

News Letter Journal

Weston County

October 27, 2022

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 136 Week 43

Two schools ‘partially meeting expectations’

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Both Newcastle Elementary School and Newcastle High School are preparing improvement plans to submit to the state after the schools were des-

ignated as “partially meeting expectations” by the Wyoming Department of Education.

“School performance is evaluated on a combination of student performance indicators, including academic achievement, equity and growth based

on the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), the state assessment,” a Sept. 14 press release says. “Additional indicators for high school include post-secondary readiness and graduation rates.”

According to the release, 38 of

Wyoming’s schools, or 13% are exceeding expectations, 106 schools or 36% are meeting expectations, 85 schools or 29% are partially meeting expectations and 63 schools or 22% are not meeting expectations for the 2021-22 school year.

With WY-TOPP scores playing a role in school rankings, the Weston County School District No. 1 board of trustees discussed local test scores on Oct. 12. Not only did the board

— See **Schools**, Page 6

A howling good time



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Playing his bass guitar more like a lead guitar, Jacoby Zimiga dons makeup and wows the audience at the Halloween Music Festival that was held at Weston County Senior Center on Saturday. Weston County Arts Council presented the event. See more on Page 8.

Ailing water line to be fixed

Emergency plan in place

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

An emergency project to replace the water main on First Avenue, from Second Avenue to Birch Street, will affect water availability and road access over a three-to-five-week period beginning Oct. 24, according to a letter to residents in the area from Greg Stumpff, public works supervisor.

“You can expect water outages, and temporary road closures during this project as it progresses,” the letter says. “We will be temporarily covering the trench with either gravel or asphalt millings.”

The letter states that the city anticipates the water main work to take three weeks and the replacement of the service lines and shut-offs to take another two weeks.

According to Stumpff, the project is the result of a number of breaks in the water main in the area. He estimates the main is 56

— See **Water**, Page 2

Beak tweaking

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

The Newcastle Planning Commission board voted to send the chicken ordinance, with recommended revisions, back to the Newcastle City Council at their special meeting held on Thursday, Oct. 20.

It was agreed that City Attorney Dublin Hughes would edit the verbiage in the document based on the commission’s suggestions, but official action on the ordinance will be the responsibility of the City Council at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Board member Darrel Schlup said the goal was to make the ordinance more “reasonable” and take out the things that are “unenforceable” or “too draconian.” Linda Hunt, a former councilwoman who opposed the ordinance, and Councilman Tyrel Owens, a pro-backyard chicken advocate, worked together to create a list of their suggested

edits for the board.

In the original ordinance proposed by the council, a \$100 dollar fine per violation per day was included, but the board suggested that the fine be reduced on the order of the \$20 fine to pick up a dog from the pound.

“That seemed a little more reasonable than having to pay \$100 a day,” Owens said.

Another potential issue in the ordinance is requiring a 6-foot privacy fence, which could be expensive, so the board recommended to include a fence requirement, but strike the word “privacy” from the document.

Whether or not to include a permit to obtain chickens was also discussed, and board member Mark Williams brought a list of ordinances from other Wyoming cities for comparison. Some cities, such as Casper, do not require a permit.

Another board member, Karl Lacey, said he was against the permit, but most of the board

— See **Chickens**, Page 2

New owners expand menu, hours

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

The place where “good friends meet for great food,” is now known as Curley’s Que Diner after Becca and Tom Curley purchased Donna’s Diner from Donna Chmeler and began operation on Sept. 1.

Although they plan to keep the original breakfast and lunch menu similar, the Curleys have added their specialty — barbecued meats — every evening. The diner is now open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on seven days a week, and the owners announced they serve quality meat ordered from Sysco and Reinhart Foodservice.

“Instead of offering our own thing, we’re continuing the great service Donna’s has offered for 18 years,” Becca said (other than adding barbecue).

She said they also have plans for “face lifts,” so that “our food comes out more efficiently,” and intend to update the plumbing in the building.

Becca has been in the restaurant industry for 18 years, and the Curleys frequently hosted backyard barbecues on their hobby farm of 5 acres in Washington State.

As much as the Curleys loved their home, farm and commercial kitchen — which is how they got started in the cooking industry — they were ready

for a new adventure somewhere else, noting that the thoughts and beliefs of their community in Washington no longer aligned with their own.

Not knowing where to go, the Curleys “just took a drive” through Idaho, Montana and Wyoming to look around. As soon as their house was for sale, word got out and it was sold to a family member, “which was crazy amazing.”

But that is not the only interesting family connection to this story. The Curleys headed to Newcastle with their blended family of four kids on Feb. 19 of this year at 4 a.m., the day after their

— See **Diner**, Page 7



Submitted photo

The Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Curley’s Que Diner, formerly Donna’s Main Street Diner, now owned and operated by Tom and Becca Curley. Pictured from left: Tom Curley, Shirley Feist, Taylor Small, Tera Yanchunis, McKenna Howen, Terra Serres, Becca Curley, Kat LaBute, Garrett Borton and Barbie Turner.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 51, Lo 25



Friday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 54, Lo 29



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 54, Lo 31



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 57, Lo 32



Monday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 59, Lo 35



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 52, Lo 30

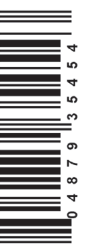


Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 43, Lo 24



INSIDE

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- Ladies, Page 18



HAPPY HALLOWEEN
to the community's children!

Watch for the First State Bank team at Trunk-Or-Treat, downtown Newcastle on Oct. 31 from 4-6:30 p.m.

REMEMBER to slow down and watch for children on Halloween.

First State Bank OF NEWCASTLE

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Why not WYDOT?

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Position details

Salary: \$6,129.07 - \$7,661.33 Monthly
Minimum qualifications:
Education: Bachelor's degree in engineering
Experience: 2-4 years of progressive work experience (in Engineering) with acquired knowledge at the level of a Project Engineer
Certificates, licenses, registrations: Professional Engineer's (PE) License
Required at time of hire - (Wyoming PE required within six months of hire date.)

Human Resource Contact: Jenny Sullivan, jennifer.sullivan@wyo.gov, 307-674-2300
For more information: governmentjobs.com/careers/wyoming/jobs/3621679/eneg12-2022-03881-principal-engineer-newcastle?keywords=Newcastle%20Engineer&pagetype=JobOpportunitiesJobs

Source: governmentjobs.com/wyoming

The Wyoming Department of Transportation is still searching for a resident engineer to live in Newcastle and work out of the local office, according to District 4 engineer Scott Taylor. The opening is the result of the resignation of John Leahy this past summer.

"We have been advertising since July 7 and have been unable to fill it (the position) so far," Taylor said. "We are trying to spread the word, trying to attract folks to come to WYDOT. It is not just this position. We are short everywhere."

He noted that the department has not received a single application for the Newcastle resident engineer position.

"We feel it is very important to have a resident engineer in the community of Newcastle and Weston County. ... To have someone to contact, have a presence there, it is important," Taylor said.

He added that both Leahy and former resident engineer Joni Kachelhoffer are sorely missed by the department. Leahy took over the job after Kachelhoffer's 2017 retirement. She had been employed as the resident engineer in Newcastle for 21 years when she retired.

Kachelhoffer agreed with Taylor, stating that the department strives to make sure they are a part of the local community and the resident engineer allows that local connection.

According to Kachelhoffer, having a resident engineer not only allows for the department to be a part of the community, but it allows the community to easily access the department. In addition to engineering work, she said, she answered questions in various situations, sometimes being approached at the grocery store or stopped on the streets.

"The other thing is, Newcastle is a long way from anything. Sundance is the next closest office and that is 50 miles, Gillette is 80," Kachelhoffer said. "To try and keep track of what is going on in Weston County from a long distance is harder."

"When you are here, people can come in and stop in the office, to talk about bridges or

whatever else is going on," she added. "The public has helped us (the department) identify problems and things that need to be addressed in the future."

In addition to being a contact point for the public, Kachelhoffer also acknowledged that the resident engineer has the opportunity to know the community by being hands-on. She said that they are able to understand what is important to the community.

"Like when they (Weston County School District No. 1) built the elementary school. It increased traffic, buses and the turning movement, so we decided to build multiple lanes and make ins and outs for the school. To make things safer," Kachelhoffer said. "Then there were the kids that walked, so we (the department) helped pursue funding for the bike path."

Taylor reported that the department continues to advertise the position and hopes that it will be filled, sooner rather than later.

Statewide News

We've lassoed the news from around the great state of Wyoming and are bringing the best stories to you on our News Letter Journal website.

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

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

nlj

Two amendments on ballot

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Two proposed constitutional amendments will appear on the 2022 General Election ballot, according to the Wyoming Secretary of State's website.

Constitutional Amendment A will appear as follows: "The Wyoming Constitution allows the state to invest state funds in equities such as the stock of corporations, but does not allow the funds of counties, cities and

other political subdivisions to be invested in equities. The adoption of this amendment would allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities to the extent and in the manner the legislature may allow by law. Any law authorizing the investment of specified political subdivision funds in equities would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature."

Constitutional Amendment

B will appear as follows:

"Currently, the Wyoming Constitution requires Wyoming Supreme Court justices and district court judges to retire upon reaching the age of seventy (70). This amendment increases the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and district court judges from age seventy (70) to age seventy-five (75)."

Voters will be asked to declare on the ballot if they are for or against each amendment.

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Chickens from Page 1.....

members agreed that a permit allows the city to know where the coops are, "which might be a good thing as long as you don't have a Hitler Nazi running around, which you don't have the manpower to do."

Owens said that including a fee with the permit could help pay for the cost of enforcement, and he suggested a \$20 fee, higher than the original \$5 fee, to make sure people were serious about raising chickens.

Board member Shirley Harder was concerned that a chicken coop might decrease the property value of a neighboring home, so the board recommended verbiage that requires the signatures of adjacent neighbors, which will be specifically defined up to a certain footage, before a permit can be acquired.

If the neighbor refuses, the permit will not be granted.

Williams said the language regarding the heating and lighting requirements could be modified to make it simpler and less expensive,

but Hunt was worried that if chickens don't have the proper equipment to keep from getting too cold or too warm, they will eventually "pick themselves clean and kill each other," based on her personal experience.

"Someone has to speak for the chickens — the animals," Hunt said.

Williams said that legislation can only control so much, but the council can't implement ordinances on how to keep dogs from barking or how to raise kids.

"Again, we could be having this conversation about dogs," he said. "You can't legislate morality."

Councilman Don Steveson reminded the board that the verbiage was included in the ordinance based on Newcastle's previous history of having chickens. Hunt said that at that time there was no ordinance and the chickens were unrestricted.

"If we don't learn from our mistakes, we're doomed to repeat it," Steveson said.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 8, 2022

Underlined words would be added to existing law. Words stricken through will be removed.

A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming Constitution to allow local government entities to invest in stocks and equities upon a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature; and providing a ballot statement.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING, two-thirds of all the members of the two houses, voting separately, concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposal to amend Wyoming Constitution, Article 16, Section 6 (a) (ii) by creating a new subparagraph (C) is proposed for submission to the electors of the State of Wyoming at the next general election for approval or rejection to become valid as a part of the Constitution if ratified by a majority of the electors at the election:

Article 16, Section 6. Loan of credit; donations prohibited; investment of funds; works of internal improvement.

(a) Neither the state nor any county, city, township, town, school district, or any other political subdivision, shall:

(ii) Subscribe to or become the owner of the capital stock of any association or corporation, except that:

(C) The legislature may provide by law for the investment of county, city, township, town, school district, or any other political subdivision's funds in the capital stock of any association or corporation and may designate which of these funds may be invested. The legislature may prescribe different investment conditions for each type and class of political subdivision and for each type of fund. Any legislation establishing or increasing the percentage of any fund that may be invested under this subparagraph shall be passed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the members of each of the two (2) houses voting separately.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State shall endorse the following statement on the proposed amendment:

The Wyoming Constitution allows the state to invest state funds in equities such as the stock of corporations, but does not allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities. The adoption of this amendment would allow the funds of counties, cities and other political subdivisions to be invested in equities to the extent and in the manner the legislature may allow by law. Any law authorizing the investment of specified political subdivision funds in equities would require a two-thirds vote of both houses of the legislature.

Water from Page 1.....

years old, installed sometime prior to 1968.

"After the last one on the night of Sept. 11, and due to the damage to personal property during the last three main breaks and the probability of more failures at this section of water main, I approached the water/sewer committee (of the Newcastle City Council) to look at an emergency water main replacement on 1st Ave from 2nd Ave to Birch St.," Stumpff said in an email.

He noted that the committee advised him to proceed with the emergency replacement. The committee consists of Councilmen Don Steveson, Tyrel Owens and Lance Miles.

Before approaching the committee, Stumpff said, he spoke with a contract engi-

neer about the project, as well as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's northeast district engineer, Bradley E. Ellis, about how the city should approach the water main issue.

"After the contract engineer reviewed certain details concerning pipe size and number of taps on this section of water main, both the contract engineer and Brad Ellis agreed to let the city of Newcastle replace the water main as an emergency project, and we would then do an as-built plan and completing the necessary permits after replacement was complete," Stumpff said. "This is allowed when conditions warrant such a replacement."

The project will cost \$80,000, \$58,000 for materials

and \$32,000 for Farnsworth Services to do the digging and backfilling. City public works staff will complete the water main installation work.

According to Stumpff, the city will fund the project due to the emergency nature of the replacement.

As previously reported by the News Letter Journal in 2019, former city engineer Mike Moore said that a city usually hopes to get at least 50 years out of water lines and that the lines in Newcastle have met and surpassed that age by at least 10 years. At the time, it was reported that the city had seen an increase in water line breaks due to the age of the water lines in the city (see Page 1, News Letter Journal, Oct. 31, 2019).



nlj IDEAS

One of the Bigfoot skeptics

Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Skunk Ape, Wood Booger, or Grassman. Call it what you will, but these are all names for the All-Time World Hide and Seek Champion.

We have all seen the grainy photos, the cheesy looking plaster foot casts and heard the anecdotal tales of encounters in the woods with an unknown beast. We all probably know someone's brother's cousin's best friend who had said encounter. Heck, more than a few of us probably have a tale or two of our own about unexplained noises or critters seen out hiking, fishing, or hunting in this area.



Dustin Bergstrom
Dusty Mind

A survey in July of this year by CivicScience revealed that 13% of U.S. adults agreed with the statement "Bigfoot/Sasquatch is a real, living creature." That is an 18% increase from 2 years ago, according to their data. It showed that the western United States had the highest number of believers with 15%, and the Northeast was the lowest at 11%.

Most will poo-poo the sightings as bears, cattle, mountain lions, or even escaped primates. Other thoughts are moments of fear and paranoia due to unfamiliar surroundings.

So what is it?

Our eyes playing tricks?

Fear induced hallucinations?

Animals run amok?

Is it possible there is a genus of primate yet to be discovered roaming the American forests and swamps?

So who are these people that are sighting the mythical creature? According to the survey, Gen Z and Millennials were 13% believers, Baby boomers clocked in at 11%, and Gen X 15%. Believers were most likely to be daily YouTube users, invest in crypto (interestingly bigfoot falls in the cryptozoology field), be X-Files watchers, own firearms, and (oddly enough) play musical instruments.

So who or what is Bigfoot?

According to The Journal of Chickasaw History and Culture, various tribes have different views, from malevolent and crude to helpful and shrouded in magic. The descriptions run a range of colors from grey to red, covered in hair and anywhere from 7 to 10 feet tall and weighing in the range of 300 to 600 pounds of pure muscle.

I don't know about you, but I may need a fresh pair of drawers if I ran onto that in Custer State Park.

These descriptions beg the question, if there is a creature of this size and stature in our wild areas, how

is it there has never been a good photograph? I can understand that in the prior decades getting a snap of a running creature with analog cameras was a dicey prospect, but in this age of digital cameras and cell-phones how is there no video or clear photos? Is it the magic and power of the creature distorting its image?

To say I am among the skeptics is accurate. I have spent countless hours in the forests of the Black Hills. I have heard things I cannot explain, but I am not an expert on every sound that every animal can produce. I have had eerie feelings in areas, like something was watching me, but could see the mountain lion sign all around me. I believe the closest I have ever been to a sasquatch sighting was probably under the lights of the old ballfield in Spearfish watching the boys in teal and white play America's pastime.

If you are interested in more information do a web search for the rising belief in Bigfoot, and you won't be disappointed. I found it to be an entertaining rabbit hole of theories and stories. I hope you will too. I would also be interested in hearing any stories or tales you have of encounters. Send me a message on Facebook, or if you see me wheeling around town stop me for a chat.

See if you can make a believer out of me.



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

"Bigfoot" was spotted hiding in the bushes during the Weston County Health Services' Haunted Serenity Trail on Oct. 15, 2022.

POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION:
Is Bigfoot real?

- Yes
- No

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

RESULTS:
Are state test scores an indicator of the quality of our schools?

- Yes 50% (16 votes)
- No 50% (16 votes)

Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

Making one of Wyoming's biggest political upsets

Aport-a-potty. In a Wyoming rancher's pasture? Really?

Here during the final days of this year's election season, it is appropriate to recall once again one of the great political campaigns in the Cowboy State.

Possibly the biggest campaign idea helping lead to the biggest political upset in Wyoming history was hatched in the Mint Bar in Sheridan in late October, 1976.

John Jenkins, Buffalo and Byra Kite, Laramie, and an out of state political consultant named Bob Goodman were trying to find a differentiating issue that would help their huge underdog candidate Malcolm Wallop surge ahead of U. S. Senate powerhouse Gale McGee.

Much like today, Wyoming citizens in those days were chafing over what they considered federal overreach. The Cowboy State seemed to be a place full of good old boys (and gals) who just wanted to be left alone.

But a series of Democratic Congresses had instituted many onerous federal regulations that even annoyed folks way out here on the frontier. Sound familiar?

McGee was a Democratic stalwart who had served 18 years in the Senate, and his whole campaign was based on all the "clout" he had accumulated during his time in Washington, D. C.

When Republican Wallop brought in Goodman to help his campaign, he was trailing McGee in the polls by a factor of 72 percent to 18 percent.

National newspapers were calling McGee's Senate seat "safe" which would help maintain the Democrats' huge Senate lead of 62 Democrats versus just 38 Republicans. Much different than today.

In Wyoming, the Congressional delegation was 2:1 in favor of the Democrats with Sen. McGee and U. S. Rep. Teno Roncalio on one side and Republican Sen. Cliff Hansen on the other. Wyoming was a much different state politically 46 years ago than it is today. It was split down the middle between the two parties.

McGee pretty much used his own staff to conduct his campaign. He did little polling and had no outside consultants. And why not? He was an overwhelming favorite.

So how could the Wallop campaign overcome such a deficit to win in November?

Almost five decades later, John Jenkins, a Buffalo rancher and owner of an oil company, recalls that campaign when Wallop hired him, Goodman, and Kite. Goodman was advocating using extensive polling and

something new – widespread TV advertising.

Wallop had lost in the Republican gubernatorial primary two years earlier and was in hot water with state GOP officials because of his perceived luke-warm support of the ultimate nominee Dick Jones. That 1974 Republican primary was arguably the most amazing primary in the

state's history. These were great candidates (Roy Peck, Bud Brimmer, Wallop, and Jones) jousting hard with each other until conservative Jones emerged the winner. Jones lost to Democrat Ed Herschler in the subsequent general election in a race still bemoaned by Republican state political old-timers.

The Wallop campaign correctly tagged McGee, who was the chairman of the Senate Postal Committee, as a proponent of big, over-reaching federal government. McGee defended the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA), both of which were angering Wyoming folks who just wanted to be left alone.

McGee was also one of the biggest backers of the Vietnam War.

As a young editor-publisher in Lander back in 1976, I

recall chatting with McGee at a big Democrat rally in Hudson just before Election Day. McGee told me he was wrong. "In hindsight, it wasn't wise for us to go there."

I was not able to publish that comment until after the election. Even patriotic folks in Wyoming had gotten bitterly tired of the war.

The final TV ad (and accompanying newspaper ads) showed a cowboy getting ready to go out to work on the range in the morning. Strapped to his pack animal is a port-a-potty.

The voiceover talked about how the feds can't even let you "do your business" out in the field without their regulations interfering. It was an instant classic. Wyoming voters were captivated. The needle moved. A lot.

When the general election votes were tallied, it was not even close. Wallop won with 84,810 votes to McGee's 70,558.

Rodger McDaniel of Laramie wrote a book about McGee that details this campaign in much more detail. It is named "The Man in the Arena: The Life and Times of U.S. Senator Gale McGee." It was a wonderful history of one of Wyoming's great political characters. It is available in good Wyoming bookstores and on Amazon.

As a footnote, a few years ago Peggy Gerke of Wheatland told me that her husband Larry was the

cowboy in the TV ad.

She writes: "Larry was Wallop's ranch foreman at that time. He remembers the day vividly and especially his feelings on that day. The cameramen never could seem to get things just right - the direction of the sun, the background, the way the horse stood, Larry getting into the saddle.

"Over and over again, they shot the scene, starting when it was sunrise. Larry saddled, unsaddled, saddled, and unsaddled his horse time after time. They finally thought they had it right ... or else there was no more time ... at just about sunset. Larry rode off into the dusk, his face registering extreme disgust. Disgust, not at OSHA or EPA, but at the complete waste of his day."

Peggy Gerke adds: "There is still a video of that ad somewhere. Larry's daughter saw it once in a class in college when the professor was talking about political ads' efficacy. She was not paying much attention, then suddenly -- 'Hey! That's MY dad!'"

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

News Letter Journal:
WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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WHAT

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

WHERE

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WHEN

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

WHY

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



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In Remembrance of Bert Sutherland Jr.

.....

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June 6, 1966 - Oct. 29, 2017

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the collection and editing of



for presentation through media.



Obituaries

CATHY KAY McMEEKIN
Dec. 16, 1955–Oct. 22, 2022

Cathy Kay McMeekin was born to Russell J. and Rose E. (Cullers) McMeekin on Dec. 16, 1955, in Crawford, Neb. She attended grade school at Kitty Moats Elementary in Osage, Wyo., then Upton High School in Upton, Wyo., graduating in 1974. She went on to attend college at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyo.

Following her education, she went to work for the News Letter Journal in Newcastle, Wyo. until 1994. She then went to work as a dispatcher at the Newcastle Police Department until her retirement in September of 2022, with 28.5 years of service.

Cathy passed away on Oct. 22, 2022,



Cathy McMeekin

at Weston County Health Services in Newcastle.

Cathy was survived by two brothers, Rodney L. McMeekin (Cyndi Crabtree) of Osage, and Gail V. McMeekin of Denver, Colo.; as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell J. and Rose E. McMeekin.

There will be graveside services at the Greenwood Cemetery in Upton on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity in Cathy's name.

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

HERE'S HOW TO ...

Does your organization have an event coming up? Do you need to submit an obituary, wedding, anniversary or new baby announcement? Send these announcements to design@newslj.com or call 307-746-2777 for more information.

Music: Worship as a living sacrifice



Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

Truth and worship go together like snow in winter, and according to Lucas Stolhammer, worship leader at Gateway Fellowship church, true worship must be rooted in the Word of God.

D.L. Moody, founder of Moody Bible Institute, was arguably one of America's most influential evangelistic preachers. However, he had a friend named Ira Sankey, who accompanied Moody's revival meetings with singing.

According to Stolhammer's research, Sankey considered both to be preachers. He is quoted to have said Moody "reaches men's hearts with words that are spoken, while I reach them with words that are sung."

"I was looking for a quote that I've read, something to the effect of, 'Sankey plowed the soil of the heart into which Moody planted the seed of the gospel.' ... The ministry of song can prepare us to receive the word of truth preached," Stolhammer said.

"I like how music draws you in and sets the tone to help you focus on the Lord," his wife, Melinda, added.

Worship is so much more than a song, according to



Submitted photo

Connor Stolhammer, 15, plays guitar with his father, Lucas, at the Ministerial Association's chicken dinner during the beginning of the 2022 Weston County Fair.

Stolhammer. He used Romans 12 to illustrate his point. The first verse says to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual act of worship."

Stolhammer said this act of worship is a "call to every believer." The passage is immediately followed by a description of spiritual gifts and how God has called Christians to use those gifts to edify the Body of Christ. The body metaphor connotes the idea of many members with different functions, all working together for the same goal.

"Worship is about proclaiming truth — the truth of who God is and what he's done," Stolhammer said. "Worship is

— See **Music**, Page 7

faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

October 28 Ezekiel 18:21-32	November 1 Ezra 1:1-11
October 29 Ezekiel 34:1-10	November 2 Ezra 3:1-13
October 30 Ezekiel 34:11-31	November 3 Ezra 4:24-5:17
October 31 John 10:1-21	<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>

- **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. Kenli Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park. 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 pm; Undeclared Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;
- **AWANA Clubs** Wednesday 6:30 pm
- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm
- **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

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1



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**25 Years Ago
Oct. 30, 1997**

Six 7-Eleven employees found themselves without a job Tuesday morning when Division Manager Gary Braaten showed up to shut the store down. According to the employees who were clearing shelves of merchandise which was to be hauled away in a moving truck, 7-Eleven closings are typically handled the way they were Tuesday. The reason allegedly stems from a prior closing experience in which employees destined to lose their jobs when the store closed made off with the day's receipts along with the store's inventory.

There's been no pussy footing in the four years since American Colloid Company switched their emphasis from industrial applications of the bentonite mined north of their Upton plant. "August was a record cat litter month, we beat the old record by several tons," said Plant Manager Tom Fuller. Fuller explained that while a majority of the plant's production now sells to two of the national's largest kitty litter companies, the porous clay is still sold to foundries for steel manufacturing.

The Newcastle Dogie Girls Swim Team trip to Worland Friday looked a little like a scene from the film "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" than your average bus ride. After several days and some expert driving from the bus driver, the swimmers made their mark at the Absaraka Conference Championships. During the meet Rae Joiner set two new conference records in the 50 free and 100 fly. Joiner, Ann Woods, and Diane Ottema were



named All-Conference for their effort at the meet.

**50 Years Ago
Oct. 26, 1972**

The Wyoming Highway Department has extended its \$200 reward to persons providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of those found guilty of stealing snow fence from along the state's highways. This type of vandalism not only increases the hazard for wintertime travelers, but is very expensive for highway users.

The Newcastle VFW and Auxiliary have been saluted in the October issue of Wyoming Veterans of Foreign Wars Newsletter. The issue is sent to 312 state, district and local offices. Newcastle and Hudson led the salutes with 100 percent or over 1972 membership for 1973. The issue reported 4,321 members for 1973, a "whopping" 55.5 percent of the 7,787 for 1972.

John Ellworth Maher pleaded guilty to a charge of speeding when he appeared in Municipal Court before Justice Edward S. Halsey. He was fined \$12 and \$4 costs.

Jerry Dubsy, manager of the local Safeway store, was a guest speaker in the NHS Economics class taught by Gene Ward. Dubsy related a bit of history of the founding of the company, which was organized in 1926.

TV and Thee, a unique new film which is designed to help people put television in the proper perspective, will be shown at the First Baptist Church on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m. The film poses one question, "How can people watch television to the glory of God?" It uses a series of vignettes to determine the amount of time the average person spends watching television each week.

**100 Years Ago
Oct. 26, 1922**

A party at the home of

Domonic Febbo, living on Sweetwater or what is known as the Northwest table, ended in a shooting affray and the death of Joe Labigo. The story of the shooting seems to be that after the party, Jim Phillips, a member of the crowd, had taken from him a gun and in the scuffle that followed, Labigo got in the way of a bullet from the gun then in the hands of Domonic Febbo.

Tuesday was Republican Day in Newcastle. The same train that brought to this city the national character, Secretary of Labor James J. Davis, had also for a passenger the Hon. Robert Carey, governor of this commonwealth.

Fred Stanley and Bert Oglesby of the Sheep Creek country motored through this vicinity en route to Newcastle Saturday.

Cake recipe for the newlyweds. Four pounds of flour of love, one and one half pounds of buttered youth, one and one half pounds of good looks, one and one half pounds of sweet temper, one and one half pounds of self forgetfulness, one and one half pounds of powdered wits, one and one half ounces of sweet argument, one and one half pints of rippling laughter, one and one half wine glassfuls of common sense. Put the flour of love, good looks, sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter of youth to a cream. Mix together blindness of faults, self forgetfulness, powdered wits, dry humor into sweet argument, then add them to the above. Pour in gently rippling laughter, and common sense. Work it together until all is well mixed, then bake gently forever.

Come celebrate with us at **Mondell Heights** for our 1st annual **Spooktacular Halloween** event!

We will start the event with frightfully delicious cupcakes and drinks while your little goblins trick or treat in the resident hall.

Up the hill from Main Street Trunk or Treat **October 31st 5-6:30pm**

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From the vault ...



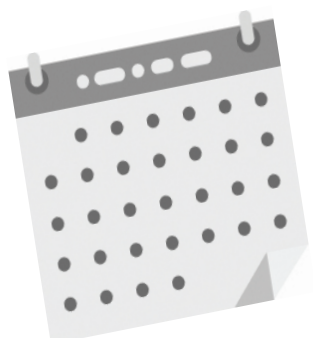
Photo courtesy of WC Historical Society

This is a photo of a former grocery store in Upton built by Mike Materi.

LET US KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING

Is your group or organization hosting an event?

Send your event listings to design@newsj.com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar



WHAT'S UP

WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri. Oct. 28	11:30AM 5:30PM 5-7PM 7:30-10:30PM 7PM	W.C. Library System Board Mtg. BINGO Kitty Moats School of Scares (12&U) Kitty Moats School of Scares (13&O) Empire Wild/W.C.C.A.	W.C. Library Meeting Rm. V.F.W. Hall Kitty Moats School (Osage) Kitty Moats School (Osage) Crouch Auditorium
Sat. Oct. 29	8AM-4PM	Open Saturday at Anna Miller Museum	Anna Miller Museum
Sun. Oct. 30	2PM	W.C. 4-H Achievement Day	W.C. Senior Services
Mon. Oct. 31	4-6:30PM 5-6:30 PM 6-7PM 7PM	N.A.C.O.C. Trunk or Treat Spooktacular Trick or Treat Ghouls & Goblins Trick or Treat Alcoholics Anonymous	Newcastle Main Street Mondell Height W.C. Manor W.C. Senior Center
Tues. Nov. 1	9AM 11AM 1PM 5:30-7PM	W.C. Commissioners Mtg. Story Time Bridge & Dominoes Fall Guys Wrestling Registration	W.C. Courthouse W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center N.H.S. Commons
Wed. Nov. 2	6:30-8:30AM 7-9AM 9AM 1PM 5:30PM	Wellness Wednesday Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class & Toenail Clinic Bridge W.C. Travel Commission Mtg.	W.C. Health Services Upton Medical Clinic W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Newc. Lodge & Conv. Ctr.
Thurs. Nov. 3	7AM 1PM 2PM 4:30PM 5:30PM 5:3-7PM 6PM 7PM 7:30PM	T.O.P.S. #218 Crafts American Legion Auxillary Mtg. W.C. Museum District Mtg. Understanding Grief Series Fall Guys Wrestling Registration Free Supper for W.C. Veterans Alcoholics Anonymous Masons #13 Mtg.	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Anna Miller Museum Meridian Mortuary N.H.S. Commons Masonic Hall W.C. Senior Center Masonic Hall

Trunk or Treat!

Sponsored by Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

OCT. 31 • 4-6:30PM
MAIN STREET, NEWCASTLE

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No cases of fentanyl in Weston County ... yet

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

As the fentanyl problem grows across the country and state, Weston County has managed to avoid seeing issues with the opioid, according to Sheriff Bryan Colvard.

“Knock on wood, I don’t want to say it out loud. ... To my knowledge, we have not had any issues with fentanyl,” Colvard said. “It is coming, though. I think it is just a matter of time.”

He noted that a local issue suspected to involve the deadly drug turned out to be something different.

In anticipation of issues with fentanyl — the drug responsible for a “dramatic increase in overdose fatalities, ranging from 2,666 in 2011 to 31,335 in 2018, according to a Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration drug fact sheet — Weston County School District No. 1

approved a policy on Oct. 12 addressing the use of NARCAN at the school.

NARCAN “is a potentially life-saving medication designed to help reverse the effects of an opioid overdose in minutes,” according to narcan.com.

Because of this increased burden and concern across the state, and in anticipation that Weston County will eventually see fentanyl and its effects in our community, School Superintendent Brad LaCroix recommended that the district approve a NARCAN policy. He noted that school nurse Allison Farella is working on the issue with the state.

NARCAN is used to block the effects of opioids and restore normal breathing in a person whose breathing has slowed or stopped due to a drug overdose, according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

Newcastle High School Principal Bryce Hoffman and

Newcastle Middle School Principal Tyler Bartlett both reported to the News Letter Journal that neither school has seen issues related to fentanyl.

“The addition of NARCAN was not related to our school but was based on information our nursing staff received from the state nursing association,” Hoffman said in an email. “We felt as a team that it would be better to be prepared in advance of an incident and have it on hand.”

Bartlett added in the email thread that he thinks the school administrator’s job “a lot of the time is to hope for the best but prepare for the worst.”

“Our nursing staff brought this (the NARCAN policy) forth as we see opioid issues continue to spread across the country, and it’s something we’d rather try to prepare for as best as possible while also hoping to never have to actually put to use,” Bartlett said.

What is fentanyl?

According to the DEA, fentanyl is a “synthetic opioid that is 50-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin.”

Because of its powerful nature, the agency says, the drug is also diverted for abuse. More than 932,000 people have died from fentanyl overdose since 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 91,799 of those in 2020.

In 2021, Wyoming reported 106 deaths due to fentanyl overdose, up from 99 the previous year, according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

Dr. Alexia Harrist, state health officer and state epidemiologist, said in an Oct. 13 press release that the increase in fentanyl deaths is partially due to an increase in all synthetic opioid-involved overdose deaths, noting that between 2018 and 2021 the number of synthetic opioid-involved fatal overdoses quadrupled while deaths connected to other opioids stayed relatively stable.

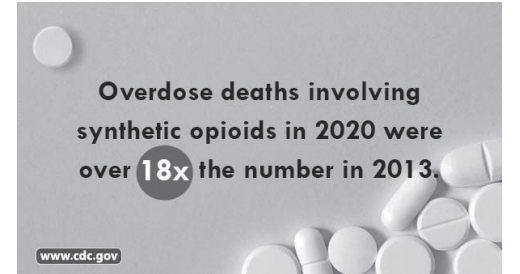
Because of the increase in deaths related to the drug, the health department, in conjunction with Gov. Mark Gordon, has begun sharing important information about fentanyl and other similar drugs,

according to the release.

“Because fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, it can also be more addictive and clearly more dangerous,” Harrist said in the release.

Stefan Johannsson, the Wyoming Department of Health director, added in the same release that the “drug is nothing short of frightening when used illegally.”

“What increases the level of danger is that people using drugs can be unaware that a synthetic opioid has been added to a drug they have bought or been given to use. They don’t know the fentanyl is there, and the results are sometimes tragic,” he said in the release.



Schools from Page 1

WY-TOPP worries

According to information provided by Sonya Tysdal, the district’s curriculum director, two different grade levels saw a majority of their students performing below basic while others saw significant declines in the percentage of those performing at a proficient or advanced level.

Last year, Newcastle’s fifth grade students were ranked 38th out of 48 districts across the state in math, with 40.35% of the students performing at a proficient or advanced level, down 6.71% from the previous year’s scores.

In reading, the fifth grade class ranked 36th in the state, with 49.12 students performing at the proficient or advanced level, a 5.98% increase from the previous year.

Tenth grade students in the district ranked 33rd in math, with only 36.21% of students scoring proficient or advanced, despite a 12.02% increase in performance from the year before.

In reading, the students were ranked 40th in the state, with 41.38% of students categorized as proficient or advanced, down 10.23% from the

previous year.

Ninth grade students at Newcastle High School experienced declines in both math and reading, with 42.11% (29th in the state) of students proficient or advanced in math and 49.12% (33rd in the state) of students ranked as proficient or advanced in reading. These percentages represent a 19.29% and 26.32% decline, respectively.

Other areas of decline in local scores were seen in fourth grade. According to the report, 54.41% of students performed at a proficient or advanced level in math, a 22.41% decrease from the previous year. The grade ranked 26th in the state.

Also seeing a decline in performance levels was the eighth-grade class. While 52.73% (22nd in the state) of the students performed proficient or advanced in math, that was 11.98% lower than the previous year.

Editor’s note: For a full breakout of district scores please see the graphic displayed with this story at newslj.com.

Digging into the data

Holmes reported to the News Letter Journal that the district is ranked on four performance levels, in addition to the participation rate set by the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act — achievement, English learning progress, growth and equity. Newcastle High School principal Bryce Hoffman said that the equity group is made up of students who scored in the bottom 25% of the school’s students on the prior year’s test.

“Within our school improvement plan we will write goals that guide us to plan interventions strategically for these students in both areas,” Hoffman said.

The school met expectations for achievement and English learning progress but missed the mark in growth and equity, Holmes said.

According to the annual report, Newcastle High School performed below target in growth, equity, achievement and ninth grade credits. The school met targets in extended graduation, four-year on-time graduation and post-secondary readiness. Tysdal noted that these scores are determined by several factors and an equation determined by the state.

Planning for Improvement

“We are currently working on a school improvement plan. It is important to consider WY-TOPP is one assessment taken over a short time. Therefore, we are looking at several data sources including WY-TOPP to identify areas of focus,” Holmes said in an email. “Initial indicators are showing math to be the subject needing the most attention. While most students showed growth, there are some subgroups we need to target more specifically. This is an in-depth process we will be working on over the next few weeks.”

According to Tysdal, the same in-depth process is taking place at Newcastle High School, with teams of teachers looking at the data. Hoffman reported to the News Letter Journal in an email that representatives from the Wyoming Department of Education recently visited the school to explain

the process and expectations for completing the improvement plan.

“The process began with us selecting a building level team to work together to complete the plan,” Hoffman said. “From there we had all high school staff members complete the ‘High-Impact Domains & Practices Rubric’ that was given to us by the WDE.”

The information collected, he said, was recorded and sorted by the “mean and mode” to give the school the best representation of how they view themselves as staff. From that information the staff selected two improvement practices to write goals around.

“The two improvement practice domains our team selected are in Domain C: Data-informed Planning and in Domain D: Professional Development,” Hoffman said.

The school’s next step, he said, is to write goals specifically and determine how they will affect student achievement. These goals will then be sent to the department of education for feedback.

“Throughout the year we will check with the WDE and report our progress regarding how we are doing with implementation and may receive more support from them if needed,” Hoffman added.

Tysdal noted that there is no silver-bullet answer to addressing the district’s test scores, and that she believes the team will come up with ideas for the schools to try.

She said that each school in the district will look at the big picture and things that can be changed to narrow down what the staff is not happy with and what they can attack. Tysdal cautioned that people need to remember that there are outside forces that may affect scores on the WY-TOPP test and that it may not accurately reflect what all students know and how they perform on a daily basis.

“It is not an end all be all. It is beneficial at a system level,” she said. “The whole goal is to make learning and opportunities better for students, every day, no matter what test scores we get.”

Celebrations

Newcastle Middle School is meeting expectations according to the Wyoming Department of Education’s school accountability results for the 2021-22 school year. In addition to the satisfactory ranking, the school’s students performed better on the WY-TOPP test than other district schools.

“Here is one of the big celebrations as far as WY-TOPP data. ... You’ll see that our 7th graders (now 8th) scored in the top 10 in the state for both math and ELA (English Language Arts),” said Tyler Bartlett, Newcastle Middle School principal, in an email. “The math score continues a trend of several years where they have continued to improve and climb up the rankings compared to districts across the state.”

According to the test score report, last year’s seventh grade students ranked sixth in the state in math with 67.24% of students performing at a proficient or advanced level. This is up 22.8% from the previous year.

“This same group (last year’s seventh graders) also had the smallest percentage of students score below basic on the 7th ELA test across the entire state,” Bartlett said. “Essentially, this means that even if all of our students weren’t proficient or advanced, nearly all of them were close.”

The class ranked eighth in the state in reading, with 67.24% of students performing proficient or advanced, a 0.57% increase from the previous year’s results.

Last year’s sixth grade students also saw an increase in math, with 11.81% more students performing at a proficient or advanced level. In total, 48.75% of the students performed at a proficient or advanced level, making them 28th in the state.

The class was ranked 20th in the state in reading, with 58.57% of students performing at a proficient or advanced level, a 12.98% increase from last year’s results.

members discuss the overall school rankings, they also discussed the less than satisfactory performance of several grades on the statewide test.

More than meets the eye

Despite low student scores in various areas, Superintendent Brad LaCroix and district trustees and school administrators suggest people need to look at the whole picture and not just the test scores when it comes to education and student success.

School administrators agree, and are adamant that there is more to look at than WY-TOPP scores when gauging student success. They also point out that there are several reasons students may perform poorly on a test.

“There are so many factors that come into it,” said Brandy Holmes, Newcastle Elementary School principal.

Outside factors that may impact students’ performance, according to

school administrators at the Oct. 12 meeting, include everything from test anxiety to lack of motivation. It was noted that the pandemic may have had an impact on the scores.

Newcastle Middle School Principal Tyler Bartlett added that lots of things impact the scores. He specifically mentioned that the science tests are not required every year and that some grade levels are required to complete a writing component while others are not.

“These (scores) are not reflective of what is going on. We are asking the same questions. Regardless, we are doing the improvement plan, sitting down and looking at kiddos and how they did,” Holmes said. “We are looking at the individual and the system. We are not putting all our eggs in one basket. But, this is the basket that is out there and reflects publicly what is out there.”

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WYOMING CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ON AT THE GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 8, 2022

Underlined words would be added to existing law. Words stricken through will be removed.

A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing to amend the Wyoming Constitution by amending the retirement age requirements for Wyoming supreme court justices and district court judges.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING, two-thirds of all the members of the two houses, voting separately, concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposal to amend the Wyoming Constitution, Article 5, Section 5 is proposed for submission to the electors of the State of Wyoming at the next general election for approval or rejection to become valid as a part of the Constitution if ratified by a majority of the electors at the election:

Article 5, Section 5. Voluntary retirement and compensation of justices and judges.

Subject to the further provisions of this section, the legislature shall provide for the voluntary retirement and compensation of justices and judges of the supreme court and district courts, and may do so for any other courts, on account of length of service, age and disability, and for their reassignment to active duty where and when needed. The office of every such justice and judge shall become vacant when the incumbent reaches the age of ~~seventy (70)~~ seventy-five (75) years, ~~as the legislature may prescribe, but, in the case of an incumbent whose term of office includes the effective date of this amendment, this provision shall not prevent him from serving the remainder of said term nor be applicable to him before his period or periods of judicial service shall have reached a total of six (6) years.~~ The legislature may also provide for benefits for dependents of justices and judges.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State shall endorse the following statement on the proposed amendment:

Currently, the Wyoming Constitution requires Wyoming Supreme Court justices and district court judges to retire upon reaching the age of seventy (70). This amendment increases the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and district court judges from age seventy (70) to age seventy-five (75).

The Constitution also currently provides an exception to the mandatory requirement to retire upon reaching age seventy (70) for justices and judges who had not yet completed six (6) years of judicial service as of December 12, 1972. The proposed amendment would remove the now-obsolete six (6) year service guarantee.

CONGRATS Graduates!

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Diner

from Page 1

11th wedding anniversary. On the way, they visited Becca's aging grandmother, who made several mentions of her own mother being from Wyoming.

Becca didn't think much about the comment, but her grandmother kept repeating it, and before too long, they discovered that Becca's great-grandmother had grown up in Cambria, working at the mines.

"It was weird how that worked out. It was fate," Becca said. Tom added that they were "guided by God" coming to Newcastle.

If the name Curley's Que sounds familiar, it's probably because they bought a food truck this summer and brought it to various events and venues in this area. They didn't pursue the business for monetary purposes but to "offer things to the community," according to Becca, and Tom added that he thought this town "needed some good barbecue."

"I think that it's important to be able to do that," Becca said. "We just want to be a part of the community."

Because Donna's Diner was only open until 2 p.m., they made a deal with Don Taylor, who has been operating Donna's Diner for the past three years, to serve their barbecue from the restaurant every evening from 2 to 8 p.m. in August.

When Taylor decided it was time for him to move on, it was a no-brainer for the Curleys to take over. Becca is grateful for the support of both Donna and Taylor, "which has been huge."

"We just enjoyed it, and the staff enjoyed having us around, and he (Taylor) kind of felt that it would be a good fit for us to take over," Becca said. "It was a very easy transition. ... It's been really good, and people have been really receptive."

The Curleys kept the same staff, other than adding a few more hands to cover evening shifts, which is a permanent extension of hours.

"The staff here is what makes this place," Becca said. "The staff and their dedication to the community and this place is really where the success is."



Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ
Mike Baldwin sits across from his wife, Rose, as they wait for their breakfast of toast, eggs and pancakes to arrive at Curley's Que Diner.

"Breakfast, burgers and barbecue" has been the motto, and their signature meals include the Twisted Taco and the Curley BBQ burger, which is an 8-ounce burger patty topped with brisket, pepper jack cheese and a fried egg, smothered in barbecue, chipotle cream sauce and sweet chipotle.

"It's amazing. I had one yesterday, and it was mouth watering. You need a napkin 100%," Tom said.

The couple plans to close the restaurant only four days out of the year — for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and Easter. However, they know quality smoked meat is a treat on holidays, so they are willing to smoke meat for holiday meals, as long as the order is made a week in advance.

"There's a lot of people in the community that don't have that (smoked meats), and they should," Becca said.

The Curleys also want to implement consistency with their specials, possibly

including a pasta night and a chicken night. Friday's specialty, which begins at 4 p.m. is prime-rib night, and Tom claims it's the best prime rib he's ever had.

He laughed. "Get it before it's gone," he said.

Becca said they made it a point to drop some prices on the existing menu that were raised due to COVID inflation, but they're dedicated to not reducing quality.

"Good food ain't cheap, and cheap food ain't good," she said.

Cooking is a craft, according to Becca, and she's looking forward to increasing her knowledge and experience in the industry while being a part of a community.

"It's not just a job, it's a craft. ... You're never done learning and growing and putting a twist on your craft, and that's a lot of fun," she said. "We're super grateful to be part of this place, which has had such a history of long-standing success."

Music

from Page 4

way more than music. It's a heart attitude."

A worship song must be based on the truth of the Bible, or it doesn't belong in a service, he said. Scripture commands believers to worship "in spirit and in truth," according to John 4:23.

Humans are made up of body, soul and spirit, and these three components work together in a true act of worship, Stolhammer explained. Truth enters through our minds, which is the intellectual aspect of worship; music enhances the emotional aspect of worship, as long as it is founded in truth; and finally, the physical body carries out the action of worship.

"We are all made to worship. The question is, what are we worshipping? It might be our job, our family, ourselves, a hobby, etc.," Stolhammer said.

If the elements of body, soul and spirit are not working in harmony, the result is hypocrisy. True worship happens when someone practices the three-fold principle "taking in truth, proclaiming truth and living truth," according to Stolhammer.

"Worship songs are going to have emotion in them, which is great, but it has to be rooted in truth," he said.

And that's what he hopes to bring on Sunday mornings. Stolhammer tries to relate the songs to the sermon of the day and find supporting Scriptures for transition pieces. He enjoys the preparation because it allows him to meditate on those truths throughout the week.

"What has blessed me with this part of serving the Body of Christ is putting thought into it and looking at Scripture," Stolhammer said. "You never learn like when you teach."

But he recognizes that the congregation hasn't been able to ponder it all week like he has, and it's easy to become distracted with responsibilities at home or problems in life.

So, Stolhammer tries to gently repeat the truths over and over to the congregation and allow it to "absorb" and "soak in for application." He said if the truth "is not caught with and engaged with, it doesn't do any good."

Stolhammer admitted that he's not an "up-front person" nor the most gifted, but the biblical call

Music that makes you move

Worship music is designed to invoke an active response in its listener by applying the truth in the song to the manner in which they live their life.

Stolhammer's oldest son, Connor, 15, said it is important not to live in a different way on Sunday and during the week.

"When your life and those 20 minutes (of worship) aren't lining up, it's hard to have a meaningful worship experience," Connor said.

Worship can be expressed through singing, praying, living it out, fellowshiping, preaching and listening, but it is not limited to a Sunday morning service.

"All of these things combine for worship ... (and) that Sunday morning worship service brings all those components (together)," Stolhammer added. "What it does is hopefully set your focus for the week ahead or give you praise for the week behind

you. ... That would be the passion behind worship."

Stolhammer said it has become the norm in our culture and society to have a consumer mindset, with a self-centered focus on "what is good for me." Unfortunately, that attitude has carried into church and worship.

"Instead of being a consumer, I would envision worship (as) being a contributor," he said. "Worship is an expression of your adoration and your gratefulness and your thankfulness to your Creator."

And that is made evident by the fulfillment of Christ's command to love the Lord wholeheartedly and to "love your neighbor as yourself." Stolhammer said this should characterize our worship as a "living sacrifice."

"How do you do that? How do you express that? Well, hopefully, it's in everyday living," he said.

to being faithful with what God has given him beckoned him to step outside of his comfort zone.

Shortly after he married his wife, Melinda, the late Bryan Stroh and former worship leader asked Stolhammer if he would help the worship band. There was nobody else to do it, so Stolhammer began by playing bass. He gradually transitioned from a helping hand to a leadership position as God continually grew him.

"Honestly, I feel like God just baby-stepped me along because I'm not an up-front person. ... I was just filling a need, doing what God had for me in that moment," Stolhammer said.

And it has taught him along the way, especially during the winter and spring of 2013 to 2014, which was a "big turning point" in his life.

"We had a house fire where all we got out with was the clothes on our backs. The ranch that we were running our cattle on was sold, and then I ended up in the hospital for about three weeks with multiple surgeries for compartment syndrome and ultimately was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia," Stolhammer said.

At the time, he didn't know if he had one week or one year to live.

"In a matter of months we lost our possessions, my health and our very livelihood was up in the air," Stolhammer said. "Your perspective tends to change when your life is on the line."

During this time, the Stolhammer family "never felt

the loving, providing hand of God on their lives like they did then."

"Coming out of those experiences, I had a greater passion than ever to serve the Lord in whatever way that He should lead," he said.

Now, he gets to pass that same love for serving Christ down to his family as his kids follow his footsteps on the worship team.

Stolhammer's "lifelong passion" for music developed at an early age, and Connor and his younger brother Waylon, 10, both inherited Stolhammer's ability to play by ear. His daughter Carli, 13, hasn't developed her ear for music yet, so she is learning the theory of music.

"There's value in both,"

Stolhammer said, explaining both are needed just as both the spirit and truth are needed in worship.

Because worship is a personal expression to the Lord, he said, worship by nature will change, but as long as it is scriptural, he believes both old hymns of centuries past and newly composed songs can both deliver a powerful testimony.

"Music can really speak to you in a way that's different from preaching," Connor said. "It touches you in a different way. Whether it's good or bad, people can relate to music. ... Worship is based in the truth and a chance to praise God and glorify God. Whatever the music is, the words must be true and based on Scripture."

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Lil' Dogie Lunch

Braylee Borton, Phaedra Herrberg, Eli Hoover, Carter Doell, Addy Wellman, and Zaine Sadler

Thank you Taco John'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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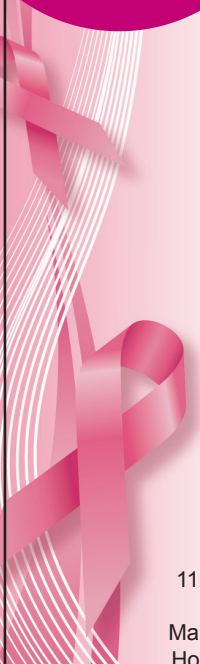

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On Saturday, Weston County Arts Council presented a Halloween Music Festival at Weston County Senior Center. Originally three bands were scheduled to perform, however the harmony singer of Kim and the Classics had suffered a heart attack the day before so that band was unable to make it. Miller Creek Band and Wicked Six, the other two bands, filled in the time, with about 40 people in attendance for the festivities. Top, Katie Williamson is tattooed by Austin Dunbar of Black Cat Tats LLC of Gillette. Above, Bass player Caleb Olsen and lead singer/guitarist Brandon Anderson of the Miller Creek Band entertain the audience. At left, Wicked Six's lead guitarist, Derick Albrecht, is decked out in a scary mask.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

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October 27, 2022 — 9

Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Volleyball
10/26-29/22 V 3A East Regionals @ Wheatland A NOON
11/03-05/22 V 3A State Championships @ Casper A NOON

Football
10/28/22 V 1st Round Playoffs @ Laramie A TBA

Ladies' Swimming
10/28/22 V Gillette Last Chance A 4PM
11/04-05/22 V 3A State Championships @ Laramie A NOON

Plan to commit

I saw a gif on Facebook the other day that bemoaned a concerning trend in youth sports. It sarcastically advised that if things aren't going your way in youth sports, club sports, middle school sports, high school sports, and so on, you should simply quit.

If you don't like your coach, or a player, or if you aren't getting enough playing time, if you don't agree with the philosophy of the program, or if you aren't winning enough games, that all of these would be valid reasons for walking away.

Unfortunately, the sentiment expressed is something that I have seen become more and more common. It isn't necessarily that athletes quit a team mid season, but more that athletes aren't committing to return to sports programs from one year to the next.

I remember when I was growing up that my parents made it clear that if I was going to start something, I was going to finish it. I shared that parenting ideology with my children as well.



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

I remember being so angry at my basketball coach my senior year, but never once did I consider quitting.

I remember my children coming home upset — sometimes in tears, and sometimes simply angry — during their sports seasons, and me talking over whatever it was that was bothering them. There were more than a couple of times each expressed their desire to quit, but it

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

Anderson wins 100 Free at Conference

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies Swim Team competed well at the 3A East Conference Meet Friday and Saturday in Buffalo. Lydia Anderson won the 100 Freestyle, Raeleigh Shipp punched her ticket to the 3A State Championships by qualifying in the 200 Freestyle, several new personal records were posted, and as a team, head coach Doug Scribner's squad finished 19 points higher than they did last season.

"We really had a pretty good weekend!" Scribner said. "The highlight, of course, was Lydia winning the 100 and Raeleigh qualifying in the 200."

Anderson swam two PR's in the prelims on Friday, first by going 26.54 in her fourth-place finish in the 50 Freestyle and then swimming a 58.23 in her first place win in the 100 Free. Her win also earned her a place on the 3A East All-Conference team.

Shipp swam a good race in the prelims of the 200 Free, however touched the wall just one-tenth of a second short of qualifying.

"We came up to each other after and just started laughing," Scribner admitted. "I said I couldn't believe that in eight lengths, you were just a tenth of a second off! She was



Photo courtesy of Ethan Weston/Buffalo Bulletin

Kyah Miller swam the butterfly in the third leg of the 200 Medley Relay last weekend at the 3A East Conference meet in Buffalo. The squad ended up seventh, but improved their time from prelims to finals, and finished better than the team did last season.

definitely disappointed, but she wasn't sad."

"On Saturday, I just said to her that if qualifying time was 2:15, you'd be 2:15.10," he continued. "So she set her goal to that and she was able to swim against a girl who swam 2:18.

By doing that, she moved from 11th to ninth and got under the time."

Shipp's time of 2:19.95 was just enough to earn her a trip to Laramie in a couple of weeks.

"The tough thing about the weekend was that we decided to race our fastest

200 Freestyle Relay team, which only gave Hailey [Beastrom] one heat of rest before she swam the open backstroke," Scribner described. "She not only didn't make the top 12 to be able

— See **Swimmers**, Page 13

Dogies headed for 2A playoffs

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Everything was on the line for the Dogies in their last regular season contest Friday against Torrington at Schoonmaker Field. The winner would keep their season alive and head into the playoffs, while the loser's season would end.

It was tight at the end of the first half, but in the second, the Dogies took over and never looked back to cruise to a 39-14 win over the Trailblazers, clinching a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2017.

"It was a pretty exciting night," head coach Matt Conzelman said, grinning. "You know we've just been preaching that if you make a mistake, not to let it compound into more — and I think

they've really bought into that, and they played pretty well."

The Dogies received the ball to start the contest and scored on their first possession with a three-yard scamper by Holden McConkey up the gut. Dylan McFarlin was good on the PAT to give the Dogies a 7-0 lead with six minutes to play in the first quarter.

"I think this is the first time we've scored on the opening drive this year," Conzelman declared. "We ate six minutes off the clock and drove about 75 yards down the field, so it was a great way to start the game."

The 'Blazers were able to answer back as time ticked off the clock in the first and tied things up 7-7 as the teams headed into the second.

Torrington then took a 14-7 lead with around 2:30 to play in the second quarter,

but the Dogies countered right back with a 10-yard touchdown run by quarterback Quint Perino with only 49 seconds remaining. This time McFarlin's PAT was blocked, so the Dogies went into the locker room down 14-13.

"I reminded the guys that everything was going really well," Conzelman explained.

— See **Football**, Page 11

Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ

Connor Stolhammer (No. 7) congratulates Holden McConkey after he scored his fourth touchdown of the night Friday against the Torrington Trailblazers. McConkey demonstrated senior leadership in the do-or-die contest, finishing with 261 all-purpose yards.



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Dogies run last race

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

Six Dogies and one Lady Dogie finished their 2022 regular season at the state cross country meet in Ethete on Saturday. Head coach Kathy Beehler was pleased with how her athletes ran, and with how they have all improved throughout the season.

Ethete is a cultural center for the Arapaho tribe, and in addition to hosting the meet, the tribe offered cultural experiences for the athletes.

“The Native American culture is really cool to experience,” Beehler explained. “There were events for the runners such as a banquet, and the pace ‘car’ for the race is a horse and rider rather than the typical golf cart. At the banquet, they talked about how cross country stays with you years after you graduate from high school. It becomes a part of your life, and it will always stay with you, which was cool for the kids to hear.”

The course at Ethete is a rolling one, which Beehler described as harder than Glenrock. It starts with a gentle incline segueing to a steep incline, then another slight incline throughout the first mile. The second mile is a gentle decline, then the rest of the race is just a flat field with the last 600 meters culminating with a slight incline.

“When you go from a steep to gentle incline, it’s hard to regulate your pace the way you should,” Beehler explained. “It’s also hard to chunk your race up there because there’s nothing to use as a measure point for your race when you’re in a wide open field.”

Despite the challenges the course presented, sophomore Aspen Bloom was right on her best time of the season, finishing in 21:27.27, putting her at 21st place in the race.

“This was a big improvement from last year,” Beehler said. “Before the meet, we talked about her [personal record] of 21:10 and about shooting for that, but she ran well and she was happy with her time.”

Bloom started the season running at a 24:17 and she got down to 21:10, so she has dropped three minutes in just a couple of months.

“I told her that she is starting to run like some of the great Lady Dogie runners from our past,” Beehler said. “I could see her dropping into the 20s early next year and then even to the 19s, and she is excited to see what she is capable of accomplishing.”

The men’s team were without their top two runners as Thatcher Troftgruben and Sam Scribner were unable to run at the meet.

“It’s tough for the other runners when the top two guys are out, because cross country is pack running,” Beehler explained. “So, without those guys to pace them, it is hard as an individual to set a pace that works for them.”

As such, the Dogies’ top runner was Sam Cunningham, who finished 52nd in 18:50.58, with Logan Olson next in 92nd place where he finished with a time of 20:46.45.

Wyatt Cole was next in 94th with a time of 21:01.55, and Archer Ohnstad was hot on Cole’s heels in 95th with a time of 21:07.08. Ben Carter finished in 21:42.78, earning him 99th place, while Nick Lopez finished just nine seconds behind in 100th place.

“Wyatt may have taken the race out too fast, because he was running pretty tight and couldn’t relax and get into the rhythm of the race,” Beehler said. “But I am super proud of how Wyatt has emerged as a leader throughout the season, which is great since he is the only junior. He is determined to lead his team to be ready to pack run next season.”

From the beginning of the season, most runners have improved their times. Both Cunningham and Olson decreased their time about a minute and a half, Carter is a minute faster than he was, and Ohnstad has improved his time by three minutes.

With the season at a close, and no seniors on either squad, Beehler and her runners are turning their eyes to 2023.

“Aspen has been talking lately about planning to run this summer because she is getting excited about what she might be able to accomplish, and the boys have also been talking about running this summer,” Beehler reported. “That’s exciting for me that we’re coming to terms with that now, so we can start off next season where we left off this season instead of having to work back up to our best times.”

“Really, all the kids are looking forward to next season, and have set some goals for themselves,” she continued. “If we can start where we left off, we will give ourselves a shot at really showing improvement next year.”

In addition to the awards given at the race, every team was asked to nominate one athlete who shows good character, morals and leadership in both the school and the team. The Dogies chose Caleb Hoover as their nominee and he received a tribal blanket as his award.

NHS Cross Country

Newcastle @ 3A State Meet in Ethete

10/22/22

Men’s Results

Team: Varsity

1. Mt. View 71

2. Evanston 89

3. Cody 94

4. Worland 96

5. Buffalo 129

6. Riverton 156

7. Lander 173

8. Torrington 186

9. Rawlins 248

10. Powell 255

11. Douglas 337

12. Green River 338

13. Lyman 361

14. Pine Bluffs 367

15. Newcastle 432

16. Wheatland 513

Individual Varsity:

52. Sam Cunningham 18:50.58

92. Logan Olson 20:46.45

94. Wyatt Cole 21:01.55

95. Archer Ohnstad 21:07.08

99. Ben Carter 21:42.78

100. Nick Lopez 21:51.67

Women’s Results

Individual Varsity:

21. Aspen Bloom 21:27.27

Got a local story idea?

Send your story ideas to Alexis Barker, reporter@news1j.com, or Bob Bonnar, editor@news1j.com. We’d love to hear your thoughts!

GOOD CITIZENS

OCTOBER 2022

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



Falissa Champine
3rd, Mrs. Back

As we start our new school year, one might ask, what is a good citizen? The first character trait that comes to mind for a new year is RESPECT! Above all, this individual is the mirror image of respect. This outstanding student shows respect for herself and others. She quietly comes in each morning and is ready to get to work with a smile on her face. Her eagerness to learn is obvious as she is always contributing to our class discussions, sharing her thinking and ideas. She has great work ethic, making sure she gets all her work done, and asks what to do next. Her classmates pointed out that she is nice to others. She shows other students what it means to be a good citizen, by being respectful. Congratulations to this outstanding good citizen for October, Falissa Champine!



Jennifer Sanford
4th, Mrs. Liggett

It is a great pleasure to introduce this year’s first, fourth grade Good Citizen. This extraordinary young lady is fantastic! Fourth grade can seem challenging at the beginning of the year. It is filled with lots of new responsibilities, harder workloads, and new information to tackle. Each day this remarkable student comes to school with a good attitude, pleasant demeanor, and determination to try her very hardest. Our class is better because she is a part of it. Congratulations Jennifer Sanford!



Zeke Morrill
5th, Mr. Dickey

At the beginning of the year, it is exciting to meet a new class full of students ready to embark on a new school year. As expectations are taught, we are always looking for the students who appear to take these expectations to heart. We look for students who display characteristics of a good citizen by going above and beyond to do their best and make everyone around them feel welcome and accepted. This month’s Good Citizen leads by example when he comes in every day and follows the expectations in all areas of the school. He approaches every task with a positive attitude and never fails to give his best effort on everything he does, regardless of how difficult it is. This month’s Good Citizen is a great team player who is always making sure all of his fellow classmates are being included in all activities. Through these actions, it is easy to see what makes this student such an asset to Newcastle Elementary School. Room 151 is lucky to have this young man in our class, and it is our honor to present this month’s fifth grade Good Citizen Award to Zeke Morrill.

Karpe

from Page 9

simply was not an option.

When you are part of a team, you owe that team full commitment. Without it, there is no team.

In a school the size of Newcastle High, and one that offers multiple sports per season, it can be difficult to get enough kids out for a single sport to fill two, or possibly three teams, as is the practice in 3A. We’ve even seen times where there weren’t enough players to fill one team.

In fact, my son — who hadn’t played soccer since he was a wee lad — agreed to go out for soccer in his junior year because, without him, there would have been no season.

I understand that if you are not the star athlete, or if you

disagree with your coach, or if you aren’t getting the playing time you feel you deserve, or whatever it is that is causing you angst, it can be difficult to put in the work at practice only to be disappointed when it comes to game time.

I understand that it may feel so much easier to just walk away than to stick it out.

However, when you do that, the repercussions stretch far beyond your own loss. Your team has to adjust to your absence and figure out how to move forward. Even as a role player, your abandonment of your team has an impact as they try to fill your shoes.

And for you, you set yourself up for a future of walking away when the going gets

a little tough. If you can’t commit to a sports season for a couple of months, how are you going to commit to a long-term job, or a marriage, or really anything that will throw you rough times that you have to battle through?

Not only is commitment a life skill that will lead to good things, but when you dedicate yourself to your sport you will inevitably become more skilled in that sport, which will lead to enjoying more success.

We need to get back to the mentality that quitting is not an option, so that commitment becomes an inherent quality in our kids — not only for the sake of the program, but also for the sake of our kids’ futures.

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Trick-or-treat alternatives

If trick-or-treating is not in your plans this year, or you are simply looking for new ideas, many fun and inventive ways to celebrate this festive season will keep kids entertained!

Decorate your door:

It is time to grab some pumpkins and festive decorations to transform your door. Door decorating is easy, fun, and fantastic for bringing out creativity. One way to make it more interesting is



Vicki Hayman
Extension Notes

by involving neighbors in a door decoration contest!

Virtual Halloween party:

Are you planning on staying in this year? Plan a virtual Halloween bash so kids can still dress up and show their friends! To make this party interactive add fun online games like trivia or Bingo.

Costume contest:

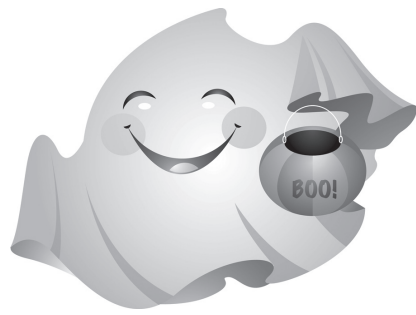
Gather crafting items and have everyone create a Halloween costume. Give prizes for categories such as funniest, most creative, prettiest, spooky, etc.

Face painting party:

A great way to become your character for Halloween is to have someone paint your face. A face painting kit is a great way to start this tradition. This can also be done in addition to a costume contest.

Pumpkin party:

Get artistic with family and friends and decorate your pumpkins together. Carving pumpkins is messy, so you can also have a



no-carve option. Then, at the end of the party, take a vote; the most creative pumpkin wins a prize!

Family activity night:

Set the kids loose with a craft activity station! Try coloring sheets, word searches, and whatever else your kids enjoy. Get your children excited about Halloween however you choose to celebrate.

Halloween scavenger hunt:

Scavenger hunts are a great way to get your kids outside and moving. Once Halloween decorations have been put up, hop in the car and spot some spooky sights! Nothing says you cannot have your Halloween scavenger hunt at your house. All you need are some fun clues, some Halloween candy and/or trinkets, and kids ready for Halloween fun!

Boo your neighbor:

Involve your neighbors in a fun activity by secretly “boo” ing them. Generally, you put together a goodie basket of Halloween items and treats for a neighbor, and then they do the same for another neighbor. You need to get started by the middle of October, so let the Halloween booing begin!

Scary stories:

For the ones who love a good scare, gather and read Halloween stories about ghosts, monsters, witches, and more! Enjoy, but

most of all, try not to get spooked! Stories can range from slightly spooky for the younger kids to frightfully fearful for the older.

Halloween recipes:

From ghost pancakes and spiderweb-covered hot cocoa bombs to spaghetti with eyeballs, Caesar spider salad, and monster cupcakes, these Halloween foods scare up everyone’s appetite. Cook up some spooky creations, and make sure to share your recipe!

The Great Pumpkin hunt:

Pick up some plastic pumpkins, fill them with non-food items and hide them around your house. Tiny real pumpkins can be hidden in the yard if weather permits.

Halloween movie night:

There are some cute or scary Halloween shows and movies you can watch on Halloween night. Invite neighbors or friends over, set up blankets and chairs, and watch your favorite Halloween movie.

Family game night:

Enjoy a game night of Halloween spooktacular fun. Serve popcorn out of a witch’s cauldron and make some caramel apples! Some games tap into analytical thinking skills, and others can inspire some friendly competition or just silly ways to pass the time and make everyone smile.

Backyard bonfire:

Gather around a fire pit in the backyard and make roast hot dogs, Halloween s’mores, and spiced cider. Set the mood by playing Halloween songs.

Try something new this Halloween with activities that keep the kids entertained all night long!

(Sources: foodallergy.org; playpartyplan.com; purewow.com)

Ladies’ Night



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

On Sunday evening, it was Ladies’ Night at Bomgaars in Newcastle. Along with 20% off regular prices, 5% of the total sales was given to cancer centers and local hospitals nationwide. There were also free cookies and cold drinks and drawings for prizes during the event. Mendacino Bell, pictured, hams it up during the event. She said she was excited to see Bomgaars giving from the total sales that night to Weston County Health Services.

Football

from Page 9

“We had made some defensive adjustments that were working pretty well, so we just coached that up. I also said that the third quarter was going to tell a lot about how the game was going to end, so we needed to take over immediately when we got back out there.”

The ‘Blazers received to start the second half, but the Dogie D took Conzelman’s words to heart and forced a fumble, which was recovered by Jacob Prell. Offense drove down the field, including picking up a first down on fourth and one with 8:45 on the clock.

On first and goal on the two-yard line, Perino picked up his second touchdown of the evening on a QB keeper to recover the lead for his team. The Dogies attempted to fake the PAT and go for two, however the attempt was unsuccessful, leaving the score at 19-14 in Newcastle’s favor.

“After we recovered that fumble, you could just feel the momentum shift,” said Conzelman. “We had great field position, and then the offense went to work.”

Dogies began the fourth quarter with a turnover on downs, however, defense once again stepped up to stop the ‘Blazers on the fourth and four on Newcastle’s 49-yard line.

On first down, McConkey broke through the middle of Torrington’s line and ran 51 yards for his second touchdown of the night. The pass fell incomplete on the two-point conversion attempt, so the score was 25-14 in Newcastle’s favor with 9:49 remaining in the game.



Photo by Hannah Gross/NLJ

Quarterback Quint Perino gets around a defender and ultimately scored back-to-back touchdowns for the Dogies in their big win over the Torrington Trailblazers Friday at Schoonmaker Field.

The defense once again stopped the ‘Blazers on their next possession, and the punt took a great Dogie bounce, so they started in great field position once again on their own 47, using the opportunity to drive down the field.

With 4:57 to play, McConkey punched the ball into the end zone once again, and this time McFarlin’s PAT was good to extend Newcastle’s lead to 32-14.

At this point in the contest, the ‘Blazers were in desperation mode. On the kickoff, their receiver slipped and fell, forcing the squad to start

their drive on their own 11-yard line. They were able to get to the 21, but then were hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty which backed them up to the 11 again and brought up a third and 20 situation.

With 3:02 to play in the game, Torrington went for it on fourth and 20, but the Dogie D held them, so Newcastle took over only 10 yards out of the end zone.

On second down, McConkey scored his fourth touchdown of the night on a two-yard scamper, and McFarlin was right on the money with his PAT, so the

Dogies extended their lead to 39-14.

Torrington put together a pretty decent drive in the remaining time, but with :49 seconds left, they turned the ball over on downs so the Dogies knelt on the ball to clinch the win.

“Us scoring 20 points in the fourth quarter was huge,” Conzelman said. “We haven’t done that for a long time.”

Senior Jacob Prell was a force on defense in the last home game of his career, racking up 23 points on defense with a fumble recovery, three solo tackles, three tackle assists and three tackles for loss. For his efforts, Prell

NHS Football

Newcastle v. Torrington 10/21/22: 39-14
295 yards rushing, 53 yards passing
Quint Perino: 2 TDs, 20 carries for 80 yards, 4-7 pass completions for 53 yards, 4 tackles, 4 tackle ast.
Holden McConkey: 4 TDs, 29 carries for 212 yards, 1 reception for 8 yards, 1 kick return for 25 yards, 1 punt return for 16 yards, 2 tackles, 1 tackle for loss
Jacob Prell: 1 fumble recovery, 3 tackle ast., 3 tackle ast., 3 tackles for loss
Dylan McFarlin: 3-4 PAT, 1 punt for 57 yards, 1 kickoff for 23 yards
Finn Gerlag: 6 kickoffs for 348 yards
Colton Vanderpool Mobley: 3 receptions for 21 yards, 1 pass breakup, 3 tackles, 1 tackle ast.
Connor Stolhammer: 3 carries for 3 yards, 3 receptions for 45 yards, 1 kickoff return for 29 yards, 2 tackles, 1 tackle ast.
Thomas Prell: 1 reception for 9 yards, 1 pass breakup, 6 tackles, 1 tackle ast.
Heath Henkle: 1 tackle ast.
Jonathan Anderson: 1 tackle, 1 tackle ast.
Skyler Cummings: 1 pass breakup, 2 tackles, 2 tackle ast.
Casey Matthews: 2 tackles
Cole Erb: 1 tackle
Cort Perino: 2 tackles, 1 tackle ast.
Aidan Butler: 1 tackle ast.
Collin McConkey: 1 tackle
Teddy Troftgruben: 1 pass breakup, 1 tackle for loss

was awarded Sportsman of the Game.

McConkey was the workhorse for the Dogie offense as the senior racked up 261 all-purpose yards and four touchdowns on the night.

“Jacob and Holden were on fire,” Conzelman reported. “It was an awesome way for them to end their career at Schoonmaker Field.”

The win was huge for the Dogies as it extended their season at least one more week. As the No. 4 seed from the East, Newcastle will travel to Lovell to take on the undefeated, No. 1-seeded Bulldogs for the first round of playoffs Friday, with kickoff scheduled at 7 p.m.

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Newcastle Dogies

Middle School Volleyball

2022-23



8th Grade

Front row: Jensi McCormack, Scotlyn Hildebrandt, Ashlynn Shroyer, Kendal Page, and Annica Vargas. Middle row: Aurora Hunter, Sage Lichtenberger, Josie Smith, Adalyn Olson, and Netanya Prell. Back row: Ashlynn Wildermuth, Brekyn Stuart, Adelyn Bergstrom, Kaylee Liggett, Lillie Morrill, Kyndal Von Eye, Delaney Dresen, Coach Rebecca Tacy.

7th Grade

Front row: Taylor Lovejoy, Sophia Stith, Tealah Stevenson, Addie Fitzwater, Anika Oleson, Faith Hicks, Brooklyn Guzman. Middle row: Sage Manheimer, Laine Lewis, Abby Tacy, Emeree Tavegie, Harmony Sullivan, Kiah Wineteer, Manager Ethan Parsons. Back row: Coach Jody McCormack, Brystal Sweet, Jenna Dixon, Kirra Bonnema, Scotlyn Carr, Ayonna Hunter, Zadyn Allen, Coach Robyn Stanton.



6th Grade

Front row: Karlie Washburn, Aryanna Hobbs, Adrianna Schofield, Chanel Hanson, Macy Steber, Brianna Schofield. Back row: Coach Robyn Stanton, Kentri Liggett, Kadie Stricklin, Kaia Pederson, Breelee Loeb, Olivia Watt, Coach Jennifer Steveson.



Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography

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Newcastle's netters finish regular season

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies wrapped up their regular season by playing rematch contests against Glenrock and Buffalo Friday and Saturday. The outcome of both of these matches were vital in the seeding for the upcoming 3A East Regional Tournament, as the race was tight between Moorcroft, Buffalo and the Lady Dogies for the No. 1 seed.

When Newcastle played these two teams in the opening weekend of conference play, they came away with victories over both — however, the story had a different ending this time. While they were able to cruise to a pretty easy three-set win over the Glenrock Lady Herders in the final home game of the season, and senior recognition night, on Friday, Buffalo's Lady Bison turned the tables and took the four-set victory over the Lady Dogies on their home court on Saturday.

"It was nice to see them go from being emotional about it being their last game in the Dome to being ready to play," said head coach Mickey Crabtree. "It was also awesome to have them play well for the community in thanks for their support over the years."

The Lady Dogies indeed took care of business quickly against the Lady Herders defeating them 25-16, 25-14 and 25-22.

Tiernan Stanton had an outstanding final game in the Dogie Dome, racking up 20 kills in those three sets. That included one big hit that knocked the Glenrock setter down for a moment.

"We really work on the fact that every time she touches the ball, it needs to be a point," Crabtree explained. "She did that really well against Glenrock."

Buffalo raised the stakes for the final contest of the regular season by defeating Moorcroft on Friday night. As such, Crabtree's crew knew that a win against the Lady Bison was imperative if they wanted to maintain their first seed in the Northeast Quadrant.

Just as the Newcastle senior players were recognized in their last home game, Buffalo honored their seniors on Saturday, and also had a little surprise gift of flowers for the Newcastle seniors as well.

"That was really sweet," said Crabtree. "It was also kind of funny, because Michelle [Daulberg] commented that while it may be sad for Newcastle to see these seniors graduate, she was looking forward to seeing them go!"

The Lady Dogies started off strong against the Lady Bison, but dropped the first set, 21-25, and the second, 16-25.

"We struggled with putting more than one point at a time together, and we struggled against Tess Rule on the outside," Crabtree explained. "They run a fast offense and they really did some damage against us with her because we had a hard time getting to her and closing the block in time. I really think that is what beat us, and they did a good job of capitalizing on our weakness."

The Lady Dogies were able to send the match into a fourth set by taking the win in set three, 25-23, but Buffalo came out on top in the fourth,



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Senior Tiernan Stanton played an outstanding game in her final volleyball game in the Dogie Dome Friday by racking up 20 kills on the night.

NHS Volleyball		
Newcastle v. Glenrock 10/21/22: 25-16, 25-14, 25-22	assists, 18 digs Gabby McVay: 6-8 serves, 2 set assists, 9 digs Mckenzie Rose: 5-5 serves, 5 kills, 3 digs Lizzy Rushton: 5 digs Storee Tupa: 11-11 serves, 2 aces, 2 kills, 3 digs	MacKenzie Conzelman: 11-11 serves, 4 kills, 2 block assists, 4 digs Hunter McFarland: 17-18 serves, 1 ace, 1 kill, 1 solo block, 3 block assists, 32 set assists, 15 digs Shelby Tidyman: 15-15 serves, 2 aces, 1 set assist, 22 digs Gabby McVay: 11-13 serves, 22 digs Mckenzie Rose: 2-2 serves, 4 kills, 1 dig Lizzy Rushton: 6 digs Storee Tupa: 11-12 serves, 1 ace, 1 block assist, 9 digs
Jaylen Ostenson: 10-10 serves, 8 kills, 1 block assist, 3 set assists, 31 digs Tiernan Stanton: 20 kills, 1 solo block, 1 block assist, 1 set assist, 1 dig MacKenzie Conzelman: 14-14 serves, 1 ace, 3 kills, 1 solo block, 1 block assist, 1 set assist, 8 digs Hunter McFarland: 16-16 serves, 1 ace, 7 kills, 2 block assists, 32 set assists, 10 digs Shelby Tidyman: 7-10 serves, 1 ace, 1 kill, 3 set	Newcastle @ Buffalo 10/22/22: 21-25, 16-25, 25-23, 19-25 Jaylen Ostenson: 12-12 serves, 10 kills, 1 solo block, 2 set assists, 27 digs Tiernan Stanton: 3-7 serves, 16 kills, 4 solo blocks, 2 block assists, 3 digs	

winning set and match 25-19.

Stanton had another good night, putting down 16 kills against the Lady Bison, as well as scoring 6 points off the block. Shelby Tidyman, Gabby McVay and Jaylen Ostenson were also recognized by Crabtree as having an outstanding weekend of play, and despite the loss, the coach was also pleased with several aspects of her team's play.

"We had incredible serve receive this weekend, and we kind of changed our offense up a little on Friday and Saturday because the outsides were hitting over our block," Crabtree explained. "Shelby moved over and we shifted the defense back a bit, and she played phenomenally. So did Gabby and Jay in the back row. They all got a lot of the digs and the hustle plays, and that's super important, especially when you're playing against teams with big, hard hitters."

Unfortunately, the Lady Bison were better than the Lady Dogies that night and caused the squad to struggle to string together points.

"We'd get stuck in rotations

where we'd lose five to eight points, and then not be able to make those back," Crabtree reported. "But, I was really proud to see us fight back. It was a lot of back and forth, and we played really well actually. They just had a very good night."

The loss to Buffalo puts the Lady Dogies in the No. 2 spot from the Northeast as they head into the regional tournament Friday and Saturday in Wheatland. As such, they will take on the No. 3- seeded Rawlins Lady Outlaws at 11:45 in their opening match on Friday.

"We get to work on some of the weaknesses that were exposed against Buffalo this week, which is a positive from Saturday night," Crabtree determined. "It would have been nice to come out with the one seed and get to play Torrington in the first round, but it is what it is. I'm assuming we will see Wheatland second and it'll be good to get a rematch, because we just didn't play like we are capable of playing against them last time."

Swimmers from Page 9

NHS Ladies' Swimming		
Newcastle @ 3A East Conference Meet 10/21-22/22 Individual Results Prelims: 200 Medley Relay: 2:51.80 7. Hailey Beastrum, Ruth Rose, Kyah Miller, Veronica Ayers 200 Free: 11. Raeligh Shipp 2:20.10 20. Rebekah Olson 2:39.79 PR 200 IM: 18. Jaydenn Nelson 3:15.62 50 Free: 4. Lydia Anderson 26.54 PR 4AQ 20. Hailey Beastrum 29.88 25. Kyah Miller 33.00 27. Ruth Rose 34.24 33. Veronica Ayers 45.31 100 Butterfly: 17. Rebekah Olson 1:25.20 100 Free: 1. Lydia Anderson 58.23 PR 4AQ 7. Raeligh Shipp 1:03.70	28. Veronica Ayers 2:03.28 PR 500 Free: 15. Jaydenn Nelson 7:27.78 PR 200 Free Relay: 1:57.67 7. Jaydenn Nelson, Raeligh Shipp, Rebekah Olson, Lydia Anderson 100 Backstroke: 13. Hailey Beastrum 1:15.99 100 Breaststroke: 16. Kyah Miller 1:33.93 20. Ruth Rose 1:44.72 400 Free Relay: 4:41.65 7. Rebekah Olson, Kyah Miller, Raeligh Shipp, Lydia Anderson Finals Results 10/22/22 Team: 1. Powell 369 2. Cody 239 3. Douglas 215 4. Worland 172 5. Buffalo 141	6. Riverton 84 7. Newcastle 79 Individual Results: 200 Medley Relay: 2:42.96 7. Hailey Beastrum, Ruth Rose, Kyah Miller, Veronica Ayers 200 Free: 9. Raeligh Shipp 2:19.95 3AQ 50 Free: 3. Lydia Anderson 26.66 4AQ 100 Free: 1. Lydia Anderson 58.27 4AQ 8. Raeligh Shipp 1:04.07 200 Free Relay: 1:56.26 7. Jaydenn Nelson, Raeligh Shipp, Rebekah Olson, Lydia Anderson 400 Free Relay: 4:41.34 7. Rebekah Olson, Jaydenn Nelson, Raeligh Shipp, Lydia Anderson



Photo courtesy of Ethan Weston/Buffalo Bulletin

Rebekah Olson rose to the challenge and improved her previous best time in the 200 Freestyle by 7.13 seconds at the 3A East Conference meet in Buffalo last weekend.

to advance to the finals on Saturday, but she also didn't swim a qualifying time in the event."

However, Beastrum swam a PR in her backstroke split in the 200 Medley Relay, so Scribner knows she has the speed to qualify in the 100 Open, and is hoping she will get it done at the Last Chance meet Friday in Gillette.

Other PR's included Rebekah Olson

who had a 7.13 second improvement in the 200 Free, Veronica Ayers who PR'd in the 100 Free by 9.65 seconds and Jaydenn Nelson who took 7.35 seconds off her previous best time in the 500 Free.

"We talked about what they needed to do to make it into the finals, and so they went out and swam really hard," Scribner said. "They didn't finish in

the top 12, but they had significant time drops, which was great."

The Lady Dogies placed seventh

in all three relays, so they had to swim alone in finals, which Scribner admitted presented a bit of a challenge.

"That made it a little hard, but we were consolation champions in all three," he said. "We also improved our time from last year, and from Friday to Saturday, even though we were swimming alone."

The 200 Free team of Nelson, Shipp, Olson and Anderson improved the relay time from last season by 20 seconds in the finals with a time of 1:56.26, a second faster than they swam it on Friday.

The 400 Free team of Olson, Nelson, Shipp and Anderson improved on last season's time by 19 seconds and were about half a second faster than Friday, while the 200 Medley team of Beastrum, Ruth Rose, Kyah Miller and Ayers improved their time from Friday to Saturday by almost nine seconds, and put up a time better than last year where the team disqualified.

This week is the Last Chance Qualifier in Gillette beginning at 4 p.m., where Scribner is hoping to see Beastrum use this last chance to qualify in the 100 Backstroke.



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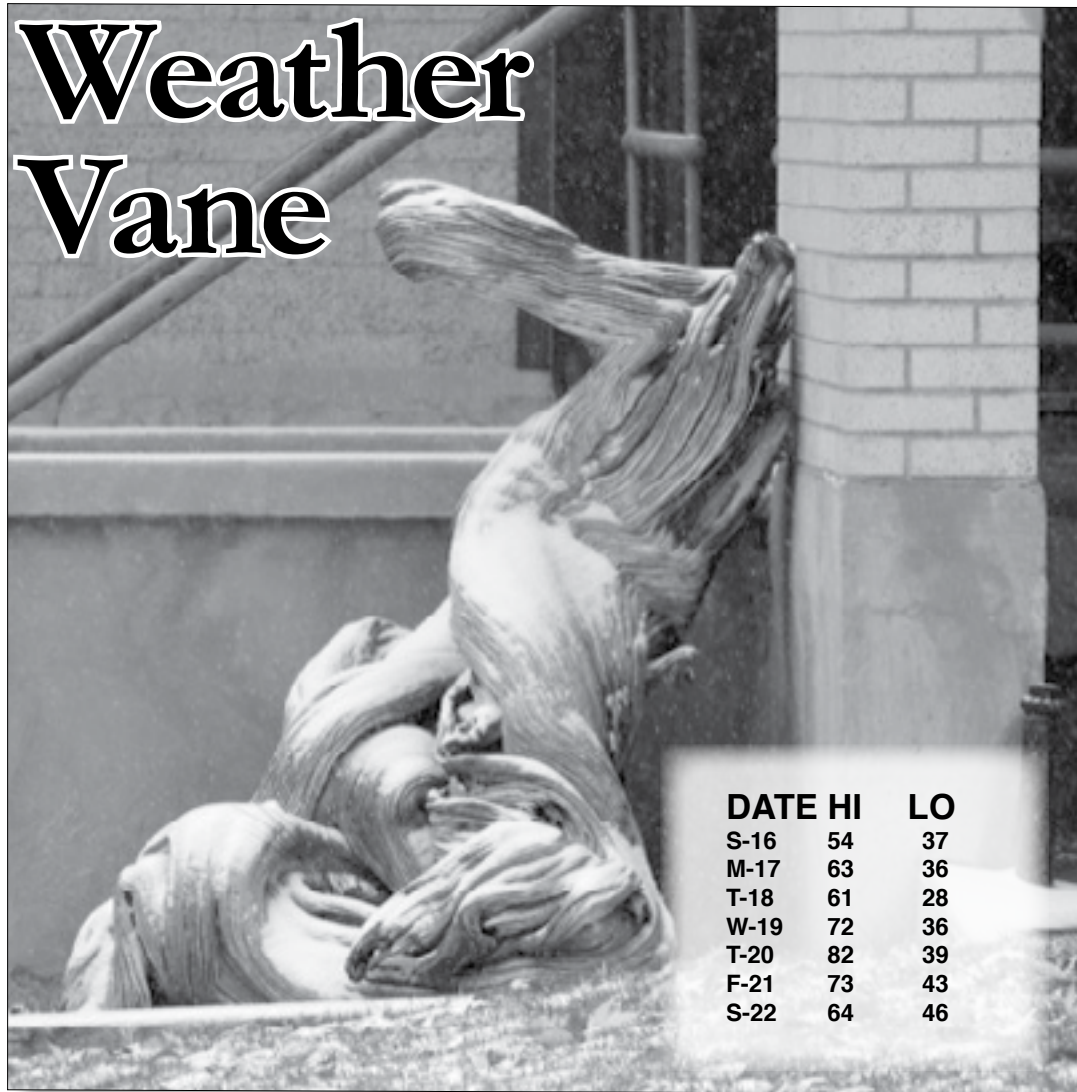
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M-17	63	36	
T-18	61	28	
W-19	72	36	
T-20	82	39	
F-21	73	43	
S-22	64	46	

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and Chapter 1 of the Solid Waste Rules, the Weston County Solid Waste Disposal District has submitted a new Chapter 2 Lifetime permit application for the Weston County Regional Landfill.

This facility provides for the transfer, treatment and storage of scrap metal, white goods, clean wood disposal recycling commodities, green waste, paint, used oil, used antifreeze, scrap tires, electronic waste, cathode ray tubes and lead acid batteries, as well as the disposal of; municipal solid waste, industrial solid waste, construction and demolition waste and non-friable asbestos containing waste which have been generated within the State of Wyoming. The 119-acre facility is located approximately 5 miles south of Newcastle, Wyoming. More specifically, this facility is located in the S 1/2 SE 1/4 of Section 17 and NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 20 T44N, R61W, in Weston County, Wyoming. The total volumetric capacity of this facility is estimated to be 2,690,200 cubic yards. The life of the facility is estimated to be 228 years.

The Department of Environmental Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste Division (DEQ) has issued a proposed permit for this facility. Copies of the application and the proposed permit can be viewed at DEQ's Cheyenne office.

Any interested person has the right to file written comments, including objections on the proposed permit. The period for providing comments on the proposed permit shall begin on October 20, 2022, and end on November 28, 2022. Any written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on the last day of the notice period. Comments must be submitted in writing to the Department of Environmental Quality, Todd Parfitt, Director, 200 West 17th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002 or submitted using the DEQ comment portal provided at <https://shw.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com/>.

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

Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov.

(Publish October 20 and 27, 2022)

Election Notice

ELECTION NOTICE:

SALT CREEK WATER DISTRICT ELECTION VOTING WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE AT 5021B US HWY 16 EAST, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING ON NOV. 8, 2022 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 AM AND 2:00 PM. ABSENTEE

BALLOT AVAILABLE AT OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS OR BY REQUEST CALL 307-746-3331. DEADLINE FOR ABSENTEE IN PERSON VOTING IS NOV. 3, 4:30 P.M. MAIL IN BALLOT IS DUE NOV. 8, 2022 BY 5:00 PM.

(Publish October 20 and 27, 2022)

Election Notice

WESTON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT ELECTION PROCLAMATION

On November 3, 2020, the Weston County Natural Resource District will hold their supervisor election for the purpose of electing three (3) supervisor positions. There is one urban supervisor position for four-year term, one rural supervisor position for four-year term and one at-large supervisor position for four-year term available. The polling location will be at the USDA Service Center Building at 1225 Washington Boulevard, Newcastle, Wyoming. The polling hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available at the District office and will be accepted until 3 p.m. on November 3rd.

Urban Position
* Gene Norman
* Write In _____

Rural Position
* David Tysdal
* Write In _____

At-Large Position
* Write In _____

A meeting of the Weston County Natural Resource District will be held on November 3, 2020 for the purpose of canvassing the supervisor election results. The meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center Building in Newcastle.

(Publish October 27, 2022)

N/ARCHIVE NOTICES



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

Last week's answers

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Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



CIVICS 101

- ACROSS**
- Tart spicy quality
 - *Senators each represent an area on it
 - Jamaican rub
 - Succulent medicinal plant
 - Tiny piece
 - Home to Burj Khalifa
 - Sail support
 - Sensory input
 - Bedazzle, e.g.
 - *One making SCOTUS nominations
 - Grape holder
 - Japanese cartoon
 - Drunkard's sound?
 - *First Lady, acr.
 - Singer, songwriter, musician Jon _____
 - Stumblebum
 - Kind of monkey
 - In a little while, to Shakespeare
 - Speedily
 - M in rpm, abbr.
 - North face, e.g.
 - Toy brick
 - Typical revolver
 - "The One I Love" group
 - The _____ Man, internet meme
 - Table linens
 - Wow!
 - Instruct

- Delhi draping dress
 - *#18 Across' branch of government
 - Shipping weights
 - Three blind ones
 - Field worker
 - Spot for FitBit
 - Defender of skies, acr.
 - Actor Wilson
 - Bookie's number
 - Wilbur's home
 - Back of the neck
- DOWN**
- Pack down
 - Resembling wings
 - Rudolph's beacon
 - Reaches (2 words)
 - Computer accessory
 - Do penitence
 - Chipper
 - *SCOTUS' branch of government
 - Jet black
 - Steak option
 - Kith partner
 - In style
 - Part of affidavit
 - Harden
 - Owens
 - Mare's babies
 - Spot for boutonniere

FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Newcastle City Council Minutes

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022**

Mayor Pam Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Mayor Gualtieri; Council members Don Steveson, Ann McColley, Daren Downs, Lance Miles and Tyrel Owens. Also present were City Attorney Dublin Hughes, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff and City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Gualtieri amended the agenda adding Newcastle Recreation Board to Tom Voss's Citizens Business, verbal. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to approve the agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and executive session of Monday, October 3, 2022 and the minutes of the special meeting of October 5, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.**

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Thomas Curley for supporting Newcastle Main Street with the purchase of Donna's Diner along with Archie & Sharon Callander for their work on the Senior Center flower beds.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None
CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING: Tonya Christensen requested a catering permit on behalf of Cap N' Bottle for the Halloween Music Festival. Don Steveson moved, seconded Daren Downs to approve this request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL:

Amanda Dixon, owner of Little Ones Child Care was present to express her concerns regarding parking on S. Summit Ave.

Tom Voss was present to express his concerns regarding write-ins on the general election ballot. Mr. Voss also presented the Council with the bylaws for the Newcastle Recreation Board.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Matt Fridell with Tallgrass Landscape Architecture presented the Heritage Park Feasibility Study to the Council.

Wyoming Community Gas project designation. Ann McColley moved, seconded Daren Downs to apply \$1,500.00 of the designation to an electronic speed sign and the remaining \$3,832.30 for Christmas decorations. **MOTION CARRIED.**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty reported that the audit process has begun for fiscal year 2022. The presentation of the Final Summary Draft is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2023.

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff reported that he had been in contact with the Newcastle Ice Association and they will be working on getting things ready for the season. He then referenced the Public Works report for projects and work done.

Mayor Gualtieri reported that the use of reserve Police Officers would be needed to cover shifts at the Police Department.

City Attorney Dublin Hughes had nothing to report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None
OTHER BUSINESS: None
EXECUTIVE SESSION: Referencing per-

sonnel and contracts W.S. 16-4-405 Tyrel Owens motioned, seconded Don Steveson to suspend the rules and go into executive session at 8:05 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Daren Downs moved, seconded Ann McColley to return to regular session at 9:35 p.m. **MOTION CARRIED.** Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to offer Chief of Police applicant Chuck Bowles a conditional offer of \$32.00 per hour to start and \$34.00 per hour after six months. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Don Steveson moved, seconded Ann McColley to pay the claims against the City dated October 17, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED.** Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Daren Downs to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council at 9:36 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Claims: 21 Electric, electrical services, \$510.00; Alpha Communications, tower rent, \$95.00; American Business Software, monthly maintenance, \$49.00; BCN Telecom, long distance phone service, \$102.19; Bearlodge Engineering, engineering services, \$18,226.25; Black Hills Energy, energy services, \$206.49; Cambria Supply, supplies, \$1,428.09; Casper College, WAMCAT training, \$315.00; CRM Architecture, PD remodel, \$1,958.14; Croell, concrete, \$1,190.00; Culligan, bottled water, \$52.00; Decker's, supplies, \$230.94; Eastern Wyo. Equip., \$1,187.89; Energy Laboratories, laboratory testing, \$596.00; Engineering Associates, engineering services, \$596.00; Farnsworth Services, contract work, \$17,248.00; Ferguson Waterworks, meters, Gateway Travel Center, fuel, \$5,815.34; Hansen Equipment, parts, \$42.00; Jenner Equipment, supplies, \$92.28; Ketel Thorstenson, accounting assistance, \$125.00; Love's Field Service, repair work, \$8,500.00; Marco, copier fees, \$413.04; Mastercard, fuel/supplies/trainings, \$2,741.70; Mountain West Commercial Driving, CDL classes, \$9,240.00; Municipal Emergency Services, supplies, \$1,032.71; National Association of Chiefs of Police, membership, \$60.00; National Emergency Number Association, subscription, \$147.00; News Letter Journal, subscription/legal ads/supplies, \$1,994.06; Norco, cylinder rent, \$39.60; Northwest Pipe Fittings, supplies, \$38,036.99; One Call of Wyoming, CDC Code CON, \$49.50; Powder River Energy, energy services, \$955.28; Pro-Pipe Inc., sewer services, \$18,542.55; Range, PD phone service, \$542.60; Range, phone service, \$1,170.18; Rapid Delivery, delivery services, \$21.45; Genell Rothleutner, cleaning services, \$200.00; Russel Industries, equipment rental, \$3,176.00; Short Stop, fuel, \$4,002.37; Summit Plumbing, furnace filters, \$100.73; Trugreen-Chemlawn, lawn services, \$381.00; Valli Information Services, monthly maintenance, \$102.95; Becky Vodopich, cleaning services, \$300.00; Weston Co. Road & Bridge, FD fuel, \$486.43; Weston Co. Treasurer, Youth Services, \$1,287.39; Weston Co. Humane Society, impound dog food, \$30.00; Weston County True Value, \$20.75; Whetsell Carpentry, PD remodel, \$49,615.21; Wilder Graphic Design, block signs, \$306.60; Woody's, supplies, \$43.37

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

(Publish October 27, 2022)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) approved the Amended Application of Black Hills Wyoming Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHWG or the Company) to establish a total purchased gas cost rate of \$0.8446 per therm, representing a decrease of \$0.0026 per therm, effective on and after September 1, 2022. The rate is applicable to approximately 67,937 customers, including all Cheyenne and Cody Division customers as well as all Choice Gas customers in the Casper, Gillette, and Torrington Divisions who have elected to take service under the Gas Cost Adjustment Rate. The Commission's approval is subject to notice, protest, intervention, refund, change, further investigation, opportunity for hearing, and further order of the Commission.

The proposed gas cost rate results in a monthly decrease of approximately \$0.18 (0.2%) for the typical residential customer who uses an average of 72 therms monthly during September through November 2022 and results in a projected decrease in the Company's revenues of approximately \$51,513 without any effect on the Company's earnings. Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 26

allows a utility to pass on to its customers known or projected commodity cost increases or decreases on a dollar-for-dollar basis, subject to public notice, opportunity for hearing and refund.

The Amended Application is available at the Commission's offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming during regular business hours or online at: <http://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17139).

Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must file with the Commission on or before November 16, 2022. A proposed intervention or request for hearing must set forth the grounds and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 30026-63-GP-22.

Dated: October 17, 2022.

(Publish October 20 and 27, 2022)

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



Waiting on DNA results

CASPER (WNE) — The investigation into a foot found floating in a Yellowstone National Park thermal pool is waiting on DNA confirmation of the person's identity, park and local officials said this week.

In mid-August, a worker found part of a person's foot inside a shoe floating in Abyss Pool, one of the park's deepest thermal features.

A few days later, park officials said they suspected the foot was linked to an incident that occurred at Abyss Pool involving one person on July 31. Officials did not explain what that incident entailed, but did say there was no indication of foul play.

The park has not released additional information about the event since then.

In an email to the Star-Tribune, a park spokeswoman said more information would be released after law enforcement makes a final identification

of the person from July 31.

Teton County Coroner Brent Blue said his office was waiting on DNA confirmation of the person's identity. That information will come from the state's crime lab, which is in Cheyenne.

Blue said he anticipated that information possibly arriving in the next couple of weeks.

A Maryland man told the Associated Press that he and his family spotted the shoe floating in the hot spring on the morning of Aug. 11. He reported that information to park officials after news of the foot became public about a week later.

Abyss Pool is located in the southern part of the park. It has a temperature of 140 degrees and a depth of 50 feet.

People have been seriously injured or killed in the park's pools and thermal features before.

This story was published on Oct. 22, 2022.

Historical bridge to be moved

WORLAND (WNE) —

Work will begin soon to move a nearly 100-year-old bridge from County Road 86 to the Washakie Museum & Cultural Center as part of a joint project between the museum, Wyoming Department of Transportation, Washakie County and Newell Sargent Foundation.

According to a summary document of the WYDOT project, Washakie County has requested that WYDOT replace the Cottonwood Creek Bridge on County Road 86/Winchester Road as part of the Bridge Replacement Off System Program. The bridge is eligible for the National Register of

Historic Places.

According to a report of historical investigation for WYDOT in 2019 by Rosenberg Historical Consultants, the bridge has historical significance and meets the criteria for being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the report, the bridge, constructed between 1924-26, is the first steel bridge in the county. Part of the old Yellowstone Highway, it is one of seven Warren pony truss bridges in the state.

According to Washakie Museum Executive Director Marian Bender, the bridge was the only way to cross

Cottonwood Creek when it was first built. Prior to its construction, the only way to cross was by ferry.

The bridge is 95 feet long and 18 feet wide.

Bender said the Newell Sargent Foundation has agreed to allow the bridge to be located on land it donated to the museum. The bridge will be placed on the south side of the museum, next to the parking lot. She said her understanding is that the concrete decking will be removed and the bridge will be situated to be safe for the public.

This story was published on Oct. 20, 2022.

WYDOT variable speed limit plan

CHEYENNE (WNE) — The Wyoming Department of Transportation on Wednesday announced an "innovative" pilot program to semi-automate variable speed limit signs this winter.

Typically, VSL changes are prompted by WYDOT and Wyoming Highway Patrol personnel driving on that section of highway, based on specific criteria like weather conditions, according to the Wednesday news release.

The new automated program uses data from WYDOT sensors to adjust the speed indicated on the VSLs when employees may not be in the area to initiate the changes themselves. This results in quicker changes, which can match how quickly conditions change on highways.

"The automation still has a human component," said Vince Garcia, WYDOT Intelligent Transportation Systems program manager, in the written statement. "Speed limit changes prompted by the program can be adjusted or even vetoed by a boots-on-the-ground employee like a trooper or

highway maintainer."

For example, if sensors indicate traffic can resume normal interstate speeds, but there is an active crash investigation and cleanup in the area, troopers can hold the lower speed to protect first responders and keep the traveling public safe.

The program will start with two sections of VSLs: one located along Interstate 80 between Laramie and Rawlins, and another on Wyoming Highway 28 over South Pass.

If the program is successful, it can be expanded to other VSLs around the state.

WYDOT reminded drivers that the speed indicated on the VSLs is the legal speed limit. Motorists should always drive according to current conditions and be ready to adjust speeds in case of changing road and weather conditions.

Road conditions, VSL information and more can be found on the Wyoming 511 tools at wyoroad.info and the Wyoming 511 app.

This story was published on Oct. 20, 2022.

First veteran-focused nursing facility

SHERIDAN (WNE) — Gov. Mark Gordon celebrated the newly constructed Veterans Home of Wyoming with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday.

The first skilled nursing facility dedicated to veterans in Wyoming will provide long-term care to veterans, their spouses and Gold Star families.

"Our veterans are an integral part of Wyoming's rich heritage, and it is an honor to celebrate the completion of the first veterans skilled nursing facility in Wyoming," said Gordon. "Veterans and their families embody the spirit of Wyoming through their courageous and selfless actions to protect the liberties we hold dear. This beautiful facility

reflects the honor and dignity owed to those who sacrificed so much to protect our way of life."

Based on the Green House concept, the state-of-the-art facility includes three cottages, each accommodating 12 veterans, providing a higher level of care to 36 veterans and eligible family members.

The Green House concept differs from a traditional nursing home in terms of facility size, interior design, organizational structure, staffing patterns and methods of delivering skilled professional services.

It is designed to look and feel like a real home. Each cottage offers a private bedroom and bathroom for the residents, along with a

common space that includes a living area, an open kitchen and a dining table.

The Veterans Home of Wyoming — owned and operated by the state — is the result of a partnership between the Wyoming Veterans' Commission, State of Wyoming and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

The VA provided 65% of the funding, and the Wyoming Legislature provided the 35% matching portion.

By leveraging both VA and Medicaid reimbursements, the state can offer lower-cost private pay rates to veterans who may reside at the facility.

This story was published on Oct. 21, 2022.

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86%

Of Wyoming adults cite local newspapers or newspaper websites, as their "most trusted" source for PUBLIC NOTICES vs. government and related sources.

Public notices enable citizens to monitor actions of government, and serve as watchdogs for government officials and private interests.

Source: The Wyoming Market Study, 2022; by Coda Ventures

WYOMING PRESS ASSOCIATION To learn more, contact your local newspaper or the WPA at: 307.635.3905 • wyopress@wyopress.org

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Getting away






Cheryl Kiernan, above, visits with one of the many vendors at the 2022 Weston County Health Services Girls' Getaway on Oct. 22 at the Newcastle Lodge and Convention Center. Vendors were selling various items including clothes, tumblers, gifts and more. At left, Kimber McIlvain shows off her rock from Susan Groenewald, who was giving away the rocks for free to help brighten people's day. Lower left, Jan Ellis shows off an outfit perfect for any University of Wyoming Cowboy's game during the Cabi fashion show. Local Cabi vendor, Susie LaCroix, highlighted many of the brand's fall and winter fashions during the show. Below, Kathleen Engle struts her stuff during the fashion show.

Photos by Alexis Barker/NLJ

A Gift to Our Community



Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department



Helping Hands of Weston County



Newcastle Booster Club

Wyoming Refining Company hosted a **Charity Golf Tournament** on Aug. 29, 2022, to benefit local Weston County nonprofits. We are proud to announce that, through vendor sponsorship and donations, **\$27,500** was raised for our Community.

