

News Letter Journal

Weston County

November 12, 2020

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 134 Week 46

COVID-19 numbers are up

■ *First virus death reported as cases climb; Weston County reports highest case rate in state*

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

On Monday, the Wyoming Department of Health reported the first death related to COVID-19 with Weston

County totals on the department's website, although Weston County Public Health Nurse Lori Bickford said she was unable to confirm the death, the specific location of the death, whether the individual was hospitalized

prior to death or any other information regarding potential COVID-19 deaths until she received proper notification from the department. That same day, the News Letter Journal received an obituary for Jim Shields reporting a

death linked to the illness. As the county's first COVID-19 associated death was reported, the state also reports that Weston County now has a case rate of 290.8 per 100,000 over the past seven days, the highest in

the state. Statewide, the rate 94.9 per 100,000 for the same period, according Dr. Sara Thurgood with Monument Health in Newcastle.

— See COVID, Page 7

In short supply

■ *Stock shortages hit businesses due to pandemic*

KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Correspondent

While many people expected a somewhat difficult year when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States in March, just how people and industries would be affected by this unprecedented time in United States and global history was unknown.

While the pandemic has had a negative effect on the health of many around the globe, impacts have also been seen in the economy and in businesses, specifically small businesses. Closures, stock shortages, layoffs and suspensions of services have been widely observed in industry and manufacturing.

Kelly Wood, owner of Woody's Food Center, told the *News Letter Journal* about some of the shortages he's experienced since March. Just like many other stores in the country and world, Woody's first shortage was in toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex and other paper products. Cleaning supplies were also a hard-hit commodity.

Subsequent shortages included bread products, as well as baking ingredients such as flour, sugar, eggs and yeast as people began making their own bread products.

"Produce held out pretty good," Wood said. "Dairy, dry goods and frozen products took the biggest hit." Wood explained that while goods aren't as hard to keep on the shelf as they initially were, some items are still difficult to come by. Processed lunch meat is still in low supply, and Wood said that shortages come in somewhat of a rotation. Some weeks certain products are doing well, and other weeks they take a dip.

"We're ordering whatever is available," Wood said, noting that to deal with the shortages, the store is just taking note of what they're low on and attempting to get the product on the shelf for the consumer as soon as possible.

The other grocery store in town, Decker's Market, has experienced similar shortages. Clint Mullen, store director, said that canned meats, seasoning packages and rice were hard-hit items. Like Woody's, Decker's perishable items, such as produce, stayed pretty steady, but nonperishables, like canned items, have been grabbed up quickly. Mullen said that shortages have been somewhat random for Decker's too, and the

— See Stock, Page 7

Homecoming royalty



Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Newcastle High School seniors Claire Beastrom and Kayne Hinshaw were named 2020 homecoming king and queen at a makeshift coronation ceremony on Tuesday in the Dogie Dome. After postponing homecoming due to COVID-19 concerns, the high school's student council made the decision to move forward with the event before the winter sports season.

Kilpatricks get rightful recognition



Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Local metal worker Joe Dixon with JD Fab & Design created the Kilpatrick Park sign that will welcome visitors at the center entrance to the park at the Weston County Fairgrounds. The purchase of the sign was made possible by the Weston County Travel Commission and Nancy and Donley Darnell.

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

In 1935, the Kilpatrick brothers of Beatrice, Nebraska, former owners of Cambria Fuel Co., gifted Weston County a 36-acre tract of land with the sole purpose of creating a local racing track, according to the Nov. 15, 1935, edition of the *News Letter Journal*.

"This tract of land, which has been named as the 'Kilpatrick Park,' will be used annually for rodeos and other celebrations which will be held in Newcastle," the story said.

It wasn't long after that, according to local history buff Linda Hunt, that the name of the parcel of land was changed to the Weston County Fairgrounds and the Kilpatrick Brothers lost the recognition they deserved.

Hunt explained that through research, including old papers and

Who were the Kilpatrick Brothers?

According to Wyohistory.org, The Kilpatrick Brothers & Collins were instrumental in establishing Newcastle. The brothers opened the first business in Newcastle, the Kilpatrick Brothers & Collins Commissary. They also built a large multipurpose structure that temporarily served as the community hall, schoolhouse and church.

Weston County commissioner's minutes, she discovered that the commissioners accepted the land on Nov. 5, 1935, and that the intention was for the tract to be named for the brothers indefinitely.

— See Park, Page 2

Food drives begin

Walter Sprague
Art and Culture Reporter

Thanksgiving is around the corner. With all the turmoil that 2020 has brought, food has become more important to many people. While there are still plenty of people who have not been hard hit by COVID-19, others have lost jobs, had hours severely cut or have been personally hit with this virus. Many people are in want, and that becomes even more severe as we head into colder weather.

But others are reaching out, digging

— See Food, Page 2

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 35, Lo 20



Friday
Partly Sunny
Hi 46, Lo 30



Saturday
Partly Sunny
Hi 48, Lo 26



Sunday
Windy
Hi 37, Lo 24



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 49, Lo 34



Tuesday
Partly Sunny
Hi 57, Lo 38

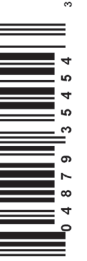


Wednesday
Partly Sunny
Hi 54, Lo 37



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First State Bank's annual customer appreciation day has been postponed until after the New Year. Please watch future advertisements for event details.

First State Bank will be closed Wednesday, November 11 in observation of Veterans Day.

Food from Page 1



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Ken Pitlick, who runs BREAD Inc., said that this year there will be plenty of food to hand out to those in need, and that nobody should have to go without a good Thanksgiving dinner. With donations coming in from many places, including the upcoming food drives by the Newcastle Middle School Student Council and Stuff the Bus, the shelves and refrigerators are full, and they will be fully prepared for the expected rush of people needing food. All the workers at BREAD Inc. volunteer their time to make sure that people who need help can get it. Pictured is Kristi Knight, who has worked at BREAD Inc. for two years. She says it is the best job she has and she is happy she is able to help out people who need it.

deep, and helping to make sure that nobody is going to starve. Among them is the Newcastle Middle School student council, under the supervision of Leslie Morris. For the past two years, the council has sponsored a food drive to help those in need. Morris says that, in a way, they have it structured to make it sort of like a competition with others who collect food, helping to foster a go-get-'em attitude that has made the drives a great success in the past. She is excited to see it this year as well.

"Last year we collected over 600 items," Morris said, "That put us as the greatest contributor for the Stuff The Bus drive."

Troy Allen, head of the school's transportation department, which runs Stuff the Bus, is also working hard to supply the community with food for Thanksgiving. He is also looking forward to seeing if the middle school can be the most significant contributor again this year.

"We have boxes at the elementary, middle and high schools that the students and teachers can donate to," Allen said. He also indicated that they are working to have boxes set up at Woody's Food Center and Decker's Market and possibly

“
Last year we collected over 600 items. That put us as the greatest contributor for the Stuff The Bus drive.”

—Leslie Morris

have buses at both locations. The dates for the Stuff the Bus food drive are Nov. 16-20.

Morris also said that after the food drive is over, student council members will deliver and work with BREAD.

"That allows the kids to see how the BREAD office works," Morris said. She feels this is a good experience for the students and gives them a heart for those who need help.

Ken Pitlick runs the BREAD office. He says that the food pantry is doing very well and continues to be stocked up on food supplies, toiletries and some medical supplies.

"We've been very fortunate to have a lot of donations," Pitlick said, "We have a lot of food for the rush that happens at Thanksgiving."

He also indicated that another truck from Denver was coming in the next day or two. He feels that they are set up

to service Newcastle, not just with food but also with the volunteers who give their time to help the community.

One such person is Kristi Knight, who has been volunteering for a couple of years now. She loves the work and says that it is her favorite thing she does.

"I love that I can help people when they need it the most," she said, as she was sorting through bags, getting them prepared to load with food for people.

Pitlick said that while it's been a year that the need is more significant than it has been in the past, BREAD can still supply the needs of those who sign up.

"People just need to fill out a form," Pitlick said, "Anyone having financial problems can get help. They mark on the form what they need, and then the volunteers bag up what they have and take it out to the vehicles for them."

Anyone needing assistance can contact BREAD Inc. At (307) 746-3542. Their hours of operation are Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 to 1:00. Of course, they will not be open on Thanksgiving Day. They are located at 627 Pine St., next to the Weston County Senior Center.

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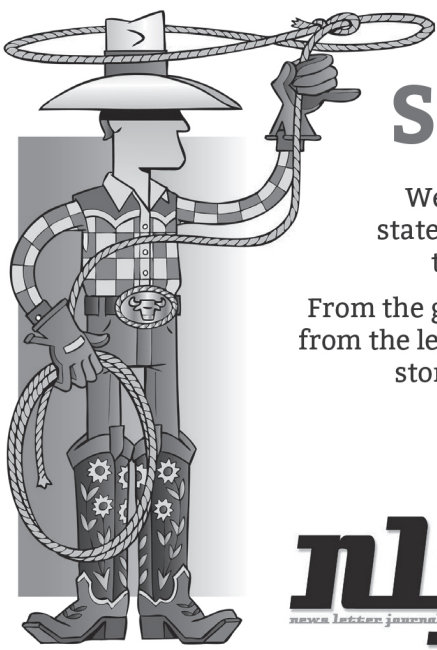
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From the grizzlies in Yellowstone to the latest from the legislature in Cheyenne—we have the stories you want to know about.

Look for "The Cowboy State Tidbit", a piece of Wyoming history, daily on the News Letter Journal Facebook page.



Park from Page 1

"Be it further resolved, that said tract of land be now named, and henceforth be known as 'Kilpatrick Park,'" the minutes state.

The resolution was then signed by Mary C. Titus, Weston County clerk; E.P. Johnson, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners; and T.M. Jessee and Wm. J. Dixon, both members of the board.

After finding this information while working on history projects near the fairgrounds, Hunt

began working with Nancy Darnell, of the Weston County Friends of the Fair, to bring the Kilpatrick name back to the fairgrounds.

Both Darnell and Hunt worked with the Weston County Fair Board to name the grassy area in the center of the fairgrounds property behind the arena "Kilpatrick Park." With the help of the Weston County Travel Commission and Nancy and Donley Darnell, a sign was purchased for the center entrance to the park.

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nlj OPINION

news letter journal

As cases climb, compassion is a must

I am so glad everyone is finally being conscientious about washing his or her hands! I am what some people might call a hypochondriac, but the truth of the matter is that I have health conditions that compromise my immunity. For instance, you get strep throat and your throat hurts. I get strep throat and I'm barely able to swallow, to talk, and possibly ill for a few weeks. Once it put me in the hospital in a very dangerous state. You get the flu and you might have body aches and a runny nose. I get the flu and I am dizzy, bed-ridden, have breathing difficulties, get pneumonia and a sinus infection.



Amy Menerey
Just Thinkin'

Although everyone wants to compare COVID-19 to the flu, it is not a strain of influenza. It is a new strain of coronavirus, and has proven worldwide to be much deadlier than the flu. In its 2019-2020 Influenza Report, the Wyoming Department of Health stated that during the influenza season of October to May there were 16 pneumonia and influenza mortality reports certified. To date, there have been 114 COVID deaths in Wyoming — and this is as we are just beginning to see a rise in cases of COVID in our little corner of the world.

For months, I have sent hugs and condolences from afar as friends in other parts of the country have seen their loved ones ill and sometimes taken from them by this virus. And I have known that this little bubble in northeast Wyoming would someday be hit — it was just a matter of time.

On Oct. 31, Lori Bickford, the Weston County Public Health Nurse, announced on Facebook that Wyoming had been named as the sixth highest rate of new COVID-19 cases in the nation, and the positivity rate and new cases put Weston County in a category as a red zone. She urged the public to wash their hands, maintain six-foot distances, and to wear a mask when that distance could not be maintained.

In response, someone commented that the red zone was only because of the outbreak of cases at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp north of town. This is pretty much the attitude I have seen and heard in the last several months.

"It's just like the flu, no big deal."
"If you get it, you get it."
"It's a hoax."

Kim Vrana, an Upton resident, responded to Bickford's post by stating, "Numbers and statistics mean NOTHING when you have lost loved ones. NOTHING. So far for us gone are two family members and a very dear friend. The family members were older — but previously healthy. The

friend was NOT older and was strong and healthy. Nevertheless, from the day of his positive reading to his death was only two weeks. This is not the flu, folks ..."

On Nov. 3 Kristen Kohlbrand, a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee in Weston County, posted to the Weston County COVID-19 Community Information Facebook page: "PLEASE stay home if you are sick. You don't have to wait for quarantine orders from the state. With the large spike recently I've heard sooooo (sic) much about personal responsibility this whole time, so now's the time to use it. I can completely understand

the asymptomatic ones not feeling the need to stay home, but those who are sick please don't go out in public unless absolutely necessary. This isn't just during COVID, it should be for all illnesses, but it doesn't happen. The culture in the country isn't one to stay home when we are sick, people want to be tough and not leave their coworkers in a bind. People also can't afford to stay home from work, but the more that go in sick, the more people there will be out of work."

This is so true. We don't want to stay home. We don't want to lose our jobs, or our paycheck. But we also don't want to watch as friends and family are taken ill — especially if that illness ends in death. I don't want to be hospitalized, and with my comorbidities and those of my family members I am at risk for that. A rise in COVID hospitalizations — whether they end in death or not — tax the abilities of local hospitals to care for others.

On Nov. 8, Dr. Mark Dowell of Rocky Mountain Infectious Diseases in Casper, Wyo., posted a video update to Facebook. He said that at the time of his video, there were 56 hospitalized COVID-19 infected patients at Wyoming Medical Center. He described a patient, a 29-year-old, in severe respiratory failure with staph infection in her blood. She was well until three days prior. Staff members are infected as well, he stated, and he blamed social gatherings as one of the reasons for the spread.

Dr. Dowell said, "It's a mess. I think social distancing out there is lousy. The hospital is getting overwhelmed."

He stressed that when staff are dealing with time-intensive COVID patients, they may not be able to handle emergencies like heart attacks and strokes. "We need to step up to the plate ... we predicted this last spring," Dr. Dowell said.

"Some people will not comply with [wearing masks], I understand that, but if you appeal to the common good,

as citizens of our state, and doing the American duty that they should do, people should mask," he said. "You are endangering everyone around you. Is this a lecture? No. Is this alarmist? No. I'm in the trenches, I'm seeing it, I'm living it. We've got to step to the plate now," he said. "I'm appealing to you to step up to the plate and do it. No more excuses; it's not political, this is health, this is a health emergency. We need to do it yesterday."

COVID-19 has hit Wyoming, and it has hit it hard. We are now seeing the surge in cases many of us predicted months ago. Our wide-open spaces and our small populations do not protect us from it — it is a virus, and it doesn't care who you are, where you are from, what your politics are, or how old you are.

Hand washing is important — now and always. Distancing is important. And masks are also important. But so is contact tracing. It is a fact that you can contract COVID and be asymptomatic. You can be in contact with someone who is positive and not have any symptoms or know that you have it. This is why contact tracing is done, and quarantines are suggested.

On Nov. 6, a Wyoming Department of Health release stated: "Contact tracing involves calling people who have tested positive to find out about their activities and also sometimes potential close contacts so they can take action to help prevent further spread of the virus."

"With this pandemic and with other diseases, we consider contract tracing to be one of our most important strategies to slow and limit the progress of a virus," said Dr. Alexia Harrist, state health officer and state epidemiologist with WDH. "Overall, it can help protect you and your family and friends from illness and can support your community's efforts to keep schools and businesses operating."

The release continued: "Recent dramatic increases in Wyoming's case counts have made it challenging for state and county public health representatives to handle the volume of contact tracing calls and related activities as quickly as they were able to at earlier points."

"To make the most of our available resources we will focus now on following up in a timely manner with residents who have tested positive. Close contacts may also receive calls at times from public health representatives, but only in certain priority situations and settings," Harrist said. "Because not everyone who is identified as a close contact should expect a call from a public health representative for now, we have worked to offer easy-to-understand information available to help people know what to expect and what they should do,"

Harrist said." According to a post by Kohlbrand, Weston County Public Health cannot keep up with contact tracing notifications. So, she tells us, it is up to us as individuals who care about our community to do our own contact notifications. This is unfortunate but I know it's nearly impossible for Public Health to keep up with the rising rates of infection here, without more staff.

This is going to get a lot worse before it gets better, people. Out in public, whether it's in Newcastle or our nearby communities in South Dakota where positive COVID cases are also hitting all-time highs, I rarely see anyone wearing masks or social distancing.

Look, I don't want to lose my brother, who's had part of a lung removed due to cancer, or my mother, who is elderly, just because other people don't have the courtesy to do something as simple as wear a mask or keep distant. I don't want to unknowingly contract COVID because someone in the community thinks it's not real and I bring it home.

It's not a political statement; it is simply caring for others in your community.

Throughout the last decade and a half that I have been in Weston County I've seen how this community takes care of each other with benefits, charities and outreach. You are the first to step up to give money for someone struggling with cancer bills. You are the first to provide food for those less fortunate. You are the first to lend a hand to help community seniors. You are the first to offer help — so why not do the same when it comes to our health?

When you wear a mask, it's not so much that you are protecting yourself, you are protecting me, you are protecting your friends, your neighbors, the person in line behind you who is going home to their loved one who may have immunity issues.

If you get COVID-19 will you just have the sniffles? Will you just have flu-like symptoms? Possibly. Can it kill you? Can it kill your loved one? Yes, it could. Why not do what we can to prevent it, so we don't have to find out which one it will be.

It's not about living in fear. It's about living responsibly. It's about doing what you can to help yourself and others. You are the first to step up when helping your neighbors, why not be the first to keep the numbers from rising in our community. It's here, folks. This is not a myth or something that happens in other places. It's here. Let's do what we can now.

I ask everyone, remember to social distance. Wear the mask if you can't. And please, please, now and always, remember to wash your hands!

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WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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WHAT

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WHEN

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WHY

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

Where does Wyoming fit in a Biden world?

As residents of the most Republican Donald Trump-loving state in the country, many Wyoming folks are reeling in the face of the apparent election of their arch-nemesis Democrat Joe Biden.



Bill Sniffin
My Wyoming

As I write this on Nov. 8, Biden has been declared president by the AP and all the major news media, including Fox News.

What are some of the realities connected with that result? Here are some thoughts: First, nothing is going to happen until Jan. 20 when Biden takes the oath of office. It will be interesting how President Trump deals with issues between now and inauguration day.

Second, January will be a huge month for politics. Both Georgia Senate races will go to a special runoff during that month. It will be a donnybrook, as control of the Senate will depend on the results.

Third, since the presidency

is now in the hands of the Democrats, the key to a return to some kind of normalcy will be if the Republicans continue to control the Senate. But the GOP has to win at least one of those Georgia seats.

Fourth, the reality is that in the big picture Wyoming is going to be hit hard by energy programs proposed by the new administration, especially when it comes to fossil fuels.

Fifth, Wyoming will have continued clout in Congress, but only on the Republican side. The GOP needs control of the Senate to be able to use that clout.

And finally, sixth, some smart GOP operatives think Trump should come up with a plan right now to give a path to citizenship to a whole bunch of Hispanics. One of the big surprises of the 2020 election was how many Hispanics voted for Trump. This could bode well for the GOP going forward on a national level.

A look at who Biden picks

as his Cabinet members will speak volumes about how his administration would treat Wyoming's fossil fuels. Will he pick a Green New Dealer to head up Interior and other sensitive posts? So far, he is emphasizing moderation and cooperation.

Biden backed off during the waning days of the campaign on his original vow to end oilfield fracking. Ultimately, he clarified that he meant fracking "on federal land," which affects Wyoming greatly. Most of the fracking in eastern states is on private land.

Hard-core Democrats have to ask the question: Why did so many of the big-money Wall Street bankers back Biden? Will money continue to rule this country? Can Democrat idealism survive this big-money influence?

Let's talk about the national news media. It was shameful how one-sided their coverage has been for four years against Trump. Can we expect to see a fair media again or will it continue to be the public relations arm for the Democrat Party?

Exit polling showed the two biggest issues in the presidential election were President Trump himself and the COVID-19 epidemic. Millions of voters were weary of the drama.

When it came to symbolism, the biggest identifiers of the two parties were a MAGA hat for Republicans and a face mask for Democrats.

Back here in Wyoming, the election saw an amazing transition finally occur in Sweetwater County. Long considered a Democrat bastion, pundit Island Richards in Rock Springs pointed out that his county voted 70 percent Republican. This sounds more like Park County than Sweetwater, frankly.

Two popular and effective Democrat legislators were dislodged when Lisa Anselmi-Dalton lost her Senate seat and Stan Blake lost his House seat. Both of these results were considered upsets by outsiders looking in at the Sweetwater County elections. But as Richards points out, to folks living there, the trend lines showed way more GOP voters,

which helped explain those results.

Both Wyoming statewide candidates received national support but not to the same extent. It appeared that Senate candidate Merav Ben-David got 10 times as much national financial assistance as House candidate Lynnette Grey Bull.

Yet all that extra money made no difference. Grey Bull got 24.6 percent of the votes among four candidates for U. S. House. Ben-David got 26.7 percent of the vote among just two Senate candidates. Those races were runaway victories for Senate by former U. S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis and for House by current U. S. Rep. Liz Cheney.

In an earlier column, I mentioned how often we were getting phoned by Ben-David's campaign. I erred in referring to someone as speaking in a "non-Wyoming" sounding voice. Four people complained loudly to me that I was not sensitive enough. I agree. But I am learning. Please be patient with me as I navigate the current world we live in.



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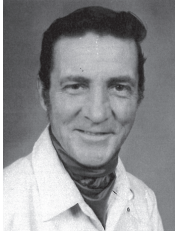
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Obituaries

BERNARD ‘BUD’ LEROY ARP
Oct. 16, 1935–Oct. 30, 2020



A memorial and reception for Bernard “Bud” Arp will be held Nov. 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the VFW Hall in Newcastle. The family asks that people bring memories and stories of Bud.

Bud Arp, age 85, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, at Weston County Manor in Newcastle, Wyo.

GERALD DEAN BULLARD
May 13, 1931–Nov. 3, 2020

Gerald Bullard passed away at 89 years old on Nov. 3, 2020, at his home in Newcastle, Wyo., joining his wife Judy and son, Jerry, in heaven.

Gerald was born May 13, 1931, to Cecil Dean and Dora Hildred (Boyd) Bullard in Wister, Okla. The Bullards moved to Stonewall, Okla., when Gerald was 14. Cecil purchased The Main Theatre where Gerald found two life-long loves: movies and his wife, Judy.

Gerald married Judy Thompson on May 21, 1950. Together, they raised four children, Jerry, John, Craig and Melinda. Gerald and Judy were a “dynamic duo,” running multiple successful businesses. They were a team, both at work and at home.

The couple planned to purchase a movie theatre in Fort Gibson, Okla., but it burned down before the sale, leading Gerald to take his first job in the oil field. That work led to a move to Wyoming and the founding of Goodwell, Inc. in 1968 at Upton, Wyo.

Gerald’s two passions were movie theaters and the oil field, which he worked not only to make a living, but because he loved them. Gerald and Judy owned theaters in Wyoming, Nebraska and South Dakota. Goodwell and GEJU Theatres played a major role in the lives of the entire family.

Gerald and Judy were nomadic, traveling between their various businesses in Wyoming and Nebraska. After Judy’s death, he returned to Wyoming in 2011 and remained active with the businesses and traveled with his dog, Ruby.

Gerald’s passions, outside of movies, were bowling with Judy and fishing with his boys. His fishing trips took him as far away as Canada.

Gerald is survived by his brothers, Wayne Bullard (Pat) of Allen, Okla., and Jimmy Bullard (Marilyn) of Tulsa, Okla.; sister, Sue Herrin of Oklahoma City, Okla.; sons, John Bullard (Susan) of Spearfish, S.D., and Craig Bullard (Janine) of Alliance, Neb.; daughter, Melinda Powell

(David) of Gretna, Neb.; and daughter-in-law, Rosalie Bullard of Evans, Colo. He also leaves behind many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all.

Gerald was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Judy; eldest son, Jerry; and his sister, Linda Kay Rowe.

Cremation has taken place and Gerald will be inurned next to Judy at the United Methodist Church in Alliance. The family will host a memorial service May 13, 2021, at the Dogie Theatre in Newcastle. Contact John, Craig or Melinda for more information.

Those who wish to honor Gerald may make a donation to the charity of their choosing. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railroad Ave., Newcastle, WY 82701. Condolences may also be expressed at meridianmortuary.com.

SALLY FAY LAMB
Feb. 14, 1944–Nov. 2, 2020

Sally Fay Lamb, 76, of Casper, Wyo., passed away on Nov. 2, 2020, at Casper Mountain Rehabilitation and Care Center.

She was born on Feb. 14, 1944, in Danville, Ill., to Earl and Elizabeth Dunkley. She moved to Casper with her family when she was in the eighth grade. She married LeRoy Lamb on Jan. 15, 1961.

In 1970, they moved to Newcastle, Wyo., where they raised their four daughters. She worked mainly in retail and loved working at SaverSmart for several years.

In 2001 they moved to Torrington, Wyo., to be equal distance from their daughters and grandkids. While in Torrington, she worked at Vandel Drug for several years. She loved being around her horses and cats. She also loved gardening, making the holidays special, and attending as many of her grandkids activities as possible. In 2018, they moved back to Casper to be closer to family.

She is survived by her husband, Roy of Casper; daughters, LaDonna Welton (Wes) of Sidney, Neb., Brenda Hanks (Rex) of Glenrock, Wyo., and Shawna Rettinghouse (Stoney) of Newcastle; grandkids, Jessica Herbert (Bronc) of Broadwater, Neb., Aspen Gutknecht (Kevin) of Knoxville, Tenn., Jordan Hanks (Diana) of Temecula, Calif., Stoney Rettinghouse Jr., Alex Rettinghouse, and Colter Rettinghouse of Newcastle; and four great-grandkids with one on the way.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Elizabeth Dunkley; her brother, William Dunkley; and her daughter, Carrie Lamb (Wendtland).

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to the Alzheimer’s Association or a charity of your choice in Sally’s name.

A viewing was held at Newcomer Funeral Home Nov. 9. Services were held at Newcomer Funeral Home on Nov. 10 followed by burial at Highland Cemetery. A reception was held at 40 Sage Hills Rd. Glenrock, WY.

A special message for Sally’s family can be left at newcomercasper.com.

JAMES ‘JIM’ MELVIN SHIELDS
June 29, 1943–Nov. 5, 2020

James Melvin Shields, 77, passed away Nov. 5, 2020, at Monument Health Custer Hospital after a short but brave battle with COVID-19 pneumonia.

Jim was born at his Grandma Portwood’s house, June 29, 1943, in Newcastle, Wyo., to O.J. and Sylvia Mae (Portwood) Shields. He was the eighth of 10 children. When Jim was 4 years old, the family moved to Osage, Wyo., and later, Fiddler Creek. Jim attended elementary school in Osage and junior high and high school in Upton, Wyo., graduating with the class of 1961.

After graduation, Jim moved to Longview, Wash., where he worked at Longview Fiber Company as a painter.

On Dec. 27, 1970, he married the love of his life, Carolyn Rich, in Newcastle. The moment he laid eyes on her the first time, he told his best friend that he was going to marry her. This December would have been their 50th wedding anniversary.

After beginning their life together in Washington, Jim and Carolyn moved back home to Newcastle in 1974. Jim’s pride and joy were their children, Brenda, Barrie, Brandon and Brittany, and their grandsons, Grayson and Gavin — also known as the “BeeGeez.”

Jim worked for Rich Bros. in the oil field, then later, went to work driving coal truck for Jacob’s Ranch Mine. After retiring from the mine, he went to work at Weston County Senior Services. Jim loved driving the seniors and other members of the community around to various places, as well as delivering meals.

His family said, “Aside from his family, Jim’s passion was music. From an early age with his siblings at home around the piano, through school in choir and in band, and until the very end, music was a part of him. Jim didn’t play music by reading the notes, he would hear the music and play the song. He always made sure to let people know his ability to play music was a gift from God. Jim shared his gift of music in many ways throughout the community, including most recently gifting copies of his CDs to many.”

Jim loved the community and being able to help in so many ways. He loved painting signs for the baseball fields and he

— See **Obituaries**, Page 6

Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited to attend meetings
Tim Qualheim, Worshipful Master • Mike Hutchinson, Secretary




faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

Nov. 13 1 Chronicles 17:1-15	Nov. 17 Psalm 124
Nov. 14 1 Chronicles 17:16-27	Nov. 18 Psalm 125
Nov. 15 Psalm 121	Nov. 19 Psalm 126

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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

 <p>JackMaster Construction Craig Wiggins 746-3521 For all your construction needs</p>	 <p>Jake Shook Logging, Inc. 628 Birch Street Newcastle, WY</p>	 <p>First State Bank 24 North Sumner 746-4411 or 1-888-788-2892 www.fsbnewcastle.com</p>	 <p>Farm Bureau Insurance 360 W. Main 746-4471</p>	 <p>Sharon's Home Health Care Sharon Kanode, RN Owner/Director Toll Free: 1-800-457-6834</p>	 <p>Arrow Service "We Deliver" 468-2340, Upton</p>	 <p>TOWNSEND COMPANY INCORPORATED 746-2487 P.O. Box 760 Newcastle, WY</p>
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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago
Nov. 16, 1995**

Brian E. Klinker has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman. Klinker is an electronic warfare systems technician with the 355th Component Repair Squadron, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. He is the son of Richard D. Klinker of Newcastle and Nancy L. Liles of Osage. The airman is a 1991 graduate of Newcastle High School.

The Candle Light Living Christmas will be held Friday, Dec. 1 at the museum. The open house will start at 5 p.m. and last until 9 p.m. for the community.

Dallas Van Buren and Lavonne Townsend were married Nov. 3 by Justice of the Peace Joan Piana in the home of the bride's parents,

Harold and Charlotte McNutt of Newcastle.

The Weston County 4-H Council met Monday, Nov. 6. Chris Aimone reported on the leader training which all new leaders are required to take. One session will be held in Newcastle and one in Upton.

Pearl Kennedy attended the brass band musical program and entertainment at the Crouch Auditorium in Newcastle last Thursday.

Vi Coutant attended the sixth grade and middle school band and chorus concert Tuesday at the Boal Auditorium in Upton.

Wednesday night Neil Thompson, Julie, Tyler and Shelby Abbott and Vi Coutant suppered at the Diary Dell.

Friday Oct. 20 Art Hagerman and Dick Ludemann were in St. Onge to sell and buy cattle. Al Turney brought peaches

and pears to Alma Hagerman Tuesday afternoon which she has been busy canning.

Bill and Jo Fulton worked cattle at the ranch with the help of Roger Cossart, Jim Millett, Tom and Waynette Nichols and Reuben Ritthaler in preparation for shipping Wednesday.

**50 Years Ago
Nov. 12, 1970**

Six Dogie football players have been named to the Absaroka conference team and five players received honorable mention. Offensive players were John Halsey, quarterback; Randy Chittim, back; and Bill Spracklen, guard. Defensive players were Bill Lunney, end; Bob Dilts, linebacker; and Don Cool, halfback.

Robert Smith joined the Newcastle Police Department effective Nov. 5, according to

Police Chief James Passons. Smith comes to Newcastle from Cheyenne, where he was with the Cheyenne Police Department for some two years.

A loss at Douglas high school at Ellsworth Air Force base at Rapid City, S.D., resulted in a 6-3 season for the Newcastle Dogies.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Cranston attended the benefit dance in honor of Steve Welch Thursday evening in Gillette.

Mrs. Mick Dowdy and Lisa and Mrs. John Ramsay were in Newcastle on business Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon VanOfferen were dinner guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Mick Shannon.

Mrs. Ernest Thompson and family were in Newcastle Saturday to shop and on business. Mrs. Jack Boyd was hostess at a TriChem paint party at her home Friday afternoon. Mrs. Frank Esquivel was the demonstrator.

Miss Dian Keltner was a Tuesday overnight guest at the home of Vanda Sipe. Mrs. Ray Eatherton was honored at a belated birthday supper when her husband was host at the Western Café Sunday evening.

John Barker Jr. and Louis Mettler hunted elk in the Big Horn area last week. Mrs. Mick Dowdy and Lisa and Susan were in Newcastle on Wednesday for a dental appointment for Susan.

Miss Jane Ann Cheek and Vernon Carl Seeley exchanged marriage vows in a double ring ceremony performed at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Osage on October 31.

**100 Years Ago
Nov. 11, 1920**

Slipping on the snow while sawing wood with a gasoline engine at his home on the Limestone this week, George McCoy sustained a broken and badly twisted arm when his coat sleeve caught in the belt and he was drawn into the shaft of the engine. He was saved from further injury by prompt action of a helper who was with him at the time.

Two years ago this morning at eleven o'clock the signing of the Armistice between the Allied Powers and Germany marked the beginning of a new era in World history. For four years the battlefronts of Europe had flamed with death while a stricken world watched the lines wavering forward and back toward the Rhine.

After many delays, due to many causes, the News-Journal is this week presenting to its hundreds of subscribers, the most complete map ever compiled on the Osage oil field.

A National rig, which will be placed on section 36-45-62, directly behind the Hanowerwell drilled twenty years ago west of Newcastle, arrived this morning and is being unloaded ready to move out.

Lester and Merle Johnson are threshing at Frank Miller's and expect to thresh for Frank Foth on Monday.

Leonard Peterson was rounding up cattle Tuesday and Saturday. Clyde Baldwin was in this neighborhood last week buying young chickens and turkeys.

Leonard Peterson, Ed Erickson and Leslie Simpson went to Newcastle Sunday. Each took a load of wheat down.

Lawrence Shell from Green Mountain country was a Cambria shopper Monday. John Christenson, one of Green Mountain's prosperous farmers loaded a car of wheat last week.

A number of families living on the hill have recently moved down into the canyon. Jean De Vol spent the week-end at the home of Miss Mary Hagan in Newcastle attending a Hallowe'en party of which Miss Mary was the hostess.



Photo courtesy of Weston County Historical Society

Pictured is the Fairview "Mother Helpers".

WHAT'S UP

November 2020

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

Fri Nov. 13	3-7PM 5:30PM 6PM 7PM	Up in Arms Gun Show BINGO Wyo. Repub. Party State Central Committee Dinner "Sergeant York" Movie, Free to Veterans	Cam-Plex, Gillette VFW Hall Newcastle Lodge Dogie Theatre
Sat Nov. 14	9-5 7PM	Up in Arms Gun Show "Sergeant York" Movie, Free to Veterans	Cam-Plex, Gillette Dogie Theatre
Sun Nov. 15	9-3 7PM	Up in Arms Gun Show "Sergeant York" Movie, Free to Veterans	Cam-Plex, Gillette Dogie Theatre
Mon Nov. 16	6PM 7PM	WC Children's Center Directors Mtg Newcastle City Council	WCCC City Council Chambers
Tues Nov. 17	9AM 5:30PM 7-8PM	WC Commissioners Annual Chamber of Commerce Members Meeting Alanon Meeting	Courthouse Pizza Barn Senior Center Family Room
Wed Nov. 18	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	WCHS
Th Nov. 19	6PM 6PM 7:30PM	WCHS Board of Trustees Mtg. Veteran's Memorial Meeting Masons #13	Board Room @WCHS Michaels Room, Senior Center Masonic Lodge

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nov. 12 Lois Ann Boulden Trey Sylte	Nov. 13 Bryan Gardner Larry & Darlene Berger	Nov. 18 Shel & Loretta Murphy
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Gun Show

Up in Arms, LLC • Cam-Plex
Gillette, WY • 4635 Reta Drive
November 13, 14, and 15
Friday 3-7pm • Saturday 9-5pm • Sunday 9-3pm

HERITAGE .22 PISTOL GIVEAWAY!
Drawing on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2 pm
Must be present to win

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-Dana Mann-Tavegia

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ANNUAL MEETING

Annual All-members Meeting
Tuesday Nov. 17th @ 5:30 p.m. at the Pizza Barn.
Refreshments and snacks provided.
Questions, call Janet at 746-2739




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For nearly 60 years, Dixon Bros has been hauling refined petroleum, propane, crude oil, and ammonium nitrate for customers on the eastern side of the northern Rocky Mountains. The Newcastle WY-based tank truck carrier runs approximately 100 tractors and 260 tank and dry bulk trailers.



For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Buildings housed a variety of businesses



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent
With Leonard Cash

In this week's installment of "History on Main," local historian Leonard Cash continues to travel down memory lane to paint a picture of our historic Main Street by pulling out his records on lot 8 of block 10 on Warren Avenue, after finishing up lot 7, which once housed the Hested Stores Co.

The first article in Cash's records is from the July 30, 1890, issue of the *Newcastle News*, which reported that D.W. Faukes of Sundance was moving his drug store to lot 9 in Newcastle. By the end of the year, James O'Becker was opening a business next to Faukes' property. The Dec. 19, 1890, issue announced that O'Becker, who had been in the livery business for the past year, "has severed his connection with Holly in the old business and will open a first-class restaurant in D.W. Faukes and Co. building."

Jumping a decade ahead through the newspapers to an article from the Nov. 7, 1902, *Newcastle News Journal*, we see a report that a bank was to be opened in Evan's Pharmacy on Dec. 18 on lot 11. According to Cash, this pharmaceutical shop was located near the present-day Strawberry Patch Quilt shop or "right in that area," but he's including the history here because eventually the bank moved to lot 8. Jacob Fahendrich and William McCrea were two of the major advocates for the bank, and the article reported that the community showed interest.

"The growing business in every line of trade in Weston county in these good days of republican rule seems to demand another institution of this kind and the citizens herein



Photo courtesy of Ann Miller Museum

Records from the late 19th century and early 20th century indicate that the buildings on Newcastle's Main Street, pictured here, at times housed a pharmacy, a livery, a bank, and a merchant.

mentioned have seen fit to take matters in hand and push the enterprise to be a successful end," the article says.

The Stock Growers and Merchant Co. opened its doors on Monday, according to the Jan. 2, 1903, paper, and the opening was "most satisfactory, and in fact the business thus far has been much greater than they had expected."

Evidently, that month received excessive rain because the Jan. 30, 1903, issue says that "a ferry boat should be placed on the crossing between the Stockgrowers Bank and Geo. & Bob, so the pedestrians can cross the street in wet weather."

Although not a boat, the bank did receive an improvement by Feb. 6, 1903. The institution was supplied with beautiful new curtains with the business name printed on it in gold letters.

The following year, the bank sent out "beautiful calendars" to patrons for the year of 1904, according to the Jan. 4, 1904, paper.

An advertisement from July 7, 1905, announced that the basement under Stock Growers, which had two "dwelling houses" was available for rent. Inquiries could be made to C.J.

Fahendrich.

On Oct. 13, 1905, the *Newcastle News Journal* announced that a contract was let for the excavation of a two-story brick building and a basement to be erected by W.J. McCrea next to the D.W. Faukes building on lot 8 for the new bank. It was to be the same size as the Elk Drug Store on lot 9 (which Cash said he would cover in more detail in the next series). The article said that the upper story was to most likely be used for apartments.

"When completed the building will be a good one and means the outlays of many thousand dollars to Mr. McCrea," the paper reported.

Contractors Hart and Harlow completed the cellar, according to the Oct. 20, 1905, newspaper. The following issue noted that material for the foundation was being hauled.

Work was "vigorously pushed" toward completion, reported the Nov. 10, 1905, edition. By Nov. 17, the foundation was complete and the bricklaying commenced about a week later.

The work on the walls of the new bank was "moving along nicely," according to an article from Dec. 8, 1905. As work

progressed, the "beauty" of the building was "apparent," the following issue says.

"When completed it will be one of the finest if not the finest looking building in the city," the article says.

By Jan. 5, 1906, the brick work was complete, and the carpenter started working on the interior. A few weeks later, the post on the front was unmasked and revealed the potential beauty the building was going to have, the paper reported.

On Feb. 23, 1906, the paper announced that Stock Growers finally moved into the new building, which was "very nice and conveniently arranged."

"The new building is built especially for banking purposes and being fitted up with an eye to the convenience of the business in all that a bank could desire," the March 9, 1906, paper says. "It is one of the pleasantest business houses in town."

The article raved that the new building was "attractive to the eye." That summer, Stock Growers decided to partner with and work in "harmony" with the First National Bank, its competitor in town, according to the June 22, 1906, issue.

Arrangements were being made by men from Crook and Weston counties to possibly construct a bank in Moorcroft.

By June 29, 1906, the *Cheyenne Tribune* reported that "articles of incorporation have been filled in the office of the Secretary of State of the Bank of Moorcroft ... with a capital of \$10,000."

Carpenters were busily engaged in fitting up the new bank building in Newcastle, according to the Aug. 24, 1906, local paper.

On Sept. 16, 1908, the paper announced that First National Bank consummated the purchase of the capital stock of Stock Growers and Merchant Bank and moved into the "splendid" home of Stock Growers, "where the confined business of the latter institution will be closed."

"This will be enabled to handle larger deals and hence be of added benefit to the general business of the community," the article says. "One pleasing feature of the transaction is that Newcastle and Weston County will not lose any of the men who formed the Stock Growers and Merchants bank as they all have other interests. ... (W)e understand that the desire on the part

of the majority stockholders to more closely confine attention to their main interest is what prompted the sale."

The July 5, 1907, issue reported that Charles Dow put a new coat of dark paint on the bank.

According to the Miscellaneous Record Deed Book 2, page 119 from the courthouse files, the bank was handed over to Mary McCrea in September of 1911 when William McCrea passed away. Around the same time, the courthouse files report that an agreement was made between McCrea and the Fawkes of lot 9, which was still a drug store, for "a party wall agreement for two buildings."

McCrea held on to the building until May 24, 1920 (she leased it to E.P. Coyle around 1919) when she sold it to Mayor Pete Kinney, according to the courthouse files from page 447 of Warranty Deed Record Book 13 and newspaper records from May 27, 1920.

Little information is available for the 1920s regarding the former bank building, so Cash will pick up the story next with the 1930s when the jewelry and beauty shop moved in.

Obituaries

from Page 4

was our family handyman. He would help wherever needed, even over the phone. Jim never met a stranger and had the ability to make friends wherever he went."

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Chuck; and

his three sisters, Betty, Esther and Naomi.

Jim is survived by his wife, Carolyn, Newcastle; daughters, Brenda, Barrie and Brittany; son, Brandon (Alyssa); grandsons, Grayson and Gavin; and granddogs Jovie and Juno, all

of Rapid City, S.D.; brother, John (Bertie), Casper, Wyo.; sisters, Ruthie Norris of Payson, Ariz., Lois Mirich of Lingle, Wyo., Martha Rich of Newcastle, and Sarah (John) Wolf of Phoenix, Ariz.; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Shields of Arlington, Texas, Ann Rich

of Douglas, Wyo., Marilyn Wright of Newcastle, and Brenda (Al) Costello of Newcastle; brothers-in-law, Terry (Barrett) Rich; Dick (Bonnie) Rich, all of Newcastle; and numerous nieces and nephews, along with a host of friends.

A memorial has been established to Weston County Senior Services for the purchase of a player piano so that Jim's music will live on.

Due to the COVID pandemic, a Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date.

THE NEWS LETTER JOURNAL

PERSON of the YEAR

WHO WILL IT BE?

Who made a difference in Weston County this year?
Or in your life? Or in the life of your neighbors?
Nominate that someone who gave a little extra for the
News Letter Journal Person of the Year Award!

Send nominee's name, contact information and a brief explanation of why this person deserves nomination to: News Letter Journal, PO Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701, email to editor@newslj.com, or drop off at 14 W. Main Street.
Please include your name and phone number as well.

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Cynthia M. Lummis

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COVID

from Page 1

“Just for comparison, Weston County is sitting at just under 300 cases per 100,000 people, which is among the highest rates in the world, currently,” Thurgood explained. “That makes Weston County the highest county for rate of cases in the state – more than double the rate of the next highest county. ... There are only three counties in North Dakota with higher case rates than Weston County.”

She noted that currently North Dakota is currently the worst state in the nation as far as cases go with some counties showing over 400 cases per 100,000.

“The numbers are in constant flux, but South Dakota, specifically the Black Hills area, which obviously spills over into our part of Wyoming, is vying for that top spot,” Thurgood said.

As cases continue to climb, so does the death rate, Thurgood said. She reported that, in the past seven days, Wyoming deaths are up 145%, while South Dakota has seen its death rates increase by 90% in the past two weeks.

“These numbers are constantly changing, obviously. As eastern South Dakota is starting to stabilize with regard to its rate of increase in cases, we’re starting to hit our highest numbers yet. And those numbers are vying with North Dakota in regard to the highest rates in the world for cases,” Thurgood said. “We’ve had several weeks now in the Black Hills counties where test positivity rates have exceeded 40%, and last week there were days when it was over 60%.”

As cases around Newcastle and Weston County climb, the ability to get patients with COVID-19 to facilities that can treat them is becoming increasingly more difficult, according to Newcastle Ambulance Service owner Roger Hespe.

“Hospitals in the surrounding areas are on divert status. Usually we are taking people to Rapid, Gillette and Casper. Now we are taking them to Lakewood, Colorado, and Billings, Montana,” Hespe said. “The reason we are having to take patients further is because these hospitals are filled with COVID-19 patients.”

He noted that the local ambulance service has been “slammed” the past few weekends and not just with COVID-19 patients.

“Don’t get me wrong, though, we are picking up COVID-19 patients in our community and taking them to Weston County Health Services ... And then we are transporting them to the nearest facility with a bed for them.”

— Roger Hespe, Newcastle Ambulance Service

“Don’t get me wrong, though, we are picking up COVID-19 patients in our community and taking them to Weston County Health Services,” Hespe said. “And then we are transporting them to the nearest facility with a bed for them.”

According to Thurgood, that is the real red flag for Weston County.

“Regardless of whether or not our patients have COVID-19, if we can’t get our sickest people a hospital bed at higher-level facilities, fatalities are going to increase dramatically,” Thurgood said. “This trend is very concerning. It’s pretty clear Weston County is on a very bad trajectory, and I really worry about what the coming months will bring as we go deeper into winter and flu season.”

As previously reported by the News Letter Journal, Weston County Health Services does not have the ability to treat long-term COVID-19 patients due to a lack of ventilators and only one negative pressure isolation room. The two ventilators at the facility, according

to CEO Maureen Cadwell, are for short-term use only.

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that the “excess death” rate from COVID-19 among individuals 25 to 44 years old is up 26.5%, she said, death is not the only concern.

“COVID-19 is now the leading cause of death in people 25 to 44 years old. So even though it affects older patients more predictably, younger patients are not spared,” Thurgood said, noting that the unpredictability of the illness and the potential long-term effects in younger patients are concerning.

“This virus is insidious, and we still don’t know why it affects some one way and for others it’s just a common cold. Until we know how to determine who is ‘truly’ at risk and why, I just assume anyone can be,” Thurgood said.

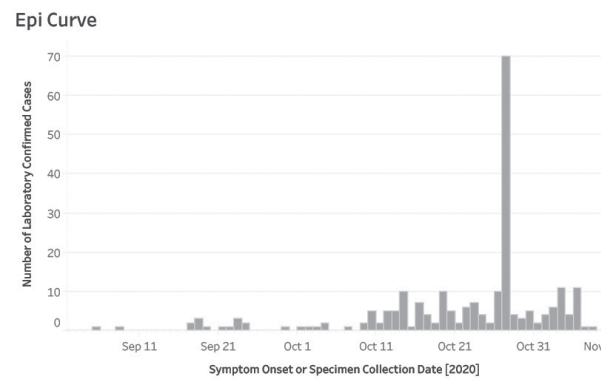
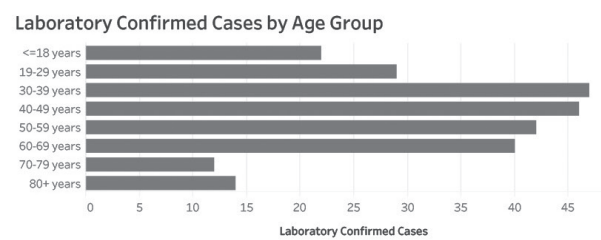
As of Monday, the Wyoming Department of Health was reporting 265 confirmed cases in Weston County, 56 probable with 155 of those lab-confirmed cases being active. The “hot spot” COVID-19 map from the New York Times currently shows the cases centering in Newcastle, although Lori Bickford, Weston County’s public health nurse, would not comment on the location of the cases.

Statewide, confirmed cases climbed to 16,442, another 2,800 probable and at least 127 deaths related to the illness.

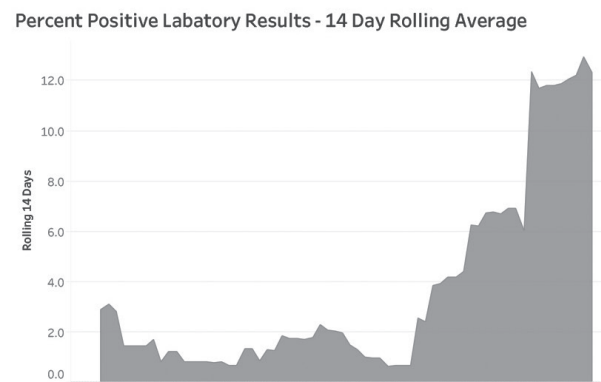
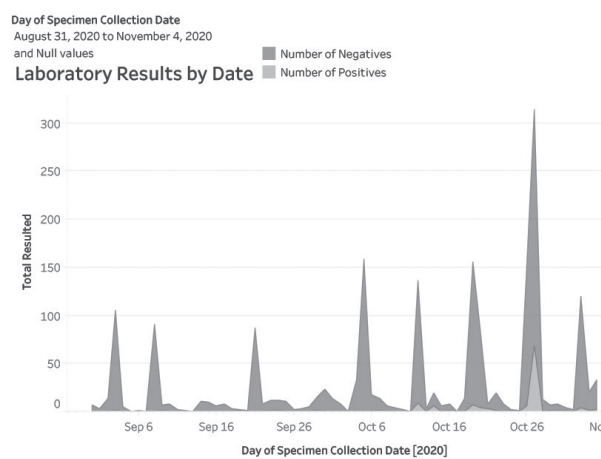
A total of 2,648 tests have been performed on county residents with 5.17% of those coming back positive since March 1. In that same time, Wyoming has performed 305,408 tests on residents with 5.4% of those coming back positive.

State and County Dashboards

Cases and Contacts
This Dashboard was last updated: November 9, 2020 12:45 PM
Total Lab Confirmed Cases: 256 Total Probable Cases: 54
Total Active Cases: 147 Total Recovered Probable Cases: 32
Total Recovered Cases: 109 Total Contacts: 169
Total Deaths: 0



Laboratory Information



Courtesy of Wyoming Department of Health, Nov. 9, 2020

COVID at the camp

The Wyoming Department of Corrections reported on Monday, Nov. 9, that further testing at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp in Newcastle shows an increase in the number of cases at the facility.

As reported last week by the News Letter Journal, 80 tests at the facility came back positive Nov. 2. A week later, the department reported that a total of 141 inmates had tested positive, up from 73 a week ago, while 21 staff members had tested positive, up from seven a week ago.

The department further reported that 61 of the positive inmates have recovered as well as seven staff members. The camp will once again undergo 100% surveillance testing this week for all staff and inmates to watch for further exposure, according to the press release.

Stock

from Page 1

store does not always know what items will be unavailable.

“You order it and you just can’t get it,” Mullen said, noting that while items are sometimes marked as unavailable, most of the time he doesn’t know if he’ll actually receive items he’s ordered.

So, what is causing these shortages? “It’s not a shortage; it’s a supply and demand,” Wood said.

He explained that each warehouse has a certain amount of product on hand, as does the manufacturer. The amount of stock is related to demand for the supply, and when there is a sudden surge in demand, these supplies are wiped out and manufacturers fall behind in production.

When people start to panic buy items, it begins a “chain reaction,” quickly resulting in shortages in items as manufacturers try to catch up with production.

“I do think panic buying was a big part of it,” Mullen said. Another factor that Mullen mentioned was that, as restaurants and schools were closed, more families were baking and cooking at home.

Both Wood and Mullen said that their main focus is getting as much product for the customer as possible. While the market is stabilizing somewhat, both stores are still seeing less variety in products as manufacturers narrow their focus to get caught up on more fundamental products.

“We need to make sure we’re keeping product on the shelf,” Wood said. Even if they don’t have as many name-brand products or diversity, that is still better than nothing, he said.

“We’d love to get back to some normalcy. We’re trying our best,” Mullen said. “We’re all better off if everyone has a little bit.”

Hattie Conley, owner of Isabella’s, said that restaurants have been impacted as well. It has been difficult to get gloves, something that is necessary for food service industries during this pandemic, she said. Due to the increase in demand for gloves, a case of gloves that may have cost around \$30 before March now cost upwards of \$200, according to Conley.

In addition to gloves, the restaurant industry is also having a hard time obtaining certain food items. Isabella’s has switched to a rotating menu every three weeks, to limit the amount of food it needs to have on hand.

One of the first food items to suffer was beef, Conley said, with lettuce and dairy soon following suit. Due to these shortages and the principal of supply and demand, prices have skyrocketed.

“Dairy is very, very high still,” Conley said.

One of the disturbing reasons behind these shortages, Conley said, is that vendors that supply restaurants with their food had nowhere to take the food. With restaurants closing, vendors were stuck with perishable food items

“We’d love to get back to some normalcy. We’re trying our best ... We’re all better off if everyone has a little bit.”

— Clint Mullen, Decker’s Market Store Director

with no one to buy them. Consequently, huge amounts of fruits and veggies rotted, and now, these vendors are trying to catch up with new production.

“Our producers at this point are now behind,” Conley said.

Another reason, Conley said, was that certain processing plants were being shut down due to coronavirus scares among the worker population.

While Conley did experience some shortages, she was also able to get some items that grocery stores couldn’t because of vendors that only sell to restaurants. For a time, Conley sold food items to the community that they needed that she could get from her vendors.

“We just got creative,” Conley said. “People really, really liked it.”

Conley mentioned another pressing issue related to the coronavirus pandemic – the decline of small businesses. With business restrictions, among other factors, small businesses have been suffering while larger

corporations and online businesses like Amazon have been flourishing, according to Conley.

“Keep trying to buy local,” Conley said, noting the importance to keep small businesses and small farm and ranch operations in business.

Food industries aren’t the only ones being impacted. Zach Pickle, manager at Frontier Home, Ranch and Hardware, said that his store has been experiencing deficiencies in freezers, jars, canning supplies, gardening and other items because their suppliers are behind in production and low on workers.

“I had to start looking elsewhere for goods,” Pickle said.

Frontier has also experienced the typical shortage of paper products. In addition, as more American workers are being furloughed or working from home, they have suddenly found themselves with more time to do home improvement projects, causing shortages in those supplies too.

Theresa Hershey, owner with her husband, Randy, of CLT Flooring and Furnishings, has been doing well with the flooring side of their business, she said. Beds and furniture, on the other hand, have taken a hit.

Special-order beds, which used to take roughly a week to arrive, are now taking as long as a month, and special-order furniture, which used to take roughly six to eight weeks, is now taking upwards of four months.

Hershey said that some of the same materials used for furniture and beds is also used in personal protective equipment, and that is the cause for these shortages. Fortunately, Hershey was ahead of the game and ordered furniture in advance, so that the shortage has been somewhat delayed, although the furniture store has still felt the effects.

“We just have to keep going,” Hershey said, adding the importance of the economy staying open for the welfare of small businesses.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted many areas of everyone’s lives, business owners are hopeful that it will get better.

“The market is starting to recover,” Wood said, noting that the shortages are already starting to improve.

Pickle is also optimistic that once the hiccup in the supply chain works its way out, things will get back to normal.

“It most definitely will get better,” Pickle said. “I think we are not too far from that point.”

In the meantime, consumers are encouraged to buy only what they need and help the supply chain by not over-purchasing products. However, there’s a plethora of other factors causing the shortages that go beyond those mentioned.

In addition, Newcastle’s business owners say that they have experienced great support from the community through this time, and for that they are thankful.

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Assessments / Hearings / Adoptions / Estates

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Stay informed and read the public notices in your local newspaper and newspaper website, or at:
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CALVES FREE LIVE STREAM



**Saturday,
November 14
9:00 AM
8th Grade
Girls Basketball
3A Shootout**

Tickets are required for entrance to all Dogie and Calves activities. The number of tickets available for each activity is limited.

Weston County School District #1 is providing free access to all activities streamed live from our facility through the NFHS Network.

To watch go to www.wcsd1.org and click on the NFHS link.




Ladies Night




On Thursday, Nov. 5 over 80 plus shoppers were treated to vendor booths, special sales, snacks, giveaways, and fun at the annual Ladies Night at Frontier Home, Ranch and Hardware. Top, Lacey VonEye and Kim Conzelman shop and visit. Above, Liz Townsend along with granddaughter, Savannah Lorenz, display home-made jams and jellies at her Berried Delights booth. At left, Councilwoman and Mayor-elect Pam Gualtieri serves up refreshments.


Photos by Kim Dean

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Paid for by Hans Hunt, candidate for House District 2

Range rebrands companies

KateLynn Slaamot
NLJ Correspondent

Range Telephone Cooperative Inc. has served areas of Montana and Wyoming since 1953, according to its website. Range has owned and operated the Dubois Telephone Exchange Inc., RT Communications, Inc., and Advanced Communications Technology, Inc., for several years, meeting the telecommunication needs of those living in the region. The company has recently decided to fuse the four companies together under a single name: Range.

“We decided to unite all of our companies under one brand name,” said Jason Wille, the company’s chief marketing officer. Range announced the new development on Aug. 4 and launched a new website on Oct. 1 – range.net.

“We have more dedicated resources,” Wille said. Now that the company has a more unified course, Wille said, it can better serve customers with a “wider range of expertise and staff.” The corporation’s entities can also more efficiently work together to stay up to date with technology and bettering its services.

“Our mission is to provide enhanced technology and communications solutions,” Wille said, adding that the desire is to also provide an “emphasis in customer experience.”

According to an Aug. 4 Range news release, customers will not see significant changes. Wille said that customers will still get the same “local feel” and great service.

“We will continue to be your local broadband, voice, and technology leader in our communities. You can expect to speak and work with all the same great staff that provides you excellent service today,” said CEO Rob Johnstone in the release.

The news release also clarifies that Forsyth, Montana, is still the home base for the company, and regional offices will continue to be located in Wyoming – Sheridan, Worland and Dubois. People can also still “contact their local office for billing questions, service inquiries, and support,” the release says.


Customers may also visit the Range website for more information and answers to their questions.

“This is a game-changer for us,” Wille said.

COVID 19 doesn't stand a chance against the

CODE OF THE WEST

#5 Be Tough but Fair



It ain't very tough to wear a mask and follow a few rules, and it dang sure isn't fair to pose a danger to older residents.


Most of us will survive if we get COVID-19. Some won't get sick at all. That's not the point.

We need the people of Wyoming to do what's necessary to protect the herd from the coronavirus.

Taking care of each other is the Cowboy Way!

For more info go to covid19.wyo.gov

Photo by Bradly J. Boner, Jackson Hole News&Guide
Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



EARLY DEADLINE

All ad copy for the Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving) issue of the News Letter Journal will be needed early. Please call (307) 746-2777 or send your ad information via email to design@newslj.com before Nov. 19.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



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RANGE

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November 12, 2020 — 9

COMING UP: NHS Basketball & Wrestling seasons begin

Sports

News Letter Journal

SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE:			
NMS Wrestling			
11/21	Newcastle Quad	H	11AM
11/24	NE Districts @ Upton	A	9:30AM
NMS Girls Basketball			
11/12	Moorcroft HS	A	4:30PM
11/14	3A Shootout 8th Grade	H	9AM
11/14	7th 3A Shootout @ Buffalo	A	9AM
11/19	Sundance HS	H	4PM
NHS Boys Basketball			
11/23	V9 1st Practice (Practice)	H	TBA
NHS Girls Basketball			
11/23	V9 1st Practice (Practice)	H	TBA
NHS Wrestling			
11/23	V9 1st Practice	H	TBA
UPTON:			
UHS Football			
10/23	V Big Horn	Sundance	6PM

NOTHING TO REGRET

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Three new state records were set, personal bests were improved and state awards were received in Laramie last Friday and Saturday at the 3A State Swim Meet, and while Hannah Gross ended her career just shy of achieving her goals, she and her teammates competed hard and left nothing to regret at the end of the day.

"It was an awesomely fast meet," exclaimed head coach Doug Scribner. "Buffalo broke the 200 Free Relay record, Lauren Jensen from Green River broke the 50 Free record and Cody broke the record in the 200 Medley Relay. I was really proud of how our girls competed and I know they gave it everything they had."

Three Lady Dogies qualified for individual events at the culminating contest, however only Gross and Lydia Anderson made the trip to compete. Senior Becca Henkle, who finished third at the conference meet two weeks ago with a score of 305, was unable to dive at the state meet due to quarantine orders by the health department.

"It was sad that Becca couldn't go because if she would have performed the way she did at conference, she would have finished fifth," Scribner sighed. "She learned some difficult



Photo courtesy of Teresa Gross

Newcastle's Lady Dogie swimmers huddle together for a pep talk before one of the races at State.

United we stand, divided we fall

My heart literally hurts. As I've watched the election results unfold, I've become more saddened by the minute.

Not because of the results of the election. It didn't turn out as I had wished. But what is tearing me apart is to watch the reactions of people to those results.

I'm not a conservative and I'm not a liberal. I am a person who wants equality for all. I



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

want to support the ideal of democracy and capitalism - tempered with the necessity of some socialist protections.

For the last 18 years (at least), this country has been divided by partisan ideals, and because of that divide we've accomplished nothing but producing a culture that is at each other's throats at all times.

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

NHS Girls Swimming

Newcastle @ 3A State Meet Prelims 11/6/20
Individual Results:
200 Free:
1. Hannah Gross 2:00
100 Free:
16. Lydia Anderson 1:01.19 PR
100 Backstroke:
2. Hannah Gross 1:01.22
400 Free Relay: 4:26.86
11. Raeleigh Shipp, Lydia Anderson, Hannah Gross, Rebekah Olson

Newcastle @ 3A State Meet in Laramie 11/7/20
Team Results:
1. Green River 282
2. Cody 193
3. Powell 188
4. Buffalo 183
5. Lander 153
6. Lyman 113
7. Sublette County 97
8. Worland 48
9. Douglas 44
10. Rawlins 38
11. Newcastle 28
12. Kemmerer 18
13. Riverton 6

Individual Results:
200 Free:
1. Hannah Gross 1:58.40
100 Backstroke:
2. Hannah Gross 1:01.70
400 Free Relay: 4:26.74
12. Raeleigh Shipp, Lydia Anderson, Hannah Gross, Rebekah Olson

dives this year which made her competitive at the state level, and she just worked so hard, so it was a huge bummer."

The absence of Henkle also meant that Scribner had to rethink who to take to Laramie.

"Coming off of conference, I talked to the team about doing things a little differently, because I had intended to just take the three qualifiers, and then the next fastest person to the meet due to COVID," he began. "But because Becca couldn't go, I decided to bring the original lineup of the 400 Free Relay and just enter the team in that one relay."

His decision to enter his team in just the final relay was due to a couple of factors. First, with the move of Green River from 4A to 3A this year, there were 13 teams competing and since only the top 12 finishers advance to finals, the Lady Dogies were not likely to make the cut given their times

in the 200 Free and 200 Medley relays were significantly lower than the other 12 teams.

In addition, Gross' two individual events each fell after a relay — the 200 Free race is right after the 200 Medley and the 100 Backstroke immediately follows the 200 Free Relay. Scribner wanted to keep Gross as fresh as possible for her individual events given she was going up against two very strong swimmers in each race.

The preliminaries began at 4 on Friday afternoon, and Gross was first up in the 200 Free, next Lydia Anderson competed in the 100 Free, Gross was back in action with the 100 Backstroke and the team closed out the day with the 400 Free Relay.

"Going in, we knew that Lydia would have to go a minute or faster to finish in the top 12 and advance to the finals," Scribner explained. "She was excited and ready mentally to do what she needed to do. She was seeded

slowest in her heat and she came out and swam strong, cutting two and a half seconds from her personal best time, and she won her heat."

Anderson competed in the second heat, so she had to wait for the third and final heat to see whether she made the cut.

"When she finished she looked up at her time and she got this huge smile on her face," Scribner smiled. "She really knew what she was doing and she went out there and was aggressive in her race. Now she knows what she is capable of doing so that should bode well for next year and it puts her in a really good place."

Anderson and Scribner had been working on building that mentality since the conference meet, but despite making significant improvement she ended up only about half a second out of the top 12. However, she went into

— See **Swimmers**, Page 10

PRE THANKSGIVING SAVINGS

3⁴⁹ LB

USDA Choice Angus Pride Beef Boneless Top Round Roast

1⁷⁹ LB

Smithfield All Natural Pork Boneless Sirloin Chops Value Pack

88¢ LB

Fresh Washington Pinata or Braeburn Apples

4⁹⁹

Open Acres Clementines 3 LB., Select Varieties

2/¹

Our Family Canned Corn or Green Beans 14.5-15.25 oz., Select Varieties

3/⁴

Our Family Cranberry Sauce 14 oz., Select Varieties

1²⁹

Our Family Cream Cheese 8 oz., Select Varieties

2/⁵

Our Family Butter 16 oz., Select Varieties

2/³

Our Family Powdered or Brown Sugar 2 LB., Select Varieties

4⁹⁹

Our Family Coffee 12 CT. Single Serve Cups or 10-12 oz., Select Varieties

Our Family BAKING BARGAINS

1⁸⁹

Our Family Flour 5 LB., Select Varieties

1⁹⁹


Our Family Morsels 10-12 oz., Select Varieties

1⁹⁹

Our Family Sugar 4 LB., Select Varieties

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Swimmers from Page 9



Photo courtesy of Teresa Gross

Newcastle's Hannah Gross, fourth from left, took second in the 200 Free at the 3A State Swim meet swimming on Saturday. She was also awarded Co-athlete of the Year — an honor she shared with Tara Joyce — as well as All-State Honors.

the meet ranked 26th and finished 16th, so to move up 10 spots was quite an accomplishment. Gross went into the prelims seeded second in both the 200 Free and the 100 Backstroke. As such, she was in the second to last heat in both races. Because of that, there wasn't a lot of pressure to get placed in finals since she knew she just had to swim on her time to advance.

"Both of her swims were good, especially her 200 Free. What was notable about that race is that one of the things we were working on was her walls and turns, and everything came together in that race," Scribner stated. "She had really good walls and, after, she said it felt really good and she dropped a little bit of time even though no one was pushing her."

Her finishes put her right where she needed to be, seeded second for the finals on Saturday. Tara Joyce from Cody was the top seed and she had added about 4 seconds to her conference time of 1:53, however she too had no one to push her in her preliminary race.

In backstroke, Gross was in a very similar situation, going in seeded second behind Lauren Jensen from Green River. At the end of Friday, the seeding was the same for finals with Jensen earning the top spot and Gross coming in at number two.

"Her walls looked good in the 100 Back as well," Scribner nodded. "Afterward, she said she was a little tired on her finish but thought that she could have taken it out a little bit harder."

Heading into the 200 Free finals on Saturday, Gross was nervous but ready to take on Joyce for top honors. Scribner noted that she had been pretty nervous after Joyce had posted some really fast times earlier in the season, however after he pointed out to her that she had been swimming splits just as fast, that gave her confidence she would be able to give Joyce a run for her money.

And that she did. From start to finish, the 200 Free was an exciting race with the two going almost stroke-for-stroke.

"Hannah's walls were better than Tara's so she would lose a little ground in the water and then make it up on the turn," Scribner described. "She was only a little behind Tara the whole race, and then made up a lot in the last 75, and if there were five more feet, I think Hannah would have got her. The last 25, Hannah was gaining with every stroke. She just missed it by less than

a second and was less than half a body length from her, so it was a really good race."

Gross had a goal of winning the state championship and getting the school record for the 200 Free, but she ended up a little bit short of that.

In the 100 Backstroke, Scribner admitted that his implementation of taper was probably a little bit off and may have impacted her performance in that race.

"Hannah was a little tired for the 100 Back," he admitted. "If I had tapered a little bit earlier and a little bit harder, I think she would have been a little more rested which would have given her a little more in the race."

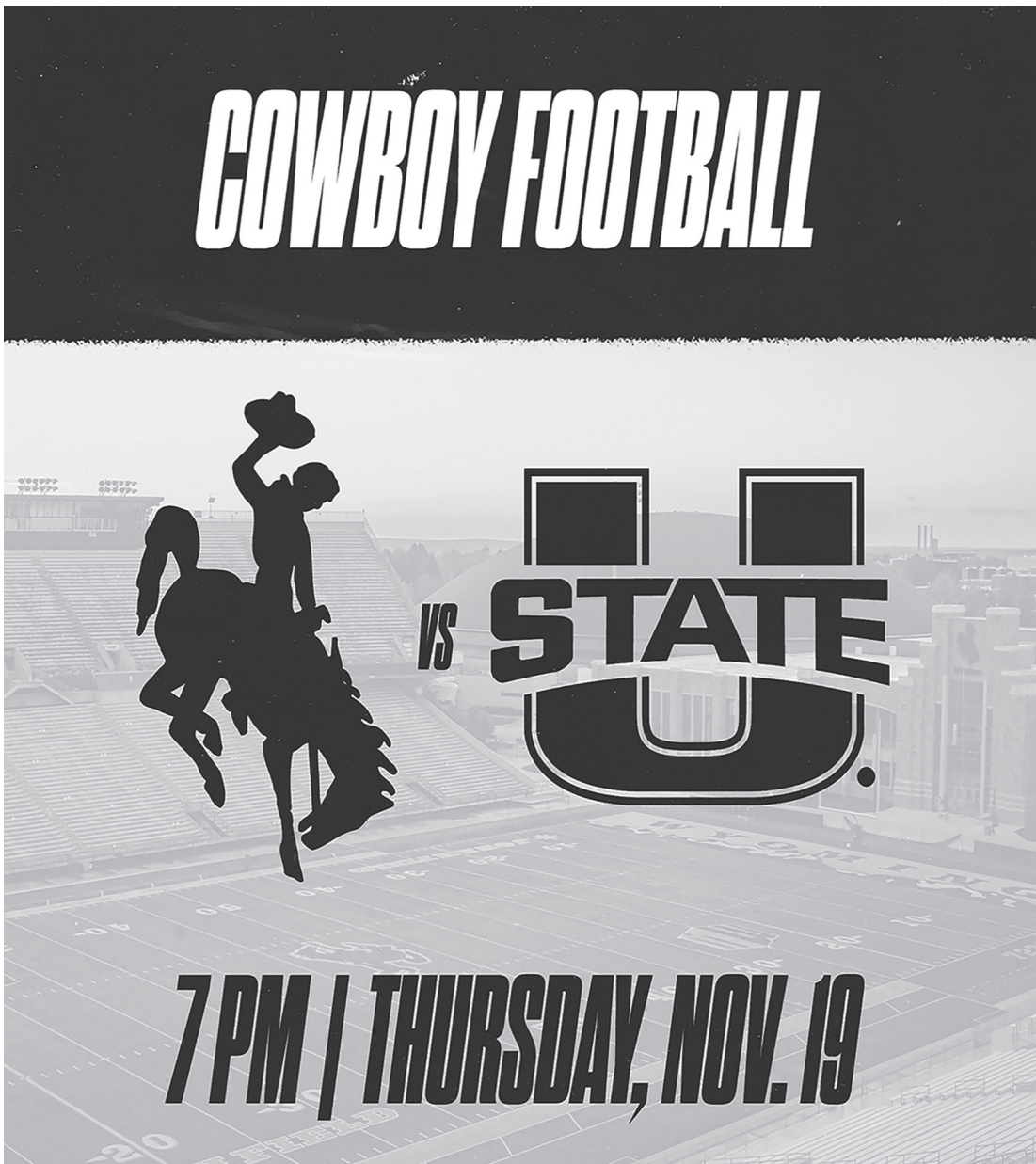
The 400 Free Relay team of Raeligh Shipp, Anderson, Gross and Rebekah Olson finished 11th in Prelims on Friday but finished 12th in the Finals. The Dogies were ahead of Kemmerer going into the race, but they didn't have anyone to rearrange where Kemmerer did, so they ended up edging them out to finish ahead of them in the team standings.

Gross was awarded the honor of Co-athlete of the Year which she shared with Tara Joyce for 3A girls swimming. She also earned All-State Honors for finishing second in both of her events.

"Her athleticism and the impact she has made on 3A swimming gained her recognition from coaches," Scribner nodded. "She also won All-Conference Honors for her Conference finishes in both events and Becca Henkle earned All-Conference Honorable Mention for finishing third in diving at the Conference meet."

Scribner reflected on the 2020 season noting that it was a very good one for his team, and though he will be losing Gross and Henkle to graduation, he believes the team will gain a new freshman so he anticipates having a pretty solid core of at least four returning next season.



"The underclassmen really made a lot of improvements, and those who were committed to practice and practicing hard really improved," he began. "Raeligh switched strokes mid-season from the Breaststroke to the Freestyle and dropped 12 seconds in the 100 Free, and almost qualified. Lydia dropped nine seconds in the 100 Free from where she ended last season and did qualify, and was only .54 of a second away from qualifying in the 50 Free so both should be in pretty good shape to start back up in 2021."



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Karpe from Page 9

I dread presidential elections because of the hatred they bring out in society. Family and friends become torn apart because of political differences and that is heart-breaking.

We look at an election map and see a large geography of the U.S. colored red, but we never consider the population of the small amounts of blue that truly encompass huge amounts of population.

Big cities scream for the elimination of the electoral college, but that is the only thing that gives that huge amount of red on the map a voice.

I sit here in my small town as a social studies teacher and I am distraught at the lack of understanding that much of society has regarding how our government truly functions.

Yes, the president of the United States has considerable power. In fact, it is the most powerful position in the world. However, he (or she) doesn't have absolute power.

The POTUS does not have dictatorial powers, and we need to settle down and remember that. Yes, he (or

she) has the power of executive order, however he (or she) cannot act alone. The Founding Fathers ensured that one individual acting on their own could not control our country.

As the 2020 election has been playing out, I have been more attentive to the Congressional election as that is the governmental body with the most power, which is just as the Founding Fathers intended.

We have a conservative Supreme Court and a Republican controlled Senate. Therefore, a Democrat controlled executive and a Democrat controlled House of Representatives will not be able to dictate policy.

Truly, the only people who can destroy the United States of America are the people themselves. Abraham Lincoln, one of the most divisive presidents of all time, quoted from Scripture and reminded the Union in the midst of the Civil War that a nation divided against itself could not stand.

Yet, here we are again... divided against ourselves.

We are not only a govern-

ment that provides checks and balances at the national level of government, but we are also a nation that divides the power between the national and state governments. So, how can we get so distraught over the election of one man?

I fear that we have let the media, and probably worse, the social media work us up into a national hysteria where we believe everything that any Tom, Dick or Harry spouts from their own ideas.


We may not like the outcome of this election based on our own ideals, however we also need to look at how close this election was. Obviously, there is not an overwhelming consensus which makes me feel a little more comfortable that the president cannot simply do whatever he (or she) pleases in office.

Again, I am more concerned with the reaction of the people over the outcome of the election and I beg of people to relax and remember how the government of this great nation functions.

We're all good unless WE choose not to be. Let's make sure that doesn't happen.

THE FOURTH ESTATE
the press; the profession of journalism

The Watchdog: a role that is still important to a functioning democracy.



nlj
news letter journal

Newcastle Dogies

High School Volleyball

2020-21



Top row left to right: #3 McKenzie Rose (9th), #8 Shawnee Miles (11th), #6 MacKenzie Conzelman (10th), #4 Jaylen Ostenson (10th), #16 Tiernan Stanton (10th), #26 Ava Williams (9th), #9 Claire Beastrom (12th), #8 Olivia McVay (11th), # 24 Jayde Harrington(9th). Middle row: Coach Anderson, #11 Kendra Merchen (9th), #15 Camilla Drake (9th), #18 Destiny Lyle (9th), #15 Caitlyn Pehringer (12th), #10 Hunter McFarland (10th), #12 Honesty Olson (12th), #9 Jordan Daniele (12th), #4 Storee Tupa (10th), Coach Pederson. Bottom: Coach Gregory, #1 Gabby McVay (10th), #17 Victoria Pehringer (9th), #3 Shelby Tidyman (10th), #5 Alaina Steveson (12th), #13 Emilia Lichtenberger (9th), #22 LaKacee Lipp (11th), Taylor Crinklaw (9th).

#GoDogies

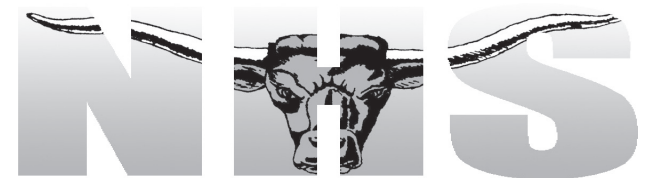
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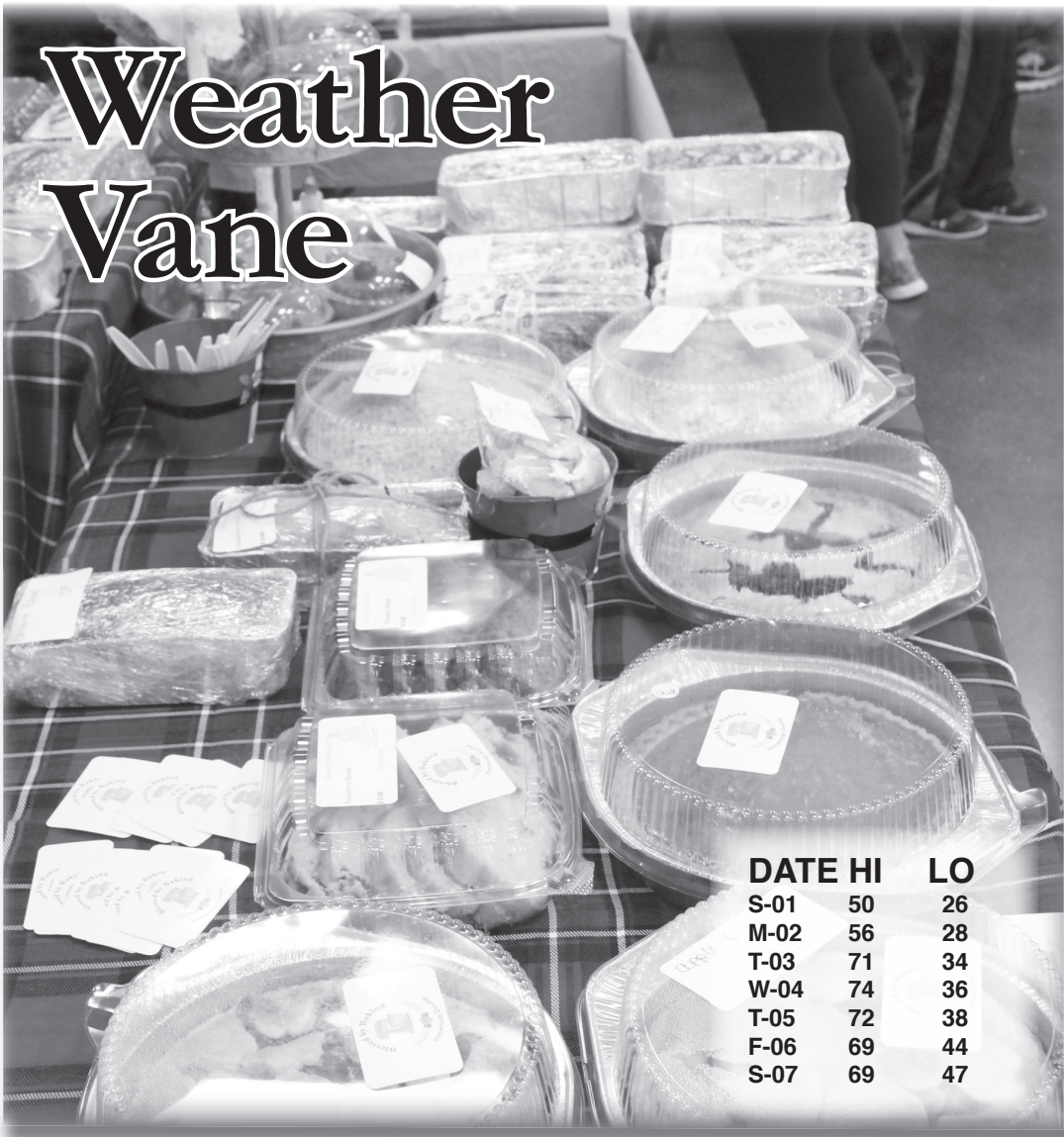
Photo provided courtesy of Skull Creek Studio, Emily Hartinger



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- Frontier Home, Ranch & Hardware
- Grazers Restaurant
- Monument Health

- Newcastle Equipment
- Newcastle Vision Clinic
- Northern Wyoming Mental Health
- Spearfish Forest Products
- Voelker's Autobody and Glass
- Weston County Health Services
- Wyoming Refining Company

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Public Notice
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR RED GIANT NEWCASTLE FACILITY'S RENEWAL PERMIT APPLICATION

In accordance with the provisions of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and Chapter 1 of the Solid Waste Rules and Regulations, Red Giant Oil Company LLC has submitted a renewal permit application for the Red Giant Newcastle Facility.

This facility provides for the transfer, treatment, storage of used oil, used antifreeze, slop diesel, and process water which have been generated within Wyoming, Idaho, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota and Northern Colorado. The 8.8-acre facility is located approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the Town of Newcastle on Highway 16. More specifically, this facility is located in a portion of the SE ¼ of Section 2 and the NW ¼ SW ¼ of Section 1, T44N, R61W, in Weston County, Wyoming. The volumetric capacity of this facility is comprised of 30 yards of petroleum contaminated soil, 371,620 gallons of used oil, 8,000 gallons of used anti-freeze, 98,500 gallons of slop diesel and 19,800 gallons process water totaling 497,920 gallons and 30 cubic yards. The life of the facility is estimated to be indefinite.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the application and found it to be complete. Any interested person has the right to file comments on the permit application and the DEQ's completeness review. The period for providing comments shall begin on November 5, 2020 and end on December 14, 2020. Comments must be received by 5:00 PM on the last day of the notice period. Comments on this application must be submitted in writing to the Department of Environmental Quality, Luke Esch, Administrator, Solid and Hazardous Waste Division, 200 W. 17th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002.

DEQ is now conducting a review of the application to determine if it complies with applicable technical standards for a facility of this type. If DEQ finds that the application complies with the technical standards, DEQ will issue a proposed permit and provide public notice and further opportunity to comment on the proposed permit.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.
(Publish November 5 and 12, 2020)

Hearing Notice
NOTICE OF HEARING ON VARIANCE REQUEST

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Tim Kessler has requested a variance with the City of Newcastle Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Kessler requests a variance to allow moving and setting a 1978 16-ft x 80-ft mobile home at the address of 119 Sheridan Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. Pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Newcastle, Wyoming, setting a home over 20 years in age is generally not permitted at this zoning address which is located in an M-H Zoning District.

ALSO TAKE NOTICE that hearing on the requested variance will occur on November 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in front of the City of Newcastle, Wyoming Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment at the City of Newcastle, Wyoming City Chambers, located at 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2020.
By: Michael Moore, PE.
Zoning Administrator
City of Newcastle
10 W. Warwick
Newcastle, Wyoming 82701
(Publish November 12, 2020)

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Public Notice
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of Powder River Energy Corporation's (PRECorp or the Cooperative) Application for authority to revise its Small Power Production (SPP) rate tariff, effective January 1, 2021.

PRECorp is a public utility as defined in W.S. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C), subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under W.S. § 37-2-112.

On October 22, 2020, PRECorp submitted its Application to revise its SPP tariff, effective for billings or credits issued on or after January 1, 2021. PRECorp is a Class A member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), from whom it secures its power requirements via agreements and contracts. PRECorp's avoided cost is equal to Basin's published avoided cost for its Common Use System/PacifiCorp System (CUS/PAC), adjusted for losses, as approved in Docket No. 10014-178-CT-17. The Cooperative's SPP tariff applies to residential and commercial customers who install facilities for generating electric power. The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 requires PRECorp to purchase all the kWhs generated by Qualifying Facilities at its avoided cost, which it does through its SPP tariff.

Basin's published avoided cost of delivery to its Class A members located in CUS/PAC system for 2021 is \$0.0144 per kWh. PRECorp's rate adjusted for losses is \$0.014694. The Cooperative is therefore requesting authority to increase the rate currently available under its SPP rate, from \$0.01337 to \$0.014694 per kWh, to reflect Basin's published avoided cost for 2021 adjusted for losses.

This is not a complete description of the Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at the Cooperative's business office located in Sundance, Wyoming and at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, during regular business hours, or online at: <http://psc.state.wy.us/>

Anyone desiring to file a statement, public comment, protest, intervention petition, or request for a public hearing in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before November 25, 2020. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 10014-216-CT-20 (Record No. 15633) in your communications.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or if you wish to file a statement, public comment, or protest, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: October 28, 2020
(Publish November 5 and 12, 2020)

DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY



Fun and Games

- THANKSGIVING**
- ACROSS**
- Glamour's partner
 - Prime time monitor, acr.
 - Prelude to a duel
 - Video killed this type of star?
 - Orinoco or Grande
 - Temple Square performers, e.g.
 - Set straight
 - *Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday in this country
 - Filthy dough
 - *Opposite of Thanksgiving, traditionally
 - *The day's offering
 - Declare
 - Unacceptable in a juror
 - Fire fuel
 - ThE alternative
 - Jumped or leapt
 - Chipping choice
 - Plural of #25 Across
 - Coupon clipper, e.g.
 - A woodwind
 - Vernacular
 - The brightest star
 - One born to Japanese immigrants
 - a.k.a. leaf cabbage
 - Capital on the Dnieper
 - Rear of a ship, pl.
 - Boisterous play
 - Not sweet, as in wine
 - Has divine power
 - None intended, often 57.
 - *Macy's offering
 - *34th Street offering
 - Relating to pond scum
 - Highest card in "War"
 - Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 - Like unbagged tea
 - Female
 - Thousands, for short
 - Microsoft browser
 - *What we do on Thanksgiving
 - _____ welcome!

- Displeasure on one's face
- Gaelic tongue
- Draft choice
- Repeated Cuban dance step

CROSSWORD

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71						72				73			

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			8					1	2	7			
	9				5	1						6	
	1				6					5			
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7	8	1							2				
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Last week's answers

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of Powder River Energy Corporation's (PRECorp or the Cooperative) Application for authority to increase its Cost of Power Adjustment by \$3,786 per annum, effective January 1, 2021, to reflect a change in the average wholesale power costs.

PRECorp is a non-profit cooperative public utility as defined in Wyo. Stat. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C), subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-112.

On October 22, 2020, PRECorp submitted its Application seeking Commission approval to adjust its total Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) factors, which will result in a net change in the Cooperative's revenues of \$3,786 per annum, effective January 1, 2021, pursuant to Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 26, and in accordance with the COPA procedures set forth in the Cooperative's Billing Adjustments Tariff. The COPA is a mechanism by which the Cooperative recovers and/or returns changes in its' wholesale power cost relative to the amount of power cost embedded in base retail rates. The Cooperative's Application outlines the proposed COPA factors, which reflect the projected cost of power for January through December 2021 using projected billing units for the period and the applicable wholesale rates from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), the Cooperative's wholesale power supplier. Basin's rates are subject to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval but are not proposed to change on January 1, 2021. In the event FERC makes any adjustments to Basin's filed rates, PRECorp proposes to address these alterations by reflecting the changes in its balancing account. Additionally, the proposed COPA factors reflect the reconciliation of the COPA revenue for the months of October 2019 through September 2020, and the accrual of interest on any over-recovered balances during the true-up period.

The COPA factors proposed in this application and the resulting change in revenue are listed below:

	Existing COPA Factor	Proposed COPA Factor	Change in Revenue
All Rate Classes except LP-TOU Transmission, LPT and LPT-CBM	\$(0.000935)	\$(0.001203)	(\$203,916)
LPT	\$0.000119	\$0.000275	\$144,324
LPT-CBM	\$(0.000308)	\$0.0008100	\$50,051
LP-TOU Transmission	\$0.000353	\$0.001561	\$13,327

This is not a complete description of the Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at the Cooperative's business office located in Sundance, Wyoming and at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, during regular business hours, or online at: <http://psc.state.wy.us/>.

Anyone desiring to file a statement, public comment, protest, intervention petition, or request for a public hearing in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before November 25, 2020. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 10014-215-CP-20 (Record No. 15632) in your communications.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or if you wish to file a statement, public comment, or protest, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: October 28, 2020

(Publish November 5 and 12, 2020)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company) for authority to implement Integrity Rider Rates.

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

On October 29, 2020, BHWG filed its Application, together with testimony and exhibits, requesting authority to implement Wyoming Integrity Rider (WIR) Rates. The Company requests to implement its proposed WIR Rates, on an interim basis, on January 1, 2021, subject to refund, with final rates to be authorized on or before April 1, 2021. The Company's proposed 2021 WIR Rates are as follows:

Customer Class	Proposed 2021 WIR Rate (per therm)
Residential General Service	\$0.0069
Small General Service	\$0.0061
Medium General Service	\$0.0035
Large General Service	\$0.0022
On-system Transportation Service	\$0.0016

BHWG states its WIR is a mechanism designed to recover costs arising between rate review filings, stemming from the Company's investments in integrity programs aimed at improving system data and accelerating the replacement of higher risk pipe, including certain customer-owned yard lines. The Company states its WIR includes six categories of projects: Data Infrastructure Improvement Program; At-Risk Meter Relocation and Yard Line Replacement Program; Span and Exposed Pipe Replacement Program; Problematic Pipe Replacement Program; Transmission Integrity Projects; and Storage Integrity Projects. The Company states the projects included in the 2020 WIR filing were necessary integrity projects that improve the safety and reliability of the system for all customers.

The Company states its proposed 2021 WIR Rates include: the costs of qualifying projects completed and in service or expected to be in service between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, which includes historical costs through September 30, 2020 and forecasted costs for October through December 2020; a true-up to actual investment costs and related revenue requirement from the amount in the previous year's WIR rate; and a true-up of the revenue collected from customers to the amount reflecting the prior year's true-up investment. The Company states its proposed 2021 WIR Rates will have a monthly impact of \$0.46 on an average residential customer's bill and a \$0.87 impact on the average Small General Service customer's monthly bill.

This is not a complete description of the Application. Interested persons may inspect the Application at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, by visiting the Commission's website at <https://psc.wyo.gov/>, or by visiting BHWG's website at www.blackhillsenergy.com.

Anyone wishing to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so in writing filed with the Commission on or before December 3, 2020. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please be sure to mention Docket No. 30026-36-GM-20 (Record No. 15641) in all correspondence with the Commission.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing which you will attend and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay by dialing 711.

Dated: November 3, 2020.

(Publish November 12 and 19, 2020)

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City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020

Council President Don Steveson called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Council President Don Steveson; Council member Ann McColley, Michael Alexander, Tom Voss, Pam Gualtieri and Roger Hespe. Also present were Department Heads City Police Chief Sam Keller, City Engineer Mike Moore, City Attorney Michael Stulken and City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Tom Voss moved, seconded Roger Hespe to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Michael Alexander moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, October 19, 2020 and the minutes of the Special Meeting on Monday, October 26, 2020 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Sundowner Inn for their upgrades to their property.

Sandra Martin for organizing and sponsoring the annual Trunk or Treat for Halloween.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: Mr. Jim Neiman, Spearfish Forest Products for working with Newcastle for the bus turn-around and working on an easement around the orange water tank. It will be mailed.

Siri Karr and Walter Sprague were present to receive their certificates for their work on the mural on the News Letter Journal building.

Chris Gualtieri for the work and resources to light the neon sign on the Antlers Hotel building. Councilwoman Gualtieri received the certificate on Chris's behalf.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: Roger Hespe moved, seconded Pam Gualtieri to declare Pinnacle Bank a depository of public funds. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL: None

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS: Council President Don Steveson presented to the Council a graph of expenditures in the General Fund through October 2020 for review.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Police Chief Sam Keller reported on calls for service, 4188 year to date. Chief Keller said they had interviewed 4 candidates for police officer, one cannot be statutorily offered a position and he was ready to hire 2 local individuals. Pam Gualtieri moved, seconded Michael Alexander to hire Jason Barker and Lance Reibel as police officers at \$19.04 per hour, one-year probation pending passing all background checks and medical/psychological evaluations. **MOTION CARRIED.** Both individuals will have to attend the 14-week Academy training.

City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James reported the audit is in progress, but there will be no on-site visits this year. The City Office is still closed to the public and will remain so for a period.

City Engineer Mike Moore asked for a Committee meeting to discuss the issues and expenses related to cleaning lagoon cell #1. While this would be done next year, the cost estimate is around \$500,000.00. There was discussion about the 5th wheel trailers that still appear to be occupied against the ordinances. The Dura-Patcher will continue to be used until the weather gets too cold. We are moving forward with the purchase of the well site and easement for the water line from Well #5. Moving forward with the purchase of another vac truck. Mr. Moore received an email from Mr. Ogden Driskill offering to sell the land around the tan water tank to the City for \$6,000.00. The implication being we may not have legal access across his land to our tank. This will be reviewed.

City Attorney Michael Stulken presented Ordinance #3, Series 2020 on third and final

reading. The ordinance reads: ANY OWNER OF ANY FENCE, RETAINING WALL, OR OTHER SIMILAR STRUCTURE SHALL ENSURE THAT SAID STRUCTURE IS MAINTAINED IN GOOD REPAIR, STRUCTURALLY SOUND AND SANITARY SO AS NOT TO POSE A THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY OR WELFARE. ANY PERSON WHOM MAINTAINS OR PERMITS THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROHIBITED DANGEROUS CONDITION HEREIN IS IN VIOLATION OF THE 1997 UNIFORM CODE FOR THE ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND THE PROCEDURE FOR ABATEMENT OF SUCH CONDITION SHALL BE PURSUANT TO SUCH CODE. Michael Alexander moved, seconded Ann McColley to pass Ordinance #3, Series 2020 on third and final reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Tom Voss moved, seconded Michael Alexander to pay the claims against the city dated November 2, 2020. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ann McColley moved, seconded Roger Hespe to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 7:38 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Claims: 7 C's Service, loader repair, \$595.00; Ad-Pro Office Supply, binder clips, \$20.98; Advanced Drug Testing, Inc., DOT testing, \$52.00; Alpha Communications, October 2020 tower rent, \$95.00; American Business Software, website check, \$144.53; Black Hills Energy, natural gas service, \$287.43; Bomgaars Supply, supplies/materials, \$450.47; City of Newcastle, WA/SW/GA services, \$983.55; CNA Surety, clerk position bond, \$100.00; D&L Supply Company, Inc., traffic grate, \$970.00; Derek's Field Service, machinery repair, \$2628.80; R. Douglas Dumbrell, November 2020 municipal judge, \$1076.30; Eastern Wyoming Equipment Co., Inc., parts, \$82.82; Energy Laboratories, Inc., water sample testing, \$815.00; Farnsworth Services, Co., Inc., portable sanitation & landscaping, \$5663.15; Emily Hartinger, water deposit refund, \$3.85; Huldah Henry, water deposit refund, \$169.52; Hurricane Services, PD car washes, \$25.00; Jeffrey Lush, forensic interview, \$150.00; Jacob Lacassin, water deposit refund, \$32.30; Ali Liggett, water deposit refund, \$60.15; Mastercard, supplies/retirement plaques/fuel, \$3631.83; Modern Marketing, Inc., plastic bags, \$951.53; Dawnnyell Nagle, water deposit refund, \$57.87; National Emergency Number Assoc., membership, \$142.00; Newcastle Ambulance Service, November 2020 ambulance service, \$8333.33; News Letter Journal, subscription, \$45.50; Postmaster, utility billing permit, \$1500.00; Range, phone service/E-911, \$940.91; Respond First Aid Systems, first aid supplies, \$55.53; Rick's Electric, exhaust fan/pump repair, \$4785.93; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning, \$200.00; Salt Creek Water District, sewer service, \$555.00; Bryand Streeter, November 2020 airport wages, \$1333.33; Melissa Stubbs, reimburse mileage, \$357.65; Sundance Extinguisher, extinguisher inspection, \$27.29; Lucky Teigen-Grummons, fire hall cleaning, \$200.00; Two-Way Radio Service, Inc., FD radio covers and batteries, \$1244.00; Uber Geek Computers, computer connection parts, \$289.000; Verizon, cell phones, \$505.55; Becky Vodopich, city office cleaning, \$300.00; Weston County Public Health, vaccination, \$58.00; Weston County Treasurer, airport project, \$3264.30; Woody's Food Center, housekeeping supplies, \$58.35; Wyoming Automotive Co., parts, \$1035.73; Wyoming Office of State Lands & Investment, water loans, \$13,489.98.

Don Steveson, President
ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Greg James

(Publish November 12, 2020)

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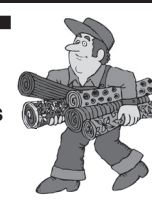
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Play like a girl: Beastrom makes Dogie history



Emily Beastrom

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Her motivation wasn't to blaze any trails, but when senior Emily Beastrom donned her helmet and shoulder pads and stepped onto the gridiron in Hot Springs for the first time in August, she did just that.

Beastrom wanted to play football since her freshman year in high school, however her physical size was just too small to risk going toe-to-toe against the big upperclassmen classmates who suited up.

"I asked Conz [Matt Conzelman] if he would let me play but he wouldn't because he just wasn't comfortable with putting me out there," Beastrom began. "And it did make sense but I wasn't ready to give up on the idea."

Finally, in her senior year her persistence paid off and Coach Conzelman gave her the okay to join the team. The first day that Beastrom showed up to practice, she made history at Newcastle High School by becoming the first female to play for the Dogie football team.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Corley

In this photo from earlier in the season against Hot Springs, Emily Beastrom is set to kick off on the punt return.

"I was super excited that he said yes, and I intended to play in more roles than just a kicker," Beastrom admitted. "But then I tried practicing with the guys for the first few days, and I decided that I just wanted to kick."

Beastrom is a long-time soccer player, having begun to play futbol at the age of 4. On the soccer pitch, she plays defense and has experience putting the boot to the ball owing to the fact that she has been largely responsible for goal kicks throughout the course of her high school career.

That experience gave her the confidence to take the huge risk of taking on a sport that is almost exclusively male.

"I've seen so many guys kick, and I thought that looked like a lot of fun, so I wanted to try it," Beastrom said with a smile. "I knew I had some things to learn, but I felt like I had a pretty good background to do okay."

It took a minute for the guys on the team to accept Beastrom, however after she demonstrated that she was there to play and to be part of the team, the Dogies embraced the idea and were very supportive of her presence on their squad.

"They did pick on me a little until I stood up for myself, and after that they were really nice to me and thought it was super cool to have a girl on the team," Beastrom laughed.

"They didn't treat me the same as they did the other guys completely though. Like when they would give each other slaps on their backsides, they would stop when they came to me."

There were other aspects of the team from which Beastrom was excluded, and not everyone she encountered was as accepting of her playing a guy's sport as her teammates were.

"It was fun, but I was left out of a lot of things like pre-game. Obviously, I'm not allowed in the locker room so I missed out on the camaraderie that went on in there," she began. "I changed by myself and tried to get hyped by myself so that was kind of a bummer."

"I made a lot of memories

and a lot of great friendships, but I also got a lot of dirty looks from other teams and other girls," she continued. "But I had so much fun doing it and I would totally do it again."

Beastrom specialized in kicking the point after touchdown (PAT), onside kicks and pooch kicks for the Dogies. Throughout the season, she was 5-7 for PATs with the two that she missed being blocked rather than an error on her part. As far as onside kicks go, her team was able to recover one of them against the Wheatland Bulldogs.

"My favorite moment was when I scored my first point in the first game of the season in Hot Springs," Beastrom grinned. "And when the team recovered my onside kick in Wheatland, that was pretty cool too."

When it came to kickoffs, however, Beastrom was not a fan. One reason for her lack of excitement regarding that role was that she admittedly didn't possess a "big boot," so she felt a little pressure to get distance on the kick. The main reason she preferred to remain on the sideline during kickoffs was that, as the kicker, she would also take on the role of safety and in the event an opposing player got past the rest of the defense, it would be left to her to bring him down before he could get in the endzone.

"I really don't like to tackle so I was always hopeful that I wouldn't have to do that," she chuckled. "Fortunately, the guys were able to stop them before they got to me every

time I had to do it."

As a kicker, Beastrom was protected most of the time from being hit, but she didn't come out of the season unscathed. In a junior varsity contest she was actually hit, and knocked down twice, and the second hit resulted in a bone bruise that sidelined her for a week.

"The first time he hit me, I just went down, but the second time I was in the process of kicking and that one hurt," she explained. "It was a JV game so there wasn't any roughing the kicker called on either hit, but there probably should have been."

Seeing a girl suited up on the sidelines certainly doesn't happen very often, but parents and fans seemed to be receptive to the idea.

"At one of our home games a lady approached my mom and asked if I was her daughter," Beastrom began. "She said she was hoping they'd put me in because she wanted to see me play. Quite a few people seemed to be pretty excited to see me get out there."

Beastrom stated that she is proud that she was able to play the game she had longed to play, and hopes that her success will be an inspiration to girls in the future to try new things and take a chance.

"I know that there is an eighth-grade girl who actually played this year, so maybe she'll continue in high school," she nodded. "I don't know that I'm a trailblazer necessarily, but I hope my example will give girls the courage to try if they want to."

Fortune: Don't kiss an elephant on the lips today

Don't you hate it when you're having a conversation or reading a story, and all of a sudden, the topic changes. There's no segue, not even a mention of what the other person changes the topic too. They just change the subject.

And if you try to bring them back to the original topic, they come off as if they are highly offended. But I want to make it clear, right here and now, it is us, who have to play catch up, who should be offended. I mean, it's rude, isn't it, when you are talking about something like flowers, and all of a sudden, they start talking about elephants without the segue?

Segue! Speaking of elephants – my wife was offended by my last column. I don't think it was the false statement that I made about hunting in Africa that offended her. She is used to what she considers lies in these little stories I write, but I feel colorful modifiers. I think it was that I would even entertain the idea of shooting

and eating an elephant.

"It wasn't a baby elephant," I told her. "It was a medium-size elephant. And it wasn't like I was eating it while it was alive. After all, it was cut up into bite-size pieces."

That didn't make any difference to her. Any elephant, small, medium or large, was off limits, especially as food. You see, Connie thinks we should love the elephants. And it is that idea that brings me, logically, to Chinese food. Well, not the food, but it does have a connection to the fortune cookie. Now get that confused look off your face. I'll explain it.

About 12 years ago or so, Connie and I lived in San Antonio, and we decided to go to the zoo. The San Antonio zoo is a world-class zoo. It was one of our favorite go-to spots in that city.

But before we went to the zoo, it was lunchtime, so we went to a Chinese buffet. San Antonio also has some of the best Chinese food I've ever eaten, and that includes a couple of buffets.

At the end of any meal in a Chinese restaurant, you get a fortune cookie. Some people think this is an American invention. It isn't exactly. This cookie was invented at the Japanese Tea Gardens in San Francisco by Makoto Hagiwara sometime between 1907 and 1909, so we'll call it in 1908 because that is sometime between 1907 and 1909.

Of course, we all know what the fortune cookie is. It's a thin, crispy sugar cookie folded on itself a couple of times and baked to a hard, rigid, crunchy gag-you-in-the-throat wafer that breaks into sharp knife-edge shrapnel and tastes like artificial oranges, vanilla and sadness. But it's not the cookie you're after, unless you are that one wanting to have something sharp, hard and oh-so-not-tasty jammed in between your teeth and gums, piercing to your jaw bone and dislodging a tooth. How lovely! But, for the rest of us, what we're after is stuffed inside that piece of orange-and-vanilla-flavored wood plank. You see, sometime shortly after inventing this thing, Hagiwara was eating one and bleeding profusely from the mouth. Then he thought to himself, "You

know what this needs? Paper!" I guess that was to soak up the blood. So, he put the fortune inside the cookie and gave it to China. He also insisted that it was now part of their cultural heritage! It's no wonder that China has had it in for Japan forever and a day! But they've also been imposing it on us ever since then because we allowed Hagiwara to live in the United States.

That's okay. I mean, who doesn't love the profound wisdom found on those pieces of paper. I particularly loved one I got many years ago that read, "Thank God, I'm finally out of that cookie. 10, 23, 38." That was one of those life-changing events for me.

But what does this have to do with elephants? you may ask. Remember, I was talking about elephants. This is a story about elephants, so don't change the subject.

Connie and I were going to the zoo after lunch, as I said. Connie knows that I am particularly fond of elephants. I do love that animal. They are fascinating and delicious, but don't tell Connie I just mentioned that aspect of them.

We finished our lunch and got

our fortune cookies. I won't eat them because they're nasty. But I will read the slip of paper. Now, I am not making this part of the story up. You can ask Connie if you don't believe me. She'll corroborate what I'm writing unless I've failed to fulfill the ever-shifting honey-do list. So, it might be better for me if you didn't ask her. But, my fortune cookie said the following: "Don't kiss an elephant on the lips today." Again, I'm not making that up. Not only did the fortune realize that we were headed for the zoo and that I love the elephants, it knew that if I were tempted to kiss an elephant on the lips, but it would also have been that very day! Since then, I have tried to figure out what part of the elephant would have been okay for me to kiss on that particular day.

I handed it to Connie, and she started laughing with gusto. So, we went to the zoo, and I watched the elephants. I started laughing about what had happened. It was only much later that it struck me. Maybe I should have gone back the next day for that elephant kiss I had missed. After all, that female elephant was a beauty!

Walter Sprague
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