



News Letter Journal

Weston County

February 9, 2017

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 131

Week 6

Judge tosses plea deal

Bob Bonnar
NLJ Associate Publisher

When Michael Davis made his way into the crowded District courtroom on the top floor of the Weston County Courthouse shortly after 9 a.m. on Monday morning, those who attended the sentencing hearing anticipated that they were about to witness the final chapter in the trial of the man accused of killing Katy Coffee in her Newcastle home on June 3, 2011.

But after hearing arguments from attorneys for both the prosecution and defense, and the heart-felt testimony of members of Coffee's family, District

Court Judge Thomas Rumpke took a half-hour to deliberate over the plea bargain that had been submitted to the court before returning to the courtroom to inform all parties that he wasn't satisfied with the deal.

"I am going to reject the agreement," he announced moments after court was called back into session at approximately 10 a.m. The judge's decision means that the accused and his attorney will now have to decide if Davis will maintain his plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter, which could result in a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

— See **Davis**, Page 8

A healthy strategy

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

While hospital officials remain focused on finishing the current expansion and renovation of Weston County Health Services, they are also looking forward and trying to develop a long-term approach to meeting the community's health needs. As such, WCHS utilizes information and opinions from a number of different sources to pinpoint areas that need attention, and that information is then used to develop a strategic plan for the facility over the next year, according to CEO Maureen Cadwell.

She said she will continue to have meetings with different groups and organizations throughout Weston County, in addition to having discussions with hospital employees, to gather information that will eventually be used by the WCHS board to approve a long-range vision.

Once the strategic plan is prepared, Cadwell will present it to the board to gather their opinions and find out if there are any potential adjustments that have to be made. The CEO intends for the board to receive their first copy for review in April, and it is hoped a final draft will be ready for their approval in May.

In an effort to operate a facility that is responsive to

— See **Hospital**, Page 3

Never too old...



Zoey Patick is a brightly colored 101 year old on the 101st day of school at Newcastle Elementary. Kindergartners dressed as if they were 101 years old to celebrate the day. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

From *wedding* to WESTERN

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

Local business owner Deb Carr, determined to keep her doors open during bleak economic times in northeastern Wyoming, has branched out and evolved her business to meet the needs of customers in this area.

As a result, she has become something of an example for other small town entrepreneurs, and the story of her willingness to adapt to ensure her business is meeting a need in the community is worth telling.

The tale begins 23 years ago with a single mother who was trying to provide the best for her

children, and hoped her talent to create beautiful wedding gowns with her own hands would help her do so.

There was certainly some risk involved when Deb took a leap of faith (in herself) and started a business in the basement of her home.

"I gave up my job as a vet

with only \$250 to start my business. I went from that to where I am today," Deb recalled, as tears filled her eyes. The struggle of owning her own business may have deflected time from her kids on occasion, but Carr reassured herself with

— See **Carr**, Page 7

Learning from the legislature



Kassandra Talbot is grateful to Representative Tyler Lindholm for giving her an up-close glimpse of state government in Wyoming, and the legislator said his intern drew high praise from other lawmakers for the work she did in Cheyenne. (Submitted photo)

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

Two Upton High School students have had the opportunity this year to serve as interns for Representative Tyler Lindholm during the 2017 General Session in Cheyenne. Josie Olson is set to begin her journey this month, while Kassandra Talbot served for two weeks during January.

Talbot revealed that her principal, Linda Crawford, presented the opportunity to her because "she always sets her students up with amazing things." Crawford "pulled her in," and showed her an experience she was sure Kassandra would love.

"Boy was she right! I would like to say I am very community involved," commented Talbot, suggesting that her community involvement may have sparked Crawford's interest in putting her in Cheyenne.

Kassandra's love for her community generated an even greater love for the

process in Cheyenne, and provided her with the desire to potentially serve in a political capacity in Upton one day. She suggested that she might even consider running to represent House District 1 in the future, noting the experience really increased her respect for those who serve the state in that capacity.

Her drive to be community involved—and support the place she calls home—is sparked by a love for her community and the people that reside there. To Kassandra, the town is like family, and that drives her to be as involved as possible to support the whole.

The internship opportunity has introduced a different avenue for her to potentially be of service to the community by serving Lindholm, who represents Upton in the Wyoming State Legislature.

After spending two weeks in Cheyenne, Talbot was able to learn the process of getting a bill passed from start to finish

— See **Legislature**, Page 9

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 50, Lo 43



Friday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 55, Lo 36



Saturday
Rain
Hi 40, Lo 20



Sunday
Clear
Hi 38, Lo 23



Monday
Clear
Hi 43, Lo 27



Tuesday
Clear
Hi 41, Lo 25



Wednesday
Clear
Hi 43, Lo 27



INSIDE

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Science Fair contestants Kellar Bock and Talon Logan present their projects for some of the event's many judges. The practice gym at the high school was packed with anxious participants standing nervously by their projects, judges mulling over their score sheets, and random onlookers. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

Strutting their science stuff

Results of the Northeast Regional Science Fair Newcastle High School on January 25

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

High school students decked out in their finest turned out in droves for this year's science fair at Newcastle High School. The gymnasium was packed with large display boards, as students— who were competing in a variety of science subjects— were judged on their research question, design and methodology, creativity, and presentation in their pursuit to claim the top spot in their category.

A generous number of volunteer judges turned out from all around the community, including first time judge and long time school board member Dean Johnson, who expressed amazement at the student's hard work.

The high school boasts 35 state qualifiers who are now eligible to compete at the Wyoming State Science Fair, where they will be eligible to win scholarships. That event is hosted at the University of Wyoming from March 5-7.

This year's local science fair also featured representatives from the US Forest Service, who presented awards for projects that dealt with forest health and preservation.

Earth Science

- 1st Shelby Stith
- 2nd Aaron Fullerton
- 3rd Gavin Roady

Engineering

- 1st Owen Cox
- 2nd Marshall Rhoades
- 3rd Alyssa Umphlett

Life Science

- 1st Madison Pearson
- 2nd Kellar Bock
- 3rd Kyle Allard



Health Science

- 1st Jacob Rhoades
- 2nd Heather Michaelis and Megan Kenney
- 3rd Kelsey Bennett

Physical Science

- 1st Markie Whitney
- 2nd Courtney Rainbolt
- 3rd Talon Logan and Kaden Curren

Microbiology

- 1st Zachary Benshoof

State Qualifiers

- Markie Whitney
- Owen Cox
- Madison Pearson
- Courtney Rainbolt
- Marshall Rhoades
- Talon Logan
- Kaden Curren
- Jacob Rhoades
- Kellar Bock
- Alyssa Umphlett
- Bradyn Frye
- Heather Michaelis

- Megan Kenney
- Garrett Merchen
- Shaelee Douglas
- Shaye Walker
- Kelsey Bennett
- Nathan Behnke
- Colton McCoy
- Shelby Stith
- Aaron Fullerton
- Murray Hebbring
- Johnna Dawson
- Payton Parks

- Gavin Roady
- Lauren Lacey
- Sawyer Roberson
- Makenzie Wagoner
- Hunter Liggett
- Erick Wolfe
- Cade Ostenson
- Perry Martin
- Nicole Earnest
- Angela Troupe
- Xandra Gallardo

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"Make the smartest possible tax move you can make in 2017"

"Taxes are deferred, and in some cases never collected, on money put away for the golden years."
Bankrate.com

The income tax filing deadline is April 18, and a local financial advisor is encouraging Weston County residents to explore the possibility that they may still be able to pay less in taxes this year by putting a little money away for retirement.

"Before they hit 'Submit' on TurboTax or finalize their tax return, people need to find out if there is something they can do to change their tax bracket and put their money to work for them," David Chick told the News Letter Journal.

"There are still plenty of last-minute moves people can make," agreed Lisa Greene-Lewis, a CPA with TurboTax, in a 'Time' article

that encourages taxpayers to "focus first and foremost on what you can do today to trim your tax bill for 2016."

An article that appeared in International Business Times in December also urges taxpayers to investigate qualified retirement plans before they submit their return.

"Maximizing your tax-advantaged retirement accounts is perhaps the best tax move of all. Not only do these accounts get you a nice tax break at the end of the year, but they can also set you up for financial freedom later in life," Matthew Frankel said in an article published on December 6, 2016.

One of the real benefits offered by such accounts, according to Chick, is the ability to invest in one between now and the tax deadline, and still be able to include the investment on your 2016 tax return.

"You can still start an account, or contribute to an existing one, and I hope people will at least

talk to somebody to find out if it is right for them this year," he encouraged.

Since there are several different types of accounts, however, advisors agree that taxpayers should consult with an expert before making a decision on either their taxes or investments.

"Saving for retirement can decrease your tax bill or boost your refund. But there are also penalties if you take money out of retirement accounts too early or too late," US News and World Report cautioned in 2015.

"The first thing you need to do is find out if it is a qualified plan," Chick agreed.

Fortunately, Weston County residents have a local expert to turn to this tax season, and he offers free consultations to taxpayers— even if they're not already a client!

"Give me a call, or don't hesitate to have your tax advisor call me. It is a good conversation to have, and it is a free conversation to have," Chick offered.

He hopes people will be excited to discover that they can still decrease their tax bill for 2016, especially when they find out they can beef up their retirement savings in the process.

"As nice as the short-term tax benefits are, the biggest reason this is the smartest tax move to make in 2017 is its long-term effects on your retirement savings," Frankel agrees, noting that there are several types of tax-advantaged retirement accounts people can take advantage of, depending on their employment status and income.

"Do yourself a favor and make the smartest possible tax move you can make in 2017," Frankel concluded.

"The federal government encourages saving for retirement by giving tax breaks to people who save in specific ways."

US News and World Report, February 25, 2013



Chick Financial hires administrative assistant

Newcastle High School graduate and local businesswoman Chloe Coy has joined Chick Financial, and the owner of the business said he is excited about the addition of a full-time administrative assistant because it will allow his company to provide an even higher level of service to its growing list of clients.

"I'm really excited to have Chloe on board. She is intelligent and personable, and I think our clients are really going to like the increased level of service that we will be able to provide," David Chick said.

For her part, Coy views her new position as

an exciting career opportunity, and said she is eager to learn more about helping customers understand their personal finances. "As a new business-owner, I'm looking forward to learning more about insurance and investments, so I can help people see the whole picture and understand how to protect and grow their assets," said Coy, who recently became the co-owner of the Sage Motel.

The new administrative assistant began work on February 1, and is available at the company's downtown office Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



David A. Chick • (307) 746-9154 • dachick@nyl.com
1 South Seneca Avenue, Ste. B Newcastle, WY 82701

Catch a rising star!



Madison Frazee was selected as a finalist in KEVN Star of the West Scholarship Program. She will record her segment on February 6 and it will air sometime the end of February or the early part of March. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Local student will appear on television this month

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

A press release issued this week announced that Newcastle High School senior Madison Frazee will be featured as part of KEVN Black Hills FOX's Rising Star of the West scholarship contest Monday, February 13, on The SIX and on Black Hills FOX News at 9:00 p.m. Frazee

submitted a 60 second video detailing one of her passions, which led to her being selected as a semi-finalist in the competition.

"Frazee is one of the semi-finalists who will be seen through March 3. Her one minute commentary will be aired and then placed on www.blackhillsfox.com for viewers to watch and rate. One competitor from each week will then advance to the final round in May," the release from Black Hills FOX stated.

"I originally wasn't going to do this scholarship, but I took Mrs. Sweet's class and we were required to do a scholarship. I figured I was more interested in this than anything else," recalled Frazee, who joked that she did not expect much, besides getting the grade.

Then she received the email that said she was picked to join the 19 other semi-finalists and film a segment to appear on air. The topic discussed during her 60 second video was politics, and Frazee plans to refine her original speech for the on-air portion that was scheduled to be filmed on February 6. If selected as a weekly finalist, she will have to opportunity to win one of four scholarships totaling \$7,500.

Politics have always been a passion of Frazee's, since the time she was young, and she attributes that to growing up in households—both her mother's and father's—that understood the importance of politics, whether they liked them or not. She remembered always watching the news and even in fourth grade voluntarily wrote speeches about the presidential election at that time.

"That is the first time I did politics on my own," shared Frazee, who said the passion sat on the back burner through middle school but was reignited when her high school career began.

"My freshman year I started speech and debate and found my political voice. I started to figure out where I stand on certain issues, and it is now a part of who I am. There is not a day that has gone by since my freshman year that I haven't talked about politics in some way," remarked Frazee.

She excels in debate, and participates in the Lincoln-Douglas version of competition—which is based on arguing the moral values pertaining to specific issues. She prides herself

— See **Frazee**, Page 8

Hospital from page 1.....

community needs, Cadwell told the News Letter Journal that she has been attending meetings with various groups throughout the county to determine what the public believes they need most from WCHS, and she will continue to attend meetings throughout this month. Her next appearance will be at the Upton Chamber of Commerce meeting on February 9.

"We use these opportunities to gather information on what we need to do here at the facility. The community input really helps," Cadwell professed.

Decision-makers also consult various statistics to identify potential needs, and Cadwell divulged that WCHS gathered reams of information before beginning work on the strategic plan. The information includes census data, health department data, Community Commons Health Indicator Reports and patient satisfaction survey results.

"The census information gives us an idea on what the aging population in Weston County looks like," reported Cadwell, who noted that Department of Health and Community Commons information gave WCHS the ability to look at specific health issue areas that have either decreased or increased in the county from year to year. These numbers can also be compared to percentages across the state.

"These statistics help us to realize (the extent of) tobacco and alcohol use, along with other health related issues we see. They help us see where we need to prioritize," Cadwell

revealed.

She explained that the data provides the facility with indicators of specific areas that personnel at the local hospital may be able to focus on in the future, or perhaps just make adjustments, in the hopes of generating more positive data in the future.

Along those lines, the hospital can also use the data to encourage residents to focus on areas that should be a concern.

"When I look at overall health, what really sticks out is the obesity numbers. We really support (Community Recreation Director) Jessica (Bettorf) and the activities she is promoting throughout the community," commented Cadwell.

According to information from the Wyoming Department of Health, Weston County has seen the obesity rate climb to 36.2 percent from 2011 to 2015, after sitting at 27.8 percent of the population in Weston County from 2003 to 2007. Cigarette smoking has also seen an increase according to the data utilized by WCHS, with an almost two percent increase in usage over the same time periods, and Cadwell noted that cessation programs are another area the hospital could potentially focus on more to help identify key challenges in this area.

Another statistic that the CEO said she is always surprised by is the percentage of women in the county that have not received mammograms in the past two years.

"The mammogram is an area where we have the

most ability to do something," asserted Cadwell. According to health department data, 33.9 percent of women in Weston County had not received mammograms from 2003-2007, and there is no data available yet from 2011-2015. Although the numbers could be better here, Weston County is on par with the rest of Wyoming, which reported 34.8 percent of women not getting mammograms within a two year period.

During a strategic planning meeting held last month through the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce, Cadwell maintained that the space will be available at WCHS once the remodel is complete for a mammography machine, and she assured those who attended the meeting that this issue continues to be on the top of the facility's list of needs. The challenge for WCHS continues to lie in finding the funds to purchase the equipment, but Cadwell was adamant that she will continue to discuss the topic with the board in the hopes of finding a solution.

These numbers all help Cadwell determine services that WCHS may need to provide as well as areas that may need more focus. The numbers, along with the opinions provided by the public, go into helping to plan the strategic plan for the next year.

"The big focus will be finishing the building project," remarked Cadwell. She added that the facility will continue to provide the services the community utilizes as well as focus on areas that may need more time and effort.

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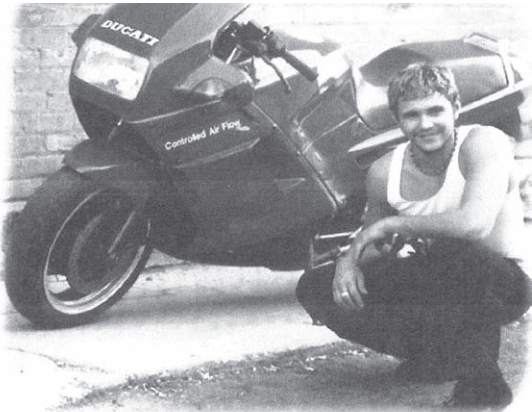
Hospital Happenings

Notes from the January 19 Weston County Health Services board meeting.

- A motion to pay the most recent construction pay application totaling \$402,419.56 was approved by the board.
- CEO Maureen Cadwell shared that WCHS received a response to their letter of intent to the Helmsley Foundation for the purchase of a new CT Scanner. A grant must now be drafted for \$400,000 to purchase a CT scanner that will allow for 64 slices (images) to be taken instead of the current 16 slices. The board also approved the spending of an additional \$80,000 to make sure everything is in working order for the new machine.
- Quality Control Director JoAnn Farnsworth reported that recent survey responses have revealed some areas that need to be addressed. Specifically, some patients reported that they

did not believe they were getting adequate information on the medications they were being provided. Farnsworth noted that most of the surveys that showed disapproval were the result of one or two individuals expressing displeasure, and encouraged survey respondents to provide more comments to give personnel a better opportunity to address the issues.

• Staff at WCHS will begin moving into the front area beginning the end of January or the beginning of February. Cadwell commented that the move will be done in phases, beginning with the kitchen and ending with the pharmacy making their move to the main facility. The lab and building office will also relocate over the next few weeks.



In Loving Memory
Christopher David Feist
September 7, 1982-February 9, 2011

In remembrance of our son Christopher Feist. It's hard to know why some things happen as they do. It's still so hard to comprehend that you're no longer here in this world. Words cannot express the pain that is felt of losing you. Since the day that you were taken our hearts have a hole and life will never be the same. We will love and miss you until our last breath. The millions of happy memories of laughter, joy, hugs, kisses, smiles and saying "I love you" will be ours forever. We are so proud with each mention of your name. We know you are in heaven where God has you in his keeping now. The love in our hearts for you will be here with us forever. *Mom and Dad*

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Obituaries

Betty Wocicki
Sept. 17, 1922-Feb. 2, 2017
Betty Wocicki passed away February 2, 2017 at a Meridian Care Center. Her death was due to Alzheimer's - which she fought for 9 years. She was in the company of loved ones at the time of her passing.

Betty was born in Newcastle, Wyoming, on September 17, 1922, to Ida and Robert Elliott. She lived with her parents and sister north of Newcastle, on "the prairie". She graduated from Newcastle High School in 1940 and was the Salutatorian of her graduating class. After graduation Betty went to work for the ASCS office.

In 1943 Betty married Joe Wocicki. They ranched and farmed north of Newcastle until they purchased a farm near Newell, South Dakota. They farmed until 1955 at which time they moved to Belle Fourche, SD. Joe worked at the U&I sugar factory and Betty managed the rental units they purchased.

In 1965 they relocated to Idaho Falls, Idaho. Joe continued with the U&I sugar company and Betty went to work for the Bonneville County Court system. She enjoyed the court work and supported several Judges during her years there. In 1982, Joe and Betty retired and began extensive travels throughout the United States and occasionally Mexico. In the winter they spent their time in Quartzsite, Arizona, where they enjoyed the warm weather and the many friends they made.

Trips into the desert and card playing were some of their favorite activities. Betty was an avid and accomplished painter. She sold many paintings to people throughout Idaho. Gardening was always a favorite summertime activity along with camping and fishing. The Island Park area was one of favorite places to go.

They relocated to Boise in 2003. Time to be closer to family who could offer assistance when needed. After Joe passed away in 2006, Betty continued winter travels to Quartzsite, Arizona. Music "jams" became her favorite activity to attend. Betty continued going to Quartzsite through the spring of 2016. At that time it was painfully apparent that her health would not allow her to continue. Assisted living and Memory Care became her life

for the next 11 months.

Betty is survived by one sister, Inez Tysdal, Newcastle, Wyoming. One son Dale (Marsha), Meridian, Idaho. Three grandsons, Mark Wocicki (Jennifer), Boise, Idaho. Shane Sapp (Sylvia), Nampa, Idaho. Shawn Sapp (Nannette), Riverton, Utah. Five great grandchildren Madeleine Wocicki, Nick Sapp, Zoe Sapp, Sophia Sapp and Skyler Sapp.

Betty requested no services be held and cremation will be completed. At a later date her and Joe's ashes will be spread in the Black Hills of Wyoming.

April Jean Schlup
May 26, 1953-Feb. 3, 2017
April Jean Schlup, 63, died Friday, February 3, 2017 in Newcastle, WY.

April was born in Hot Springs, SD on May 26, 1953 and then moved to Newcastle, WY with her family while in her youth. She graduated from Newcastle High School in 1971.

On June 12, 1971 she married Darrel Schlup in Newcastle, where they made a life-long home raising their five children.

April was a caring mother and wife. She loved taking care of children and spent over 30 years running a daycare out of her home. She was a parent

volunteer for the various organizations that her children were involved in. She loved quilting, sewing, crocheting, and cooking. She enjoyed serving others when she saw their need and was known for giving a helping hand to many people throughout her life.

April is survived by her husband, Darrel Schlup; daughters, Tanya (Louis) Folgore of Grand Island, FL, Natasha (Steven) Jones of Wichita, KS; sons, Jeremiah (Elizabeth) Schlup of Penrose, CO, Benjamin (Natalie) Schlup of South Jordan, UT, Elijah (Lyndsy) Schlup of Newcastle, WY; 12 grandchildren ages 10 and under; mother Arlet June Lee; sister, Carolyn Domanoski; brothers, Paul, Robert, and Steve Manders. She is pre-

ceded in death by her father, Eugene Manders; brothers, Joe, John, Lawrence, and Matt Manders.

A memorial service will be at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 9, 2017, at the Weston County Senior Citizens' Center.

Avenella "Avie" June (Wilcox) Doell
Mar. 29, 1932-Feb. 2, 2017

Avenella "Avie" June (Wilcox) Doell, 84, of Newcastle, WY died on February 2, 2017 in Rapid City, SD.

She was born March 29, 1932 in Timber Lake, SD to Luscious Pitman Wilcox and Vera Margaret (Eads) Wilcox.

She married Louis Gabe Doell on July 15, 1950 in Aberdeen, SD and had been a resident of Newcastle since

1965. She had 11 siblings, six children: Brenda (Tom) Russell, Noreen (Tom) Gould, Baby Doell, Louis (Christine) Doell, Shawn (Keith) Zabka, and Crystal (Jeff) Lincoln, 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grand children, and many nieces and nephews.

She is survived by three of her siblings: Jerome, Nila, and Carol. She was preceded in death by her parents, eight siblings: Bud, Floyd, Lloyd, Inga Geraldine, Gary, Norma, Marva, Ardis, and three daughters: Baby Doell in 1956, Noreen, and Brenda.

Her greatest joys were her children and grandchildren and she was always involved in their activities such as 4-H, soccer, and school. She was active in the VFW and Corpus Christi Church. Her love and faith in God were very important. She was a self-employed upholster and retired in 1979, after which she enjoyed vacationing in the 5th wheel trailer to visit friends and family. July 4th was often spent in Mobridge, SD reminiscing with former classmates.

A memorial will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions will be used to buy a remembrance leaf at Hospice of the Hills. Donations may be made c/o Shawn Zabka, 2464 Wind River Trail, Cheyenne, WY, 82009.



Avie Doell



April Schlup



Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
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Fred M. Duncan, Worshipful Master • Robert E. Hamlet, Secretary

Faith & Values

- 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.
- BAHAI FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626.
- CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Todd Olson, 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 CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Father Tom Campbell, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sunday, Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. haydishall@hotmail.com.
- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Tsena Dinsna, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Greg James, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am.
- CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Tim Martinson, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 5 pm; Weekday Mass 8 am.
- COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley, 746-9712, Worship 10 am.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm; AWANA Clubs 6:30 pm.
- CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-5542. Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer Service 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Youth Group Wednesday 6:30 pm; Christian Academy preschool & K-12 746-9663.

- OUR SAVIOR CHURCH:** Pastors Doug and Frezil Westerlund, Weston County Fairgrounds, Service Sundays 9:30 am. 307-941-2524
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Michael Jarrell, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; 11:30 a.m. Casual Worship Service, Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, Evangelical Free Church meets at the Weston County Senior Services; Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am. Call 746-8091.
- KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 p.m. 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 Chuck Gadoway 303-229-3103, 78 Old Hwy 85 and Pastoral Assistant Matt Dooley 949-0831. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:00 am.
- ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, Upton. Sunday Mass 11:30 am.
- VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366.
- UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Sharee Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am; Adult Study 10:30 am; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm. August 7, 14, and 21 church is at 9am. August 28--no church in Upton, worship is at 11am at Rev Johnson's home in Custer. September 4th and all sundays following, 9am Sunday School, 10am Worship, 11am Fellowship, and 11:30 Bible Study.

May the LORD bless you,
and keep you;
May the LORD make his
face shine upon you, and
be gracious to you;
May the LORD turn his
countenance to you
and grant you peace.
-Numbers 6:24-26

Daily Devotional Reading

Feb 9 John 5:1-29	Feb 10 John 5:30-47	Feb 11 John 6:1-24	Feb 12 John 6:25-59	Feb 13 John 6:60-79	Feb 14 John 7:10-31	Feb 15 John 7:32-52
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A PIECE OF HISTORY

February 12, 1892

N.K. Griggs lectured in Deadwood last evening "An Hour of Poetry & Song" was the title of his effort.

A letter was received by the Journal this week from H.C. Hensel. He is in New Orleans, where he expects to remain for several weeks. He will then visit Galveston & other Texas boom centers; after which he will return to the North.

Joe Elliott's examination was to have been held Monday in Buffalo. The report has reached this office that he was bound over without bail, but the Journal has as yet been unable to verify the report.

According to the Buffalo Bulletin of last week, a warrant for the arrest of Fred Coates of this city, is in the hands of the Sheriff of Johnson County. He is charged with having been with Elliott when the attempt to kill the men on Powder River was made. Mr. Coates is now in the East with a carload of horses from the Waggoner Estate.

A large number of improvements will be made in Cambria the coming Spring & Summer. New cottages, a foundry, & a church will be built, & the power plant will be enlarged to a capacity of 3,000 tons per day.

February 8, 1917

The old barn back of Sedgwick Garage known as the Getty's' Barn, was torn down last Friday. Now, since this old landmark has been done away with, it makes quite an improvement in the looks of the hill.

The United States Marshal

of Cheyenne is expected within the next few days to conduct a hearing for the suspect, Antonia Panigua, in connection with the Cambria Post Office robbery. Last week United States Post Office Inspector William Abney made a thorough investigation.

Mr. Sundstrom, who has the contract for the masonry work on the new stone garage of C.W. Dow, is rapidly erecting this structure, already having the four walls well under way

and if the weather permits the stone work will be completed by the middle of March.

After our recent cold spell of last Tuesday & Wednesday, the weather has been very changeable, followed by a Chinook Wind Monday, which turned the snow in the streets to water.

Miss Mae Barrett, of the Godfrey Millinery Department, will leave the latter part of this week for Minneapolis, St. Paul, & other eastern cities, to get the latest styles in Spring Millinery. Miss Barrett expects to be gone about two weeks.

February 12, 1942

Mrs. Earl Johnson of Osage has been issued a permit by the Edgemont City Council to re-open the Community Hospital there which has been closed for some time.

Miss Irene Churchfield, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Martin

Churchfield of Newcastle, has been employed to teach music, public speaking, & Journalism in the Upton High School immediately following her graduation from the University of Wyoming.

The stockholders of the Lodgepole Oil Company held a meeting in Newcastle last Wednesday.

Dr. N.E. Wells, who has been ill, is able to be out.

Robert Massie, teacher of the Knobby Knoll School, who has been ill with the flu, returned to his duties Wednesday.

Harold Matteson, youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Matteson of Dewey, South Dakota, who recently was transferred from Midway Island to Pearl Harbor, arrived in San Diego Tuesday, & will soon visit his parents at Dewey.

Don't eat lunch at a convenience store~

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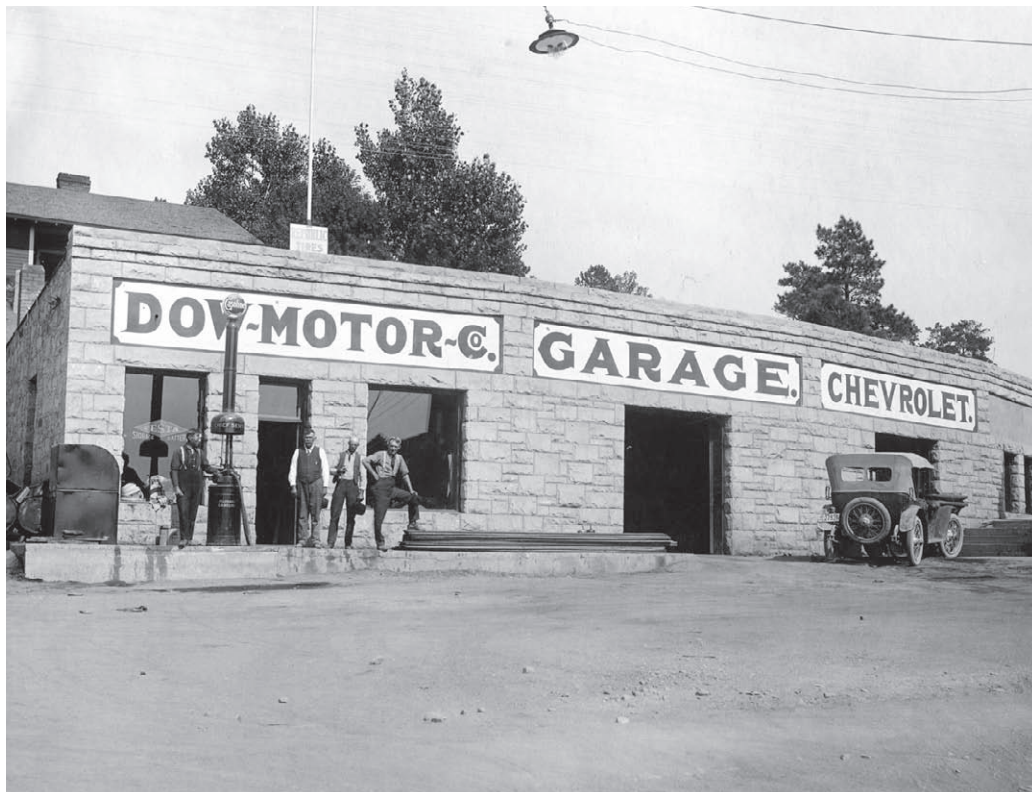
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Dow Motor Garage circa early 1920's. The men are unidentified. The garage once sat at the top of Main Street. If anyone knows the identities of these men please contact the Anna Miller Museum 746-4188 (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

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WHAT'S UP

February 2017

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs 09	5:30 p.m.	City Planning Commission	City Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Hunter's Ed Class	Mormon Church
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:00 p.m.	HLC Candlelight Memorial Service	WC Senior Center
Fri 10	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 11	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Sun 12	7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Mon 13	8:00 a.m.	Free Veterans Breakfast	WC Senior Center
	1:00 p.m.	AARP Meeting	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:00 p.m.	WC Sportsman Club Meeting	Indoor Range
Tues 14	12:00 p.m.	Alzheimers/Dementia Support Group	WC Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	Dirt Daubers Garden Club	1652 Sage St. Newcastle
	3:00 p.m.	WC Natural Resource District Meeting	USDA Service Center
	6:00 p.m.	American Legion	WY State Forestry/Armory
	6:30 p.m.	WC Search & Rescue	NVFD/Fire Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
Wed 15	12:00 p.m.	Lions Club	WC Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	WC Weed & Pest	WC Weed & Pest Office
	6:00 p.m.	WC Humane Society	WC Shelter
	6:00 p.m.	Free QPR Training	Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall
Thurs 16	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri 17	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 18	5:00 p.m.	Wild Game Potluck	The Beer Hut, Osage

Calendar Sponsored by
Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

For a complete listing of events, for more information on these events, or to list your own event, visit the Chamber website at newcastlewyo.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 9**
Heidi Swenson
Kate Schraeder
Cheyanne Bloom
- February 13**
Otto Swenson
John Cummings
Chace Petersen
Don Hansen
- February 14**
Nathan Behnke
Julia Behnke
- February 15**
JaNel Dumbrell
Spencer Groner
David Sylte
- February 16**
David & Delores Sylte
- February 17**
Billy Quick
- February 18**
Jerry Baird
Jerry & Annette Koester
Jasper Bloom
Krystal Crinklaw

This lovely lady is celebrating her 69th birthday for the 11th time! Her children would like to invite all friends and family of Shirley (Schwarze, Cattles) Bergquist to help her celebrate!



Please join us for an open house at the Weston Co. Senior Center Saturday, Feb. 18 between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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For the Ages

News Letter Journal

The (ranch) girl next door



Anna Lou Andersen sits in front of oil canvases of her children and other western scenes she painted earlier in her life. She is holding a photo taken to commemorate her 40 year anniversary with her late husband Richard Andersen. Moving into town was tough on the old cowgirl, but being near the nursing home where she has an ongoing outreach has been a nice consolation. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

The west is world-renowned for its breath-taking vistas and magnificent mountain backdrops, but the love stories that played out far from civilization under expansive blue skies are just as inspiring. It was in this pristine setting that two unlikely love birds— one a ranch hand, the other a rancher's daughter— found their destinies intertwined.

Anna Lou Little was born 1939

on the Big Meadows Ranch, a long 50 miles from the nearest town of Kalispell in northeast Montana. It is just south of Glacier National Park. Her family's house tragically burned to the ground when she was five, so her father moved them to the other end of the ranch. The old parcel was sold to another rancher, but the property was maintained by Anna Lou's ex-aunt and her husband.

Anna Lou described Big Meadows as a second home, a place nearby she could always go and feel welcomed.

It was here in the summer of 1955 between her junior and senior year of school that she met a young, meek ranch hand.

"Rich was foreman of the hay crew at that time, but he was so shy. (My aunt) had a big summer porch where they fed the hay crew. Richard was going out, and I was coming in. I can see that vividly in my mind's eye like it happened yesterday," Anna Lou related.

The encounter was brief, and it did not seem promising that there would ever be a second meeting, for Richard Andersen soon returned to his home back east after the hay season was over.

But the fates smiled on Richard when he and his friend were asked to come back to help feed the cattle over the winter. To Rich, this was not about some pretty girl he once said 'hello' to, but achieving his dream of becoming a cowboy.

"He was a Nebraska farm boy, and his ambition was to go west and be a cowboy," Anna Lou shared.

So he resumed his work in the isolated and now-frigid plateaus within the heart of the Rockies. With little else to keep company other than their fellow ranch hands and the cattle they worked, Richard and his friends often found their way just across the property line to Anna Lou's house.

"Fifty miles from town, those fellas got awful lonesome for girl company," Anna Lou said, "They used to come to my house and look through my high school yearbooks at pretty girls and say, 'Get me a date with that girl.'"

Those harsh winter months allowed Richard and Anna Lou to get to know each other better, though it was not until that spring that the ranch hand made a serious move towards courtship. It was the end of school, and she had graduated, when she attended a dance 14 miles from her family's ranch.

"Richard didn't dance, but he was there," remembered Anna Lou.

Though he never made his way

to the dance floor, he did ask the girl he'd had his eye on if he could drive her home—a request she quickly took him up on.

"That was our first date, in the end of May," Anna Lou confirmed.

It was a love that blossomed quickly, as both knew they had found the one. The opening stages of their relationship joined her old love, riding horses, with her new love, a dreamy and resourceful cowboy.

"We courted on horseback for a while, but he wanted to get his car so we could go to town. Mostly he wanted to get back to going to church," Anna Lou stated.

Richard hitched his way back to eastern Nebraska and drove his car back to Montana. It soon proved to be worthwhile, as his relationship with the girl-next-door was about to become long distance. Her dad sold the ranch late that spring for a motel at the entrance of Glacier National Park.

"That took me 75 miles from Richard. I did not like that real good, and I was homesick for the ranch," Anna Lou admitted.

She enjoyed taking tourists and their children on horseback rides, but she was far from content.

"One day in early August, I just wanted to go home. So I wrote my parents a note, saddled my horse at 3 a.m. and rode the 75 miles back to the ranch," Anna Lou said, the memory of her defiance still bringing a smile to her face.

Their romance quickly continued as they grew closer to one another.

"He always packed a rifle everywhere he went," Anna Lou remarked, calling it a practice to keep him safe out in the wilderness. He once used it to kill a large black bear threatening the herd, and it seems he felt he would need it during this particular picnic as well.

"He said to me, 'I think I better put this rifle between us, for self-defense of course.' However, he was the one who moved it," Anna Lou tattled.

Richard used the same kind of western charm during a date that

August.

"We had been on a ride and we got home in time to go in and eat lunch. We had put our horses up in the barn, and he said, 'Here, I have something for ya,' and he gave me my engagement ring in the horse barn," Anna Lou said. The barn is still there to this day.

The wedding bells were tolling soon afterwards.

"We were married that same August. We knew we had found our heart's mate, so we eloped," Anna Lou said.

They eloped to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a place Anna Lou described as "having a justice of the peace on every corner." Despite the burgeoning wedding industry in the town, the two were concerned they would be denied a marriage license.

"Neither one of us were of age. He wasn't 21 yet and I wasn't 18. I would be in two weeks, but I was still 17. Rich had a legal note from his mother saying he could get married to me," Anna Lou paused for a moment. "I wrote my own note. The lady there looked at me, then looked at the note. She said, 'I hope your mother will forgive me,' and then signed the license."

Newly-wed, Richard found employment with the very same person who bought Anna Lou's family's property. The first few years were hard but rewarding. They soon moved to Richard's hometown of Blair, Nebraska, then purchased a dairy farm in Minnesota, before eventually realizing they wanted to be closer to the mountains. That's when they bought a 200 acre ranch north of Newcastle.

They had three children— two sons and a daughter— in that span of time, and all three still live on their parent's old ranch. Richard passed away this past April, and Anna Lou certainly misses the love of her life, but she is comforted in knowing they will eventually be reunited.

"He's waiting for me, or he'd better be anyway!" she said.

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

February 9	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
February 10	
Rolls	9:00 a.m.
Blood Pressure Check	9:30 a.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
February 13	
Veterans Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
February 14	
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.
Dementia Support Group	10:30 a.m.
Vicky Hayman	12:00 p.m.
Artful Gals	1:00 p.m.
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
February 15	
WCSS Board Mtg.	9:00 a.m.
Toenail Clinic	9:00 a.m.
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
Lions Club	12:00 p.m.
Mondell Here for Lunch	
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch
February 16	
Trip to the Lodge	

Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.
February 17	
Rolls	9:00 a.m.
Belton Hearing Aid Clinic	9:00 a.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
February 18	
Shirley Bergquist Birthday	2:00 p.m.
February 20	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.
February 21	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
CNA Class	8:30 a.m.
Helping Hands Foundation	6:00 p.m.
February 22	
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.
Manor Here for Lunch	
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch
February 23	
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.
Manor	
February 9	
Food Fancy	10:30 a.m.
Manicures	2:00 p.m.

Scrabble	6:15 p.m.
February 10	
Greedy	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
February 11	
Penny Ante	11:00 a.m.
Happy Hour	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
February 12	
Riddles	11:00 a.m.
Church	2:00 p.m.
February 13	
Wii	10:30 a.m.
Cooking	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
February 14	
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.
Keepsake Krafters	2:00 p.m.
Stories	4:00 p.m.
Sweethearts	5:15 p.m.
February 15	
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.
Crossword	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
February 16	
Stacycation	10:30 a.m.
Al and the Gang	2:00 p.m.
Social Hour	6:15 p.m.

February 17	
Greedy	10:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
Movie	6:00 p.m.
February 18	
Quizball	11:00 a.m.
Movie	2:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
February 19	
Trivia	11:00 a.m.
Church	2:00 p.m.
February 20	
Resident Council	10:30 a.m.
Tony's Tunes	3:00 p.m.
Bingo	6:15 p.m.
February 21	
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.
Keepsake Krafters	2:00 p.m.
Stories	4:00 p.m.
February 22	
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.
Bean Bag	10:30 a.m.
Our to Lunch	11:30 a.m.
Bingo	2:00 p.m.
February 23	
Jeopardy	10:30 a.m.
Manicures	2:00 p.m.
Dice	6:15 p.m.

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Deb Carr, owner of WC Sports and Western Wear, adapted her business in recent years to better fit what Newcastle and surrounding areas were wanting to purchase. The change has included down sizing wedding stock and remodeling her store front to better display the large amount of western wear she is carrying. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

Carr from page 1

the knowledge that mothers sometimes have to make those type of sacrifices to do what they know is best for their children.

As Deb moved throughout life, so did The Wedding Closet. It was headquartered in Custer until Deb made her way to Newcastle in 2011, and her start in Newcastle was small.

Initially she was in a little space located on Main Street, but she quickly relocated across the street to her current location, which provided the space to grow inventory, add new items and eventually become WC Sports and Western wear.

"I moved over here (current location) in 2013 and I have done nothing but grow!" exclaimed Deb.

The extra space provided her with the ability to combat the six month slump in between wedding and prom season every year by first adding sportswear to the mix.

"I took a hit last year and weddings were just not doing it. We will never give up on weddings though," remarked Deb, who said her store's new moniker still contains the original name of the business— Wedding Closet— in the form of "WC."

Carr said that when oil and coal took a hit in northeastern Wyoming a little over a year

ago, she felt the impact immediately and directly, and this hit led to the need to once again reshape her business.

"No matter how bad things get, people always need jeans and shirts," Deb reasoned. She began exploring options that would allow her to sell jeans, shirts, boots, cowboy hats, and other everyday wear, instead of focusing specifically on weddings and formal events.

Deb believed that "everyday" clothing was what customers in Newcastle and the surrounding area were looking for. She was determined to provide that locally, and in September of 2015, she began carrying jeans.

"I was scared at first to have to invest so much in a company before you could even carry their product. I was scared to have \$4,000 worth of jeans in stock and have them just sit, but that is not what happened," professed Deb.

She began by carrying women's clothing, but has since introduced men's garb to the mix, and she is now working to carry boys' clothing as well.

According to Deb, success and longevity are all about taking baby steps to do what is needed to keep your doors open. She asserted that small businesses need to strive to

keep their doors open and adjust the services they offer to fit the needs to the community surrounding them— especially when times get tough.

"When you really want to grow, you have to step out of the box. It helps me to help you!" declared Deb.

Changing her name— and the store's identity— from The Wedding Closet to WC Sports and Western Wear was her version of leaving the box, and while the business has changed, Deb still possesses the same fire in her belly she has since day one— when she was making wedding dresses in her basement.

"You have to open your door as if you were opening it for the first time every morning. You can't ever lose that feeling," proclaimed Deb, who said the feeling she gets every morning when she opens her door drives her to continue in her business and provide the best customer services to the people who walk through her door.

Carr plans to continue to grow her business because she wants to keep experiencing that feeling every day. Although her future growth may not all happen at one, she assures customers that baby steps are in the works and include plans to remodel and reorganize her store front.

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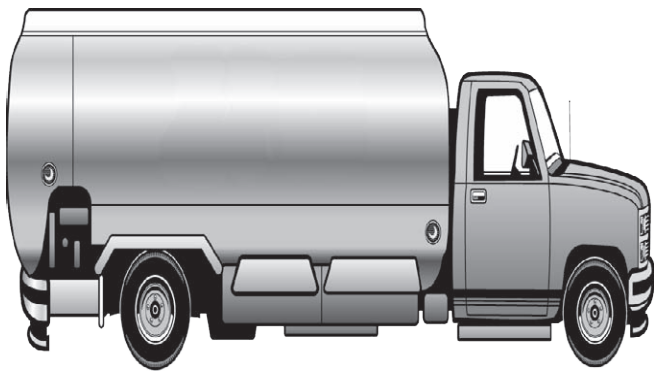
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Speech team sees stiff competition

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The Newcastle Speech team has been on a roll, but they ran into a wall that would make Trump proud when they competed at the Natrona Speech Meet in Casper to close out the month of January. With 32 schools in attendance, perfection was what it took to advance to finals, let alone to place.

"It was a huge meet and certainly the largest we've been to so far this year," assistant coach Lindsey Burling exclaimed. "The competition was super tough and though we did very well, it wasn't enough to place anyone."

Results from the preliminary round provided ample proof that Burling's analysis of the day was right on point. Anna Gettinger scored second place in each of her oratory rounds and didn't break into semi-finals, while Madison Frazee won three out of four rounds in Lincoln-Douglas Debate and still failed to break into semis.

"Anna's performance showed great growth for her, but competition was so tight she wasn't able to move on," Burling sighed. "With Madee, she would have had to win each round to move on to the semis. Because she didn't get four wins, it went to speaker points to

decide who advanced, and though she scored 49 out of a possible 50 points in at least one of her rounds, she still came up short."

Colin Heaton and Kinlee Whitney succeeded in working their way into the semi-final round in duo, but according to Burling they found themselves in the toughest one, against some very talented teams, so failed to break into finals.

Gettinger and her partner Lexi Krogman made some great strides in their duo performance even though they were unable to break out of the preliminary round. Thus far, they have struggled a bit with their piece, but due to some tweaks made last week to their script, the two enjoyed more success this weekend, which included a first place finish in one of their rounds.

"All of their judges thus far this year have been telling us their duo is really confusing, and they're not sure what is going on," Burling laughed. "After the changes we made last week, we did not get a single comment saying their duo was confusing, so that's a big win for us!"

Last week the squad went to Cheyenne for a meet at South High School, where they looked to get back on track and bring home some awards.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The Newcastle squad currently has only Madison Frazee competing in this event, but it is usually a very competitive one. L-D is ultimately a moral debate, and the participants are given a new resolution every two months.

The current resolution is "Public Universities and Colleges ought not restrict any Constitutionally protected free speech." In the debate, there is an affirmative and negative argument and participants do not know which side they will argue in any given round, so must prepare for both.

They put together a negative and affirmative case, and the debate goes back and forth. There are specific time limits that each have to present their arguments, and it hinges on three things: the criterion, the value criterion and the evidence.

"An example of a

value criterion is one I put together to help Madee practice," coach Michael Alexander explained. "We do mock debates and hash it out in practice. My value is liberty and my value criterion is the coherence theory of truth. We have manuals with applicable criterion and values that we can choose from, and then you try to make your case and argue that your approach to the resolution will adhere to your value better than your opponents will adhere to their value."

The value criterion is how one measures the success of their case, and the evidence presented is what proves the criterion has been met.

"It's a little difficult to unpack, but really if we boil it down it's a moral argument, and whomever is able to use better evidence and rationale in theory wins," Alexander finished.

Davis from page 1

Rumpke agreed to a request from Davis' attorney, Nick Carter, to give the defense a few days to consider their options.

"This plea deal wasn't made in 15 minutes, so I'm not going to make a decision about walking away from it in 15 minutes," professed Carter, who had argued the merits of the agreement less than an hour earlier.

"We have a plea agreement in place that I believe fairly reflects the strength of this case," the attorney stated when the defense was given the opportunity to speak at the beginning of the hearing. "I will tell you this judge. This is a fair plea agreement. The state did not have a case that was any sort of guarantee."

The judge didn't agree, however, and he provided multiple reasons for rejecting the deal.

"Each case has to be looked at on its own facts," Rumpke explained after giving his decision, indicating that three facts in particular troubled him in this instance.

The judge questioned Davis' claim that the shooting was an accident, and said he had trouble understanding why no aid was rendered to the victim if that was indeed the case. Rumpke was also bothered by the fact that the crime was concealed for more than four years, and felt that indicated a lack of remorse on the part of the defendant.

The third fact alluded to by Rumpke pertained to a federal gun charge against Davis (Davis sentencing Monday, News Letter Journal, February 2, 2017, page one). Although that case was dismissed in November, Rumpke pointed out that the crime never should have occurred because Davis, as a previously convicted felon, should not have possessed the gun that killed Coffee.

The judge also said he felt a procedural error had been made by the prosecution because Coffee's family had not been consulted when the plea agreement was negotiated, a point that was made when the victim's father testified on Monday.

"I would like it on the record that we were not consulted in this plea agreement, and do not agree with it," Harold "Hack" Coffee said. "We are very disappointed

with the performance of the County Attorney."

He saluted the work of DCI investigators Chris McDonald and Bobby Proffitt in ending the four-year mystery surrounding his daughter's death, but said he felt the agreement that allowed Davis to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for a 14-18 year sentence in the Wyoming State Penitentiary was "a mere slap on the wrist."

"I won't be able to walk down the aisle with her, or have her first dance with her. I won't be able to watch her children grow up," Hack said to the judge. "It looks like you, sir, are the only one who can provide some semblance of justice for Katy and her family."

His sister, Cindy Wheeler, was the first of three family members to speak at Monday's hearing, and she spoke to the doubt later expressed by Rumpke pertaining to Davis' claim that the shooting was accidental.

"We do not believe it is an accident. If it was, you would have called for help," Wheeler said, indicating that she was equally upset over Davis' refusal to come clean in the aftermath of the shooting and his willingness to hide his role in the shooting from Coffee's family, even while assisting them in removing Katy's possessions from the home she died in.

"I can't believe you would come over and help," she admonished the defendant after voicing the devastation that has been felt by her family since Katy's death.

"You have done irreparable hurt and pain to our family," Wheeler asserted. "Katy was the first granddaughter, and my parents loved her, and wonder who did this to her, and they went to their graves not knowing."

The victim's mother, Bobbie Coffee, was the last to testify, and she echoed the sentiments expressed by Katy's father and aunt.

"You've devastated my family and especially me" she said to Davis, expressing immeasurable heartache over the loss of her first-born child, and only daughter. Bobbie told the court that grief is not new for her, and explained that her

father, brother and sister all died in a car accident when she was only ten years old. She used that tragedy to cast doubt on the defendant's claim that the shooting was accidental.

"Don't tell me that it was an accident. I know about accidents," Bobbie Coffee stated before expressing that she didn't believe Davis felt remorse for her daughter's death.

"After shooting her you didn't get any help, and you kept quiet for four and a half years until you were caught," Bobbie fumed before expressing sympathy for the ordeal that has also been suffered by the defendant's parents, wife and son.

The defense attorney was given an opportunity to address these concerns after members of Katy Coffee's family addressed the court, and he argued that he believed the Weston County Attorney's Office had pursued the prosecution aggressively and taken a "harsh stand on this case." He indicated that observers often struggle to understand plea bargains, and said the defendant's family would have likely hoped Davis would serve less time than was laid out in the agreement as well.

"Oftentimes in these cases, nobody is happy with the outcome," he professed. Davis chose not to speak on his own behalf prior to Rumpke declaring a recess to consider his decision, and the defendant's unwillingness to express sorrow or remorse in court appears to have contributed to the judge's decision to reject the plea deal.

"A large factor of it is the lack of remorse," Rumpke declared after announcing his decision.

He did, however, agree that Davis and Carter should have ample time to respond to that decision, and he granted the defense's request for time to meet and discuss their next move. Deputy County Attorney Lynda Black urged some expedience for the benefit of the victim's family, who live out of state and are forced to travel to attend hearings, and Rumpke urged the parties to schedule another hearing for next week. No date or time had been set with the Clerk of District Court by the close of business on Tuesday however.

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Frazee from page 3

on being considered "tough competition" to other debaters across the state, and revealed that her goal was always to be the girl that people were afraid to "hit" during a tournament. Achieving that goal her senior year was something she was excited about.

According to Frazee, her love for debate and the passion she possesses for politics have complemented each other greatly, and really allowed her to be successful in the moral debate she competes in. She explained that Lincoln-Douglas debate is not necessarily about evidence or data because it looks at the moral aspect of

different political topics.

"It is fun to have a debate that is not necessarily about evidence, but about morals. I think morals are more important than evidence in life sometimes, and it is interesting to have a whole debate just talking about why justice is a better value than education. There is a lot of good in evidence, but moral theory is something you can carry through life," declared Frazee.

Her moral beliefs tie in greatly with her political passion, and that helped win her the opportunity to be a semi-finalist in the television contest.

It also drives her future.

Frazee, who recognizes herself as a Democrat in an area populated by Republicans, has been shunned for her different beliefs, but is not one to budge in those beliefs.

"My primary goal when it comes to politics is uniting people. I am more of a Democrat, and here people don't necessarily appreciate that. I want to move past the whole Democrat and Republican title. It is surprising how many similar goals the parties have, but they get blind-sided and don't work together. My goal is to make sure everyone gets their voice heard. Encourage us to work

together, and work past those titles to better our society," asserted Frazee.

She plans to pursue her passion after graduating from Newcastle High School this year by attending the University of Las Vegas and majoring in political science. She plans to minor in journalism, and after receiving her degree, Frazee hopes to move on to law school. Her final goal is to be a lawyer, and potentially a judge.

"My major goal is to be involved in politics somewhere—whether that is being a politician, working in the White House or at the United Nations," professed Frazee.

EWC announces honor rolls

Eastern Wyoming College has announced the honor rolls for the Fall 2016 semester.

There were 166 students receiving recognition for achieving high scholastic grades, and a number of them were from Weston County.

Becky Checketts, Alexis Krogman,

Grace Peterson and Cameron Quigley of Newcastle were all named to the President's Honor Roll, and Newcastle's Brandon Benson, Cierra Ondriezek, Emily Pearson, Taylor Spain and Sheyanne Walker were listed on the Dean's Honor Roll. Ashley Knowlton of Upton was also on the Dean's Honor Roll.

The President's Honor Roll recognizes students that are full time (12 or more credit hours) and achieve a 4.0 grade point average.

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, students must also be full time and achieve a grade point average of 3.5, but less than 4.0.

Legislature from page 1.....

firsthand, and it also revealed to her the long hours that go into representing the people of the state.

"I knew how bills kind of came about, but now I know the whole process, and it is absolutely amazing. I mean, these people come here at the crack of dawn and work past like nine. It's crazy! Wyoming is lucky to have the people we do in office," she professed.

Kassaundra put in plenty of hours herself, telling the News Letter Journal that she researched bills to determine what they meant and what their potential impact may be.

To do so she had to mine any information she could on a given topic, and Lindholm said that she not only researched data and news stories pertaining to the legislation, but also pulled and read opinion pieces on the topics as well. She would also engage in discussion with other legislators on Lindholm's behalf about topics of concern.

"Other than that, I tried to help out whoever else I could. Everyone here is so busy, and so helping in anyway I can is great," expressed Kassaundra.

"The community should be proud of her. She represented Weston County well," remarked Lindholm, who said that other representatives and senators from across the state complimented Talbot during her stay in Cheyenne as well.

Kassaundra noted that the most exciting part of her experience was watching a bill that

could have a direct impact on Upton and this area start in committee and make its way to the House floor.

"It is an incredible opportunity, not only for the legislature but for the state and the indi-

vidual," agreed Lindholm, who believes that his interns have the opportunity to learn firsthand how the legislature works. As such, he feels the program creates a future informed voter at the very least.

Bills that have passed third reading in the Wyoming House of Representatives

- House Bill 58 and House Bill 86 provide funding for school facilities projects and state water development respectively.
- House Bill 76 requires the state board of education to review putting together a program for a statewide American Indian education program
- House Bill 218 and House Bill 219 provide increases in fees for motor vehicle registration and drivers licenses respectively.
- House Bill 129 slightly broadens and amends the Food Freedom Act.
- House Bill 144 would allow for new criminal trials based on actual innocence.
- House Bill 136 would allow for concealed carry permit holders to carry on college campuses.
- House Bill 137 would repeal the Gun Free Zone Act currently in place in all schools and most public

buildings.

- House Bill 194 would turn over power to the local school districts to allow them to decide whether or not to allow properly trained teachers to keep weapons on campus.
- House Bill 253 funds large economic development projects.
- House Bill 191 creates the Hathaway Expand scholarship for students in surrounding states.
- House Bill 200 repeals the state penalty for failure to pay beef checkoff dollars.
- House Bill 262 creates a savings fund for work that is required to be done to repair or replace the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins.
- House Bill 297 overhauls laws on marijuana and THC products.

*Source: Representative Hans Hunt

Internships made possible by personalized learning

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

Upton schools can allow students like Kassaundra Talbot and Josie Olson to miss school for opportunities like interning for state legislators due to its trial run of a personalized curriculum, an education method utilizing a fluid system allowing students to focus on subjects on an as-needed basis.

The new system is individualized to each student, which gives them the ability to miss a regular school day without fear of missing essential instruction— which can be provided at another time. This is a major shift from the traditional education scheme which would inadvertently penalize students who missed school days.

"It's something that would have been nearly impossible to do under the old system, but it's not even on the radar as a problem now. It doesn't create the same barriers we used to have," Upton Schools Superintendent Summer Stephens asserted. She continued that affording students the ability to own their education by doing things like gaining real-world experience is essential for future success.

"The world doesn't care what you know. It cares about what you do with what you know," she professed.

The new curriculum also changes the classroom environment, from a teacher-driven lesson plan grounded in how the teacher wants to approach the day's lesson, to one that reflects the individual student's needs. While in the same classroom, most students are not taking the same course. So what it looks like is students pursuing their own learning with the teachers keeping students accountable, managing a multi-faceted classroom, and functioning as resources when a student is having difficulty with the material.

"Every day is completely different. I like seeing where the class takes itself instead of planning it all out. You never know where it's going to lead. Some days I don't want

to touch anything because all the students are working hard, but there are other days that I'm running around like a madman. There is no model. I've just been tailoring it to suit the student's needs," Upton High School Social Studies teacher Nick Johnson explained.

The new system encourages both students and teachers to experiment with creative solutions for the individual hurdles they run into. Those opposed to the new system argue that teachers are no longer necessary, but those at the school have seen that the opposite is true.

"You couldn't do this without the teachers. You wouldn't have the support the kids need to continue learning," High School Principal Linda Crawford said.

"You almost have to have five different choice assignments for every lesson, and that takes time," Johnson agreed.

Lessons throughout a subject's unit demand that students have a firm grasp on its content before they can progress to the next lesson.

"We set it up so you have to have an 80 percent to move on, so if you get a 70 on it you have to retake it until you figure it out," Johnson said, adding that the quiz on the computer will change the questions so students can't cheat when they retake it.

"There's a test bank and the questions rotate," he explained.

A few kids use this method, but Johnson also offers alternative assessments for students who prefer to show their proficiency in the subject in a different way. This can include writing a report, creating their own test which must adhere to and incorporate state standards, and group projects, among many others. Giving kids the choice of how to be assessed may seem at first glance as enabling them to not leave their comfort zone, but school staff maintain that it encourages students to develop their strengths and interests while amplifying all previous subjects and standards that are obligatory for graduation.

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