

News Letter Journal

Weston County

January 27, 2022

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 136

Week 4

Peeking at the past



Jerry Keeler and Pat Townsend browse displays at the Anna Miller Museum in Newcastle on Jan. 19, after the coffee get-together featuring the Sno-Thumpers, a snowmobiling club that was once active in Weston County.

Photo by KateLynn Slaamot/NLJ

Tension continues regarding dispatch

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The tension between the Newcastle City Council and the Board of Weston County Commissioners regarding dispatch services provided by the city are ongoing. Newcastle Mayor Pam Gualtieri and Councilman Don Steveson attended the Jan. 18 commissioners meeting to address the issues with dispatch services.

“From the discussion, I see we are not even on the same page. I thought I would come in and answer questions and clarify some things. That is why I asked to be on the agenda,” Gualtieri said, referring to a conversation with Commissioner Don Taylor after the commissioner’s Jan. 4 meeting.

She explained that the city is still planning to relocate the Newcastle Police Department and dispatch operations to City

— See Dispatch, Page 6

County’s grad rates above 90%

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Both Weston County School District No. 1 and Weston County School District No. 7 saw graduation rates above 90% for the 2020-21 school year, according to a press release dated Jan. 19 from the Wyoming Department of Education. In addition to both local school districts, 15 others across the state achieved graduation rates above 90%.

According to the release, Upton’s school district (No. 7) achieved a 94.7% graduation rate. With this rate, the district is ranked sixth in the state, following Sheridan County School District No. 3 at 100%, Washakie County School

District No. 2 at 100%, Teton County School District No. 1 at 97.6%, Sublette County School District No. 9 at 95% and Lincoln County School District No. 1 at 94.7%.

The Newcastle school district (No. 1) was able to narrowly clinch its spot in the top 17 with a graduation rate of 90.2%. Other counties in the top 17 include Park County No. 1 at 94.2%, Sublette County No. 1 at 94.1%, Converse County No. 2 at 94%, Big Horn County No. 3 at 92.9%, Uinta County School District No. 4 at 92.5%, Fremont County School District No. 6 at 92.3%, Platte County School District No. 2 at 92.3%, Carbon County School District

— See Graduates, Page 2

COVID cases climbing

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

With 75 confirmed cases in the past 14 days and a COVID-19 test positivity rate of 40%, Weston County Health Services CEO Maureen Cadwell said the community must be aware that the illness remains in our community and that people who are instructed to quarantine should comply.

“We had one day last week where the testing positivity rate was greater than 85%, which is the highest I’ve ever personally witnessed,” Dr. Sara

Thurgood reported. The increase in case numbers, according to Cadwell, Thurgood and the Wyoming Department of Corrections, corresponds to outbreaks in various populations, including hospital and clinic staff, Manor residents and employees, and employees and inmates at the Wyoming Honor Camp. Thurgood noted that she has also seen a number of teachers and kids out due to the illness and that in a community our size, this does create quite the disruption.

“We continue to have several staff members out with COVID-positive tests,

some with symptoms and some without symptoms, and some that are vaccinated and some not,” Cadwell said. “We have also had positive COVID tests in our residents at the Manor.”

According to Cadwell, the uptick in case numbers has also resulted in an increase in the number of patients visiting the emergency room with COVID and other respiratory illness symptoms. In addition to emergency room visits, the Wyoming Department of Health is reporting two current COVID-19

— See COVID, Page 2

Corrections promotes Opdahl

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Kayla Opdahl, a 2004 graduate of Newcastle High School, has been promoted to deputy administrator of programs in the Prison Division of the Wyoming Department of Corrections, according to a Dec. 22 press release. Her promotion was effective Jan. 3.

Opdahl’s career with the department began when she fell in love with criminal science in college.

“I went to the University of Wyoming and started with the intent of going for political



science and pre-law. ... I wanted to go to law school,” Opdahl said. “I ended up falling in love with criminal science and studied both.”

After graduating with her Bachelor of Science in political science in 2009, Opdahl

started with the probation and parole office in Wheatland. She then returned to UW for postgraduate studies and received a master’s degree in public administration in 2013.

“It (her master’s) laid the foundation for my career path. I went into policy,” Opdahl said.

Working as the reentry coordinator and policy and planning manager with the Corrections Department for seven years, Opdahl found her passion in inmate services and programming.

“The goal is for them to leave better than when they

arrived,” she said. “I thought, how can I make a difference working with offenders? What can I do?”

As deputy administrator of programs, Opdahl will oversee offender medical services, substance use and disorder and sex

— See Opdahl, Page 2

Kayla Opdahl, a 2004 Newcastle High School graduate, was recently promoted to deputy administrator of programs in the Prison Division for the Wyoming Department of Corrections.



WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 29, Lo 18



Friday
Sunny
Hi 42, Lo 25



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 45, Lo 25



Sunday
Sunny
Hi 46 Lo 27



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 43, Lo 23



Tuesday
AM Snow
Hi 28, Lo 12

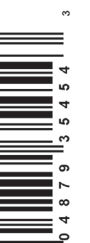


Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 25, Lo 9



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Economic briefs.....

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

County's taxable sales down

Weston County's taxable sales dropped 6.4% from the third quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2021 according to a Jan. 4 economic summary from the State of Wyoming Economic Analysis Division.

That 6.4%, according to a breakdown for Weston County, equates to a \$95,557 loss in sales and use tax across all of the industries.

The largest losses, in terms of percentages, were seen in the construction industry with a loss of 71.8%, or approximately \$30,000; the transportation and warehouse industry with a loss of 38.5%, or \$20,000; public administration, reflecting automobile sales with a decline of 22.7%, or approximately \$70,000; and the financial activities industry, including auto, machinery and equipment leasing, with a loss of 84.3%, or \$40,000.

Decreases were also seen in the mining industry at 11.4%, or \$10,000; wholesale trade at 7.2%, or roughly \$5,000; retail trade with a loss of 1.9%, or \$10,000; information with a loss of 6.2%, or less than \$2,000; and education and health services with a decline of 21.1%, or \$40.

Various industries experienced increases in taxable sales during the same time period despite the overall decrease county wide.

While the increases look significant at between 5.2% and 206%, they equate to roughly \$89,000 in sales and use tax across six different industries. The largest increases, dollar-wise, were seen in the utilities industry with \$50,000 more in sales and use tax in the third quarter of 2021 over 2020,

and the leisure and hospitality industry, mainly restaurants and lodging, with an increase of \$20,000.

Other industries seeing an increase include agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, manufacturing, professional and business services and other services.

Statewide during the same period, taxable sales increased 1.5% to \$5.3 billion.

"Despite the surge of the Delta variant, Wyoming's economy continued to rebound in the third quarter, but the pace has decelerated," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, chief economist with the Wyoming Division of Economic Analysis.

County GDP declines again

Weston County's gross domestic product dropped 11.5% from 2019 to 2020, according to a Dec. 15 report from the State of Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. The GDP is the market value of goods and services produced by the labor and property located in the designated area.

"Eighteen of Wyoming's 23 counties experienced decreases in GDP between 2019 and 2020. Sublette and Converse counties declined the fastest, -27.5% and -23%, respectively," the report says. "Carbon (-17.1%), Sweetwater (-12.9%), Weston (-11.5%), Platte (-10.7%), Natrona (-10.5%) and Uinta (-10.4%) counties also experienced double-digit declines. Reduced mineral extraction activities and services were the main reason for these counties' steep contractions."

Only five counties, those with little energy production in their economies demonstrated an increase. Crook County experienced the largest increase at 3.4%, followed by Sheridan at 2.1%, Albany at 1.4%, Big Horn at 1.1% and Lincoln at 0.5%.

Statewide, the gross domestic

product dropped 8.3% from 2019 to 2020. This growth represents the worst year for Wyoming's economic growth since 1986, a release on the subject states.

Nationally, the decreasing rate of 2.2% was the steepest since World War II, despite the fact that the COVID-19 recession lasted just two months (March and April), the shortest recession in U.S. history, according to the report.

"The coronavirus pandemic ravaged businesses and households due to government restrictions and demand reduction," said Dr. Wenlin Liu, chief economist with the Economic Analysis Division.


But the COVID-19 pandemic only contributed to the decline in certain areas; others have seen a steady decrease in GDP for sometime. "Since 2008, nearly half of Wyoming's counties experienced a decline in GDP. Sublette and Johnson diminished 83.5% and 71% each. Campbell, Carbon, Sweetwater, Uinta and Weston counties all declined more than 30%," the report states.

According to a breakdown of the gross domestic product by county, Weston County experienced a decline of 37.4% since 2008. This is equivalent to \$167 million.

In 2008, Weston County reported a GDP of \$446 million. In 2020, that amount had dropped to \$279 million.


Statewide, the GDP dropped 15.2% from 2008 to 2020. The state's GDP was reported to be \$42,819 million in 2008, dropping to \$36,324 million in 2020, a difference of \$6,495 million. The report notes that this is due to the devastation caused by the dramatic decrease in Wyoming's pivotal industry — mining.

"Wyoming mining has decreased by 71.5% since 2008," the release states.



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Graduates from Page 1.....

No. 2 at 91.9%, Fremont County School District No. 24 at 91.7% and Uinta County School District No. 6 at 90.5%.

Statewide, Wyoming high school graduation rates increased to 82.4% in 2020-21, up from 82.3% the previous year. This is the eighth consecutive year of increases statewide, beginning in 2013 when 77.6% of students graduated on time.

According to Superintendent Brad LaCroix, of the Newcastle district, higher graduation rates are a win-win for the students and the community.

"Students can then get on with their life and choices and the community receives a young person that can work," he said.

The Department of Education has been calculating graduation rates using the federal four-year adjusted cohort methodology established by the U.S. Department of Education since 2010. Using that methodology, the state was complying with federal laws requiring states to calculate graduation rates in the same way.

According to Newcastle High School Principal Bryce Hoffman, the rate is calculated using cohorts. He explained that students are placed in cohorts when they are promoted to ninth grade.

"Students may exit that graduation cohort

in one of three ways. Those ways are by graduating on time, graduating not on time or by being removed from the cohort," he said. "A student who graduates not on time will be figured into the five-year or six-year graduation rate calculation. Each of those would be reported in the fifth or sixth year after the original cohort graduated."

He noted that the Education Department states that the cohort system gives a "more complete picture of student outcomes."

"It would be the hope of the district that as each five-year and six-year graduation is posted, that we see those percentages climb higher as we pick up a few more graduates," Hoffman said.

To calculate the on-time graduation rate, the total number of students in each cohort is compared with the number that graduated on time. The percentage of students who graduate on time out of the cohort are presented as the district's graduation rate for a given year.

For a student to be removed from a cohort without graduation, Hoffman said, they would have to transfer to another school or to a home-school curriculum in which they can earn a diploma, move out of the country or pass away.

COVID from Page 1.....

patients at Weston County Health Services and another 122 patients in hospitals across the state.

"While delta put the hospital in a real bind back in the fall, we are not seeing nearly as many COVID related hospitalizations this time," Thurgood added, noting that the Omicron variant seems to be more contagious but less severe.

Thurgood did say, though,


that vaccination is as important as ever because Omicron appears to be affecting younger children much more significantly than previous variants, and every hospital report she has seen so far indicates that kids who end up hospitalized or even dying from COVID are all unvaccinated, to date.

"For adults, three doses of either Pfizer or Moderna will reduce your odds of hospital-

ization from Omicron and its sub-variants by 88%," she said.

"I just hope the severity remains lessened with Omicron, as we seem to be seeing in larger areas," Thurgood said. "The issue lies less with severe disease and death this time and more with the disruptions cause by having so many people sick all at once. I pray that's all it comes to."

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Opdahl from Page 1.....

offender treatment contracts, religious services and incarcerated case management, according to the press release.

"I am thankful for the director (Dan Shannon) that he wanted to put me in this role," Opdahl said.

"Director [Dan] Shannon commented, 'We are very happy to offer Ms. Opdahl this opportunity and are very pleased she accepted it. Ms. Opdahl brings to the position a great deal of talent, experience and expertise,'" the press release states.

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WHEN

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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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Making it public, transparency is crucial

The following editorial was published in the Gillette News Record on Jan. 15. The opinion is specific to a situation in Gillette but we feel that the message featured in the editorial is relevant in Weston County and across the state. Background information can be found on page 13 in the story "Gillette mayor resigns over texts"

The Gillette News Record Guest Editorial

Government is supposed to be accountable to those who it represents. That's why it's supposed to be public. Laws at all levels of government are in place to ensure that agencies acting on our behalf do so in the public eye, and thus can answer to us.

Only in rare instances are governments allowed to discuss things behind closed doors, and when those exceptions are made, they are for good reason.

The text messages between former mayor Louise Carter-King and administrator Patrick Davidson show that the city abused those laws repeatedly.

The Campbell County Attorney's office is looking into the emails to see if there was prosecutorial misconduct. And the city administrator indicated this week that the city is considering hiring an outside

party to consider whether there were misdeeds.

Both investigations should answer questions about whether laws were broken. They also should serve notice

to all local governmental entities that an executive session should never be a place where officials discuss more than the very limited business for which the session was called. Votes are never allowed because those who are elected or appointed to serve us must vote in public so that those they represent can know how they stand.

It has been apparent for some time that those basic tenants were forgotten at city hall. They were most apparent when it came to filling vacancies on the City Council and votes were taken within an executive session.

The texts that Davidson released two weeks ago show just how badly abused they were — by Davidson himself, a former city attorney who should have known better, and by Carter-King and the council, who went along with bad advice even though a glance through the statute and their own common sense should have prompted a protest.

"Good morning mayor," Davidson wrote on April 13, 2020. "Thoughts on having an exec tomorrow night? We can visit on Tim's thoughts on pool, utilities, budget etc"

"Might as well," Carter-King responded. "... They might bring other stuff up too."

"I kind of wondered if there were other things, even if just venting, that they might have," Davidson said.

"Tim and Coach have both vented. I expect Tim to tomorrow night. Who knows with shay," Carter-King said, referring to council members Tim Carsrud, Shawn Neary (a former Pronghorns coach) and Shay Lundvall.

"Venting on," he questioned. "Tim streets and picking up garbage. Coach mostly sweeping," she said.

It's fine for a council member to vent to another council member one-on-one. It's fine for them to vent during a public meeting. But it is against the law for them to use an executive session to vent on topics not related to personnel, litigation, land acquisition or a few other things that rarely, if ever, come before a city council.

Most of the items they were going to talk about deal with city priorities — do we sweep the streets when we're shut down during a pandemic? — or budget — if we do, how do we pay for it? How do we open the pool? Those items absolutely should be part of a public discussion. There is no exception under Wyoming

open meetings laws to discuss basic government spending in private. Spending money is a fundamental government function, and one that rightly deserves the most scrutiny from the public. That's why it must be discussed in public.

Two days later, they expanded the scope of the executive session to include even more budget and operations items. Davidson listed the other topics for discussion in that private session: "Exec: Fire/Campex funding Splash pad/football Wastewater/operations general Public Health/golf course"

He also wanted to talk about an op-ed piece he wrote and get their opinions of it — clearly not a topic for executive session. In June 2020, after dealing with protests over Lundvall's forced resignation, the two again discussed scheduling an executive session that showed just how far they would go to abuse the open meetings law.

"We run into a problem," Davidson texted. "Shay no longer employed so longer personnel and with Bob saying no attorneys it is no longer litigation."

"We could take apps for ward 3 and use that as basis for exec. Whether discussed or not," he added a few minutes later. "Giving you way to have a meeting covering personnel."

Carter-King later agreed that they would discuss "litigation, personell (sic) during the executive session. City Council meetings have become increasingly scripted over the past decades. Usually, the council has few comments and those that are made are often stilted. Clearly, the substantive discussions have come before rather than in front of the public. They've even arranged who will make motions.

In their texts, Carter-King and Davidson ridiculed the County Commission for its less orchestrated meetings, but at least in those meetings, discussion often flows more freely.

We now know that substantive discussion and decision making at city hall was happening illegally. Clearly, the City Council must rid itself of the notion that discussion is an icky thing unsuitable for the public's ears. In fact, discussion and effective reasoning make government palatable to those who sense that things aren't quite right.

The city has a chance to cleanse itself of bad habits, and started on that route this week with a work session on Wyoming's open meetings laws. It's an important first step.

But there must be many more to follow to convince the public that the city truly has the public's best interests at heart.

Foundation for Marbury v. Madison

The Federalist Papers, it has been said, constitute one of the most important works in the world of political science ever written in the history of the United States. There is little exaggeration, if any, in saying that The Federalist is surpassed only by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence as an iconic writing in our nation's political history.

Authored by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, the 85 essays thoroughly explained the meaning of the Constitution proposed to Americans eager to know what delegates to the Constitutional Convention had produced in Philadelphia as a new national charter. The Federalist writings thus represented the matured conclusions of the framers of the Constitution.

Federalist 78, written by Hamilton, stands as one of the most penetrating essays of the entire lot. It leaves no doubt that the framers intended the federal judiciary to exercise the power of judicial review and pours the foundation for Chief Justice John Marshall's defense of it in the landmark case of Marbury v. Madison.

Hamilton's tightly knit paper represented a powerful response to critics of judicial review including, mostly prominently, New York's Robert Yates, writing under the pen name, "Brutus." The Brutus-Hamilton exchange furnished informed delegates to the various state ratifying conventions with powerful confirmation that the Constitution did, indeed, boast the power of judicial review.

First and foremost, the fact that Yates, a delegate to the Convention, and a justice of the New York Supreme Court,

wrote critically of the power of judicial review and warned of its abuses, confirmed the existence of judicial review. In his "Letters of Brutus," Yates opposed judicial review, in part, because it would "operate to a total subversion of the state judiciaries, if not to the legislative authority of the states," and because of the difficulty of removing federal judges from the bench through the power of impeachment.

Yates lamented the placement of the reviewing power in the hands of federal judges, including Supreme Court Justices. "They are," he wrote, "authorized by the Constitution to decide in the last resort what is the extent of the powers of Congress." He added, "If, therefore, the legislature pass any laws inconsistent with the sense the judges put on the Constitution, they

will declare it void; and therefore in this respect their power is superior to that of the legislature." Yates's greatest fear was that judges would impose their own biases, political and otherwise, in the interpretation of the Constitution.

Yates's confirmation of the availability of judicial review spared Hamilton from widespread accusations that the authority was his creation alone. However, Yates's attack on the exercise of judicial power, the possibility that it would be exercised arbitrarily, left Hamilton with the heavy burden of persuading readers that judges would not abuse their authority, and the lighter responsibility of explaining the theoretical implications of judicial review.

Hamilton famously wrote

of the exercise of judicial power that judges have neither the power of the purse nor the power of the sword, leaving the judiciary in the dreaded position of being the "least dangerous branch" of government." As Hamilton observed, judges have the duty to give voice to the terms and commands of the Constitution. Judges, he cautioned, would not behave like legislators and give voice to their own preferences and biases. His critics could be forgiven for recalling that Hamilton, in 1778, had warned of the "trackless imaginations of judges" and their frequent abuses of power.

For his part, Hamilton was complaining about English, not American, judges. Critics asked, however, if the differences were so great?

Students of the Constitution are indebted to Hamilton's scholarly explanation in Federalist 78 of the ways and means of the exercise of judicial review and his effective rebuttal of Yates's claim that its availability renders judges superior to the legislature.

Hamilton denied that the act of declaring a statute unconstitutional on grounds that it violated the Constitution established judicial supremacy. The ratification of the Constitution represents the will of the people, he explained, as does the passage of a statute by the representatives of the people. However, the approval of the Constitution represents a "higher" expression of the will of the people. Simply put, when the people ratify the Constitution, it is approving the content of a document that is clear and comprehensible to them. The expression of that will is grounded in greater certainty, and yielding more clarity, than that represented in a vote for legislators who, at the time of their election, have not made clear where they stand on issues that have yet to emerge and bills yet to be written.

When the Court, as explained in No. 78, exercises judicial review and holds a legislative measure unconstitutional, it is not asserting judicial superiority over the legislature. Rather, it is simply upholding the superior expression of the will of the people, as reflected in the ratification of the Constitution, over the inferior expression of the will of the people seen in the election of representatives. As Hamilton observes, the Court is upholding "the intention of the people to the intention of their agents."

In Federalist No. 78, Hamilton reproduced the conclusions of those who wrote the Constitution. The founders intended the federal courts to exercise the power of judicial review, which was first announced in Marbury v. Madison in 1803. But Hamilton's reply to Brutus that judges would not, in the course of constitutional interpretation, impose their own political preferences and biases, remains the subject of ongoing debate, one heightened in our time by cases that raise the prospect of judicial revision of constitutional principles and precedents.

David Adler, Ph.D., is a noted author who lectures nationally and internationally on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and presidential power. His scholarly writings have been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts by both Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. Congress. Adler's column is supported, in part, through a grant from Wyoming Humanities funded by the "Why it Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation" initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils and funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Adler can be reached at david.adler@alturasinstitute.com.

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POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION: Have you considered changing jobs?

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

RESULTS: Do you think Weston County should use COVID funds to give employee bonuses?

- Yes 15% 5 Votes
- No 85% 29 Votes

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Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday



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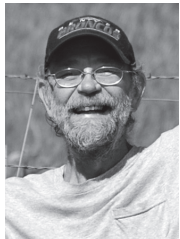
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Obituaries

JOSEPH JERRY DUBSKY
Dec. 19, 1951–Jan. 14, 2022

Joseph Jerry Dubsky, age 70, of Harrisburg, S.D., passed away on Jan. 14, 2022, at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, S.D., following a tragic accident. The funeral was held at Anderson Jones Corcoran Funeral Chapel Harrisburg and he was laid to rest in Pleasant View Cemetery in Harrisburg.



Joseph Dubsky

Joe was born on Dec. 19, 1951, in Fort Collins Colo. He grew up in Casper, Wyo., and went to high school in Newcastle, Wyo. Joe is survived by his children, Joseph Dubsky Jr (Tiffany), James Dubsky, Jennifer Dubsky, Benjamin Dubsky, Clinton Kirk Dubsky (Anna) and Christopher Dubsky and their mother, Donna; his siblings, JaNae Smith, JaNel (Doug) Dumbrell, Jay (Colleen) Dubsky, Jeff Dubsky and Jana (Terry) Hale. Joe had many beloved grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jerry J. and Janet Dubsky of David City, Neb.

ELAINE RAE (GARHART) KAUL
May 2, 1963–Jan. 22, 2022

Elaine Rae (Garhart) Kaul, 58, of Gillette, Wyo., passed away and went to meet our Lord on Jan. 22, 2022, after a lengthy illness with metastatic breast cancer.

Elaine was born on May 2, 1963, to Donald Lee and Barbara Elaine Garhart in Newcastle, Wyo. She enjoyed growing up in Osage, Wyo., with her six siblings and large extended family. She attended her early years of school in Osage. Elaine spoke fondly of her summers spent in Moorcroft, Wyo., with her Aunt Delores, Uncle Keith, and cousin Julie helping at the drug store. She graduated from Newcastle High School in 1981.

On Aug. 15, 1981, Elaine married the love of her life, Kelly Joe Kaul, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Newcastle. They shared more than 40 wonderful years together.

From this union Elaine and Kelly went on to have two beautiful daughters, Cassandra and Megan. Elaine was blessed to be able to stay home and raise her girls. When the girls were older, Elaine went back to work, working retail at K-mart and working as a special education para at Pronghorn Elementary School in Gillette.

Kelly and Elaine moved to Bryan, Texas, for a short time, then moved back to Newcastle where Elaine worked at Edward Jones and Weston County Children's Center. Elaine had a special way with children and was remarkably gifted with special needs children.

Elaine enjoyed sewing, crafting, and gardening. She especially loved growing her pumpkin patch and being able to share them

with family and friends. She spent many summers with family at the lake camping and boating. Elaine loved reading her Bible and studying God's word. Family was the joy of Elaine's life. Her grandchildren meant the world to her and she loved spending every minute she could with them.

Elaine was preceded in death by her grandparents, Leonard and Opal Garhart, George and Dorothy Roberts; her parents, Donald and Barbara Garhart; father-in-law, G.R. (Mort) Kaul; and brother-in-law, Leland Kaul.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Kelly Kaul of Gillette; daughters, Cassandra Tobin (Eric) of Moorcroft, and Megan Feehan (Charles) of Gillette; and her grandchildren, Dakota Tobin, Myndy Heringer, Agatha Heringer, Adalynn Feehan, Harrison Feehan, and Elaina Feehan.

Visitation will be held at Gillette Memorial Chapel on Jan. 27 from 4-7 p.m. Services will be held at Gillette Memorial Chapel on Jan. 28 at 2 p.m. Internment will follow at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery. Fellowship to follow interment.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to METAVIVOR, Metastatic Breast Cancer Research, Support, and Awareness.

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

MARLEEN RAE PENFIELD
June 14, 1938–Dec. 13, 2021

Marleen Rae Penfield, 83, of Apache Junction, Ariz., passed away peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 13, 2021.

She was born June 14, 1938, in Newcastle, Wyo., to Claire and Avis (Gould) Drake. She was the youngest of four children, joining her brother Harold "Hoddy," and her sisters, Lucia (Yeager) and Roberta (Collins).

She was married to Howard "Ray" Penfield on Sept. 5, 1957, and together they had seven children, Jim, Ted, Tim, Patti, Andy, Rob, and John. They traveled all over the country, until they came to Mesa, Ariz., in December of 1981. Together, they managed apartment complexes and mobile home parks all across the metro Phoenix area until they came to The Palms Mobile Home Park in Apache Junction in 2000. They managed the park together until Ray's passing in 2007. She continued to manage the property until 2013 when her son Tim assumed the responsibilities.

She was an outgoing, sociable person who enjoyed gatherings with her family and friends, both near and far, whenever she could. She was an accomplished seamstress, organizer, manager, wife, and mother.

She is survived by her children, Jim and Jodi of Apache Junction, Ted and Pam of Newcastle, Tim and Jill of Gilbert, Ariz., Patti and Manny Viray of Glendale, Ariz.,

Andy and Patty of Eckert, Colo., Rob and Sherry of Onalaska, Wisc., and John and Debbie of La Crosse, Wisc.; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings, and her husband, Ray. She was much loved and will be missed by everyone who knew her.

RONALD DALE SCHNEIDER
July 29, 1941–Jan. 12, 2022

Ronald Dale Schneider passed away peacefully at his home in Pahrump, Nev., on Jan. 12, 2022, surrounded by his loving family.

Ronald was born July 29, 1941, in Roswell, S.D., to Lorraine and Hazel (Hart) Schneider.

Ronald grew up in Newcastle, Wyo., and after graduation he served in the United States Army. After his discharge, he returned to Moorcroft, Wyo., where he and Barbara Fuller were married on June 1, 1963. To this union three children were born — his most cherished and treasured possessions — sons, Dwayne Eugene Schneider, Ronald Dale Schneider Jr., and daughter, Ronica Lorraine Schneider.

He worked for True Oil Company until 1967 when he moved his family to Belle Creek, Mont. In the early 1970s he moved his family back to Moorcroft where he worked at Amax Coal Company until his retirement.

His commitment and dedication to his family and friends was of the utmost importance to him. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and boating, though he especially loved cars and motorcycles. He spent 10 years as a snowbird in Pahrump, where he enjoyed the warmer weather and quad riding with the "Old Geezers Club." He and Barb moved to Pahrump permanently in October 2021.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 58 years, Barbara (Fuller) Schneider; son, Dwayne Schneider (Cheryl), daughter, Ronica Blakeman (Ken); sisters, Joyce Jones and Peggy Wilkerson (Richard); grandchildren, Mathew and Brett Schneider, Wyatt and Shea Blakeman; and his great-grandchildren, Alex Murphey Schneider and Isabella Schneider whom he loved and adored very much; as well as a vast array of family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lorraine Schneider and Hazel Anderson; infant son, Ronald Dale Schneider Jr.; brother, Gary Lee Schneider; brother-in-law, Gary Jones; and nephews, Collin Jones, Steven Jones and Roger Wilkerson.

His family said, "Ronnie's passing has left a huge hole in the hearts of his family and all those who knew and loved him. He will be greatly missed, more than he could ever imagine, but we know he is in a better place and we will hold on to all the precious memories we have of and with him until we meet again."

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date in Moorcroft.



Elaine Kaul



Marleen Penfield



Ronald Schneider

faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

- January 28**
Colossians 1:24–2:5 February 1 Leviticus 19:1-18
- January 29**
Colossians 2:6-19 February 2 Luke 10:25-37
- January 30**
Colossians 2:20–3:17 February 3 John 1:19-34
- January 31**
Colossians 4:2-18

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

- ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 10 a.m.
- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9:00 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 PM; Celebrate Recovery (18+) & Undeclared Youth (Infant- 12th Grade) Wednesday 6:00 pm
- CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Interim Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;
- AWANA Clubs** Wednesday 6:30 pm
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10:00 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 949-0869
- KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7:00 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frenzil Westertlund. For Bible Study, call (605) 515-3058
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85, Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am
- ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday Mass 5 pm
- UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

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~ Exodus 20:3



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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago
January 30, 1997**

The News Letter Journal came away from the Wyoming Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Awards on Saturday with a record 19 awards. "We feel that we have a good paper, but it's nice reinforcement when your peers agree with you," said Publisher Tom Mullen.

What's it like to play net ball? How does mutton taste? Lenora Sundstrom will share these new experiences and much more with 11 other girls' basketball players from across Wyoming this summer. The Wyoming All-Star Team will be traveling to New Zealand Aug. 4 with three other teams from California, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

The girls' basketball team

took the floor Friday evening against the Torrington Trailblazers. Looking for their first conference win of the season, they had all the pistons firing in the same direction.

Last Thursday night Newcastle hosted Custer in a dual under the new spotlight in the Dogie Dome. Head Coach Darren Heslep was excited about the attendance. The Dogies competed against a tough team from Custer and lost the dual 27-41.

The Newcastle Dogies dropped a tough game to Torrington Friday night 51 to 46 and then were unraveled by the Bison Saturday night 91-47.

The Dogie boys swim team came up short on both ends of a double dual swim meet last Friday at the Kozisek Aquatic

Center. The Buffalo Bison proved to have a little too much quality as they prevailed over the Dogies 71-83. The Douglas Bearcats proved to have too much depth as they edged the Newcastle swimmers 85-86.

**50 Years Ago
January 27, 1972**

Teams from Gillette, Upton, Osage and Newcastle won the championships of the 17th annual Lions Club junior high basketball invitational tournament. Gillette defeated Newcastle 36-26 for the eighth grade crown while Edgemont won the third place trophy with a 47-38 victory over Lusk.

The Newcastle Dogies won 59-46 over Lusk last weekend but had their game with Hot

Springs cancelled because of inclement weather. The Dogies will travel to Buffalo Friday evening. The Buffalo Bisons were the top ranked team when Newcastle beat them 56-54 on Jan. 14.

The Newcastle Dogie basketball squad is currently ranked second in the Associated Press poll and fifth in the United Press poll.

The Newcastle Dogies captured the Chadron, Neb., invitational wrestling tournament last Saturday but had only one individual champion — Lance Wineteer at 155 pounds.

The Newcastle Ballroom Dance Club will start their 1972 season on Friday, Feb. 4 with a buffet and dance at the Flying V Guest Ranch. All past and present members are being solicited to attend and bring as their guests any nonmembers who like to dance or who might like to take an eight week series of dance lessons at small cost.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Dean of Osage who are the very happy parents of a baby boy, Donald Dwayne, born Sunday, Jan. 23. The little lad weighed in at seven pounds, two ounces.

For the first time in the 17 year history of the Newcastle Lions Club tournament, the Osage Warriors brought home a first place trophy Saturday night. It was an especially happy event for Coach Bill Tavegia who is a graduate of the Osage Grade School.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Oscar Jones of Hat Creek who will celebrate her 88th birthday (which is Jan. 25) at her ranch home on Jan. 30. Friends and family are welcome to call.

**100 Years Ago
January 26, 1922**

Monday Federal officers were hunting "hootch" in Cambria and Osage and found enough to warrant the arrest of Joe Podio, Casino Settimo, Siglio, Pisole and Joe Faye, all of Cambria, and Mrs. Eliza McDaniels of Osage. The first three furnished bonds of \$500 each for their appearance to answer charge, while Joe Faye, failing to do so was taken to Cheyenne. The preliminary hearing was continued.

Wyoming leads in the handling of homestead entires and applications for federal oil and gas prospectors' permits, according to a statement from the general land office at Cheyenne. This statement shows that during the period covered Wyoming land offices handled 1,377 entries and applications. Montana was second in the list, with 1,250.

A fine boy, weighing 9 1/4 pounds, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Nichols January 21, 1922, at the General hospital. Mrs. Nichols and babe are reported getting along nicely and Dwight is wearing the brand smile of the happy "papa."

The E.M. Cook ranch home on Lone Tree on Hampshire road was completely destroyed by fire after midnight, Monday. Mr. Cook does not know the origin of the fire as they were sound asleep and were only awakened by the heavy smoke and fire after it had reached their bedroom, barely making their escape in their night robes. Mr. and Mrs. Cook remained the balance of the night in the cellar. They were unable to save anything except the clothing lying on a chair beside bed.

What is hoped will prove an unusually good coal, if not the best in the state, is now being taken from the vein being worked in Salt Creek vicinity. Last Saturday when in about 140 feet Flore Piscotti reached what certainly presents the best appearance of any we have seen here.

A few of the relatives of Mrs. Carl Hays planned a surprise birthday dinner ate the Hays' home, while Mrs. Hays was at church last Sunday. The relatives present who planned the surprise were: Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Adkins and family, Mr. and Mrs. P.B. Lissolo and family, Mrs. E.V. Johnson, Mrs. Lizzie Adkins and Mrs. J.M. Claycomb.



Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society

This is a photograph of Dr. Clarinbaugh. No other information is given.

WHAT'S UP

Jan./Feb. 2022

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri. Jan. 28	8AM	Registration deadline	Introduce a Girl to Engineering
	9AM	TOPS#322	Senior Center
	11:30AM	Caramel rolls	Senior Center
	1PM	WC Library System Board Mtg.	Library Meeting Rm.
	5:30PM	Bridge	Senior Center
Sat. Jan. 29	7PM	BINGO	VFW Hall
		Dance	Senior Center
	3PM	Wildlife Fur Identification	Anna Miller Museum
Mon. Jan. 31	9AM	Exercise class	Senior Center
	1PM	Dominoes	Senior Center
	7PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Senior Center
Tues. Feb. 1	9AM	WC Commissioners	Courthouse
	11AM	Story time	Library
	1PM	Bridge	Senior Center
Wed. Feb. 2	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	WCHS
	7-9AM	Wellness Wednesday	Upton Medical Clinic
	9AM	Exercise Class	Senior Center
	9AM	Toe Nail Clinic	Senior Center
	1PM	Marathon Bridge	Senior Center
	5:30PM	Friends of Fair	Fairgrounds, WC Event Center
	5:30PM	WC Travel Commission	Newcastle Lodge and Convention Center
	7PM	Jr Livestock Committee	Fairgrounds Office
Thurs. Feb. 3		Free Hearing Clinic	Mondell Heights
	7AM	TOPS #218	Senior Center
	1PM	Crafts	Senior Center
	2PM	American Legion Auxiliary Mtg.	Senior Center
	4:30PM	WC Museum District mtg	Anna Miller Museum
	7PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	Senior Center
7:30PM	Masons #13	Masonic Hall	

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GOOD CITIZENS

JANUARY 2022

American Legion Post # 3 proudly presents Good Citizen Certificates to these Newcastle Elementary School students



Kali Hill
3rd, Mr. Marty

Heading into a new year, many people like to think of changes that they can make in their lives to become a better person. Many of these good intentions fall short, but one student in the third grade is continuing to make those good life decisions. That's what makes her this month's good citizen. I have heard all year about how kind and caring this student is from everyone I talk to. I have heard that she helps students out that she doesn't even know and is always looking out for others. This student works extremely hard on all her work, even when it is challenging, and never complains. This student's positivity rubs off on others around her, helping them to be the best that they can be. These are the reasons why I am proud to have this student in my class showing others daily what selflessness really is. Congratulations to the third grade Good Citizen for January, Kali Hill.



Colby Rich
4th, Mrs. Giesler

With the new year upon us, we welcome the first Good Citizen for 2022! Many of us have set goals and are working hard to accomplish them. I am fortunate to look around our classroom and observe several students who have the qualities and goals of a good citizen; they consistently maintain a positive attitude and encourage others to do well. This fourth-grader is always polite, whether it's during a classroom discussion, a game being played, or chatting with his friends. I have learned from other adults that he displays these same traits throughout the school, not just our classroom. When teachers present new material, this individual asks questions to help learn the material then shares his knowledge with those around him. He is wise with his words and speaks in a caring manner. Throughout the day, this good citizen helps us stay focused on our learning and classroom duties, but he also entertains a great sense of humor! He helps with the daily responsibilities, picking up the floor, pushing in chairs, holding the door, and remembers to say, "please and thank you!" We are so proud of him and can all learn from his actions, Congratulations, Colby Rich!



Lillian Lopez
5th, Mrs. Hebbing

As we start the new year of 2022 many of us may want to make changes. After the new year, students may make a resolution to try harder on their academics, get better grades, or make new friends. However, students who choose to work on their kindness and become the next Good Citizen at NES could really take note of my student in room 149. She is:
Laid back and easy going.
Intelligent and an active learner.
Lighthearted and cheerful.
Levelheaded and reliable.
Incredibly thoughtful.
Always ready to help me and others.
Never gives up and tries her best!
Congratulations Lillian Lopez!

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Cowbelle luncheon



Photo by Siri Karr/NLJ

Weston County Cowbelle met Jan. 18 at The Antlers in Newcastle for their monthly meeting. They eat at local restaurants that serve beef. During the meetings they discuss future projects. The Weston County Cowbelle are a group of women involved in the beef industry who help promote it within the county and state of Wyoming.

Dispatch

from Page 1

Hall. She said she is unsure, however, if it will be accomplished by March 8. According to Gualtieri, the city is waiting on bids for a server room.

Regarding a joint powers board to oversee dispatch operations, the mayor said, the city is not currently considering that option but it is not completely off the table for the future.

As previously reported, the commissioners and the town of Upton are in favor of creating a joint powers board to run dispatch. They have said multiple times over the past year, during discussions, that a joint powers board would give all stakeholders a say in the way dispatch is run and avoid one agency having leverage over others.

Gualtieri also addressed the commissioners' concerns that updated technology and systems have not been put to use. Taylor specifically questioned if any of the original issues with dispatch services had been addressed to date.

"I think we are all concerned with the issues, but those were with the radios not [dispatch's operating system]. It turned into the system and we want this and this and this," Gualtieri said, noting that equipment to put the updates into place has been ordered.

Despite any movement toward resolving everyone's concerns and developing a contract that all entities can agree on, Taylor maintained that he thinks more should have been accomplished in the year and a half since the issues first came to a boiling point. He noted that if the county is not comfortable with continuing to work with the city after all this time, then the county is in a bind if it lacks a dispatch service or the equipment and personnel to operate its own service.

"If we don't use you, then two entities need to have the equipment," he said.

Taylor was adamant that he wants the city and county to have a good working relationship but he is concerned that they are "still putting lives in jeopardy."

"That is my problem. I am not questioning the negotiating. It's that we haven't changed anything from a year ago," Taylor said.

Upton Police Chief Susan Bridge clarified for the group that there has been a "great increase in positive things taking place," but that concerns with radios still arise.

"With all technology these days, you have to reboot sometimes," Gualtieri said, explaining that dispatch tech personnel are doing their best to address issues as they arise, including the regular rebooting of the server system.

"They have been really good at notifying us when it is going to occur," Bridge said. "They pay attention to the time so (that) it's during low call times."

Bridge noted that the problems are being addressed and worked on while Police Chief Sam Keller, Sheriff Bryan Colvard and she are negotiating the agreements and guidelines for dispatch services.

Gualtieri assured the commissioners that the city is dedicated to providing services for the entire county, despite any disagreements or tension.

"Newcastle's priority is the whole county," she said. "When it comes to the radio issues, we are working on them. When it comes to the dispatch issues, we are working on them. Our priority is the people of the county. We may not be on the same page and disagree, but the people of the county are the priority and I can tell you wholeheartedly our dispatchers feel that way, too."

To that, Commissioner Nathan Todd asked whether Gualtieri and the city ever considered that the issues are a county issue and not a city of Newcastle issue.

Gualtieri expresses frustration with reporting

During the dispatch discussion on Jan. 18, Newcastle Mayor Pam Gualtieri expressed frustration with reporting featured in the Weston County Gazette on the dispatch discussions at county meetings.

"I read in the newspaper, in Upton, that we were dropping Upton. I am not sure why those thoughts are there. Dispatch is invested in the entire county," Gualtieri said, noting that dispatch employees are residents of Upton.

"To say we could drop Upton at any time is very false. Speaking with Melissa (Stubbs, dispatch supervisor) after reading the article, she was very upset that that was even thought about. Even if we wanted to drop anyone, by law we can't. Due diligence needs to be done before it is reported in the paper."

Nicholas Trandahl, the Gazette's publisher and editor, who also serves on the Upton Town Council, responded to the claim during the public comment portion of the meeting. He then summarized his thoughts for the *News Letter Journal* when asked about the interaction.

"In short, they were: I'm a county reporter reporting on dispatch discussions had by county officials. The city of Newcastle has a more than adequate newspaper to report on their meetings and perspectives," Trandahl said. "Every one of my dispatch articles has been about dispatch discussions at county meetings. I do, however, report any city official's perspective if they attend and make statements during a county meeting, but I don't seek out the city's perspective on this issue because that is not our turf at the Gazette."

He noted that he was reporting statements made during the Jan. 4 meeting so for Gualtieri to insinuate that he was exaggerating or incorrect in the reporting is false.

"My article simply had direct quotes from four elected county officials made during that meeting, all of which expressed worry about Upton being dropped. I did not make that up, and I would consider it a disservice to our readers to not include those quotes concerning Upton," Trandahl said. "I encourage the mayor to stay in her lane and allow me to stay in mine as a county government reporter, not as a city of Newcastle reporter."

In response to Trandahl's statement, Gualtieri made it clear that Newcastle is very much part of Weston County and as a county reporter, Trandahl should want the entire story.

"Newcastle is in the same county and the commissioners were reporting on an issue about the city. Any good journalist would have done what the *News Letter Journal* does and contact the other party to see if a comment is needed," she said.

"It is a disservice to print only one side of the story, stirring the pot. But, if that is the way he wants to be a journalist to sell papers ..., Gualtieri concluded.

"Maybe it (dispatch) should be under an elected official of the county. ... Everyone in the county would get a say, a vote in the game," Todd said, noting that this could be another potential option for the joint powers board. "Once we do that, then the leverage is given to him (Colvard)," Steveson said. "That is why a joint powers board was suggested," Taylor concluded.

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Newcastle Dogies

Girls' Basketball

2021-22



Varsity Girls' Basketball

Back Row: Coach Chad Ostenson, Coach Michalyn Ray, Coach Alyssa Dawson, McKenzie Conzelman, Hailey Beastrom, Tiernan Stanton, Jaylen Ostenson, Jayde Harrington, Hunter McFarland, Shawnee Miles, and Aspen Bloom. Front Row: Kayley Munoz, Amesha Cummings, Carmella Malone, Bailey Benshoof, Shelby Tidyman, Savannah Carr, and Kendall Mullen

Junior Varsity Girls' Basketball

Back Row: Coach Alyssa Dawson, Shawnee Miles, Victoria Pehringer, Hailey Beastrom, Jayde Harrington, Carmella Malone, Aspen Bloom, and Coach Michalyn Ray. Front Row: Kayley Munoz, Amesha Cummings, Julie Morris, Savannah Carr, Ruth Rose, and Kendall Mullen



Photos by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography



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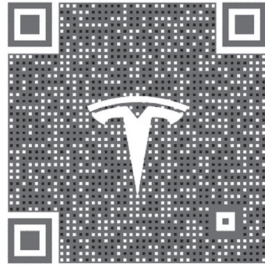
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To participate, complete registration form online or at Newcastle Middle School by Jan. 28

Charcuterie board: What is it? How do I build one?



Charcuterie boards have become very popular. Photos of beautifully assembled boards can be found all over social media, restaurants, specialty stores, and even grocery store delis.

Charcuterie, pronounced shar-koo-tuh-ree, is the French word for the culinary art of preparing and assembling meat products. Charcuterie made meats include salami, ham, confit, dry-cured sausage, pâtés, galantines, and more. The original French charcuterie used pork, but today's charcuterie boards include an assembled assortment of meats, cheeses, fruits, veggies, bread and/or crackers, pickles, nuts, and spreads.

How do I make a charcuterie board?

For your board, you can choose any shape and size you want to meet your needs. They can be any size or shape you like. Usually, they are made of wood, but you can choose a different material if you would like. To make a board for a small gathering, you will want to choose a smaller board than creating a charcuterie board for a large party.

Small dishes, little spoons, and plates are also needed to build a charcuterie board. It is fun to collect unique pieces from rummage sales or thrift stores to add interest and then use white plates and bowls to focus on the beauty of the foods.

Typically, charcuterie boards contain cured meats, various cheeses, olives and nuts, fruit, herbs, dried fruits, crackers or small slices of bread, and jelly or jam. The expense of building the board will vary based on what you choose to use to assemble it. It is wise to make a budget and a list when shopping for ingredients for your charcuterie board. Also, be sure to check your own cupboards and refrigerator before going shopping because you may already have some of the ingredients.

If you want to make a fancy board with specialty meats and cheeses for a special occasion, you can ask friends and family members to pitch in on the cost and everyone will enjoy it. You can also save money by using less expensive ingredients, such as nice deli sliced ham or summer sausage instead of prosciutto or salami.

Affordable cheeses are brie, blue cheese, Pecorino Romano, or even cream cheese with flavored toppings such as jelly on top. There should be a few different kinds of cheese on the board, served in different shapes and sizes for visual interest.

It is always nice to add fresh herbs to your charcuterie board for visual and aromatic appeal. Fresh rosemary and thyme are usually easy to find at stores in our area and are affordable.

Fruits are also an essential ingredient for a good charcuterie board. While fresh blueberries and raspberries may be expensive or more difficult to find this time of year, they are an excellent choice. Try cutting up an apple for your board if you want to use a more affordable fruit with plenty of flavors. Just remember, it will brown, so be sure to cut the apple right before serving.

Marinated olives, artichoke hearts, and sweet peppers should be added to the charcuterie board in a small bowl. These can also vary in taste and cost, so choose what fits your lifestyle.

Nuts, jams, and dried fruit are usually added to the board last and work well to fill in empty spaces to create the most visually appealing board. Adding a honey comb or a bowl of honey with a dipper or little bowls of jams and jellies adds a sweet touch to your board. Dried apricots and pineapple are also sweet, while adding spicy jellies or peppers will add zestiness to your selection. You can select any nuts you like. Flavored or salted almonds are an excellent choice. I also like salted pistachios. However, the possibilities are endless, and feel free to choose the nuts that fit your budget and tastes.

I also like to use several different crackers on my charcuterie boards. Different shapes, colors, textures, and flavors all add to the appearance and taste of the boards. Carefully stacking and arranging crackers also add to the visual appeal.

Charcuterie boards may look intimidating, but they offer lots of opportunities for customization to meet your tastes, style, and budget. If you build it step-by-step, you will be amazed at how simple it is to create a beautiful charcuterie board!



Vicki Hayman
Extension
Notes

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as well as all those who contributed to the **2021 Festival of Trees** by donating, purchasing and attending this great event!

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Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULES

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

NHS Men's Basketball		
1/28	Douglas HS	A 7PM
1/29	Wheatland HS	H 3PM
2/4	Big Horn HS	H 3PM
2/5	Rawlins HS	H NOON
2/12	Chadron HS	H 1PM

NHS Ladies' Basketball		
1/28	Douglas HS	A 5:30PM
1/29	Wheatland HS	H 1:30PM
2/4	Big Horn HS	H 3PM
2/5	Rawlins HS	H NOON
2/12	Chadron HS	H 1PM

NHS Men's Swimming		
1/28-29	Gillette Invite	A TBA
2/11-12	Gillette Last Chance	A TBA
2/17-19	3A State Champ. @ Gillette	A TBA

NHS/UHS Wrestling		
1/27	Wright Jr/Sr HS	H 6:30PM
1/28-29	Belle Fourche Invite	A TBA
2/5	Hill City Invite	A TBA
2/10	Quad in Wheatland	A TBA

Grapplers finish strong

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Last week was a busy one for the Dogies/Bobcats as they wrestled three duals against Wheatland, Torrington and the Bearcats in Douglas on Tuesday, only to turn around and compete in the Moorcroft Invitational tournament on Friday and Saturday.

Despite a couple of setbacks, head coach Lee McCoy was pleased with his squad's performance throughout the week.

They began action against Douglas at the quad, and McCoy admitted that his team was a little shell shocked by the tough Bearcat squad who defeated them by a score of 72-12 with 6 of those points picked up due to a Douglas forfeit.

"It's a tough place to wrestle, and it was made even tougher by starting out getting throttled by Douglas," McCoy said with a sigh. "And then we had to pick ourselves up to take on two more teams in Wheatland and Torrington."

The highlight of the match against the Bearcats was senior Josh Womack's win at 220 pounds over the Bearcat who beat him last weekend.

"Josh is wrestling tough and

— See **Wrestlers**, Page 16

Two more qualify at home

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Dogie swimmers remained perfect on the year, adding new qualifying events in each weekend of competition. They stayed true to form at their only home meet of the season Thursday as Robert Humes and Ramsey Gross each added a new option to their state slate.

Humes punched his ticket in the 100 Freestyle just a week after getting under the mark in the 50 Free, while Gross added the 50 Free to go along with the 200 IM and 100 Backstroke he qualified for two weeks ago.

"Robert had a great race in the 100 Free and took off two and a half seconds," head coach Doug Scribner said. "I think that qualifying in the 50 Free last week in Douglas really took the pressure off of him, and he just went out and swam it."

It was also the first time that the Dogies have competed against Buffalo this year. The Bison have many swimmers who are fast swimming freestyle, and Humes was in a heat with several of them. He competed against them and as a result swam a 57.89 second race, finishing fourth but also nearly a second under qualifying time in the event.

"We switched the order of the lanes, so he was looking at the results from a different lane. He was pretty disappointed with that finish, but their entire team can swim it under a minute," Scribner began. "I had to tell him that he went under 58 seconds and that he did keep up with the Buffalo swimmers. After he realized he qualified, he was pretty excited."

Gross finished first in the 50 Free with a personal record of 24.56 seconds, and he also swam a PR in the 100 Backstroke shaving off 1.7 seconds from his previous best time,



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Senior Zade Orsborn cut 1.2 seconds from his 200 IM time for a personal record in his last home meet as a Dogie on Jan. 20.

and touched the wall first in that event as well.

"The 50 is something Ramsey has wanted to qualify for and this was his first time swimming it, and I think he even surprised himself," Scribner said. "His time cut in the backstroke is mostly due to technique things he's been working on. He surprised himself again, but the improvement in technique and the fact that he went out and attacked it aggressively was why he

had the time drop and the PR there."

As a team, the Dogies had swimmers put up personal bests in all but one event. In addition to Gross, Zade Orsborn dropped 1.2 seconds for a PR in the 200 IM, which he had already qualified for earlier in the season, and though he didn't hit his best time in the Butterfly, he did drop .35 seconds from his best so far this season in that event.

"I think his time in the fly is just about two seconds off of what he swam

last season," Scribner reasoned. "It looked quite a bit better than it did last week, but we've spent about two weeks working on it pretty consistently so it makes sense."

Nate Strickland returned to competition after illness dry docked him for a couple of weeks.

Despite fighting back to health, he was able to swim two personal best

— See **Swimmers**, Page 10

Dogies split conference opener

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

It was a case of Jekyll and Hyde for the Dogies last weekend as they opened up quadrant play. On Friday, they hosted the Thermopolis Bobcats and came away with an exciting 58-55 win in overtime, then traveled to Buffalo

and limped away suffering a 68-37 loss.

Head coach Allen Von Eye knew that the Bobcats would be solid, coming in with a 6-4 record and averaging nearly 20 points more per game than his own crew. In addition, their roster is heavy with veteran varsity players who have the battle scars to prove they have

earned some respect.

"We knew we'd see full court pressure that is different from what we run," Von Eye began. "They are more pressure orientated with four guys in the back court, but I wasn't worried at all with our press offense. We didn't have any issues breaking their press, but we struggled to score early."

Both teams got off to a slow start with each trying to figure each other out, but once the Dogies got going, they jumped out to a lead and were tearing the Bobcats' pressure defense apart while giving them fits with their own three-quarter court pressure in the first quarter.

The Dogies turned

Thermopolis over nine times in the first eight minutes, many of those leading to fast break buckets, however the Bobcats were able to answer in turn so the first quarter ended with the Dogies leading by a slim 8-7 margin.

In the second quarter, the

— See **Men**, Page 10



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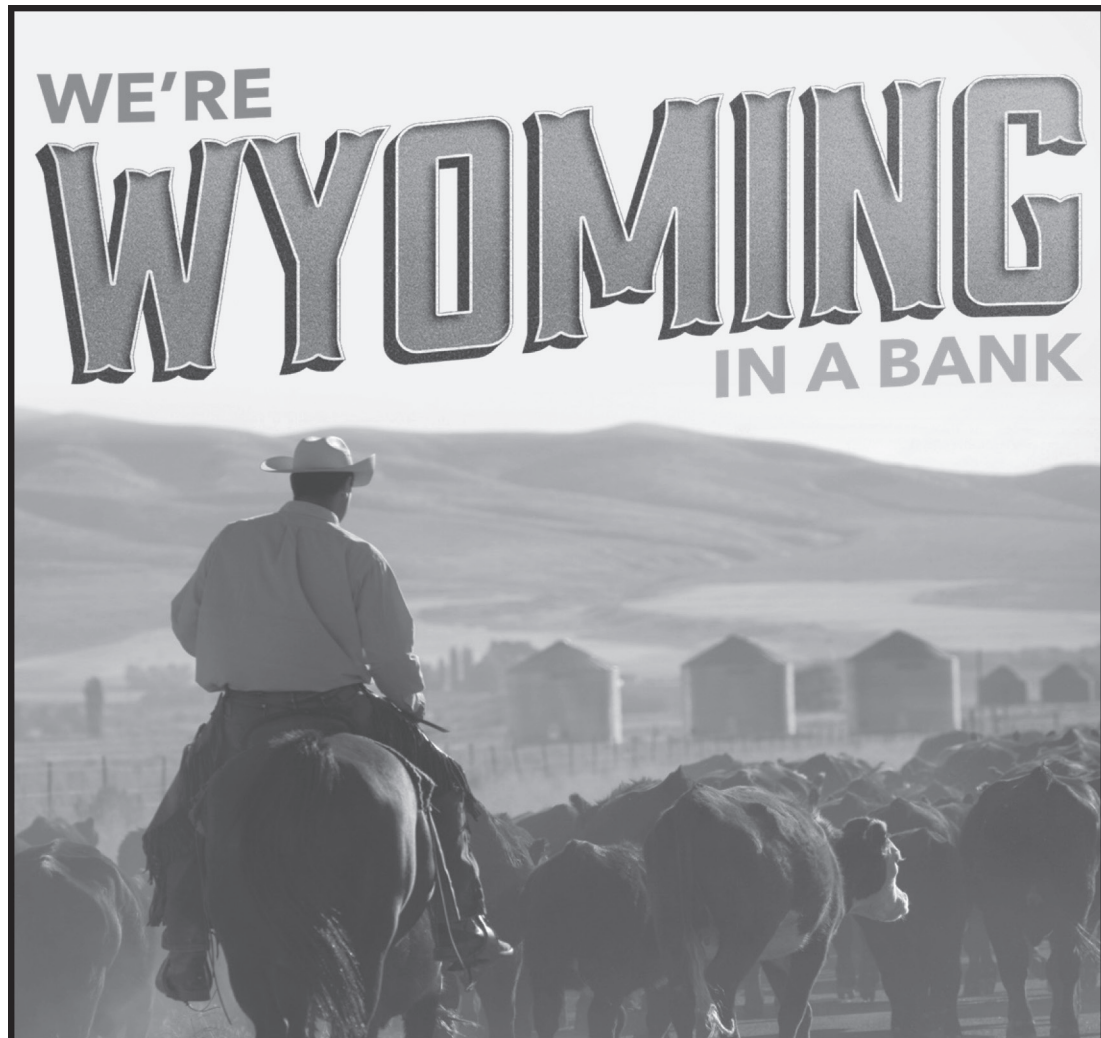
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Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Robert Humes qualified for his second state event in as many weeks as he finished the 100 Freestyle in 57.89 seconds last Thursday at the Kozisek Aquatic Center.

Swimmers from Page 9

times in the 50 Free and the 100 Free, dropping half a second in the former and 4.6 seconds in the latter.

"Nate wasn't sure if he was going to be strong enough to compete at the beginning of the week, but by Wednesday, he was feeling a lot better," Scribner explained. "He was pretty happy with his times in his races and so was I."

According to Scribner, his team is starting to build confidence which is vital as he anticipates that this year will be another fast state meet, just as it was last season. Those who have qualified still need to drop time in order to make it to the top 12 and be eligible to swim in the finals, however Scribner

NHS Men's Swimming	
Newcastle @ Newcastle Triangular 1/20/22	5. Nate Strickland 28.17 PR
Team Results:	100 Butterfly
1. Buffalo 92	3. Zade Orsborn 1:07.83 3AQ
2. Douglas 44	100 Free:
3. Newcastle 35	4. Robert Humes 57.89 3AQ
	6. Nate Strickland 1:03.42 PR
Individual Results:	100 Backstroke:
200 IM:	1. Ramsey Gross 1:06.12 PR 3AQ
1. Zade Orsborn 2:28.80 PR 3AQ	100 Breaststroke:
4. Logan Olson 2:50.96	4. Logan Olson 1:33.23
50 Free:	400 Free Relay: 4:12.27
1. Ramsey Gross 24.56 PR 3AQ	3. Zade Orsborn, Logan Olson, Ramsey Gross, Robert Humes

also has confidence that they will be able to achieve that goal. After having a couple of swimmers out due to illness over the last couple of weeks, Scribner is hoping to have a full team back for Gillette this weekend. The pre-invite

is on Friday, followed by the invitational meet on Saturday. The state meet is being held in Gillette this year, so Scribner anticipates this will be a pretty big meet and will also offer his team the opportunity to swim in the state meet pool.

Men from Page 9

Dogies pulled out to a 9-point lead but then Thermop made some adjustments to pull back to within 4 by the time the teams headed into the locker room.

"We stressed that we could not come out flat in the third quarter like we've been doing, and we didn't technically come out that way," Von Eye said. "But then we went into a lull a couple of minutes in. Thankfully, it wasn't too bad, and we battled back and dug ourselves back out of it."

The Bobcats used that lull to catch fire and pull to a 7-point lead before the Dogies were able to ramp things back up to trail only by 4 at the end of quarter three.

"Players make plays, and that is exactly what they did," Von Eye said. "Coaching is overrated. It comes down to players executing on the floor — and the guys really did a great job of that."

The teams were like heavy-weight champions going blow for blow throughout the fourth quarter. The Dogies had a chance in the final seconds to secure the win, but time ticked away before they could break the 49-49 tie on the scoreboard, thereby going into their first overtime situation of the season. In a contest that saw six ties and nine lead changes, it is not a surprise for it to take extra time to decide a victor.

"That's a little scary," admitted Von Eye. "Especially when you're sitting with some

foul trouble. We still needed to play aggressively, but we also had to play smart."

The Bobcats came out and scored 2 right off the bat to go up 4, which in OT can be worrisome. The Dogies responded, however, and did what they needed to do to reduce the deficit.

"We hit some big shots down the stretch and we knocked down some free-throws," Von Eye said. "Once we got the lead, we felt pretty comfortable. We have two really good free-throw shooters in Slade and Aidan, so I felt confident going to the line down the stretch."

Both Chick and Roberson got to the line and maintained the lead necessary to take the 58-55 win which gave Newcastle a 1-0 record in quadrant play.

The Dogies beat the Bobcats on the boards pulling down 8 more on the night, and Chick was Mr. Clean snagging 14 of those, many on the defensive end of the court.

"Aidan has really rebounded well for the last five games or so," Von Eye acknowledged. "He just has great timing and understands positioning, and has been attacking the defensive glass."

"Hayden [Overman] did some really great things for us offensively that night, and Aidan hit a couple of key shots as well to get us back in it," he continued.

Overman would end the night leading his team with 22 points. Chick was next with his double double of 17 points and 14 rebounds. Roberson added 9 points including going 5-6 from the charity stripe, Hogan Tystad added 8 and Tate Engle rounded out the scoring with 2 points of his own.

Turnovers were the dark side of the night, and haunted the Dogies again on Saturday in Buffalo.

The Bison got pummeled by Douglas in the second half of their game on Friday night, so they were motivated to pick up a quadrant win against the Dogies.

"We knew we'd get their best, we always do up there," Von Eye said. "They were the most physical and athletic team we have seen all year, and their defense is in-your-face and aggressive. We had three guys that were open all the time, but

we couldn't see it because of the pressure they bring in the full court and the half court."

The Bison were up 11-4 at the end of the first quarter, and extended their lead even further in the second before the Dogies settled in and started to climb their way out of the hole they had dug for themselves to go into the half down 14.

"Actually, we felt pretty good that we had cut it to 14, because even the guys said they had felt like we were just handing them the ball and letting them shoot layups," Von Eye said. "We had 22 turnovers in the first half which is five more than our season average, so we knew that we had to clean that part of our game up if we wanted to have a chance."

Unfortunately, the third quarter blues inflicted the team once again, and Buffalo extended their lead back up 25 points. The Dogies tried to battle back, but fatigue started to set in, so the Bison were able to pull to that 31-point lead to end the contest.

Chick led the Dogies in scoring with 11 points, Engle was next with 8 while Roberson and Overman each put in 6 points. Tystad added 4 points to the team's total and Quint Perino chipped in 2 points of his own to round out the scoring.

The Bison team the Dogies lost to got drilled by the Bearcat team the Dogies will play this Friday in Douglas.

"Both teams are in our quad, so we have only a couple of options," Von Eye determined. "We can either feel sorry for ourselves or we can do our best to fix it. I believe the latter is what we will do to get ourselves ready for a very good Douglas team."

The Dogies will host the Wheatland Bulldogs in a rematch on Saturday at the Dogie Dome.

"We are chomping at the bit for another shot at the Bulldogs," Von Eye said. "We did not put our best foot forward down there a couple of weeks ago, so we are ready to take them on again to see what we can do."

Tip-off on Friday is scheduled at 7 p.m. and the home game on Saturday is set for 3 p.m. Saturday is also Agriculture Appreciation night in the Dome.

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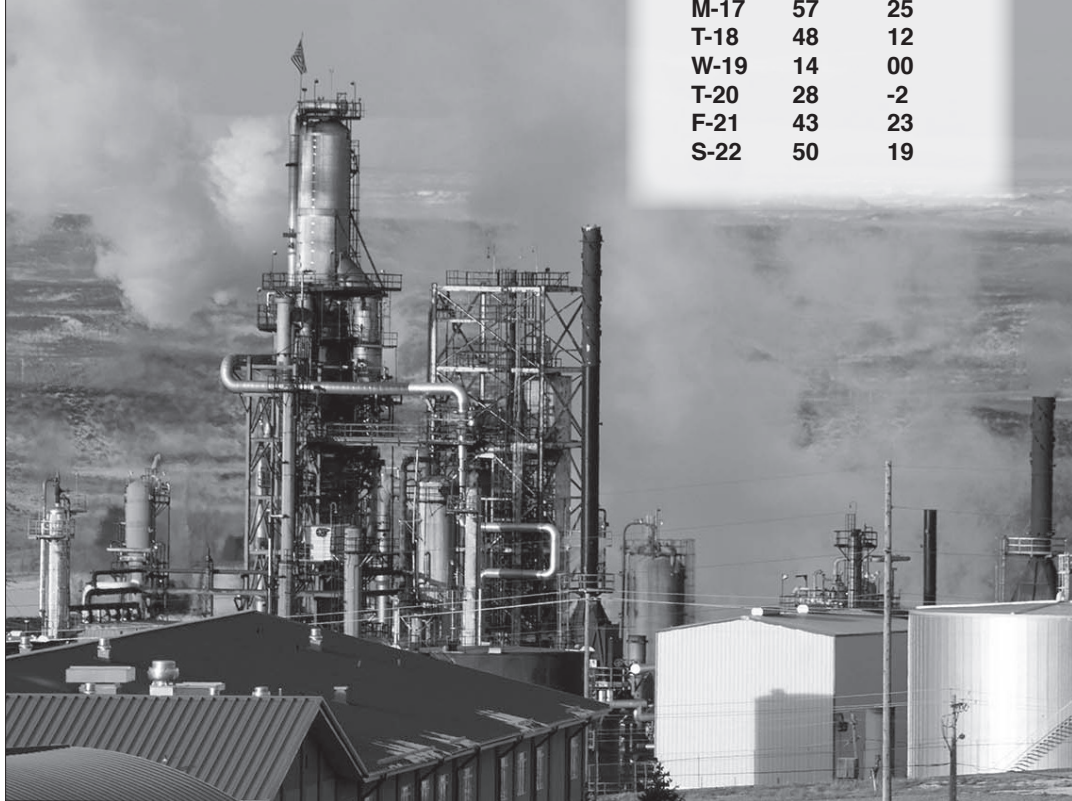
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NHS Men's Basketball

Newcastle v. Thermopolis 1/21/22:
58-55 OT
Slade Roberson: 9 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 charge taken
Aidan Chick: 17 points, 14 rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals, 1 block
Avery Chick: 1 rebound, 3 assists, 2 steals
Hogan Tystad: 8 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 1 charge taken
Tate Engle: 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
Hayden Overman: 22 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals
Quint Perino: 1 rebound, 1 steal

Newcastle @ Buffalo 1/22/22: 37-68
Slade Roberson: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Aidan Chick: 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals
Avery Chick: 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal
Hogan Tystad: 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal
Tate Engle: 8 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists
Hayden Overman: 6 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal
Quint Perino: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist
Braden Jenkins: 1 steal

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Public Notice

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

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Wyoming Refining Company to modify the Newcastle Refinery with removal of the true vapor pressure (TVP) limits for one (1) 30,000 barrel (bbl) heated, fully insulated, internal floating roof (IFR) storage tank (TNK043). The Newcastle Refinery is located at 740 West Main in Newcastle, in Weston County, Wyoming.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F000980 and permit number P0034467 under permits. Additionally, during the state of emergency declared by Governor Gordon on March 13, 2020, if you have questions about or need assistance accessing the materials, please contact Nancy Vehr, Air Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West

17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, by fax at 307-635-1784, via phone at 307-777-3746, or via email at Nancy.vehr1@wyo.gov. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or by fax at (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0012915 in your comment. In addition, comments can be submitted electronically at <http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>. However, comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 28, 2022 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. For the duration of the state of emergency declared by Governor Gordon on March 13, 2020, public hearings will be conducted telephonically. Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish January 27, 2022)

Public Notice

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

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Moser Energy Systems to operate 250 temporary portable rich burn natural gas fired generator engines consisting of any configuration of 118 hp Doosan 8.1L NA engines, 239 hp Doosan 8.1L T engines, 302 hp Doosan 11.1L engines, 402 hp Doosan 14.6L engines and 612 hp Doosan 21.9L engines (ENG001-ENG250), to be operated at oil and gas well sites at various locations in Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Johnson, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sweetwater, Uinta, Washakie and Weston Counties, Wyoming.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F027573 and permit number P0034460 under permits. Additionally, during the state of emergency declared by Governor Gordon on March 13, 2020, if you have questions about or need assistance accessing the materials,

please contact Nancy Vehr, Air Quality Division Administrator, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, by fax at 307-635-1784, via phone at 307-777-3746, or via email at Nancy.vehr1@wyo.gov. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, or by fax at (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0012979 in your comment. In addition, comments can be submitted electronically at <http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>. However, comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 28, 2022 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. For the duration of the state of emergency declared by Governor Gordon on March 13, 2020, public hearings will be conducted telephonically. Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

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SUPER BOWL

- ACROSS**
- Shout from a ship?
 - Shout from the bleachers
 - _____ and don'ts
 - Infamous Henry's number
 - One with COVID, e.g.
 - Fighter jet button
 - Resting stops
 - Not guilty, e.g.
 - One of Singapore's official languages
 - *Home of last year's Super Bowl winners
 - Armor chest plate
 - *Given name of 2011 Super Bowl MVP
 - African grazer
 - Greek woodland deities
 - Ramones' hit "I Wanna Be _____"
 - Big fuss
 - Like certain Chili Peppers (2 words)
 - Cattle call goal
 - Scatterbrained
 - Bonehead
 - In a different direction
 - JetÉ in ballet
 - More so than egg
 - Conducted
 - Christmas firewood (2 words)
 - Annotator and commentator
 - Soda-pop container
 - Unpleasant and offensive

50. SWAT attack, e.g.
52. *Super Bowl I and II winning coach
55. Pertaining to a pope
56. Cain's unfortunate brother
57. Gives a hand
59. Anoint
60. BEBÉ's mother
61. Season to be jolly
62. *Most Super Bowl wins by one team
63. Snoop
64. Carhop's load
- DOWN**
- *Roman number of this year's Super Bowl
 - _____ Misbehavin"
 - Santa Maria's traveling partner
 - Despair in the face of obstacles
 - "The Hobbit" hobbit
 - "Caribbean Queen" singer
 - Colloquial approval
 - Cold cuts counter
 - South American tubers
 - Pig's digs
 - Not dense
 - Make corrections
 - *Florida team with no Super Bowl appearances
 - Return punch
 - Come and _____ it
 - Lamentably

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

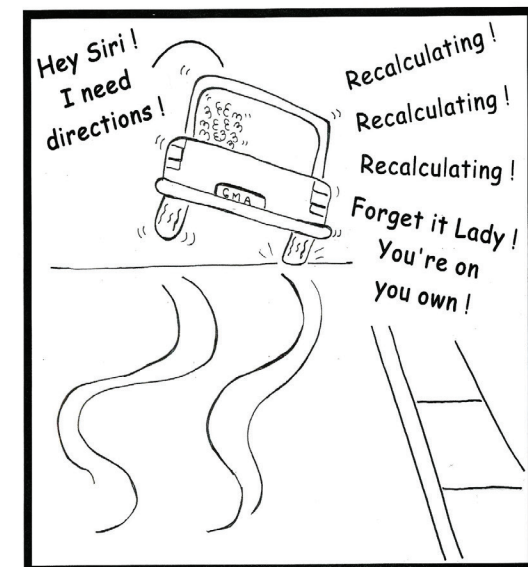
Last week's answers

C	A	M	P	S	S	A	W	I	L	K	S	
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6	7	3	4	5	2	9	8	1			
9	5	2	3	1	8	4	6	7			
4	8	1	9	6	7	5	2	3			

Gwamma

by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Hey Siri! I need directions! Recalculating! Recalculating! Recalculating! Forget it Lady! You're on your own!

DID YOU KNOW?
THAT MOST SUPER BOWL QUARTERBACKS THROUGHOUT HISTORY CAME FROM 11 COLLEGES.

Police Blotter

January 16
 Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Welfare Check Requested. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Report of a Dog at Large, Returned to Owners. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Dog Bite Reported. Drunk Driver Reported, Arrest Made.
January 17
 Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. VIN Inspection Requested. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Public Assist Requested.
January 18
 Report of a Dog at Large. Abandoned 911. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. One Vehicle Accident Reported. 911 Misdialed. Domestic Problem

Reported, Citation Issued. Welfare Check Requested. Domestic Problem Reported, Citation Issued. Welfare Check Requested.
January 19
 Parking Complaint, Verbal Warning Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported.
January 20
 Medical Assist. Medical Assist. Arrest Warrant Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Medical Assist.
January 21
 Suspicious Vehicle Reported. Traffic Stop, No Action Taken. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Welfare Check Requested. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. Welfare Check Requested.
January 22
 Vandalism Reported. Noise Complaint. Drunk Driver Reported. Suicide Attempt. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, No Action Taken. Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported.



Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Average gas price rises

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Average gasoline prices in Wyoming have risen 3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.28 per gallon Monday, according to GasBuddy.com's survey of 494 stations in Wyoming. Prices in Wyoming are 2.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago, and stand \$1.07 per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Wyoming was priced at \$2.79 per gallon Sunday, while the most expensive was \$3.99, a difference of \$1.20 per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.32 per gallon Monday. The national average is up 3.3 cents per gallon from a month ago, and stands 92.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country. *This story was published on Jan. 24, 2022.*

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Advisory board joins new district

GILLETTE (WNE) — The Gillette College Advisory Board has transitioned to the new community college district, aiming to represent voices from the community and industry as the new district takes shape. The Gillette Community College District trustees voted this week to ratify the advisory board's revised bylaws, making it a part of the new district. The advisory board originally formed to serve as a liaison between Gillette College and the Northern Wyoming Community College District based in Sheridan. With the ongoing Gillette College transition into its own district, trustees and advisory board members reevaluated the purpose of the advisory board in past months and agreed the 11-member board could continue to be a resource to the district and community. The advisory board also appointed two new members, representing the agriculture industry and oil and gas, which trustees also approved. It sought to add members from sectors of the community "that need their voices heard at the college," said Richard Cisneros, an advisory board member. Although the board maxes out at 11 members, its census fell when three members left after being elected as trustees of the new district. When looking for replacements, they looked for representation from the local industries of banking and finance; construction and engineering; education; telecommunications; agriculture; health care; coal and extraction; hospitality and food service; and oil and gas. In addition to appointing new members, the repurposed advisory board also determined new term lengths and reset all terms to have begun Jan. 1. Two vacancies remain. Cisneros said the board hopes to fill those slots with members from the banking and finance industry, as well as hospitality and food service. *This story was published on Jan. 25, 2022.*

Rock Creek Wind Project approved

LARAMIE (WNE) — The Albany County Board of Commissioners has approved a wind energy conversion systems permit for the Rock Creek Wind Project by a 3-0 vote. The commission had tabled the project following a public hearing Dec. 7 after commissioners asked for more time to ask questions and took the issue up again this past week. Following a discussion about fire suppression, impacts to wildlife and the use of aircraft detection lighting systems, project lead developer Chase Martson and attorney Greg Weisz offered to attach a condition to the permit limiting construction from Nov. 15-April 30 in areas considered to be crucial winter range for big game. The language of the condition would mirror a similar rule imposed by the Carbon County Board of Commissioners in December. An October letter to the county from habitat protection supervisor Amanda Losch included 20 recommendations intended to minimize impacts to big game, raptors, bats, aquatic species and habitat. Amy Watrud, senior associate for environmental compliance and strategy for Invenery, said the company is working with the department and following its guidelines. "I would say we are on course to have all these recommendations from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department resolved," she said. Albany County's regulations defer consideration of wildlife and cultural resource impacts to the state's Industrial Siting Council for developments large enough to require ISC permission, such as the Rock Creek Wind Project. Watrud said Invenery had already moved turbines away from Cooper Creek at the department's recommendation to lessen the impact to big game. Regarding the use of aircraft detection lighting systems, county regulations require their use unless prohibited by the Federal Aviation Administration. *This story was published on Jan. 23, 2022.*

State in third economic decline since 2009

DOUGLAS (WNE) — While unemployment rates are decreasing across the country and in Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Workforce Research & Planning reports that at the same time, Wyoming is in the midst of its third economic downturn since 2009. DWS defines an economic downturn as a period of at least two consecutive quarters of over-the-year decrease in average monthly employment and total wages based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program. The state's two other most recent downturns occurred from 2009-Q1 to 2010-Q1, and from 2015-Q2 to 2016-Q4. Declining energy prices preceded both downturns. Most of the counties — Converse, Natrona, Campbell and Sweetwater — with the greatest job losses were those with a large presence of natural resources and mining jobs, according to Wyoming Labor Force Trends Editor Michael Moore (DWS Research & Planning Trends, October 2021). These counties also experienced the greatest decrease in wages, including Natrona County (-\$62.8 million/-13%, Campbell County (-\$55 million/-14.9%), Sweetwater County (-\$48 million/-15%) and Converse County (-\$34 million/-32%), Moore wrote in the DWS publication. "The Covid-19 pandemic and declines in the prices of and demand for energy resources have driven Wyoming's recent job losses," Moore wrote. "The state's average monthly employment of 254,345 in 2021-Q1 was slightly higher than the 252,329 in 2020-Q2, which marked the lowest employment over the last decade. Prior to the pandemic, Wyoming's lowest average monthly employment in the last decade was 261,224 in 2017-Q1." *This story was published on Jan. 19.*

Gillette mayor resigns over texts

By Jake Goodrick
 Gillette News Record
 Via Wyoming News Exchange

GILLETTE — Louise Carter-King resigned as the mayor of the City of Gillette Thursday night, two days after apologizing for old text messages that surfaced this week that included off-color and denigrating language about City Council members and other Campbell County officials. "It is with a heavy heart that I announce my resignation as the Mayor of the City of Gillette," Carter-King said in a press release Thursday night. "I want to thank (City Council) and the many outstanding staff members who I've had the pleasure of working with over the years. I am proud to have served the City of Gillette for nearly 30 years. I am so proud of what our community has accomplished, particularly the construction of the beautiful campus and most recently, the passage of an independent Gillette College," she said. "I look forward to what you will accomplish going forward. I know you will continue to make sure that Gillette remains the greatest city in Wyoming." "We on the Council would like to thank Louise for her longtime service to the citizens of Gillette. She has been a force within our community for so many years. Her passion and experience will be missed," said Council President Nathan McLeland in the press release. "We wish her all the best." A 400-plus page transcript containing thousands of text messages between Carter-King and former City Administrator Patrick Davidson became public this week. The messages included insults towards many in the community and on the City Council, particularly Councilman Shay Lundvall. Carter-King apologized for the comments at Tuesday's City Council meeting and released a statement on the city's website and Facebook page. "When the messages were released, I knew that my first priority would be to have a number of difficult conversations, with you, my City Council colleagues, and the many other individuals who might be affected by my past words," Carter-King wrote in her resignation letter. "Over the last several days, I have had many of these conversations, both over the phone and in person. It was never my intention to hurt anyone, but I recognize that I have hurt people and damaged relationships." "I believe that it is in the best interest in the City for me to step down from my position." *This story was published Jan. 7.*

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BLAST FROM THE PAST



Here are photos from the News Letter Journal's archives. Subjects unknown. Email staff@newsnj.com to share any information about these photos or events.

Ladies perfect heading into conference play

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The race for regional seeding began last week, and the Lady Dogies got off to a great start going 2-0 defeating the Lady Bobcats of Thermopolis 50-11 on Friday, and the No. 5-ranked Lady Bison of Buffalo 62-58 last Saturday.

Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew rolled over the Bobcats in the Dogie Dome, instituting a running clock just two minutes into the third quarter, then won a knock-down-drag-out battle against the Bison at their house.

"It really was a great way to start off the opening of quadrant play," said Ostenson. "I was really happy with the way we played both nights. We came out and were all business, and we played good basketball both nights against two very different teams."

It was clear from the start that Newcastle had the upper hand against Thermopolis as they finished the first quarter up 16-0, then continued to hold the Bobcats scoreless until the 2:52 mark of the second quarter when they were finally able to take the lid off the basket and sink one from beyond the arc. That would be all from the visiting team in the first half, however, as Newcastle went into the locker room with a 32-3 lead.

It was more of the same as play resumed, and the Lady Dogies extended their lead to 40, kicking in the mercy rule and a running clock for most of the second half. Establishing that lead gave the starters the opportunity to sit for most of the remainder of the contest and for the bench to get into the game.

"We didn't run a lot of pressure defense, but we were very efficient shooting the ball. Suddenly it was a 30-point lead and not long after it was 40 points. We played solid man-to-man defense and it even kind of surprised me at how fast we got to a running clock," Ostenson said. "It was nice to be able to get all the kids in so they could play a varsity game in the Dome. They took care of the ball better than they did in Wheatland so it was a good day all the way around."

Jaylen Ostenson led her team with 18 points, Shelby Tidyman followed with 11 and MacKenzie Conzelman was close behind with 10 points.

NHS Ladies' Basketball

Newcastle v. Thermopolis 1/21/22: 50-11
Jaylen Ostenson: 18 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals
Shelby Tidyman: 11 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals
Hunter McFarland: 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, 1 block
MacKenzie Conzelman: 10 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block
Tiernan Stanton: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal
Bailey Benshoof: 4 rebounds 1 assist, 1 steal
Jayde Harrington: 8 rebounds, 1 assist
Hailey Beasstrom: 3 rebounds
Amesha Cummings: 1 point, 2 rebounds, 1 steal
Carmella Malone: 2 rebounds

Newcastle @ Buffalo 1/22/22: 62-58
Jaylen Ostenson: 27 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists, 2 steals
Shelby Tidyman: 7 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals
Hunter McFarland: 4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists
MacKenzie Conzelman: 14 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
Tiernan Stanton: 10 points, 3 rebounds, 2 blocks
Jayde Harrington: 1 rebound

Hunter McFarland finished with 8 points while Tiernan Stanton added 2 to round out the scoring.

Saturday afternoon presented a much different beast as the Lady Dogies traveled to Buffalo to take on the Lady Bison who were coming off a slim, 6-point loss to the No. 1-ranked Lady Bearcats in Douglas the night before. Buffalo led at the half of that contest so they had given the Lady 'Cats all they could handle.

"They are athletic and work hard and shoot the ball well from about 15 feet out," Ostenson acknowledged. "Their defense is smothering, and they go 84 feet all game long — but fortunately we kind of have all the tools to do some good things and the girls executed well."

The Lady Dogies jumped out to a 9-0 lead in the first couple of minutes of play, however Buffalo took a quick time out to talk things over and came back with an 8-0 run of their own to make the game interesting again.

"We talked in the time out that basketball is a game of runs," Ostenson explained. "You have to take advantage of when you are on that run and weather the runs thrown at you. Fortunately, we were able to do that."

At the end of the first quarter, the Lady Bison had claimed a 12-11 lead over Newcastle. Turnovers early in the second quarter gave Buffalo the opportunity to pull out to a 5-point lead before three consecutive 3s, one by Tidyman and two by Conzelman,

got the Lady Dogies back in the lead. From there, for the remainder of the half the two teams went blow for blow, however Newcastle outscored Buffalo to take the 27-25 point lead into the locker room.

"We had more turnovers than we wanted, but we had talked about throwing the ball deep to stretch their full court defense out a little more," Ostenson said. "We knew that turnovers were a possibility, but that tactic also kept their full court defense a little more honest. They couldn't bring three or four girls up on the ball without getting burned."

The third quarter saw the Lady Bison tie the game then take a slim 1-point lead. However, Ostenson hit from beyond the arc on three consecutive trips, then Conzelman took her turn to hit two 3s of her own on the next two trips and all of a sudden, Newcastle had pulled out to a 12-point lead to end the quarter.

Newcastle added 2 more points at the beginning of the fourth to stretch the lead to 14 before Buffalo was able to start chipping away at the lead.

Again, the two teams exchanged blows with Newcastle maintaining a 10- to 12-point lead, but they knew that Buffalo would not be rolling over and that they would have an answer. Buffalo got to within 2 points with 13 seconds left, but stellar free-throw shooting by Tidyman and Ostenson down the stretch ensured a 62-58 victory for the Lady Dogies.

"They don't give us much room, but we're starting to take advantage of that and make them pay. We're driving by them when they are right up on us, we're back cutting for open looks and we're making deep passes to open up beneficial numbers for us in the full court," Ostenson explained. "We also have several weapons from three so that usually turns out in our favor, because they have to come out and guard us. That opens up opportunities on the inside, and Tiernan had a good game because she was often left open on the back side which she took advantage of to score 10 points."

Once again, Newcastle finished the game with three players in double figures. Ostenson led all scorers with 27 points, Conzelman was next with 14 and Stanton had her 10. Tidyman



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ
Tiernan Stanton took advantage of the Lady Bison overplaying her teammates in Buffalo last Saturday to score 10 points on open backside shots under the basket.

added 7 points while McFarland chipped in 4 of her own.

The challenge only gets tougher this week as the Lady Dogies finish off the first round of quadrant match-ups in Douglas against the No. 1-ranked Lady Bearcats on Friday.

"We're excited for Douglas, but we also know that we need to stick to business," Ostenson determined. "We played well in Buffalo in stretches, but we have some things we need to clean up. I like where we're at right now, but we are in no way peaking yet."

On Saturday, Newcastle will host Wheatland for a rematch against the Lady Bulldogs. Two weeks ago the two teams met, and Newcastle walked away with a decisive 52-24 victory.

"Wheatland is a better team than our point spread was last time so we can't fall asleep and overlook them," Ostenson cautioned. "We have to bring our game every time we step on the court."

The contest in Douglas tips off at 5:30 on Friday, and on Saturday action kicks off at 1:30.

NHS/UHS Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Douglas Quad 1/18/22

v. Douglas 12-72
106: Haven Vrana L by Fall 3:12
113: Open Forfeit
120: Jackson East L by Fall 2:57
126: Johnny Carlson W by Forfeit
132: Thomas Prell L by Fall 1:05
138: Chase Smith L by Fall :19
145: Cullen Davis L by Fall :19
152: Aidan Coberly L by Fall 1:55
160: Jacob Prell L by Fall 2:36
170: Open Forfeit
182: Open Forfeit
195: Open Forfeit
220: Josh Womack W by Fall 3:14
285: Open Forfeit

v. Wheatland 33-26
106: Haven Vrana L by Decision 6-11
113: Open Forfeit
120: Jackson East W by Forfeit
126: Johnny Carlson W by Decision 4-1
132: Thomas Prell L by Fall 3:53
138: Chase Smith W by Forfeit
145: Cullen Davis W by Forfeit
152: Aidan Coberly L by Tech Fall 0-16
160: Jacob Prell W by Fall :17
170: Open Forfeit
182: Double Forfeit
195: Double Forfeit
220: Josh Womack W by Fall :27
285: Double Forfeit

v. Torrington 51-18
106: Haven Vrana W by Decision 13-12
113: Open Forfeit
120: Jackson East W by Fall 2:58
126: Johnny Carlson W by Fall 3:43
132: Thomas Prell W by Fall 3:05
138: Chase Smith W by Forfeit
145: Cullen Davis W by Fall 3:36
152: Aidan Coberly W by Forfeit
160: Jacob Prell W by Forfeit
170: Open Forfeit
182: Double Forfeit
195: Open Forfeit
220: Josh Womack W by Forfeit
285: Double Forfeit

Newcastle/Upton @ Moorcroft Invite in Newcastle 1/21-22/22

Varsity Team Results:

- Thunder Basin 246.5
- Sheridan 245
- Natrona 217.5
- Hettinger/Scranton 197.5
- Cokeville 99
- Moorcroft 95
- Wright 92
- Newcastle/Upton 86.5
- Circle 79
- Lusk 76.5
- Baker 67.5
- Colstrip 67
- Lovell 67
- Greybull/Riverside 64
- Wheatland 63
- Kelly Walsh 43.5
- Glenrock 37
- Shoshoni 33
- Tongue River 29
- Broadus 28
- Rocky Mountain 26
- Campbell Co. 18
- Hulet 6

Individual Varsity Results:

- Haven Vrana 5th Place 4-2
- Jackson East 8th Place 2-3
- Cael Holmes DNP 2-2
- Thomas Prell DNP 1-2
- Chase Smith DNP 0-2
- Aidan Coberly 6th Place 3-3
- Cullen Davis DNP 0-2
- Walker Simianer DNP 1-2
- Jacob Prell 6th Place 4-3
- Josh Womack 2nd Place 2-1

Girls Results:

- Kyah Miller 2-1

Second Chance:

- 129-131 Cael Holmes 2-0
- 133: Thomas Prell 2-0
- 139-144: Chase Smith 0-3
- 152: Walker Simianer 1-1

Wrestlers

from Page 9
he is going to beat that kid 99 out of 100 times, and he just did a great job against him," McCoy said. "Unfortunately, our other guys struggled."

The team was able to shake off the defeat and rebounded well to come back to get the better of Wheatland 32-26. Victories by Johnny Carlson (126), Jacob Prell (160) and Womack (220) along with a few open forfeits by the Bulldogs secured the win for the Dogies/Bobcats.

"They did give up a few forfeits, but we wrestled much better against them than we did against Douglas," McCoy said. "It was a pretty good win for us because they are a team we like to beat. They are in a pretty similar situation to us so I was happy that we came out on top."

Torrington was the final match of the night, and one which gave Newcastle/Upton the least amount of competition. Haven Vrana (106), Jackson East (120), Carlson, Thomas Prell (132), and Cullen Davis (145) all got the better of their opponents and the only points scored by the Trailblazers came due to an open forfeit by Newcastle/Upton.

"I'm not sure what's going on with them," McCoy said. "They have quite a few younger kids, and they have kids out due to injuries, but they are usually a little more competitive than what they

were that night."

McCoy's crew had a couple of good nights of practice before it was off to Moorcroft on Friday and Saturday where they would finish eighth out of 23 teams.

"We wrestled pretty well, and going into the last round we were in the top five," McCoy began. "If we would have had even some of our guys win in the last round, we would have ended up there as well."

Unfortunately, whether it was fatigue or lack of focus, the Dogies/Bobcats came out a little flat in that final round.

Once again, McCoy identified Womack as a standout at the tournament, claiming second place at 220.

"Josh was really pretty dominant through most of the weekend," McCoy declared. "He ended up losing by 2 points in the championship to a kid from Lovell whom he had defeated earlier in the season."

Kyah Miller finally had the opportunity to wrestle in a girls' division and she won her way into the championship match where she was up against a girl from Hettinger, N.D., who is ranked 23rd in the nation.

"Kyah was probably about 10 seconds away from beating her," McCoy said. "She got taken down and put on her back

early, but she battled back to within 2 and she was close to getting a takedown right at the end, so I was really pleased with how she did over the weekend."

Vrana finished fifth at 106, East (120) was eighth, Aidan Coberly (145) placed sixth as did Jacob Prell at 160.

"Haven battled all weekend and Jackson also wrestled well," McCoy began. "Jacob had a fantastic tournament and beat some people he wasn't supposed to beat and just really showed a lot of heart."

"Aidan wrestled an outstanding tournament," he continued. "He came into it unranked and he upset a few seeded kids to get into the placing round. His last match against a Sheridan kid was really competitive so I was pleased with that."

The Dogies/Bobcats start action this week with a home dual against Wright in Upton on Thursday, with senior recognitions beginning at 6:15 and wrestling kicking off at 6:30.

The squad opted to forgo the Ron Thon tournament this weekend and instead will head to Belle Fourche to compete in a tournament there on Friday and Saturday. The Belle tournament is also a big one drawing teams from the five state area, so there is the opportunity for quality competition there as well.

3D MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING

Weston County Health Services has teamed up with the Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative to provide mammography screenings to women who do not have medical insurance.

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