

News Letter Journal

Weston County

January 12, 2023

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 137

Week 2

Commissioners begin new year with elections

Board takes no action on constituent concerns

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Despite being passed up for leadership positions in a pair of 3-2 votes, Weston County Commissioner Don Taylor asked for time on the agenda of last week's

meeting to present a vision for how the commission would govern in the future.

Taylor is the only one of the three senior members of the five-member board, who wasn't chosen for a leadership position during the commissioners first meeting of the year on Jan. 3, but he

didn't let that stop him from laying out a list of considerations for the board after they selected Ed Wagoner as Chairman and Nathan Todd for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Taylor said that the list of goals he presented were directly related to con-

cerns raised by constituents who spoke to him. The list included a proposal for night meetings and prayer at meetings, requested removal of the "disruptive public" statute that appears on the agenda

— See **Commission**, Page 7

Aiming high



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Newcastle High School's Jaylen Ostenson is tough to stop when she attacks the hoop, and the senior did so often against Torrington Friday night. She finished with 19 points and 17 rebounds in the Lady Dogies win over the Lady Trailblazers. Read more about Newcastle's win on Page 10.

Legal paper selected

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Each new year brings a list of required tasks for government entities across at the local, state and national level. Many of those tasks are routine, but the designation of the official county newspaper by the Board of Weston County Commissioners has been a bit more challenging than other annual considerations.

Because there are two newspapers in Weston County, the decision may not be as easy as it is in other Wyoming counties, but the

— See **Newspaper**, Page 2

Legislative session begins

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The 67th Wyoming Legislature convened on Tuesday, Jan. 10, for a 37-day General Session.

"The Wyoming Senate and House of Representatives will hold opening ceremonies as their first order of business and new members of the Legislature and legislative leadership will be sworn in at this time," a Jan. 5 press release says. "The bodies will begin introducing legislation in their respective chambers after a brief recess Tuesday afternoon."

Weston County will be sending one new member to the



legislature this year in Rep. Allen Slagle, R-Newcastle. He will be joining veteran lawmakers Rep. Chip Neiman, R-Hulett, and Sens. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, and Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle.

On Wednesday, the Legislature will convene in a

— See **Legislature**, Page 2



Photo courtesy of Michael S. Smith

Representatives and senators from across Wyoming met in Cheyenne on Tuesday to begin the 67th Wyoming Legislature's General Session. Elected officials will spend 37 days in the state capitol tackling issues from across the state.

Once-in-a-lifetime experience

Four generations represented on bighorn sheep hunt

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

Four generations of the Ellis family were represented on Nov. 5 when John Ellis had the "once in a lifetime opportunity" to go bighorn sheep hunting on the Daniel Tysdal and True ranches.

"How do you describe something that was once in a lifetime? It was very enjoyable to have the four generations there in the hunt," Ellis said.

Only one tag was given on the

Wyoming side for that specific area — area 20, which borders the Wyoming-South Dakota state line, according to Ellis' friend Jason Webber. Ellis, who had been collecting points for nearly a quarter of a century, had a 25% chance of drawing the tag.

And that 25% was all it took. Ellis had been talking heavily about sheep hunting for the past four years, according to his son, Jordan, of Casper. When he finally drew the tag, he wasn't even the first to find out — Joe Sandrini, local

wildlife biologist for the Game and Fish, congratulated Ellis at church.

"It's been a long time coming to have this opportunity," Jordan said.

Ellis asked Webber to go along, and because it is such a rare opportunity, it was important for Ellis to share this experience with Jordan and Jordan's 5-year-old son, Waylon.

"It's been something we've been anticipating all season long," Jordan said. "He

— See **Hunt**, Page 8

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 37, Lo 22



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 47, Lo 31



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 48, Lo 26



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 44 Lo 27



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 39, Lo 24



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 38, Lo 21



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 38, Lo 21



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Parking banned in front of day care

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The space in front of Little Ones Childcare will remain a no-parking zone despite frustrations voiced by the Ferguson family, who lives across the street.

On Dec. 5, the Newcastle City Council made a portion of South Summit Avenue a no-parking zone after day care owner Amanda Dixon told the council that large vans that were parked on the street restricted the view, creating possible safety issues while parents are loading and unloading children in their family cars.

Over several discussions with the council leading up to their Dec. 5 decision, Dixon had said that she had communicated her concerns with the Fergusons but that the issue continued. The council initially took no action and instead encouraged Dixon to try to work with the Fergusons to find a solution, but eventually decided to implement the parking ban last month.

On Dec. 19, Jim Ferguson responded to that action by asking the council to make the area a no-parking zone only during business hours, which would allow he and his family to park there after hours and on weekends.

Ferguson told the council that his family had not had much contact with Dixon regarding the issue, and lamented that parking at the family's home is limited. He said that with older children at home the family has additional parking needs.



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

On Dec. 5 of last year the Newcastle City Council opted to make the street in front of Little Ones Childcare a no parking zone, following concerns about the limited view while parents are loading and unloading children. Since the vote, the city has placed two signs on South Summit Street in front of the business, banning parking between the signs.

“Our house is in the middle of the street, and we have one spot in the driveway,” Ferguson said.

He indicated that he understands large vans driven by members of the family might restrict people's view, but he said that this situation also happens in other places in town.

“There are lots of situations; it is not unusual,” Ferguson said, adding that he and his wife had cruised around town checking parking in other neighborhoods. “Parking is a premium, and this is a little frustrating.”

Despite Ferguson's request, the council elected to keep the area in front of the day care center and preschool an all-

hours no-parking zone.

“We made a decision and rezoned it as no parking. There were safety concerns,” Councilman Tyrel Owens said.

Councilwoman Ann McColley agreed, reminding Ferguson that the issue was the safety of small children during drop-off and pickup times before and after school.

“I am sorry you guys are inconvenienced,” Owens said.

Ferguson stated that he felt singled out, but Councilman Daren Downs clarified that no one was allowed to park in that zone.

“They can't park there either. It goes both ways,” Downs said. “They need to be aware and not park there.”

journalism



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Legislature from Page 1.....

joint session with both the Senate and the House receiving the State of the State message from Gov. Mark Gordon. After Gordon's address, Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Kate M. Fox will deliver the State of the Judiciary message.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the session by visiting the legislature's website at wyoleg.gov, which will be continually updated as each bill moves through the legislative process.

“Wyoming residents are encouraged to use the Wyoming Legislature's website to track legislation and participate in policy making during the 2023 General Session,” a Jan. 9 press release states.

Constituents can use the site to access legislation text and amendments, as well as track the status of any bill.

“The status for bills in the House and Senate can be tracked via the legislative website by clicking on the ‘View and Track Legislation’ link on the homepage, or the 2023 General Session Bills link under Legislation in the lower portion of the website. Additionally, residents can find information about how their legislators voted by clicking

on the “Votes” tab on each individual bill page. The results are posted after each roll call vote is taken,” the release says.

Also available on the website are the dates and times of standing committee meetings and daily floor schedules for both bodies.

Those interested in what is happening during each step of the process have access to the Wyoming Legislature anywhere through the Legislature's YouTube page.

“The public can watch live and archived video of House and Senate floor proceedings and committee meetings on the Legislature's YouTube channel. Users can access videos by clicking the YouTube icon on the Legislature's Website, or by searching “Wyoming Legislature” on YouTube,” the release says.

And for those who want to take it one step further and share their opinion on certain topics with their elected officials, the Legislature's website can help you with that too. Contact information — including email addresses — for all representatives and senators can be found at wyoleg.gov.

Newspaper from Page 1.....

commissioners decided for the eighth year in a row to choose the Weston County Gazette as the legal newspaper for county business after considering bids from both the Gazette and the News Letter Journal at their meeting on Jan. 3.

The vote was split 3-2, with those who favored the Gazette (which is located in Upton) indicating a desire to go with the lowest bid, while those who advocated for use of the News Letter Journal (which is located in Newcastle) argued that the commission should consider the overall value of larger newspaper's product and reach.

The bid from the Weston County Gazette, with a distribution of 639 per week, presented a bid of \$234 for a sample set of minutes provided by the county. The News Letter Journal has an average distribution of 1,712 issues per week (based on 2022 figures) and submitted a bid of \$840 for the same set of minutes.

Per Wyoming Statute 18-3-519, newspapers must have a distribution of at least 500 to be considered a legal newspaper,

and the paper must also publish 52 weeks a year. In their bids, both newspapers claimed to meet these qualifications and any other required by statute.

Commissioner Don Taylor suggested that the board should consider alternating between papers each year, and reminded his fellow commissioners that there is no requirement to go with the lowest bid in state statute.

“I have felt this way since the first time. I respect both papers. I absolutely do,” Taylor said noting that he would have no issue with the county putting the legal notices in both county papers if it helped the public be more informed about county government

“The only winners in that game are going to be the constituents. I have said it before, and that is where I stand now,” he added. Taylor said that his desire to put the legal notices in both papers comes down to transparency and guaranteeing that the public has access to the information.


Commissioner Nathan Todd said that he was concerned

over the discrepancy in cost between the two bids, but Commissioner Garrett Borton stated that the board must consider the level of service provided for the price that is being charged.

In an effort to move the conversation forward, Todd told the rest of the board that the task in front of them was the selection of an official newspaper. He suggested the board should make that determination for the lowest bidder and that discussions should be continued with the News Letter Journal to secure other forms of advertisement in an effort to increase transparency.

The board indicated a desire to hold those discussions but the decision to select the Weston County Gazette as the official county newspaper carried on just a 3-2 vote. Chairman Ed Wagoner was joined by Commissioners Vera Huber and Todd in voting to award the contract to the Upton-based newspaper, while Commissioners Borton and Taylor voted against the motion.

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Obituaries

LYLE HARRY ACKLEY
Dec. 12, 1935—Dec. 28, 2022

Lyle Harry Ackley passed peacefully Dec. 28, 2022, at Mondell Heights in Newcastle, Wyo.

He was born Dec. 12, 1935, to Calvin Ackley and Opal (Boyd) Ackley in Newcastle.

Lyle is survived by his daughters, Dawn (Ackley) Borghesi (Jeff Palazzo), Kristin McDonnell (Kevin McDonnell); and grandchildren, Lauren (Borghesi) Soanes, Justin Borghesi and Kameron McDonnell; as well as three great-grandchildren.

After graduating from high school in Newcastle, Lyle joined the Navy. He settled in California with his young family, where he became a successful salesman, as well as owning a men's clothing store in Sonoma.



Lyle Ackley

He married his perfect partner, Loretta, in February 1972 and in 1999 brought her back to live in his hometown.

Although retired, he liked to be busy and took a job at the Weston County Senior Center. Lyle enjoyed playing the guitar and singing hymns at the Four Corners Church to celebrate his faith. We know he is at peace to be home with the Lord and Loretta Mae.

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

RONALD LEE 'RON' MILLS
Aug. 23, 1940—Jan. 5, 2023

Funeral services for Ronald Lee "Ron" Mills, 82, will be held Sunday, Jan. 15, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Newcastle High School Crouch Auditorium in Newcastle, Wyo. A community reception will follow at the school commons. Ron passed peacefully Jan. 5 with his son, Craig, at his side.

Ron was born Aug. 23, 1940, to Vernard and Viola (Peyton) Mills in Deadwood, S.D. The family moved to Newcastle in 1948 where Ron attended elementary, junior

high, and high school. He met Mary Jane Dennis their junior year when she moved to Newcastle from Colorado to live with her older sister. They graduated together from Newcastle High School in 1958 and were married later that year on Oct. 10 at First United Methodist Church in Newcastle.

Ron enlisted in the U.S. Navy after high school, serving as an aircraft engine mechanic for three years in Norman, Okla., Millington, Tenn., and Port Hueneme, Calif., where their sons, Chris and Craig, were born. He flew multiple peace-time flights in the Pacific region as crew chief on the Lockheed Constellation "Super Connie." After his honorable discharge in 1961, he brought his young family back to Newcastle to make their home.

Ron was involved in multiple business ventures with his father, Vern, and later with his son, Chris. Over the years, the core diesel repair business also included trucking, parts, welding, fabrication, and school bus maintenance under the MJT Construction and Newcastle Equipment names.

Ron started driving school bus '965' on the Osage route in 1968. He was a regular driver on activity runs ever since, transporting sports teams, the marching band, academics groups, etc. Anywhere Ron was needed, he would get behind the wheel and drive so students would get where they needed to be and he could participate with and support them.

Ron was elected a board trustee of Weston County School District No. 1 in 2000 and served 22 years until his retirement in 2022. Every decision he made carefully considered, "What does this do for kids?" That belief in doing what's best embodies his legacy of service for youth and for his community.

Ron was recognized over the years for his commitment to education, athletics, and service. Among his accomplishments: Awarded the Community Service Award for outstanding support of student athletics in 2007; selected to the All Wyoming School Board in 2012; inducted into the Newcastle High School Hall of Fame in 2014; recognized as the 'Greatest

Wyoming High School Football Fan' in 2014; attained School Board Leadership in Learning Level III in 2021; and honored by the Wyoming State School Boards Association with the Champion of Education award in 2022.

Ron loved doing home improvement projects with family, listening to old radio show recordings, and watching classic westerns. He was an amazing husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, cousin, mentor, and friend, and he will be remembered fondly for years to come.

Ron is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Jane (Dennis) Mills; sisters, Patricia Garrey of Sheridan, Wyo., and Cathy (Ron) Stanton of Rock Springs, Wyo.; son, Chris (Tonina) Mills; grandsons, Tyler Mills and Kyle (Kayla) Mills; and great-grandchildren, Ashlynn Mills and Karben Mills of Newcastle WY; son Craig (Candy) Mills of Clive IA, granddaughters Cailee Mills of Orlando FL and Caitlin Mills of Omaha, Neb.; and grandson, Carter Mills of Fairbanks, Alaska.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother and sister-in-law, Eugene (Juanita) Mills; and his brother-in-law, Don Garrey.

A graveside inurnment service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Ron's name to the Weston County School District No. 1 endowment.

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



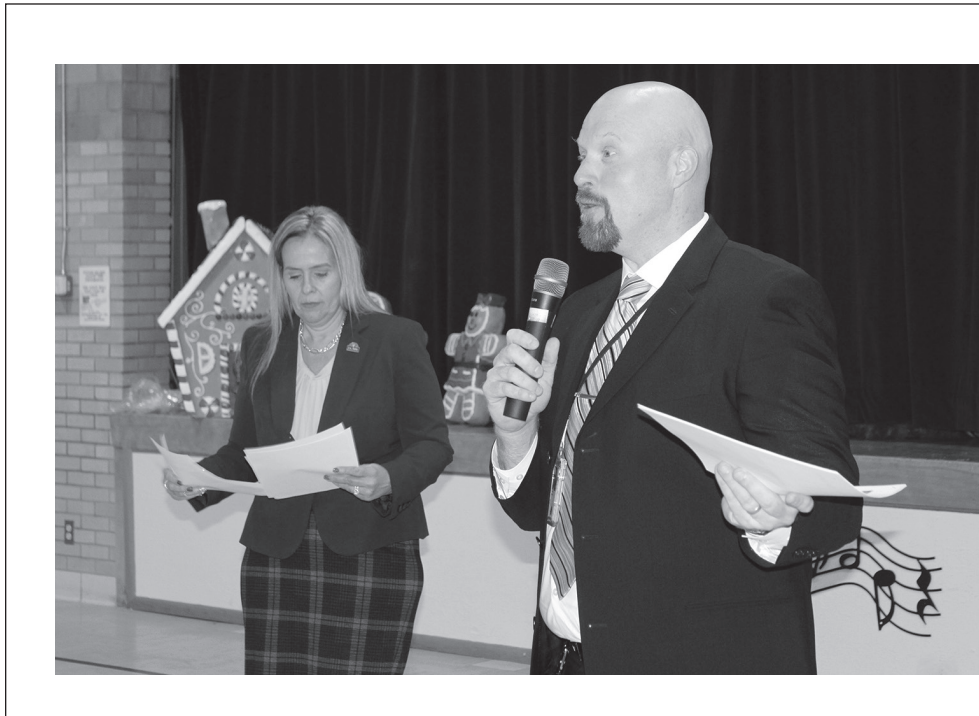
Ronald Mills

LILANI 'LONI' STUMPF
Nov. 12, 1953—Jan. 9, 2023

Lilani "Loni" Stumpf, lifelong resident of Logan County, Colo., 69, was called home to her Lord and Savior on Jan. 9, 2023, in Newcastle, Wyo., at home, due to complications from lung disease.

Graveside services will be held on Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle. A reception will follow at Greg and DeeDee's home.

A full obituary will be published in next week's News Letter Journal.



Answering questions

Public Affairs Officer Thomas Johnson, and Lisa Curnes, medical director, from Fort Meade VA Medical Center in South Dakota, answer questions about the new PACT act passed in November 2022, which provides extensive benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances while in service. The two spoke to a group of veterans at the monthly free Veterans Breakfast, which was held at the Weston County Senior Center on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Photo by Walter Sprague /NLJ

faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

January 13 Genesis 42-43	January 17 Exodus 5-7
January 14 Genesis 44-46	January 18 Exodus 8-10
January 15 Genesis 47-50	January 19 Exodus 11-13
January 16 Exodus 1-4	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:** Rev. Kenti Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 pm; Undeafened Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

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

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:12

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25 Years Ago
Jan. 15, 1998

She came to town a little earlier than expected, prompting a quick trip to the big city. But she's back in Mom's arm and surrounded by Newcastle's best wishes. Maacayla Beth was born Saturday, Jan. 3, 1998, at Weston County Health Services — Newcastle's first baby of the year.

The ruling by the district court that the Management Analysis and Planning (MAP) model for school financing met the court's test of a cost-based model leaves the next move up to the Wyoming State Legislature. Weston County School District No. 1 Superintendent Doug Cobb noted that the MAP study still has not been backed up with data, and that it is hard to figure out just how the company which did the study arrived at some of its figures.

Converse County Senator Jim Twiford's invitation last week to the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad was a piece of good news for the railroad and its expansion plans into Wyoming. The DM&E which plans a \$1.2 billion expansion of its rail line to the Powder River Basin coal fields, announced earlier that would build its new rail line through Weston County.

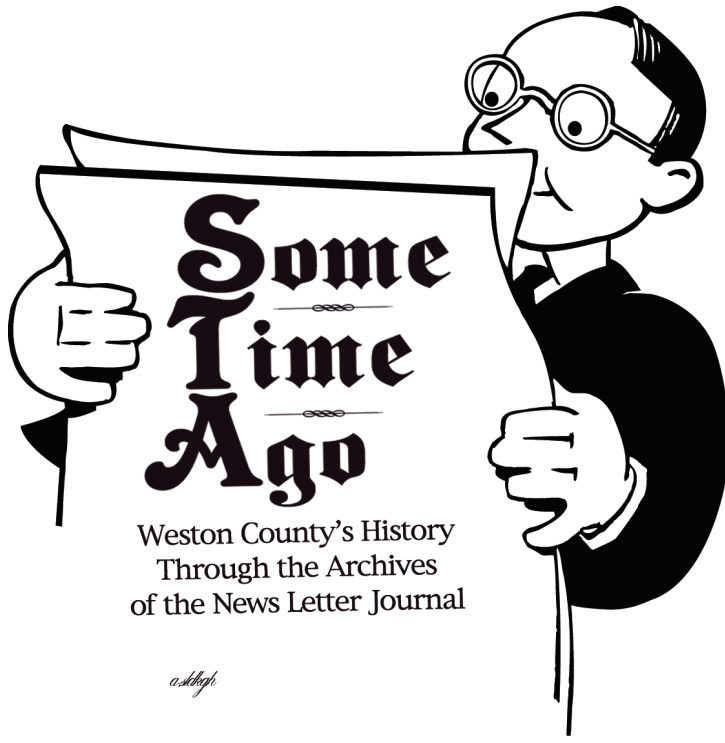
On Jan. 19-20, over 450 musicians from across the state of Wyoming will meet in Riverton of the 1998 Wyoming All-state Band, Orchestra, and Choir. This year's participant from Newcastle High School is Jami Emmert. Jami is junior at NHS and will be in the all-state choir singing alto.

50 Years Ago
Jan. 11, 1973

A new city shop and yard and paving are being given top priority by Newcastle's new mayor, Lloyd Avery. Avery was sworn in as the mayor Monday evening along with new councilmen Ray Ross, Don Jording and Jeff Watson.

Joey Lissolo and Buster Keeline of Newcastle won the annual pre-New Year's day roping event at Douglas, Ariz. The two cowboys clocked 46.2 seconds on four steers winning the average over 92 teams.

Senator Cliff Hansen has nominated 20 young Wyoming men, including one from Newcastle, to compete for his two senatorial appointments to



Weston County's History Through the Archives of the News Letter Journal

the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colo. Alan E. Scheneman of Newcastle is among the nominations.

Three members of the Weston County Sno-Thumpers club went to Douglas Sunday and placed in the snowmobile races. Don Mendenhall of Osage was first in C Main, 401-440 stock class.

The Newcastle Ballroom Dance club will be offering dance lessons starting after Jan. 18. Classes will be offered to both youths and young adults.

Debbie Ward won the first place in the district Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy contest last week. She was the Newcastle winner and will now compete in the

state competition this weekend at Thermopolis.

Jarvis "Jim" Judd, a former Newcastle resident and son of Mrs. Genevieve Roan of this city, was recently named manager of the new R.O. Kinney Drug Store in Lawrenceville, N.Y., which opened Nov. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Burr and Melvin were New Year's Day dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Earl back at their home in the Recluse area.

100 Years Ago
Jan. 11, 1923

Last Sunday evening at about eight o'clock the carbide gas light plant at the H.F. Smith ranch on Stockade Beaver blew up, resulting in the serious

injury of Claude Howey and the wrecking of the entire plant and the cave in which the apparatus was located.

When it comes to star gazing, Denver and other large cities have nothing on Newcastle, for the "mysterious" star that has been peeping down from the heavens on old Mother Earth "all through the day" for some time is plainly visible and many of our citizens views the same with much interest today.

On Tuesday evening, January 9th, at eight o'clock, winners of the Bridge club series were delightfully entertained by the eight losers at a dinner given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Val. Jessen, on Summit street.

F.W. Boggs of Osage, superintendent of the Frederick Oil and Gas Company's operations in the Newcastle-Osage field, was a business visitor in Newcastle last Saturday. In conversation with a representative of the News-Journal, Mr. Boggs stated that his company had resumed drilling on section 11-45-64, on Fiddler creek, west of Newcastle, after a delay in drilling of several weeks.

A yield of 43 bushels an acre was obtained by three boys, members of a corn club near Gillette. This is significant, since the average for the state is about 20 bushels per acre. When Wyoming land is properly cultivated it will be found to produce as good crops as the fancy priced land of the central west.

From the vault ...



Photo Courtesy of WC Historical Society

Charlie Creigh home on the ranch, a nine-bedroom mansion. C. V. Wier collection.

WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

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LET US KNOW WHAT'S UP!

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

Fri. Jan. 13	9AM 9AM 1PM 5:30PM	Belton Hearing Clinic Caramel Rolls Bridge BINGO	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center VFW Hall
Mon. Jan. 16	9AM 1PM 4:30PM 6PM 7PM 7PM	Exercise Class Computer Clinic AAU Volleyball Registration WC Children's Center Directors Mtg Alcoholics Anonymous Newcastle City Council	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center NHS Commons WC Children's Center W.C. Senior Center City Council Chambers
Tues. Jan. 17	9AM 11AM NOON 1PM 6PM 6PM	WC Commissioners Story time CowBelles Bridge & Dominoes American Legion Riders Helping Hands Foundation Mtg.	W.C. Courthouse W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Newcastle Lodge W.C. Senior Center
Wed. Jan. 18	6:30-8:30AM 7-9AM 9AM 9AM	Wellness Wednesday Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class & Toe Nail Clinic W.C. Senior Services Board Mtg.	W.C. Health Services Upton Medical Clinic W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center
Thurs. Jan. 19	7AM 1PM 5PM 6:30PM 6:30PM 6PM 7PM 7:30PM	T.O.P.S. #218 Crafts Celebrate Recovery MS/HS Celebrate Recovery 18+ WCHS Board of Trustees MTG Veteran's Memorial Meeting Alcoholics Anonymous Masons #13	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Church on the Hill Church on the Hill WCHS Four Square Church W.C. Senior Center Masonic Hall

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Source: *The Wyoming Market Study, 2022*, Conducted by Coda Ventures

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ABOUT THIS RESEARCH: Newspaper effectiveness is universal, so that's why we're sharing benchmark research from an Australian cooperative of publishers, ThinkNewsBrands, that also appeared as an EBP magazine article. Source: AdPost News 3 research (P100) November 8-November 11/January 7/February 7 news people buy

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Tysdal appointed to state board

KateLynn Slaamot
 NLJ Reporter

David Tysdal was recently appointed to the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation Board of Trustees at the organization’s state meeting in Casper at the beginning of December. Tysdal has served on the Weston County Natural Resource District board for eight years, and he has been the chairman for two years.

Entities such as the local resource districts and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation are important to manage natural resources, Tysdal said.

“I think our natural resources should be top priority. ... We have to take care of them if they’re going to take care of us in the future,” Tysdal said.

The foundation, whose two main areas of focus are education and community conservation, is involved in river and stream restoration and forest health, among other things.

“The Foundation was proud to sponsor the Trout Run Fishery enhancement project in Saratoga. In November 2019 the Foundation awarded a \$16,000 grant to the Star Valley Conservation District for the Lower Swift Creek Stream Restoration and Stabilization Project,” the foundation website states.

The foundation is also involved in efforts to treat pine beetle-affected areas in the Black Hills National Forest and private lands through its support of the mitigation work being done by the natural resource districts of Crook and Weston counties, according to wynaturalresourcefoundation.com.

The State Fair Living Legacy program, which deals with trees at the state fairgrounds in Douglas, and the State Fair Pathway to Water Quality program are also projects of the foundation.

The foundation offers scholarships, among other educational projects.

Tysdal said the local district does a number of things with resource management, including providing services to landowners and residents of Weston County. The district does cost share on projects, is involved with forestry planning,

pasture management and other projects. “We try to promote natural resources in Weston County and provide services to the landowners and residents of Weston County who are within the resource district,” Tysdal said.

Caleb Carter, WCNRD district manager, said that he has appreciated having Tysdal on the local board.

“He brings a lot of leadership to the board, and I think he brings a real interest in being active in our natural resource management,” Carter said. “I think that he also has good insight into a lot of the challenges that agriculture is facing.”

Carter said he’s excited to have Tysdal on the state foundation board because it’s important to have representation from across the state. Tysdal will have the opportunity to bring awareness of challenges faced specifically in the northeast corner of Wyoming, Carter said.

It furthers conservation all around to have specific areas and needs represented, according to Carter.

The existence of local conservation districts is equally important, Carter said, so that each district can communicate with federal programs what the area it represents really needs and what challenges need to be addressed. While the district has some of its own funding and programs, it also partners with other federal programs and agencies such as the Farm Service Agency.

“Having these local boards is really crucial because they help to really drive and develop how these programs are operated on a local basis, how funding is allocated on a local basis. ... It’s really important to have that locally led conservation,” Carter said.

Those local conservation efforts are exemplified in both the local districts and in having representation from around the state on boards such as the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation.

“One of the other benefits of having David on the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation board is that that money really is designed to come back to the individual county conservation districts, and ... just having him on that board and being aware of the challenges we’re facing also helps better allocate those funds (and) meet those needs and challenges,” Carter said.



Photo courtesy of Bobbie Jo Tysdal
David Tysdal of Newcastle has been appointed to the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation Board of Trustees.

Workin’ for a living

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

The rush of Christmas activities have ended, and a new year brings with it a slower pace. That doesn’t mean, however, that things have slowed down for some folks in Weston County, where work continues as usual. John Schmidt, above, removes the trim off a car door to prepare it for painting at Renegade Paint and Pipe on Monday, Jan. 9. That same day it was business as usual and Curley’s Q Diner, formerly Donna’s Diner, where Becca Curley pours a glass of ice tea for a customer, below.

Commission from Page 1.....

for commissioners meetings and asked for solutions to alleged technology issues that prevent people from fully accessing meetings via Zoom.

Night meetings

In order to increase access to the board, Taylor suggested that the commissioners consider meeting at night on their second meeting of each month. He said that the board hasn't necessarily made itself available to the public by holding meetings from 9 a.m. to any time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and suggested public access and involvement would be improved if the commissioners met in the evening — as the vast majority of governing boards do.

Newly elected Chairman Ed Wagoner and Vice-Chairman Nathan Todd pointed out potential issues with holding evening meetings, including access to department heads and information from their offices. It was pointed out that attendance at evening meetings would be difficult for some of them, including the county clerk and county attorney, and that could result in restrictions on the agenda.

"There have been attendance issues with our own commissioners (during the day) and this would eliminate just one day a month (of two) ... The City Council does it. I think it is worth a try," Taylor argued.

New commissioners Vera Huber and Garrett Borton supported Taylor's suggestion to hold a regular evening meeting to better accommodate the public.

"It was mentioned to me during campaigning ... They can't come during the day but would like to attend," Huber said, noting that she could see how the agenda would have to be limited because of limited access to department heads and information.

Despite those limitations, she said, she thinks the board should give it a try.

"People can't leave work unless they are sick. If they have a problem or want to see what we do ... It is worth trying," Huber said.

Borton stated that if the people are asking for it, the board should make it available.

"If it is not supported, obviously we can come back," he said.

There was no motion to hold any future commission meetings at night.

Prayer at meetings

In 2019, both the Newcastle City Council and the Weston County Commissioners eliminated the invocation, or prayer, before their meetings. Before that, the invocation and pledge of allegiance were the first official acts to kick off every meeting for each board, and they were listed at the top of every agenda.

At last week's meeting, Taylor said that restoration of the prayer was

another request from the public and he spoke in favor of a return to the practice. He even suggested that the prayer could take place before the official meeting begins.

Huber added that this was another issue she discussed during her campaign and that she would support returning prayer to the agenda. She said she was dissatisfied with a proposal to have a prayer before the meeting, something she called a "cop out."

"I was told at one point there is the possibility of a lawsuit, but I don't feel that is possible here. I don't feel like that is going to happen here. People are same-minded here about that," Huber said.

In 2019 when the prayer was removed, Tony Barton, a former commissioner and the chairman at the time, said that the county had discontinued the practice because several commissioners believed that the invocation was an outdated tradition that should be eliminated.

“
Personally, I agree with you guys, but legally, if it is part of official county business, we are wide open to a lawsuit.”

— Michael Stulken,
Weston County Attorney

During the Jan. 3 meeting, Wagoner stated that the board at the time was advised to remove the invocation because "some state back east had their butt handed to them" in a lawsuit. When pressed by Borton, Wagoner noted that this was the "potential lawsuit" Huber had referred to.

County Attorney Michael Stulken confirmed that the county could be exposed to legal action if they returned to the practice of officially starting their meetings with a prayer.

"That is the reasoning. Personally, I agree with you guys, but legally, if it is part of official county business, we are wide open to a lawsuit," Stulken said.

Todd also pushed back against acknowledging a prayer as part of the commissioner's meetings, indicating that he has a problem with possibly disrespecting those present who do not believe in God.

"Everyone has the right to believe how they want. I don't know if it should be during the official meeting," he reasoned.

Wagoner agreed, throwing his support behind the idea of having the prayer before the meeting to avoid putting the county in legal peril.

"We are here before the meeting anyway. ... I don't want to open the county up to a lawsuit," Wagoner said.

The board then agreed to have the invocation before the start of the official meeting.

Removal of agenda warning

The commissioner next discussed the inclusion on future agendas of a highlighted reference to the state statute that empowers boards to deal with disruptive behavior from members of the public during meetings.

Wyoming State Statute 16-4-406, which deals with the disruption of public meetings, is printed in red on the back of the board agendas made available to the public at meetings. The statute first appeared on the back of the June 7 agenda, upon the recommendation of Todd, and Taylor asked the board to consider removing the warning from future agendas.

"By this time, I think everyone is aware. If needed, we can hang it on the wall. I don't think it's welcoming on our agenda and it reflects on us ... in a way," Taylor said. "Some thought it was necessary at one time, but I don't know if it is necessary now. I recommend that it be removed."

Borton, who wasn't on the board when the board agreed to put the statute on the agenda, asked why it was put there.

"I would love to address it. There was a gentleman coming in here that would get rather loud and have comments quite often," Todd said.

He explained that the outbursts were continuing, becoming more frequent and disruptive. The final straw, according to Todd, was when he shouted, "We'll see you in court" during a discussion on litigation over a secret vote.

"That's why I brought it up, to stop it, and I think it has," Todd said. "I think by now I'm okay with it coming off."

Wagoner agreed, but said that the board should have copies of the statute in case of disruptive behavior.

The statute states the following: "If any public meeting is willfully disrupted by a person or group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting unfeasible, and order cannot be restored by the removal of the person or persons who are willfully interrupting the meeting, the governing body of an agency may order the removal of the person or group from the meeting room and continue in session, or may recess the meeting and reconvene at another location. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be acted upon in a meeting recessed to another location. A governing body of an agency shall establish procedures for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for disturbing the conduct of a meeting. Duly accredited members of the press or other news media except those who participated in a disturbance shall be allowed to attend any meeting permitted by this section."

Taylor agreed with Todd, but also expressed the belief that there was fault on the part of the board as well that led to the tension and subsequent outburst. "We need to step up as a board. Let's do this better. I think we have the ability to do that," Taylor said.

Commissioner Borton supported Taylor, and added that singling out the part of the open meetings statute that holds the public accountable "hits me in a bad way," and that sentiment was echoed by a member of the public in attendance.

Walter Sprague, a self-identified Republican, pointed out that discussion among the other county Republicans touched on how "singled out" they felt. He noted that there are at least two full pages of open meeting requirements listed in statute, and that a majority of those address what the board should and shouldn't be doing, not the public.

The other new commissioner expressed distaste for the warning as well, and indicated her support for removing it from the agenda.

"I agree with taking it off. It has been a sore spot sitting out there (with the public)," Huber said. "It rubs people the wrong way."

After the discussion, the board decided to remove the statute from the agenda, and indicated that copies of the open meetings law would be printed and available in case they are needed.

Technology issues

Holding government meetings via Zoom became a routine practice during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Weston County Commissioners have lagged behind other boards in adopting the practice and members of the public continue to report problems with access and ability to participate in county meetings online.

The Weston County Hospital District and the Weston County School District No. 1 boards began conducting their meetings virtually during the pandemic, and have continued to use a hybrid version that allows members of the public to participate in a meeting from anywhere if they can't attend in person.

The commissioners did not begin holding their meetings with a Zoom option until mid-2022, and their venture into the virtual world has come with its share of hiccups. Parties interested in attending or participating in meetings remotely (including the News Letter Journal) have consistently encountered technical difficulties, including getting "kicked off" a virtual meeting, having trouble hearing those speaking during the meeting or not being able to access the meeting at all.

Taylor suggested that the board invite the county's technology providers to attend a meeting to discuss how they can streamline the process, solve the issues and improve the overall quality

of the online meeting option.

However, another elected official resisted the request to have the contractors appear at a meeting to discuss the issues directly, and argued that nothing more should be done to improve the quality of online meeting attendance for the public.

"Let's get checked out by the professional so we are all on the same page. I appreciate the efforts to make it work, but there are issues every meeting. That is a fact," Taylor said.

County Clerk Becky Hadlock asserted that she had already had the courthouse internet increased to the largest possible bandwidth, and then challenged Taylor to provide solutions by asking where he would like the camera to be repositioned for a better view.

"I don't know. It has just been a problem since we got it. I am not picking on anyone here. I'm just saying it needs to be addressed," Taylor said, but Hadlock then suggested that the issues are more likely the result of technology issues or user error on the part of the individuals trying to watch the meetings.

But Commissioner Huber confessed that she has always had issues with the online meeting option, and a person in attendance at the meeting then said that they have never been able to access the meeting virtually.

Huber also suggested that the board consider providing microphones to everyone who is speaking so it is easier for remote attendees to hear what is said. She noted that she has had issues hearing people talking to the board, not only online but while sitting in the meeting room itself, but Hadlock said that most of that information is not intended for the public.

"They are here for the board, not the public," Hadlock said.


"But the public has the right to hear," Taylor responded, but Hadlock's arguments stood as the commissioners took no action on Taylor's request to have the county's contractor speak to the board publicly about technology issues at the courthouse.

Despite Taylor's long list of recommendations, no official decisions were made on any of them.

Wagoner was chosen the chairman of the board on a 3-2 vote. Todd nominated Wagoner, stating that he was the most senior member of the board. Voting for Wagoner were Todd and Huber. Borton, who nominated Taylor for chairman, voted for Taylor, who voted for himself. Wagoner broke the tie with a vote for himself.

Todd was then elected vice chairman on a 3-2 vote.

For a full recording of the Weston County commissioners board meeting, please visit the News Letter Journal YouTube page.



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Submitted photo

John Ellis is grateful to everyone who made the hunt possible and joined him on this hunt for a lifetime. Pictured left to right: Randy Farella, Jason Webber, John Ellis, Waylon Ellis and Jordan Ellis.

Hunt from Page 1

I can't even describe it. I don't know that he really understood what went into it and what kind of opportunity it was, but it was unbelievable to bring him along."

— Jordan Ellis

(Waylon) told everybody for a couple of weeks that he was going bighorn sheep hunting."

Many people rolled their eyes in disbelief, but sure enough, the youngster experienced what most people never get to do in their lifetime.

"I think the happiest, most excited person was Waylon," said Jan Ellis, adding that Waylon shouted, "Papa, you got him. Papa, he's down!"

Although it was difficult to keep Waylon quiet and patient at times, Jordan also loved the family dynamics of the trip.

"I can't even describe it," he said. "I don't know that he really understood what went into it and what kind of opportunity it was, but it was unbelievable to bring him along."

Although only 3 generations were present, Ellis shot the sheep with his father's rifle, so in a way—four generations were present.

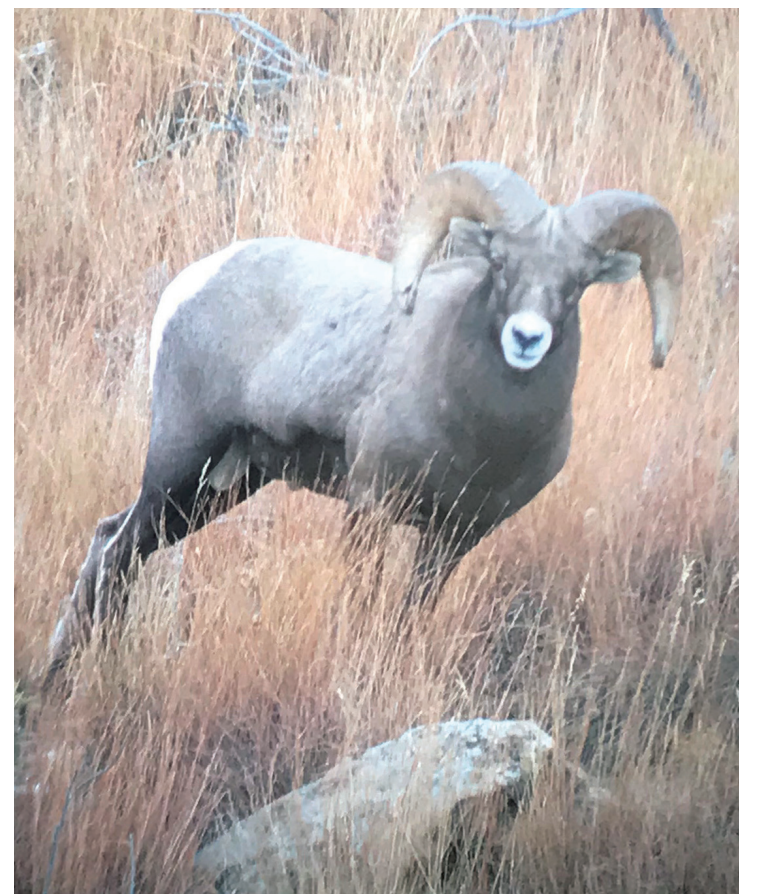
Ellis had been scouting the area since July, along with his friend Randy Farella, who knew the area from previously working there. Ellis said his favorite part of hunting is being in nature and getting up close to the animals.

"That's what gives you the quality of the hunt," Ellis said.

When the hunting day came, he got his wish.

"It's like they opened up the gate, and they came out of the woodwork," Ellis said. "It was difficult to determine which one to shoot."

"There were just sheep



Submitted photo

When John Ellis went Big Horn Sheep Hunting on Nov. 5, there were over 30 rams to choose from in the herd, but he decided to settle on this handsome specimen because of his beautiful horns and features.

running everywhere," Farella added.

Webber gave Ellis advice on how to pick the best one based on whether he wanted one for looks or score.

"We probably looked at 30-some big rams," Webber said. "The hardest part was picking one because there were so many good ones."

Ellis didn't look for size but was watching instead for one that had nice horns—not missing any chunks—because he wants to mount the head to add to his collection of other trophies. And when he found the perfect one, he shot it.

"He picked a nice one out and got it," Farella said.

"This one was just perfect," Webber added.

The meat was just as good.

"I was really surprised," Ellis said. "It's like nothing you've ever had. It's totally different."

Ellis and his family even fried the testicles and the heart of the sheep. He described the meat as tender and lean without having an aftertaste.

"It's really good, I like it," he said.

It was a fun day for those who went, and Ellis knows it will be something for the memory banks. He said he is grateful for all the people who made it happen—especially the Tysdal and True ranches for allowing him to hunt on their land.

"This hunting area is fabulous for people like myself that cannot do the physical challenge of a sheep hunt somewhere else," he said.

With a bighorn sheep now in his vast collection of animals, his next goal is to snag a mountain lion to complete his list.

"That's the only critter that I haven't been able to shoot in Wyoming," Ellis said.

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January 12, 2023 — 9

Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Wrestling			
1/13/23	VJ	Newcastle Invitational	H 9AM
1/14/23	VJ	Blazer Duals	A NOON
1/17/23	VJ	Quad in Newcastle	H TBA
1/19/23	VJ	Quad in Moorcroft	A TBA

Men's Swimming			
1/12/23	VJ	Buffalo HS	A 4PM
1/14/23	VJ	Douglas HS	A 10AM
1/19/23	VJ	Newcastle Triangular	H 4PM

Ladies' Basketball			
1/12/23	V9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	A 4:30PM
1/14/23	V9	Rapid City Christian HS	A TBA
1/20/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	H 4PM
1/21/23	V9	Buffalo HS	A NOON

Men's Basketball			
1/12/23	V9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	A 5:30PM
1/14/23	V9	Rapid City Christian HS	A TBA
1/17/23	9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	A 6PM
1/20/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	H 3PM
1/21/23	V9	Buffalo HS	A NOON

Back on the mat

Miller takes home second championship

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Dogies/Bobcats were back in action Friday and Saturday, as they competed in the Shane Shatto Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Douglas. There, the team finished 15th out of 29 teams, and of those finishing ahead of them, only Douglas and Lander were 3A schools.

"It was a pretty good weekend," reported head coach Lee McCoy. "We took home some medals and did pretty good as a team overall."

— See **Wrestlers**, Page 16



Photo courtesy of Matt Adelman/Douglas Budget
On Friday at the Shane Shatto Memorial Wrestling Tournament in Douglas, Jacob Prell puts up a tremendous fight, with his grit showing on his face in the 182-pound match. Prell escaped the grip of and attempted takedown by Cantrell of Natrona County to win with a pin moments later.

Back at it, at last

Christmas break was a welcome respite from school, but it seemed like an eternity between athletic contests for our Dogies and Lady Dogies.

As scheduled, the four sports were looking at a three-week intermission between competitions, but then Snowmageddon hit and took away much of the opportunities in that last weekend before the break.

The annual Stalene Shootout was partially postponed because Belle Fourche and Lead were socked in and couldn't get to Newcastle for the tournament on Friday and Saturday. The game with



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

Sundance was postponed a day since Sundance had a snow day on Thursday, which was the first day of the tournament.

Thankfully, the Newcastle players were able to make that game up just one day later as roads opened up and the snow took a breather long enough to get there and back.

Wrestlers lost out on a home dual against Buffalo the Thursday before break, then the annual Battle of the Big Horns in Worland was canceled for Friday and Saturday. Coaches and athletic directors were able to wrangle an invite to Wright on Saturday, but

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

Dogies struggle against the 'Blazers

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Bigger, faster, stronger. That is what the Dogies were up against in their home opener against the Torrington Trailblazers Friday in the Dogie Dome. After a decent start to the basketball game by Newcastle, the 'Blazers lit it up from beyond the arc

and their full court pressure gave head coach Allen Von Eye's rookie crew fits, with the combination ultimately leading to a 17-65 loss for the Dogies.

"They are in a very similar boat to us as far as players coming off the bench," Von Eye began. "They have two players who are veteran varsity players and another

who really started to play a bigger role toward the end of last season, but those two have been important for a long time. It was pretty evident from the start that they are bigger, faster and stronger than we are."

Torrington didn't take a shot from anywhere but beyond the three-point line for the two and a half minutes

of the contest, and though they didn't hit any of those initial attempts, they ended the contest going 13-30 from beyond the arc.

"They didn't look anything like we saw previously this year, and they shot really well on Friday," Von Eye said. "From what we saw on film, they hadn't shot the ball overly well, so that

was not something we had anticipated."

The Dogies actually put the first point on the scoreboard in the first quarter with a made free-throw by Quint Perino. Shortly thereafter, the 'Blazers hit back-to-back threes to take the 6-1 lead, but the Dogies came back to tie

— See **Men**, Page 16

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Ladies win home opener

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Lady Dogies were back on the hardwood Friday as they hosted their home opener in a cross-quadrant match-up against the Torrington Lady Trailblazers. Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew hit the floor running when they jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, as they cruised to a 65-38 victory.

The Lady 'Blazers are under new leadership after the retirement of long-time head coach Jeff Halley last year, and according to Ostenson, things looked a bit different than they have.

"It was good to get back on the floor after three weeks, and they were different than we have ever seen before with their new coach," Ostenson began. "They have quite a few different athletes and their young kids are pretty good. They are going to get better throughout the season, so there's another team to put in the mix for post-season competition."

The Lady Dogies pulled out to an 11-4 lead at the end of the first quarter, then extended it to 33-13 by the halftime break after a blistering offensive and defensive second quarter.

As a well-known, proficient three-point shooting team, the Lady Dogies let it fly from beyond the arc. However, though they've been averaging 26 three-point attempts a game and shooting them pretty decent, the rim was pretty tight Friday night. As the old saying goes, you live by the three or you die by the three, and the Lady Dogies only hit 23%

NHS Ladies' Basketball

Newcastle v. Sundance 1/6/23: 64-38

Jaylen Ostenson: 19 points, 17 rebounds, 7 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks
Shelby Tidyman: 10 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 block
Hunter McFarland: 13 points, 6 rebounds, 1 block
MacKenzie Conzelman: 7 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals
Oakley Checketts: 13 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist
Jayde Harrington: 2 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals
Hailey Beastron: 1 rebound, 1 block
Sydney Pederson: 1 rebound, 1 assist

to-back threes to cut into Newcastle's lead, but then Ostenson's crew rebounded to out-score them 21-16 in the third quarter and 10-9 in the fourth for their 65-38 win.

Four Lady Dogies ended the night in double figures with Jaylen Ostenson leading all scorers and adding another big double-double to her resume by racking up 19 points and pulling down 17 rebounds.

Oakley Checketts hit three of the five three-pointers and added another couple of baskets for 13 points, Hunter McFarland also had a three and several two's for 13 points as well, while Shelby Tidyman got to the rack for her 10 points.

"Oakley is such a great addition to the team, and it's so fun to have back with us," Ostenson said. "It's not only what she does on the court, but she's just a great kid, she works hard, and everyone is loving having her back around."

MacKenzie Conzelman ended the night with seven points, while Jayde Harrington added two to round out the scoring for the Lady Dogies.

Unfortunately, the Lady Dogies lost 6-foot, 2-inch Tiernan Stanton for the year as she had knee surgery on Friday, so the team has to adjust a little bit and figure out how they're going to move forward, according to Ostenson.

This week the Lady Dogies will head to Wright on Thursday to play the Lady Panthers at 5:30, then will travel to Rapid City for the Sacred Hoops Classic where they will play Harding County at Rapid City Christian High School on Saturday at noon.

of their three-point attempts, going 5-22.

"Fortunately, our fast break was pretty good, and we did a good job of getting the ball inside," Ostenson reported. "We found a way to get to the hoop and we did a good job of finishing our layups."

Newcastle also took advantage of second chances as they out-rebounded the Lady 'Blazers by 10, and shot 63% from two, so although they were off from beyond the arc, they did work under the basket to make up for it.

The Lady Dogies also worked hard on the defensive end of the court, holding Torrington to just 13 points in the first half.

"Our defense looked good," Ostenson said. "We started out in man-to-man and then Jayde [Harrington] got in foul trouble, so we switched to a 2-3 zone and sometimes our 1-3-1. Our girls do their homework and they know who they need to guard on the perimeter and who is going to drive, so that was great to see."

Torrington came out in the second half and hit back-



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

MacKenzie Conzelman takes advantage of a defensive closeout by Torrington to drive to the hoop for two of her seven points in the Lady Dogies' win against the Lady Trailblazers Friday.

Karpe

from Page 9

only four of the team were able to make that tournament.

The swimmers had their meet in Cheyenne scheduled for that Friday and Saturday canceled, then had their home triangular canceled, then were unable to attend two more contests scheduled over break due to low numbers.

With all the cancellations, basketball came back to conference play after three weeks with only four games under their belts while the other 3A teams were returning with anywhere from eight to 10 games of experience.

The wrestlers hadn't done anything but practice for four weeks when they returned, and the swimmers are looking at a whopping five weeks between meets when they finally get back to competition this week.

The winter seasons are tough when you have Christmas break thrown into the season just a mere three weeks into it. Back when I coached, we used to have tournament opportunities over the break, which helped to break up the inevitable monotony of practice, and offered

the teams the ability to get a couple more non-conference contests in as they prepared to start their run for regional tournament seeding.

However, several years ago it was decided that the kids needed to have a break from school and sporting obligations over Christmas, so we stopped going to those holiday tourneys.

Now, there is a limit to the number of games a team can play during the season, so I guess if you front-load your season with more pre-season games, you give up the late season contests, which are also beneficial as you get closer to post-season tournaments.

However, when you're coming off what feels like an interminable hiatus, it's not a lot of comfort.

This week, the schedule heats up at last for all four winter sports, and for fans we are happy to have our beloved Dogies and Lady Dogies back in action.

I know that I am certainly happy to have them back in uniform, and look forward to the next two months.

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Newcastle Dogies

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2022-23




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7th Grade

Front row: Abby Tacy, Zadyn Allen, Addie Fitzwater, Lainee Lewis, Emeree Tavegie, Joslyn Pischke, and Taylor Lovejoy. Back row: Kendall Page, Anika Oleson, Ashlynn Shuck, Scotlyn Carr, Kirra Bonnema, Jenna Dixon and Coach Elyse Dickey.



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BLAST FROM THE PAST



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

Wrestling

from Page 9

Kyah Miller took home her second championship of the year as she went 4-0 at 120 pounds in the girl's division. Landon Norman, at 113, and Trey Schneider, 126, were also undefeated champions, going 4-0 in the junior varsity division, while Haven Vrana lost only his semifinal match at 106 in the varsity division to finish third.

Miller pinned a Cheyenne Central opponent in the first round in 46 seconds. Her second pin was a Chadron wrestler whom she pinned in 1:58. Then she went on to pin a girl from Natrona in 3:12. Finally, she pinned her way to a championship against a Thunder Basin wrestler in 2 minutes flat.

"Kyah pinned her way through the tournament, and the longest match she had was just into the second period," McCoy said, smiling. "I don't think that she's really been scored on by a girl this year. She's kind of on a tear, and it's been nice to see her do so well. She is reaping the rewards of wrestling against boys for three years."

Vrana wrestled tough and pinned Cheyenne South and Wheatland wrestlers in his first two matches, then lost by decision against a Kelly Walsh opponent in the semi-final round. He quickly got back on top by pinning a Sheridan athlete in 1:09 and won the championship against a kid from Dubois who is the returning state

champion in 1A, by an 8-5 decision.

"Haven had another great tournament. He wrestled to the semifinals where he met up with a kid from Kelly Walsh in a close 9-5 match," McCoy began. "I was pretty happy for him that the only match he lost was to the kid who won the tournament, and he is also the third-ranked kid in 4A."

The first two rounds were pretty good for the team as a whole, as they lost only a couple of matches. However, as McCoy pointed out, as competition started to get a little tougher, that's when some of the athletes ran into problems on the mat.

"Overall, we wrestled pretty well, especially after having a pretty long break. It's hard to stay where you need to be without that mat time, so I was pretty pleased with how we wrestled," McCoy said. "We were aggressive and we tried to score points in every position. We didn't give up and let ourselves get pinned, so that was great."

The team missed the mat time they would have gotten at the Battle of the Big Horns Worland, and then only four ended up going to Wright the last weekend before break, so most of the kids hadn't seen any action for four weeks.

Though only the four athletes brought home hardware, Jacob Prell, Scott Larson and Thomas Prell

NHS/UHS Wrestling

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Newcastle/Upton @ Shane Shatto Invite in Douglas 1/6-7/23</p> <p>Varsity Team Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sheridan 231 Thunder Basin 189 Cheyenne East 181.5 Cheyenne Central 148 Natrona 147 Douglas 123.5 Kelly Walsh 105.5 Lander 90 Campbell Co. 76 Chadron 65 Thermopolis 65 Lusk 61 Laramie 58.5 Castle View 52.5 Newcastle/Upton 49 Dubois 44 Lingle-Ft. Laramie/Southeast 43 Torrington 43 Buffalo 42 Wheatland 37 Burns/Pine Bluffs 34 Centaurus 26 Glenrock 25 Hulett 24 Wright 23 Tongue River 22 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cheyenne South 13 Riverton 12 H.E.M.O <p>Individual Varsity Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Haven Vrana 3rd Place 4-1 Jackson East DNP 2-2 Scott Larson DNP 2-2 Casey Matthews DNP 1-2 Thomas Prell DNP 1-2 Jacob Prell DNP 1-2 <p>Individual JV Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Caden Vrana DNP 2-2 Landon Norman 1st Place 4-0 Trey Schneider 1st Place 4-0 <p>Individual Women's Results:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Courtney Matthews: 5th Place 0-4 Kyah Miller 1st Place 4-0 |
|---|--|



Photo courtesy of Matt Adelman/Douglas Budget
On Friday at the Shane Shatto Memorial Wrestling Tournament in Douglas, Casey Matthews struggles at 132 pounds beneath Sheridan's Wood. Matthews fought valiantly but eventually fell to the 4A school grappler.

Men

from Page 9

things up at 6-6 about halfway through the first frame of play.

"I liked the way we came out," Von Eye said. "We were pretty solid, and we did some good things, and attacked the basket pretty well."

However, the full court pressure applied by Torrington began to affect Newcastle, and the 'Blazers used a string of forced turnovers to pull out to a 12-6 lead by the end of

one, then a 27-7 lead by the halftime break.

"Their pressure wasn't anything fancy, and was basically the same thing we have run forever, but it just made us start to rush things and we got antsy," Von Eye determined. "When we watched it back, almost every time we turned it over, we had open options to pass the ball, but we just couldn't see it."

Von Eye and his team made some adjustments during the halftime break, and the Dogies looked much better in the second half. Unfortunately, one quarter of lost offense presented the Dogies with a difficult uphill climb in the final two quarters of play.

The 'Blazers shot 43% from three when they came in, averaging only 26% from beyond the arc. They also played well off the bounce, according to Von Eye.

"They really attacked and penetrated very well, and again, were not what we expected," Von Eye admitted. "Credit to them, I was impressed with how they played, given what we had seen on film so far this season."

It was the first 3A action of the season for the Dogies, so they now have a taste of the level they need to get to by the time post-season play comes around.

"It gives us another opportunity for growth," Von Eye said. "We can't simulate that

NHS Men's Basketball

- Newcastle v. Torrington 1/6/23: 17-65**
- Quint Perino: 9 points, 3 rebounds, 1 block
 Zander White: 8 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist
 Wyatt Cole: 5 rebounds, 1 block
 JJ Lipp: 2 rebounds, 1 assist
 Will Beaström: 3 rebounds
 Thatcher Troffgruben: 4 rebounds, 1 charge taken
 Pate Tavegie: 2 rebounds

kind of situation in practice, so we are really emphasizing the fact that the guys have to put themselves there with mental simulations in order to be ready."

Only two Dogies ended up in the scoring column for the Dogies. Perino ended up leading with nine points, and Zander White was close behind with eight.

The Dogies have two games this week in which they have the opportunity to learn and grow, as they are facing a couple of tough teams, however neither of them are conference contests.

On Thursday, the squad will head to Wright to take on a tough, veteran 2A team with title aspirations, then on Saturday they will go to Rapid City to face Rapid City Christian, also a formidable opponent in Class A of South Dakota.

Tip-off for Thursday's game is 7:30 in Wright, and on Saturday it is scheduled for 1:30 at Rapid City Christian High School.



Photos by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

The Goshen County defense was smothering and a big factor in the Dogies loss. Above, Zander White breaks through the Trailblazers' defense to get to the hoop for two in Friday's contest against the Torrington Trailblazers. Below, Wyatt Cole sees an open man.



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