

## Remediation planned for landfill

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

The city of Newcastle is completing an agreement with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for the city's Landfill Remediation Program, according to city

engineer Mike Moore. He said the project, led by the DEQ, will address environmental concerns posed by the landfill. "These concerns include capturing and treating leachate originating from the landfill and also addressing methane issues," Moore said.

"Leachate is the fluid percolating through the landfills and is generated from liquids present in the waste and from outside water, including rainwater, percolating through the waste," according to [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com). As previously reported, in

2019, methane in one of the wells near the landfill had reached levels that are considered a health and safety risk. Caroline Brewer, project geologist with Trihydro Corp., reported to the Newcastle City Council on Feb. 4, 2019, that the methane was 100% a

lower explosive limit and 21% methane, creating a health and safety risk at the Weston County Sportsman's Club and shooting range. Trihydro is a Laramie-based engineering and environmental consulting company hired by the state to work on landfill

remediation across the state. "This was not anticipated. We recognized the problem in the past," Brewer had said. "This is a serious concern. The well is way above the limits and is a potential explosive  
— See **Landfill**, Page 7

### In honor of veterans



Newcastle Middle schooler Dan Crabtree plays the saxophone during the middle school band's performance during the Weston County School District No. 1 Veterans Day concert on Nov. 11. See more photos on Page 8.

Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

## WCHS to vote on vaccine mandate

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

The Weston County Health Services board of trustees will review and vote on a vaccine mandate policy on Thursday, Nov. 18, after the release of mandate regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, commonly referred to as CMS.

During a Monday evening board and medical staff meeting at the facility, CEO Maureen Cadwell

— See **Vaccines**, Page 2

## Progress being made on dispatch

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Weston County Sheriff Bryan Colvard told the Board of Weston County Commissioners on Nov. 2 that he is happy with the progress he has made in addressing dispatch issues with Newcastle Police Chief Sam Keller.

Keller told the *News Letter Journal* that he, Colvard and Upton Police Chief Susan Bridges have been meeting every other week to discuss dispatch protocols and procedures, noting that progress has been made and the group is working for a positive resolution for everyone involved.

"What we are dealing with are any of the issues that need to be addressed immediately that affect the whole operation," Colvard said. "We have done a lot with policies already, looking at efficiencies."

He noted that the adjustments should make things easier for dispatchers, deputies and officers.

— See **Dispatch**, Page 7

## How did hospital district spend CARES funding?

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

To date, Weston County Health Services has received and used \$12,330,272.96 in funding associated with COVID-19 and the pandemic, according to CEO Maureen Cadwell. This funding came from various places, although it is all tied to the CARES funding from the federal government.

According to information provided by Cadwell, the dis-

trict received \$4,139,880.26 in CARES funding directly. The additional funds were received through grants, payroll reimbursement and now-forgiven loans. This includes \$1,806,362 from the Small Business Administration, \$2,713,389 in state assistance and \$469,654.45 from the Wyoming Hospital Association's federal American Rescue Plan funding.

Cadwell said that the funding was needed to continue operations of the facilities throughout the pandemic. She noted that

there are potentially additional funds out there, including American Rescue Plan funds received by the state, but she is unsure how the facility would apply for those or how they would be spent.

"As a small, rural facility with a nursing home attached, we don't know what we would have done to obtain the needed supplies and equipment to provide services to our patients and residents," Cadwell said in a Provider of Relief Fund report. "The help from the PRF

(Provider of Relief Fund) funds and other funding that was provided to us greatly helped us prepare for and provide services during the pandemic."

The Provider of Relief Fund report, recently prepared by the facility, outlines how the direct CARES funding was spent, lost revenues during the pandemic and other facility statistics.

The majority of the funds, \$3,229,287.11, was spent on general and administrative expenses including mortgage/rent, insurance, personnel,

fringe benefits, lease payments, utilities/operations and other expenses during 2020 and the first half of 2021. Of that \$3.2 million, \$1,747,600.59 went to personnel.

"Personnel was any contract staff or other personnel that were doing COVID-related activities," Cadwell explained. "We tracked in every department the time that was spent on COVID-related things, including testing in the emergency area, in the nursing home visitations and activi-

ties to keep everyone happy, as well as extra time serving meals. Things that were a result of COVID."

Other reported expenses include \$281,796.96 in mortgage/rent; \$204,481.50 for insurance, including building and malpractice; \$259,954.85 for employees' fringe benefits; \$60,307.83 in lease payments for leased equipment in the lab and the mammography; \$258,794.41 for

— See **Funding**, Page 2

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 42, Lo 29



**Friday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 49, Lo 31



**Saturday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 46, Lo 28



**Sunday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 41, Lo 18



**Monday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 42, Lo 30



**Tuesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 47, Lo 26

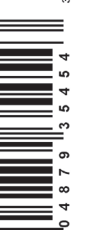


**Wednesday**  
Partly Cloudy  
Hi 38, Lo 22



### INSIDE

- Permit, Page 7
- Donation, Page 9
- Sweet, Page 9
- Employment, Page 10

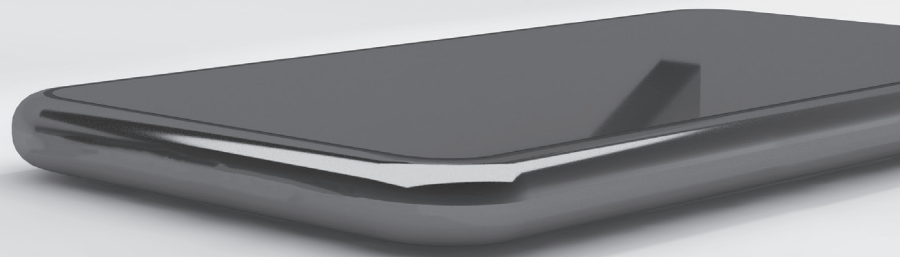


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## Turkey dinner



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Church on the Hill held the annual Thanksgiving Fellowship after the Nov. 7 morning service. Above, people lined up to partake of a full turkey dinner, complete with mashed potatoes, dressing, cranberry sauce, and other dishes.

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## Vaccines

from Page 1.....

Basically, what the regulations state is that we are required to have a policy in place that mandates the vaccine for health care personnel. In that regulation, we are allowed to offer medical and religious exemptions.”

—Maureen Cadwell,  
WCHS CEO

presented the draft policy that will be recommended to the board on Thursday evening for an official vote.

“Basically, what the regulations state is that we are required to have a policy in place that mandates the vaccine for health care personnel,” Cadwell said. “In that regulation, we are allowed to offer medical and religious exemptions.”

She noted that the medical exemption has to be specific to the COVID-19 vaccine while the religious exemption is “a little looser.”

According to Cadwell, per the regulations, employees need to receive their first dose of the vaccine or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by Dec. 5.

### Manor open for visits

Just in time for the holidays, the Manor at Weston County Health Services will no longer be under visitation guidelines for residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic, although social distancing and masking will be required, according to discussion during a Nov. 18 board of trustees and medical staff meeting at the facility.

“There will be no limit on visitor numbers — but no large gatherings. So no parties (Thanksgiving or Christmas) yet,” Cadwell said.

During visits, residents and their visitors will have access to their rooms and other gathering areas as long as the resident’s roommate, if they have one, is vaccinated. According to infection control nurse Angie Phillips, only two residents are unvaccinated.

Visitors will not be required to be vaccinated, Phillips said, but they will have to wear masks and pass a screening before the visit begins.

“If we choose to, we can require testing 24 hours prior to the visit, but we are not going there right now,” Phillips said.

Cadwell noted that residents will also be allowed to leave the facility with family to attend gatherings, but testing for five days after the outing will be conducted, as long as tests are readily available.

If the facility were to be surveyed by the CMS after that date and there is not a full listing of vaccinated employees and exemptions, then the facility could face consequences, including potential loss of its Medicare and Medicaid certification. Cadwell did note that there are other less drastic consequences, but after some time, the loss of certification and therefore Medicaid and Medicare funding is possible.

Cadwell explained that a lawsuit joined by Gov. Mark Gordon with several other states is trying to stop this particular regulation. “We don’t know where that will be. The recommendation is to get the policy in place and try to get exemptions if they meet (them) or the vaccine. That is what I know today,” she said.

Currently, 67% of the district’s employees are vaccinated, according to Angie Phillips, the facility’s infection control nurse. The district employs approximately 200 people between the hospital, clinics and other operations.

## Funding

from Page 1.....

utilities/operations; and \$416,350.97 for other general expenses.

Health care related expenses totaled \$800,041.53 for supplies, equipment and information technology work.

“The supplies include personal protective equipment, testing and some activity items for residents in their rooms. Equipment is bigger items, including concentrators and ventilation equipment, as well as other oxygen and treatment-related items,” Cadwell said.

The information technology portion was funded, according to Cadwell, because of the cyber security attacks that other facilities were seeing. She said that Weston County Health Services was allowed to use funding to upgrade its IT system.

In addition to reporting on its COVID funds spending, Cadwell said the facility submitted year-over-year lost revenue figures for both

2020 and 2021. She noted that the facility used 2019’s patient and revenue numbers to figure the lost revenue.

According to the report, Weston County Health Services experienced a drop in patient care revenues of \$194,623 in 2020 and \$347,205 in 2021. Cadwell said that this was due to many factors, including people staying home and the postponement of elective care.

From the beginning of 2019 to the end of the second quarter of 2021, the district employed between 112 and 128 full-time personnel, between 17 and 22 part-time personnel and anywhere from 6 to 22 contracted personnel.

Those personnel, over the same time period, handled a total of 169,646 patient visits, including 601 inpatient admissions, 116,818 outpatient visits (both in-person and virtual), 4,318 emergency department visits and 47,909 facility stays in the Manor.



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# nlj IDEAS

## Wanting it both ways

Remember last year, when there was so much oil on the global marketplace, at precisely the same time demand for petroleum products was shrinking amid the coronavirus pandemic, that there was no place to put all the oil that had already had been pumped. Economics 101: Too much supply + too little demand = falling prices.

**Steven R. Peck**  
Riverton Ranger  
Guest Editorial

That lesson was driven home absurdly, when the market price for crude oil briefly fell "below zero," if there really could be such a thing. In essence, it meant oil producers would pay consumers to take the oil off their hands -- in this case, "consumers" meaning anybody who could find some way to store the surplus petroleum. A year or so later, we have the opposite problem. The price for oil products is climbing again, most evident in recent months at the gasoline pump, where the price per gallon

is nearing \$4 in some places, and is considerably more than a dollar per gallon higher than it was a year ago virtually everywhere in the country. Certainly that's the case in Fremont County.

Back when oil prices were low, our state economy was taking a corresponding beating. Wyoming's fiscal mechanisms are set up so as to rely heavily on tax revenue generated by energy commodities, oil prominent among them.

In 2020 our state legislators were stricken by the responsibility of having to try to manage state finances in the face of plummeting state revenues tied closely to the falling price of oil.

But, at least gas was cheap at the pump.

As it is, that higher price of gasoline coincides with a much rosier financial picture for Wyoming. Suddenly it appears we've got hundreds of millions of dollars in surplus again.

Our lawmakers are going to be stymied by a different problem this winter, it appears. What will they do with that extra money? For once, we'll

have one of those "nice problems."

But it will cost more to fill the tank. Remember this: When the price of gasoline is low, dragging down the state economy with it, there's not a whole lot an individual consumer can do to improve his or her pocketbook situation.

But when the price of gasoline is high, meaning the state's economy is stronger also, there are things we can do as individuals to ease the pain at the pump.

Drive less, drive smarter, share rides, combine chores and errands into one trip, and, for crying out loud, quit flooring it when the light turns green or when you come to a hill.

Well, what's it going to be? Cheaper gas and a struggling economy, or a prosperous state with a high price per gallon?

The riddle persists, and it irritates us all, we creatures who, if we thought about it, would realize that of all the things in life we yearn for, the biggest might be having things both ways.

If you ever figure out how to do that, file a patent for it. The world will beat a path to your door.

*Editors Note: This editorial has been edited for content.*

### POLL of the WEEK

**QUESTION:**  
When do you decorate for Christmas?

Go to [newslj.com](http://newslj.com) to vote!  
Look for results in the Dec. 2 News Letter Journal.

**RESULTS:**  
What do you think of Daylight Savings Time?

- Love it ..... 33% 12 Votes
- Hate it.....56% 20 Votes
- Leave it.....11% 4 Votes

### Deadline for letters is noon on Friday

## 'Taking Chance' a movie about a Wyoming Marine

If you live in Wyoming and are a patriot -- how can you not love the movie "Taking Chance?"

We watched this 2009 movie the other night on HBO and, boy, does it ever hit home. It is an emotional roller coaster. We loved it when it first came out but had not watched it since.

It is the story about a young Marine from Dubois named Chance Phelps, who was killed on Good Friday, April 9, 2004, in Iraq. The movie is about Lt. Col. Mike Strobl's journey in bringing the young man's body home to Wyoming.

Kevin Bacon is simply outstanding as he portrayed Strobl doing this solemn solitary job of escorting the remains of an American soldier on his long and final journey home. It makes you proud to see how serious this country takes such a job.

By movie standards, this is a small little movie, only 77 minutes long. It does not include any expansive scenes but the director does an excellent job of showing the emotions connected with the premature death of a young man, cut down in his prime.

On the IMDB movie database, the film is rated 7.5, which is very good. It originally was a TV movie and later because

of its popularity, it has been elevated to frequent showings on the cable movie channels. And for good reason.

Chance Phelps has definitely not been forgotten.

The new Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois has a special room called the Chance Phelps Room, which has items telling his story. Museum founder Dan Starks was emphatic about making sure the young man was remembered.

Chance's dad, John Phelps, is a famous sculptor. In Lander, the spectacular Veterans Memorial at Veterans Park next to the Fremont

County courthouse is highlighted by a larger than life image of a soldier, with his head down bearing the brunt of war. That sculpture is by Phelps and he used the image of his son.

Wyoming is home to some of the best veterans memorials of any state. The most recent one was the magnificent Native American Memorial in Fort Washakie, which was just recently dedicated.

I wish I had written this column a week ago as a way of honoring all veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. This film does a spectacular job of honoring all vets.

The TV movie stars Bacon and is based on a short story Marine Lt. Col.

Strobl wrote after escorting Phelps' body across the country in 2004 to his funeral in Dubois.

Coincidentally, the military had banned all coverage of the return of soldier's remains since the 1991 Gulf War until April 2009. The military did offer assistance to the filmmakers on this project, however.

Wherever he went, Strobl wrote in the story, people greeted him with tremendous hospitality, respect and, often, teary eyes. Strobl kept a 20-page journal of his experience, which later was widely circulated among members of the military. It was discovered by HBO and quickly green-lighted as a movie project.

While most of the feature was filmed in New Jersey, the script also called for scenes from the funeral and the funeral procession in Dubois.

Phelps' family and Dubois residents were largely supportive of the project and thrilled when HBO location scouts visited the area. Town officials sought help from then-Gov. Dave Freudenthal and worked with Union Cellular to have a temporary cell tower erected, former mayor Mike Harrison said. Most of the western scenes ended up being filmed in the Bozeman, MT area, however.

Harrison said Dubois residents were in favor of a positive story about one of their own who made a commitment to his

country and followed through.

Harrison said local filming would have helped the town of about 1,000 in Fremont County find closure and would have further expressed its connection with Phelps and his family.

Phelps was 19 when he was killed in an ambush west of Baghdad on Good Friday in 2004.

"Chance was a great young man and came from a wonderful family," said Harrison, who choked up as he expressed his thoughts about the loss. "And that's really the basis for why this whole story was even told."

But what matters most, Mayor Harrison said, is that the nation learned the story of the Marine from Dubois, his family, and the proud town that helped raise him.

"The good news is that it's being told," Harrison said.

*An excellent news story about the movie written by reporter Jared Miller contributed to this column.*

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

## The Preamble tells our constitutional creation story

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, regrettably often overlooked by the citizenry, provides an elegant summation of our nation's constitutional creation story. It speaks of the work of the sovereign people. It represents a direct act of legislation, and introduces and forms part of the supreme law of the land, distinct from any and all future laws that will be passed under its authority.

The Preamble is a historical and legal colossus. In the Pennsylvania State Ratifying Convention, James Wilson, a leading delegate to the Constitutional Convention, quoted from the essence of the Preamble: "We the people of the United States ... do ordain and establish this Constitution." Wilson was trumpeting to the world, the groundbreaking significance of the Preamble: We the people are ordaining, that is constituting or creating the fundamental law that will govern the United States. The assertion by the American people of a right to

create a government of their choosing was unprecedented in a world dominated for centuries by monarchs, dictators and tyrants.

The framers were not required to wring concessions from British kings and nobles, as their forbears did in drafting the Magna Carta or the English Declaration of Rights. In contrast, Americans were unshackled in the drafting of their Constitution, including a Preamble that stated their ambitious goals. Free

from the coercive force and influence of a kingship or tyrant, able to focus on the incorporation into the Constitution their governing values, their preferences for power structures and their choices for allocating powers to both the national and state governments.

The Preamble's reference to the ordainment of the Constitution was a direct reference to the ratification of the Constitution by the people, an act that conferred authority upon the Constitution. The proposed

Constitution could not will itself into existence; as James Madison explained, it had no life until it was ratified by the citizenry.

The Preamble boldly declared that the very rationale behind the creation of the Constitution was to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense and secure the blessings of liberty to "ourselves and our Posterity." These stated ends of government, what Edmund Randolph of Virginia called, a "philosophy of the ends of government and human politics," reflected the founders' familiarity with a version of the Social Contract Doctrine presented by the 17th Century English philosopher, John Locke.

Americans understood the doctrine to imply a voluntary association of individuals, a social compact by which the "whole" people covenant with each other that all the people shall be governed by the same laws for the common good. This compact was not between the states; after all, states were not parties to the approval of the Constitution. The Constitution, as the founders were fond of saying, referred to "We the

people, not we the states."

The drafting of the Preamble throughout the summer of 1787 produced no great surprises. Both the Virginia and New Jersey Plans featured a modest Preamble, expected perhaps because they canvassed and, in many ways, promoted provisions of various state constitutions, several of which included a preamble to promote security and the general welfare. Alexander Hamilton's Plan, which was not formally presented to the Convention, also included a preamble.

The framers' work on the draft of what became the final version of the Preamble resembled the process that characterized work on the other provisions of the Constitution. What was missing in the discussions of the Preamble, however, were sharp differences of opinion, moments of intense debate. Certainly this provision generated no threats of walkouts from southern delegates, as did their objections to the evolution of the treaty-making power.

The Committee of the Whole, that is the daily meetings of the Constitutional Convention, spent much of the summer discussing various provisions of the proposed Constitution, including

a preamble. Again, there was virtually no dissent among the delegates. By August 6, the delegates had dispatched the draft to the Committee of Detail to round some corners and rough edges with the hope of making more progress. The focus, to that point, was on the inclusion of language that the people would "ordain" this Constitution, and that the preservation of the common defense and liberty should be included.

The Committee of Detail worked over the draft for roughly three weeks and then sent it onto the Committee of Style, which included such heavyweights as Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Rufus King and Gouverneur Morris. Scholars agree that the Preamble features the elegant, flowing handwriting of Morris, as does the rest of the Constitution.

The Preamble should not be a forgotten part of our Constitution. On the contrary, it is poetry, while the rest of the Constitution is mere prose. Indeed, its elegance and lofty ambitions are inspiring and accessible to us, anytime, particularly in dark political waters when we may need to be reminded of the possibilities of a "more perfect union."

News Letter Journal: WPA and NNA Award Winner

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### WHY

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



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**Obituaries**

**GRACE IRENE DAVIS**  
Oct. 21, 1925–Nov. 11, 2021  
Services for Grace Irene Davis, who passed away on Nov. 11, 2021, will be held Monday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church in Newcastle. A full obituary will follow.

**JACK LEROY ESLINGER**  
May 28, 1936–Oct. 13, 2021  
On a Spring day May 28, 1936, Jack LeRoy Eslinger was born to Bert Thomas Eslinger and Rosa Amelia Larson Eslinger. He was brother to Raymond Eslinger, Sam Eslinger, David Eslinger and Viola Morris. Jack was the last surviving sibling. Jack passed away on Oct. 13, 2021, at the assisted living facility in Sheridan, Wyo., where he had recently moved to be closer to his daughter and son-in-law.



**Jack Eslinger**  
Jack is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters, Robin (Steve) Schilling, Rachelle (Steve) Murrell, and Bonnie (Kevin) Sweet; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Jack grew up in Rapid City, S.D. Later Jack joined the U.S. Navy and moved to California. He was a patriot and proud of his service as a Seabee. It was truly ironic that he passed away on the 245th birthday of the United States Navy.

On his return to Wyoming Jack met and later married Sharon Ness Powell on March 24, 1976. Through this marriage Jack gained a son, Robert, and three daughters, Robin, Rachelle and Bonnie. Sharon's first husband and father of her children died in a construction accident in 1974 and Jack always made sure his grave site at the cemetery was groomed and well taken care in respect of his new family.

Jack's work career involved driving truck local and over the road. He was accompanied by Sharon and they were fortunate to see many beautiful parts of America during this period. Work ethic was important and Jack had no tolerance for "slackers." "Get off your butt and get to work" was always his motto. Jack and Sharon became familiar faces as they also spent many years working part time at Buckhorn and Cheyenne Crossing in the beautiful Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota.

Jack was very social and loved telling stories as if the story was a painting. It was common for him to share his insights with anyone who would listen. Before his health declined, he loved to tinker outside. He enjoyed building bird houses, playing cards, Cribbage and Mexican Train as well

as a being active at the VFW and American Legion. If your vehicle was less than shiny, he would wax and buff it for you. He was "Jack the wax man."

Reading was also top on his list as he enjoyed Louis L'Amour books and anything else with words. Monthly veteran magazines were anxiously read cover to cover and stacked next to his recliner. Wild birds flocked to the Eslinger home where they found homemade birdhouses and an abundant variety of bird seed. The pet birds at Jack's assisted living building knew him as well and we are certain birds will sing and soar over his final resting place.

The Eslingers also spent years on the highways riding their "trikes" and Goldwing motorcycle. They rode them as far as California and often showed up in eastern South Dakota to surprise Sharon's mother. The grandchildren were always thrilled to have a ride on the trikes. Annual trips to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally inspired him to collect lapel pins, which he proudly displayed as a collection on a vest.

Jack had a fondness for old country music and the couple loved to dance shaking up the floor at the West End. The song has ended but the melody lingers on.

Dogs were always an important part of Jack's life and were his constant companions. His grandson's dog passed away on the same day as Jack, and we are sure they are playing together out of control. The family and all who knew him will miss his presence, smile, quirky comebacks and his homemade breakfasts.

Pastor Ron Sample will officiate at Jack's Celebration of Life with military honors to be held at the Newcastle VFW on Saturday, Nov. 20, at 1 p.m. Cremation has taken place.

**DENNIS LEE POLLAT**  
July 7, 1941–Nov. 11, 2021

Dennis Lee Pollat, 80, was welcomed by the Lord Jesus in heaven on Nov. 11, 2021.

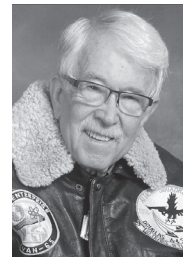
He was born on July 7, 1941, in Rapid City, S.D., shortly after his twin brother, Ken Pollat. They were born to parents Melvin & Betty (George) Pollat and joined twin sisters Betty Ann and Nancy Ann, who were 17 months old at the time. He grew up on the ranch south of Upton and graduated from Upton High School in 1959.

Dennis worked at American Colloid for a few years until he and Ken joined the United States Navy in 1963. They were both aviation electronics technicians and served on the aircraft carriers Ranger, Enterprise, and Hancock. They served in the naval buddy system until 1967, which allowed them to always be

stationed together.

After his honorable discharge, Dennis worked for the same oil company throughout his entire career (although that company changed hands/names: Terra Resources, Hunt, Pacific Enterprises). He began work in the Upton area and later moved into managerial positions in Casper, Wyo., from the early 1970s until retirement. His reliability, attention to detail, and outstanding work ethic made him an excellent employee.

Dennis and Ken enjoyed traveling to car shows around the area. They were fond of Hot August Nights in Reno, Nev., and, in more recent years, they appreciated Kool Deadwood Nites. They purchased a 1962 Thunderbird Sports Roadster in 2006 which they enjoyed sharing at Carson Rose's Classic Show & Shine in Upton City Park. This was a favorite annual event for both Ken and Dennis. Dennis enjoyed classic cars, going to garage sales, and finding a bargain.



**Dennis Pollat**  
He valued spending time with family and friends, especially his brother Ken. Family holiday dinners and celebrations were always cherished.

As Dennis' health declined this past year, Ken watched over him, and they were together constantly from Easter until Labor Day when poor health necessitated him being cared for in health facilities in Casper. Jesus saw fit for him to return to full health in heaven.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Nancy Kokesh; nephews, Bob Honey and Marvin Kokesh; and many extended family members.

He is survived by his twin brother, Ken Pollat; sister, Betty Ann Honey (Harold); brother-in-law, Don Kokesh (Barbara); many nephews and nieces and their families; as well as a large extended family.

A memorial service for Dennis will be on Friday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. at the Upton Community Center with Pastor Randy Fowler officiating. Burial will follow at the Upton Greenwood Cemetery. Please plan to join the family after the service for fellowship and a luncheon at the Community Center.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Upton Volunteer Fire Department or Upton First Baptist Church. 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.

Send your engagement, wedding and new baby announcements to the NLJ!

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**faith & values**

**Daily Devotional Reading**

November 19 Psalm 146	November 23 Psalm 150
November 20 Psalm 147	November 24 Psalm 65
November 21 Psalm 148	November 25 Psalm 66
November 22 Psalm 149	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. haydishall@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:** Interim Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;

AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10:00 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 949-0869
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7:00 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting, Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- **OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and 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:** Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

Those who sow to please their sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; those who sow to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ~ Galatians 6:8

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Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society/Homer Harvey Collection

This is a photograph of Homer Harvey. He is performing at a rodeo.

# Recapture

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

**25 Years Ago**  
**November 21, 1996**

The 1996 Women's Ag Symposium will be held on Friday, Nov. 22 at the Agricultural Resource and Learning Center, 2011 Fairgrounds Rd., Casper.

Dogie football players Jason Logan, Jeremy Unterseher and Bret Rasmussen have been named to the All-State team. Receiving All-Conference recognition were Logan, Rasmussen, Unterseher, Bucky Rawhouser and Jason Dean.

The Blotter: Nov. 11 - A man reported that his sewer had backed up. A woman was locked out of her house. Nov. 12 - A woman reported that her stove pipe fell off. A man reported that his family was harassed by another man. Nov. 14 - A very large border collie was running the streets. Nov. 17 - A woman reported juveniles sledding down a dangerous hill.

Sheriff's blotter: Nov. 11 - Officers were called to check on the welfare of a man who didn't show up for work. Nov. 12 - A woman reported vandalism to equipment. A gun was pulled on construction workers by two juveniles. Nov. 14 - A woman reported 91 missing sheep. A woman reported that a man borrowed her car and didn't return it.

Cedar Hills Family Clinics in Newcastle and Upton, and Weston County Memorial Hospital are busy greeting their newest member. Melinda Roalstad and husband Alan arrived October 25 with the intent of providing Weston County with Physician Assistant services, settling into a quieter life-style and continuing to enjoy their career choices.

In response to the City Council's decision to proclaim November 24-30 as Christian Heritage Week, more than 50 people joined at the courthouse steps for a patriotic rally in October. At the rally Jim Jones of First Baptist Church led a prayer for the nation and Phil Thurman read from 2 Chronicles 36:15-20. He challenged participants to be a nation under God.

**50 Years Ago**  
**November 18, 1971**

Bob Pease has been relieved of his duties as police chief by Newcastle Mayor Don McColley. McColley announced this week the action and stated that the city council will meet Monday concerning the hiring of a new chief. McColley did not elaborate on

the circumstances concerning the action taken on Pease as police chief.

The Newcastle high school will be presenting the musical "The Wizard of Oz" on Tuesday, Nov. 30, and Thursday, Dec. 2, according to Mrs. Sharon Thompson, musical director. It will begin at 7:30 in the high school gymnasium.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bettenhausen, new owners of the Corner Bar in Newcastle, have announced their open house on Friday and Saturday. A free smorgasbord will be offered during the open house. An advertisement can be found elsewhere in this issue of the News Letter Journal.

Harold Tysdal, Newcastle, and his white-faced sheep teamed up to take top honors in the sheep showmanship division at the 30th annual Little International Livestock show. The event is held each year at the University of Wyoming.

Wrestling coach Gary Campbell welcomed boys to the first practice session on Monday. The squad will open their season at Sheridan on Dec. 3 Newcastle is the defending class A champion.

An open house in honor of

the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mirich Sr., will be held Saturday, Nov. 27. The couple will be honored at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mirich Jr., at their ranch home west of Upton from 2 until 5 in the afternoon. Children of the couple will be hosts. The couple requests no gifts, please.

Cecil Fulton and Kit of Arizona and Glenn Fulton were Tuesday evening coffee guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kummerle and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Del Eisenhauer; John, Paul and Mark spent Friday to Sunday camping, boating and fishing at Sand Creek. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Eisenhauer also visited at the Eisenhauer campsite Saturday and Sunday.

**100 Years Ago**  
**November 17, 1921**

Miss Selma Lincoln, Weston County Health nurse, was an Upton visitor Friday, to attend a baby show which was one of the features of Armistice day's program. The little ones, ten in all, were gathered at the Equality store. Prizes were offered in various classes.

Well No. 5 on the W.J. Dixon

lease in section 17-46-63, drilled by the Penn. Petroleum company, hit the sand at 586 feet on Wednesday, and it is reported that the indication are excellent for a good well.

The Newcastle Lodge of Pythian Sisters will give a benefit dance in the city hall on Thanksgiving Eve, to which everyone is invited. A good time is promised, with excellent music. The proceeds will go toward replacing the paraphernalia destroyed in the recent fire.

Tuesday evening at 7:30 a party was given in the Library by Eunice Van Osdell for all of the boys who practiced and played football this season. The guests played games until about ten when a lunch was served.

Armistice Day was observed by a large majority of the citizens, although the Legion interest predominated. Shortly after 9 a.m. the school children, who had assembled in their respective class rooms, marched to the city hall, where the Legion and townspeople were already seated. The services were opened with songs by the school children, the chorus being led by Miss Kingsley, Mrs. Godfrey, Mrs. Hays, Mrs. Seigler and six high school girls.

The Red Cross membership drive now in progress in Weston county is proving successful, parts of the county making even better returns than last year, which was an unusually favorable one.

Jack Woodward and Grant Dickinson were in from the Moorcroft section yesterday, shopping with Newcastle merchants preparatory to engaging in hunting and trapping.

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**Lil' Dogie Lunch**

Levi Tysdal, Eli Bonnema, Sydney Baker, Kayla Oleson, and Brayton Von Eye

Thank you Grazer's for hosting this month's Lil' Dogie Lunch, and partnering with Newcastle Elementary School to reward students who display good citizenship by helping others.

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<b>WHAT'S UP</b>			
<i>November 2021</i>			
<i>Weston County Meetings &amp; Events Calendar</i>			
<b>Fri. Nov. 19</b>	6-11AM 7AM 9AM 1PM 5:30PM 7-10PM	WHF Blood Screening, by appt. 800-979-3711 TOPS #322 Caramel Rolls Bridge BINGO Dance	Senior Center Senior Center Senior Center Senior Center VFW Hall Senior Center
<b>Sat. Nov. 20</b>	9AM-1PM 7PM	Christmas in WY Bazaar WC Concert Association New Odyssey Guy	First United Methodist Church Crouch Auditorium
<b>Mon. Nov. 22</b>	9AM 1PM	Exercise Class Dominoes	Senior Center Senior Center
<b>Tues. Nov. 23</b>	11AM 1PM 3:30PM	Story time Bridge Alzheimers/Dementia Support	Library Senior Center Zoom
<b>Wed. Nov. 24</b>	6:30-8:30AM 9AM	Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class	WCHS Senior Center
<b>Fri. Nov. 26</b>	5:30PM	BINGO	VFW Hall
<b>Mon. Nov. 29</b>	9AM 1PM	Exercise Class Dominoes	Senior Center Senior Center
<b>Tues. Nov. 30</b>	11AM 1PM	Story time Bridge	Library Senior Center



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**TOUR THE New Family Clinic**

You're invited to an Open House of the new Campbell County Medical Group Family Clinic!

**Monday, November 22, 2021 • 4-6 pm**  
Family Medicine Clinic at Red Bluff Medical Center  
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Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

**Top to bottom, the compost yard by the fairgrounds is busy grinding up brush and branches, turning the yard trimmings into mulch. Garrett Borton, owner of Renegade Paint and Pipes, sprays the final clear coat on the hood of one of Team Properties' vehicles, after repairs were done to fix hail damage. Jason Williams hauls some trash logs that he will later cut up and split for firewood, getting ready for winter.**

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# Landfill closer to permitting process

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

The Weston County Solid Waste District is one step closer to beginning the permitting process for the new county wide landfill, according to board member Bob Hartley. After the completion of a

land trade with the state of Wyoming, the district began the process to build a road to its new landfill. The road has now been completed, Hartley told the *News Letter Journal*. The district now will wait for reports developed from the results of monitoring wells on the site before beginning the

landfill permitting process with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

As previously reported, once the permits are secured, the construction of the facilities needed at the landfill will begin.

Per the district's schedule, opening of the landfill is expected by the end of next

year. Hartley had previously said the earliest the county landfill would open is sometime in late 2022, although an official date is not determined.

Because of this, city engineer Mike Moore said that the city is hoping to work with the DEQ to keep Newcastle's Landfill No. 2 open until the county

landfill opens.

"On Landfill 2, the city has received the closure permit from the DEQ," Moore said. "We expect to be able to stay open until the Weston County Solid Waste District opens their landfill."

Moore said a consultant will prepare plans and specifications

for the closure work.

"Three closure options were evaluated, with the clay cap being selected as the most economical option with a cost estimate of \$1.33 million," Moore said. "The city is eligible for up to a 60% grant through the DEQ's Municipal Solid Waste program."

## Landfill

from Page 1.....

hazard, may introduce methane into a closed structure, and you also have asphyxiation. These are the things you have to think about when you have methane concerns."

The landfill, which was operated from sometime before 1945 until its closure in 1989, covers 38 acres of land near the sportsman's club and contains an estimated 700,000 cubic yards of waste.

Trihydro's scope of work at the landfill included methane monitoring, groundwater monitoring, statistical analysis, evolution of remedial alternative, preliminary design, cost estimates and reporting to the city and state.

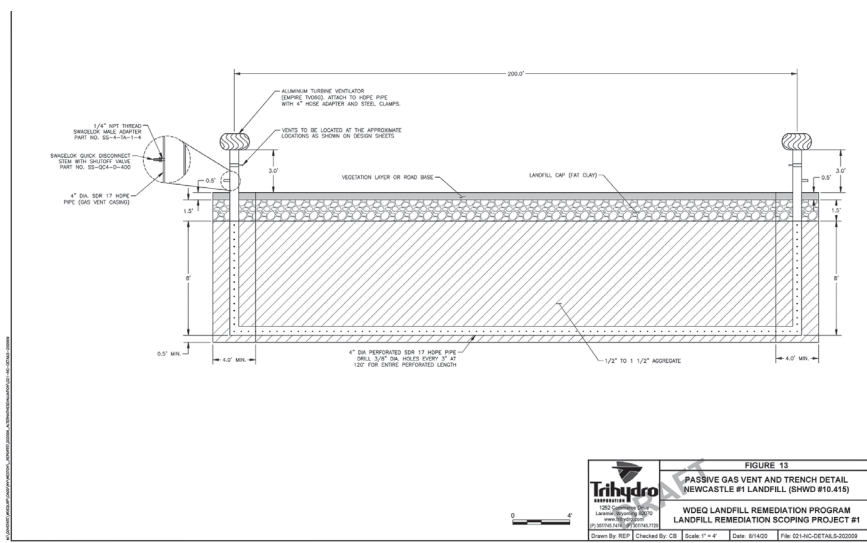
Brewer also reported in 2019 that water samples had shown that oxidation reduction is a potential problem, indicating that there is some potential for chemical reactions.

"This is important because we believe there is a problem," Brewer had said. "The reports are telling them there is a reaction taking place in the water."

Marge Bedessem, senior environmental engineer with Trihydro at the time, said that most of what was found in the water was solvents and that they were not exceeding groundwater standards.

Based on Trihydro's studies, the goals presented to the City Council in 2019 to be addressed in the remediation plan were methane control to reduce health and safety risks and addressing the impacted groundwater.

The project to complete the remediation has an estimated cost of \$2.4 million, based on estimates from the Remediation Alternatives Evaluation Report completed by



### Landfill Remediation Program

In 2013, the Landfill Remediation Program was created by the Wyoming Legislature to address open and closed landfills throughout the state "wherein, upon installation of adequate groundwater monitoring networks, it was determined that landfill activities were impacting groundwater."

The program provides grant funding to facilities upon entry to the program at a 75% grant to 25% match ratio. The state then remains a funding partner on the project for the first 10 years of the chosen remedy.

water management option b, with an estimated cost of \$900,000.

"This is estimated down from the report estimate to account for the initial construction of smaller-size ponds. We would construct ponds, likely two, totaling about two-thirds of the total needed pond area, estimated in the report," information from the DEQ says. "There is much uncertainty in the actual groundwater flow rate, and thus much uncertainty in the needed pond area to store and evaporate it."

These initial ponds would allow for water to be stored for a year or two while the actual groundwater flow rates and amounts are determined. At this time, if additional pond area is needed, then plans can be made.

Trihydro. The proposed initial agreement amount is \$1.8 million from the Landfill Remediation Program and \$600,000, or 25% of the total costs, from the city.

According to Moore, the city does not have to come up with the full \$600,000 immediately. He noted that, to date, the DEQ has footed the costs through the remediation program.

"It (the city) initially only needs to provide its 25% share for the studies and design work. An initial budget estimate would be \$400,000 for that work, or \$300,000 from LRP and \$100,000 from the city," information provided by Moore says.

As the work progresses and the cost estimates are refined, the city would then be responsible for the additional funding before the construction, or other contracts, are entered.

"As the design gets completed, we should get more accurate cost estimates for construction and could adjust the remediation agreement budget, if needed," Moore said.

"Bidding the construction project(s) would be another point at which the budget would be re-evaluated and adjusted, if needed. After the systems are constructed and we evaluate any need for additional evaporation ponds, or other changes, we would adjust the budget to account for those changes and to accommodate additional years of OMM (operation, maintenance and monitoring)."

A breakdown of the projected costs provided by Moore shows that the initial phase of the project, following the studies that have been completed, will cost roughly \$1 million. This phase will include the design and construction of the groundwater alternative two, an interceptor trench at the landfill boundary.

"The interceptor trench's purpose is to capture leachate from landfill 1," Moore said. "The leachate is groundwater that has picked up soluble matter from the landfill."

After that, they will move into the design and construction of ground-

## Dispatch

from Page 1.....

"I am very happy with the progress we have made. Some of the changes have already been implemented," Colvard told the commission, adding that there is still lots to be done.

Keller noted, in a conversation with the *News Letter Journal*, that the new CAD technology has been installed but is awaiting implementation. He said that part of the reason for the delay is that the city has

not yet purchased laptops for patrol cars and that training has not been conducted.

According to Colvard, once the departments work through issues and develop plans, then the City Council and the Weston County commissioners will need to get involved. In his opinion, he said, the departments should work together to develop the policies before the attorneys and the boards get involved.

"We would like to write

those up (into) something we agree with and then let the attorneys and boards go through that and turn it into a contract," Colvard said.

Commissioner Tony Barton, saying that he is speaking for himself and not the board, said that he would like the long-term goal to still be the development of a joint powers board to run dispatch services.

"I don't disagree with that," Colvard said.

"I have been an advocate for that since day one; those contracts mean nothing," Colvard added.

He said that contracts that provide protections for everyone need to be in place.

"Mine (sheriff's department) might look different than others. It would give us a tool to work through those issues," he said.

Colvard reminded the board that it will still be one dispatch center and operations would

need to be somewhat similar across all law enforcement departments to allow dispatchers some consistency in dealing with calls.

"We have to work towards that at the very minimum," Colvard said. "Good contracts."

Commissioner Nathan Todd told Colvard that although the process is moving in a positive direction, he would still like to see an inventory of dispatch equipment.

"I know you guys are working hard, but if [negotiations don't work] ... We need to be prepared," Todd said. "If things go south, it could get expensive quick."

As for the dispatch center's location, Keller said that the relocation of dispatch and the police department is moving forward. To date, the city has bid out the installation of a server room to be installed in the city office.

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— Anita Ottema

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**nlj**  
news letter journal

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Photos by Alexis Barker/NLJ  
 Isabella Spencer, Maggie Mae Lorenz and Dakotta Wheeler, above, along with other members of the Newcastle High School's mixed ensemble group sang the National Anthem to kick off the school district's annual Veteran's Day concert on Nov. 11 at the Crouch Auditorium. At left, veterans Halle McCoy and Chad Bergstrom, with daughter Indie, stand during the Army fight song during the concert. Below left, Paul Weyrich, Korean War veteran, waves to the crowd. Below, Newcastle Middle School civics teacher and emcee for the annual concert, Robert Munger, looks on as speaker Jessica Graham shares her Army story for the crowd.

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**Our Family Powdered or Brown Sugar**  
32 oz., Select Varieties **2/<sup>3</sup>**

**Betty Crocker Brownie Mix or Cookie Mix**  
14-19.1 oz., Select Varieties **2/<sup>4</sup>**

**GOBBLE UP THE SAVINGS**

**1<sup>19</sup> LB**  
Grade A Self Basting Whole Frozen Turkeys

**Red Potatoes or Yukon Gold Potatoes**  
5 LB. Bags Select Varieties **2/<sup>5</sup>**

**Open Acres Shank Portion Bone-In Hams**  
Butt Portion Bone-Hams \$2.39 LB **2<sup>19</sup> LB**

**Russet Potatoes**  
10 LB. Bag, Select Varieties **2<sup>99</sup>**

**USDA Choice Angus Pride Beef Boneless Prime Rib Roast** **11<sup>99</sup> LB**

**Cool Whip**  
8 oz., Select Varieties **4/<sup>5</sup>**

**Marie Callender's Pies**  
24.5-40 oz., Select Varieties **4<sup>99</sup>**

**Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce**  
14 oz., Select Varieties **2/<sup>3</sup>**

**Stove Top Stuffing Mix**  
6 oz., Select Varieties **1<sup>89</sup>**

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November 18, 2021 — 9

# Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

## SPORTS SCHEDULES

### NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

NHS Men's Basketball		
11/22 1st Practice	H	TBA
NHS Ladies' Basketball		
11/22 1st Practice	H	TBA
NHS Men's Swimming		
11/29 1st Practice	H	TBA
NHS/UHS Wrestling		
11/22 1st Practice	H	TBA
NMS Wrestling		
11/22 Hulett HS @ Hulett Red Devils	A	4:30 pm
11/30 Moorcroft HS @ Moorcroft	A	4:30 pm
NMS Girls' Basketball		
11/20 8th 3A @ Douglas (2 games)	A	9 am
11/22 Moorcroft HS @ Moorcroft	A	4:30/5:30
12/02 Sundance HS @ Sundance	A	4:30/5:30

## Not my fantasy

I don't know about anyone else, but for me, this year Fantasy Football is anything but.

Granted, I was only sure of one player that I wanted to draft, and my draft position was less than desirable, and I maybe wasn't truly feeling the vibe for some reason. But, man, so far the whole experience has been something of a disappointment.

In fact, I've actually begun to look forward to seeing just how radically my players can mess things up each week.

Take for example, last week. As I watched both my, and my opponent's players put up nothing short of dismal numbers, I likened the whole experience to the slow speed chase of O.J. Simpson in the white Bronco — boring and pathetic, but somehow impossible to not to watch.

Projections showed that the contest would be a high-scoring affair, with both of our teams putting up more than 120 points, and I was projected to win.

The reality was far from the expectations of the experts, because Sunday ended with both of our teams only having scored somewhere in the 40s.

As Monday night wound down, I found myself glued to my phone and TV as I watched a

— See Karpe, Page 16



Sonja Karp Karpe Dogie

## Generous donation helps BREAD

Walter Sprague  
Art and Culture Reporter

With a generous donation from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the BREAD office will distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families in the area. On Wednesday, Nov. 3, trucks of canned and dry foods arrived at the food pantry. The church delivered shipments that went to food pantries in Sundance, Gillette and Newcastle. Latter-day Saints representative Kim Austin of Fort Collins, Colorado, said the church grows and processes the food and then ships the products to Salt Lake City. From there, it distributes to food banks around the country.

"We send out 15 to 20 trucks every week," Austin said, "Each truck can carry about 40,000 pounds of food. We send those shipments out to cities all over America at no cost to them."

The shipment that came into the Newcastle BREAD office was part of a 20,000-pound shipment, much of which stayed in Newcastle. However, Mike Dodd, the Upton Food Bank director, took a large trailer filled to the top to Upton. The shipment was loaded onto the trailer by volunteers from both Upton and Newcastle.

Another shipment that was scheduled to arrive in Newcastle on Nov. 10 was supposed to have a lot of

— See BREAD, Page 10



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

The Newcastle BREAD office received a large shipment of food from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Nov. 3. A trailer of goods was also shipped to the Upton Food Bank. A load of turkeys was supposed to come in on Nov. 10, but the meat spoiled in transit. However vouchers will be made available for meat from Deckers. Above, volunteers load a large shipment of food on a trailer for the Upton Food Bank on Nov. 3.

## Local girl working for Hageman's campaign

KateLynn Slaamot  
NLJ Reporter

When Emalee Sweet, a 2018 Newcastle High School graduate, heard about the opportunity to work as Harriet Hageman's personal assistant during her campaign to be Wyoming's sole representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, she knew she wanted to give it a shot.

Trinity Lewis, who worked in the same capacity for Hageman during her gubernatorial campaign in Wyoming in 2016, told Sweet about the opportunity.

"Trinity worked with me on the governor's race, and she's since had two little boys, and so she can't travel to do the same. So, she said why don't you talk

to Emalee. And she got a hold of Emalee, and that's how we ended up working together," Hageman said.

Sweet laughed. "She messaged me on Facebook. I thought she was selling something," she said.

Sweet has now been working for Hageman since September, when she announced her campaign. Both Lewis and Sweet are near and dear to Hageman's heart because they both attended Casper College, which Hageman also attended.

Sweet said her job entails a plethora of tasks — taking notes for Hageman when she visits with people, helping her coordinate whom she needs to

— See Sweet, Page 16



Photo by KateLynn Slaamot/NLJ

Emalee Sweet, 2018 Newcastle High School graduate, is currently working as Harriet Hageman's personal assistant for her campaign for Wyoming's lone seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pictured is Hageman and Sweet.

## A Wellness Blood Screening

November 19, 6 to 11 a.m.  
Weston County Senior Center in Newcastle  
\* By Appointment \*

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- \$35 HemoglobinA1C
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- \$45 Vitamin B12 with Folate
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- \$55 Thyroid Panel 2
- \$80 T3, Reverse
- \$45 Thyroid Antibodies
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- \$50 Men's Testosterone
- \$55 Women's Testosterone
- \$80 Rheumatoid Arthritis Expanded Panel
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# Employment, wages down

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

The average monthly employment, total wages and average weekly wages in Weston County and across the state were down when comparing the first quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2020, according to the Nov. 5 report from the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Research and Planning Division.

“Wyoming’s economy continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in first quarter 2021,” the report says. “From first quarter 2020 to first quarter 2021, Wyoming lost 13,889 jobs (5.2%) and total payroll fell by \$192.6 million (5.7%). The largest losses occurred in mining (including oil and gas; -5,484 jobs), leisure & hospitality (-2,686 jobs), construction (-1,237 jobs), local government (including public schools, colleges and hospitals; (-1,291 jobs) and wholesale trade (-998 jobs).”

The state also saw a decrease in the average weekly wage for employees at 0.6% or \$6.

In Weston County, decreases were seen across the board as well. The average monthly employment was down 3.1% or 71 people in 2021 compared with 2020. Approximately 2,251 people were employed per month during the first quarter compared with 2,322 in 2020.

A breakdown for the county shows that the federal government sector of the workforce grew 4.2% in 2021, while the private, state government and local government were all down by 4%, 8.6% and 0.2%, respectively.

The largest decreases were seen in the mining sector, including oil and gas, with a decrease of 28.7% or 68 employees; the transportation and warehouse sector with a decrease of 46 workers or 34.6%; and the accommodation and food services sector with a loss of 23 workers or 12.5%.

Increases were seen in several sectors, the largest being in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector, up 25.9% or 10 workers, and the retail trade sector, up 27% or 66 workers.

Total wages were down \$1,488,262 across the county, or 6.1%. Workers earned \$23,076,261 in 2021, down from the \$24,564,523 earned in the first quarter of 2020.

The county breakdown shows that private sector total wages dropped 9.1% in the first quarter of 2021, down \$1,466,421 from the \$16,149,481 earned in the first quarter of 2020. The state government also experienced a decrease in total wages over the same time period, down 6.9% or \$128,004 in 2021 from the \$1,735,230 earned in the first quarter of 2020.

Both federal and local governments saw

increases in total wages at 4.7%, or \$30,628, and 1.3%, or \$75,535, respectively.

The largest decreases in total wages were seen in the mining sector, including oil and gas, down 25.4%, or \$790,507; wholesale trade, down 27.3%, or \$108,973; and other services (specifically repair and maintenance), down 21.8%, or \$50,032.

Sectors that experienced increases in total wages were seen in retail trade at 19.6%, or \$266,962; finance and insurance, up 25.3%, or \$201,851; and construction, up 7.3%, or \$95,566.

The average weekly wage for workers in Weston County also dropped 3.1% or \$25 in 2021. In 2020, the average weekly wage was reported to be \$814, compared with \$789 in 2021.

A county breakdown shows that private sector average weekly wages dropped 5.3%, or \$44, in 2021, compared with the first quarter of 2020, meaning workers were bringing home an average of \$783, compared with \$827 the year before.

Increases in the weekly wage were seen in all three areas of the government-owned sectors. The federal government’s average weekly wage increased by 0.6% from \$1,035 in the first quarter of 2020 to \$1,041 in 2021, while the state government’s wage increased 1.9% from \$1,000 to \$1,019 and the local government’s wages increased 1.5% from \$723 to \$733 a week.

The breakdown further shows that the largest decreases were seen in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors, with a weekly average decrease of 21.1%, or \$117; the wholesale trade sector, with a decrease of 11.4%, or \$157; and in the transportation and warehouse sector for the federal government, with a decrease of 7.7%, or \$70.

The largest weekly wage increases were seen in the finance and insurance sector at 29.8%, or \$315; privately owned transportation and warehouse sector at 11.5%, or \$91; and the utilities sector at 6.9%, or \$121 a week.

Other counties with increases across the board were Campbell, Converse, Natrona and Sweetwater counties. Nonclassified counties, or jobs where the employer may be located statewide or in multiple counties, were also down across the board.

Counties experiencing increases across the board included Albany, Hot Springs, Johnson, and Lincoln counties.

County-level employment and wages data for the second quarter of 2021 are scheduled to be released on Feb. 4, 2022.



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

**Ken Pitlick, director of BREAD, organizes the huge shipment that came in on Nov. 3.**

## BREAD from Page 9.....

turkeys, which were also raised and processed by the church. These were going to be a part of the Thanksgiving baskets. However, according to Ken Pitlick, director of BREAD, the shipment was spoiled when it came into the distribution facility in Salt Lake City. While another consignment of meat, mostly beef, and pork is arriving on Wednesday, that meat is for the regular food distribution to the families of Newcastle.

Pitlick said that meat vouchers would be part of the Thanksgiving baskets due to the generous donations from many sources. Those vouchers can be used at Decker’s Market this year. The size of the baskets and the meat voucher amount depends on family size.

All baskets are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“We trade off with the vouchers,” Pitlick said, “One year they are good at Deckers. The next time will be Woody’s (Food Center). This year it is with Decker’s.”

Dodd said that the typical government donations to Upton were slim this year, unlike other years where there had been plenty of assistance.

“The church really came through for us,” Dodd said, “You get kind of worried about where the next donations come from, and we were looking pretty slim. This shipment from the LDS church greatly helped us out. This shipment will last us for quite a while.”

Pitlick also expressed his

gratitude to the church. He said that the shelves in the BREAD office were getting pretty empty.

“The shipment came in at the right time,” Pitlick said, “Thanks to them, our shelves have filled up in a big way. Thanksgiving is not going to be a problem at all.”

Newcastle residents who would like to get a Thanksgiving basket from the BREAD office, as well as meal vouchers redeemable at Decker’s, can pick up distributions from Monday, Nov. 22, through Wednesday, Nov. 24. The food bank is open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The address is 627 Pine St. in Newcastle, next to the Weston County Senior Center. For more information, call BREAD at 746-3542.

# newslj.com





## Game on

Newcastle Middle school Coach Elyse Dickey, far left, fires up her seventh grade basketball team, Delainey Dresen, Aria Wheeler, Kyndal Von Eye and Ashlynn Shroyer, during a timeout in Upton on Nov. 9. They went on to win the game against Upton, 39-11. At left, Brooklyn Benshoof dribbles around a Douglas defender during the 3A 8th grade Shootout in Newcastle on Nov. 13. Bottom left, eighth-grader Sydney Pederson tosses the ball to her teammate Madison Sterriker during a nail-biter of a game against Upton on Nov. 9. The game ended in a tie, and went into overtime with Upton winning by 3 points. Below, Preslee Fitzwater looks to hand off to a teammate during the Douglas game. Newcastle went on to lose the game against Douglas and also lost a close game to Glenrock the same day.

Photos by Kim Dean and Walter Sprague/NLJ



# INSURANCE | VACATION AND SHORT-TERM RENTALS

With the holidays just around the corner, consumers may be looking for lodging options when visiting out-of-town family or for their visiting guests.

**Home-sharing or peer-to-peer rentals** are sites where people rent out rooms or entire homes to guests for extra income.

Typically, guests find a property online and pay for the stay like a hotel through the parent rental company. The property can be a privately owned apartment, condo, house or even a single room. Anyone can register to be a host with the parent rental company and anyone can reserve as a guest.

**If you are considering listing a rental property, be prepared before you share.** Consider the following to protect you and the consumers who may rent from you.

- Check your local ordinances as some communities prohibit short-term rental properties. Determine if you are going to affiliate with a rental company or rent individually on a peer-to-peer basis.
- Review your insurance policies. Confirm that your own homeowners, renters or personal liability insurance policies offers protection.
- Ask if your homeowners policy covers guest injury and property damage, as many homeowners policies won't cover these.
- If you are working through a home-sharing company, talk to the company and your insurance agent to determine if you need additional liability coverage or special landlord insurance.
- Develop a list of house rules for guests and have guests sign that they have read and understand your rules. Set boundaries. Let guests know what items they can and can't use. For



example, it's not uncommon for a host to lock certain rooms that are used for storage, etc.

- **Require Proof Of Insurance.** Consider only renting to guests who show their own proof of homeowners, renters or personal liability insurance. If your property is damaged, you may be able to report a claim on your guest's policy. Don't be afraid to charge guests for damages.

- **Talk to your agent.** If paying guests cause damage when renting, know if your policy covers property damage.

### Before Booking a Vacation Rental

- **Read the fine print.** Home-sharing user agreements change often. Be sure to read the fine print every time you engage.
- **Some vacation rental companies offer insurance for their guests.** For example, Airbnb's Host Guarante

tee is a property damage protection program. It applies to hosts of places to stay, from guest check-in to check-out. It provides up to \$1,000,000 in property damage protection in the rare event a host's place or belongings are damaged by a guest or their invitee during the stay. This protection is not considered an insurance policy and not all property damage caused by guests is within its terms.

- **Hosts who want more protection are encouraged to purchase personal insurance that will cover property damage not protected by the parent company's "host protection plan."** Typically, these plans do not provide protection for bodily injury or property damage to guests or others — a host's legal responsibility for those must be covered under insurance.

### Renting your holiday home

- **Know what kind of insurance**

you need for a vacation rental property. Most vacation rental owners carry either homeowners or landlord insurance, both of which have significant coverage gaps. Homeowners insurance is designed for an owner-occupied property, while a landlord policy is designed to be tenant-occupied.

- **If you don't feel comfortable with the person renting, you always have the option to turn down potential guests.**

- **If you rent out your home, a "home and contents" insurance policy won't cover you.** You would need landlord insurance, and even then, most policies will only cover you if you're renting out for longer than 90 days.

- **Some parent vacation rental companies provide you with insurance options for participating in their rental network.** Often, these comprehensive insurance coverage provides protection for your building(s), contents, income and liability protection for your property while your home is rented.

- **The average vacation rental insurance cost ranges anywhere from 2-3 times the cost of a comparable homeowners policy, anywhere from \$2,000 - \$3,000 annually.**

### Short term rental insurance.

This type of insurance can provide you with coverage for your entire house or apartment, or just the part that's being rented.

- **Pay-per-night short stays lets you only pay insurance for the days that your home or room is rented out to a guest.**

- **When a vacation home is used primarily as a rental for short-term rentals (less than 30 days) you may be able to obtain a special endorsement from your insurance.**



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DATE	HI	LO
S-07	64	43
M-08	45	34
T-09	54	34
W-10	50	32
T-11	43	25
F-12	41	23
S-13	64	30

**Legal Notice**

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT**

**WESTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT FOR LANDFILL ACCESS ROAD**

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE AND FINAL PAYMENT OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Wyoming Statute Sections 15-1-113 and 16-6-116 that the Governing Body of the Weston County Solid Waste District (WCSWD), has accepted as completed according to the plans, specifications and rules the work performed under that certain agreement dated July 14, 2021, by and between the WCSWD and Farnsworth Services of Newcastle, Wyoming, as the Contractor, and that said Contractor is entitled to final payment therefore.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on the forty-first (41st) day following the first (1st) publication of this Notice, to wit: December 1, 2021, the WCSWD will pay to said Contractor the full amount due under the above-mentioned

agreement, subject to Final Pay Request and all Change Orders there to.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person, partnership, corporation, agency or association having any unpaid claim(s) against said Contractor for or on account of the furnishing of labor, materials, equipment, sustenance, provisions, provider or other supplies used or consumed by said Contractor pursuant to said Contractor's performance under the above-mentioned agreement must within forty (40) days following the first (1st) publication of this Notice, to wit: no later than December 1, 2021, file a verified statement of any and all amounts due on account of such claim with the WCSWD. Failure on the part of any such claimant to timely file such a statement will absolutely relieve the WCSWD from any and all liability for such claim.

Weston County Solid Waste District  
By: Robert C. Hartley  
Weston County Solid Waste District  
Box 158  
Newcastle, WY 82701

(Publish November 4, 11 and 18, 2021)

**Police Blotter**

**November 7**

Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Dog Bite Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Injured Animal Reported. Traffic Stop, No Action Taken. Wandering Child Reported. Assist Other Agency. Traffic Control Requested. 911 Misdiad.

**November 8**

Parking Complaint. School Walkthrough. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Arrest Warrant Issued. Traffic Control Requested. Juvenile Problem Reported.

**November 9**

Suspicious Activity Reported. Vandalism Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. School Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. School Walkthrough. Warrant Arrest Made. Arrest Warrant Issued. Drunk Driver Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.

**November 10**

Commercial Burglar Alarm Reported. Assist Other Agency. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Assist Other Agency. Suspicious Activity Reported. Assist Other Agency. School Bus Arm Runner Reported, Written Warning Issued. Traffic Complaint. 911 Misdiad. Report of Cattle on the Highway. Suspicious Activity Reported. Traffic Stop, ERO Issued.

**November 11**

Traffic Stop, ERO Issued. 911 Misdiad. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. School Walkthrough. School Walkthrough. 911 Misdiad. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Natural Death Reported. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued.

**November 12**

Domestic Issue Reported. Trespassing Order Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Domestic Issue Reported. Report of a Dog at Large. Civil Standby Requested. VIN Inspection Requested. Disorderly Subject, Arrest Made. Traffic Stop, Written Warning Issued. Arrest Warrant Issued. Report of Two Dogs at Large. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued.

**November 13**

Assist Other Agency. Punctured Gas Line Reported. Traffic Hazard Reported. Traffic Stop, Citation Issued. Suspicious Activity Reported. Suspicious Activity Reported.



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**DEADLINE FOR LEGALS IS FRIDAY**

**Fun and Games**

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
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**Last week's answers**

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W	E	N			I	T	S			S	I	D	E		

**LANGUAGES**

**ACROSS**

- Lacking imagination
- Afflict
- Bob of boxing world
- From then on
- Ornamental pond dweller
- Not asleep
- Cuzco valley people
- Overnight lodging
- 5th of 7 canonical hours
- \*Brothers Grimm language
- \*Language considered to have most words
- Man's tasseled hat
- Cross to bear
- Retriever's word, for short
- Person, place or thing
- Like a bow or a racket
- Pale beverage, pl.
- It has multiple limbs
- Mister in Madrid
- Spare in a trunk
- Manuscript changes
- Romantic occurrence
- Letter-shaped girder
- Russian mountain range
- Curved molding
- HNO3 acid
- Egyptian goddess of fertility
- Rub the wrong way

**DOWN**

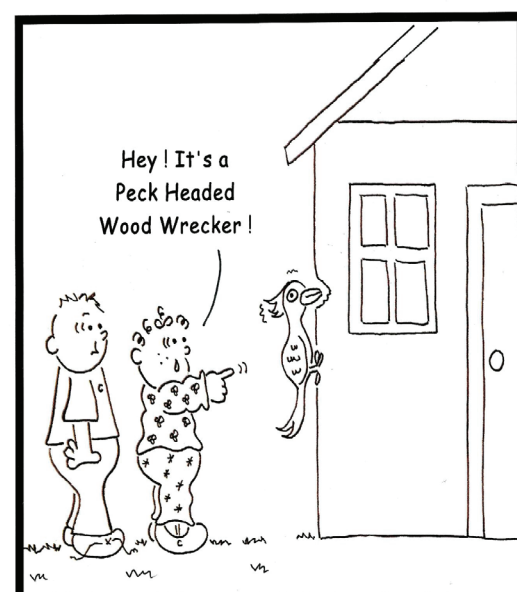
- CISC alternative
- Cry of horror, in comics
- \*First language spoken in outer space
- \*Once considered the language of diplomacy
- Like old cracker
- What acrimony and acrobat have in common
- Get ready to drive, on a golf course
- It's often rewarded with a medal in military
- Sturgeon yield
- Backyards separator?
- "That was close!"
- "C... la viel!"
- "Silas Marner" novelist
- Pressure unit
- A year in a trunk
- It's sometimes enough
- Cozy accessory
- Unquestioning ones
- Similar
- H+, e.g.
- Flax-derived fabric
- Deserter's acronym
- Indian princess
- Luau instrument, pl.
- Mosquito net, e.g.
- Teenagers' emotions
- Nitrogen, in the olden days
- \*Greek N, pl.
- Relating to dreams

- \*"Veni, vidi, vici" language
- "My wife can vouch for me", e.g.
- Prince's "Raspberry \_\_\_\_\_"
- \*Pakistani language
- Make over
- Eel in a sushi restaurant
- Annotator
- \*Hellenic language
- Popular way to cook tuna
- \*Greek H, pl.
- More like a fox
- Quaggier
- Langley, VA org.
- Be full of anger
- Rabbit trap
- Land on patellas
- Invitation acronym
- One of Four Corners states
- Price reduction
- Snail-like
- Guitar part
- Ghana monetary unit
- Designer Boss
- Trigonometry abbr.
- Favorite one

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
THAT E IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED LETTER IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE!

**Gwamma**

by JaNel M. Farnsworth





**Public Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1. Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled regarding the Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company) requesting authority to remove \$29,409,458 from its Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) mechanism and implement a February Extreme Weather (FEW) rate for all customers taking service under its Regulated GCA Option as of February 28, 2021. The public hearing is set to commence on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room located at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Black Hills Wyoming Gas conducts business as Black Hills Energy and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Black Hills Corporation. BHWG is a public utility as defined in Wyo. Stat. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(D), subject to the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to Wyo. Stat. § 37-2-112. BHWG is engaged in the business of supplying gas utility service to customers throughout its service territory in Wyoming.

3. On April 30, 2021, BHWG filed its Application, requesting authority to implement a FEW rate of \$0.1226 per therm, for all customers taking service under its Regulated GCA option as of February 28, 2021. On October 26, 2021, the Commission issued an Order Approving Rates on An Interim Basis granting BHWG's Motion, requesting authority to implement its proposed FEW rate of \$0.1226 per therm, on an interim basis, effective September 1, 2021, subject to refund. The Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate, Archer Energy LLC and United Energy Trading intervened and

requested a hearing.

4. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing which will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, Wyoming Public Service Commission Rules, and subject to any applicable national, state or local public health related orders or directives. All interested persons may appear and be heard, in person, by video or telephone conference, or through counsel appearing in person or by video or telephone conference.

Attend Zoom Meeting and actively participate at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86446549433>

Attend by telephone and actively participate by dialing: 1-346-248-7799 or 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 864 4654 9433

Any updates will be announced at: <https://psc.wyo.gov/home/hot-topics>.

5. The number of people in the Commission's hearing room and auxiliary spaces will be limited to maintain recommended physical distance between individuals. Facemasks will be available at this Public Hearing.

6. If you wish to attend the hearing and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 (Voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TTY) by dialing 711. Please mention Docket No. 30026-45-GP-21 in your correspondence. If you wish to listen to the hearing scheduled in this matter go to <https://psc.wyo.gov/calendar/livestream> at the appropriate time and follow the instructions to connect to the hearing.

(Publish November 18 and 25, 2021)

**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.

1. 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.

2. On November, 1 2021, BHWG filed its Application, together with testimony and exhibits, requesting authority to implement Wyoming Integrity Rider (WIR) Rates. The Company requests authority to implement its proposed WIR Rates, on an interim basis, on January 1, 2022, subject to refund, with final rates to be authorized on or before April 1, 2022. The Company's proposed 2022 WIR Rates (per therm) are as follows: Residential General Service \$0.0179, Small General Service \$0.0126, Medium General Service \$0.0119, Large General Service \$0.0067, On-system Transportation Service \$0.0066.

3. The 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. 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 projects included in the 2021 WIR filing are stated to have been necessary integrity projects that improve the safety and reliability of the system for all customers.

4. The Company states its proposed 2022

WIR Rates include: the costs of qualifying projects completed and in service or expected to be in service between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, which includes historical costs through September 30, 2021 and forecasted costs for October through December 2021; 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 2022 WIR Rates will have a monthly impact of \$0.73 on an average residential customer's bill and a \$0.92 impact on the average Small General Service customer's monthly bill.

5. 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](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).

6. 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 8, 2021. 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. 30026-51-GM-21 in all correspondence with the Commission.

7. 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.

(Publish November 18 and 25, 2021)

# Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



## Gas prices fall 5 cents

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Wyoming gas prices have fallen 4.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.41 per gallon Monday, according to GasBuddy.com's daily survey of 494 stations in Wyoming. Gas prices in Wyoming are 2.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago, and stand \$1.28 per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Wyoming was priced at \$2.83 per gallon Monday, while the most expensive was \$3.99, a difference of \$1.16 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 2.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.40 per gallon Monday. The national average is up 9.5 cents per gallon from a month ago, and stands \$1.28 per gallon higher than a year ago.

## Gordon signs the sole bill

JACKSON (WNE) — Gov. Mark Gordon has signed the sole bill to emerge from the Wyoming Legislature's special session intended to fight the Biden administration's federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

The governor put pen to paper as he engages in a number of lawsuits against various aspects of the federal mandate: one against requirements on federal contractors and contracted employees, one against requiring vaccines in private businesses with more than 100 employees, and one against an edict that would generally require health care workers to get inoculated.

Gordon's office was quick to highlight the legal challenges his administration is already pursuing in a Friday press release, and he was critical of the cost of the special session: \$233,000.

"This bill confirms the Legislature's support for the executive branch's previously-expressed determination to fight federal overreach in the courts," Gordon said in the press release. "I thank the Legislature for recognizing their distinct constitutional responsibility as appropriators in forwarding resources to support this endeavor."

House Bill 1002, which Gordon signed, appropriates \$4 million for legal challenges to federal vaccine mandates and includes a strongly worded resolution citing the legal rights of Wyoming to defy the mandate.

It also states, "no public entity shall enforce any mandate or standard of the federal government, whether emergency, temporary or permanent, that requires an employer to ensure or mandate that an employee shall receive a COVID-19 vaccination."

However, those provisions barring enforcement of the mandate are nullified once the federal mandate takes effect. Those provisions can, however, be enforced if a court puts a stay on the mandate or the mandate is repealed.

## Record breaking visitation

POWELL (WNE) — Without counting attendance at Yellowstone National Park in November and December, the nation's first national park has already posted its busiest year ever with nearly 4.8 million visits.

For much of the year, the park set monthly records. Visits were down 12% in October (316,662 visits) as compared to October 2020 (which was the busiest October on record with 359,889 visits). Weather may be partially to blame for the lower numbers, but they were still much higher than October 2019, which saw only 171,339 visits.

So far in 2021, the park has hosted 4,789,644 recreation visits, up 28% from the same period last year, and up 20% from 2019. The previous record was set in 2016, with 4,212,782 visits.

Visitors have flocked to natural spaces in response to social distancing efforts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly, the park surpassed the record despite having very few foreign visitors; the Biden administration just lifted restrictions for vaccinated foreign travelers on Nov. 8. A report compiled by the National Park Service prior to the pandemic found international visitors from 25 countries comprised 17% of total visitation to the park in the previous record year.

Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly had guessed that 2021 would be a record-breaking year back in April.

"I predict it will be the busiest on record — and ironically," he said then. "I mean, look at COVID last year: Who would have thought that we'd be having this conversation a year ago?"

## Nursing home numbers high

CHEYENNE (WNE) — After three months of low numbers of nursing home resident COVID-19 cases and deaths in Wyoming, things have taken a turn for the worse through the end of September and most of October, according to the latest AARP COVID-19 Nursing Home Dashboard.

Wyoming's 8.49 COVID-19 cases per 100 nursing home residents is far and away the highest in the country and nearly double the rate of any other state in the Union.

Montana has the nation's second-highest rate at 6.94 cases per 100 residents. In all, there were 197 reported cases of COVID-19 among residents of Wyoming nursing homes from mid-September through Oct. 17. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been more than 14,000 nursing home resident cases in the Cowboy State.

Wyoming also has the second-highest rate of nursing home resident deaths due to COVID in the nation during the four-week period running from Sept. 20 through Oct. 17, with 1.53 deaths per 100 nursing home residents (27 deaths due to COVID-19 total over the same four-week period).

Montana has the nation's highest rate at 1.72 COVID-19 deaths per 100 nursing home residents.

Montana and Wyoming are the only two states in the Union with a rate higher than 0.62 nursing home resident deaths per 100 residents attributed to COVID-19.

## Jundt named Crook County treasurer

SUNDANCE (WNE) — After holding down the fort at the Crook County Treasurer's Office since Mary Kuhl was suspended on suspicion of malfeasance, Tammy Jundt is no longer the acting treasurer.

Instead, with the blessing of the Crook County Republican Party (GOP) and the Crook County Commissioners, she will officially serve as the county's treasurer until the next elections in 2022.

The party's central committee was tasked with selecting three candidates to fill the seat left open by Mary Kuhl upon her resignation as county treasurer, which was received by the commission on October 8 and became effective on October 31.

Kuhl's resignation meant that the civil trial to consider a petition for her permanent removal was no longer necessary, although criminal charges against her are still pending.

The commission moved to accept Kuhl's resignation the same day as it was received, and to kick-start the process of declaring the office of the treasurer to be open.

Commissioner Jeanne Whalen commended Jundt for the obviously positive atmosphere within the treasurer's office since she stepped up as acting treasurer.

Jundt will serve until the end of Kuhl's term, which was set to expire at the end of 2022; the seat will appear on the ballot during the 2022 elections.

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Alcoholics Anonymous meets at WC Senior 627 Pine St, Family Room, around back of building. Mondays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Contact Stan 746-9199.

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Call (307) 746-8815

#### Arts teacher position

Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for a 6-12 Arts Teacher for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. The candidate must hold or be able to obtain current certification with the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board. Please send a resume, certified application, and three letters of reference. This position will be opened until filled. Applications are available at the Administration Building, 116 Casper Ave., (7:00 am- 4:00 pm) or on the school website at wcsd1.org, or call 746-4451. WCSO # 1 is an E.O.E.



#### Zoning and Planning Board Vacancy Notice

The City of Newcastle Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustments and Appeals has a vacancy for (1) one board member for a (3) three-year term. Board member must be a resident of the City of Newcastle and be available for monthly meetings, special meetings, and public hearings as may be necessary. Interested persons may stop into the City Hall at 10 West Warwick for an application and submit it to the Mayor's Office, at 10 West Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701



#### WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!

Weston County Health Services is currently accepting applications for the following positions.

Please see our website at [www.wchs-wy.org](http://www.wchs-wy.org) for more details.

Position	Status
Infection Prevention RN	..... FT
Maintenance Tech	..... FT
Laboratory Tech	.....MT/MLJT, with ASCP preferred, FT
RN – Long-term Care	.....FT/PT/PRN
RN Acute Care	.....PRN
Nutrition Support Aide	.....PT
CNA	.....FT/PT/PRN
Dietary Aide	.....PRN
Environmental Services Aide	..... FT, PT, PRN
Activities Aide	..... FT

Employment Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the hospital front desk. Fax completed applications/resume packets to 307-746-3726, or email CTurner@wchs-wy.org. **WCHS performs post offer, pre-employment drug screening. EOE.**



#### Newcastle Apartments

has 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments for rent. HUD subsidized, Section 8. Rental based on income. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. 2115 Delaware • Newcastle, WY 307-746-9330 • TDD 1-800-877-9975



#### NOW HIRING Bakery/Deli Clerks

Full-time and part-time positions include some evenings and weekends. Employee discounts and benefits. EOE.

Apply in person or send resumé to Decker's Market, P.O. Box 249, Newcastle, WY 82701



**Classifieds deadlines are Fridays at 1 PM.**  
 Stop in today, or call 307-746-2777







**Holiday Concerts!**  
**Thursday, Dec. 2**  
 Kindergarten-2nd Grade  
 Winter Concert  
 6:30 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium

**Thursday, Dec. 9**  
 3rd-5th Grade  
 Winter Concert  
 6:30 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium

**Weston County School District #1 • wcsd1.org**



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

The News Letter Journal will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, and be closed Thursday & Friday, Nov. 25 and 26, for Thanksgiving

**EARLY DEADLINE! NLJ will be going to press on Nov. 19 for the Nov. 25 issue. Please send your advertisements in by Nov. 17! Thank you!**


**SCHEDULE YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION TODAY**

Weston County Pharmacy is currently assisting Weston County Public Health by offering COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics.

There are a set number of hours with a set number of doses. We will take your name and phone number, then call when we have the next clinic set up.

**PLEASE CALL WESTON COUNTY PHARMACY AT 746-2425.**

Vaccination registration is open for the general public 18 years and older.



1124 Washington Blvd. Newcastle WY 82701 | www.wchs-wy.org  
 Weston County Pharmacy (307) 746-2425

*This ad paid for by Weston County Public Health*

**YOUR PLACE TO GET COLOR COPIES**



**ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA**

**Caregiver & Family Support Group**

- 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 10:30 a.m.;
- 4th Tuesday of each month @ 3:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Video Call

Contact KC Bergstrom for more information, 746-3714, kbergstrom@wchs-wy.org



1124 Washington Blvd., Newcastle WY 82701 | wchs-wy.org  
 Hospital 746-4491 | Newcastle Clinic 746-6720  
 Upton Clinic 468-2302 | Therapy Services 746-3720  
 Home Health 746-3553 | Pharmacy 746-2425 | Manor 746-2793




Submitted photo

Rob's Mobile Wrench is a mobile handyman service owned by Robbie Steinmetz, who has 31 years of Automotive Excellence Service certification, handyman experience and is a certified welder.

# Mobile Wrench relocates

**Braden Schiller**  
NLJ Reporter

Steinmetz and his wife decided to move to Newcastle this year after a weeklong trip through Wyoming.

“We started up through Yellowstone and Jackson and Cody, and we’re just traveling the whole state of Wyoming last year for a little more than a week,” Steinmetz said.

He and his wife had developed a love for the area during the short trip and immediately began looking at homes in Wyoming. They focused particularly on the Black Hills area. Currently, Steinmetz has 16 acres that house both a wood shop and an auto shop for larger projects or jobs that cannot be done onsite. Steinmetz will travel 50 to 100 miles for a job. Above all, Steinmetz said, he wants to do honest work for his clients.

“One thing I guess I pride myself on and one thing my grandfather told me was (to) be a man of your word, be as good as your handshake and when you tell someone that you’re going to do something, you do it — and not only be a man of your word, but be honest. That’s just something that I pride myself on,” Steinmetz said.

Rob’s Mobile Wrench is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Steinmetz can be contacted for jobs at 746-2919.

Rob’s Mobile Wrench has moved to Newcastle from New Mexico.

Rob’s Mobile Wrench is a mobile handyman service owned by Robbie Steinmetz, who has 31 years of Automotive Excellence Service certification, handyman experience and is a certified welder.

“I put all three of those things together and no matter what, it pretty much pays the bills doing it that way. My grandfather always taught me to be a jack of all trades,” Steinmetz said. “So that’s kind of what I do. I have a lot of experience with handyman stuff because my father had a lot of rental properties, so I helped him take care of it and he taught me a lot of tricks of the trade.”

Family is a recurring theme when it comes to the story of Rob’s Mobile Wrench. Steinmetz learned his skills from his father and grandfather and is now a journeyman handyman as his grandfather was. Steinmetz even started the business after his wife suggested that doing general handiwork may help supplement his mobile mechanic business.

# Sweet

from Page 9.....

talk to, coordinating events to attend, etc.

“She manages some of the fundraising part of it, keeps me informed of what we’re doing in that regard,” Hageman said. “She’s my assistant, and so it’s just doing things that need to be done on the campaign. And every day is a little bit different.”

Sweet smiled.

“We spend a lot of time together, so it’s a good thing I like her,” Sweet said.

A couple of weeks ago they worked on some filming for a commercial, Hageman said,

a new experience for both Hageman and Sweet.

Working for Hageman has been a good fit for her, Sweet said, because she’s always been interested in being involved in the political sphere. However, it was also an unexpected opportunity.

“I’ve always kind of liked politics. ... I never in a million years would’ve thought this would’ve happened. It’s ... a great experience, and it’s going to open up a lot of doors. I have no idea what yet, but we’ll see,” Sweet said.

Hageman said it’s important

for her to involve young people in her campaign because she’s “running for them.”

“It is extremely important for young people to be involved in politics, and to shape policy, and to shape policy, and to make sure that their voices are heard, because the decisions that are being made now will affect them. ... So it’s just imperative that they be involved in the process,” Hageman said.

Sweet is going to be working as Hageman’s personal assistant until November, but they are both hoping they will be working together beyond November.

# Karpe

from Page 9.....

pitifully suspenseful finish for the week, which literally came down to the last second. I was in the lead by two points, 74-72. Then, when the clock hit zero, somehow her team scored four points and she beat me — by two.

This week, I got beat by four (my tight end scored zero points).

This is not what I signed up for.

I’m pretty sure that every week, or at least it feels like every week, I’ve had at least one player turn in a goose egg. Twice, my defense has actually lost me points.

It seems that it never fails that I bench the quarterback who has a good game, and this week BOTH of my tight ends put nothing on the board. Thankfully, one of them was sitting on the bench.

I know that I don’t actually expend much effort into putting together a game plan, either for drafting my players or for who is going to play each week.

Sometimes I will take a gander at what

team that player is going up against that week, but that’s a rather rare occurrence. I usually look at their projections and go from there, so I take full responsibility for my end.

I also understand that not everyone has a great game every time, but come on! This is Fantasy Football. These are professionals making millions of dollars a year. They are supposed to be the best of the best.

The saving grace is that aside from the one leading our league, who has a pretty impressive 9-1 record, no one else’s teams are going great guns either. At 5-5, I am sitting in a five-way tie for third and second place is only 6-4.

I guess it could be interesting to see how the season turns out. It’s pretty much a given who will win, but what remains to be seen is who will be the most mediocre?

Really, all I can do now is laugh about the silliness, but I also know that this year Fantasy Football is definitely not my fantasy.

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