

Newcastle, Wyoming January 12, 2023 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 concerns 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.

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-yearold son, Waylon.

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

- See **Hunt**, Page 8

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

67th Wyoming The 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.

Wednesday, On the Legislature will convene in a

- See **Legislature**, Page 2

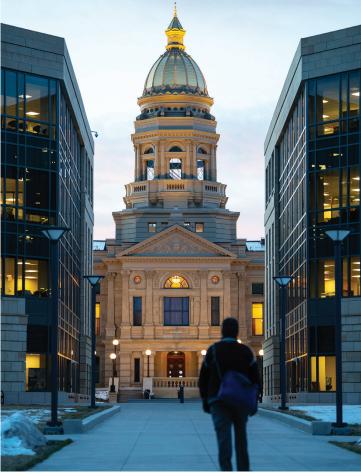


Photo courtesy of Michael S. Smith

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.

WEATHER FORECAST







Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 48, Lo 26







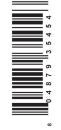








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Sunday









journalism



professional gathering and reporting of information to society. When errors are published, corrections are issued. Investigative journalism reveals hitherto unknown crime, corruption, and wrongdoing.





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

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 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

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

Legislature from Page 1.....

joint session with both the Senate and the House on the "Votes" tab on each individual bill page. receiving the State of the State message from Gov. The results are posted after each roll call vote is Mark Gordon. After Gordon's address, Wyoming taken," the release says. Supreme Court Chief Justice Kate M. Fox will Also available on the website are the dates and 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

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 the first time. I respect both 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 over the discrepancy in cost 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 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 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.

News Letter Journal:

WPA and NNA

Award Winner

Our View

The importance of legal notices

Guest Editorial

Thomas Mullen

January 5, 2023

hen our society finds a better way to archive public records for the people, it will have the full support of this newspaper. Public notices (legals) are the surest way to let

citizens know how their tax dollars are being spent.

They also create a permanent and secure record of the business of your government, and they have run in these pages

since this newspaper began. That won't always be the case. Publishing online has been a boon to getting news into the hands of more people, and in

government information to its citizens. However, online dissemination of information is tragically flawed — precisely because it is so accessible and therefore susceptible to corruption.

Real news and credible information still come from trusted sources, primarily your hometown newspaper.

The First Amendment to the Constitution of these United States created a bulkhead against government abuse, ensuring the Freedom of the Press and thereby creating a Fourth Estate to serve as a watchdog over the other three, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of our government.

Which is why, for two-and-a-half centuries, your elected officials have been required to spend a tiny fraction of their budgets to keep you informed of how they are spending the lion's share of your tax dollars.

This newspaper has existed for generations because generations of this community

have recognized it as a trusted source of

We recognize the potential of a worldwide web and so we harness it responsibly, by placing public notices there.

Nearly all print newspapers do this, in addition to providing printed-on-paper records. Those paper records are archived by newspapers, libraries and museums.

These safeguards make the public notices as accessible as humanly possible, while protecting the integrity of the information.

Now, imagine a community where the government's business is posted solely online, destined to be lost in the infinite internet.

How would you know what government action may adversely affect you? Worse, how would you know when and where to look for that information?

It may as well not be posted at all.

QUESTION: **Should the Weston County Commissioners** meet in the evening?

> ☐ Yes \square No

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

RESULTS: Do you use the Weston **County or City of** Newcastle website?

■ Yes......58% (11 votes) □ No......42% (8 votes)

Kim Dean











Arts and Culture

Office Manager: Siri Karr Graphic Designer: Amy Menerey Circulation: Ann Cottrell **NLJ Correspondents** Avery Chick. Hannah Gross and KateLynn Slaamot Photographer: Tyler Sage

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

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News Letter Journal is

published each Thursday at 14 W. Main Street in Newcastle (Weston Co.) WY 82701. Periodicals postage paid at Newcastle, WY. USPS No. 389-940. Deadline for advertising is the prior Friday at noon.

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



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The year 2023 might be a 'gap year' for big news

¬ li Bebout and Dave ◀ Bell both have strong ✓ opinions about what is going to happen in Wyoming during 2023.

And here during my annual prediction column, these two guys wanted to chime in, and I am glad they did.

But first, here's my take: Hmmm let's see. Looking ahead at 2023, it is easier to see what is not going to happen rather than what is.

Hopefully, we will not have agriculture, keep our young a pandemic like 2020. Or the Wyomingites in our state, worst winter storm in four decades as last year (just a few weeks ago). Or a world-class political clash like Liz Cheney and former President Donald Trump's battle that created all the headlines last year.

Looking ahead, it appears that 2023 might be a gap year for big news. And maybe that will be just fine.

I am a big fan of college kids taking a "gap year," now and then — to get their heads straight and get a breather. Young people who take care of themselves may live to be 110 years old. You have plenty of time, I tell them, much to the chagrin of their parents. But I digress.

The Wyoming State Legislature starts meeting this week and it will generate a lot of news. The state's financial fortunes are dire in the long run, and yet we are awash in cash right now. Spend it all now? Or be prudent and squirrel a bunch

of it away for future more needy times?

Bebout of Riverton is the only man to be both Speaker of the House and President

of the Senate. He opines: "Looking back at our history, we seem to always have the same issues. You know what they Bill Sniffin

My Wyoming

are: Diversify our economy and tax base, enhance tourism, minerals, and

save for the future, and live within our means." Bell of Pinedale is a former

chairman of the Wyoming Business Alliance. He says: "There must be a way to provide relief to senior citizens in high value markets — which are spreading could be citizens of all ages

throughout the state. And that for that matter. A workable solution needs to be found, even if it means amending the state constitution."

In Wyoming, whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over. That will happen again as states downstream from us will continue to be so jealous of all our water; we can anticipate some ambitious and greedy attempts to take it from us.

Our inability or unwillingness to build storage facilities will come back to haunt us as water we could have used here will be sent downstream to other states so they can prosper from it.

Wyoming's unofficial state motto for the past three decades has been "America's Energy Breadbasket." We hope that continues but the nation's short-sighted view of not using our vast (and clean) fossil fuel resources will provide blackouts and brownouts across the country.

We can only hope some sanity will emerge. All those electric vehicles need power — Wyoming has the power. We just need to keep the power-generating facilities running. Please, President Joe Biden and your hare-brained staff, please come to your senses!

It is predicted that even here in Wyoming we could see brownouts and blackouts in 2023 based on industry projections. What a farce that would be. Iowa should never run out of corn. California should never run out of wine. And Wyoming should never run out of energy.

Maybe the legislature could pass some law that would mandate a reserve of power being held back to protect our local citizens and local businesses?

Bell gets his dander up on this subject: "Even the mention of blackouts and brownouts appears as if we are being conditioned to become a third-world country. If I were the Governor, I'd be calling the head of every utility company operating in Wyoming and convening a Brownout Summit. The message: This can NEVER happen in our state. Period. If PacifiCorp thinks this is a possibility,

then Gov. Gordon needs to be calling Warren Buffett and advising him this WILL NOT happen in our state, and to fix it so it doesn't!"

I will predict that 2023 will be a record year for tourism in Wyoming. Now that Yellowstone has repaired damage caused by horrible floods last year, a true "flood" of tourists are coming.

Plus, we are primarily a state where tourists drive to our sites and sights. With gas prices continuing to drop, folks will jump into their gas-powered cars, trucks, and RVs and head to the Cowboy State.

Our infrastructure statewide is better than ever. From Evanston to Hulett, and Cody to Cheyenne, we are ready for tourists. International tourism also will bounce back.

Alas, this year will see even more activity in what is called culture wars.

I will agree to being an old fogey who prefers a more traditional way than what seems to be under way in our state.

Misguided craziness will continue in the area of overly explicit books in our libraries, causing people to somehow compare this to old-time book-burning incidents. No, folks, this is quite different.

Also, we will see more craziness in our schools, at our community colleges, and at University of Wyoming, as folks promoting an extreme minority view will try to bully the leaders of our institutions to comply to extreme views that reflect a tiny portion of our population.

The attempts by this noisy minority to turn Wyoming into California will be costly and toxic. So far in this column, I

have not predicted anything gigantic. If Yellowstone explodes, well, we will not be around to talk about it. And finally, financially,

I hope that the work being done to pioneer small nuclear plants (such as those that power aircraft carriers) could be used in our communities to provide power for Wyoming and the rest of the country. That just seems to make sense to me.

Again, maybe the legislature could fast-track some rules that make having such facilities in Wyoming a possibility? Seems like it would be worth a try.

Eli is an expert on all things nuclear. He says: "I have been a proponent of nuclear power for a long time. It may not be the total answer, but it sure needs to lead the way. Wyoming can be a leader in this area as well as fossil fuel.'

Next year, I will write about what happened in 2023. It will be interesting to see how close these predictions were. Happy New Year.

Bill Sniffin is a retired newspaper publisher who has penned a number of books about Wyoming. Check out additional columns written by Bill at www.billsniffin. com, and find volumes from his coffee table book series, which have sold over 30,000 copies, for sale at the News Letter Journal.

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

Letter to the Editor

The circle of power

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, county elected officials

were sworn in to their positions. Three new county commissioners were among the ranks, chosen from a packed field of eight candidates on the ballot and one writein. People obviously wanted change. What

we got, however, was more of the same. The one man who sat on the com-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

mission while the dispatch contract lay expired and ignored for eight years was selected as chairman. He is the only member of the board who has missed

more meetings than Tony Barton. The newly selected chairman also missed the vast majority of budget meetings, which is the principal responsibility of the

commission. He was sued for refusing to reveal his vote for the HD#2 placement, and yet to apologize for that disgraceful behavior. Yet he was nominated and voted in as chairman of the Weston County Board of Commissioners by Vera Huber, Nathan Todd and by his own

Despite the voter turnout, despite a packed field of candidates, the powers that be circled the wagons and ignored the push for change once again.

- Gillian Sears

Need to talk to a public servant?

Contact information for State Legislators: Sen. Ogden Driskill

Ogden.Driskill@wyoleg.gov or (307) 680-5555 Sen. Cheri Steinmetz Cheri.Steinmetz@wyoleg.gov or (307) 534-5342

Rep. Allen Slagle Allen.Slagle@wyoleg.gov or (307) 306-7532 Rep. Chip Neiman

Chip.Neiman@wyoleg.gov or (307) 290-0366

https://www.wyoleg.gov

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The Newcastle Planning Board has an open seat. Please submit letters of interest to City Hall located at 10 W. Warwick. This seat is for a 3 year term. Individuals must be a City resident and a registered voter.

Application forms are also available at City Hall.

Send your new baby announcements to design@newslj.com!



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

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 Lyle Ackley 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 peacetime 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

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

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 (Tonia) 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.

Ronald

Mills

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

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.

LILANI 'LONI' STUMPFF Nov. 12, 1953-Jan. 9, 2023

Lilani "Loni" Stumpff, 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.

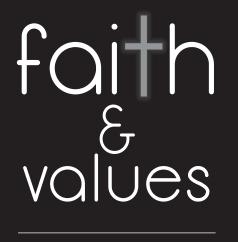
A full obituary will be published in next week's News Letter Journal.



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



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 16 Exodus 1-4

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

January 19

Exodus 11-13

- · 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
- 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. Kenli 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; Undefeated 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

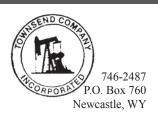
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP: Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 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
- 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









Mass 5 pm

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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 costbased 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



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 Lawville, 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.

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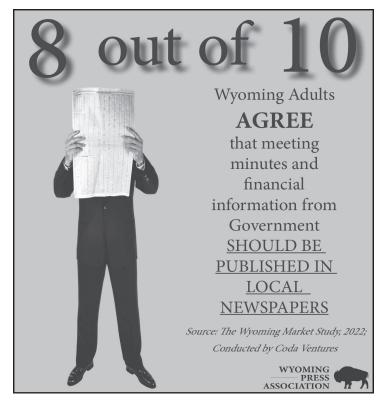
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WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR



LET US **KNOW** WHAT'S UP!

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

Fri. Jan. 13 Beltone Hearing Clinic W.C. Senior Center 9AM 9AM Caramel Rolls W.C. Senior Center 1PM W.C. Senior Center Bridge 5:30PM **BINGO** VFW Hall Mon. Jan. 16 9AM **Exercise Class** 1PM Computer Clinic 4:30PM AAU Volleyball Registration 6PM WC Children's Center Directors Mtg 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7PM Newcastle City Council Tues. Jan. 17 9AM WC Commissioners 11AM Story time NOON CowBelles W.C. Senior Center 1PM **Bridge & Dominoes** W.C. Senior Center 6PM American Legion Riders 6PM Helping Hands Foundation Mtg.

9AM W.C. Senior Services Board Mtg. Thurs. Jan. 19 7AM T.O.P.S. #218 Crafts 5PM Celebrate Recovery MS/HS 6:30PM Celebrate Recovery 18+ 6PM WCHS Board of Trustees MTG 6PM Veteran's Memorial Meeting 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous

Masons #13

Wellness Wednesday

Wellness Wednesday

Exercise Class & Toe Nail Clinic

Wed. Jan. 18 6:30-8:30AM

7-9AM

7:30PM

9AM

W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center **NHS Commons** WC Children's Center W.C. Senior Center City Council Chambers W.C. Courthouse W.C. Library

> Newcastle Lodge W.C. Senior Center W.C. Health Services **Upton Medical Clinic** W.C. Senior Center

W.C. Senior Center

W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Church on the Hill Church on the Hill **WCHS** Four Square Church W.C. Senior Center

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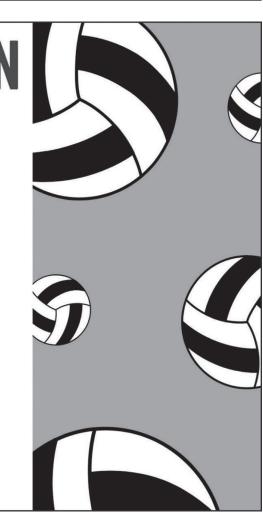
Online registration Jan. 1-23

In-person registration Jan. 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Newcastle High **School Commons**

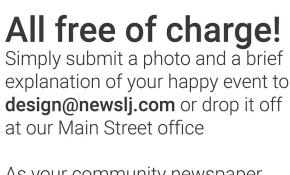
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Tysdal appointed to state board

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

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 chal-

lenges 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.

Workin' for a living

Photo courtesy of Bobbie Jo Tysdal

David Tysdal of Newcastle has

been appointed to the Wyoming

Natural Resource Foundation

Board of Trustees.



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

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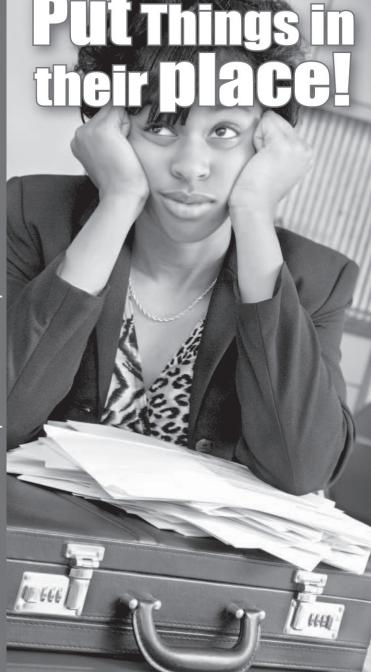
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John Ellis is grateful to everyone who made the hunt possible and joined him on this hunt for a lifetime. Pictured left to right: Randy Farella, Jason Webber, John Ellis, Waylon Ellis and Jordan Ellis.

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



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

editor@newslj.com

ports News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

	OILL	- IIIOII OOIIOOL			
Wrestling					
1/13/23	VJ	Newcastle Invitational	Н	9AM	
1/14/23	VJ	Blazer Duals	Α	NOON	
1/17/23	VJ	Quad in Newcastle	Н	TBA	
1/19/23	VJ	Quad in Moorcroft	Α	TBA	
Men's Swi	mmin	g			
1/12/23	VJ	Buffalo HS	Α	4PM	
1/14/23	VJ	Douglas HS	Α	10AM	
1/19/23	VJ	Newcastle Triangular	Н	4PM	
Ladies' Ba	sketb	all			
1/12/23	V9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	Α	4:30PM	
1/14/23	V9	Rapid City Christian HS	Α	TBA	
1/20/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	Н	4PM	
1/21/23	V9	Buffalo HS	Α	NOON	
Men's Bas	ketba	II			
1/12/23	V9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	Α 5	5:30PM	
1/14/23	V9	Rapid City Christian HS	Α	TBA	
1/17/23	9	Wright Jr/Sr HS	Α	6PM	
1/20/23	V9	Moorcroft HS	Н	3PM	
1/21/23	V9	Buffalo HS	Α	NOON	

Back at it, at last

hristmas 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 Stateline Shootout



Karpe Dogie

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

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

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 182pound match. Prell escaped the grip of and attempted takedown by Cantrell of Natrona County to win with a pin moments later.



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

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

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

and their full court pressure who really started to play a of the contest, and though was not something we had 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

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









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:

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 Beastrom: 1 rebound, 1 block Sydney Pederson: 1 rebound, 1 assist Hailey Beastrom: 1 rebound Hailey Beastrom: 1 rebound Hailey Beastrom: 1 rebound Hailey Beastrom: 1 rebound Hailey Bea

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-

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.



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.

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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 nonconference contests in as they prepared to start their run for regional tournament seeding.

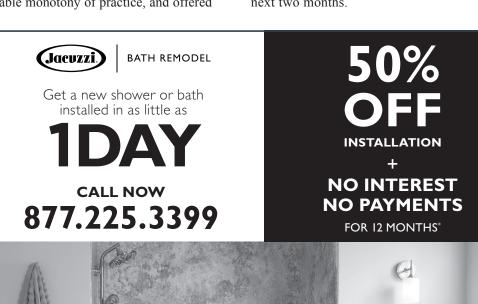
However, several years ago it was decided that the kids needed to have a break from school and sporting obligations over Christmas, so we stopped going to those holiday tourneys.

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 preseason 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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8th Grade

Front row: Jensi McCormack, Aurora Hunter, Ashlynn Shroyer, Josie Smith, Christine Swentesky, and Netanya Prell. Back row: Coach Nate Smith, Kyndal Von Eye, Hollie Swentesky, Lillie Morrill, Adalyn Olson, Delainey Dresen, Sage Lichtenberger, and Ashlynn Wildermuth

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.



Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography

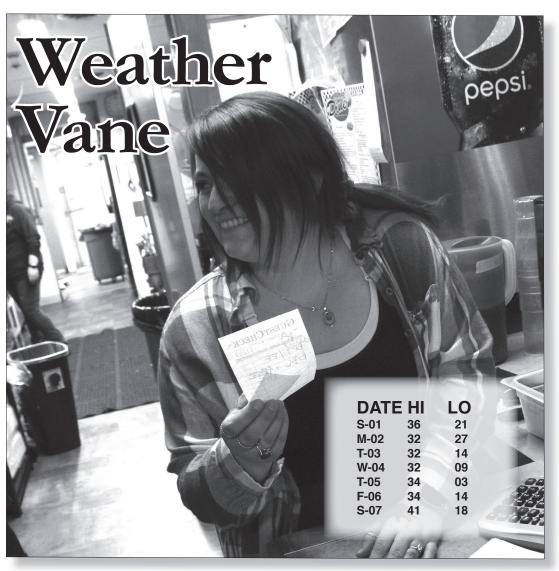
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Legal Notice

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY **FOR TAX DEED**

Cummings, Rebekah A PO Box 137 Osage, Wyo. 82723

To all owners, possessors or occupants of the real property described as Lots 5, 6 & 7, Block 15, Nefsy Addition Osage, Weston County, Wyoming.

Be advised that; Steven A. Martens purchased the above described property at a tax sale on the 18th day of August 2018 in Newcastle, Wyoming from the Weston County Treasurers and is in possession of certificate of purchase No. 5035. The property was taxed or assessed in the name/names of Cummings Rebekah A.

For the year 2018 at this time there are no special assessments for local or public improvements on this property and the owner cannot be found in Weston County, Wyoming.

In accordance with Wyoming law, the property may be redeemed by the legal owner after the date of sale but before a valid tax deed application has been filed and accepted by the county treasurer. Take note that Steven A. Martens will apply for a tax deed on or after the 27th day of August 2022.

Any persons holding an interests in this property or otherwise interested in application for tax deed may contact the applicant Steven A. Martens 320 Green Mtn. Road Sundance, Wyoming 82729 or contact the Weston County Treasurer, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701. Regarding the petitions intent to apply or a tax deed.

Dated this 9th day of January 2023

Steven A. Martens 320 Green Mtn. Road Sundance, Wyoming 82729

(Publish January 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PROPOSED **BANK MERGER**

First Northern Bank of Wyoming, 141 South Main Street, Buffalo, Johnson County, Wyoming 82834, intends to apply to the Wyoming Division of Banking for permission to merge with First State Bank of Newcastle and establish a branch at the location of First State Bank of Newcastle, 24 North Sumner Avenue, Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming 82701 (the "Merger"). The Merger is anticipated to occur on March 24, 2023, subject to receipt of all regulatory approvals.

The Merger will have the effects set forth in Section 13-4-111 of the Wyoming Statutes. At the effective time of the Merger (the "Effective Time"), First Northern Bank of Wyoming will continue as the bank resulting from the Merger (the "Resulting Bank"), and the separate corporate existence of First State Bank of Newcastle will cease. At the Effective Time, all outstanding shares of First State Bank of Newcastle and First Northern Bank of Wyoming will, by virtue of the Merger, be converted into shares of common stock of the Resulting Bank. At the Effective Time, all rights, title and interests to all real estate and other property owned by each of First State Bank of Newcastle and First Northern Bank of Wyoming will be allocated to and vested in the Resulting Bank without reversion or impairment, without further act or deed, and without any transfer or assignment having occurred, but subject to any existing liens or encumbrances thereon. At the Effective Time, all liabilities and obligations of First State Bank of Newcastle and First Northern Bank of Wyoming will be allocated to the Resulting Bank.

(Publish January 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given of the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company), for authority to revise its established distribution areas and Wobbe

1. BHWG is a public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. (Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(D) and 37-2-112.)

2. On December 2, 2022, BHWG submitted its Application requesting authority to revise its established distribution areas and Wobbe Indices. The Company states that many of the Wobbe Indices in effect were established in the 1980s. and are outdated due to changes in the natural gas supply, and that several of the locations used to test the supply are redundant. BHWG states that its proposed measurement points and methods will better represent a more constant and accurate measurement of gas quality delivered to customers than previously available.

3. This is not a complete description of the Application. BHWG's Application is available for inspection at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, or online at: https://dms. wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx (Enter Record No. 17209).

4. Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest, or request for a hearing must file with the Commission in writing, on or before February 3, 2023. A proposed intervention or request for hearing shall set forth the grounds, and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

5.If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communicationsimpaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 30026-69-GA-22 in your communications.

Dated: January 5, 2023.

(Publish January 12 and 19, 2023)

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- 1. Rock bottom
- 6. Attorneys' org. 9. Hefty volume
- 13. Cast 14. It's all the rage
- 15. Miserable 16. Fit for a king
- 17. Back then
- 18. Do like Demosthenes
- 19. *Checkout clerk 21. *Meat professional
- _ the land of the free..."
- 24. Fictional Himalayan 25. Meme move
- 28. Man Ray's art movement 30. On cloud nine
- 35. Crude group 37. Seaside bird
- 39. Formerly known as dropsy
- 40. Make-up artist? 41. Blast from the past
- 43. Bruce Willis' ex
- 44. Chocolate substitute 46. Mischievous sprites
- 47. Plaintiff 48. *Advantageous display
- ____ Spumante 52. Meddle

- 53. Largest share owner
- _ to Joy" 57. *Coldest display 61. *"What's on __
- 65. Main artery in the body
- 66. Feathery neckwear 68. Isolated
- 69. Hipbone-related 70. Octopus' defense
- 71. Espresso plus steamed milk
- 72. Eye contact 73. Word from #32 Down
- 74. Goes up or down

DOWN

- 1. D.E.A. agent 2. On a deck, perhaps
- 3. Pad
- 4. Gem State
- 5. Depended on
- 6. From a distance 7. *Reusable one
- 8. Hacienda brick 9. Cleopatra's necklace
- 10. Moonfish 11. Boundary line
- 12. Looker or ogler 15. Capable of movement
- 20. One of the Muses
- 22. Shoshonean 24. Railyard worker

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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.

- 25. Gabbana's partner 26. Relating to bees
- 27. Edward Teach's facial feature
- 29. *Prepared food department 31. Contributes
- 32. Get ready to drive (2 words) 33. Type of wheat
- 34. *Ricotta and eggs section 36. Semiaquatic tetrapod, for short 38. Sips from a flask?
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- 49. Blackbird dessert 51. Paragons
- 54. Galactic path
- 56. Pomp
- 57. Be unsuccessful
- 58. Dramatic part 59. Sportscaster Andrews
- 60. JFK or ORD postings 61. Japanese alcoholic beverage
- 62. Tiny amount
- 63. Not in favor of 64. Lecherous look
- 67. *O in BOGO

FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Last week's answers

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GWamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Newcastle City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS **MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023**

Council President Don Steveson called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Council members Don Steveson, Ann McColley, Tyrel Owens, newly elected members Tom Voss and John Butts. Also present were City Attorney Dublin Hughes, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff and City Clerk/ Treasurer Stacy Haggerty. Mayor Gualtieri was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, December 19, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to pay the claims against the City dated January 3, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

Claims: American Engineering Testing, engineering services, \$9,327.85; Matthew Anderson, mileage, \$225.00; Black Hills Energy, energy services, \$5,407.12; Bomgaars, supplies, \$1,380.92; Campbell Co. Health EMS, monthly distribution, \$8,333.33; Casper College, training, \$69.00; City of Newcastle, way sw/ga, \$590.26; Douglas Dumbrill, municipal judge/mileage, \$1,078.40; Energy Laboratories, testing, \$656.00; Farnsworth Services, portable sanitation, \$600.00; Hughes Law, monthly attorney fees, \$3,500.00; Ketel Thorstenson, accounting services, \$9,600.00; L.N. Curtis & Sons, parts, \$101.85; Minuteman, tires, \$1,316.00; Newcastle Equipment, repairs, \$13,594.75; Newcastle Vol. Fire Dept., reimbursement, \$466.57; Oftedal Construction, supplies, \$2,000.00; Powder River Energy, energy services, \$1,388.96; PD Genell Rothleutner, cleaning services, \$200.00; Russell Industries, parts, \$4,005.16; Salt Creek Water District, sewer services, \$555.00; Bryand Streeter, monthly distribution, \$1,333.33; Lucky Teigen-Grummons, FD cleaning services, \$300.00; VanWay Trophy, plaque, \$87.40; Verizon, cell phone service, \$380.72; Becky Vodopich, cleaning services, \$300.00; Wesco Gas, propane, \$1,113.69; Weston Co. Treasurer, handling charge/PD phone and energy services, \$1,801.92.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Council President Don Steveson swore in new council members John Butts and

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: None CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce for their work on 2022 Lighted Parade.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS-IN WRITING: Wilson Plumbing Services, LLC requested plumbing license. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS-VERBAL: None MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: Council President Steveson read Resolution

No. 1, 2023 Entitled: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL **GOVERNMENT PROJECT ARPA GRANT** APPLICATION TO THE STATE LOAN AND INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, for the purpose of funding the construction of the Heritage Park Project. Tom Voss moved, seconded Ann McColley to pass Resolution No. 1, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

Council President Steveson referenced the resignation of Shirley Harder from the Planning and Zoning Board. Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty wanted clarification as to if new application letters should go to the Planning and Zoning Board for their recommendation to the Council. Council consensus was ves.

Council Member Tyrel Owens reported that due to liability reasons for the Public Works Department he has contacted Sheriff Colvard and Police Chief Bowles regarding the shooting of deer within City limits.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney Dublin Hughes had no report. City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty referenced contacting Attorney Hughes regarding vacation accruals for City Employees stating that many of the Police Department employees are close to the maximum allowed. Policy does not state if employees can or cannot be paid out for vacation leave. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to allow the payout of vacation leave for Police Department personnel until the department is fully staffed. MOTION **CARRIED.** Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty stated that she had been contacted by Nacona Toth of the Newcastle Recreation Board, requesting a letter from the City allowing the Recreation Board to acquire a debit card for their current account. Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff requested that Jeremy Deal receive a \$0.50/ hr. raise and given full time status as he has completed his one year of probation. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED. He then referenced the Bid opening held on December 22, 2022 for the S. Summit water line replacement project stating that Kenny Rathbun and Kole Schell with Bear Lodge Engineering were present for any questions regarding the bid process as there was an issue with one of the bids that were presented because of a clerical error. Recommendation was made to award the bid to Hot Iron for the amount of \$318,607.52. After discussion Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to award the bid to Hot Iron. MOTION CARRIED. He then referenced ARPA Grants and working towards goals to obtain those grants. Mr. Stumpff reported that the State had awarded the City \$100,000.00 for the Drinking Water Intended Use Plan, he will inquire as to what stipulation there may be. There were no questions regarding the Public Works Reports that were presented.

Police Department: No report STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None OTHER BUSINESSS: Councilman Tyrel Owens stated that he would like to move forward in getting the job description of the City Administrator/Grant writer.

Ann McColley moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 7:49 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Pam Gualtieri, Mayor ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy

(Publish January 12, 2023)

WCSD#1 Warrants

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES

BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL CO.

ELDER EQUIPMENT LEASING OF WYO

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BURNS HIGH SCHOOL

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 DECEMBER 2022

\$1,459.03

\$888.00

\$513.00

\$600.00

\$2,498.23

FRONTIER HOME RANCH AND HD	WE
	\$533.59
GILLETTE OFFICIALS	\$2,760.00
GROSSENBURGS	\$1,400.45
EMILY HISER	\$673.92
INLAND TRUCK PARTS & SERVICE	\$762.98
JUDGE ROTENBERG CENTER, INC	
	\$10,433.34
MARCO	\$919.30
MASTERCARD	\$1,960.43
NEWS LETTER JOURNAL	\$2,834.25
PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC	\$3,330.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL	\$1,024.59
POWERSCHOOL GROUP LLC	\$611.52
RAMKOTA HOTEL CASPER	\$1,288.00
RANGE	\$1,209.41
SCHOOL HEALTH CORPORATION	\$918.79
MEGAN STITH	\$510.12
VANWAY TROPHY & AWARD	\$1,200.60
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$671.27
WCSD-FOOD SERVICE	\$1,145.40
WOODY'S	\$1,135.57
WYDOT-FINANCIAL SERVICES	\$744.74
WYOMING REFINING COMPANY	\$23,285.77
WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASS	
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$4,003.83
THE ANTLERS	\$555.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$19,583.19
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$19,122.74
CITY OF NEWCASTLE	\$2,919.78
COUNTY OF WESTON	\$5,997.29
CRUM ELECTRIC	\$866.73
DECKER'S MARKET	\$947.00
EASTERN WYOMING EQUIPMENT	
MIKE CRECORY	\$522.01

MIKE GREGORY \$560.70 **BRAD LACROIX** \$555.52 **MARCO** \$6,182.59 NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION \$1,404.00 PEPSI OF GILLETTE/SHERIDAN \$670.95 POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORP \$6,594.91 THE SCHOLASTIC NETWORK \$6,600.00 SUNBURST DIGITAL \$697.50 SYSCO MONTANA INC \$2,093.60

UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES \$719.90 WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

\$3,824.40 WOODY'S \$506.39 **MASTERCARD** \$3,014.52 **MASTERCARD** \$1,294.35 **MASTERCARD** \$680.58 **MASTERCARD** \$1,302.73 **MASTERCARD** \$1,273.37 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$160,856.27 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$633.11 RICKY PHILLIPS \$2,750.72 WOOD STOCK SUPPLY \$1,291.20 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES \$719.41 FRONTIER HOME RANCH AND HDWE

\$1,662.96 JOHNSON FRUIT LLC \$15,393.65 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$2,633.99 WOOD STOCK SUPPLY \$1,972.11 WYOMING FFA \$690.00 EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE \$46,585.00 **MASTERCARD** \$1,913.55 **MASTERCARD** \$1,297.69 **MASTERCARD** \$2,400.79 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$79,944.18 **BLACK HILLS ENERGY** \$3,765.18 **BLACK HILLS ENERGY** \$3,199.64 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$5,784.58 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$1,489.48 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$14,238.88 PRAIRIE FARMS \$1,400.43 SYSCO MONTANA INC \$8,255.36 PRAIRIE FARMS \$1,142.75 SYSCO MONTANA INC \$4,661.89 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$10,014.42 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$13,656.98 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$39,131.83 **BLACK HILLS HEATING** \$27,200.00 TREMCO WEATHERPROOFING \$42,649.32 ARETE DESIGN GROUP \$5,512.50 LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

\$6,319.00 RICKY PHILLIPS \$723.84 TREMOLO WEATHERPROOFING \$41,054.01 WAYNE'S HEATING SERVICE \$3,250.00 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$126,708.67 WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST \$743,79 EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE \$18,730.00 CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL: \$19,473.79

Grand Total: \$440,353.62

(Publish January 12, 2023)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FILING AN APPLICATION FOR **BRANCH OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given that the First Northern Bank of Wyoming of Buffalo, Wyoming has filed with Commissioner Jeremiah Bishop of the State of Wyoming,

Department of Audit, Division of Banking, an application to establish a branch office at 24 North Sumner Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701. This notice is published pursuant to Wyoming Statute 13-2-702(b)(iii).

(Publish January 12, 2023)

Cowboy Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



USS Cheyenne recognized

CHEYENNE (WNE) —The city's namesake submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) has been awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" award

The Battle "E" is awarded only once per year and only one award per squadron. It is the most important Command Excellence Award a ship can earn.

Competition for this decoration is fierce, and city officials said the namesake has earned the award multiple times in her life of service.

"We are proud of the officers, chiefs, and crew of our submarine and congratulate her for being the best," said city officials in a statement.

This story was published on Jan. 6, 2023.

Foul play in foot investigation?

JACKSON (WNE) — Yellowstone National Park officials say we'll probably never learn what happened to Il Hun Ro, the 70-year-old Los Angeles man whose foot was found floating in a park hot spring this past August.

was unwitnessed, we'll likely never know the exact course of events," Linda Veress, a public information specialist for the park, told the Jackson Hole Daily on Tuesday. "However, there are no signs of foul play or circumstances that would lead us to believe this involved more than just

the individual."

Three days after finding the foot, park officials issued a statement saying they suspected that no foul play was involved in Ro's disappearance and death.

The Daily had asked Veress "Because this incident about how officials determined that there was no foul

> The investigative report released Tuesday via a Freedom of Information Act request offered no evidence or explanation about how park officials reached that conclu-

Until now, park officials on Jan. 6, 2023.

have also said little about how they did so.

The 36-page report notes that Ro's family was contacted, and a family member provided a DNA sample to help identify his remains.

But the document doesn't say much else about interactions with the family, including whether they were able to shed light on Ro's travel plans or his state of mind. Law enforcement officers searched for but didn't find evidence of a suicide note.

This story was published

Funding on hold in Johnson Co.

BUFFALO (WNE) — Johnson County Healthcare Center's request for American Rescue Plan Act funding toward its master site plan construction project was tabled by the State Loan and Investment Board at its meeting in December.

The healthcare center's renovations of its Family Medical Center and inpatient wing are already underway, but hoped-for ARPA funding allocated through Health and Human Services Capital Construction grants is still up in the air.

The SLIB, which is administering the available \$85 million, considered the healthcare to the existing \$85 million, with the intent center's request for family medical center addition funding (\$737,000) and for its inpatient remodel (\$869,000). The Wyoming Department of Health recom-

mended that both projects receive full funding, but the board ultimately decided to table the facility's request.

That means the hospital and other entities around the state whose grant requests were tabled will wait to see whether they receive any funding.

"That was the big thing is there's a lot of projects out there. There's just too much money requested and not enough funds available," healthcare center CEO Luke Senden told the hospital district's board of trustees at its December meeting.

Additional funds for these projects and others, however, are recommended as part of Gov. Mark Gordon's supplemental budget request to the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee.

In 2023, Gordon wants to add \$15 million of funding additional projects, which could include those that were tabled.

"Should the legislature appropriate additional funding for these programs during the upcoming session, the 'tabled' applications could be considered at a future SLIB HHS ARPA Program funding meeting," Office of State Lands and Investments director Jenifer Scoggin wrote in an email.

This story was published on Jan. 5, 2023.

Beards to boost Special Olympics

POWELL (WNE) — The paign. Powell Police Department is again participating in the "Donate to Insulate" fundraiser to support Special Olympics Wyoming and the Wyoming Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Powell police officers are joining other law enforcement agencies across Wyoming for the annual campaign to support Special Olympics ath-

The agency has a strict facial hair policy that forbids beards. However, the policy is waived in January and February for officers who donate to Wyoming Special Olympics and participate in the Donate to Insulate cam-

Officers compete against each other for the title of "best beard," with each donated dollar counted as a vote for the top facial hair.

Donations can be made online at give. sowy.org/ teams/19077-powell-policedepartment.

"The Donate to Insulate fundraiser will help our officers stay warm when they go Freezin' for a Reason during the annual Jackalope Jump fundraiser for Special Olympics that will be held in March," the department said in a release.

Special Olympics Wyoming provides year-round on Jan. 5, 2023.

sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with an intellectual disability.

The nonprofit gives athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and their community.

More than 2,400 athletes compete across Wyoming including more than 60 athletes in Park County.

This story was published

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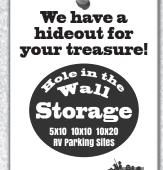


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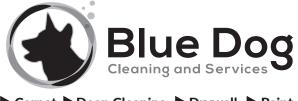
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CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE: FRIDAY AT NOON

THANK YOU

The family of Marge Huber would like to extend a big thank you to Weston County Manor for the wonderful care that our mother received while at the manor. Also Marnia and staff at Meridian Mortuary, Pastor John, Newcastle Senior Center, Amber & Crystal at Pinnacle Bank, Louise Stith at First State Bank and to all our family and friends who called, sent cards, and brought food. Your love and kindness means so much at this time.

Sincerely, Rich, Vera Huber & families

Patty, Chuck Bartlett & families Jeanette Huber

COMMUNITY **TOPS**

TOPS meets at three Newcastle locations each week: Tuesday at 4pm at First United Methodist Church, call Joyce Brown at 307-629-1033; Thursday at 8am at WC Senior Center, call JoAnn Dunn at 746-2654; and at 9 am Thursdays at

First Baptist Church, call Ellen Butts at 746-4251. All are welcome!

Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County

Are you in need of medical traveling assistance? Contact Glenna at 307-468-2316 or Carol at 746-2298.

Hope Dealers

NA meets at Church on the Hill, 6:30-7:30pm, every Tuesday. Call Shawn at 307-575-6641.

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA meets at WC Senior Center family room, 627 Pine St., Mondays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Contact Stan 746-9199.

Veterans

Veterans Outreach and Advocacy Program (Wyoming Dept Health/BHD) Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom eligible. For assistance,

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SEALED BID AUCTION

Weston County Health Services is having a sealed bid auction Jan. 16-20 and can be seen in the basement. Pictures of items will be posted on the WCHS website and Facebook page. Sealed bids will be opened 2 pm on Jan. 20, and top

bidders will be called. For more information call 746-3755.



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BLAST FROM THE PAST ——





Here are photos from the News Letter Journal's archives. Subjects unknown. Email staff@newslj.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 school gyms.

NHS/UHS Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Douglas 1/6-7/23 Varsity Team Results:

- 2. Thunder Basin 189 3. Cheyenne East
- 4. Cheyenne Central
- 148 5. Natrona 147
- 6. Douglas 123.5 7. Kelly Walsh 105.5 8. Lander 90
- 9. Campbell Co. 76 10. Chadron 65
- 11. Thermopolis 65 12. Lusk 61 13. Laramie 58.5

14. Castle View 52.5

- 15. Newcastle/Upton 49 16. Dubois 44 17. Lingle-Ft. Laram Southeast 43
- 17. Torrington 43 20. Wheatland 37 21. Burns/Pine Bluffs
- 22 Centaurus 26 23. Glenrock 25 25. Wright 23 26. Tongue River 22

27. Cheyenne South 13 29. H.E.M 0

Individual Varsity Results:

- 106: Haven Vrana 3rd Place 4-1 120: Jackson East **DNP 2-2** 126. Scott Larson
- 132: Casey Matthews 138: Thomas Prell DNP 1-2 182: Jacob Prell DNP

DNP 2-2

Individual JV Results: 106: Caden Vrana **DNP 2-2** 113: Landon Norman

1st Place 4-0

- 126: Trev Schneider 1st Individual Women's
- Results: 110: Courtney Matthews: 5th Place 0-4 120: Kyah Miller 1st Place 4-0

were just about one match away from placing, so they also had a successful weekend.

This week the Dogies/Bobcats will host their annual tournament on Friday where McCoy expects 17 teams to be in attendance. Action is expected to begin at 9 a.m. in the Dogie Dome and the middle

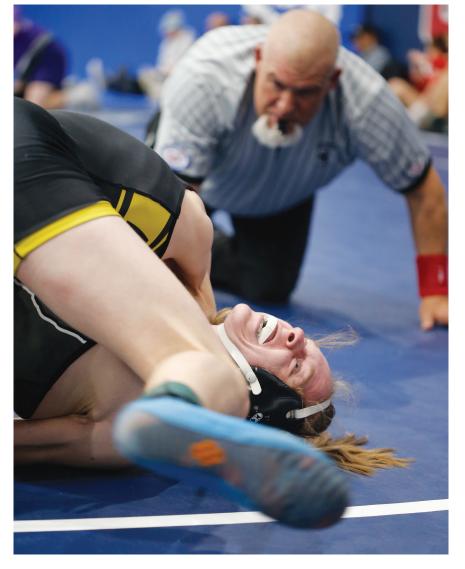


Photo courtesy of Matt Adelman/Douglas Budget

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

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 any-

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."

thing fancy, and was basically

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 Wyatt Cole: 5 rebounds, 1 block JJ Lipp: 2 rebounds, 1 assist

Thatcher Troftgruben: 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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