

Report details tax revenue decline

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

A recently released annual report produced by the State of Wyoming's Economic Analysis Division titled Wyoming Sales, Use, and Lodging Tax Revenue Report indicates total

sales and use tax collections declined in fiscal year 2013 by 4.5 percent after experiencing strong growth the two previous years.

According to the report, the construction & transportation and warehousing industries suffered the most

substantial declines of 23.1 percent and 19.6 percent, respectively, from the year prior, while mining — including oil and gas extraction — was down 8.8 percent.

“Wyoming's economic recovery has slowed down since the second

quarter of 2012 as weak prices for coal and natural gas put the brakes on the state's energy extraction industry,” Dr. Wenlin Liu, principal economist with the Economic Analysis Division, is quoted as saying in an accompanying press release.

Weston County was among those hardest hit with a decline in overall sales and use taxes collections of 28.2 percent, second only to Sublette County, which was down by 33.9

— See Taxes, Page 3



Ol' Tyme Christmas

First State Bank's float during the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce's Lighted Christmas Parade Friday took first place in the For-Profit category. See more from the event on Page 8. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

WCHS in favor of Medicaid expansion

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

Earlier this year at the Wyoming legislative session, lawmakers made the choice to opt out of the Medicaid expansion. When they reconvene in 2014, they will revisit the decision. When the board of Weston County Health Services met on Nov. 21 they discussed the impact that decision will have on the facility.

According to information WCHS Chief Executive Officer Maureen Cadwell received from the Wyoming Hospital Association, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act directs states to offer coverage to adults below 138 percent of Family Poverty Level, which

is \$15,401 for single adults and \$31,809 for a family of four in 2012. Except for administrative costs that are matched at 50 percent, the federal government will bear 100 percent of the cost for newly eligible adults, according to the ACA: 100 percent for the first three years, declining to 90 percent by 2020 and beyond.

It continued to explain that an “escape clause” could be written into the Wyoming law to allow the state to exit the program if the federal government doesn't keep its promise to pay.

The Supreme Court made the decision in June of 2012 to allow states to opt out of the Medicaid expansion; Wyoming was one of the states that did so.

“On behalf of hospitals, we think the Medicaid Expansion is a good thing. Because the majority of people we see who don't have insurance are in the emergency room, which is a higher level of cost to everybody,” explained Cadwell. “If we can get people to sign up for insurance and or Medicaid, that is going to help us in the end.”

Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Wyo, attended the WCHS meeting in November, during which Board Treasurer Barry Peterson asked his opinion regarding the possibility of Medicaid Expansion.

“I think that it is more viable and do-able. I am always leery of the federal government picking up the tab on things. I am a little more open to how that at least

will roll out,” Hunt replied.

WCHS Chief Financial Officer Lynn Moller reported to the board that 12.26 percent of the facility's patients are currently self-pay, which constitutes an eighth of their revenue. However, self-pay accounts make up about a quarter of accounts receivable and are 61 percent of all accounts received over 180 days. Charity care was only half a percent of revenue.

“Bad debt as a percentage of self-pay revenue was 45 percent. So 45 percent of our self-pay ends up going to bad debt. If we look at bad debt as a total percentage of hospital revenue, it is about 5.69

— See Medicaid, Page 11

Hawk recognized for forensic work

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

Dee Dee Hawk, director of the Game and Fish Wildlife Forensics and Fish Health laboratory in Laramie, was recently honored with the prestigious Boone and Crockett award from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The Newcastle High School graduate received the honor for demonstrating outstanding achievement as a prime mover in recognized wildlife programs.

“This award, although it was given to me, obviously was a huge team effort by everybody in the lab to do what we do to be successful at the law enforcement [level] prosecuting crimes and making sure hatcheries are stocking safe fish. It is a team effort. The award is in my name, but it is truly [myself] and my team that won the award,” Hawk said humbly.

In the Game and Fish laboratory at the University of Wyoming campus, at the Biological Sciences Building, Hawk helps solve Wyoming wildlife crimes. The lab



Submitted photo

Jeff Vonk, secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks and 2012-2013 AFWA President, with Dee Dee Hawk and Paul Phillips, a long-time member of the Boone & Crockett Club, who came especially to assist with the presentation.

— See Hawk, Page 10

DFS building construction questioned

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Some local residents and construction contractors have expressed concern regarding a new building currently under construction in Newcastle that is intended to house the offices of the Department of Family Services and the Department of Workforce Services, telling the News Letter Journal the bid proposal process undertaken by the state appears to have lacked transparency.

The building, which is being built by Russell Construction of Douglas adjacent to the Shopko parking lot, will be privately owned, with the state paying \$82,950 annually on an initial 10-year lease, according to a statement issued by Department of Family Services Director Steve Corsi.

Daniela Lucero of the Department of Administration and Information, the state agency which oversaw the bidding for the project, explained to NLJ how the request for proposals was sent out.

“We maintain a bidder's list for each county ... The [request for proposal] was mailed to everyone that was on the list

... It's up to the businesses, the contractors, to call to tell us to put them on the list.”

In addition to those already on the state-maintained list, Lucero said that local contractors Leighton Construction & Services, Anderson Plumbing & Contracting, JackMaster Construction, and, seemingly inexplicably, Decker's Market, a grocery store, had also been contacted in regard to the project.

Asked how a contractor can go about being added to the list, Lucero said the process is a straightforward one.

“They just call the procurement office here in Cheyenne, the [Administration and Information] Procurement Office, and tell us they wish to be added to the bidding list ... and they can specify if they just want one county or the whole state. But they need to let us know.”

Still, Robert Leighton of Leighton Construction & Services, whose company was among those Lucero claimed the state had contacted, said he didn't recall receiving the request for proposal and neither had at least one other local

— See Building, Page 11

Santa's sleigh is on its way

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Christmas will come a few days early for some lucky patron of Newcastle's downtown, who will find him or herself rewarded for shopping close to home this year with a sleigh full of goodies courtesy of local businesses participating in the Santa Sleigh Giveaway.

As Tony Sandoval, proprietor of Main Street's Lunatic's sports and hobby shop explained of the promotion — his brainchild — Newcastle lacks big box stores and other major shopping draws and so, “We have to try to bring the public to us, and what better way than to give them a chance to win something.”

“Each business that participates has a box to put tickets in,” Sandoval explained enthusiastically, “and a name is drawn from each one of those boxes from each one of those businesses to put into a final drawing. The whole concept is to get customers to go back and forth between the businesses downtown ... The more they shop around, the more chances they have to be in that final drawing.”

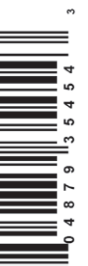
“Since technically Wyoming is not a gambling state, you can't purchase a ticket for a chance to win,” Sandoval continued with a Santa-like wink. “You're purchasing to become a valued customer. Now once you are a valued customer you are given a ticket. But you have to become valued first. You're not purchasing a ticket. You're becoming a valued customer. Each business sets their determination as to what they [consider] to be a valued customer. For me it's 50 bucks, [because] I don't have a lot of stuff that's under \$20.”

Depending on how much one purchases at a given shop then, and how much that particular shop considers a valued customer ticket to be worth, it is quite possible to have a number of tickets in one shop's box. Repeat that process at other participating downtown stores, and one's chance of winning big increases dramatically.

“One thing we want to stress this year is that the more you

— See Sleigh, Page 11

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi 8, Lo -11	Friday Mostly Sunny Hi 8 Lo -6	Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 11 Lo -3	Sunday Partly Cloudy Hi 13, Lo -8	Monday Partly Cloudy Hi 11, Lo -6	Tuesday Partly Cloudy Hi 20, Lo 4	Wednesday Sunny Hi 29 Lo 12	INSIDE: • Neighbors, Page 3 • Giving, Page 7 • Benefit, Page 9 • Kids helping, Page 12



Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

Impact players

We are only four weeks away from announcing the News Letter Journal Person of the Year for 2013, and we hope our readers will flood the newspaper with nominees prior to the Dec. 16 deadline.

We will announce our Person of the Year in the Jan. 2, 2014, issue of the NLJ, and that newspaper will be filled with feature stories about the eight to 10 individuals who made the biggest impact on Newcastle and Weston County over the course of the past year.

At this time of year, it is easy to see the positive results produced by those community members who so selflessly donate their time and resources to provide things for those in need, and as a result the kindest and most compassionate among us are always well represented in the issue that honors people who made a difference here.

We're sure that will be the case this year as well, and we look forward to receiving those nominations and telling the stories of the most obviously good-hearted folks in our midst, and perhaps even naming one of them as our Person of the Year.

But we'd also like to challenge our readers this year to submit names of not-so-obvious choices, so we may be able to recognize others whose contributions aren't as apparent, but whose roles are just as important.

We're looking for the unsung heroes who work behind the scenes, the unheralded servants who doggedly and consistently labor day after day to provide things that we may take for granted, and maybe even the unpopular leaders who make tough choices in the face of certain criticism because they realize the buck has to stop somewhere.

We're talking about public servants who toil in ordinary jobs, but perform those jobs exceptionally well and do so without fail. We're thinking about business people who provide goods and services here despite the fact that they could do so more profitably somewhere else, and we're referring to leaders in all walks of life who have the talent, skill, knowledge and conviction to succeed anywhere in the world, but choose to utilize those abilities in Weston County because of their love for this community and its people, and the sense of pride and loyalty they possess for their hometown.

These are the people that make this the best place in the world to live, and who are constantly striving to make it even better — sometimes at great sacrifice or discomfort to themselves — and they are the folks we want to honor in our first issue of 2014.

We urge you to think hard about the people who have made a difference here, and help us recognize them. Send your nominees to News Letter Journal, 14 W. Main St., Newcastle, WY 82701. You can also email them to editor@news1j.com or just drop them by our office. Include the nominee's name, and brief sentence or paragraph about why you think they should be our Person of the Year for 2013.

Letters to the Editor

Conservatives need a stronger voice

Dear Editor,

With all due respect to Don Thorson, the opinion he has is just that. It is not a consensus, he does not speak for all of us. There are many who are frustrated at the old man's club that has become the Republican party. We have lost two general elections, the old guard needs to step aside and let a tougher, more aggressive group prevail. The Democrats knew they had to change, and to the detriment of the Republican party they did it successfully.

Many conservatives are sick and tired of elected leadership towing the line with Democrats, the result of which is a rogue Harry Reid doing whatever the hell he wants, and apparent inability from the Republicans to stop him. Reid won't even listen, never mind put a Republican plan on the senate floor on any major issue. We need voices who say enough!

So many of those elected forget their promises to constituents, they forget how to fight and they become complacent and ineffective after too many years in office — getting along to get ahead.

I recently had an opportunity to hear both Senator Mike Enzi and Liz Cheney speak. Enzi spent a good bit of his time telling us how impossible it was to deal with Harry Reid and how, although he had many personal friendships with Democrats, the divide between parties is greater than ever. He

never explained how those friendships might help him to change that and force Reid into a compromise.

Personally, I think Ted Cruz said it best; "I didn't come to the Senate to make 99 new best friends," and that is the tone many of us want here in Wyoming.

We are in an incredibly difficult time, a time where the ideological differences between Liberals and Conservatives seem impossible to breach.

I personally want a fighter, I want a voice, a loud voice, and Liz Cheney seems to understand our frustration at the "norm" in Washington DC.

— Gillian Sears



Stand up and reclaim our rights

Dear Editor,

Amendment 10 to the United States Constitution reads, "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Where in the Constitution does it say anything about the federal government telling us how to educate our children, regulate our air, water or land, protect plants and animals or take care of our health needs?

These things are (or should be) "reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." We need to become more forceful in regaining these rights for ourselves and our state.

— Jean Harshbarber

Deadline for Letters noon on Friday

Teacher's kids have nowhere to hide

It is senior skip day, and I, a fellow senior, am sitting in class just like any other day.

This is the epitome of the life surrounding a child with two teachers as parents. Although it may have a few perks, being a teacher's daughter sometimes just plain ... sucks.

Ever since I can remember, I couldn't get away with any type of misconduct when it came to school. A majority of the teachers within the community have associated with my parents not only on a professional level, but also on a personal level, which makes it quite difficult for me to get away with any misbehavior.

Most children could get away with some occasional mischief at school without their parents ever hearing about it.

Then there was me. If I was to get in even the slightest bit of trouble, I would walk through the door after school to find both of my parents, hands firmly crossed against their chests. The first words out of their mouths — in unison of course — ran along the lines of, "Is there something you need to tell us?"

I learned early on that there was no use in trying to lie my way out of it. The best response for me was to just tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to avoid more extensive consequences.

When extra credit opportunities were presented in classes, I was almost always forced to complete the work, but just like any teenager, I always tried to get out of it.

"Mom I have a 96 percent in the class. I don't need the extra credit," and her response, without fail, was always "But, what if something comes up and you end up failing some test?"

As the daughter of two teachers, I knew it was always expected that my homework, and extra credit, was to be done, and handed in on time.

Since my parents have been teaching in this community for a number of years, most of the people in town have either been taught by my parents, or at least know who they are.

Because of this, my parents literally have eyes and ears everywhere. Some kids led their parents to believe that they were headed to school while secretly having the intent of spending the day with their friends Ferris Bueller style, but I never had such a luxury.

Some parents allow their children to periodically take a day off of school to take a quick trip over to Rapid, or to just have a day at home, but as said before, there are no skip days for the students who have teachers for parents.

When I was younger, I was often informed that the only reason I have acquired good grades is because my parents do all my homework for me.

Honestly though, if these people took a step back and realized that my parents have other responsibilities on their plates, they would discover that my parents have less time to do my homework than I do!



Courtney Munger
Teacher's Court

Giving Dad his due in a world of women

When picking out names for their firstborn, Gannon Michael was at the top of my parents' list.

They wanted me to have the initials GMC, for my dad's career and for his love of cars, and from the beginning, whether I was a girl or a boy, he was going to share his interests with me. Instead of getting a son that could enjoy the same hobbies as my father, however, he got two daughters.

Whether it's a secret or not, most fathers want a son to be able to play catch with or do other father-son activities with. My dad would've wanted someone who could share his love of cars with.

He would have enjoyed having a son who would want to learn about the different cars and how they work. My dad also could have taught him how to fix a car if it was not working properly. Since he really likes cars, he would have shared it with his children — son or daughter — but a son might have appreciated it more.

To try to make up for not having a son, I, being the oldest, do with my dad what he would have done with a son. A lot of hobbies he has made me

try are not very commonplace for a daughter to do.

For example, he's made me do a lot with cars. He's taught me how to drag race, mud bog, and truck pull, and I learned all of these skills over the course of one summer because I was finally old enough to drive. I also work at Outlaw Motors, putting the cars on the website.

I am around cars a lot for a daughter, but I don't really mind.

He has also had me try hobbies that don't deal with cars, but are just as masculine. My dad has taught me how to shoot a gun, how to weld, and how to drive a tractor. Learning how to drive a tractor might not seem as strange if I actually lived on a farm, but I don't.

I don't mind though, because not many people can say they've done the activities my father has introduced me to. Sometimes I might be a bit skeptical to try some of these hobbies, but I always enjoy them.

Even though my dad may have

wanted a son to begin with, he has adapted to having daughters. For instance, he really enjoys watching volleyball games now. When most people see my dad, they couldn't imagine that he would like watching volleyball, but he really gets into it. He takes stats during each one of my games and gives me pointers. My father is really supportive in all that I do, even though he said he would rather me just drag race than play a sport.

I know that he likes to share his favorite activities with me because he knows that I would like them.

He even got my mom to drag race. My sister is still too young to be able to drive, but once she gets her license, he will have her in a car, speeding down the runway.

A son might have taken less persuasion to drag race or mud bog, but I still ended up trying them.

My dad has also tried to compensate for living with three girls, and most of our dogs have been males, so he would not feel completely alone in



Kiana Cade
From the Driver's Seat



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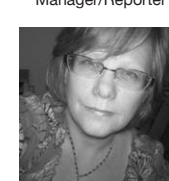
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What

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

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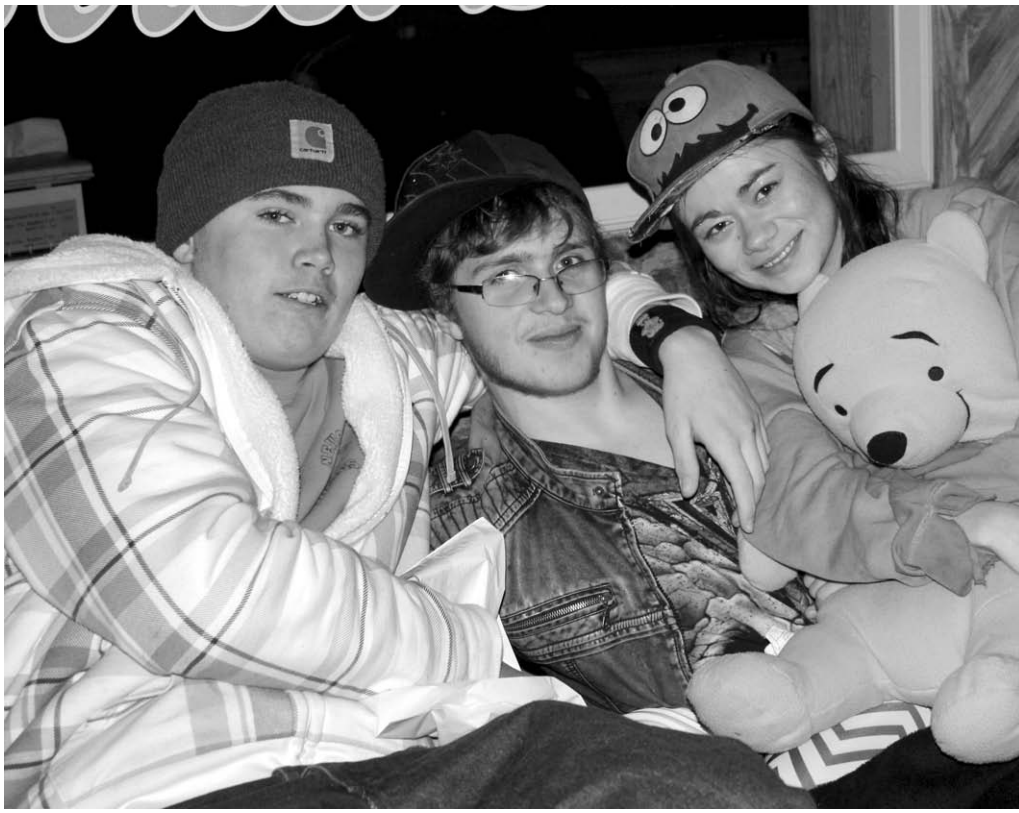
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Why

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

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Staying warm

Jonny Manders, Seth Daniels and Courtyllynn Barba huddle up to stay warm while waiting for the annual Christmas Lighted Parade on Main Street in Newcastle Friday. (Photo by Todd Bennington/NLJ)

They don't have to be strangers

Jessalyn Centifanto
Summer Solace

I've heard it said that "good fences make good neighbors" but I've found in my own life that the best neighbors are the ones that you get to know. There are all kinds of neighbors: young and old, sweet and grumpy, the ones below, next door and above, the ones who rise early and the ones who sleep late, and each with their own set of preferences and problems.

My husband and I live in a walk-up apartment on the second floor and we have encountered all kinds of neighbors — the older couple across the hall, the couple from Belgium who live below us, the quiet bachelor down the hall, the young married couple next door — they all are so different and yet each one is so special.

The elderly couple across the hall who first seemed wary — even grumpy considering the thought — of the "new people" soon became one of the first people that I could always count on to brighten my day with an eager smile as we walked up the stairs together and shared in each other's day.

The couple from Belgium — no matter how much they

complain about noise at every meeting and explain how early they go to bed — will always play their TV late into the night at a volume even a deaf person could hear. And though it is something that I will never understand, and even drives me crazy if I think about it too much, it is wonderful getting to know them as people and learning all about the languages they know and the culture they are from. It is a little easier to bear your differences when you share life with people and learn about all their hopes and dreams. They are no longer that annoying person you have to live with, but rather that person that is far away from home in a strange country with strange customs, looking for a friend.

The quiet bachelor down the hall we didn't even know lived there until several months of living here but is one of the sweetest people I have ever met. We've learned he is not only a very talented soccer player but also cooks some pretty amazing moose-meat tacos and only drinks "Kool-Aid" from Columbia that is a special Colombian berry flavor.

The young married couple next door, whom we encountered shy and awkwardly the first few times, soon became

our best friends here. On any given night they will most likely be at our apartment unless we are at theirs — the two have really become an extension of the other. We always disagree on football — these Broncos fans will never go for the "pack" or Rogers — and we may laugh at their Wisconsin accents, but they quickly have become part of our everyday life and we can't imagine how we lived without knowing our best friends next door.

There are many more neighbors in our lives, some that live in the same building or on the same block and some that we encounter next to us in some other way, neighbors at work and school, but wherever they are, whoever they may be, and whatever differences or frustrations you may have, don't build a fence, build a relationship. Soon you will find yourself not surrounded by people you have to live with, but friendships that make life beautiful. Even if you don't find a best friend and even if that person is still hard to live with, at least you will understand better where they come from, how to live with them and love them in a way that will make them more understanding and make you a good neighbor.

Taxes

from page 1

percent in the same combined categories.

Asked what she felt the report meant both locally and for the state in general, Newcastle City Clerk Charita Brunner told the News Letter Journal, "Well, for the state it's pretty scary because normally we always see that [Weston County is] on the bottom. We're always one of the counties — there's usually six or eight — that have a lot of trouble generating sales [and use] tax [revenue] ... [It's] just [because] of our size and that we don't have the mineral [resources] and things like that ... Property taxes are so low [here], we can't pave a single street with our annual property tax collections. Our sales tax and our use tax moneys from the state are a lot of our general fund income."

"You never see Campbell County decline, especially in double digits," she continued, speaking of Campbell's use tax revenues, which by themselves were down by 26 percent. "It's totally attributable to what's going on with coal and natural gas, I think. That's just shocking to me, when I saw that about Campbell. That's cause for concern if that trend continues into 2014."

"[It's] the federal government and the attitude there and the [Environmental Protection Agency] issues," Brunner opined, further elaborating on the plight of the coal industry. "If you can't sell [coal] locally, you have to go elsewhere.

That's my opinion, and I'm not an economist. Coal is looked upon by the general public as a dirty thing that they don't need ..."

Among those few sources of tax revenues that did not fall off were lodging tax collections, also covered in the report, which demonstrated a statewide increase of 2.2 percent, while Weston County's collections were up by approximately 4.7 percent.

Norma Shelton, secretary of the local lodging tax board, which is designated the Weston County Travel Commission, told NLJ she is pleased with the figures. The commission, which is responsible for promoting travel and tourism in Weston County through advertising and other means, attempts to formulate a budget at the beginning of the year based on a variety of factors, she said.

"When I saw what Weston County got (\$68,368) and what we budgeted, I thought maybe we were doing due diligence as far as money goes ... We have a budget this year of \$65,000, and as you can see, it looks like we've judged it pretty well."

Shelton speculated that much of the lodging revenues came as a result of money spent by workers associated with the ONEOK pipeline project.

"I think what happened to us in this past year was the pipeline," she said, "because those pipeline people were

staying here. They were staying in Weston County. They were spending their dollars in Weston County. That's my personal opinion ... They stayed in our campgrounds and our motels and they bought their groceries and bought their gas and all kinds of stuff here. I don't know. Maybe I'm wrong about that, but I think that was one of the biggest things we had."

Weston County Treasurer Susan Overman, however, downplayed the significance of the report, saying she feels the disappointing figures are mostly attributable to the generally poor economy and that, while concerning, she doesn't feel it constitutes a cause for alarm.

"There's nothing you really have control over," she said, adding that local employment remained relative constant and that businesses continued to open locally.

"The pipeline that came through, that generated a lot of revenue, but now that it's basically gone and gone to a different county, [others are going to see that revenue increase]."

"When one part falls, I think the other part kind of absorbs things," she concluded of the ebb and flow of the economy.

The complete report is available for download at the website of the Economic Analysis Division of the Department of Administration and Information: eadiv.state.wy.us.

Customer Appreciation Day



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Please support the *Tree of Love* with a donation made in Memory or Honor of a loved one. Donations are needed to help subsidize a *Lifeline* for those on lower incomes.

Send your loved ones name with a \$25 or more donation to Weston County Lifeline, 1124 Washington Blvd. The Tree of Love will be on display in the court house lobby throughout the holidays. Your loved one will be remembered in the special newspaper ad Dec 25.

After Jan 2nd an angel is yours to keep.



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Obituaries

WAYNE E. BORNGESSER
Feb. 20, 1960–Nov. 23, 2013
Wayne E. Borngesser, 53, of Newcastle, died on Nov. 23, 2013, at his home.



Wayne Borngesser

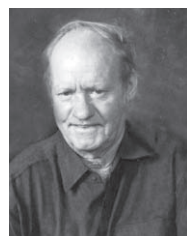
Wayne was born Feb. 20, 1960, in Islip, N.Y., to Edd and Joan Borngesser. He grew up in Elm Grove, Wisc., and attended grade school and high school in Brookfield, Wisc. While in high school, Wayne excelled on the swim team. He was also introduced to his future career in the automobile technician program at that time. Wayne attended several colleges before realizing his interest and talents were in automotive diagnostics and repair.

On Aug. 26, 1988, Wayne married the love of his life, Sylvia Goebel. Wayne and Sylvia moved to Levittown, Pa., where Wayne worked as an automobile technician and Sylvia as a cardio pulmonary technician for 15 years. The couple then moved to Wyoming in 2008. Wayne fulfilled his dream of starting his own automotive repair business and enjoyed the way of life and the many friends he made in Newcastle.

Wayne was passionate about his spirituality and modeled his life around his belief in Jesus Christ. Wayne was also very strong in his political and theological opinions, and was often the instigator of lively discussions on those and many other topics. Wayne also enjoyed making people laugh; his sense of humor was present at all times. He was an honest, thoughtful person and a very loyal friend. Wayne loved to help people. He will be greatly missed.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Sylvia, of Newcastle; father and mother, Edd and Joan Borngesser of New Berlin, Wisc.; brother and sister-in-law, Keith and Katie Borngesser, and nephews Dean and Joe Borngesser, all of Brookfield; his aunt, Maureen Volze of New York, N.Y.; aunt and uncle Beverly and Robert Borngesser of Florida; and cousins Susan Kalmuk and family of Wisconsin and Jim Borngesser and family of Florida.

MARVIN OLAF 'OLE' HOKANSON
Sept. 16, 1936–Nov. 30, 2013



Marvin Hakanson

Marvin Olaf "Ole" Hokanson, 77, of Newcastle, died Nov. 30, 2013, in Rapid City, S.D.

He was born Sept. 16, 1936, in Fort Yates, N.D., to Goodwin and Delia Hokanson. He completed eighth grade in Fort Yates, and eventually made his way to Wyoming, where he married Martha Cool in Sundance on Feb. 18, 1961.

He worked the better portion of his life in the oil field, and started his own roofing business in 1970 and worked on most places in Newcastle. Ole enjoyed fishing, camping and hunting, and enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, especially his grandkids and great-grandkids. He spent his time outside, working and playing with everyone.

Ole worked hard his whole life at everything he did, and never met a stranger. His lust for life will be remembered by many. Ole had a wonderful sense of humor and a strong devotion to family. He was known for always going on spur-of-the-moment adventures, and when asked about the destination would always say, "Timbuktu or Ekalaka!"

Ole is survived by his wife, Martha; children, Monica (Jim) Phillips, DeWayne (Erica) Hokanson, Kelly (Starla) Hokanson, Shelly Talbot and Mark Hokanson; 21 grandkids and 28 great-grandkids; two older sisters, Mildred Hokanson and Marleen Brumbles; and numerous nieces, nephews and family friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers, four sisters and two grandchildren.

Ole requested that he be cremated, so there will be no formal services, but the family is having a reception at the West End Bar and Grill in Newcastle on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1 to 4 p.m. They invite all to come and share good memories of Ole there.

ELLEN FOSTER KELLY
Jan. 25, 1949–Nov. 27, 2013



Ellen Kelly

Bobby "Ellen" Foster Kelly passed away in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 27, 2013, at 12:03 a.m., with her daughters, Angelique Wolfe Reed and Athena Wolfe Kennedy, and her husband Douglas Kelly by her side.

Ellen was born on Jan. 25, 1949, in Sheridan. She was the daughter of the late Robert Wesley Foster and Selma Ellen Leach Foster of Newcastle. Ellen grew up in Sheridan and attended two years of college on a music scholarship at Hastings College in Hastings, Neb.

Ellen served the Newcastle community as an accountant and bookkeeper. She served as the Wyoming State Jaycee-etts president, a civic organization for the wives of business and community leaders. She co-founded and co-owned the Short Stop Conoco Station and Bennett Accounting, and she was a major investor in the Mini Sprint Racing Association. She was known for her generosity and love for the community, especially during the holidays at the Short Stop. Ellen retired in Las Vegas where she continued to serve as a part-time bookkeeper and tax accountant for local businesses and clients.

Ellen was an artisan who enjoyed crafting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, gardening and cooking. She was an exceptionally generous and loving person who cared deeply for her family and friends. She loved animals as well.

Ellen is survived by her husband, Douglas Kelly of Las Vegas; brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Linda Foster of Pierre, S.D.; daughter and son-in-law, Angelique and Jason Reed of Gillette; daughter and son-in-law, Athena and Jeff Kennedy of Laramie; grandchildren, Sean Williams, Hannah Williams, Zach Reed, Zane Reed and Xander Reed; and her nephews, Chris Foster and Dustin Tenold. She is also survived by her animal companions, Jessie, Ellie and Smoky.

A celebration for family and friends, in remembrance of Ellen will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. at the Weston County Senior Center in Newcastle. All are welcome to attend. She touched many lives and will be dearly cherished and missed.

Cambria Improvement & Service District
The Board of Directors of the Cambria Improvement & Service District officially lifted the moratorium on the sale of water taps at their regular meeting on November 11, 2013

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Regular Church Attendance



- 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.
- BAHAI 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. Sharee 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.

Sharing God's Gift
With the beginning of Advent we begin to think of Christmas and the gift the Heavenly Father shared with us...his Son Jesus. As we enter the holiday season we can consider what gifts we can share to brighten the lives of others. A gift can have great or little value, depending on our resources; it's the thought that counts. Even if it's only a smile, we all have something we can thankfully share each day. At your house of worship this week, think about God's greatest gift and prepare your minds and hearts for the miracle of Christmas.
Weekly Scripture Reading
Matthew 24:29-44 Matthew 25:1-13 Matthew 25:31-46 Psalm 24 Psalm 29 Psalm 81 Psalm 84
Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society
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Offering sustenance

Colleen Pillon, Susan Francis, Judie Marano and Gerald Lane of the Newcastle Chapter of People First of Wyoming handed out hot chocolate and popcorn to spectators during the Christmas Lighted Parade on Friday in front of Something Healthy on Main Street. (Photo by Todd Bennington/NLJ)

Be aware of Wyoming tire chain laws

If you are traveling throughout Wyoming this winter season, the Wyoming Department of Transportation wants to remind you that when winter storms significantly impact highway travel, the state's chain law will go into effect.

Wyoming's chain law is two-tiered. What is called "Level 1" is declared when conditions are rated as "hazardous." Travel is restricted to vehicles equipped with tire chains, or to vehicles with adequate snow tires, or to all-wheel-drive vehicles.

When conditions deteriorate to an "extremely hazardous" rating, Level 2 of the chain law is declared. Travel is then restricted to vehicles equipped with tire chains or all-wheel-drive vehicles equipped with adequate mud and snow or all-weather tires, according to DOT.

For commercial vehicles, Level 2 of the chain law requires chains be on at least two of the drive wheels, at opposite ends of the same drive axle.

Along I-80 in southern Wyoming, the chain law is most likely to be enacted for three specific high-elevation sections:

- Three Sisters (mileposts 7 to 34, east and westbound) between Evanston and Bridger Valley. Specially designated chain installation and removal areas are located at both ends of the section.
- Walcott Jct. (beginning at milepost 235, eastbound) east of Rawlins and Sinclair. Chain installation or removal may be accommodated at Walcott Jct. Interchange (exit 235) or other locations designated by WYDOT or Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP).
- Summit (beginning at milepost 318, eastbound) from the bottom of Telephone Canyon east of Laramie. Chain installation or removal may be accommodated at locations designated by WYDOT or WHP.

Drivers on I-80 who cannot meet the requirements of the chain law will be asked to turn around and return to the

nearest community.

Another locale where the chain law is likely to be enacted during storms is the South Pass section of WYO 28 between Farson and Lander.

Highway Patrol troopers may make compliance checks when the chain law is in effect. A driver who violates the chain law and causes a highway closure can be fined \$750; other chain law violations carry a \$250 penalty.

"The chain law was enacted to improve traveler safety and to reduce the number of road closures resulting from vehicles becoming stuck on the roadway," WHP Administrator Col. John Butler said. "Our enforcement efforts are focused on those goals"

"State law does not specify any certain time of year when commercial vehicles must carry tire chains, but it's a good idea for them to do so during the cold weather season," Butler added.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Custer Christmas Parade 5:30 p.m.

The Parade Route will begin on 7th St. and move west on Mt. Rushmore ending at Way Park on 4th St. for the Memorial Tree Lighting Ceremony and parade award presentations.

Custer Merchants' Christmas Open House

Come downtown to enjoy extended hours for shopping and refreshments before, during and after the parade.

Holiday Celebration Gift & Craft Fair and Festival of Trees

9 a.m.-4 p.m. • YMCA Log Building
Santa and Mrs. Claus • 1-3 p.m.

Live Music at the old Song Bird • 6-9 p.m.
\$5 donation to Custer Arts Council

For more information go to www.custersd.com

I'd like to thank all the people who were so generous to me and my family on November 26 at the Senior Center. I also very much appreciated the care and compassion that was expressed.

The promise from Jesus in Luke 1:37 rings home for me, "Nothing is impossible with God".

Dan Gettinger and family

Holiday Bash ^{11th} Annual

Join us on Friday,
December 6th
9 a.m.

We look forward to helping with your embroidery needs!

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Weston Manor Mini-Bazaar and Pie Sale

Raffled door prizes! Home baked goods! Hand made crafts!

Saturday, December 7, 1:00-4:00
Weston Manor dining room

Proceeds from this event benefits the resident's activity fund.
Please call 746-2793 ext. 300 for further details

Calling All Elves!

Santa is in need of your help!

Due to rising costs and the growth of our community, Operation Santa is looking for donations. No gift is too small (please no clothes and only new toys). All donations can be dropped off at Pinnacle Bank or the Newcastle Police Department, we also have a tree at Family Dollar.

If you would like to mail your donations, please address them to the Newcastle Police Department, 25 N. Sumner Ave., Newcastle, WY 82701. For more information please call Tracie Haynes at 746-4253 or at 629-0233, or a Peace Officer member at 746-4486.

WHAT'S UP		Meetings & Events Calendar	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Dec. 5	11:45 a.m.	Newcastle Business Roundtable	Newcastle Country Club
	6 p.m.	Open Lodge Family Dinner	Masonic Lodge
	7 p.m.	W.C. Museum District	Anna Miller Museum
Dec. 6	7:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Water District Meeting	District Office
	8:30 a.m.	Customer Appreciation Open House	First State Bank
	9 a.m.	Open House	Modern Cleaners
	10 a.m.	Open House	Serendipity Nails
	11 a.m.	Open House	Edward Jones
Dec. 7	11:30 a.m.	Christmas Tea	Four Square Church
	6 p.m.	Pinnacle Bank Festival of Trees	W.C. Senior Center
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
	9 a.m.	Childrens Free Shopping	1st United Methodist Church
	9 a.m.	RENEW Santa Stuff the Bus	Family Dollar
Dec. 8	10 a.m.	Childrens Free Movie - Free Birds	Doggie Theater
	Noon	Book Reading & Coloring Contest	The Wedding Closet
	2 p.m.	Childrens Free Movie - Free Birds	Doggie Theater
	Noon	RENEW Santa Stuff the Bus	Family Dollar
Dec. 9	1 p.m.	W.C. Manor Mini Bazaar	W.C. Manor
	2 p.m.	Christmas Cantata "One Starry Night"	Crouch Auditorium
	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	Square Dance Lessons	Newcastle Elementary
Dec. 10	Noon	Dirt Daubers Garden Club	1621 Gray Blvd.
	6:45 p.m.	ALANON (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
Dec. 11	7:30 p.m.	Newcastle Eastern Star Meeting	Masonic Lodge
	7 p.m.	Ladies Firearms Safety & Self Defense	Indoor Range
Dec. 12	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	6 p.m.	Masons Family In Open Lodge	Masonic Lodge
Dec. 13	10 a.m.	Chamber Coffee	Black Hills Power
	7 p.m.	Dance - Music by Western Ramblers	W.C. Senior Center
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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IN DECEMBER**

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One Starry Night

8th Annual Performances of the Community Cantata & Hand Bell Choir

Sunday, Dec. 8th
2 p.m. @ Crouch Auditorium

Free Admission • Donations Accepted

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Open House

Friday, Dec. 6
10am-5pm

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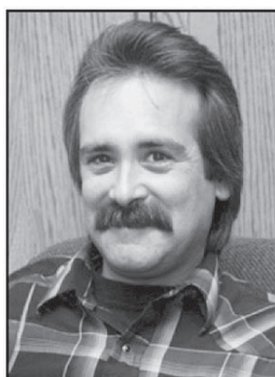
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Christmas in the County

West to direct Christmas Cantata

By **Todd Bennington** of NLJ

"I was in the choir last year and [Community Cantata Choir co-founder] Lynda [Russell] was just going to do everything from the piano, but the music was kind of difficult, so I offered my help. I stepped in probably for the last month before the concert," Stephen West told the News Letter Journal last Wednesday afternoon of how he came to find himself directing this year's performance. "My first year here [in Newcastle] I was just a choir member. The second year I didn't do it because we had a play that year, and I couldn't make the rehearsals for the cantata. Last year I just decided to be a member again, and since I stepped up to be the conductor last year, they kept me in mind ..."

Still, West, who holds a degree in music education from the University of Wyoming, seems to find having fallen into the role of director to have been an altogether happy accident.

"It's just really great being up there in front of all those people singing. There are some really talented people here [in Newcastle]," he commented.

As to what the duties of the director actually entail, West is humble.

"Really it's just being in front of those guys. I didn't have anything to do with the picking of the music, Lynda did all that ... I conduct the music ... A lot of the [choir members] know how to sing, but they don't know how to read music, so that's where I'm there to help them. It's great. The last couple of rehearsals I've been focusing a lot on dynamics, like loud and soft ... and playing with the different tempos and [giving] more feeling to the music."

West will be joined by Kristin Wilkes providing piano accompaniment, with whom he said he had previously worked on a musical version of "The Night Before Christmas," put on by the kindergarten class. The two are filling the roles respectively taken in past years by choir co-founders Joyce Diedrich and Russell.

But West's ambitions for the choir extend beyond the immediate holiday season, and he hopes that they can put on at least one additional performance each year.

"I'd like to do something for the Fourth of July, choir wise," he said. "I love to stay involved in music. It brings people together, and it's nice to see all those people [turn out] ... My ultimate goal is to start a community band. I'd really like to do that. I've been asking people ... if there would be interest in it. It seems like there [would be]. They just need somebody to take the reins and organize something."



Todd Bennington/NLJ

Stephen West will be directing this year's Community Christmas Cantata.

The Community Cantata Choir began about eight years ago when June Habeck made a bequest to Christ the King Lutheran Church in the name of her late husband, Harry, a choral music enthusiast. As Diedrich previously explained to the News Letter Journal of the choir's

distinctive name, "a cantata is a selection of music tied together with dialogue that tells a story."

This year's performance, which will also feature the Newcastle Bell Choir, will begin at 2 p.m. on Dec. 8 at Crouch Auditorium.

Give the kids a break while shopping

By **Denice Piscioti** of NLJ

In the midst of holiday shopping, a movie can offer a pleasant reprieve. On Saturday, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., children in the community will have the opportunity to attend the new animated movie, "Free Birds," at the Dogie Theater, giving parents time to round up gifts without the little ones in tow.

"The purpose is to give families a chance for kids to come to a free movie and parents to shop in town," acknowledged Kim Rhoades, Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce board member.

Offering a free movie to children in the community began in 1964 continuing

until 1972. It resumed again in 1975 through 1999 when it was stopped due to lack of attendance.

The tradition was picked up again in 2010 when the one free showing quickly filled up. The following year, Rhoades explained, the NACOC board members did not want to see that happen again, so more sponsors were rounded up to allow for two showings.

"I think it works out great for everyone! Bill [Nelson] is so great to get a current movie the kids haven't seen," Rhoades said.

She appreciates how Nelson, the manager at the Dogie Theater, goes out of his way to help make a fun event

for children in the community to enjoy.

However, noted Rhoades, the free movie would not be possible without the sponsors, which include the Chamber, First State Bank, Weston County Title LLC, and Wyoming Refining Company.

"I would like to encourage everyone to thank the sponsors because they pay for the movie tickets," smiled Rhoades.

The parents are not the only ones with the opportunity to shop for Christmas presents on Saturday, though. From 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church, with help from several other area congregations, will once again provide a free shop-

ping experience for preschool and grade school children in the community.

Jill Sellers, a member of the Kids Shopping Day Committee, told the News Letter Journal that she feels it's important for children to learn the joy of giving. At the event each child can pick out donated items as presents for their parents and grandparents, then have them gift-wrapped with help from volunteers from Newcastle middle and high schools.

"We would like to extend an invitation to kids to come to the church to shop for their families so they can know the gift of giving," encouraged Sellers.

The Children's Christmas

Christmas in the Hills
December 6, 7 & 8 in Hot Springs, SD

Friday December 6th

- 4:30-6 p.m.** Italian Dinner - St. Anthony's Catholic Church
- 5 p.m.** Sandstone Singers - Evans' Lobby
- 5:30 p.m.** Santa & Mrs. Claus - Inside the Evans Chanteurs Singing
- 6 p.m.** Tree Lighting - Evans' Porch
- 6:15 p.m.** Journey of Lights Parade
Sponsored by Black Hills Power

Saturday, December 7th

- 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Crafters' Marketplace - Mueller Civic Center
Admission \$1 for Adults
Minnekahta Quilters Guild Display
- 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Carriage Rides (weather permitting)
Pictures with Santa, Sponsored by 4-H Members
Living Nativity on VA staircase by the Evans
- 5 p.m.** Elizabethan Dinner at Woollys
- 5:30 p.m.** Dinner by Hot Springs High School Choral Dept.
Reserve Tickets at Woollys \$15

Sunday, December 8th

- 1-4:30 p.m.** Home Tour & Christmas Tea
Pine Hills Retirement Community
Sponsored by the Shakespeare Club
- 5:30 p.m.** Elizabethan Dinner at Woollys
Dinner by Hot Springs High School Choral Dept.
Reserve Tickets at Woollys \$15



Christmas in the County



Concert kicks off week, year of giving

Story and Photos
by Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Newcastle Ministerial Association conducted its annual Ministerial Christmas Concert on Sunday evening at the Weston County Senior Center where a sizable crowd seemed to meet the musical and dramatic performances on offer with quiet reflection, as they perhaps considered the deeper, spiritual meaning of the Christmas holiday.

Those performing at the event included the Gateway Youth Group, the Newcastle Community Youth Hand-Bell Choir, and students from the Newcastle Christian Academy, among a host of others.

Lynn Schleicher, minister of First Christian Church, explained to the News Letter Journal last Friday the mission of the Ministerial Association and its annual concert.

"Our goal is to meet the needs of the community throughout the year, and this concert is our kickoff. We'll take an offering that night. It will be a sizable offering. It always is. But during the next week we also solicit offerings, and we solicit the names from the community of people in the community that need a hand up."

"And we do have those people," Schleicher continued. "Sometimes we don't think [that's the case] in a little community like this, [but] we have people who are temporarily out of a job or just moved in or had a car crash ... We help those kinds of people all through the year, but our special emphasis in Appeals Week is people who need something for Christmas. Most of it's food. Every penny we get [during Appeals Week] is distributed before Christmas."

"We sit down as ministers of the group and divide up the names," he continued of how the process works, "and I think there were a hundred and sixty-seven names last year. Whatever monies we get, we divide it up and write a voucher to every individual. Last year it was \$15, so a family of four [whose] name somebody put in [would have received a total of \$60]."

"And we check them out," Schleicher assured the News Letter Journal. "It might sound funny. It might sound really bad. I don't know. But we know people in the community, and if a name comes in there of someone we know who is not really in need ... We reserve the right not to help somebody who doesn't need help ... We do a lot of checking on it."

As for how to best go about making a donation to the association, who will be manning a donation booth somewhere around town this week, Schleicher suggested, "The best way is to go to any minister here in town and just give them a check. We'll put it in an envelope. In fact I've already got two or three from my church that I will put in my offering on Sunday night."

"It all goes to help needy people in [the local area]," Schleicher concluded of the association's worthy cause.



Clockwise, from top: Ken Pitlick, Norm Brotzman, Lynn Schleicher, Gary Anderson and Jon Anderson perform a rendition of "Good Christian Men Rejoice"; Ted Carr soulfully strums his guitar; Mick Bohn loses himself in song; J.R. Graham, Cole Allison, Moriahn Kenney and Asia Graham perform a Nativity play. All were performers at this year's Ministerial Christmas Concert, which took place Sunday at the Weston County Senior Center.



November Good Deed Lunch at Pizza Hut.
From left: Jacob Burd, Elizabeth Haynes, Chloe White, Avery Chick, Assistant Principal Heidi Stuzman, Travis Scribner, Jacob Prell & Derrick Rasmussen

Young Achievers

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Christmas is all lit up

People lined the streets in downtown Newcastle to watch the annual Christmas Lighted Parade the day after Thanksgiving. Not only were there more floats than last year, but the weather was nicer too. Generosity was also in the air when Cambria Bow Hunters donated their first-place nonprofit winnings to Operation Santa, who provide gifts under the tree for children in the community.

- 2013 Ol' Tyme Christmas Lighted Parade winners, announced by the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce:
- Cambria Bow Hunters: 1st place non profit
 - First State Bank: 1st place profit
 - Little Ones Daycare: Use of space
 - News Letter Journal/Sweet Country Suites: Creative Operation Table Scraps: Group Involvement
 - Sagebrush Maids and Wranglers: 1st place Youth
 - Weston County Peace Officers: Theme
 - Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp: Brightest



Clockwise, from top: Jenna Dixon, Amanda Dixon, Emma Hintz, Olivia Hintz and Savannah Lorenz on the Little Ones Child Care float; Olivia McVay on the Cambria Bowhunters float; Santa rides with Austen Kenney, Chris Kenney, Shaylee Curren and Cady Koch in the fire truck.



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Come on in for the holidays!

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

The first weekend in December will be a time to see old friends, eat delicious food and shop in Newcastle when local businesses open their doors and invite the public in. On Friday, four local businesses — First State Bank, Modern Cleaners and Graphic Design, Serendipity Nail Boutique and Edward Jones — will hold Open Houses for the community. The following day handmade items will be for sale at Weston Manor Mini-Bazaar and Pie Sale.

One of the largest of the Open Houses is First State Bank's annual Customer Appreciation Day, which features refreshments, free gifts and door prizes.

The event kicks off bright and early at 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning, lasting until 4 p.m., so there is plenty of time to come in and visit.

"We will have door prize drawings throughout the day. We also will have a giveaway for everybody," informed First State Bank assistant vice president and employee of 38 years, Louise Stith. "Come

out and enjoy our day to appreciate the community!"

Right around the corner from the bank Modern Cleaners and Graphic Design will be hosting its 11th annual Holiday Bash, featuring soup and other wonderful food for everyone to enjoy.

"We are going to start at 9 a.m. and continue until the food is gone. Come early, the food goes fast," owner Rosemary Hines encouraged.

She continued to say their holiday open house is a day she and the staff look forward to because they get to see everyone in the community.

Across the street and down a block, Serendipity Nail Boutique will also have an Open House giving people an invitation into Sherry Warden's business to see what she has to offer.

"I will have snacks and lots of merchandise on sale! Come in and sign up for door prizes," Warden stated.

At the other end of town, at 2013 Main Street, Suite 103, Jeff Virchow invites the community to the Edward Jones office to celebrate the holiday season from 11 a.m.

until 3 p.m. They will also have drawings and door prizes as well as pulled pork, meatballs, white chili, a relish tray, holiday cookies and more.

"We will have M&Ms in a jar; the closest one to guess the number will win a basket of goodies," acknowledged Jill Sallee, an employee at the business.

She recalled that last year was her first year to enjoy the festivity when 50 community members joined them, but they are hoping for more this year.

"We want everyone to come! We don't want to run out of food, but we intend to have lots of food!" Sallee offered.

The community will have another opportunity to visit and to shop on Saturday, beginning at 1 p.m., when the Weston County Manor will host a bazaar in the dining room, featuring home-baked goods and handmade crafts, Activities Director Brenna Crawford told the News Letter Journal. The money made is used toward trips for the residents.

"We will have holiday craft times — holiday décor and tree ornaments — the residents work on all year," she said.

Winter

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“...and-number-20-takes-the-fruit!”

Story and Photos
by Amy Menerey of NLJ

More than three dozen home-made scrumptious soups lined a long line of tables last Tuesday night at Weston County’s senior center, where a crowd of close to 200 people were in attendance. It wasn’t a holiday gathering, but what could have been a somber event was more of a happy family gathering as friends and family of Dan Gettinger — who is in treatment for cancer — came to enjoy the soups, home-made breads, silent auction and a live auction, all as a means to offer both emotional and monetary support to the Gettinger family.

After downing bowls of soup the live auction began with Jeremy Slaamot as auctioneer, which included everything from furniture to hand-crafted birdhouses, collector coins, artwork and guns and ammunition. Kids frolicked through the halls while adults visited, and when everyone had had their share of food, it too was sold or auctioned off — including a fruit tray, which Angii Hovland took home for \$20.

Nearly four dozen items were donated for the silent auction, from pastries to potholders, on which bidders could make their offers throughout the night.

In addition to live music provided by Jon Anderson, Barb Anderson, Emma Anderson, and Lucas Stolhammer, the Newcastle Community Youth Hand-Bell Choir also performed during the evening, their chimes echoing throughout the building.

“The volunteers really made it go smoothly,” said Pastor Jon Anderson of Gateway Fellowship Evangelical Free Church, who organized the event. “There was lots of help, and a lot of donations — that was huge.”

“Financially it turned out really well, beyond my expectations,” Anderson reported, indicating that all money from the event will go toward Gettinger’s medical and travel expenses, such as trips to Mayo Clinic.

For those interested in making donations to the Gettingers, The Gettinger Benefit Fund has been set up at First State Bank, Anderson reported, which will remain open for the next couple of months.



See more photos online at www.news1j.com

Clockwise, from top: Betty Slagle calls it quits in a bidding war with another contender; Bob Strickland and Wayne Wilson visit; Marlin Geier holds a basket of "the best jelly in the world," as Jeremy Slaamot calls out the bids in the background; Pat and Vicki Hayman




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Attention All Weston County Residents!

Weston County Peace Officers Operation Santa is in full swing. If you are in need or know of a family in need please fill out a form at the following places: Newcastle Police Department, Newcastle BREAD Office, DFS Office, Upton Police Department, or Joes Food Center. For more information please call Tracie Haynes at 746-4253 or at 629-0233, or a Peace Officer member at 746-4486.



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Congratulations to **Lexi Krogman** for being named to the “A” Honor Roll for the 1st Quarter of the 2013-14 school year at NHS.

The News Letter Journal and Newcastle High School apologize for the inadvertant omission of her name from the list that was published on Thursday, November 14, 2013.

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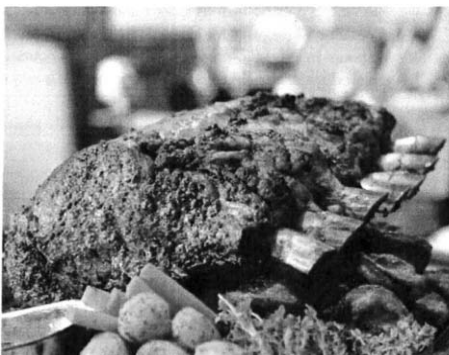
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 The perfect centerpiece for your holiday celebration...
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For a generous serving of roast, figure on two people per rib. That means if you plan to serve:
 Six (6) people - Three (3) rib roast
 Eight (8) people - Four (4) rib roast
 Ten (10) people - Five (5) rib roast
 Twelve (12) people - Six (6) rib roast
 Fourteen (14) people - Seven (7) rib roast

Ingredients:
 • 1 standing rib roast
 • Kosher salt
 • Freshly ground black pepper
 • Garlic powder

Au Jus:
 • Pan drippings from roast, 1 to 1-1/2 cups
 • 3/4 cups red wine
 • 2 cups beef stock
 3 Tbsp unsalted butter
 • Salt and freshly cracked black pepper

PREPARATION: Ask butcher to prepare your prime rib with bones cut away from the roast and tied back to the roast with kitchen string.

Optional: Dry aging - to make the roast more tender and flavorful, allow the roast to air-dry, uncovered in the refrigerator on a rack overnight before roasting.

To cook evenly, the roast must not be cold - let it stand at room temperature, loosely covered, for about 2-3 hours. If you don't let the roast come to room temperature, it will take longer to cook the roast, the roast won't cook evenly, and it will end up with well-done slices on the end and raw meat in the center.

Preheat oven to lowest possible temperature setting, 150°F if possible (some ovens can't hold a temperature below 200°F). Season roast generously with kosher salt, fresh ground black pepper and garlic powder. Place roast, with fat cap up, on a rack set in large roasting pan. Place in oven and cook until center of roast registers 120°F on an instant-read thermometer for medium-rare or 135°F for medium. In a 150°F oven, this will take around 5-1/2 to 6-1/2 hours. In a 200°F oven, this will take 3-1/2 to 4 hours. Allow additional cooking time for your prime rib roast at high altitude. It is easy to overcook meat at high altitudes.

NOTE: For a perfectly cooked rib roast, invest in a good meat thermometer! Internal temperature, not time, is the best test for doneness. When checking temperature of your prime rib roast, insert meat thermometer so tip is in thickest part of beef, not resting in fat or touching bone.

If timing is off and your roast is ready long before your guests are, the roast can be re-heated by placing in a 200°F oven for 45 minutes before continuing with next step.

Remove roast from oven and tent tightly with aluminum foil. Place in a warm spot in the kitchen and allow to rest for at least 30 minutes, and up to an 1-1/2 hours. Remember, the rib roast will continue to cook as it sets so the temperature will rise. Cutting into the meat too early will cause a significant loss of juice.

Meanwhile, preheat oven to highest possible temperature setting (500°F to 550°F). Prepare the Au Jus.

Strain drippings from roasting pan, skim fat from drippings. Place roasting pan over 2 burners, heat on medium high and add in drippings, stir to deglaze, add in wine and stock, reduce by 1/3 about 5 minutes on steady boil, stirring occasionally. Turn off heat, add in butter. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Strain once more into serving vessel.

Ten minutes before guests are ready to be served, remove foil and place roast back in hot oven and cook until well-browned and crisp on the exterior, 6-10 minutes. Remove from the oven. With a knife or scissors, cut the strings which attach the meat to the bones. Then, using a sharp carving knife, slice meat across the grain for serving, making the slices about 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick.



Glowing ahead

Owen and Dayne Evenson have a cold drink along with glow sticks that were being given away at Frontier Home, Rand & Hardware Friday night during the Christmas Lighted Parade. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

Hawk

from page 1

is capable of testing evidence from 13 species of animals: mule deer, black bear, grizzly bear, white-tailed deer, moose, elk, pronghorn, mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, grizzly bear, turkey, sage grouse, mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Their services are also contracted by Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Iowa and Illinois because those states do not have this level of wildlife forensics capabilities.

"There are often years the Boone and Crockett Club does not give the award out because they don't feel the applicants are worthy, I guess. So I thought that was pretty cool," Hawk told the News Letter Journal in a telephone interview.

At the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference in Portland, Ore., on Sept. 10, she received a beautiful plaque, a Boone and Crockett conservation stamps-print and an actual 1980s conservation stamp, along with a Boone and Crockett Club published book with a dedication page inscribed directly to Hawk.

"The funny thing is I didn't even know that was there until four days after I got home," she admitted. "I thought that was really, really super cool!"

The main criteria for the Boone and Crockett Club, she acknowledged, is fair chase, common sense, resource, conservation and making sure people play by the rules. The law enforcement aspect is very important to them, she added, since the group encourages outdoor ethics.

Hawk is a member of the Association of Wildlife Agencies through the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science, a group she actually helped create.

Every three to four years Hawk and others in her field try to arrange a wildlife forensics conference, previously held in conjunction with

the human forensics conference. However, in the spring of 2009 after a meeting was planned, the group pulled the meeting from them to give to another group.

"We decided we wanted to move forward with the meeting. We decided most people would not be able to come to a meeting without it being under a group that will promote continuing education. So we decided we were going to make our own society, then we put that together and had our meeting in the fall," she stated.

The response has been spectacular with members from 15 countries and 16 different labs that are part of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science. This offers labs that are far apart the opportunity to have more resources available.

"They have somebody they can call when they run into a problem or if they are trying to expand their capacity. It is very helpful," Hawk reported.

As the animal health inspector for the American Fisheries Society Certified Aquatic, Hawk performs annual fish health inspections on all state and private aquaculture facilities in the state. It requires a lot of travel to go to each fish hatchery in Wyoming, but she says they are all in gorgeous parts of the state so she doesn't mind.

"We go to hatcheries and we do what is called a veterinarian inspection of hatcheries. We will go in and look at all the fish that are on the facility," explained Hawk. "We have to go to each of the hatcheries to do that at least once or twice a year."

After samples of the fish have been examined to be disease-free a certificate is sent to the hatchery so they can continue to stock and move fish around Wyoming.

On the forensic side, she said, they don't travel as much

because the forensic samples that need to be tested come to the lab either directly or through the mail. Every once in a while, for the bigger cases, she said, they might have to go to a scene and collect evidence with a search warrant.

Typically this time of year is extremely busy for forensics. Last year they saw a case every single month. Since becoming lab director eight years ago, Hawk doesn't do as much hands-on work like she used to, but she is personally responsible for the technical review of all work in the forensic lab. Identifying blood, meat and biological fluids collected in wildlife law enforcement and other biologic-oriented cases are a part of her job.

"I do all the technical review for the program, which means I go in and I look at all the analysis that was done and all the results and I make sure I came to the same conclusion that my technicians came to. I do that on every single case that leaves the lab," recognized Hawk.

After graduating from Newcastle High School in 1983, she continued her education at Casper College and moved to Laramie to attend the UW, and ended up staying. She began school to become a veterinarian, but in her junior year of college she realized her allergies to animals, straw and hay would not work well within that field.

Her current career began when Hawk was hired to begin the forensic program. She is grateful for the support she received from her superiors who have supported her vision from the beginning.

"I actually went to school for microbiology and medical technology. I literally fell into this job. I just got lucky. I thank God every day because it is the coolest job on the planet!" she proclaimed. "I feel very fortunate, I love my job!"

\$50,000 REWARD

For information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in the death of Katherine Grace Coffee.

On the morning of June 3, 2011, the body of **Katherine Grace Coffee, also known as Katy Coffee**, age 35, was discovered in her home in Newcastle, the victim of an apparent homicide. Her death is being investigated by the Newcastle Police Department and the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.

Anyone with information about the crime or knowledge of Coffee's whereabouts on the evening and night-time hours of Thursday, June 2, 2011, are asked to **please call the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation at (307) 682-1796, or the Newcastle Police Department at (307) 746-4486.**

Coffee's family has offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone that can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in this crime.



Paid for in part by the News Letter Journal



Todd Bennington/NLJ

Tony Sandoval of Lunatic's, shown at his Main Street shop, is heading up the Santa's Sleigh giveaway with items donated from Newcastle's downtown merchants.

Sleigh

from page 1

shop, the more you put your name in each individual box, the [greater] your chances ... of having your name more than once in the final drawing," Sandoval emphasized.

Sandoval, who initiated the similar giveaway of a stocking full of presents last year, purchased this year's sleigh with the aide of Frontier Home, Ranch and Hardware. As for what will go in it, "It's whatever the businesses want to put forward into this drawing," he explained, while his own contribution will be a remote-controlled helicopter/squirt gun.

Given the number of participating businesses, Santa's

Sleigh will no doubt be brimming with all kinds of nifty things when it finally comes time for the drawing.

"Downtown doesn't look so big," Sandoval said, speaking of the scope of the giveaway, "but if you count all the businesses, we've got over 20 just participating in this." More, he indicated, are being added to his list of participants daily.

And if you find you have absolutely no use for an item you've won, well, there's always the option of spreading the Christmas spirit by giving it to someone else.

"You're going to get a whole sleigh full of stuff," said Sandoval. "That person you

can't find something for, well heck, it might be in that sleigh. Re-gift it ... All the businesses are going to have their business card taped on whatever they donated. It would just be nice, if things are going to be re-gifted, if that business card went with it, because this is our businesses trying to advertise to people as well. It would just be a kind act for the person that wins to keep that business card with that item if they are choosing to re-gift it to someone else for the holiday season."

The final drawing to determine the lucky winner of Santa's Sleigh is scheduled for Dec. 21.

Building

from page 1

contractor, also contacted by the state according to Lucero, with whom Leighton said he had been in touch.

Asked if he was aware of the contractor list maintained by the state, he said he had not been on it until recently.

"I hadn't until we started looking into this," Leighton said, adding that he feels there seems to be shortcomings in how the state disseminates the request for proposals.

"Everything seems pretty vague," he said of the process.

Asked to elucidate how the bid process was conducted, Lucero, who cautioned that the state does not yet have an executed lease with the contractor, explained, "The way the request for proposal went out, we just asked for a certain square footage ... and what some of the requirements for each agency were."

"The proposal was advertised," she continued of the selection process, "[but] we only received one bid. We only got one. It took [Family Services and Workforce Services] quite a while to make a decision [due to the lack of choices]. The [agencies] went through it and worked with the bidder to make sure all of their requirements would be satisfied ... We were not involved in the purchase of the land. That was on the contractor's end. We did not ask for anyone to purchase land or anything, but that's how this particular one worked out."

Indeed, a brief public notice which ran in the legal section of the News Letter Journal between June 6 and June 20, 2013, makes mention only of "providing office space in the City of Newcastle," with no allusion to any potential construction opportunities or requirements.

In response to a follow-up email in which Lucero was asked to explain why the state had immediately sought to contact construction contractors if only leased office space was being sought, Lucero mentioned the limited availability of suitable pre-existing spaces in the area. She also wrote that she had verified that Leighton Construction & Services and other local contractors she had previously named had been noti-

“ To me [there are better uses] for that property because of the traffic and everything. You want a city to have the look of vitality and something that attracts people ..."

— Victoria Heller

It's a private entity that is building it ... The state put a [request for proposal] out for space to lease in the Newcastle area. I don't know what else I can tell you about it other than it's a private company that builds these buildings."

Victoria Heller, a local resident who had once considered purchasing the property in question in order to construct a franchise restaurant, and who has been outspoken in questioning the project, said she felt the property could have been put to a purpose more beneficial to the community in general.

"To me [there are better uses] for that property because of the traffic and everything. You want a city to have the look of vitality and something that attracts people, and when they come through on Highway 16, coming from Custer on their way up to Yellowstone or whatever, we need, as a city, some attractive things that people like, [such as a restaurant]. A lot of people never go off the beaten track and see anything in Newcastle, if they're just on their way [to someplace else]."

Heller rejected the suggestion that she had a vested interest or personal grievance, telling the News Letter Journal that her concern was for the well-being of the people of Newcastle and the accountability of government to the citizenry.

"I just think it's a shame. I think that's prime real estate in Newcastle. It's right at the entrance, and I think something should be there that's a little more inviting to visitors ... I think that the government ought to be transparent, that everybody should know what's going on," she stated.

Medicaid

from page 1

percent," Moller informed.

Medicare contractual adjustments were 35.9 percent of Medicaid revenue at the facility, he indicated. The contractual adjustments for commercial insurance were lower, at 15.8 percent.

"There is a pretty high contractual on Medicaid but we would still pick up another 5 percent on every dollar. But if we could get those people on insurance we would pick up another 29 cents per dollar

of revenue — which is pretty significant. We are talking real money here," informed the CFO.

Peterson continued to state that if Wyoming Medicaid Expansion were to be approved by the state it would provide more reimbursements for the hospital due to the fact it would apply to most of the self-pay patients that are currently not paying their bill.

"The reason why I think this is important for people to realize,

is if you don't have insurance and you go to the market place, and you are [within] a certain percentage of the poverty level you would qualify for this Medicaid Expansion program. And if we don't have this Expansion program, those folks are probably not going to buy insurance because they are not going to be able to afford it. That is where it is going to be an issue," explained Cadwell.

"Those are the folks that will probably need this."

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GOOD CITIZENS

NEWCASTLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GOOD CITIZENS OF NOVEMBER

3RD GRADE: JAYLEN OSTENSON

November is a time we encourage our students to reflect upon the things in which they are grateful. Conversations of family, friends, and loving homes, sprinkled with loyal pets are heard as they share with one another for what they are truly thankful. The student chosen for our citizenship award truly embodies the spirit of gratitude, and we now share thoughts of her. We are thankful for your leadership. Knowing what is right and taking action to achieve goals for not only yourself, but for all concerned defines the person you are. You bring a sense of calm and security to our room. Your positive attitude and perspective assures us that we can exceed the challenges we face. You lead by example and most importantly with your heart.

We are thankful for your friendship. You seem to know what to say and how to say it, NEVER do you exclude anyone or allow others to do so. Because you believe everyone deserves to be heard, and you realize the smallest decisions you make may change a life, you're considered a "good friend," not to just a few, but to many.

We are thankful you live with gratitude. John Fitzgerald Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Congratulations Jaylen Ostenson for being November Citizen of the Month.

4TH GRADE: MATHEW DRAKE

It is with great pleasure I could select the fourth grade Good Citizen for November. The citizenship award is being given to a student that exhibits many qualities of an outstanding individual of both our class and school. This young man demonstrates a dedication to his responsibilities by working to his highest potential every day, actively participating in class discussions, and doing what is expected without any anticipation of reward or honor. He is precise in his work, he is a good listener, and he doesn't hesitate to ask questions to better understand the concepts of a lesson. Furthermore, he demonstrates respect towards the students around him by: offering support to students when needed, praising his peers' success, and being consciously aware of differing viewpoints. We are fortunate to have him in our classroom this year, and I am excited to work with him the rest of the year! Congratulations to Mathew Drake!

5TH GRADE: CLAIRE BEASTROM

Mia Hamm once said, "The backbone of success is ... hard work, determination, good planning, and perseverance." The fifth grade Good Citizen for the month of November certainly exhibits these qualities herself. This hard working student strives to do her best in all that she does. She takes the time and puts in the effort to do a "job well-done". This fifth grade student is compassionate... kind, gentle, and thoughtful. She is always willing to lend a hand or an ear to someone in need. Like Mia Hamm, this fifth grader understands what it means to be a part of a team.

Each day, this student comes to school ready to learn. She is energetic and enthusiastic about learning. She shares her enthusiasm with her classmates and her teachers. She also shares many wonderful stories with our class. These stories demonstrate her exceptional ability to make connections between the subject matter she is learning at school and the things that are happening in her life.

This November, I am thankful that this student strives hard to score goals... in the classroom and in her life. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with and the chance to get to know Claire Beastrom.

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Generations

News Letter Journal

Kids help kids, throughout the year

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

Seeing the joy on the face of a child receiving new clothes at Christmas time is rewarding, however watching a student from Newcastle Elementary School pick out new clothes at a local business for another child is priceless. For more than a dozen years, students at NES have experienced helping others through Kids Helping Kids with Operation Santa, under the guidance of third grade teacher Mary Ragland.

Each year, the fundraising efforts begin the week of Thanksgiving with students making cans to be distributed in businesses in Newcastle, picking them up again on Dec. 16. Ragland explained that third- and fourth-grade students raise money through the cans, in addition to selling raffle tickets and the sale of more than 1,000 cookies, baked and decorated by the youngsters.

The money is generated each year to be used to help buy new clothing for children in need, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. The students raise the money for the project on their own, with no outside help from other organizations, Ragland told the News Letter Journal. The students work with the Peace Officer Association's



Students at Newcastle Elementary School make cookies as a fundraiser for Kids Helping Kids, a project that provides clothing for their peers throughout the year.

NLJ File Photo

Operation Santa to distribute items, but are a separate entity, the teacher explained.

The main fundraising effort for Kids Helping Kids is held each December.

"We start new each year hoping to make enough money to buy a shirt and a pair of pants for each child. The peace officers deliver them each year for us. Without that, we wouldn't be able to do this," Ragland admitted.

In addition to donating money via the cans, community members can help contribute to the cause by buying raffle tickets for 50 cents each from a NES third-grader. This year's drawing includes a Christmas

candle, Christmas book donated by Connie Hieb, five tickets for the Dogie Theater, hand-quilted Christmas tree skirt, Disney "Planes" dvd, Christmas frame, Santa's soup basket, and a mystery prize donated by Tera Dawson. The drawing will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 17, live on KASL, at 9:30 a.m.

With the help of parent volunteers fourth-graders will bake and decorate cookies on Monday, Dec. 16, to be sold the following day at NES, on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

"The community can come in [Wednesday] from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and buy cookies and baked goods," invited Ragland.

The students also earn money for the cause by selling T-shirts at regional events held in Newcastle. Throughout the year the donations are used to help a student if they need clothing or other necessities.

On Dec. 19, NES students will use donations to pick out clothing for other children by shopping at Shopko. Their goal is to be able to provide new clothes for 100 to 120 youth in the community each year.

"We use the money all year long to help kids. There are so many different ways to help kids. We appreciate the community donating so kids can help kids!" she declared.

Kids can sign up for gingerbread house competition

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

Gingerbread houses are a timeless holiday tradition. On Dec. 14, children in the community between the ages of 5 and 13 will have the opportunity to compete in a gingerbread house decorating contest hosted at The Strawberry Patch Quilt Shop in downtown Newcastle.

Contestants who would like to participate can get an entry form at the new store which must be turned in to the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce by Dec. 12. Gingerbread houses need to be at the quilt shop by 10 a.m. on the 14th; judging will begin at 1 p.m., Norma Shelton, NACOC board member, told the News Letter Journal.

Gingerbread houses can be made from kits, but all materials used must be edible.

"They can use whatever kits they want to use. All gingerbread houses must be made of 100 percent edible material, no craft or construction materials used," explained Shelton.

Tables will be set up to display the creative houses on Saturday morning for the community to come and enjoy the hard work.

The gingerbread houses will be judged in different categories, including Most Creative, Landmarks, Fun/Humorous and Standout Execution, within the different age groups of 5 to 7, 8 to 11, and 11 to 13, she acknowledged.

"It will be a lot of fun! I am anxious to see what the kids can do! It will definitely be something fun to watch," enthused Shelton.

She continued to say how happy she is about the local businesses taking time to showcase their stores with fun activities during the holidays.

"They have really stepped up this year to make Christmas special!" smiled Shelton.



Bring me love

LaTisha Ankeney gives Santa Claus a hug during the Chili Feed Friday at the Weston County Senior Center, following the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce's Lighted Christmas Parade. The free event offered parade-goers an opportunity to warm up with steaming bowls of chili while kids visited with Santa. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

Weston County Works



Jennifer Weigel,
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Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

Newcastle

Boys Basketball	12/06 VJ East-West Challenge @Cody	A	TBA
	12/07 VJ East-West Challenge @Cody	A	TBA

Girls Basketball	12/06 VJ East-West Challenge @Buffalo	A	TBA
	12/07 VJ East-West Challenge @Buffalo	A	TBA

Wrestling	12/05 VJ Hot Springs Bison	H	5PM
	12/06 VJ Custer Invitational	A	1PM
	12/07 VJ Custer Invitational	A	9AM

Upton

Boys Basketball	12/6-7 Upton Invite		Noon
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Girls Basketball	12/6-7 Upton Invite		Noon
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Wrestling	12/6-7 Custer Invite @Custer		
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The Score

Girls Basketball 7th grade "A" team
Newcastle 32, Moorcroft 24

Girls Basketball "B" Team
Nov. 19:
Newcastle 8, Moorcroft 14

Crabtree overlooked for Super 25

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Two-time East Defensive Player of the Year and all-round student-athlete Merritt Crabtree was left off of the Casper Star-Tribune's Super 25, an annual list of the best high school football players in the state, owing to an apparent breakdown in communication between Tribune sports-writer Jack Nowlin and Newcastle High School coaches and officials.

"I'm afraid the reason he's not on the team is mostly my fault," Nowlin wrote in an email apology addressed to Newcastle's Head Football Coach Matt Conzelman. "I'd like to use the fact that [the Casper Star-Tribune] went through the fall season without either a sports editor or a high school coordinator, as an excuse, but the simple fact of the matter is I didn't take the time to double-check your email address."

Nowlin, who wrote that his several attempts to contact Conzelman had failed due to a typographic error in an email address listed on the Wyoming High School Activities Association's website, also indicated that he had left a voice mail for Conzelman, a claim questioned by Newcastle

— See Crabtree, Page 14

Grapplers primed for season

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Head Newcastle Wrestling Coach Sean Crabtree isn't all that impressed by this latest generation, the so-called Millennials. Their work ethic is lacking, he told the News Letter Journal, as he sat last Tuesday afternoon in an office strewn with his team's backpacks and other school and athletic gear. He's confident, though, that he has the answer for the question as to how to build character in today's slacker youth, if only they're willing to apply themselves.

"It's an individual sport, and it's one of the tougher sports," he said of wrestling. "I'd say it's the toughest sport in high school. Some kids nowadays just like to take the easy way out. That's the way I see it."

Other sports offer more teamwork, which can be enjoyable, but with wrestling it's all about individual effort.

"Basketball's more fun," he agreed, "and there's four other people out there you can blame something on. I mean wrestling, it's just you and another guy, and you're both



— See Wrestling, Page 20 Bradon Rushton and Nick Bock gear up for the season during wrestling practice last week at Newcastle High School.

Dogie hoopsters ready to go

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Dogie boy's head basketball coach Allen Von Eye, now in his 10th year of coaching for Newcastle and eighth as head coach, feels fortunate. His Varsity squads have made it to the state tournament five out of the last seven years, and not every coach, after all, can boast of working with such a cooperative and hardworking bunch of players.

"We're pretty lucky," he enthused. "We've got a group of guys — and always have since I've been here — who work their tails off. They work really hard. They buy in to what you're doing as a coach, and it shows. Every single March we're always in the mix [for State], and that's our goal, to always be in the mix. We may be

one of the smaller schools as far as our conference goes, but we love that. We love the underdog status, if you will ... It's a tough conference. I'm biased obviously, but I think we play in the toughest conference that there is in all classifications in Wyoming."

Come regular season's end, it doesn't get much easier of course. As for how the Dogies fared at the big show last year, well, it wasn't smooth sailing there either.

"We ran into a very, very tough Powell team," Von Eye recalled of the Dogies' first-round game. "They were the number one team in the state coming in to it. They played well and got us, and then we came down the stretch and gave Rawlins all they could handle in the loser-out game and ended up losing right at the very end,

in the last minute."

Still, the Dogies are a scrappy bunch, having made their opponents earn those wins basket by basket by putting up a tenacious, high-pressure defense, one that has become something of their trademark.

"We're a defensive-oriented basketball team," Von Eye explained. "It's something we've hung our hats on for the last seven years. Something we're going to hang our hats on as long as I'm here ... It's our best way of being successful in this conference ... We're not going to have, one to 12, the same quality of athletes that everybody else does, so you can guarantee that we're going to outwork you, and we're going to defend you better than you can defend."

But while not exactly short on

talented athletes this year, Von Eye admits the Dogies are seriously lacking in size, something that will necessitate Newcastle changing up their game a bit, both offensively and defensively.

"Offensively we switch each and every year depending on what we have for kids," he said of the Dogie strategy. "This year we're going to slow it down a little more than what we [would normally], play a little bit more in the half-court, and we're going to do it defensively as well. Last year we were a pressure team. We got up and played 84 feet and tried pressuring people. This year we'll back off a little bit and play more in the half-court, because we don't have a

— See Hoops, Page 14



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Newcastle High School Commons

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NLJ File Photo

Outstanding athlete Merritt Crabtree, No. 44, in a game against Mountain View in August.

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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@news1j.com, or drop off at the News Letter Journal, 14 W. Main St., Newcastle, before Dec. 16.

Crabtree from page 13

Athletic Director Todd Quigley. "Yes, there certainly was a typo in the email listed in the WHSAA home page and that does explain why the emails [to Conzelman] were never received or returned," Quigley wrote in an email response to Nowlin, "[but] if you attempted to call Coach Conzelman on the phone number listed on the WHSAA directory page and left a voice mail for him to return the call, we would have an electronic record of that call. The number listed is our main high school office and our secretaries would have redirected the call to Mr. Conzelman. We do not have an electronic record of the call, or of the voice mail. Additionally our secretaries have no written log of a call from the Casper Star-Tribune. I question why there was no attempt to email or contact myself in regard to the situation."

Speaking to the News Letter Journal on Monday, Quigley expressed frustration regarding Crabtree's exclusion from the prestigious list, which is accompanied by an invitation to attend a banquet award ceremony that took place this year at Casper's Parkway Plaza Hotel.

"If the Casper Star-Tribune believes they're the state paper, if you will, [they] probably need to report outlying areas with a little more detail to avoid situations [such as this]. Like I said in my email back to Mr. Nowlin, it's really not whether the student was deserving or not, because he's obviously one of the best student-athletes we've had in a long time [and] one of our top football players in a long time. Every possible opportunity to communicate should have been exhausted in my opinion, and that's what's disappointing in [this] situation. [It's] not [so much] that he was ... left off, but the effort on their part [to get in contact with us] seemed to be minimal."

Quigley went on to praise Crabtree, who was included by Nowlin on the Tribune's Super 25

Postseason Awards	
Football	Cross Country
East Defensive Player of the Year: Merritt Crabtree	All-State: Tristan Mitchell
All-State: Merritt Crabtree	Trace Buckert
Phil Jagelski	Justin Francis
Wade Gordon	All-Conference: Andy Nelson
All-State 2nd Team: Dillon Ehlers	Trace Buckert
Jake Villanueva	Tristan Mitchell
Garrett Liggitt	Justin Francis
All-Conference: Dillon Ehlers	Calbi Ausmann
Jake Villanueva	
Merritt Crabtree	Volleyball
Johnny Walker	All-State: Anna Henkle
Garrett Liggitt	All-Conference: Anna Henkle
Phil Jagelski	Hannah Cass
Wade Gordon	
All-Conference 2nd Team: Colton Sweet	Swimming
Bradon Rushton	All-Conference: Kaylee Harley
Kolton Hall	Mikenna Waggener
Tyler Lewis	Rachel Henkle
Mason Pisciotto	

second team, as a great student-athlete who typifies the best of Wyoming high school sports.

Nowlin did not immediately return a message left on his cell phone by the News Letter Journal requesting comment. In his email to Conzelman he wrote that the Casper Star-Tribune has received criticism in the past for including players without first verifying the selections with the respective coaches and that this had factored into the decision not to include Crabtree.

Cody Hostetter, who appeared on the list in 1998, is to date the only Newcastle athlete to have ever been included on the Super 25's first team.

Hoops from page 13

whole lot of depth at the bigs, and so you've gotta keep those guys on the floor. You can't run them to death or get them in foul trouble."

"We've got Nate McMahon, who's a senior who's played for us a little bit at 6-5," Von Eye continued of the vertically challenged Dogies. "He'll come in and play some good minutes for us inside. We're smaller as far as our bigs go from there on. Justin Francis will play for us inside as well, and he drops down to about 6 foot or 6-1, and then we've got some younger guys off the bench who we will possibly work into that rotation."

"But the positive being," Von Eye continued of this season's adjustments, "we're willing to change what we do offensively. In the past we've gone with two bigs on the floor at all times ... This year we'll go with one. We'll play a little bit more of a spread offense, so we'll go four out, one in. We've changed things a little bit to help play into our strengths and mitigate our weaknesses. That's one of the reasons that we'll play more zone. When Nate McMahon

comes off the floor we're going to be extremely small, so if you try to play man-to-man defense that sets you up for some pretty difficult matchups at times. It's going to be something we'll have to learn to deal with."

With four seniors this year, one of whom — Jake Villanueva — is turning out for basketball for the first time after having wrestled the last three years, the Dogies will also be a fairly inexperienced team. They'll face their first hurdles of the season on Dec. 6 and 7 at the East-West Challenge at Cody.

"It's not actually a tournament," Von Eye explained of the Challenge. "It's a classic where you're just going to play three games and call it good. These are non-conference games. We'll end up playing Powell first, then Cody, and then Jackson. We like it ... We've always loved this tournament because it's 3A competition, and it's who you have a possibility of matching up with at the very end of the season at the state tournament. It really gives you a good gauge of where you're at

early in the season."


Von Eye acknowledged it will be a challenging warm-up for his team, but he wouldn't have it any other way, he said.

"It's going to start off tough. Powell is one of the favorites as far as state goes again. They made it to the state title game last year and a couple of their best players are returning ... It's going to be a great test for us right off the bat, which is what we like. I'd rather play up any day. We're here to teach skills for life, and you've got to know how to rise up. It's always best to face the highest level of competition you can to challenge yourself personally."

"It's [going to be] an exciting season," Von Eye said, wrapping things up. "We've got some really good returning basketball players, and one of the best in the entire conference in Wade Gordon ... We've got some young kids who are going to be exciting to watch at the Varsity level. They're going to get their feet wet early, and they're going to get thrown to the fire a little bit because we need them depth-wise."

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Lady Dogies anticipate successful season

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Lady Dogie B-ballers expect nothing less than success this time around after experiencing a breakthrough season last year that saw them make a run at the state championship.

As Tyler Bartlett, now in his fifth season as head coach, explained, last year's success was no accident, having come about through several years of trial and error on his part, not to mention hard work on the part of his players.

"We went through some tough years those first few years trying to kind of establish things and develop things," he told the News Letter Journal on Monday, "but we were fortunate last year to make it to the state semi-finals. We kind of went on a run at the end of the year ... We graduated three seniors [last year] who were pretty valuable leaders, pretty important parts of our program. They were our first freshman class. They kind of helped us establish what we wanted to do as a program, so those would be shoes that we need to fill ..."

But having set a precedent for what constitutes a successful season last year, Bartlett believes his girls

are indeed ready to again step up and fill those big shoes. With five seniors on the team this season he believes he has just the right blend of talent and experience.

"I feel like we have a pretty nice mix of kids who are returning with experience and then some up and coming younger kids who should mesh well together this year," he said. "There are talented younger kids ... who have some learning to do, but at the same time they're athletic, and they're picking things up pretty quickly."

In regard to the particulars of coaching girls as opposed to boys, Bartlett admitted that may have been part of the learning curve he's faced as a coach over the past few years.

"That's been part of my learning process," he confided, "learning how to handle girls. You definitely have to coach to the emotions a little bit more. You really do. They think with their hearts a little bit sometimes and so you have to reach out to that a little bit."

However Bartlett believes there are benefits in addition to any challenges, to coaching the fairer sex, whom he believes are especially team-oriented and open to taking instruction.

"The nicest thing about it is the buy-in," he said. "If you ask the girls to do something, they do it, and they do it with as much effort as they [can muster]. That's something [the coaching staff] has always appreciated. If we put something on them and say, 'hey, we want you to try this. We want you to do this,' then they do it."

When it comes, however, to the style of play favored by the Lady Dogies, well, truth be told, it's anything but ladylike.

"We really like to play up-tempo," Bartlett explained of the Lady Dogies' strategy. "[We favor] a lot of pressure defense really trying to force turnovers in full court or half court or whatever the case may be ... and then [we] really try to get out and run on the offensive end. It's something we work on every day in practice. It's something we preach, even all summer long, that we want to be in better shape than everybody else, and we want to use that to our advantage."

Even more aggressive than their full-court press, though, are the girls' ambitions, and Bartlett feels they may well have even jumped the gun last year as far as expectations and readiness are concerned.

"I think to go to the state semi-finals last year was probably a year early," he reflected. "I think we over-achieved a bit last year, which was a testament to the girls and the effort they put in during the off season. I think this year, [with] the talent level that we have, the understanding of the game that we have, [and] leadership at the senior level ... I think we're going to set the bar high. Obviously you have to stay healthy, and obviously you've got to take care of things. It's December, so it's a little early to think about where we might stack up in the state tournament, but at the same time I think it's something we know we want to shoot for."

Staying healthy, with the help of proper conditioning and a little luck, is a big part of it, Bartlett explained.

"We have a freshman and a junior coming off of ACL injuries from last year. It's always something that's not too far from your mind. You do the best you can with your summer conditioning and your strength stuff to try to get them ready, try to get them in shape. We're all at risk at some point of having those injuries, and if you're going to have a deep run in the state playoffs, sometimes the ball just

has to bounce your way, and sometimes you just have to be healthy. I think every team in our conference is just one or two injuries away from being a very different team than what they are."

Come this Friday, Newcastle will get a chance to see just what kind of a team they are, not to mention what kind of a team third-ranked Powell is, as they take on the Panthers in the first game of the East-West Challenge in Buffalo.

"They'll be tough. They just won the state volleyball championship," Bartlett observed, while noting the overlap between participation in the two sports, "so we expect some athleticism [on their part]."

After Powell, Newcastle will face the additional hurdles of Cody and Jackson, both on Saturday.

"All three of those schools are about twice as big as Newcastle, so their talent pool is a little deeper and that creates a challenge for us," Bartlett admitted in conclusion. "We went 2-1 at the East-West last year. We'd like to better that this year, but obviously what we're looking forward to doing is just getting out there and playing."

Meet the Dogies ...



Newcastle High School's Dogie basketball teams pitted against themselves in scrimmage games last week for "Meet the Dogies" night at the Dogie Dome, kicking off their season. Above, boy's basketball coach Matt Conzelman with Dillon Ehlers, Triston Roberson, Chandler Byrd, Trenton Engle, Nate McMahon and Cooper Karp. Below, Colton Sweet and Trenton Engle. At left, Lady Dogies Scottlyn Wiggins and Anna Henkle go head to head, along with Sierra LaCroix, Abby Gray, Alyssa Dawson and Abi Deveraux. (Photos by Todd Bennington and Denice Piscioti/NLJ)



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November 25
Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Report of a dog at large. Theft reported. Drug paraphernalia found. Trespass reported. Stray cat reported. Civil problem reported. Traffic complaint. Assist other agency.
November 26
Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Five VIN inspections. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Trespass Order requested. Welfare check requested. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. Drunk driver reported. 911 hang up.
November 27
Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Open door discovered. Report of a dog at large. Civil standby requested. Civil standby requested. Civil standby requested. 911 hang up. Three VIN

inspections. Commercial alarm reported. Suicide threats. Phone harassment reported.

November 28
Missing dog reported. Disturbance reported. 911 hang up. Hazard reported. Report of a dog at large, Impounded. Drunk driver reported. Missing dog reported. Report of a dog at large.



November 29
Assist other agency. Barking dog complaint. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, no action taken. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, no action taken. Traffic stop, no action taken. Barking dog complaint. Report of a dog at large.

November 30
Domestic reported, one arrest. Minor accident reported. Injured deer reported. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Dead cat reported. Suspicious activity reported. Gas drive off reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Extra patrol requested. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Suicide threats. Civil problem reported.

Hearing Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given by the City of Newcastle, Wyoming pursuant to Wyoming Statute Section 15-1-112(b)(ii) that the City proposes to trade the following-described land valued at \$1,000.00 owned by the City:

A tract of land that lays in the W 1/2 SE 1/4 of Section 29, Township 45 North, Range 61 West of the 6th P.M., Weston County, Wyoming and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point which lays N 51°55'19"W a distance of 2263.65 feet from the Southeast Corner of Section 29, Township 45 North, Range 61 West of the 6th P.M., Weston County, Wyoming and is the point of beginning; Thence S 78°50'35" W for a distance of 337.95 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar; Thence N 08°19'03" W for a distance of 201.51 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar; Thence southeasterly along a non-tangent curve to the right with a central angle of 10°59'12" and a radius of 2009.86 feet (which chord bears S 69° 37'03" E with a length of 384.81 feet) for an arc distance of 385.40 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped re-bar and the point of beginning.

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Bid Notice

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City Of Newcastle, Wyoming ("City") will accept sealed bids for the purchase of the following real property owned by the City:
Legal Description:

A tract of land being a portion of Outlot A, sometimes referred to as Tract A-8 of the Original Town of Newcastle, and a portion of the vacated South Seneca Avenue in the City of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming. A complete legal description is available upon request from the City Administrative Office located at 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming.

Street Address:
415 S. Seneca Avenue
Newcastle, Wyoming

The minimum bid amount is \$5,500.00. The real property will be sold to the highest bidder bidding more than the minimum bid. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Bid for 415 S. Seneca" (or similar language) to the City Administrative Office located at 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701 no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2013. The bids will be publicly opened and the highest bidder announced by the City at 7:15 p.m. on December 16, 2013 in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of the City Administrative Office. The highest bidder will have five (5) business days to pay the bid amount in full by certified funds (cashiers' check), and if the successful bidder fails to do so, the highest bidder shall forfeit any and all right to purchase the real property, and the City may accept the next highest bid, and the same payment procedure shall apply. Title to the real property shall be conveyed by quitclaim deed, and the real property shall be conveyed "as is and where is", without warranty, and subject to any and all easements, right-of-ways, covenants, restrictions, reservations or other encumbrances of record and/or sight, but free and clear of any mortgages or liens. Title insurance will not be provided by the City. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids in the sole discretion of the City Governing Body. DATED this 7th day of October, 2013.

City of Newcastle
By: Charita Brunner, City Clerk/Treasurer

(Publish November 28, December 5 and 12, 2013)

Thence S 89°07'13" E along the E-W 1/16 line for a distance of 423.20 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar;

Thence S 24°34'11" E for a distance of 21.70 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar;

Thence N 61°50'10"E for a distance of 21.17 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar;

Thence northeasterly along the north boundary of Lot 19, Block 4, Black Hills View Addition to the City of Newcastle, Wyoming on a non-tangent curve to the right with a central angle of 07°27'16" and a radius of 393.00 feet (which chord bears N 70°55'25" E with a length of 50.50 feet) for an arc distance of 51.13 feet to an 1 1/2" aluminum capped rebar;

Thence westerly along the north boundary of Lots 19 and 20 for a distance of 92.48 feet to intersect the south boundary of the proposed marginal route deeded to the City of Newcastle by the Wyoming Highway Department;

Thence westerly along the south boundary of the City property on a curve to the left with a central angle of 12°09'35" and a radius of 1809.86 feet (which chord bears N 86°38'22" W with a length of 383.38 feet) for an arc distance of 384.10 feet to a point;

Thence southwesterly along a spiral curve to the left which chord bears S 84°45'13" W with a length of 209.04 feet to a 5/8" rebar and the point of beginning.

A public hearing regarding the proposed land trade will be held on December 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located on the second floor of the City Administration Building located at 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. Dated this 18th day of November, 2013.

Charita Brunner, Clerk/Treasurer

(Publish November 28, December 5 and 12, 2013)

Budget Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TRANSFER FUNDS & ADJUST BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that the City of Newcastle, Wyoming, proposes to make the following budget adjustment for the budget year ending June 30, 2014.

OTHER ENGINEERING SERVICES – Streets \$ 30,000.00 Increase City Engineer-Street Department "Other Engineering Acct. #1 4318 390

Notice is further given that this matter will be considered and acted upon by the City Council at their regular meeting on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 7:45 p.m.

Greg James, Mayor
ATTEST: Charita Brunner, City Clerk/ Treasurer

(Publish December 5 and 12, 2013)

Public Notice

120(A)-13 NOTICE OF FINAL PAYMENT

Pursuant to Section 16-6-116, Wyoming Statutes, 1982, republished edition as amended, notice is hereby given that the Weston County and The City of Newcastle has accepted the work on the Mondell Field Airport Construct Runway 13-31 Extension Project, as substantially completed according to the plans and specifications and rules set forth in the Contract and that DRM, Inc. is entitled to final settlement therefore. Upon the 41st day, (January 16, 2014), after the first publication of this notice, the Weston County and The City of Newcastle, under whose direction of supervision the work has been carried out will pay to DRM, Inc. the full amount due under the Contract. All persons, firms, or corporations who have any claims for work done or materials furnished on said public work are hereby notified that final payment will be made to DRM, Inc. in accordance with the terms of the Contract dated September 5, 2012. This section does not relieve DRM, Inc. and the sureties on his/her bond from any claims of work or labor done or materials or supplies furnished in the execution of the Contract.

(Publish December 5, 12 and 19, 2013)

WCSD #1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER 500 NOVEMBER 2013

Table with 2 columns: Vendor/Payee and Amount. Lists various vendors and their respective amounts for the month of November 2013.

Foreclosure Notice

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note ("Note") and real estate mortgage ("Mortgage"). The Mortgage dated March 22, 2013, was executed and delivered by Bret L Rasmussen ("Mortgagor(s)") to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ally Bank, its successors and assigns, as security for the Note of the same date, and said Mortgage was recorded on April 8, 2013, at Reception No. 742718 in Book 344 at Page 210 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and WHEREAS, the mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC
Assignment dated: September 20, 2013
Assignment recorded: September 27, 2013
Assignment recording information: at Reception No. 746814 in Book 347 at Page 905

All in the records of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, Wyoming.

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

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$218,833.19 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$214,093.04 plus interest accrued to the date of the first publication of this notice in the amount of \$4,119.27, plus other costs in the amount of \$ 620.88, plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

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

NOW, THEREFORE Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC, as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on January 7, 2014 at the front door of the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, Weston County, for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

LOT 30, BLOCK 3, WEST SADDLE SUBDIVISION OF ARNOLD 1ST EXTENSION TO THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 21, 1977 AS INSTRUMENT NUMBER 423398

with an address of 3353 Stirrup St, Newcastle, WY 82701.

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

Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC
By: The Castle Law Group, LLC
123 West 1st Street, Ste. 400
Casper, WY 82601-0000
(307) 333-5379

(Publish December 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2013)

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



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Card of Thanks
We would like to thank all those who purchased chances to win the Cedar Chest. Our winner was Dean Strong of Upton. A special thank you to Gerald Bock for building the wonderful Cedar Chest.

Osage Community Building Committee

Firearm Safety Self-Defense Classes
LADIES the Weston County Sportsman Club is conducting **Ladies Firearms Safety and Self Defense Classes** at the WCSC Indoor Range on Wednesday nights from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is *no charge* for the classes. If interested or need more information, contact **Kraig Stuart** at 307-746-2822. 47-3tp

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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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Wanted To Rent
Wanted House to Rent in the country near Newcastle. Please call 605-840-8574. 49-3tp

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HOUSE FOR RENT: Clean 3 BR, 2 BA Attached Garage W/Large Yard. Includes W/D. First and Last Months Rent, \$900 Per Month, Includes Utilities. No Smoking, No Pets! Please call 307-941-0525. 47-3tp

FOR RENT: Large 2 Bedroom Mobile Home on Wood Street. Includes-water, sewer and garbage. Good condition-\$565 per month. 605-673-3048 or 605-673-1600. 49-3tp

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. Please call to view **307-746-5918.** 47-6tp

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

Deadlines
Deadline-Friday!!

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FOR RENT: Two and Three Bedroom Mobile Homes with New Flooring Throughout. No Pets Please! Please Call 746-5711. 47-tfc

Land For Sale
LAND FOR SALE: 3 miles North on 85, 3/4 mile off Highway. Overlooks Cambria Canyon. \$6000/Acre-20 or 40 Acres. 746-5337. 34-tfc

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. 48-3tp

Guns For Sale
FOR SALE: **Winchester Model 70 mm**, short mag bolt action, 24" stainless barrel, like new condition W/Sling and W/Leupold VXJJ 3-9x40 scope with boxes for both, \$950; **Winchester Model 94 AE 30-30**, 20" barrel lever action w/box, never fired, \$750; **1894 Colt Army 38 Dual Action Revolver**, \$1000. Please call 307-941-1661. 49-2tp

Self-Help
BIBLE STUDY-Non-denominational. Thursdays 10 a.m. Senior Citizen's Dining Room. More info call 629-0211 or 629-1472. 45-tfc

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-tfc

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

Notary
Notary available at the News Letter! 14 W. Main in Newcastle.

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

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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E-mail cover letter, resume, 4 clips, references, past 4 supervisors and salary requirements to jennifer@buffalobulletin.com and robb@buffalobulletin.com. We hope to fill this position by December 31, 2013.

Fairgrounds Office/ Grounds Assistant
The Weston County Fair Board is seeking applicants for a part time (no more than 28 hours a week) Office/Grounds Assistant. This person is responsible for general office communications, memos and detailed reports, creating and maintaining databases; organizing and managing data and supplies for the Weston County Fair and other Fairground events, assisting with grounds keeping and janitorial duties. Must be proficient in general office procedures, Microsoft Office products, the internet and willing to learn agency specific software as well as have exceptional customer service skills. This position works closely with the Fairgrounds Manager to ensure smooth daily and event operations. All applicants will need to be able to pass a background check. Resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2013. Contact the Weston County Fairgrounds for details at (307)746-9906, applications should be submitted to: 24 Fairgrounds Road, Newcastle, WY 82701.

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Todd Bennington/NLJ

Newcastle's wrestling coach, Sean Crabtree, says that his grapplers may not get all the glory, but they put in as much hard work — possibly more — than most athletes.

Wrestling

from page 13

battling to win."

"The last two years have been a little rough," Crabtree admitted, however, of the Dogie grapplers' recent history, "especially for leadership in the [wrestling] room. We had a runner-up [at State] last year. We had some kids who really had some potential to place at State. We had a few kids place at Regionals. Overall, it was a pretty decent year but not what I really expected."

Asked what he thought accounted for these past teams seeming to not quite live up to their potential, Crabtree was unflinching in his assessment.

"I would have to say kids not really wanting to work hard. You have some kids who really want to work hard and give it [their all] ... They have to have a drive and a willingness to want something [in order to be successful]."

Still, he felt things may very well be different this time around, preferring to think of the last few years as building years.

"I think we are going to be tough [this year], tougher than we were the last three years that I've been here. We have some great kids that are coming up from the junior high level. All the kids that are in the room right now are giving a hundred percent. I'm plumb proud of the kids that are in the room ... We have four seniors — great leaders this year — and I hope the underclassmen who are coming up will learn something from these seniors who are going to leave us."

Newcastle, Crabtree indicated, has also benefited from something of an infusion of

new blood this year, both in terms of the coaching staff and team.

"We've combined with Upton this year," Crabtree explained. "They've brought down four new kids, brought a little more competition to the room. Their head coach [Lee McCoy] is from Newcastle. He was a state champion at Newcastle ... We've got a lot of talent [on the coaching staff], a lot of ex-state champions."

As to what weight classes the Dogie grapplers will likely find themselves most competitive at this go-round, Crabtree felt the team is strong across the board.

"We've always bounced around," he elaborated. "This year we're going to be pretty strong at 103, 120 ... I think from 106 all the way to heavy-weight we're going to be solid. There might be one or two weights where [lack of] age and experience might catch up with us, but I'm pretty confident with the kids we've got on the mats."

As for the old rivalries waiting to be rekindled, Crabtree named a few.

"Star Valley and Douglas are the two, and Powell is dang tough, too. I just wish Star Valley would have stayed at 4A, but we don't want to run from a fight. That's for sure."

"I'd say Newcastle is probably one of the smaller schools [in 3A] number wise," he continued, seeming to return to his earlier thoughts of frustration with today's youth. "There's a lot of kids in the school who don't want to get on the mat or get on the court. They'd rather

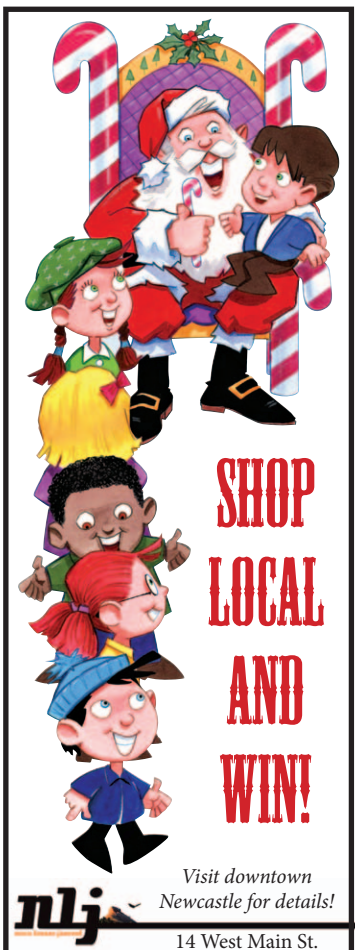
go play indoor soccer ... I don't know what it is, but even basketball numbers are down ... [Wrestling] numbers are starting to come back, but I'd like to see 30 to 40 kids in the wrestling room, so [that there would be more] competition for the Varsity spots ... I just wish there were more kids who would come out for wrestling, because there is so much talent that is walking up and down the halls."

Their contemporaries' indolence aside, those hardworking Dogies who have turned out on the mats are currently gearing up for their first meet of the season at 5 p.m. at home on Dec. 5 against Hot Springs, to be followed closely by the Custer Invitational on Dec. 6 and 7, a tournament consisting of a slew of teams from Wyoming and South Dakota.

"It won't hurt us in the Wyoming rankings," Crabtree said when asked how about how the Dogies might place so early in the season. "Rankings really don't mean anything anyway. It's just some guy who sits there and tries to predict who is going to be first."

He then shared some rankings he seemed to take a bit more pleasure in. His son, Merritt Crabtree, is currently ranked number one in the state for 3A at 182 pounds, while teammate Kolton Hall is currently sixth at 195.

"I have a good feeling this year we're going to have a lot of kids place at State. That's if their heads are in it, and their hearts are in it," Crabtree concluded of Newcastle's chances. "There's a lot of talent in the room this year."



Nachos Navidad

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