually in front of the TV cameras.

—Don Thorson

Quality of life and the comforts of home

Dear Editor,

Over the next few weeks, you will be seeing personal testimonials from Lifeline users in our area and how important Lifeline is to them and their families. That is why we conduct an annual fundraiser called the Tree of Love to help those on limited incomes who live alone or need a Lifeline. Lifeline has been a valuable community service that saves lives and helps maintain independence since the 1980's. With Lifeline, living alone doesn't have to be scary anymore.

The "Tree of Love" symbolizes a spirit of charity, as well as the memories that binds family and friends together. The holidays are a wonderful time to think of others. With your donation

made in memory or honor of your loved ones, Lifeline is made possible for those who need it the most.

Here's how it works.

The Tree of Love will be on display at the Court House lobby. For a \$25 donation an angel is placed on the "Tree of Love" in memory or honor of your loved one. You and your loved one's name will be placed in a commemorative newspaper ad December 25, and the angel will be yours to keep for years to come.

Simply print your loved one's name on a piece of paper, indicate whether it is in "Memory" or "Honor," and mail your check to Lifeline Tree of Love 1124 Washington Blvd, Newcastle, WY 82701, or stop by our office at 725 Washington Blvd. in the Plaza. That's all there is to it!

For further information, please call 307-746-3553.

But please hurry, the December 20th deadline is fast approaching.

On the behalf of all our Lifeline subscribers past, present and future ... thank you and Happy Holidays.

—Brenda Costello and
LeAnn Kenagy
WCHS Philips Lifeline



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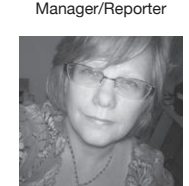
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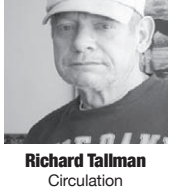
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Why

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

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The failures of welfare call for reform

Out West, we take care of those in need that surround us. Many of us take joy in such actions. Over the course of the past century Americans have instilled their caring nature into our welfare programs. Unfortunately, many of the programs in existence today were hastily created when the country was in great financial distress. These programs were quite helpful and useful, but over the years they have become more cumbersome to the public.

Many of these programs are in need of reform for them to be useful in the 21st century, and to be successful in this time of recession. The welfare system is so flawed that it does more to harm lower-class Americans than it does to help them.

One of the first flaws that I see in the welfare system is that the regulations are too lenient. Applying for welfare is a pretty simple process, and basically anyone with some form of financial trouble can receive federal assistance. Since the requirements for welfare are relatively simple, there are large amounts of people in the system. Moreover, some of these people are not in severe enough financial situations. Many of them have just hit a rough patch, or some have put themselves in an impoverished situation because of poor life choices and habits. Due to such situations, I believe that the welfare system needs to have stricter requirements and regulations to reduce the public dependency on the welfare system

and to also save taxpayers' dollars.

I also believe that the welfare system was poorly designed because it is hard for individuals to get back on their own feet after relying heavily on welfare. Taxpayers pay a certain amount of money into these programs, and since there are so many people on welfare, the money that is put into the system is spread thin across the spectrum of all welfare recipients. That means those that are in great need get just enough to scrape by, but not enough to truly get out of financial crisis.

All that welfare is doing is putting gum on a cracking dam, and it has now become a lifestyle for some people and a perpetual crutch when it should be a stepping stone.

Welfare was first designed to temporarily help those in need and to help them improve their own situations, but due to how it is operated now, welfare unintentionally discourages its recipients to improve their circumstances.

There are many welfare participants that fall in between the requirements of whether they qualify for welfare or not, and since these recipients fall so closely between the lines they could lose their government financial aid if they earn more money. They could be earning less money with a raise than they did when they were on welfare. Due to this fact, many applicants do not strive to earn raises because they know they would be worse off financially.

The welfare system needs to recognize that those



Abigail Hutchinson
Little sisters know best

Newcastle resident sentenced

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Federal District Court Judge Scott W. Skavdahl sentenced Lori Ann Bair, 28, of Newcastle, to 33 months in prison on Nov. 5, according to a Department of Justice press release. Bair, whose sentence is scheduled to be followed by four years of supervised release, was convicted of the distribution of between 50 and 200 grams of methamphetamine, as well as conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute.

In order for her to stand trial, it was necessary to extradite Bair from Pennsylvania, where she had been arrested

in Union City, a town of approximately 3,000 in the northwest corner of that state. According to Bobby Proffitt of the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, the agent in charge of the case, the State of Wyoming is keen to seek extradition in cases where those wanted in connection with a crime have left the state.

"Some states, they issue felony warrants, and if you're not in the state or in an adjoining state, they don't want you back," he told the News Letter Journal on Friday. "Wyoming is typically pretty good about [following through in such instances.] We want

people to answer for their crimes."

"I haven't heard of a county in Wyoming [waiving prosecution in cases where the accused has left the state]," he continued. "I'm not saying that they couldn't, but [generally] they want their people to stand trial for what they've been accused of."

Proffitt told the News Letter that the Bair case was a part of a larger, ongoing investigation and that he was thus prevented from releasing further details. The crimes for which Bair was convicted took place in the Newcastle area between 2010 and 2011.

Prairie Dogs

from page 1.....

- Modify existing management tools to allow shooting and poisoning, including anticoagulants within the buffer
- Control should not be contingent on triggers (decision trees)
- Extend season of use on poisoning U.S. Forest Service additions:
- Correct East/West township reference error by combining categories 3 and 4 into a single category (Category 3)
- Delete the reference to 4.35 mile translocation distance outlined in former Wyoming Game and Fish policy (2004)
- Develop language to address how lands added through land acquisition/exchanges would be managed in relation to prairie dog management
- Eliminate designated control colonies, as identified in 2009 Prairie Dog Management Strategy

Upon listening to Whitford's presentation, the commissioners expressed ambivalence, however, about the proposed changes and voiced a number of concerns. Foremost among these is a fear that, over the long run, federal authorities will persist in trying to introduce the black-footed ferret into Weston County.

The black-footed ferret, mentioned by Whitford during his presentation, is an endangered species and natural predator of the black-tailed prairie dogs under Forest Service management. Government agencies and private ecological interest groups have endeavored to reintroduce the ferret in areas of Wyoming and a handful of other western states. Such introduction is dependent, however, on the presence of prairie dogs to provide food for the ferret.

"The Wyoming Game and Fish Department stated they were not interested and would not support ferret introduction here," chairman Lenard Seeley told Whitford, "and our county has a resolution stating we're not going to introduce black-footed ferret. Forest Service personnel have indicated to us that that is not on the burner. Why does that continue to be in this [presentation] and in fact emphasized? If in fact it is not going to be done ... why is it emphasized?"

"I can't answer that," Whitford replied. "I think that decision around black-footed ferrets is way above this [proposed amendment] decision ... By law we need to manage viable populations of [several other species] on the grassland currently. That's where our emphasis is, on those other species, and they actually require more habitat than the black-footed ferret."

Commissioner Tracy Hunt was blunt about his dissatisfaction with Whitford's answer, however. "After you cut all the crap, isn't where we're going with this a ferret," he asked.

"Could be," Whitford replied with seeming candor. "It's a very distinct possibility. The Thunder Basin National Grassland has one of the largest concentrations of black-tailed prairie dogs in the West, so that's why there is so much interest from nongovernmental organizations in this population."

The commissioners also voiced doubts about the potential effectiveness of the proposed quarter-of-a-mile buffer zone around private and state lands mentioned in the proposals.

"If in fact your proposal takes effect," Seeley asked, "what is your plan if that quarter-of-a-mile buffer doesn't keep prairie dogs off of [private and state lands]? Are you willing to expend the resources and the time to make that quarter-of-a-mile buffer work?"

"That's a good question," Whitford answered. "[The proposal] has gone to Washington [D.C.], and they've approved this thing, so, to me, that's a commitment."

Whitford went on to mention fencing as an effective, albeit expensive, option for curtailing prairie dog migration off of federal lands.

Again, though, Hunt was unsatisfied.

"The quarter-mile buffer zone is either an admission by the Forest Service and nongovernmental organizations ... that prairie dogs are detrimental and a burden to landowners ... or it's a token gesture offered up in negotiations knowing full well the quarter-mile buffer zone will have no effect ... If indeed this is a good faith effort to mitigate damage to landowners, it seems to

me there should be a fully fleshed out discussion of what happens in the event [it doesn't work]," Hunt stated.

"I agree, and I can guarantee that this is a good faith effort to try to minimize or eliminate the impacts on private land, or we wouldn't go forward with it," Whitford replied.

Whitford also faced difficult questions from rancher Bob Harshbarger, a longtime critic of the Forest Service's management of public grasslands, who sat in attendance at the meeting.

"I want to know which law requires you to manage for the black-footed ferret," Harshbarger asked. "I have not read any law, including the Endangered Species Act, that requires [you to manage for the black-footed ferret] ... I'm talking federal law. I do not think the National Forest Management Act [stipulates management for the black-footed ferret]."

"I can't tell you that the black-footed ferret is listed under [the National Forest Management Act]," Whitford replied. "I'll find out though ... There is a reason why it was included in that original land and resource management plan, [but] I can't tell you why off the top of my head."

"The reason it was put in there," Harshbarger replied back, "was that when they did the 2001 land and resource management plan ... it was the desire of the people who wrote that plan to put it in there. It's not required by law. Period."

Commissioner Marty Ertman was also unable to find, among the extensive documentation she had on hand, where it was mandated by law that the Forest Service manage the black-footed ferret. Whitford, though, insisted he would find out an answer to the question.

Not every exchange was a hostile one, however, and vice-chairman Jerry Shepperson told Whitford he had some sympathy for the position the Forest Service found itself in regarding prairie dog management.

"I can see where the Forest Service is walking a fine line ... because by even printing ['poison'] on a piece of paper it shows that you're contemplating having to control prairie dogs. The nongovernmental organizations on the other side of [the issue] would really like to have all of that gone," Shepperson said. "I just want to say that I understand and appreciate the position that puts you in. It's a thankless job. I wouldn't trade you."

"I've been asked by some to drop the word poison," Whitford said in reply, "but there is no other word."

Still, Shepperson made it resolutely clear where he and the other commissioners stand on the issue of prairie dog management.

"We [ranchers] have been stewards of the land that we lease or own ... Being able to look at your range land and identify the range-condition class that you are managing under and do your management objectives and management strategies to maintain that condition class [is of primary importance]," he expressed. "I'm sorry, but prairie dogs don't fit, because none of us are managing for short-grass prairie. We are managing for mid-grass because it's more productive. There is more forage available for livestock, which is what we sell."

"Therefore," Shepperson continued, "in addition to your social scientist, I would hope there is also an economist [at the public presentation on Nov. 19] who will take into account the socioeconomic ramifications of forcing us to manage land at a lower condition class ... I don't think that any of us ... are interested in guiding tours in the middle of the night so that a bunch of people ... can go look at black-footed ferrets."

For his part, Whitford, who agreed to meet with the commissioners again at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 19, said the Forest Service is keen to get public input on the proposals.

"We'll have a chunk of time [set aside for] open mic [at the public presentation], and then we'll have the poster sessions. We really want people to have written comment. We'll have comment sheets available, and we want people to put their thoughts down on paper there or submit them to us sometime [afterward]."

Information on submitting written comments on the proposals can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/mbr/landmanagement/projects>.

RER

from page 1.....

the [Forest Service] offer its full cooperation and uses all haste in the prudent completion of the permitting process so that RER can proceed to execute its sound business judgment."

Weston County's letter joins a resolution passed by the Town of Upton (Oct. 8) and a similar letter drafted by the City of Newcastle (Oct. 24) as demonstrations of support for

the RER project, which is set to include a mining facility in the Bear Lodge Mountains, approximately 10 miles southeast of Sundance, and a processing plant at the Upton Regional Industrial Site. The project is projected to bring a significant influx of jobs and money into the region. RER, however, is currently awaiting the commencement of an Environmental

Impact Statement study to be overseen by the Forest Service, a major element of the lengthy permitting process.

So-called rare earth elements are used in a variety of manufactured goods, particularly electronics, and have been designated by the federal government as critical to national security. China is currently the world's leading supplier.

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NOTICE

Weston County has the following positions available:

Weed & Pest Board **1 Position** **4 Yr. Term**
(Unexpired Term, expires in January 2017)
Weed & Pest Board applicants contact Weed & Pest District for forms.

Anyone wishing to submit an application may 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. Anyone wishing to apply may submit a written letter of interest. Letters need to be received by 4:30 p.m. on November 20, 2013. Weed and Pest applicants need to contact the Weed & Pest office for qualifications. This matter will be considered on November 21, 2013, at 10:15 a.m.

Weston County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.

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APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL

Persons interested in seeking to be appointed to the Council of the City of Newcastle should submit a letter of interest to the Council by mailing or submitting said letter in person at the City Hall office, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701 no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2013. **Applicant must be a resident and registered voter** of the City of Newcastle. Appointee will fill open council seat until 2014 election. Questions may be addressed to the City Office, M-F, 8a-5p, at (307) 746-3535.

Obituaries

ARTHUR GERALD MERCER

April 25, 1925–Nov. 2, 2013

Art Mercer, 88, long-time Weston County resident, died Nov. 2, 2013, at Weston County Health Services in Newcastle.

Arthur Gerald Mercer was born April 25, 1925, in Whiting, Iowa, the son of Gerald (Judd) and Gladys (Robinson) Mercer. He attended Whiting School, and upon graduation from high school enlisted in the U.S. Army. Mr. Mercer was a very patriotic citizen and was very proud of his military service to his country. He was a life-time member of the Wyoming American Legion. After his discharge he attended Iowa State University.

In 1955 Art made his move to Wyoming where he was employed as a sheet metal worker. He later worked for several years for Sioux Oil Company. His last years before his retirement were spent as an employee of The Townsend Company in the field and later in the office.

In 1980, he married Anna (Bock) Larson at Sundance. They made their home in Osage.


Mr. Mercer is survived by two step-daughters, Carla Ann Nunez of Riverton and Sandra Kay Simmons of Osage; as well as five granddaughters, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Also among his survivors are several cousins and numerous friends.

Mr. Mercer was preceded in death by his wife "Annie," his parents and a brother, Bruce.

Mr. Mercer's family says he enjoyed bowling, playing cards, traveling, hunting and reminiscing about the "old times," as well as all sports.


Memorial services are planned for Saturday, Nov. 16, at Osage Community Church at 11 a.m., with Pastor Zack Davis officiating. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle with military graveside rites.

Worden Funeral Directors of Newcastle have been entrusted with the arrangements.



Arthur Mercer

Birth



Saraya Paige Walker-Smith

Saraya Paige Walker-Smith, born to the proud parents of Ty Smith and Tiffany Walker on **September 13, 2013 at 6:06 a.m. at Spearfish Regional Medical Hospital. She weighed 5 pounds and was 18.25 inches long. Grandparents include J.R. and Lisa Smith of Newcastle and Travis Walker of Sturgis, SD. Great-grandparents include late Jack Walker and Paulette Walker of Sturgis, SD and Bob and Jody Gould of Newcastle and Helen Smith of Billings, MT. Great-great grandparents include Roy and Helen Kaiser.**

Send your notices of events, births, weddings, and engagements, to news@newsli.com

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- 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 Chris Walton, 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm
- CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 a.m.; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 p.m., Holy Eucharist. haydishall@hotmail.com
- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor John Hopper, 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 Meeting 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 5:00 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:** Pastor Lynn Schleicher, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service 5 pm, Christian Academy.
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Paul Holland, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Sunday School 8:45 am; Church Services 8 & 10 am; Nursery care available.
- 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. Sunday Worship 10 am; Wednesday Night Prayer.
- NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, meets at Black Gold Realty Building, 1517 W. Main, 746-5542. Sunday Worship 10 am.
- OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Gary Force, 78 Old Hwy 85, 746-3504 or 278-0254, Pastoral Assistant Jason Logan 746-2974. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:20 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. Sheree Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am; Children's Church & Nursery are available; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm.

"Can I touch God?" asked a little one. "Yes, my child; with every ray of sun That warms your feet as through the grass you run... You can touch God." Can I see God?" the tiny voice went on. "Yes, my child; with each morning's dawn As the birds in the heavens swoop and sail along... You can see God." "Can I hear God?" the little one then wondered. "Yes, you can; in every clap of thunder His voice rings out casting any doubt asunder... You can hear God." "Do I know God?" the innocent one mused. "Yes, my child; you need not be confused. For if your senses you will wisely use... You can know God."

Can I Touch God?

Weekly Scripture Reading

1 Chronicles 15:1-24	1 Chronicles 15:25-16:7	1 Chronicles 16:8-43	1 Chronicles 17:1-27	Revelation 4:1-11	Revelation 7:1-17	Revelation 14:1-20
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.
—Matthew 5:16

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WHAT'S UP

Meetings & Events Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Nov. 14	5:30 p.m.	City Planning Commission Mtg.	City Office
Nov. 15	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	Newcastle Chamber Banquet	W.C. Senior Center
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	FWV Hall
Nov. 16	9 a.m.	Osage Craft Fair	Kitty Moats
Nov. 17	9 a.m.	Osage Craft Fair	Kitty Moats
	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Nov. 18	7 p.m.	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
	7 p.m.	Square Dance Lessons	Newcastle Elementary
Nov. 19	9 a.m.	W.C. Commissioners Meeting	W.C. Courthouse
	Noon	W.C. Cowbells	Antler's
	1:30 p.m.	W.C. Board of Commissioners Mtg.	W.C. Courthouse
	6:30 p.m.	Jr Rodeo Open Meeting	Newcastle Country Club
	6:45 p.m.	ALANON (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
Nov. 20	9 a.m.	W.C. Senior Services Meeting	W.C. Senior Center
	Noon	Newcastle Lions Club	W.C. Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	W.C. Weed & Pest	Weed & Pest Office
	6 p.m.	W.C. Humane Society	Shelter
	6 p.m.	FOCUS Meeting	FOCUS Office
	6 p.m.	Newcastle Fall Guys Registration	NHS Commons
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Nov. 21	12:30 p.m.	Good Citizen Awards	NES
	6 p.m.	W.C. Health Services Meeting	W.C.H.S. Board Room
Nov. 22	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	FWV Hall

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. 13:
Jean Franz,
Bryan Gardner

Nov. 14:
Francie Goode,
Patricia Kachelhoffer

Nov. 15:
Bill Carson,
Marshall Rhoades,
Mr. & Mrs. Dusty Rhoades

Nov. 16:
Floyd Coolidge,
Vera Huber

Nov. 17:
Berry Peterson


Nov. 18:
Carolyn Shields

Nov. 19:
Marty Ertman,
Randy & Theresa Hershey,
Craig Ellis,
Renel Ellis

Nov. 20:
Joyce Jonasson

No Shame


Great Gain



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Newcastle, WY
746-4456



Open Meeting

for

Weston County Junior Rodeo

Tuesday, November 19

6:30 p.m. at Newcastle Country Club

Discussion, Rules, Events, Elections and By-laws
Make your vote count! Be there!

100 YEARS AGO - NOV. 13, 1913

Tonight at the Opera House Mr. Sanford Dodge and Miss Adelle Nickerson will appear in a unique entertainment consisting of four distinct plays.

A number of the young ladies of Newcastle will publicly entertain at a Library Round Robin tomorrow evening at the city hall. Married ladies are specially urged to see that their husbands accompany them, and unmarried ladies are expected to be accompanied by those who want, or ought, to be husbands. All are invited, and of course you will not forget the dime for the library.

C.A. Parker came down to the ranch by Iron Creek Saturday afternoon but returned to town Sunday again. He is helping Frank Young make and load car doors, or what is more commonly known as "grain doors."

John Pidgeon went to the Wild Cat bank for coal but found the ledges in such a dangerous shape that he drove on to Buck Creek where he got two loads of coal, but broke down on the way so reached home with only one.

We are informed that coal has been mined at the Wild Cat bank in such a way as to make the work dangerous and that men are risking their lives there. Large quantities of coal may be gotten there at no more risk than at ordinary farm work, but men who consider only their own wants go there and mine the coal, leaving ledges that make it very unsafe. The vein can and should be uncovered from the top and in that way the work will be left so that the next comer may work in safety and to greater advantage.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ora Mayberry of the Red Hills, twin boys. Congratulations

are extended to the parents. Jay C. Baird was confined to his home by illness the first half of the week, but expected to be at his desk today.

The stork failed to report to us last week about leaving a fine girl baby at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Wade on the 5th. Jim is now studying the latest fashions in feminine apparel.

75 YEARS - NOV. 10, 1938

The Bridge Betsy Club of Four Corners held its meeting Nov. 3rd at the home of Margaret Rawhouser. Ten members were present and visitors.

Mary Pedulla, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carmello Pedulla of the Prairie, was taken to Hot Springs Sunday night where she underwent an appendectomy.

Dave Crum and other boys who play football for the Spearfish Normal, visit at the E.Z. Crum home Sunday afternoon on their return from Denver where they played the St. Regis college team on Saturday.

Recent survey of the poultry situation in Weston County conducted by Wm. L. Chapman, county agricultural agent, indicated 2,58 turkeys will go to market from here.

The Newcastle and Gillette high school grid teams played a see-saw 0 to 0 tie Tuesday afternoon on the Gillette athletic field, to be one of the best football games played by the Dogies this season.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Adkins took their daughter, Mrs. Theda Waggoner, to a Hot Springs hospital on Friday evening. She was operated on Monday and is recovering satisfactorily.

Freida and Willis Hinz, of the Oil Creek Valley area, were social callers at Kline



home on Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McAllister of Longmont, Colo., arrived the first of the week to take charge of the pastorate at the Assembly of God church in Osage.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Eaton and Mrs. Louis Eaton and Joe Dornacher of the Elkhorn refinery were county seat callers Tuesday.

Osage Girl Scouts met Friday afternoon at the home of Captain Dodge with the following girls attending: Elinor Wilson, Doris Spargur, Elverta Updike, Mary Louise Henderson, Helne Sheehan and Gladys Kundy.

Mr. and Mrs. Baptiste Farrella and family went to Sheridan to attend the wedding of a nephew, Angelino Rottelini.

Mrs. W. Hurd, Mrs. Lloyd Schneider and daughter, Mrs. Vernon Hurd and Mrs. Bruce Blair motored to St. Onge to visit Mrs. Kinghorn, who is Mrs. Blair's mother and Mrs. Hurd's grandmother, and from there motored to Spearfish and had a five generation picture taken. Mrs. Kinghorn, Mrs. B. Blair, Mrs. Walter Hurd, Mrs. Lloyd Schneider and baby Bernice were the five generations.

50 YEARS AGO - NOV. 14, 1963

More than 100 persons attended the 4-H leaders banquet held last Saturday in Newcastle. The banquet was sponsored by the First State Bank of Newcastle. The Outstanding Leader Award was presented to Zola Sweet of the Beaver Creek 4-H club, who was also honored for her 10th year as a leader.

Mystic Club No. 11, Daughters of the Nile met at the home of Mrs. A.L. Schlaikjer. The members took toys to the meeting which will be sent to Crippled Children's Hospitals.

Wyoming's senior senator Gale McGee will be in Newcastle on Wednesday night for a special smorgasbord dinner to be held at Gully's Restaurant.

Bleachers have been installed in the band room for the choir members who have been using the band room due to a shortage of classrooms.

Mr. and Mrs. David Cellers and family spent last weekend camping in the Bear Lodge and hunted for turkey and deer. The Cellers' children were really happy as it was their first camp out.

Weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erick Berdahl were their daughter Nancy of Rapid City and their other daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. James Gustin of Cheyenne.

Lyle Benz, Emor Huskinson and Bill Klodt of Osage attended a safety meeting of the Rock Island Co. at Gillette Wednesday night of last week.

From the Vault of the Anna Miller Museum:

A circus parade makes its way down Newcastle's Main Street in the 1890s.



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Proceeds go to upkeep of Kitty Moats grounds & building
Call for more info, Cynthia @ 465-2340 or Bert @ 465-2375

Helping Hands of Weston County extends a special thank you to all the ladies that attended our Quilt Day on Saturday, November 2. We had a great time and by attending you are all helping out fellow citizens of Weston County. We also want to extend a special thank you to Barb Lebsack for your time and assistance in making this event another success.

Rare Element Resources

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For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Veteran recalls days with elite fighting unit

By Donna Gochanour for NLJ

We celebrated Veteran's Day this past week, and I had the privilege of interviewing a unique gentleman who served his country in World War II as a fighter pilot. Lt. Col. John Gaston is a neighbor of mine, a tall guy with a great smile who retired from the United States Air Force after 24 years of military life.

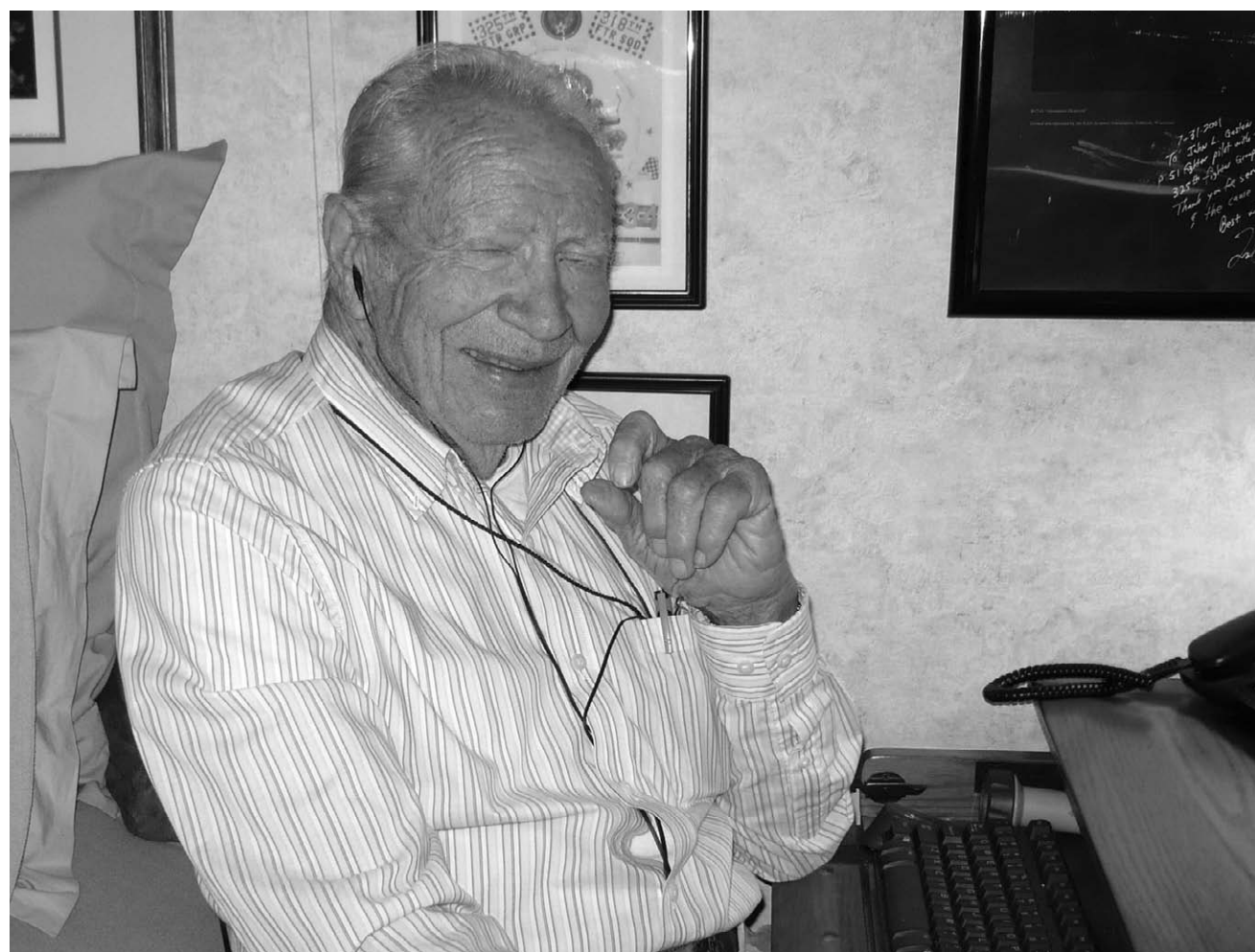
Raised on a farm in Kansas in the Dust Bowl days, he worked out in the fields and when he saw an airplane fly over, he would dream of flying. Gaston's first paying job after his schooling was over was as a gaudy dancer on the railroad. His wages went home to his family and in those tough times they were sorely needed. Then the war came along and he and thousands of others joined the Army, and with luck and determination he managed to get into flying.

He was just a kid when he enlisted on Nov. 1st of 1942, back when the Air Force was still part of the Army. It didn't become a separate branch of service until the late '40s, Gaston recalls. He was given early pilot training in a P-47, P-51 and C-124s.

Training at the beginning of the war was hard and fast, and soon he was aboard ship for Europe. Gaston had his 20th birthday on the troop carrier, an LST that took about three weeks to make the journey to Bizerte, on the northern coast of Tunisia, Africa.

When Rommel's Africa Corps was defeated, the mission there was completed and they were sent to Italy. Here, in the 318th Squadron, part of the 325th Fighter Group, they did fighter escort for bombers, and also destroyed critical rail lines, fuel depots and other strategic sites. Known as "The Checkertail Clan" and sporting a yellow and black checkerboard on the tail of every P-51, they gained a formidable reputation of excellence escorting bomber groups, awarded two Distinguished Unit Citations.

The P-51, with a shape modeled after a Brook trout, was fast and maneuverable and Gaston remarked that it was like being locked in the bathroom. He was tall, right at the height limitations for that aircraft, and he says that you had to "wear" the airplane. His daughter, Kathy, told me



Donna Gochanour/For NLJ

Military veteran John Gaston reflects on his many memories of service with the "Checkertails" of the 15th Air Group during World War II. In other photos, courtesy of his daughter Kathy, he is pictured at a Checkertail reunion, as a young fighter pilot, and being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.



that she sat in the cockpit of one and she could barely slide her hand down alongside of her seat to reach one of the control handles.

The 15th Army Air Force and the Checkertails became famous all over Europe. By that time, while still in Africa, they had also become known for flying 59 escort missions without a single loss from enemy attack. In Europe, Gaston became the first pilot to survive 50 missions and in 1944, General Nathan Twining pinned Gaston's Distinguished Flying Cross on him.

The Checkertails of the 15th Air Group was the highest scoring fighter group with 27 fighter aces and a record 201 enemy aircraft to their credit. When Gaston left the service in 1959, he left with Command Pilot Wings on his uniform.

"The best job I ever had," Gaston says.

In 1945, he was in instructor in Texas on the P-47, P-51, C-14, C-47 and carried an instructor's license with the Federal Aviation Administration for single engine aircraft, which he still has although it will expire soon. In 1947 he graduated from Meteorology school and became the chief weather briefer for the North American Air Defense Command — better known as NORAD — for three years in Colorado.

Later, after retirement from the military, Gaston became a corporate pilot, a job that wasn't as rewarding — but it was still flying and still paying a salary. He said he loves to fly but this was not nearly as enjoyable for him. He flew fairly regularly for 35 years and quit at the age of 57.

The Checkertails have a reunion every year and in 1981, at Tyndall Air Force Base, the 325th fighter weapons wing adopted the emblem,



awards and history of the famous Checkertail Clan. This group now lives on and Lt. Col. John Gaston is proud to have been a living part of the history of our country, and to have

served our country at a vital time in that history. He lives a quiet life with his daughter Kathy near Newcastle, surrounded by memorabilia of his amazing life.

'Lucky' lure landed me fish half my size

Summer time in Alaska is that magical time when you finally get to shed your parka and go outside in a T-shirt. It's also the time when you forget to go to bed until you suddenly realize that it's 2 a.m. and you have to go to work in three more hours.

You take a canoe out on a lake and paddle around and just admire water that isn't froze solid. You can hear airplanes flying night and day, and the sound of them just lulls you to sleep better; there's often no other way to travel up there and airplanes are as common as cars and trucks. And you go fishing.

For people not lucky enough to have an airplane to fly out to someplace remote to fish, there's not much choice but, even then, no self-respecting Alaskan would want to end up on the roadside

at some creek doing "combat fishing" if they could help it. It's that shoulder-to-shoulder stuff you find alongside every road in Alaska during the summer months, especially when the salmon are running.

Almost every local has a little spot someplace within walking distance that they can hike to. We used to walk back behind the community center and end up where Goose Creek dumped into the Susitna River. Even then, a lot of folks were already there, but it wasn't as bad. I usually never caught anything doing this but it was a nice walk.

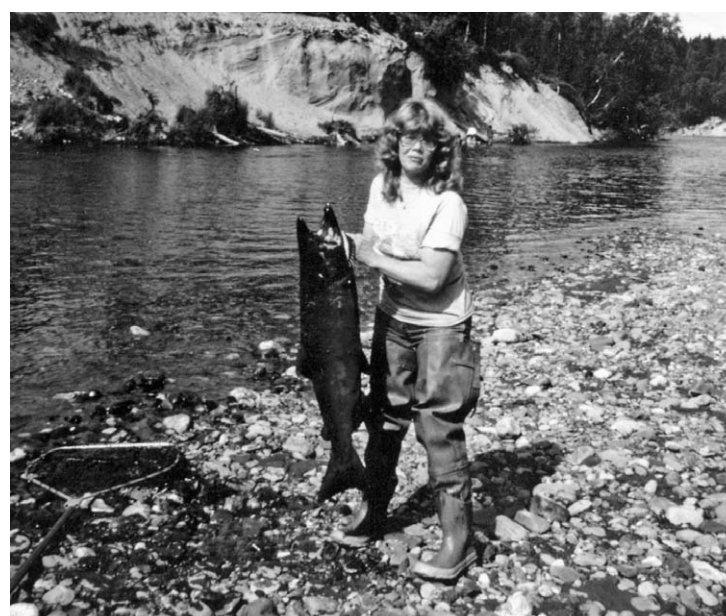
Once or twice though, I got a chance to go remote, and we had a wonderful site where Peter's Creek flowed into the Kahiltna River. It was a tricky plane landing. You landed on the fast-moving Kahiltna and swung around the point a bit up Peter's Creek and tied up at the riverbank. Timing had to

be really good!

We pitched a tent out there and slept there too. The guys built a smoker out of visqueen and branches, and we even canned our smoked salmon out there one year.

I took my mother out there once and brought her a little folding cot to sleep on. In the middle of the night, one set of the legs collapsed and she had her head down and her feet in the air and she was thrashing around, trying to get free of the sleeping bag and yelping and so on until we finally turned on the flashlight and I said, "Mother, what are you doing down there?" She never caught a fish but she had an Alaskan adventure that she could tell her friends about, back in Newcastle.

I caught the biggest fish ever on a "pre-owned" lure. Looking at the creek bottom I figured that I could get rich just picking fishing lures out of the creek and selling them to folks like me who had already lost all of their lures. But this



Donna Gochanour Photo

The look on the author's face reflects the struggle it was to land this 45-pound salmon — half her size!

one was a lucky one, and I got me a beautiful 45-pound salmon. He drug me through the water a little and my whole rear end was wet from sitting in the creek and digging my heels in, but somebody came

running with a net and I had him. I had a hard time holding him up for a picture — he was just about half as heavy as I was! That was truly an exhilarating experience and yes, I have the picture to prove it!



Donna Gochanour
I Remember When

Senior Calendar

- Weston County Senior Services**
 Nov. 14: Fancy Workers
 Nov. 15: Bridge Ladies 1 p.m.
 Nov. 16: Open Rec Room
 Nov. 19: Mexican Train 1:30 p.m.
 Nov. 20: Toenal Clinic 9 a.m.
 Nov. 21: Trip to The Lodge
 Nov. 22: Craft Fair
 Nov. 23: Craft Fair
 Nov. 25: United Fund Pie Auction
 Nov. 26: Mexican Train
 Nov. 27: Ceramics 1 p.m.
 Nov. 28: Closed for Thanksgiving

- Weston County Manor**
 Nov. 14: Manicures 2p.m.
 Nov. 15: Bingo 2 p.m.
 Nov. 16: Password 11 a.m.
 Nov. 19: Keepsake Krafters 2 p.m.
 Nov. 20: Kickball 10:30 a.m.
 Nov. 21: Al & the Gang, 2 p.m.
 Nov. 22: Movie 6 p.m.
 Nov. 23: Hangman 11 a.m.
 Nov. 25: Wii 10:30 a.m.
 Nov. 26: Yahtzee 6 p.m.
 Nov. 27: Bingo 2 p.m.
 Nov. 28: Parade 10 a.m.

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FOCUS

from page 1

during her month's tenure with FOCUS, and in response to Howard's expressed frustration with a state-wide delay in funding due to issues with the computerized IntelliGrants reimbursement system, Peck expressed skepticism that technical issues or administrative backlog were primarily to blame for funding problems at FOCUS.

"It's a goal of the state of Wyoming to have these family violence offices in every county," Peck said. "They want to have a victim witness coordinator in every county. My guess would be that if the state felt that the FOCUS office was overseeing staff correctly, was monitoring their books correctly, and was taking care of what they should have been doing for the past decade, then there would be no funding issues ... Of course we have the glitch in how it's being done, [but] this is not a question of a bunch of organizations competing for non-existent money ... There is money out there. It's federal money. It's state money. My office gets calls every year asking us to take over the grant for victims' services."

In response to questions from the council about the FOCUS budget, Howard painted a bleak picture of the agency's finances, saying that she is seeking the funds normally provided by the city as a stopgap measure to keep the organization afloat until the federal and state monies, which comprise the bulk of the organization's funding, can come through.

"As best as I can tell, and remember I'm just in the reviewing process, our budget is about \$112,000," she told the council, "and [in addition to that], there is local money, which would be city and county. There's fundraisers. We have some income property [from which we get rent.] So right now what FOCUS is working off of is that local money — the county money, the city money, fundraising money. We're just about out of all of that."

Asked by councilwoman Iva Carter how FOCUS is managing to pay rent and maintain its facility given its strapped finances, Howard responded, "There was some money in the checking account, and realistically we've paid the rent and bills for October. Come November and December, I'm not sure. If the reimbursement process doesn't start at the state level, we'll be in a bind, because those monies have already been expended. Past salaries have already been paid. I'm keeping track of my hours, but I'm not getting paid right now."

Ultimately, no action was taken by city council members, who had previously voted to withhold funding from the agency. Their view seemed to be summarized by councilman Roger Hesse, who advised Howard, "I would suggest that maybe you get your paperwork in order and come back so you can give us numbers ... I think it would be appropriate to bring a budget in ... and present it so we can ask questions about it intelligently, and you can answer them."

The following day, before the Weston

County Commissioners, Howard briefly recounted her experience before the city council the night before, saying she felt it had been a constructive one.

"I know I have a large task at hand," she told the commissioners of her mission to reorganize FOCUS. "There is a lot of misinformation out there. There is a lot of distrust of FOCUS. I am minimally aware of where I'm at with that. I went to the council meeting last night and got some really good insight. It was a little bit tough to do, but I got some good insight into some areas [with which I can move forward]."

The county commissioners, however, while expressing less open skepticism about FOCUS than the city council, pursued probing questions of their own. Asked by commissioner Randy Rossman what is at the root of the seemingly perennial issues with FOCUS, Howard could offer a response based only on past experience and intuition.

"I've only been gathering this information for a little over 30 days," she said. "My gut feeling tells me it's two major things: boundary issues, meaning that persons don't know what their responsibilities are — so an advocate, a board member, a staff member doesn't understand what it is they're supposed to be doing — and I also think it's a training issue. From best as I can tell — remember I have nobody, everybody's gone — but best as I can pick up, I think that the training was insufficient, and that crossed over into some of those boundary issues."

"Are you having any problem with the old, existing board members," Rossman continued.

"No, not a problem," Howard answered, "because when I first met with them they all said what was important to them is having FOCUS be successful. I think what will be challenging to them will be to make some changes. They have to take the personal out of it and make really good choices for the agency. I think that could be a challenge for them."

Addressing Howard, commissioner Marty Ertman sought to distill the county's relationship with FOCUS down to its essentials.

"I just want to state that our relationship with the FOCUS board is a monetary thing with a provider of service. What we expect is that you provide service," she said. "If we don't believe that has happened, then when you apply for the one-percent sales tax, we can deny that. So I would suggest that while we really have no governance over what you do ... It [would behoove you to keep] us up to date that you are providing a service, which didn't happen for the first quarter."

Commissioner Jerry Shepperson requested that FOCUS provide the county with a quarterly report, which Howard seemed to agree was reasonable. Later that afternoon the commissioners voted unanimously to withhold payment to FOCUS until such a time as they determine the agency to be fully functional.

Disposal

from page 1

Back Day and they will come in and pick up those for us once a year," revealed Owens.

Disposing of the drugs is expensive, the chief said, so they do not have a means to do it locally. The Drug Enforcement Administration ties the department into the National Drug Take Back Day, which allows them to dispose of the prescription drugs collected in Weston County. Owens reported that this year during the city's hazardous materials collection day they collected a large quantity of prescription drugs.

"We didn't participate in the National Drug Take Back Day because we participated in the city's Hazmat Day. So we have five and a half pounds of prescription drugs that we took back that day," he stated.

Owens said individuals can turn in prescription drugs no longer in use for themselves, or in some instances family members need to dispose of prescription drugs after a loved one has passed away. Whatever the case, they are accepted, no questions asked.

"The box is in the lobby, they don't have to go talk to dispatch. They can just come in, throw their stuff in. It is totally anonymous from the aspect that nobody has to sign anything, they just have to come throw it in the box. That is partially so people will in fact do it," he noted.

However because of the possibility of leakage, creams, lotions or liquids are not accepted and neither are sharps — meaning needles — because of the danger of someone getting poked.

There is a way of properly



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

The MedReturn box is located in the Weston County Law Enforcement Center, at 25 N. Sumner in Newcastle.

disposing of needles, however. Weston County Public Health Nurse Lori Bickford told the News Letter Journal her office has teamed up with Newcastle's city engineer, Bob Hartley, for a solution.

After filling a four-quart red Sharps container, available at Public Health for \$4.50, residents can take the container directly to the attendant

at the landfill who will put the container in a designated area. The service is free, but the containers must be given to the attendant and not left unattended.

"It is working beautiful! People are coming in and buying the containers and using them. It is a good way for the public to collect sharps in a safe process," Bickford said.

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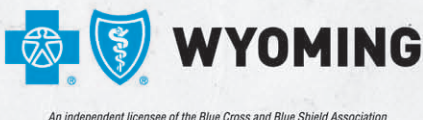
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Nutmeg from page 1

employed. The lab is gradually being worked into several different programs until her strong suits are known. She attends the Healing Hearts group at an alternative school for children on the autism spectrum.

"She also comes with me to work to see certain individual kids. She does really great doing that, she loves doing that!" proclaimed Ratchelous. "She is going to be great at doing this."

One of Nutmeg's strong suits is helping children who have difficulty emoting — often kids that are so shy it affects their daily life.

"She does amazing! She will actually pick up on that and sit in their lap," she recalled. "She will stare at them like she wants them to talk to her. The kids do great in that situation and she loves that."

Nutmeg has adjusted amazingly to her new home in Connecticut, the social worker acknowledged. She feels fortunate to be the one chosen to have the canine as a companion, since throughout her career she has wanted a therapy dog.

Nutmeg's duties, and her method of arriving in Ratchelous' care, were created by an ideal set of circumstances, the social worker indicated. She said she strongly believes in rescuing animals and the power of animals in therapy as well, so it has been the perfect opportunity for both her and the dog.

The children respond well to the yellow lab, Ratchelous reported. A woman at a recent therapy session explained how a particular student with ADHD does not sit in his chair, but with Nutmeg present he sat for 45 minutes in his chair.

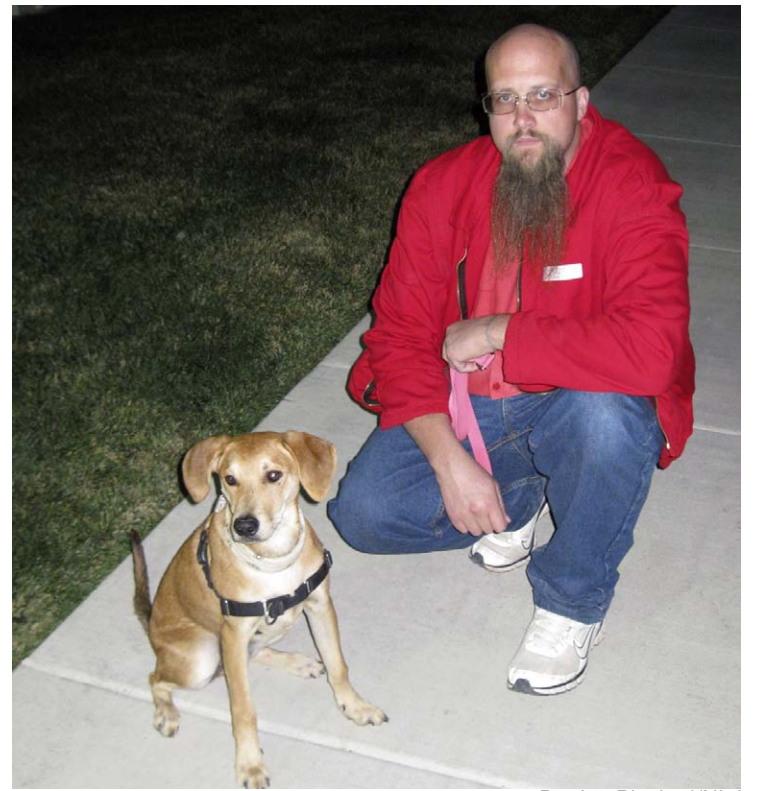
"Another child in the group never talks, never. He just opened up about pets he has had in the past and what he likes. It was amazing! These kids respond to this kind of therapy, they really do," she stated.

On the first day of school this year Nutmeg visited Newtown, meeting children, families and first responders that were all affected by the fatal shooting there last December.

"She was a doll! She was made for this job. I think every animal has a certain job, and this is her job," Ratchelous concluded. "I think that whole program is just amazing, for the dogs and for the people in that environment. I think it is just a win-win situation."

For Hermes, hearing of the lab's current accomplishments helping children was not only heart-warming, but offered deep satisfaction for his role in her training and development.

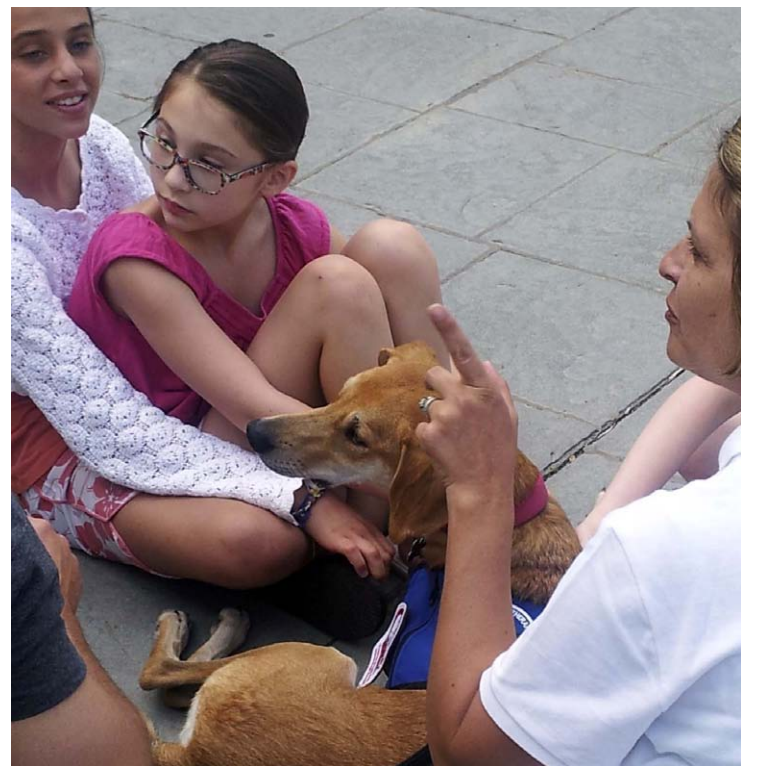
"For her to go to a school and help kids, that is a part of this program we don't think about. Through my course of getting into trouble this time I



Denice Piscioti/NLJ
Brandon Hermes with Kita, during the dog's training at Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp.



Photo courtesy of Lori Ratchelous
After training and a name change, Nutmeg now works with social worker Lori Ratchelous as a therapy dog. Below, she goes to work.



lost my parental rights to my kid. So that kind of touched home with me a little bit. I can't help my kid, but I am helping somebody else's," Hermes admitted. "So it was good to hear, it makes me smile just thinking about it."

Therapy dog makes the grade

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

For four years, Becklyn the Newcastle Middle School therapy dog, has enjoyed greeting, being loved by and encouraging students with her companion Eileen Vickers, the school counselor. Last month, Vickers and her husband Wayne accompanied Becklyn to Santa Rosa, Calif., to complete her Canine Companions for Independence recertification.

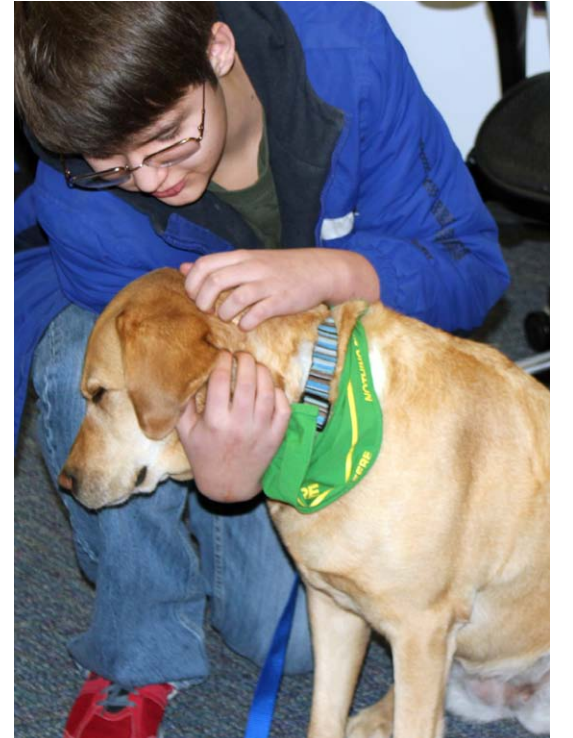
"She needs to get re-certified every three years; this was her second three-year certification. We flew last time but drove the long haul this year," explained Vickers.

The 6-year-old golden retriever-Labrador mix had to pass several tests to be re-certified, which includes several basic commands that demand patience and discipline. In one test, Becklyn was required to stay in place while Vickers walked away, waiting until the counselor called her. In another, Becklyn was required to resist food dropped in front of her. However, Vickers noted, the canine's biggest challenge to pass was a physical one, especially since the counselor's life had become busy and exercising had taken a back seat to their daily regimen.

"Her last vet visit she was overweight. We had been running and dieting to prepare," smiled Vickers. Fortunately Becklyn accomplished the goal of losing weight and getting back in shape.

The trip to California was not all work for neither human nor canine. At the Canine Companions Northwest Region facility Vickers described a fenced-in play area just for the four-legged visitors. Becklyn enjoyed interacting with the other dogs while they all waited to take their tests.

Vickers recalled how amazing it was to see about 25 service dogs, who had been trained not to be aggressive, happily playing with each



Denice Piscioti/NLJ
Tyler Tkaczyk enjoys visiting with Becklyn, the Newcastle Middle School therapy dog, on Wednesday, Oct. 30, before classes started.

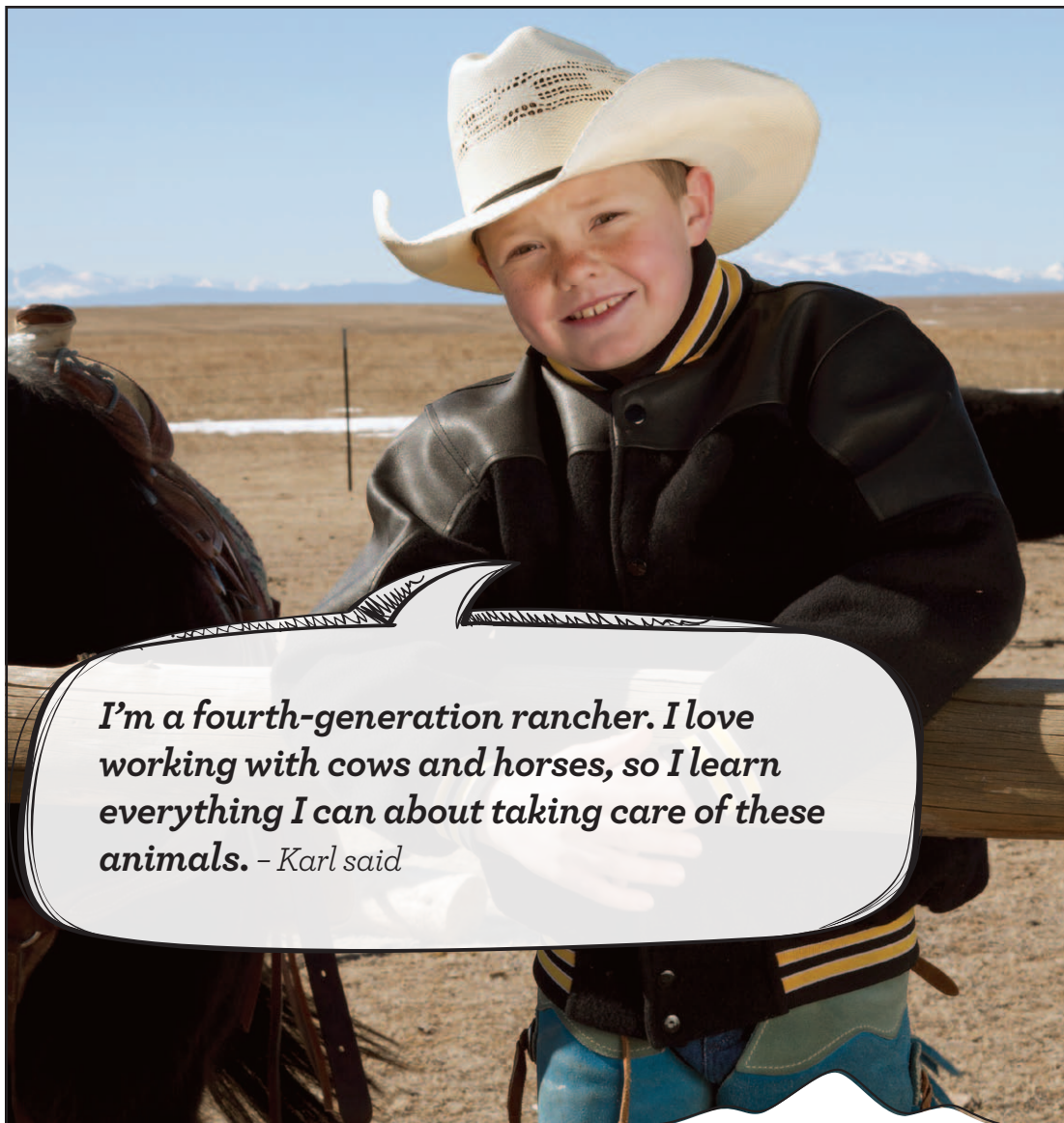
other. She commented how in another setting dogs not trained as they had been probably would not have gotten along as well.

Canine Companions also are breeders, noted the counselor, meaning the visit was also a family reunion of sorts, where Becklyn had an opportunity to see some of her canine relations. The dogs are different sizes and colors but have similar faces, explained Vickers.

"The trip was well worth seeing her have a ball with a bunch of her relatives," she admitted.

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Sports

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Schedule

Newcastle

Boys Basketball
11/18 V9 Practice Begins H TBA

Girls Basketball
11/18 V9 Practice Begins H TBA

Wrestling
11/18 VJ Practice Begins H TBA

Upton

Boys Basketball
11/18 1st Practice

Girls Basketball
11/18 1st Practice

Wrestling
11/18 1st Practice

The Score

7th Grade Girls Basketball
18-16, Newcastle Win

8th Grade Girls Basketball
Upton 40 Newcastle 5

It's that time again ... Football Season

Jessalynn Centifanto
Summer Solace

Several weekends ago I suggested to my husband that we go to a certain weekend event and the incredulous response was "Are you serious? It's Sunday!" After I stared blankly for a while, he went on to explain that it was Sunday night football and one of his fantasy football players was playing in that night's game. The phenomenon continues to invade as every conversation — especially one involving any male of the crazed-football fan variety — now somehow always ends up back at football. Sunday nights are now sacred in our house, needless to say, and life ceases to exist as I know it.

Football season has once again taken over the life of nearly every American man that is currently breathing. The phenomenon of fantasy football, Sunday afternoon games and the ever nearing Superbowl is upon us in full force, from the red-faced berating of the referees who can't hear you through the TV screen to good-humored but very real fan — and family — feuds.

This last football season I was forced to 'come out of the closet,' if you will, to my Raider-crazed father that I had converted to being a Broncos fan. And, not only that, but I also married into a family of Bronco fans this year. Needless to say, my dad said I could no longer eat at his house and he still prays for my soul daily. But, all family feuds aside, football is still one of the great unifying factors of our American society.

Sunday has become sacred, and not just because those of religious persuasion worship on that day, but because that is game day. That is the day that

— See Football, Page 10

Building future Dogies with success

Calves coach recalls perfect season

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

"It was a good game to watch but a little stressful in the second half to coach," Nate Smith recalled of the last game of his team's second consecutive undefeated season. A little stressful, the Calves' head coach felt, because, owing to a second half Upton rally, the game almost got away from them.

"It came down to the wire. We were up 30-6 at half time. Upton has a really good running back who basically took over the game. But we ended up winning 30-21."

It was the second time the Calves had snatched the "championship" from Upton in as many seasons and, all considered, something of a happy accident.

"We don't have a set championship game," Smith explained, "but they were undefeated. We were undefeated. It was the last game of the season. It was a fluke of the schedule. We were

— See Calves, Page 11



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Ryan Harder helped lead a bevy of talented middle-schoolers to their second straight undefeated season for Newcastle Middle School.

Quigley reflects on coaching career

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

A life in Newcastle didn't always figure in the plans of high school athletic director and assistant principal Todd Quigley, a Minnesota native. When he first came to town in 1989 to take a job as the Dogie swim coach, he didn't imagine he would stay nearly as long as he has, as he recently admitted to the News Letter Journal.

"I accepted the job with the intention of being here a couple of years before heading back to Minnesota to be closer to family. Well, it's been 25 years and I'm still here."

In retrospect, it seems that the almost immediate success Quigley met with likely played a major factor in his decision to stay.

"One of the best things that ever happened to me as a coach," Quigley recalled, "was our first-year state meet in the fall of 1989. We set a state record in the first event we swam, the 200 Medley Relay, and I think we ended up winning five individual events that year. It gave confidence to myself and also to the people I was coaching. It allowed them to see that, 'hey, this philosophy is going to fit and work in



Todd Bennington/NLJ

Todd Quigley, Newcastle High School's athletic director and assistant principal, made his mark at the school as a coach before moving into his current positions.

Newcastle, Wyoming."

Make no mistake, however, Quigley did not just stumble into that winning coaching philosophy, and he readily admits to possessing a detail-oriented, almost obsessive nature, especially when it

comes to swimming.

"I always felt I needed to be more prepared than the kids were," he said. "If we were in the pool for two hours and 15 minutes a day, plus the weight room, I had to spend at least that much time researching and

preparing for that practice. I felt I owed it to the kids that came out."

That seemingly heightened sense of personal responsibility leads Quigley to become misty eyed more than 15 years after the fact when he recounts his

greatest coaching disappoint, one that occurred at the state meet in 1998.

"I really didn't expect we'd win State that year, but I expected to be in the mix, top three ... [but] we had an awesome preliminary meet ... The kids swam much better than I anticipated," he recounted.

Still, a momentary oversight would dash hopes of a championship trophy when a top female swimmer attempted to touch up a spot on her arm with a safety razor. (Swimmer's routinely shave themselves to become more hydrodynamic.)

"A rule had been in place that year: no shaving on sight," Quigley recalled. "I got caught up in the heat of the moment, what was going on and the idea that we could possibly steal the state championship that year ... I was taking care of some administrative things across the pool. She pulled a razor out. Again, I did not tell her not to do that. I take ownership for the situation ... It was a rule that I'm sure stemmed from safety and hygiene concerns. She was unfortunately disqualified from the meet, costing us

— See Quigley, Page 10

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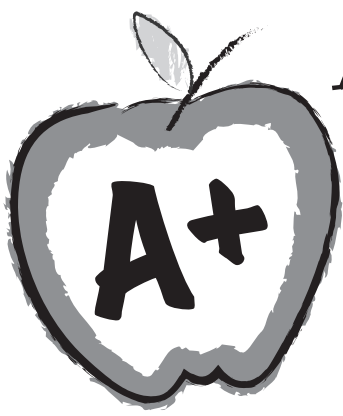
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— Nelson Mandela

First Quarter Honor Roll 2013-2014

Newcastle High School

"A" Honor Roll

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Calbi N Ausmann
Kendra R Back
Nolan R Behnke
Daytona A Bennett
Kerriann M Bissey
Jordan T Brooks
Katarina N Cade
Kiana M Cade
Daniel P Caress
Hannah J Cass
Laura A Chord
Merritt S Crabtree
Madison S Crawford
Shaylee J Curren
Alyssa L Dawson
Abigail M Deveraux
Ashlyn E Dollison
Dillon R Ehlers
Rachel R Ehlers
Justin J Francis
Madison E Frazee
Wade D Gordon
Abby E Gray | Danika R Guse
Lynnell L Hanson
Kaylee N Harley
Josh C Harper
Alex L Henkle
Anna M Henkle
Rachel M Henkle
Gavin W Holmes
Jenna L Holmes
Kalya L Houser
Abigail J Hutchinson
Kaprina B Jones
Maccayla B Jordahl
Bailey J Karp
Cooper J Karp
Megan E Kenney
Sierra M LaCroix
Derek C Lewis
Garrett J Liggett
Nakala R Liggett
Megan L Logan
Alec C Martinez
Nathan M McMahon | Rosemarie McMahon
Bethany A McVay
Gatlin B Miller
Courtney N Munger
Alondra D Munoz
Cassandra N Munoz
Melanie R Oakley
Nathaniel L Pillen
Jenna G Piper
Marshall J Rhoades
Cameron H Richardson
Jade L Roody
Bradon W Rushton
Christina A Rushton
Chris C Spain
Taylor A Spain
Colton T Sweet
Alyssa N Umphlett
Wyatt M Voelker
Shandra M Walsh
Scottlyn C Wiggins
Kelsey D Wood
Richard D Yeager |
|---|---|---|

"B" Honor Roll

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Hallee N Adams
Tania M Bau
Jerad M Bell
Nickolas D Bock
Trace Q Buckert
Grace J Carlin
Nathina J Crabtree
Clayton R Colvard
Jared M Court
Chloe M Coy
Courtney A Coy
Erik K Crawford
Layne I Crisman
Savannah S Davis
Sidney L Douglas
Ashten A Farnsworth
Jade A Haggerty
Kolton R Hall
Catherine E Halliday
Colin D Heaton
Kianna L Hobbs | Uziel E Holguin
Flint J Hossfeld
Andre de la Trinidad
Jacome
Alexandra N Jingleski
Courtney D Laird
Cora J Lambert
Sharla M Lax
Brandon M Leddy
James G Lewis
Tyler J Lewis
Madison J Manders
Ashten L Marchant
Dusty J Miller
Robert A Neate
Vincent J Oedekoven
Cierra J Ondriezek
Josie D Podio
Zachary M Rasmussen
Rhyse A Rhoades
Triston L Roberson | Tava J Rose
Douglas J Ross
Julia K Scattareggia
Zachary T Schuessler
Holden M Schultz
Faith N Seekings
Sterling M Shepherd
Blade L Stotz
Kaullen A Sundstrom
Mason J Sundstrom
Rock L Terhune
Angela C Troupe
Fermin J Villanueva
Tracey V Whetsell
Kinlee R. Whitney
Hannah N Williams
Savannah D Williams
Kieran T Winter
Ceara M Woltdt
Glenda L Wykoff
Lane W Zerbst |
|---|---|--|

Newcastle Middle School

Principal's Honor Roll

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 6th Grade:
Austin Bush
Jayme Cass
Cooper Deveraux
Jake Deveraux
Christina Hadlock
Jacob Krogman
Lauren Lacey
Jacob Rhoades
Shelby Slith
Dylon Tidyman
Peyton Tystad
Ty Weeg | 7th Grade:
Holly Dollison
Alyssa Houser
Jake Lacey
Michelle Lewis
Talon Logan
Cade Ostenson
Peyton Purviance
Lexus Voelker
Makenzie Wagoner | 8th Grade:
Trayton Dawson
Tyler Ford
Ryan Harder
Sarah Henkle
Pedro Mercado
Abigail Nelson
Cameron Quigley
Courtney Rainbolt |
|--|---|---|

"A" Honor Roll

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 6th Grade:
Michelle Ballieu
Gregory Bechel
Kelsey Bennett
Owen Cox
Grace Coy
Shelby Davis
Johnna Dawson
Collin Dudzinski
Bradyn Frye
Kathryn Hempel
Chase Loeb
Jory McFarland
Joseph McLaughlin
Ashley Mitchell
Payton Parks
Tara Rose
Emily Rushton
Chloe Smith
Sara Sweet
Davin Tytsdal
Tessa Vandernick
Gunnar Wainscott
Tiana Walker
Markie Whitney
Cameron Williams | 7th Grade:
John Barker
Alaina Boettcher
Hailee Cheshier
Ashton Coffey
Paige Courtney
Kaden Curren
Betoney Dixon
Nicole Earnest
David Holguin
Reid Holmes
Sean Hopper
MyKenna Howen
Kassidee Jeppesen
Jozee Lawler
Paige Liggett
Perry Martin
Kolby Pisciotti
Isaac Prell
Gavin Roody
Sawyer Roberson
Kaylee Sweet
Brenna Watkins
Kaylie White
Brady Wilkes
Tailey Wright | 8th Grade:
Aaliyah Banks
Nathaniel Behnke
Shelton Boone -Kirby
Andrea Chavez-Lujan
Shaelee Douglas
Bailey Lacey
Alexis Merchen
Isabella Mitchell
Dennon Parks
Tabitha Pillen
Katherine Schraeder
Erika Schultz
Billy Soderberg
Madisyn Stalder
Bryson Tidyman
SheyAnne Walker
Lyle Whitney |
|--|--|--|

Newcastle Christian Academy

"A" Honor Roll

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Taylor Humes | Austen Kenney |
|--------------|---------------|

"B" Honor Roll

- | |
|------------|
| Emma Humes |
|------------|



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Quigley from page 9

a chance to place higher than we did. It was one of those things where I should have been more on top of it ... What that did to the team was hurtful, but I was more upset that the young lady who worked so hard all year, and for several years, was unable to have a chance to achieve her goals."

Yet, even at that low point, the community rallied around Quigley and the swim program, something for which he still seems deeply appreciative.

"I had a lot of support from the community," he remembered. "There were questions, as there should have been ... The community and kids supported what we were doing. The team wrote a letter of support for me at that time. It was something I definitely learned from, and it perhaps made me overly cautious for the rest of my career. I'm probably still that way ... in terms of safety and making sure all bases are covered."

Yet, ironically, this disappointment would in retrospect pale in comparison to the success both the boys and girls programs would enjoy in the ensuing years, probably even acting as its catalyst.

"The girls came back the following year with a vengeance after working hard all summer. They put the work and time in to prove that we could be there. We came back and won four straight titles in a row on the girls side [1999, 2000, 2001, 2002] and the boys were second three consecutive years as well [1999, 2000, 2001]."

And putting aside the scientific complexities and nuances of the sport, which Quigley spent his time happily engrossed in, his winning formula really did boil down to just that — hard work.

"I believe we outworked other teams," stated Quigley. "We spent a lot of time in the weight room. We spent a lot of time in the pool. Mornings were always optional, but the years we had our most success we probably had 90 percent participation, and we had some kids who lived 60 miles out of town. We threw some tough practices at those kids."

Current high school swim coach and Quigley protégé, Jenny Pederson, remembers well those challenging sessions.

"Coming into the season ... you always knew what was expected of you," she recalled. "There was no question he had high expectations for us. Everyone knew that. He had earned the respect of his team, so they would do pretty much whatever he asked them to do. He was very passionate and definitely a perfectionist."

For his part, Quigley denies none of it, openly admitting to being something of a taskmaster.

"I would tell the kids there's no fun in swimming ... It was a joke, but they knew it was time to work when we got to the pool," he offered. "I never really had issues with kids not putting the effort out."

Indeed, Quigley seems to possess a special talent for motivation, drawing out success even from those without pre-existing skill or obvious natural gifts. Of one student, who had turned to swimming after failing to find the success he desired at basketball, Quigley recalled, "I had to teach him how to swim the first week of practice. He didn't know how to float ... He qualified for and placed at the state meet that year, because of his efforts, his

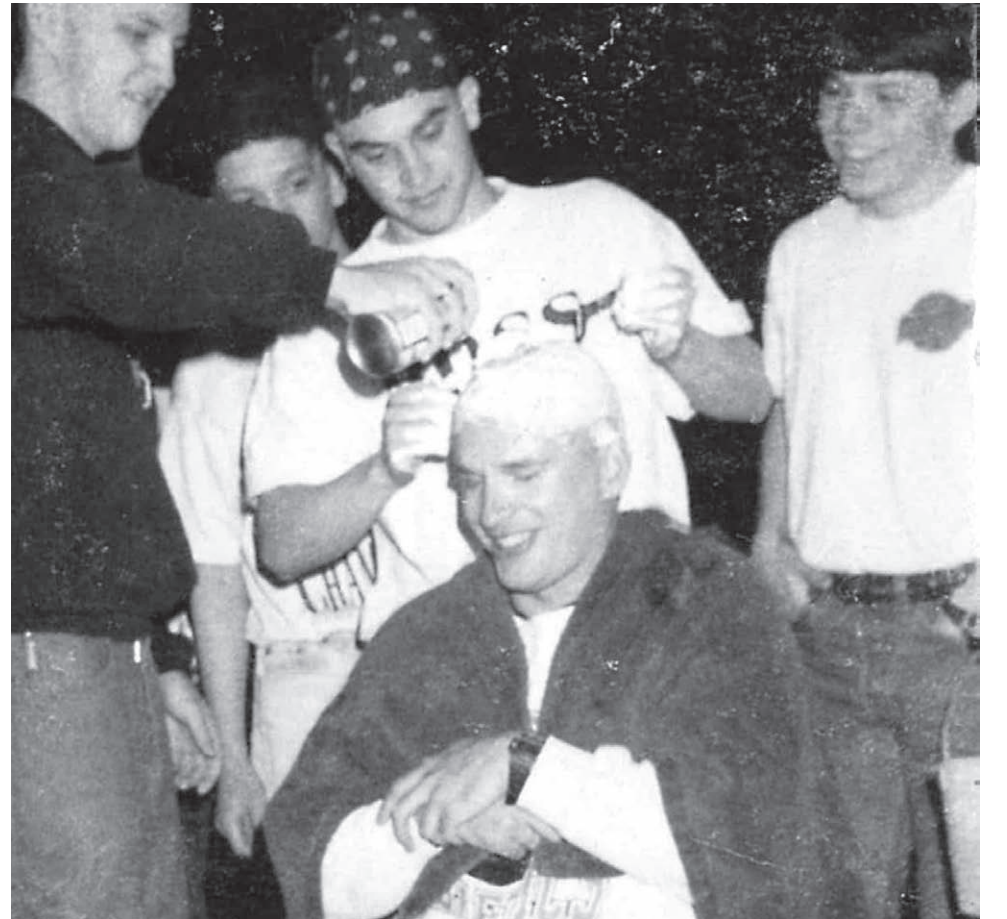


Photo courtesy of Todd Quigley

In 1993 Todd Quigley coached Josh Erickson of the Newcastle High School Boys' Swim Team to a state championship — and therefore agreed to let the teammates shave his head. Pictured are Matt Anderson, Jason Reed and Erickson.

willingness to work hard."

Quigley also seems to have a soft spot for such students, who, like he himself did, find their niche in swimming only after trying their hand at other sports. Pederson, who admits to having been a reluctant swimmer at first, recalled how Quigley convinced her to try out.

"When I was playing softball I injured my knee, so that made me [hesitant about playing] volleyball," she recounted. "Shortly after I hurt my knee I received a handwritten letter from Todd saying how he thought I would do well in swimming, if I decided to swim ... It was really just kind of a humbling letter to receive from the coach of a sport that you really didn't even like. He said he would support me even if I decided to play volleyball. It was really just a very supportive letter. The whole reason that I [ended up swimming] was that the support system was a lot stronger there, and I wanted to be a part of that camaraderie."

Eventually for Quigley, though, who eschews the idea of doing things halfway, the energy and long hours he was investing in coaching took their toll, and he made the transition to his present job as athletic director and assistant principal as a means of being closer to home and family. But the dual roles, as he's found, are not always complimentary, and it's clear Quigley is still more at ease with the sporting side of things.

"The assistant principal job, I've had ups and downs there. I've learned ... It's counterproductive when you want to be involved and supportive, and yet you have to be the hammer sometimes. We don't have a lot of discipline issues, but it's tough to balance those roles."

"I've been called the 'fun hater' many times before," he continued jokingly. "I'm sure if you go poll the hallways, it'll be

about half and half ... I'm still intense at times. I'm still serious most of the time, and I think that's where that perception comes [from] that I don't like things. I like everything. That's just how I come off. I've always been pretty serious, pretty intense."

Outside work, and sparked perhaps by his involvement in lobbying for the construction of the Kozisek Aquatic Center back in the 1990s, Quigley has taken it upon himself to be active in local politics, having sat on the Newcastle City Council on and off for about 14 years.

"I originally got on the city council because the community was so good to me I felt I wanted to give back to the community, and I still feel that way. I feel that they've supported me even though they haven't always agreed with my decisions."

As it turns out though, Quigley feels he has personally benefitted from the experience as well, as it has somewhat cooled his coach's instinct to give instruction and not put up with excuses.

"You have to go into those things without an agenda. I think the city council has been a good temper for me as far being able to listen to all sides of the story sometimes ... trying to be empathetic and trying to be understanding, those roles have helped me a little bit."

Though he claims not to regret walking away from coaching, it's clear that Quigley still possesses an abundance of the old competitive drive.

"I've gotten back into coaching, not so much this summer, but the previous two summers with Little League baseball. I'm the same obsessed, driven person I was ... I was the same crabby old guy that expected a lot out of the kids."

"Assistant bench coach is all I was," he said by way of clarification.

Football from page 11

the hopes and dreams of every bright-eyed young person hangs on as they see the person they hope to become in the inspiring performance of their favorite quarterback. It is the day on which all other things are set aside to scream furiously, cheer wildly, perform odd and superstitious behavior — as portrayed in the recent Budwieser commercials — and otherwise act completely insane without anyone thinking any less of you because they

are probably doing the same. Not to mention that it is the day every fantasy-football participant lives and dies for. Recently ESPN magazine did a spread on season ticket-holding Raider fans and the two-to three-hour process they go through to transform their entire appearance into their fan persona. From steel-studded leather to color contacts and fake gold teeth these fans go all out, every game day. This is football season. It allows

everyone to act completely insane every Sunday without anyone questioning them and draws people together in 'America's greatest pastime.' Aside from the fact you may have to put aside your usual weekend plans, football season is a great opportunity. It is a chance to gather friends and family near and engage in what could be the biggest gathering of screaming adults you will ever witness. It also will provide the opportunity

for every man to release their inner cave man in a way that is socially acceptable and provide for good social behavior during the rest of the more formal holiday get-togethers, where screaming is not as acceptable. So take advantage of this wonderful season we call football season and try to remember its advantages, even when you have to give up other plans, unless of course, watching football is your only plan.

FAMILY FOREST OWNERS
Contracting & Marketing Workshop

Date: Saturday, November 23
Time: 8:30 AM to noon
Where: McKeel Room
Surbeck Center
School of Mines & Technology
Rapid City, South Dakota

Topic: Refine your objectives to manage for Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic

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Calves

from page 9.....

supposed to play Upton the first game this year, but there was a conflict for them, so we ended up playing them the last game. So we've played Upton two years in a row for the championship. It's created a really good rivalry."

Asked if Upton has proven to be their toughest opponent, Smith answered in the affirmative.

"As far as within the district, yes. Glenrock is always tough. We didn't get to play them this year because of weather," he said. "We had a heck of a time trying to get it rescheduled, so it was kind of disappointing. We always want to play Glenrock, because it gives us a sense of how good we really are. We like to measure ourselves against them just because of the tradition that they have in football."

Still, Smith wasn't ready to concede that the middle school's success owed merely to being a big fish in a small pond, so to speak.

"It's a tremendous group of kids. The last two groups of eighth-graders have had outstanding athletic ability and have wanted to work hard ... You can look back and ask, 'when was the last time [they went undefeated] before these past two years?' It was like 16 years ago. So these kids are definitely doing something that hasn't been done a lot," Smith expressed. "Right now they are a big fish in a small pond because they've been the best. Newcastle Middle School football has been the team to beat."

"It's really hard in middle school to set up a schedule like the high school does just due to travel," he explained further. "If we were to play all the schools the high school does ... It's just not feasible. I think [Athletic Director] Robert [Munger] does a great job with the scheduling. He's always open for ideas. But you still have to remember that they are middle-schoolers, and when you have a school that's 40 miles down the road that fits, you should play them."

Still, Smith said he was cognizant of the need to prepare his players to move on to the next level of competition.

"Robert is really good about continually coming back to the schedule and saying 'well, we need to set this schedule up so the kids can be successful at high school.' That's why we make a point to play Glenrock. They're not in our conference, but we play them. Also Wheatland. Those are both 2A opponents that we play, that the high school plays."

High school coach Matt Conzelman tended to concur with Smith's assessment, telling the News Letter Journal, "As much as we would like [the middle school] to play our full conference, travel-wise, it's not going to happen."



Todd Bennington/NLJ

Calves Coach Nate Smith is confident that his players will continue to enjoy success as they begin their high school careers.

But there are also other challenges to coaching at the middle school level, Smith explained, such as his players' relative lack of independence. They can't drive yet to get to practices on their own, and parents, he said, sometimes decide that other activities, such as hunting trips or attending an older sibling's game, have priority. Still, Smith prefers to dwell on the positive and sees the Calves as laying the foundation for future Dogie success.

"Something I take pride in is the way that the middle school and high school teams have kind of become one program," he explained. "Even though we're the Calves and they're the Dogies it seems like it is just Newcastle football. Coach Conzelman and Coach [Beau] Gregory [have extended us whatever help we've needed]. The [degree of] continuity [across the programs] seems to just keep growing. We try to run the same types of defense and offense. We try to play the same type of football. Ultimately that's just preparing the kids. [The other day] we had an eighth grade Q & A session with the graduating seniors at lunch to not only recruit but to paint a picture of expectations. I think Matt and Beau do a great job of having a hand in the feeder programs ... The Dogies have made the playoffs four years in a row now ... I think the future is looking bright for Dogie football because

of the work that we have all done together." Conzelman was also enthusiastic about the success of the Calves program, even if middle school players naturally have to make some adjustments at the high school level.

"[The undefeated seasons] are great confidence for [those] guys coming in. I think the speed difference is pretty big between middle school and high school ... but they know what it takes to do the hard work," he said. "[The middle school coaches] have actually used some of our offensive and defensive stuff, so when [the players] come to us ... even if they don't know exactly what is going on, they have an idea. That helps out."

And Conzelman is keen to do what he can to ease the adjustment for next year's freshmen.

"At the Tongue River game we led them through the process of pretty much everything we do. I talked with Nate about it and told him I want them around just so they know the game atmosphere. So they were in our walk-through, at the pre-game in the locker room, came back in at half-time, [and saw what we went through] after the game. Hopefully that will get them excited and energized about this next season."

"I told them," he concluded, "that I'm very excited to coach them."

Fall Happenings

Nov. 16 - Ron's Pool Tournament
starting at 2 p.m.

Nov. 17 - Football and Freebies
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Nov. 27 - End of Season Breakfast
Buffet starting at 7 a.m.
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SPECIAL MEETING

WESTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Weston County Board of Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Weston County Courthouse for Coordination with the United States Forest Service.



INSURANCE

Be informed

Medicare can be confusing. But here's one thing you can remember to make things go a little easier – the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace/Exchange won't affect your Medicare coverage. Here are some more important facts from the Wyoming Insurance Department and the more than 1,100 insurance companies doing business in Wyoming:

- Even though the Marketplace/Exchange enrollment period is running at the same time as Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 15-Dec. 7), the two have nothing to do with each other.
- You don't need to enroll in the new Health Insurance Marketplace/Exchange to maintain or change your Medicare coverage.

- Medicare Supplement Insurance or "Medigap" coverage, also won't be affected by the Marketplace/Exchange. It is private health insurance regulated by the Wyoming Insurance Department.

- Medigap coverage can be purchased at any time – not just during the Medicare Open Enrollment period.

For one-on-one help with your Medicare questions, visit the Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program at www.wyomingseniors.com or call 1-800-856-4398.


And for additional help with Medigap plans, contact the Wyoming Insurance Department at 1-800-438-5768 or visit www.doi.wyo.gov/consumers, click on "Types of Insurance" and then click on "Insurance for Seniors."



Wyoming Insurance Department
<http://doi.wyo.gov>

This public service announcement is presented and paid for by the insurance companies licensed to do business in Wyoming in cooperation with the Wyoming Insurance Department. For more information on the state's insurance companies, including financial information, visit the Insurance Department website's "Consumers" section.

HAPPY HOUR



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2013-2014
First Quarter Honor Rolls



A Honor Roll	B Honor Roll
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Robert Humes	JR Graham
Austen Kenney	
Moriahn Kenney	
Cole Allison	
Asia Graham	

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Volunteers help keep out the cold

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

To give back to the community, Black Hills Power arranged volunteers from area businesses to assist four customers in preparing their homes for winter weather. The weatherization event, which had been scheduled last month but was postponed due to weather, was held on Tuesday, Nov. 5. The company has been organizing these events for several years, but this is the first one that was held in Newcastle.

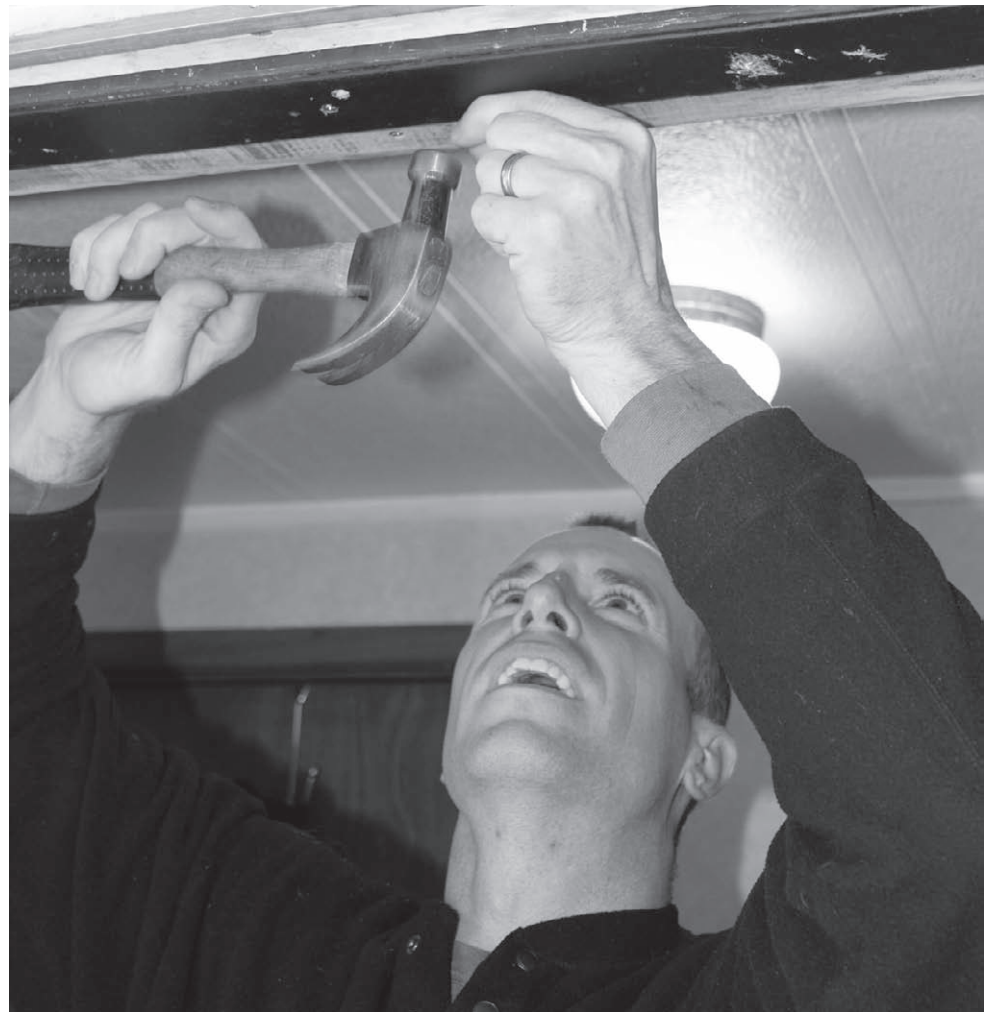
"What we do is send out energy service technicians. They do audits on the home, [to] see what needs to be done to make that house more energy efficient, whether it is a weatherization technique as simple task as putting window film over a window. We will look at door jams to make sure there are no gaps in there. We will go out and purchase the equipment or pieces of equipment and then install them with the volunteers we've got here," explained Tom Berry, Energy Services advisor with BHP.

Berry said he was impressed with the number of volunteers who signed up to help with the weatherization event, with 32 who signed up and 25 present and accounted for at the end of the day, the largest group he has worked with throughout his years doing the project. They arrived early Tuesday morning at the Newcastle BHP office dressed for cold weather, ready to work.

Marsha Nichols, BHP External Office Community Service manager, gave credit to Chrissie Prell of the Newcastle BHP office for recruiting the volunteers.

"I just really wanted to incorporate a lot of the local businesses in helping with this weatherization — just another way to give back to our community members. So I made contact with key local businesses, the refinery, both banks, the hardware stores, honor camp and the school. I just tried to encourage them to come and help these homeowners and citizens of the town to help out and get their home ready for winter," stated Prell.

Volunteers were organized into groups and assigned a BHP staff member to lead the group. Armed with a list of what to do at each home, the groups gathered supplies and headed out to their assignments. Many of the tasks they performed were simply



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Tom Tonkin of the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp volunteers during Black Hills Power's Weatherization Day in Newcastle Nov. 5.

changing the type of light bulb used or adding weather stripping around doors.

Prell sat down with Ronnie Hein, BHP's service technician for the area, to decide who would best benefit from weatherization tips. Criteria for the weatherization effort was that the home had to be all electric, and priority was given to single parents, elderly or individuals not familiar with how to prepare their home for winter.

"We also looked too at their bills. We noticed total electric homes that they always have such a high bill. We were like, 'what can we do to help them at home to try to lower their bills?' We made sure we got customers we knew that would benefit from it, especially on their

bill," Prell added.

She explained that one reason she invited personnel from the local hardware stores to join in the effort was so they would have an opportunity to glean information they can pass on to their customers. However, after the event, several volunteers mentioned how much they learned about weatherization from doing the work, Prell told the News Letter Journal a few days later.

"It went great! I feel the customers were really impressed with the little things we did that will make a big difference. It was nice to hear the volunteers took something away from it as well. I just wanted people — whether volunteers or customers — to learn from this," she smiled.

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS



Newcastle Middle School seventh-grader John Barker was among the many students who performed Monday at the annual Veterans Day program at Crouch Auditorium. At right, Brigadier General Kathy Wright spoke to the crowd. At left, Pat Hayman, Pat Crow and Homer Hastings stand to be recognized.



Photos by Bob Bonnar

FOCUS

To better serve clients in Weston County, the FOCUS Crisis Line has been combined with the office telephone number which is **746-2748**. This will help the public get quicker access to the on-call advocate after hours.

FOCUS, Inc. is still located at 719-C Washington Blvd. with P.O. Box 991 receiving our mail.

FOCUS, Inc. provides services for Weston County victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

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Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center

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Turkey Tangle



Each of these businesses is giving away a Gift Certificate for up to \$10 for a turkey to one lucky winner! All you have to do is untangle the name of the business owner, manager or director correctly, print your name and phone number, clip the turkey leg, and take it to the place of business and deposit in their Turkey Tangle box.

**Note: Chick Financial and Wesco Gas boxes will be at the News Letter Journal*

Questions? Call the News Letter Journal at 746-2777. Contest deadline is November 21. Winners will be notified by phone and listed in the Thanksgiving issue along with the untangled names.

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Leetsel Limls

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Ryga Hirc

Name: _____
Phone: _____

The Wedding Closet
Bread Arcr

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Woody's Food Center
Yelkl Odwo

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Farmers Insurance Group
Gre & Ronsha Blozurm

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Chick Financial
Vidda Khicc

Name: _____
Phone: _____

WESCO Gas
Denswont Mancpoy

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Advanced Communications
Izl & Athas Wontends

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Gateway Auto Supply
Honj & Dicyn Relbrul

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Serendipity Nails
Ryersh Crensaf Dornew

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Weston County Senior Services Center
Ledang Fromfed

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Cash Box Ceramics
Aldin Asch

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Toe-Tally Groom n' Tanz
Snitchire & Claher Oldel

Name: _____
Phone: _____

North Platte Physical Therapy
Virtas Crancho

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Decker's Market
Nadny & Kybec Kreced

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Wyoming Refining Company
Ekim Swornfarth

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Cambria Supply
Ryter Elkerl

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware
Ardyn & Dansy Skired

Name: _____
Phone: _____

News Letter Journal
Tycas Grathegy

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Phone: _____

Weston County Title
Mik Shadore

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Newcastle Hardware
Richs Elmurel

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Alligator Shack
Libile Oje Klachoblen

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City Council Minutes

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES
Monday, November 4, 2013**

Mayor Greg James called the regular meeting of Monday November 4, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Iva Carter, Archie Callander, Mayor Greg James, Linda Hunt, and Roger Hesse. Absent: Todd Quigley. Also present Department Heads: City Attorney Jim Peck, City Clerk/Treasurer Brunner, Police Chief Jim Owens and Engineer Hartley as well as several guests.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor added a bid opening for surplus public property at 7:15 pm. Linda Hunt moved and Roger Hesse seconded to approve the agenda for November 4, 2013 as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Linda Hunt moved and Roger Hesse seconded to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: None
CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None
Clerk/Treasurer Brunner lead newly hired police officers, Jeremy Herrberg and Quintin Tacy in the Oath of Office.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS – IN WRITING: None
CITIZEN'S BUSINESS – VERBAL - 1.

Members of the FOCUS board appeared to review the status of that organization. Donna Howard, Interim Director of FOCUS, introduced herself and offered to answer any questions the Council had regarding FOCUS. Linda Hunt asked about the date that FOCUS is to be operational. Ms. Howard stated that they are operational through a phone call to the local office which currently 'relays' to Ms. Howard's cell phone. She works for the senior center in Sundance and is often out of town. The doors of the office are not open with a "live" body every day. Ms. Howard has submitted a foundational operating plan which the FOCUS board is reviewing. She stated that the board has openings. There are five members now and there can be up to nine. She would like to have at least seven members. She is also working on a job descrip-

tion for the permanent director. She feels it will take about 3 months to get a full-time director in the Newcastle office. She commented on the publicity that has happened regarding FOCUS at this point. There is an uphill climb but all of the board members want the agency to run efficiently and serve the public well. Mayor James asked Ms. Howard about her experience. Roger Hesse commented on inaccurate information regarding FOCUS. She stated that she could not address all issues because some of them were inaccurate. He asked about other factors that are "holding back" FOCUS from being operational. She commented that the City withholding funding as well as State and Federal funding for expenses already incurred not being reimbursed yet, is a major drawback.

Mayor James stopped the meeting at 7:15 p.m. to hold a bid opening for surplus real property. Mayor James quizzed Treasurer Brunner, Engineer Hartley and Attorney Peck about any bids that were received. No bids were received at any of their offices. Mayor James therefore closed the bid opening hearing at 7:16 p.m.

FOCUS continued: Linda Hunt asked Ms. Howard about how the Federal and State funding was issued to FOCUS. Mayor James commented that he is very reserved about releasing funding until he is certain that the FOCUS service is demonstrating something fully functional and that rumors plaguing this organization have been put to rest. Ms. Howard asked for thoughts from the Council about what the Council would require, what type of a measurement tool, in order to feel confident about releasing the City's funding support. Linda Hunt commented that the City's funding is not a large enough amount to be a huge help to FOCUS to get up and started. Roger Hesse requested that Ms. Howard contact the newspaper and get the "positive" information about what is happening at FOCUS back to the public. Iva Carter asked about how FOCUS is going about keeping the "physical" facility running. Attorney Peck stated that previously the FOCUS office had a victim services grant and lost it through poor management. Ms. Howard

stated that she agreed that FOCUS needed to get to the point where they could again apply for that grant. Police Chief Owens asked for the specific procedure Ms. Howard would need his officers to follow if they have a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault. Attorney Peck chastised Ms. Howard about the fact that FOCUS should have already spoken to Police Chief Owens about what services FOCUS could provide at this time. Chief Owens said that all he knew, previous to this evening's meeting, was that dispatch had a sticky note with Ms. Howard's name and phone number but no idea what type of qualifications and certifications Ms. Howard had or what services could actually be provided. Ms. Howard will work on the City's requests and get back on the agenda for a future meeting.

2. Norma Shelton appeared to update the Council regarding the holiday promotion and parade. The parade is set for November 29th; line up is at 5:00 p.m.; routes are the same as in the past. She requested street lights out at 6:00 p.m. and police escorts. She reviewed the Holiday Promotion schedule from November 7th through December 14th.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: - 1. Mayor James stated that there was a Water Committee meeting with many citizens regarding the water crane closing. Linda Hunt moved to rescind the closing date of December 31, 2013 to shut down the water crane permanently and move the closing date until July 1, 2014; and to allow the City crew to shut down the crane immediately upon any vandalism issues. Seconded by Archie Callander. Roger Hesse commented that he did not agree with the motion. He stated that he felt there should not be an end date. He requested considering this at the budget time. He stated that he felt the service to the water crane was the same as servicing any other water district to which the City supplies water. Iva Carter agreed with Roger's comments. Linda Hunt stated that she could rescind the motion and the only reason she stated July 1, 2014 was because that was the beginning of the new budget year. She said if there was more discussion that needed to take place then she requested another Committee of the Whole meeting again to discuss further issues. Mayor James stated that the motion and second could be withdrawn if needed, but he cautioned that the water crane service could not be accurately compared with a water service district. Linda Hunt withdrew her motion in favor of holding an additional Committee of the Whole regarding the water crane; Archie Callander removed his second to tonight's motion. Mayor James stated that the motion that was made and passed regarding closure of the water crane on December 31, 2013 still stands. A Committee of the Whole meeting was scheduled for November 25, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to discuss the issue again.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney Jim Peck - 1. asked Council's input regarding the old junior high building. There were no bids received for the hearing that was held tonight. He requested input whether the Council wanted to give the property to realtors. Council consensus was to have the attorney contact the realtors to see if they know if anyone would be interested.

City Engineer Hartley: 1. Emmet Daunt completed a staking (locates) university class with a certificate of competency; Engineer Hartley requested a 50 cent/hour raise effective with the next pay period; Linda Hunt moved and Archie Callander seconded to approve the request. **MOTION CARRIED.** 2. He updated the city crew activities around town and at the landfill. 3. He went to another DEQ meeting in Gillette regarding the new proposed legislation regarding funding for landfill closures and transfer sites. 4. he requested having a Cemetery Committee right after the meeting tonight regarding a monument request at the cemetery. 5. Linda Hunt requested having a Committee of the Whole meeting regarding the City land behind the BLM; the meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Police Chief Jim Owens - 1. reviewed the October Activity Report; 2. reported that there was a rash of vandalism on Halloween night; 3. There have been no reported bus red light runners this year.

City Clerk/Treasurer Brunner - 1. reminded

Council that it will soon be time to name voting delegates for the WAM Winter Workshop. 2. She requested permission to close City Hall on Friday, November 29, 2013 (the day after Thanksgiving). Affected staff will be required to use vacation time pay during any closure. Linda Hunt moved and Archie Callander seconded to approve the closure of City Hall on Friday, November 29, 2013 as requested. **MOTION CARRIED.** 3. She requested scheduling of a Personnel Committee meeting regarding full time status (# of hours worked per week). The implementation of the Affordable Care Act will have a tremendous effect on how the City handles future and current "part-time" and "seasonal" hours regarding number of hours worked. This is the reason that full-time status needs to be clarified in the Personnel Policy manual. After discussion the treasurer was instructed to contact the City's insurance pool representative to see if adjustment to the number of hours worked per week for "part-time" status needed to be adjusted in the Personnel Manual. 4. She reviewed the Community Builders Incorporated report for the Aug-October time frame. An unusual comment in the report was that Weston County has a high vacancy rate of housing at 15.03% while at the same time having a relatively low housing cost. This is unusual when you consider the law of supply and demand. There is "likely more going on with rental prices and vacancy rates than supply and demand". 5. She shared that she has applications for the Wyoming Community Gas Grants.

There was no **STANDING COMMITTEE, WRITTEN BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, or OLD BUSINESS** reports.

Archie Callander moved and Linda Hunt seconded to pay claims dated November 4, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roger Hesse moved and Archie Callander seconded to close the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Claims: Ad-Pro Office Supply, UPS fees, \$39.16; Advanced Drug Testing, 4 employees testing, \$104.00; Alpha Communications, October tower rent, \$95.00; AT&T Mobility, FD cell phone, \$95.13; Bierschbach Equip., 3 qt limestone, \$58.47; BH Power, electricity, \$9301.65; CBS of WY, employee health insurance, \$31,296.30; Bryand Streeter, airport wages, \$1158.75; Butler Machinery, parts, \$211.68; Centurylink, E911 maintenance, \$953.37; Chief Law, 3 helmets, \$776.99; City of Newcastle, WA/SW/GA, 459.59; CAN Surety, WY PE position schedule bond, \$100.00; Cummins, supplies/frt, \$7.66; Dales Tire, 4 wheels, \$840.00; Donkey Creek Construction, bike path/Rodeo St., \$15,795.08; Drive Train Industries, Scot Plus XL, \$51.35; Econo Signs, sweatshirts, \$281.48; Energy Labs, testing, \$60.00; Farnsworth, power rake/rip rock, \$1949.00; Grabar, E911 maintenance, \$2148.00; Hart's Auto, rear pads, \$281.11; Inland Truck, mud flap/splash guard, \$53.22; James Peck, attorney retainer, \$2800.00; L.A.W. Trucking, haul asphalt, \$810.00; MasterCard, supplies/travel/lodging, \$961.45; Midwest Tire, tire, \$151.58; Mining Electrical, light rpr/ Fire Dept, \$350.00; Nat'l Frame, design code, \$180.00; Neve's Uniforms, shirts/pants, \$551.85; Newcastle Ambulance, monthly ambulance fee, \$8333.33; Newcastle Vol Fire Dept., reimbursements, \$958.82; No. WY Mental Health, MMP's (2), \$300.00; Northwest Pipe, supplies, \$3289.59; Oil City Supply, supplies, \$59.54; Pat Crow, reimb, WY stats, \$60.94; Phil's Tire, tires, \$805.40; Pollard-water, gloves, \$147.24; Powder River Energy, electricity, \$233.61; RENEW, recycling, \$1050.00; RT Communications, tele, trunk line share, \$1562.99; Salt Creek Vet, rabies test, \$50.00; Sourcegas, natural gas, \$450.60; Terri Meyer, city hall cleaning, \$360.50; TOP Office, copy chg, task chair, \$448.01; Truegreen, round 6/FD, \$100.00; Valley Green Sod, turf seed, \$4788.00; Weston Co. Treasurer, Airport Proj, LEC share, \$9121.65; Weston Co. Public Health, 2 flu shots, \$32.00; White's Canyon Motors, tires, \$875.85; WY Law Enforcement Academy, training/Dudzinski/Hillhouse, \$850.00; Yearbook, advertising, \$100.00; **WATER DEPOSIT REFUND:** Jimmy Turner, \$96.97;

Greg James, Mayor
ATTEST: Clerk/Treasurer Charita Brunner

(Publish November 14, 2013)

who will it be?

Who has
made a
difference?
created change?
selflessly helped
others?

2013 Person of the Year

Send your nominations for the Weston County Person of the Year to editor@newsfj.com, or drop of at the News Letter Journal, 14 W. Main St., Newcastle, before Dec. 16.

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visionary

Blotter

November 3, 2013
 Suspicious activity reported. Missing dog reported. Report of children on the railroad tracks. Civil problem reported. Motorist assist. Lost dog reported. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Disturbance reported. Threats reported.

November 4
 Missing cat reported. Found property reported. Two VIN inspections. Report of a dog at large. 911 hang up. Minor accident reported. Theft reported, one arrest. Parking complaint. Civil standby requested. Gas drive off reported. Gas drive off reported. Threats reported. Parking complaint. 911 hang up.

November 5
 Extra patrol requested. Cat impounded. 911 hang up. Traffic hazard reported. Assist other agency.

November 6
 Found property reported. Commercial alarm reported. Threats reported. Parking complaint. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Report of a dog at large. Four VIN inspections. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Assist other agency. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic complaint. Report of dogs at large. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Hazard reported. Ministerial assistance requested.

November 7
 Cat impounded. Traffic hazard reported. Damaged sign reported. Traffic stop, Written

Warning issued. Parking complaint. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Larceny reported. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic hazard reported. Parking complaint. Traffic complaint.

November 8
 Commercial alarm reported. Gas drive off reported. Hazard reported. Hazard reported. Two VIN inspections. Missing dog reported. Trespass Order requested. Civil standby requested. Welfare check requested. Protection Order issued. 911 hang up. Traffic complaint. Parking complaint, Citation issued. Lost property reported. Missing cat reported. Injured deer reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Minor accident reported. Lost property reported. Civil standby requested. Residential alarm reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Lost property reported.

November 9
 Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Unattended child reported. Commercial alarm reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Accident reported. VIN inspection. Missing cat reported. Missing dog reported. Assist other agency. 911 hang up. Motorist assist. Welfare check requested. Civil standby requested. Traffic stop, no action taken.



Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. (Golden West) has received authority from the Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) to increase its local Residence Service Access Line Rate for Wyoming customers from \$10.95 to \$14.00, effective June 1, 2013. This approval is subject to notice, protest, intervention petition, opportunity for hearing, refund, and such further action as the Commission may deem appropriate. On August 29, 2013, Golden West applied for authority to revise its tariff to reflect a monthly increase of \$3.05 in its tariffed local Residence Service Access Line Rate for Wyoming customers, effective June 1, 2013.

This is not a complete description of the filing. You may review the tariff filing during regular business hours at the Commission's offices located at the Hansen Building, 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Anyone wishing to file an intervention petition, request for a public hearing, or a statement, public comment or protest in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before December 6, 2013. A proposed intervention or request for hearing must set forth the grounds under which they are made and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you want to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or want to make a statement, a protest or a public comment, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 70010-9-TA-13 in your communications.

Dated: November 7, 2013.

(Publish November 21 and 28, 2013)

Public Notice

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT FRONTIER AVENUE / STOCKADE AVENUE 2013

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Wyoming Statute Sections 15-1-113 and 16-6-116 that the Governing Body of the City of Newcastle, has accepted as completed according to the plans, specifications and rules the work performed under that certain agreement dated June 4, 2013, by and between the City of Newcastle and

Timberline Services of Sundance WY, as the Contractor, and that said Contractor is entitled to final payment therefore.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on the forty-first (41st) day following the first (1st) publication of this Notice, to wit: December 17, 2013, the City of Newcastle will pay to said Contractor the full amount due under the above-mentioned agreement, subject to Final Pay Request and all Change Orders there to.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person, partnership, corporation, agency or association having any unpaid claim(s) against said Contractor for or on account of the furnishing of labor, materials, equipment, sustenance, provisions, provider or other supplies used or consumed by said Contractor pursuant to said Contractor's performance under the above-mentioned agreement must within forty (40) days following the first (1st) publication of this Notice, to wit: no later than December 16, 2013, file a verified statement of any and all amounts due on account of such claim with the City of Newcastle. Failure on the part of any such claimant to timely file such a statement will absolutely relieve the City of Newcastle from any and all liability for such claim.

City of Newcastle
 By: Robert C. Hartley
 City Engineer, City of Newcastle

(Publish November 7, 14 and 21, 2013)

**Deadline for Legals
 noon on Friday**

Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

**TO: RICHARD WOOTEN AND MELINDA WOOTEN
 TS # 13-00467-8**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to WYO. STAT. §§ 34-4-101 through 34-4-113, Assignee, DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2007-4, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-4, will foreclose that certain Mortgage dated August 2, 2007, and given by RICHARD WOOTEN AND MELINDA WOOTEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS WITH RIGHTS OF SURVIVORSHIP, Mortgagor(s) to SAXON MORTGAGE, INC., D/B/A SAXON HOME MORTGAGE, A CORPORATION, Original Mortgagee by Sale to the highest bidder at a public auction of the premises described pursuant to the "Power of Sale" contained in the Mortgage. If you wish to contest said Sale, then you must challenge said Sale by filing a lawsuit in a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Mortgage was recorded in the County Clerk and Ex-Officio Register of Deeds of WESTON County on August 6, 2007, as Instrument No. 696511, in Book 299, at Page 0059, which Mortgage was later assigned to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2007-4, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-4 by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded in the County Clerk and Ex-Officio Register of Deeds of WESTON County on June 6, 2012, as Instrument No. 735948, in Book 337, at Page 411.

The legal notice advertising said sale will be published for four (4) consecutive weeks, at least once a week in the NEWS LETTER JOURNAL commencing on November 14, 2013. The foreclosure sale will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the WESTON County Courthouse located at 1 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming.

The premises described in the Mortgage are as follows:

LOT 7, BLOCK 7 OF FAGAN'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF UPTON, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING.

More commonly known as: 732 Grant Street, Upton, Wyoming 82730

In the event that a representative from a local title company is not present at the Sale, the Sale will be postponed until a later date.

THE ABOVE-REFERENCED MORTGAGOR(S) defaulted on the terms of the Note and Mortgage, and as of the date of this Notice, the undersigned claims an outstanding balance of \$175,696.88. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid balance.

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

DATED: November 12, 2013

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SAXON ASSET SECURITIES TRUST 2007-4, MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-4
 By: JAMES H. WOODALL
 LAW OFFICES OF JAMES H. WOODALL, PLLC.
 10808 RIVER FRONT PARKWAY, SUITE 175
 SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH 84095
 (801) 254-9450

(Publish November 14, 21, 28 and December 5, 2013)

Probate Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT WITHIN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY, STATE OF WYOMING

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RHONDA L. SANDNESS, Deceased.
 Probate No. PR-7947**

NOTICE OF PROBATE

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that on the 11TH day of October, 2013, the estate of the above-named decedent was admitted to probate by the above-named court, and Ronald W. Sandness was appointed personal representative thereof.

Notice is further given, all persons indebted to the decedent or to her estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned at HUGHES LAW OFFICE, P.O. Box 456, Sundance, WY 82729.

Creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to file them in duplicate with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of Court, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming, 82701 on or before three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice and if such claims are not so filed, unless otherwise allowed or paid, they will be forever barred.

DATED this 30th day of October, 2013.

RONALD W. SANDNESS
 Personal Representative

(Publish November 7, 14 and 21, 2013)

Public Notice

DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT RECORDS

Wyoming Statute 9-2-410 states: "All public records are the property of the state. They shall be delivered by outgoing officials and employees to their successors and shall be preserved, stored, transferred, destroyed or disposed of, and otherwise managed, only in accordance with W.S. 9-2-405 through 9-2-413."

Weston County School District #1 will retain for 3 years, then destroy the special education records of students who have moved or are no longer in WCSD #1 School System. WCSD #1 will retain for 1 year, and then destroy special education records of students who have graduated or reached 21 years of age after notification to the parent/guardian, unless litigation is pending or unless the parent/guardian requests earlier destruction of the records; and the district no longer requires the records. If the School District determines that a specific file needs to be permanently maintained, that file may be sent to the State Archives. WCSD #1 will retain for 5 years, and then destroy special education records of students who have become inactive after notification to parent/guardian unless litigation is pending or unless the parent/guardian requests earlier destruction of the records and the district no longer requires the records.

WCSD #1 pupil's permanent record cards will have permanent retention unless transferred to State Archives after graduation or age 22.

WCSD #1 will destroy the following records on the corresponding basis unless such records are requested by the parent/guardian by November 30, 2013. Please make requests to Tobey Cass, Special Education Director at 746-9713 or 116 Casper Ave., Newcastle, WY 82701

Special Education Student Records – Retain 3 years then destroy	Special Education Student Records – Graduates or 21 years of age	Retain 1 year after student graduates or reaches 21 then destroy
Special Education Student Records – Inactive	Special Education Student Records – Inactive	Retain 5 years then destroy

*Records prior to August, 2010
 *Records prior to August, 2008

***Indicates notification of records to be destroyed.**

(Publish November 14 an 21, 2013)

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news letter journal

Card of Thanks

The Family of Harland Bickford would like to thank all our friends and family for all the love and support shown to us during our time of loss. Thank you to the doctors and nurses at Weston County Health Services for his care, you showed great compassion and kept him comfortable. Doug and Diane and all your wonderful staff at Mondell Heights thank you so much for making Dad so comfortable that he called Mondell "Home".

David Bickford Family, Vicki Zimmerman Family, Starlia Singleton Family, Marty Borgialli Family

Card of Thanks

We would like to thank everybody for their thoughtfulness, prayers, food, cards and hugs. Also special thanks to nephew Jerry. *The Family of Charles R. Orcutt.* Sylvia Orcutt & Family

Card of Thanks

Thank you for supporting the Newcastle Christian Academy Bake Sale. We really appreciate the support!

Card of Thanks

The Family of Jim Dietz would like to thank everyone for their support, food, cards, flowers and kind words during the last few weeks. Thanks also, to Pastor John Hopper for his help, comfort and wonderful sermon. Also, thank you to the Newcastle Masonic Lodge for the graveside services.

Your many acts of kindness will never be forgotten. *May God Bless You All.* Shirley, Debbie and Chuck Dudley & Family; Jennifer & Joe Johnson & Family; Mike & Sarah Dietz & Family

Need copies, faxing or a notary? Stop in at the News Letter Journal, 14 West Main.

Card of Thanks

Thank You -A Little Late! Thanks to all who donated to the **"Wounded Warrior Project"** during the "Shine & Show" at Dow Park. \$109.50 was raised and donated.

Thanks again, Barb Riggs

Methodist Church Bazaar

Come join the fun at the Annual **Christmas in Wyoming Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Methodist Church.** Hours are 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Crafts, Christmas Decor, Baked Goods, Sewing, Silent Auction Items, Raffles, 2nd Time Around and more. **Lunch available** starting at 11 a.m. 3-tp

Air Conditioner Covers

Fabricated right here in Newcastle. Protect your central air units from getting clogged with leaves and debris. Black Hills Boot & Canvas Repair. (307) 746-2999. 45-4t

Help Wanted

Museum Technician - The Weston County Museum District has an opening for a part-time Museum Technician at the **Red Onion Museum in Upton, WY.** The position if for 20 hrs. / wk. & includes sick time. Wages are DOE. *Applications may be picked up at the Anna Miller Museum, 401 Delaware Ave., Newcastle, WY or at the Red Onion Museum, 609 Pine St., Upton, WY. 44-2t*

Help Wanted

AMERICAN GREETINGS is looking for Retail Greeting Card Merchandisers in Newcastle, WY. As a member of our team, you will ensure the greeting card department is merchandised and maintained to provide customers the best selection of cards and products to celebrate life's events. Join the American Greetings family today by applying online at WorkatAG.com or call 1-888-323-4192. 46-

Help Wanted

PART-TIME opening for a Retail Clerk. Microsoft Excel, Word experience helpful and excellent customer service important. If interested drop your resume off at **Something Healthy, 119 W. Main Street-Newcastle. 45-2**

Will Do Odd Jobs

Odd Jobs Wanted: Will do painting, yard work, tree trimming, gutter cleaning, etc. Call Leonard Lang, 746-2999. 42-3tp

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Rentals

FOR RENT: 2 BR, 1 BA Mobile Home. 307-629-1032. 45-3tp

FOR RENT: Three Bedroom House.

Please call 746-5711. 30-1fc

FOR RENT: Clean, 3 BDR, 1 BA, Double Wide W/Carport. **NO PETS-NON-SMOKER.** Central Air, W/D. \$750/Month \$600 Deposit +Propane and Electricity. Looking for a Clean Responsible, Trustworthy Tenant. Available Nov. 1. Please call to view **307-746-5918.** 42-5tp

FOR RENT: Clean 3 BDR-2 BA, Single Wide, 14x70. **No Pets, Non-Smoker.** Central Air, W/D, \$600 Month, \$500 Deposit, +Propane and Electricity. Looking for a Clean, Responsible, Trustworthy Tenant. Available Oct. 15. Please call to view **307-746-5918.** 40-6tp

FOR RENT: Three Bedroom Mobile Home on private lot. 746-9446. 01-1fc

Color Copies at the News Letter Journal, 14 W. Main.

Rentals

FOR RENT: Two Bedroom, and Three Bedroom Mobile Home. No pets please. Call 746-5711. 38-1fc

Homes For Sale

House For Sale 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath Home Built in 2008. Large Corner Lot in Nice Neighborhood. Open Floor Plan, Finished 2 Car Garage, Paved Driveway, and Professional Landscaping. **Please call 307-746-3011.**

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FOR SALE: NEW Storage sheds. 8'x12' \$1100. Please call 307-756-3314. 46-52tp

No Trespassing

Absolutely **No Trespassing or Hunting** on the *Burke Property* at the west end of McArthur Street. **Violators will be prosecuted.** The land is **"Posted"**. It is for sale. 44-3tp

Self-Help

BIBLE STUDY-Non-denominational. Thursdays 10 a.m. Senior Citizen's Dining Room. We are at "Isaiah". More info call 629-0211 or 629-1472. 45-1fc

AL-ANON (help for family and friends of alcoholics) meets every Tuesday night at 6:45 p.m. Mondell Heights.

Open Door AA Meetings, **Sunday, and Fridays at 7 p.m. Wednesday meeting at 8 p.m. at the Catholic Church Basement (Back Entrance).** Contact, 629-0211 for more information. 3-1fc

AA Meetings-Weston County Hospital on **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** 23-1fc

Deadlines

Fridays, Fridays!!!! Deadline for the paper is on Fridays. Call 746-2777 for details.

Self-Help

HELPING HANDS Foundation of Weston County. Applications are now available to help. Please contact Rita Conklin at 307-629-0627 for information. 35-1fc

TOPS Meeting on Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact Norma Lease 746-4568

TOPS Club Meeting every Thursday morning at the Weston County Senior Center. **Contact Grace Davis, 746-4531.**

Recovery of HOPE-N.A.

1124 Washington-Newcastle, WY. Downstairs in the Board Room at Weston County Health Services. Every Monday at 7 p.m. For information contact Bobby 307-315-1000 or Russ 307-949-0823.

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Wy-Cans

IF YOU USED THE BLOOD THINNER PRADAXA and suffered internal bleeding, hemorrhaging, required hospitalization or a loved one died while taking Pradaxa between October 2010 and the present, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnston, 1-800-535-5727.

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Garage Sale

END OF YEAR GARAGE SALE. Gray Addition-1520 Poplar Street, Saturday, Nov. 16th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Snowmobile Helmets, Queen Mattress, Household Items, Christmas Gift Baskets, Decorations and More. 46-1tp

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One 9Wx7H Metal Garage Door with Rails, White, Good Condition. \$60. Ken Hunter 307-660-0282. 46-3tp

For Sale

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Wy-Can's Cont.

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Todd Bennington/NLJ

James Runyan, president and chief technology officer of Wyoming Refining Company, will be the guest speaker at this year's Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet, to be held at the Weston County Senior Services center on Friday, starting at 6 p.m.

Runyan to speak at banquet

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce is scheduled to host its annual banquet this Friday, Nov. 15, at the Weston County Senior Services Center. This year's featured speaker will be James Runyan, president and chief technology officer of Wyoming Refining Company, while musical entertainment will be provided by the Bluesage and Lace Band, of which former Newcastle resident Larry Roetzel is a member.

Asked if he felt nervous about being the center of attention Friday evening, Runyan stated that he has had occasion to speak before large audiences for much of his career and had in fact spent two years traveling the globe while explaining the intricacies of various hydrocarbon-related technologies to foreign audiences.

Originally from Houston, Runyan told the News Letter that he has been involved in the oil and gas industry since 1975 and spent 14 years with Conoco before venturing out on his own. The Newcastle refinery itself, which he and his business partner finalized purchase on in July 2011, would be the subject of Friday's talk, he said. More specifically, Runyan said he will address the refinery's future direction.

"As everybody knows, we filed for an expansion permit to go from 14,000 to 20,000 barrels a day," he elaborated. "We have started the engineering for that and plan to be in the construction phase by early spring. [It will entail] modifying some existing equipment and replacing some aging equipment with new, more efficient equipment."

As for the refinery's recent history, Runyan seemed pleased with the actions taken during his tenure these past few years to make the facility both more functional and aesthetically pleasing.

"From a corporate governance point of view, what we wanted to do was increase the awareness of the refinery in the community and improve [public perception]. At the time we purchased it, it was bad," Runyan admitted. "We have cleaned up a lot around here ... [things] that should have been done years ago."

As far as his personal motivation for remaining in the hydrocarbon sector these past several decades, Runyan seems to maintain a love/hate relationship with industry regulation — on the one hand they are a hindrance, on the other, he seems fascinated by the continual challenges and developments they pose for the oil industry.

"Well, it is [fascinating] because it changes," he reflected. "The technology changes. The laws change. The EPA rules change. It's a continual challenge to operate in the regulated environment you have today, whether it's the EPA, OSHA, myriad other federal agencies, and even the state. It's an everyday challenge to get more and more out of less and less."

"I think we're over regulated," he continued, "but we need to be regulated, too. In the past some of the big oil and chemical companies haven't been very good stewards ... It's not that you can't be, because you can. So I think some regulation is required and some regulation

“We need Newcastle and I think Newcastle needs us. We're the single largest employer here, and we have to find a way to get along and work together ... Most all of our crude is local.”

— James Runyan
Wyoming Refining Company

What: Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet
Where: Weston County Senior Services Center
When: Friday, Nov. 15
Time: Social hour @ 6 p.m.
Dinner @ 7 p.m.

they've just lost their minds on." In regard to the relationship of the refinery to the local community, Runyan said his objective is for it to be one that is mutually beneficial, and he believes that to a great extent it already is.


"We need Newcastle and I think Newcastle needs us. We're the single largest employer here, and we have to find a way to get along and work together ... Most all of our crude is local. It comes out of the Powder River Basin. It's locally produced crude, locally refined, and distributed locally between this corner of Wyoming and over into Rapid City ... so everything we do is geographically held and kept to a real small area that benefits everybody."

While Runyan will uphold the business end of things on Friday, former Newcastle woodshop teacher, Larry Roetzel, singer and banjo player for the Bluesage and Lace Band will provide the entertainment, both musical and comic.

A longtime Newcastle resident who now lives in Custer, Roetzel described the band as an eclectic blend of bluegrass, folk, pop and country music, and said they enjoy giving covers of songs by groups like the Doobie Brothers and the Eagles a bluegrass flair.

Roetzel joked that informing people he's the 2007 Wyoming State Banjo Champion only leads them to believe he's more skillful than he actually is, and told the News Letter that he hopes to provide some comedic relief in the form of a few funny anecdotes derived from his experiences. Being funny though, he said laughing, is harder than music, and he hopes not to set his audience up for too much disappointment.

The Bluesage and Lace Band's lineup is rounded out by Kerry Wallace of Riverton on vocals and guitar and Gillette's Cal Winland on vocals and bass. The group will also be joined by Doug Thomas of Black Hawk, S.D., on vocals and guitar for Friday evening's performance.



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