

# News Letter Journal

Weston County

February 23, 2023

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 137

Week 8

## What you learned in kindergarten

### School board gets legal lessons

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

Citing the addition of several new board members elected to the Weston County School

District No. 1 board of trustees in recent years, the board's attorney, Allison Gee, of Lubnau Law in Gillette, provided some legal training to the board on Feb. 9.

After presenting her background to the board, Gee began the lesson in legal issues by sharing her firm's philosophy for representing boards. "We are the board's attorney.

We do not make policy decisions. We don't insert ourselves into the process. You have to request our advice," she said. "If we tried to fix everything that I thought should be a

certain way, it would be taking away from the power the voters gave you when they elected you. We will tell you what is

— See **School**, Page 6

### The buddy system



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Caitlyn Cox helps Semelia Jackson as Alma Mejia assists King Jackson learn how to ice skate at the Par-Pacific Ice Rink on Saturday, Feb. 18. As the Jackson kids come close to each other they reach out to grab each other's hands. See more photos from the free skating event on Page 8.

## THC and its variants

### Local group focuses on prevention

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

In 2023, the 21 Wellness Coalition plans to focus its community education efforts on THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol. Community prevention specialist Kristi Lipp says that the education will also touch on the high-potency of modern cannabis and new products like delta-8 and delta-9 that exist because of a loophole in hemp laws.

According to the Federal Drug Administration, "delta-8 tetrahydrocannabinol, also known as delta-8 THC, is a psychoactive substance found in the Cannabis sativa plant, of which marijuana and hemp are two varieties. Delta-8 THC is one of over 100 cannabinoids produced naturally by the cannabis plant but is not found in significant amounts in the cannabis plant. As a result, concentrated amounts of delta-8 THC are typically manufactured from hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD)."

Delta-9 is similar to delta-8, although it has a slightly different chemical structure.

According to Lipp, delta variants are legal in Wyoming while cannabis is not because of the way the farm bill is written.

— See **Prevention**, Page 6

## FFA week is here

**Preslee Fitzwater**  
NLJ Correspondent

What is FFA week? Why do we celebrate FFA week? And what is our local chapter doing for the week of Feb. 18-25?

Happy National FFA Week! This week is very important to a few students and one great adviser at Newcastle High School. FFA week is full of crazy events and lots of activities.

First, the question "What is FFA week?" The week consists of FFA chapters around the country celebrating how FFA impacts each member's life. During this week, many students like to show off the Supervised Agricultural Experience projects that they work hard at every

— See **FFA**, Page 7

## City asks county to discuss dispatch

### Special meeting scheduled for Wednesday

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

A solution to the ongoing dispatch dispute between Newcastle and Weston County could be on the horizon if a joint meeting scheduled for Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the City

Council chambers goes well.

For at least the past eight years, the News Letter Journal has covered the ongoing squabble between the two government entities. The Feb. 22 meeting is considered a last-ditch effort by some to set the bickering between the two local governments aside and work together to find a solution.

Disagreements between the city and county resulted in the eviction of the Newcastle Police Department and dispatch services from the Weston County Law Enforcement

Center. The actual move to the remodeled City Hall has yet to take place, however. The Board of Weston County Commissioners voted to start a second dispatch center to service county entities after the Newcastle City Council declined to negotiate a joint powers board agreement with the county and the town of Upton.

"This special meeting has been called for the purpose of discussing, understanding, showing and seeing

— See **Dispatch**, Page 2

“ I don't think two dispatches is the answer to any of the problems. We are all in this together. ... Newcastle is part of the county, and I think we need to get this figured out.”

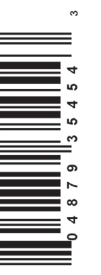
— Tyrel Owens,  
Newcastle City Councilman

### WEATHER FORECAST

<b>Thursday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 1, Lo -12	<b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 21, Lo 9	<b>Saturday</b> Sunny Hi 35, Lo 19	<b>Sunday</b> Mostly Sunny Hi 42 Lo 24	<b>Monday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 31, Lo 19	<b>Tuesday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 39, Lo 21	<b>Wednesday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 38, Lo 17
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### INSIDE

- Deer removal, Page 2
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EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER

## Newcastle city crews are in support of deer removal

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

As the city works toward initiating a Chapter 56 permit for the lethal elimination of deer within Newcastle city limits, feelings and opinions are being expressed on both sides of the issue. While some residents would like to see the lives of the deer spared, Greg Stumpff said that public works employees are in support of the permit. Stumpff is supervisor of the city's Public Works department.

"Public works staff have seen sick deer in town. While it is not common, we do encounter sick deer," Stumpff said.

The number of ailing deer is something Stumpff said he can not report on because he has not tracked the dead deer reports, although he noted that the public works crew has seen a number of dead deer in

city limits.

"Mostly due to deer versus vehicles, but there have been a number caught in fences that have died, along with deer dying on private properties," Stumpff said. "We are supportive of the Chapter 56 permit to help reduce the number of deer we collect and dispose of and to reduce the number of deer versus vehicle accidents in the city along with other reasons."

As previously reported, Chapter 56 is the most efficient and cost-effective way to eliminate part of the deer population in city limits because hunting is the primary management tool used to regulate wildlife populations. Other options, such as contraception or trapping and translocating, are very expensive, time consuming and labor intensive, according to Joe Sandrini, Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife biologist.

"Technically, when deer season is open, it is open in the city limits. However, because there are common-sense ordinances prohibiting discharge of firearms and archery equipment, the normal hunting season is not an option," said Sandrini. "Therefore, to allow (the) taking of deer via hunting, we must work with the city to make it legal."

So, he said, if Game and Fish is satisfied with the plan the city develops for the lethal removal, the department will permit it under Chapter 56 authorization. Game and Fish will structure the conditions of the permit with an eye for safety, humane harvest, and proper care and disposal of game meat.

"The whole thing is not a Game and Fish deal. Rather, it is the Game and Fish assisting the city with what they (the city) decide is best," Sandrini said.

## Dispatch

from Page 1

both the city's and the county's side of dispatch to be in understanding of each other's direction, as well as, to see if a solution can be worked out," Mayor Pam Gualtieri said in an email to city and county officials requesting the meeting.

"On behalf of the city council, we would like to express our appreciation to a continued working relationship," she continued, noting that attendance by the commissioners or a county representative is important.

Commissioner Don Taylor, Councilman Tyrel Owens and other members of both governing boards have been adamant over the past two years that two dispatch centers is not the right solution to end the ongoing debate.

"I don't think two dispatches is the answer to any of the problems. We are all in this together," Owens said during the council's regular meeting on Feb. 6. "Newcastle is part of the county, and I think we need to get this figured out."

Other government officials including Sheriff Bryan Colvard and Weston County emergency management coordinator Gilbert Nelson have stated on several occasions that the two entities working together to avoid two dispatch centers is the most feasible and fiscally responsible option.

### A Campbell County copy?

While Weston County and Newcastle have been battling and potentially separating dispatch services, Campbell County and Gillette are again trying to do the opposite.

According to the Jan. 31 Gillette News Record story "A joint effort," the Campbell County Sheriff's Office and Gillette Police Department are working to combine the two dispatch centers servicing that county. For some time, the story says, Gillette and Campbell County have been the only city and county in the state to operate

two separate dispatch centers.

If officials in Newcastle and Weston County continue down their current path, Campbell County and Gillette will have company, but officials there are making efforts to unite.

According to the story, this is the third time Sheriff Scott Matheny has been involved in the conversation and has worked to combine the two dispatch entities.

"From an operational standpoint, it makes sense because 'it has everybody on the same page, everything comes out of the same office,'" Matheny says in the story.

In the story, Fire Chief Jeff Bender adds that "from a taxpayer's perspective, it's more efficient and avoids the duplication of services." The last time the entities tried to come together, in the mid-2010s, the Gillette City Council supported the efforts but the Board of Campbell County Commissioners voted down a joint dispatch in 2016.

"At the time, there were concerns about what would happen if one side didn't hold up its side of the bargain, and there also were trust issues between the city and county," the story says.

The story notes that the two entities were unable to work an agreement because they could not get on the same page.

"The city wanted a joint powers board or joint powers contract, while the county wanted to avoid both," the story says.

The Gillette-Campbell County story appears to be eerily similar to the ongoing situation in Newcastle and Weston County, which has been advocating for a joint powers board.

The proposed Gillette-Campbell County governing joint powers board would employ a director to oversee joint dispatch operations, and draft documents are being considered by the affected entities, according to the News Record.

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### CORRECTION

In the Feb. 16, 2023 edition of the News Letter Journal in the story, "Sandrini: Chapter 56 the only way to manage in-town deer," we mistakenly misquoted Wildlife Biologist Joe Sandrini. We regret this error and the quote should have read as follows:

"But, the variability was very high, with an estimated range of just over 100 to over 400 deer. Obviously, if Tyrel counted 87, that is the minimum number, and it is highly UNLIKELY we have over 100 deer per square mile, so 250 would be a gross overestimate in my opinion," Sandrini said. "Most LIKELY THEN, we have something like 100 deer to maybe 150 deer wintering in and on the edge of town. At least that is my best guess based on what Tyrel reported seeing, looking at the data analysis, and my personal observations."

WESTON COUNTY MUSEUM DISTRICT  
PRESENTS

## The Texas Trail & Cheyenne Deadwood Stage Route

"Historic Trails in Wyoming" presented by Jason Vican, from National Historic Trails Interpretive Center



# POSTPONED TO FEB. 28

**Tuesday, Feb. 21, Noon • Weston County Library**  
**FREE LUNCH! PLEASE RSVP**

For more information, call the Anna Miller Museum at 307-746-4188

## 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](mailto:design@newslj.com) or call 307-746-2777 for more information.

2021 NNAF Better Newspaper Editorial Contest Award-winning newspaper



# nlj IDEAS

News Letter Journal: WPA and NNA Award Winner

## WHO



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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

Stop in Monday-Friday at 14 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. POSTMASTER: Please send any address changes to the News Letter Journal, PO Box 40, Newcastle, WY 82701. Annual Subscription Rate, Print OR Online In Weston County .....\$50 Out of County .....\$65 Senior Citizens (65+) .....\$33 Military ..... FREE Student, In State .....\$33 Student, Out of State .....\$40 Print + Online, add \$10

## 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

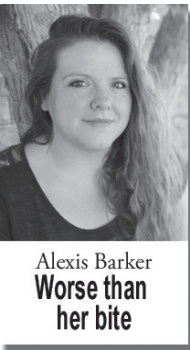
To provide news and entertainment for, and to serve the best interests of, the people of Weston County



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## Our View Mistakes happen

Everyone makes mistakes, and although I hate to admit it sometimes, I am part of "everyone." In last week's edition of the News Letter Journal, I misquoted Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist Joe Sandrini. I feel I must publicly acknowledge that error because I am bound to make mistakes in this position, and can't have a problem admitting when I have done so. I believe that no one enjoys making a mistake, nor would anyone enjoy admitting the mistake, but when your work is constantly scrutinized by the public, your mistakes become public knowledge. Admitting such mistakes is tough, and their public nature makes them embarrassing. But I do believe that it's important to acknowledge my mistakes because to do otherwise harms the



Alexis Barker Worse than her bite

public trust that I work so hard to build. So I will always apologize for my errors when they are brought to my attention. When Joe Sandrini brought my error in last week's story about the Chapter 56 permit to my attention, I worked with him to correct it in this week's edition because it is never my intention to misquote someone or provide erroneous information in a news story. (See the correction on page 2.) I have to admit that, at times, the amount of information I must distill and process on a weekly basis — so that I can explain it to the public — is overwhelming. Sometimes errors do result. This is not an excuse — just a fact of life. My life. Don't get me wrong. I love what I do, and I am thankful every day for people like Sandrini who help me inform the public

on important issues. Even more, I appreciate his understanding that mistakes happen, and I also appreciate his willingness to "set the record straight." Because of his help, last week's story about the Chapter 56 permit contains a lot of information that is correct, and what I got wrong is corrected for you this week. As I continue to navigate contentious issues as a journalist and news editor, I hope that readers and sources will continue to work with me in an understanding manner. If you see what you believe is a mistake in any story in the News Letter Journal, please reach out to me. All of us here strive to do the best job possible and we could not do it without the community, especially the specialists and community leaders who help us inform the public. They — and you — are the reason I look forward to soldiering on in service to this community, embarrassing mistakes and all.

## POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION: Do you think all abortion should be banned in Wyoming?

- Yes No

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

RESULTS: Do you think the deer are a problem in Newcastle?

- Yes 51% (30 votes) No 49% (29 votes)

Check out the News Letter Journal at newsj.com

## The winter of 2022-2023 will go down in history

Despite one of the worst winters in 40 years, we have been traveling all across the country over the past few months. We have endured minus 39-degree temperatures in Lander, snow in Dallas, bitter cold winds in Las Vegas, and snow-packed highways through Denver. We also endured minus 10 temps and nearly a foot of new snow during a few days in Cheyenne. Despite all this windshield time, we can rejoice that today is Feb. 18 and surely winter cannot hold on too much longer — right? We would like to remind folks to follow those winter driving guidelines. Always keep your gas tank full. We carry a cooler at all times with water, candy bars, and trail mix just in case we were to get stranded in some desolate place — there are plenty of those places across the Cowboy State. Blankets and winter coats and boots are with us at all times. It appears that GPS systems in cars are not functioning very well and folks are driving off on back roads and then getting stuck. GPS stands for Global Positioning System and you

can find it on our phones and in many of our cars and trucks. Having driven just about every interstate system in the last few months, we have been nervous about semi-truck drivers. I chatted with two guys over coffee at the Red Lion in Cheyenne in January. Former truck driver Dan Sabroski of Casper and current truck driver Scott Taylor of Griswold, Iowa, were chatting about the issue. They both said there are too many inexperienced drivers herding these big rigs down the road. Many are immigrants and hardly even know the English language. Some have never seen snow or driving in the mountains, which explains why those horrible accidents occur on Interstate 80 just about every winter. Wyoming people have shivered and trudged through a severe wintry period and it seems to be already time for a thaw. The mercury has been below zero most mornings and the only time it has warmed up is so that it can snow again. I

am not really complaining. I like winter. My hometown of Lander has the most beautiful winters in the world. Most of our snowfalls are so light and fluffy, they offer spectacular beauty. It's just that a little, bitty break in the weather would be okay to a great many people who live in Lander Valley and all over Wyoming — and maybe all across the country. Lander people have enjoyed sensationally mild winter weather the past few years. Except for occasional snowfalls and rare sub-zero spells, the winters were pretty open and darned mild. This valley appeared to be more a winter golfing haven at times rather than a snowmobiling capital. But lately, it has become its destiny as a snowmobiling capital. People have been heading to the mountains in record numbers. That 27-inch snowstorm around New Year's Day laid down a base that may be there until June! Meanwhile, the snowfall and temperatures have contributed

to record numbers of ice fishermen and snowmobilers. Vegas Baby! That was the shout from all over the airplane as it touched down at Harry Reid International Airport the Saturday night before Super Bowl. Not sure I have ever been on a plane full of happier revelers. Las Vegas becomes one of the most crowded places in the country on Super Bowl Sunday as 100,000 sports and betting enthusiasts head to Sin City to hoop it up. We earlier manned a booth at the Governors Tourism Conference in Cheyenne near the end of January. Congratulations to Diane Shober and Chris Brown and their staffs for a great show. The turnout was lower than expected because all the highways were closed during most of the time. John Johnson of Casper who puts in lots of windshield time himself said his trip from Casper to Cheyenne was about the worst he ever experienced. The normally two hour, 15-minute trip took six hours of white number total fear, he said. Lots of great folks like Leslie Jefferson, Carbon

County and Jenissa Meredith of Sweetwater County and Debbie Pummel of Casper did make it, however — always great to see them. Karen Schumacher of Best Western in Sheridan was a winner of the passport competition. Also, lots of local distiller and brewers were displaying their products. Backwards Distilling, Wyoming Whiskey, and Black Tooth Brewery were the stars. We headed by car to Las Vegas afterward and had to drive south to Interstate 40 as both Interstate 80 and Interstate 70 were closed. No surprise there. We hit Denver at noon rush hour and I always wondered how long it would take to drive around Interstate 470 tollway — it was 40 minutes, and I think it was worth it. 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.



Bill Sniffin My Wyoming

## Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

### Letters to the Editor

#### Put the suit to bed

To the Editor: "Not too happy with the News Letter Journal," he said, "they're suing me." What my fellow snowbird was lamenting last week is the same thing that worries me: any time a newspaper sues a government entity, that "we the people" are being sued. And yes, it is true that the Weston County Commissioners will have to spend taxpayer dollars, probably a lot of taxpayer dollars, to defend their position. But, their position is untenable and the News Letter Journal isn't suing the county for monetary compensation — it's open meetings they're after, keeping the business of the citizens in front of the citizens. When I think of Commission Chair Ed Wagoner, my thoughts go back to a Friday afternoon more than a generation ago, when a new outdoor grill arrived at my home. To my dismay, it was set up for propane — I needed it refitted for natural gas.

This was Good Friday and the beautiful weather had me hankering for a barbecue, but I certainly didn't expect anything to happen until the following week. But no, Ed answered my call and said he'd be right over. He arrived shortly after 5:30 p.m. when he should have been home, enjoying Easter weekend with his family, like the rest of us. But here's the thing, he brought family with him. Not all of his family, mind you, but he carried his newborn daughter in a sling, draped over his shoulder. His hands were free to fix my grill, which he did in, I want to say, five minutes, tops. That memory would astound me except I have so many like it, and the point here is that we elect people like Ed because we know that they are good people who like to do good by others. We trust them to take care of our public business. So it's easy to empathize with my


fellow snowbird's lament, that I'm being sued by my former newspaper. But since I used to be its publisher, I know that decision wasn't made lightly. And I will prefer to think of this situation as my newspaper suing Weston County on my behalf, on the taxpayer's behalf. Let's all hope the good people that run Weston County will find a way to put this suit to bed. — Tom Mullen



#### End the battle


To the Editor: Boy, am I getting tired of this ongoing turf battle/spitting contest between the city, county and sheriff's office on the dispatch issue. It seems like there needs to be much more honesty/openness/transparency and adult behavior from all parties involved in the squabble. I hope all

these elected officials remember a couple things: 1. All of Newcastle is in Weston County, but not all of Weston County is in Newcastle. 2. They work for the voters/taxpayers, and if they are incapable of the above-mentioned adult behavior, maybe they should resign their positions. Please sit down, work this out, and don't leave the room till this matter is settled! One last thing that puzzles me is the cost of this operation. From numbers in the Weekly Astonisher a while back, it cyphered out to \$1,500/day — wow! I would be interested in seeing an audit breakdown on these figures from an unbiased source. That seems kinda pricey for our huge metropolis. On a totally different subject, there are two types of deer in Newcastle (as well as the two different species). There are the good, healthy looking variety, and then there are the puny, scrubby, inbred-looking bunch. The second group indicates a need for herd thinning, to reach the object of a mostly healthy population. Thanks, — Jim Darlington



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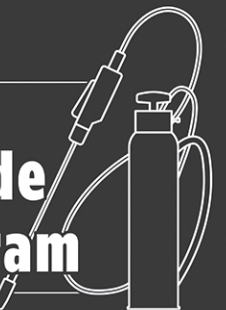
**You're on another run around the sun at 95 years young. Happy Birthday, Dad! (Feb. 29th) We Love You!**

— Betty Jo, Shelley, Jacque & Families



### WESTON COUNTY TRAVEL COMMISSION BOARD OPENING

The City of Newcastle will be accepting letters of interest for a three-year term on the Weston County Travel Commission Board. The term will expire June 30, 2025. Please submit letters of interest to City of Newcastle, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle WY 82701 by Friday, March 3, 2023.

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# Working my way back from the brink

## PART TWO

The hospitalist kept me on a strict low-carb and no more than 1,200 calories a day diet. I was dosed with Lasix — count yourself lucky if you are unfamiliar with it because you live in the bathroom as it pushes excess water out of your body. Slowly, I was coming around and becoming more mobile. I was shedding the weight I had packed on in my isolation.

I went through five more debridement surgeries. I learned that propofol mixed with ketamine pushed into your bloodstream can cause some fantastic visions before it puts you out for the count. (Say no to drugs, kiddies.) After 42 days, I was deemed well enough to be transferred to a physical rehabilitation facility.

So, the search was on. Unfortunately, there were no openings within 500 miles, so I was in a tight spot. Because I wasn't ready to live on my own yet, it was finally decided that I would go live with my parents in Newcastle — not ideal, but it was the best we could do.

Fast forward to November 2021, I was still at the parents' home, still trying to heal the hole in my foot via home health and a weekly trip to wound care so the podiatrist could look things over. A deep tunnel in my flesh was not closing.

A week before Thanksgiving — I had just gotten home from Rapid City — I was limping into the bathroom and as I got to the door there was a huge pop in my ankle. Blinded by the pain, I nearly passed out. I did make it back to my bed, where I could see that the tube coming out of my wound was filling with blood. I called the on-call nurse and she rushed over.

I was bruising and it appeared I had sprained my ankle. She sent me for

X-rays the next morning. The film showed nothing, except for a bright white line above the heel bone. In July, during my first admission, they had taken X-rays to make sure there was no bone infection. The white line was there and was dismissed as an artifact on the film. This time the opinion was that it was a foreign object that needed to be removed.



Dustin Bergstrom  
**Dusty Mind**

On Dec. 7, I had surgery to remove the object, which turned out to be a small needle that had broken off of an infusion set for my insulin pump. While the surgeon was in there, he discovered that my foot bones had sheared off the ankle bone, completely dislocated. He recommended amputation at that time. I got a second opinion and it was decided to do a reconstruction of the foot with screws holding the bones in place and letting them fuse to the ankle.

Two days after Christmas I had surgery to repair the foot. I was then transferred back to the Weston County hospital for inpatient therapy. After six weeks and another repair surgery, I was released to the wild. I had an apartment lined up with no stairs and wheelchair access, as I was to be as non-weight-bearing as possible.

Ultimately, after multiple issues with screws and infections in the foot, the decision to amputate was made. I spent three weeks in physical rehabilitation, four to five hours per day in the gym working on strength and learning how to live on one leg.

I spent some of my time chronicling my adventures on various social media platforms. Bob Bonnar, publisher of the News Letter Journal, saw my posts and asked whether I would consider doing a bit of writing for the paper. I pushed it off — I mean, who would want to read my ramblings?

Then one day he messaged me again. So I made the phone call and we talked about it a bit. I had to wait until I was off my company disability, but as soon as I was physically back at work, I submitted my first column.

So here I am today, working for a large company based in Illinois. You see our product everywhere you look. I'm pushing out the occasional column for the local paper and adjusting to my new life as well as I can. Some days are better than others, but now I have a lot of people checking up on me. I feel safe and know that if I need help, there are a hundred people I can count on.

So, there you have it — the whole sordid tale. If you want to know more, let me know. I am very willing to talk about it. One thing I hope you as readers take away from my experience is to always check on your friends during difficult times. If you notice them withdrawing more and more, talk to them. You could be saving their life.

Don't be afraid to intrude on them. Ultimately, they will probably thank you for pulling them back from the edge. Be kind and talk to them. Don't judge them for falling. It can happen to anyone. Most importantly, just be there for them when they need help. Don't make them feel like a burden. Trust me, that is what causes them to pull away.

Thank you for taking the time to read my tale, and thank you for taking the time to check on your loved ones. You can make a difference.

*Dustin would like to hear what you're thinking about these days. If you have any thoughts, concerns or observations about our community or the world as a whole, please share them with him at [dustinb@midco.net](mailto:dustinb@midco.net). You can also drop him a line to let him know what you thought about his column, or just to say "Hi!"*

## Kiss a pig



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

**The annual Kiss A Pig event, a sophomore fundraiser, was recently held at Newcastle High School. Students placed bids to choose the teacher who would then kiss a pig. This year, the sophomores raised a total of \$432. The teacher with the highest bid, \$181.85, was Michael Alexander. Here, he kisses a tiny pig at the NHS practice gym Wednesday, Feb. 8, while students and staff cheer him on and have a good laugh.**

# faith & values

### Daily Devotional Reading

February 24 Deuteronomy 9-11	February 28 Deuteronomy 23-25
February 25 Deuteronomy 12-15	March 1 Deuteronomy 26-27
February 26 Deuteronomy 16-19	March 2 Deuteronomy 28-29
February 27 Deuteronomy 20-22	<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. Kenti Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets. 746-9684. [christchurchnewcastle@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchnewcastle@gmail.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; Undeafened Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188.

Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm; AWANA Clubs Wednesday 6:30 pm

• **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm

• **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091

• **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am

• **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer

• **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am

• **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am

• **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday 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

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

~ Luke 19:10



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**25 Years Ago**  
**Feb. 26, 1998**

Picking the top economic story for this biggest issue of the News Letter Journal wasn't easy. But the Wyoming Conservation Camp is a lot more than just a minimum security prison. The facility aids the surrounding community in numerous public service projects and saves taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars every year. The minimum security program is increasing its capacity from 74 to 174, while the boot camp plans to add at least 100 new beds to its current 74.

John Brently Chancellor "Chance" Reynolds appeared for arraignment in Weston County Court on Thursday, pleading "not guilty" to two felony counts of writing checks with insufficient funds. Court documents allege that Reynolds wrote the checks in the amounts of \$82,000 and \$195,000. The gap at the top of Main Street should be filled by the second week of March. Amidst laughter and general good feelings was anticipation Monday night at what used to be the 7-Eleven store in Newcastle. Two former 7-Eleven employees plan to reopen as "Gabbie's," Newcastle's newest convenience store.

Building a new hospital means the old structure on the hill had to be abandoned. Although no longer modern enough to fill the medical needs of the community, the old hospital was an ideal location to serve the needs of Weston County's fastest growing population — the elderly. Mondell Heights is currently home to 17 people who enjoy an independent lifestyle.

The Black Hills Power and Light generating plant at Osage has operated 14 years without a loss-time accident. That's over 750,000 actual work hours without an injury that left a person unable to work.

**50 Years Ago**  
**Feb. 22, 1973**

A Newcastle man has been charged with grand larceny in connection with alleged cattle rustling in South Dakota. The charge involves the killing and butchering of a cow belonging to Chester Crago, of Spearfish, on Feb. 4, and the distribution of meat from the animal in the Newcastle area.

The Weston County annual talent show will be held in Newcastle on Saturday, March 3. Talent may include singing, musical instruments, readings,



dancing, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perino and their son, Jim, have opened a new feed store in Newcastle. The store to be known as Fred's Ranch Supplies, is located in 1821 West Main, the former Halliburton building.

The Newcastle Lion's Club is collecting old eye glasses which will be sent to NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY and in turn will be distributed to underprivileged people in foreign countries.

Newcastle Feed store was presented a plaque for its 1973 sales performance and was awarded a trip to New Orleans for two.

The Newcastle Dogies placed second in the Class A East Regional Wrestling Tournament

at Lusk last weekend and qualified 11 wrestlers for the state tournament this weekend in Casper.

A style show and smorgasbord will be held at the Flying V Cambria Inn Sunday, March 11, sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 38. The smorgasbord will be served at 1 p.m. followed by the style show at 3.

Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town" will be the subject for discussion Sunday evening at the monthly study group sponsored by Christ Church Episcopal. Persons who would like to discuss the play are asked to read it beforehand.

**100 Years Ago**  
**Feb. 22, 1923**

A fire that for a time threat-

ened the entire plant of the United States Oil and Refining Company of Osage, broke out about 4:30 p.m. last Sunday afternoon and it was nine hours before the flames were under control.

The work of cleaning up the interior of the courthouse, which has been in progress for the past month or so, is now nearing completion and there is certainly a big improvement in the looks of the building.

While assisting in cutting out some horses at the stock yards Tuesday afternoon, one of the animals placed a foot on Mack Barbour, the blow landing just below the knee. Mack was knocked from his seat on his horse and fell to the ground among the horses but managed to get out of the way of the horses without further injury.

E.T. Fletcher who is drilling for the Upton Refinery on 6, 46-63, got a hundred and twenty-five barrel well a few days ago. We did not learn the depth but as it is in the shallow field it was likely not over five hundred feet.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Baker, Mr. and Mrs. V.W. Germain, Ed. Buchanan, Mr. and Mrs. George Walker, Miss Charlotte Howell and Chris Christensen took in the dance at the community hall on Mule creek Saturday night. They had a dandy good time.

A party of young folks enjoyed a candy party at the Ted Kraft home last Saturday evening.

**COACHES & REFS WANTED!**

# SPRING SOCCER

**Online Registration Only Feb. 1–Feb. 28**  
**Link available on Newcastle Soccer League Facebook page**

*Copy of birth certificate or passport is required for registration.*

**Child must be born in 2018 or before to participate.**

U6, U8, U10, U12, U14 depending on registration numbers

New Player Fees: \$55  
Registration, \$40 fundraising  
All U8-U14 players: \$30 jersey deposit each season.  
(Checks only)

**If you played in the fall & want to play in the spring, no need to do anything!**  
If you played in the fall and DO NOT WANT to play spring soccer, please contact NSL. Practices start week of March 27. 6th–8th grade players, please contact Nikki Bartlett at Newcastle Middle School

Please call Allison Farella at (307) 746-3041, or email [newcastlesoccerleague@outlook.com](mailto:newcastlesoccerleague@outlook.com) with any questions.

Check out our FaceBook Page for more info!

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Learn how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Call Weston County Public Health at 746-4775, or your local pharmacy today to get your COVID vaccination or booster.

From the vault ...

Photo Courtesy of WC Historical Society

This photo depicts a crowd of people assembled for Fred Hansen's regular horse sales in Upton, Wyoming.

**Lil' Dogie Lunch**

Mesa Johnson, Brady Christensen, Thairon Sidener, Lucas Hunter, and Brenton Waggener

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

**A Bar A Ranch Encampment, Wyoming**

**Hiring Assistant Head Housekeeper**

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**Monthly salary, benefits, 401k**

**Prior management and hospitality experience required**

Send references, resume, cover letter to [staffing@abararanch.com](mailto:staffing@abararanch.com)  
[www.abararanch.com/staff](http://www.abararanch.com/staff)

**PLATTE RIVER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW & WORKSHOP**

15th Annual  
**March 3-9, 2023**

Eastern Wyoming College - Douglas ~ 800 S. Windriver Drive  
Show Grand Opening: Friday, March 3 ~ 5-7 p.m.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Sat. Feb. 25 @ Noon at one of these locations:  
• The Enterprise, 603 S. 3rd St., Douglas  
• Douglas Railroad Museum, 221 Brownfield Rd.  
• Wyoming Camera Outfitters, Casper  
• Laramie Peak Motors, Wheatland

4th Annual Photo Show Workshop  
Saturday, March 4 ~ 8 a.m.  
Funded with the annual lodging tax

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WYOMING PRESS ASSOCIATION

**WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR**  
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<b>Feb. 1-28</b>		Soccer Registration	Online
<b>Feb. 18-25</b>		National FFA Week	
<b>Wed. Feb. 22</b>	6:30-8:30AM	Wellness Wednesday	W.C. Health Services
	9AM	Exercise Class	W.C. Senior Center
	9AM-1:30PM	GiGi's Closet	First United Methodist Church
	5PM	Ash Wednesday Service	Christ Episcopal Church
<b>Thurs. Feb. 23</b>	7AM	T.O.P.S. #218	W.C. Senior Center
	NOON	WCHS Foundation Meeting	WCHS Board Room
	1PM	Crafts/Bridge	W.C. Senior Center
	4PM	Totes of Hope Silent Basket Auction	NHS Dogie Dome Breezeway
	7PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	W.C. Senior Center
<b>Fri. Feb. 24</b>	9AM	Caramel Rolls	W.C. Senior Center
	1PM	Bridge	W.C. Senior Center
	5:30PM	BINGO	VFW Hall
	11:30AM	WC Library Board Mtg.	W.C. Library Meeting Rm.
	7PM	Dance	W.C. Senior Center
<b>Mon. Feb. 27</b>	9AM	Exercise Class	W.C. Senior Center
	1PM	Computer Clinic	W.C. Senior Center
	7PM	Alcoholics Anonymous	W.C. Senior Center
<b>Tues. Feb. 28</b>	11AM	Story Time	W.C. Library
	1PM	Bridge/Dominos	W.C. Senior Center
	3:30PM	Alzheimers/Dementia Support	Zoom

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

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

# Fuel mitigation project scheduled for Mallo area

Alexis Barker  
NLJ News Editor

A fuel mitigation project scheduled for spring at Mallo Camp aims to protect the area in case of wildfire. According to Caleb Carter, Weston County Natural Resource District manager, the cleanup of the defensible space is needed because it fills in over the years.

“It (the project) comprises about 11 acres. We will be extending the fuel break that was originally created about a decade ago, and cleaning up younger trees, ground cover and ground debris on the slope behind the lodge and cabins,” Carter said. “This was also done about a decade ago and has slowly filled in again and needs to be cleaned up.”

Funding for the project, he said, will come from a Wildland Urban Interface grant and Weston County.

“Our WUI grant covers 50% of the total cost of the project,” Carter said. “The commissioners (Board of Weston County Commissioners) have allocated up to \$20,000 as match for the fuel mitigation project to cover the other 50%.”

According to the Wyoming State Forestry Division, fuels mitigation is a way to manage lands that will help reduce the threat of wildfire in the treated area. While the mitigation treatments can be done at any time, the division’s website says it is better to recognize and reduce the threat before an emergency occurs.

“Treatments are done through reducing the amount of vegetation, both live and dead, to create a safer environment,” the website says. “These safer environments can then contribute to minimizing losses to life and property, allowing for faster post fire recovery, lessening of the financial impacts of fire and providing for firefighter and public safety.”

According to the website, three main treatments are used to mitigate fuels, including defensible space, fuels treatments and fuel breaks.


In addition to the spring fuel mitigation project, Carter reported that the district is also working with Wyoming State Forestry and Neiman Enterprises to log and clean up the remainder of the county-owned property at Mallo. Neiman Enterprises is a Hulett-based logging company

### Three main types of treatment

**Defensible Space:** This is the area around a structure where vegetation and objects are managed to increase the chance of the structure surviving a wildfire, either with or without protection. The area includes the structure and the landscape at least 100 feet out to prevent direct flame contact and reduce radiant heat from impacting the structure. Treatments will vary depending on vegetation types and topography.

**Fuels Treatments:** These usually take place in areas outside of the defensible space and reduce the amount of vegetation, both live and dead, to influence fire behavior,

minimize the impacts of wild-land fire and aid in fire suppression efforts. Treatments include removing hazardous fuels through either biological, chemical, and/or mechanical means.



Source: Wyoming State Forestry Division website

that operates in the Black Hills and surrounding areas, according to its website.

“This (project) will most likely occur next winter. We don’t have a final plan for this yet, as we will be visiting the property with the Neiman representative this spring to assess

the value of the timber and determine what the need is for cleanup of smaller trees too small to harvest,” Carter said. “Along with logging, the

Often treatments include the use of fire to burn residual slash piles or through low-intensity prescribed burns.

**Fuel Breaks:** Much like fuels treatments, fuel breaks work to slow, or even stop, the spread of fire. Fuel breaks focus on creating a strip of land that has a reduced amount of vegetation and are placed in strategic locations such as ridge tops, property boundaries or access roads.

contractor will also be providing thinning services to clean up the property and leave better spacing between remaining trees following harvest.”

The hope, he said, is that the timber harvest will help offset the cost of the thinning so there is no need for additional funds.

## School from Page 1

legal and what is not, when asked.”

Gee noted that she represents the entire board and, therefore, would not get in the middle of arguments or disputes between board members.

“I will tell you what the law is,” she said, adding that requests for services are to come from either Superintendent Brad LaCroix or board Chair John Riesland.

Gee then presented guidelines included in Wyoming ethics and disclosure acts, or what her partner Tom Lubnau calls “what you learned in kindergarten,” she said.

“You can’t use your position for private benefit. You can’t advocate for the district to hire a family member,” Gee said. “A lot of this is common knowledge, but it is good to go over it.”

Other guidelines were that board members cannot participate in the supervision of decisions over family members and they cannot use public funds, time, personnel, facilities or equipment for personal benefit.

“It happens a lot, using the copier or postage machine,” Gee

said. She added that those items were purchased with public funds and said it is important that the board be good stewards of those funds.

“That is why those rules are in place,” she said.

The next topic addressed by the attorney was the role of board members as far as political issues are concerned. According to Gee, the board is allowed to educate people, including legislators, on issues affecting students, funding for schools or district issues, in general, but they are not allowed to lobby for a specific outcome.

Gee suggested that board members complete a funding and conflict of interest disclosure. The document is required of the top-five state officials and is completed by other elected individuals.

“We find it helpful for boards to do that, to disclose what business and financial interests might overlap,” she said. “... It allows for the board chair to know if issues that come up with the board will have potential conflict, so they can be identified ahead of time.”

If a conflict of interest does

“We find it helpful for boards to do that, to disclose what business and financial interests might overlap. ... It allows for the board chair to know if issues that come up with the board will have potential conflict, so they can be identified ahead of time.”

—Allison Gee, Lubnau Law, W.C.S.D. No. 1 Attorney

exist, Gee recommended that board members with a conflict remove themselves from the room for both the discussion and vote on the issue.

“When you are present in those rooms for the discussion, it can appear that you are influencing the discussion,” she said.

She added that there are five different state statutes addressing conflict of interest.

“It is very clear that the

Legislature thought this is something that we should be concerned about,” Gee said.

The attorney also presented information on open meeting and public records law. Gee briefly outlined the requirements for meetings and special meetings, including the requirement for agendas and minutes for each meeting and the rules dictating special meetings.

“There is also the Wyoming Public Records Act. With the expansion of the use of email and online document creation, it has made the application of the Public Records Act very interesting,” she said.

According to Gee, everything written by an elected official has the potential to be a public record, although there are a few exceptions.

“You should assume that if you write it, the public will see it. That is the best advice,” she said.

In addition to presenting the legal lesson, Gee also expounded on the fiduciary duties of board members and the legal rights they have.

As board members, Gee explained, three fiduciary duties

are “kind of” outlined in state statute and through common law, or case law.

“The first duty is loyalty. What that looks like is, you can’t use confidential information you get through your role to harm the district. You must look out for the district’s best interest. Second, you have a duty of care. You must ask the questions a prudent person would to try and understand the issues,” she said. “Last, you have the duty of obedience. You need to follow the rules and regulations of the district, policies, and local, state and public laws.”

In an instance of litigation, Gee said that the district is obligated to provide legal resources to board members, but only if they were acting as trustees.

“If it is not the business of the district, you don’t have the liability coverage of the district behind you,” she said. “Make sure what you are doing is within the scope of what a board member should be doing.”

To conclude the public portion of the legal presentation, Gee explained that there are times that board members may not

receive all the information on certain issues, for good reason. The reason, she said, is that the board is the appellate body for decisions in the district.

“From time to time, there are cases that may come before this board and it is important that the board, to the extent that it can, not have detailed information until the appeal of a decision comes before the board,” she said. “There are statutes for that, in the Wyoming Administrative Procedures Act, to try and make sure, the best you can, that this is a fair place for folks to come.”

She noted that this process is crucial and allows for both sides in an appeals situation to present their case without the board having too much information beforehand.

Following the public presentation, Gee spent roughly 40 minutes in executive session with the board discussing items that she called attorney-client privileged.

(To view this discussion, go to the News Letter Journal’s Youtube Channel to watch the Jan. 11, 2023, W.C.S.D. No. 1 Board of Trustees meeting.)

## Prevention from Page 1

“The way the statute reads, as long as it is labeled ‘hemp,’ (it is legal)” Lipp told the Board of Weston County Commissioners on Feb. 7. She noted that educating the community on the dangers of deltas and high-potency cannabis will hopefully prevent dangerous situations for community members, particularly youths.

“We have had a couple scary situations. Because it is purchased legally, they think legal is okay,” she told the commissioners.

Issues involving delta-8 have been reported across the state, and the Wyoming Legislature considered several bills prohibiting its sale to minors during the 2023 session.

House Bills 137 and 138 were both drafted by Cody High School students in the Youth for Justice Club. These bills, which would limit the sale of THC products to people under age 21, failed to meet the Feb. 3 deadline to be heard and, therefore, died.

However, HB 108 was placed on

general file in the Senate on Feb. 17. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale, would prohibit the sale of vaping and edible products containing THC to people under 21.

While the original bill did not include delta-8, an amendment proposed by Rep. Sandy Newsome, R-Cody, and approved by the House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee included prohibiting the sale of delta-8 to minors.

While cannabis still remains illegal in Wyoming, information provided by Lipp states that there has been a shift in attitude on the legalization of marijuana in the past decade.

“Today’s high-potency THC can be consumed in a variety of ways. The flowers or leaves can be smoked (rolled in a joint or a pipe), but there are also concentrated THC products which can be infused into foods and drinks (edibles), vaporized, ingested under the tongue (liquid extract),

or eaten or smoked in the form of THC-rich resin (dabbing),” the information says. “These concentrated products have the THC concentration levels upwards of 95% making it more harmful and easier to consume without detection.”

Because of those concerns and the further legalization of THC products across the country, Lipp said, it is important to inform the community on the dangers and risks associated with their use.

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## SPECIALTY CLINICS

March 2023 Schedule

**Orthopedics:**  
 Dr. McEleney: ..... April 27  
 Nicholas Alonzo, PA-C ..... March 23  
 To schedule appointments call 800-446-9556  
 Dr. Lochmann ..... March 1, April 5  
 To schedule appointments call 605-755-6700

**Echo:** Patient’s Personal Physician must schedule ..... March 1, April 5

**Heart Doctors:** To schedule appointments call 800-432-7822  
 Dr. D’Urso ..... March 22  
 Dr. A. Schabauer ..... N/A

**VA Clinic:** (Usually 1st Monday of month, except holidays)..... March 6

**Mammography:** ..... Call 746-3704 to schedule an appointment

**MRI:** ..... March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30  
 Every Thurs., if minimum patient req. met. Patient’s provider must schedule w/WCHS Radiology Dept.

**Speech Therapy:** ..... Every Monday & Thursday except holidays, 4–6 pm

**Upton Lab Draws:** (1st Wednesday, except holidays) ..... March 1

**Wellness Wednesday, WCHS Newcastle** ..... Every Wednesday, 6:30–8:30 am

**Wellness Wednesday, W.C. Upton Clinic** ..... 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7–9 am

**Home Health Toenail Clinic:** (W.C. Senior Center 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 9–10:30 am)  
 To schedule appointments call 746-3553 ..... March 1, March 15

**Please check out our calendar for updates at wchs-wy.org**

**WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES**  
 1124 Washington Blvd. Newcastle WY 82701  
 www.wchs-wy.org | Hospital 746-4491  
 WC Newcastle Clinic 746-6720 | WC Upton Clinic 468-2302  
 Manor 746-2793 | Therapy Services 746-3720 | Home Health/Lifeline 746-3553 | Pharmacy 746-2425

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# Snow piles up, but drought continues

**Alexis Barker**  
NLJ News Editor

As Weston County and surrounding areas brace for yet another snowstorm, snow totals in areas closest to Newcastle continue to be well above average, according to the Black Hills Snow Course Reading completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Sundance.

As of Feb. 1, both Little Bear Run and Mallo Camp have snow totals above the 30-year median, the report says, although Mallo is faring better than Little Bear Run with 1.2 inches more of snow water equivalent.

Snow water equivalent, or SWE, is a common snowpack measurement for the amount of water contained in the snowpack.

Snow depth at Little Bear Run was

reported to be 17.5 inches on Feb. 1, while Mallo had 26.9 inches. The SWEs are 3.3 inches and 5.9 inches, respectively.

According to the report, this means that Little Bear Run is 122% of the 30-year median in snow water equivalent and Mallo is at 126%. The 30-year median SWE for Little Bear Run is 2.7 inches and Mallo's is 4.7 inches.

At this time last year, the SWE for Little Bear Run was 1.3 inches and Mallo's was 1.8 inches.

Despite having above-average snow totals, all of Weston County remains in a drought as conditions worsened across the county, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that on Nov. 15, 24.96% of Weston County was experiencing D2 drought. In the past three months, that number

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2023-02-14	0.00	100.00	98.59	63.19	0.00	0.00	262
Last Week	2023-02-07	0.00	100.00	98.59	29.75	0.00	0.00	228
3 Months Ago	2022-11-15	0.00	100.00	99.44	24.96	0.00	0.00	224
Start of Calendar Year	2022-12-27	0.00	100.00	98.59	24.96	0.00	0.00	224
Start of Water Year	2022-09-27	0.00	100.00	7.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	108
One Year Ago	2022-02-15	0.00	100.00	100.00	44.10	0.00	0.00	244

has risen to 63.19%.

D2 drought is described as severe drought and has possible impacts of crop or pasture losses, water shortages

and imposed water restrictions.

At the same time, 98.59% of the county is listed as being in D1 drought. D1 is described as moderate

drought with possible impacts of some crop damage, some water shortages and potential voluntary water use restrictions.



On Feb. 11, the fifth concert of the 2022-23 Weston County Concert Association series was held at the Crouch Auditorium. The musical "Space School Musical" was presented by Dakota Players, an outreach of the Black Hills Playhouse in South Dakota. The musical was created by Kellee McQuinn of KidTribe for NASA's Discovery and New Frontiers Program, and was adapted by Dakota Players to be acted and sung with middle and high school students. A week-long clinic was held at the Crouch to teach 13 students the songs, dances, and speaking parts for Saturday's two performances. The tour actors and directors were Taylor Reed, who graduated with a Theater Arts Bachelor of Fine Arts from East Carolina University, and Dylan Bailey, who holds a BFA in Theater for Youth, also from East Carolina University. The 13 students that participated in the play were costumed as stars, asteroids, scientists and other fun creations as they told the story in the "hip-hopera" musical of Hannah, who was struggling to finish her science project. But, after a little help from her out-of-this-world friends, she finds the inspiration to carry on. The musical was in one act and full of high-spirited numbers of rap and occasional singing, along with dances, as the students, and audience, were given a light-hearted tour of space and science.

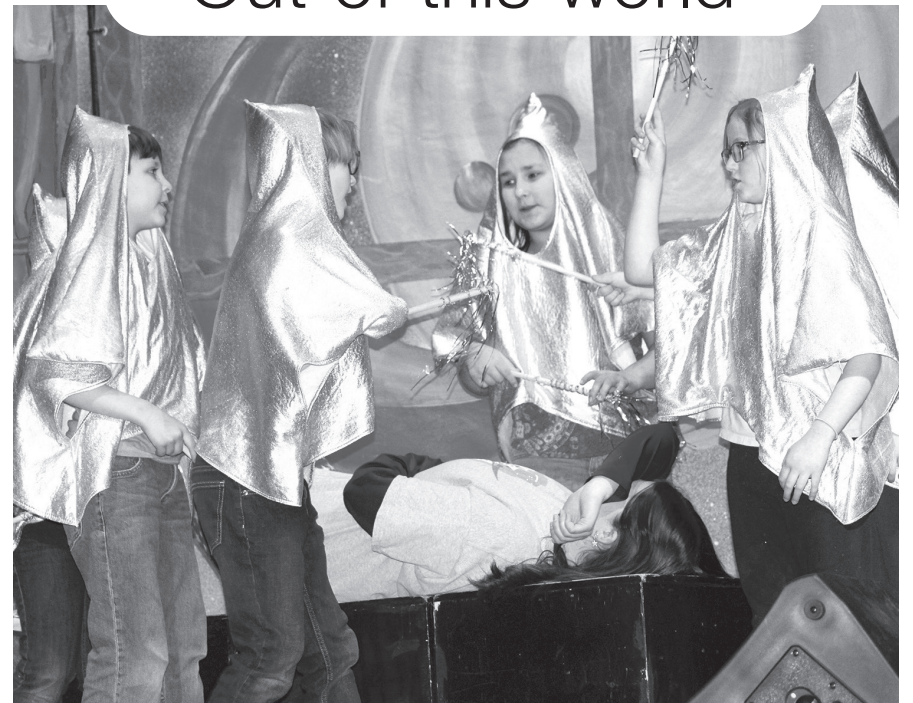


Photos by  
Walter Sprague

## Out of this world



Top, a group of mini-moons move to the song "Moondance" as they describe several of the different moons in our solar system. Upper right, Dylan Bailey of the Black Hills Playhouse plays Einstein in the number "We're the Scientists." At right, The main character, Hanna (Kathryn Huber) goes to bed in despair after losing her school science project. A group of stars, Ari Mendinghall, Maddie Arroyos, Emmett Whitney, Robert Arroyos, Cloey Krause, and Maizy Owens, try to give her positive dreams as they sing a song. Above, Brayden Williamson dances and sings as he plays a meteorite/asteroid in "Space School Musical."



## FFA

from Page 1

day. This might be working with animals, growing plants or even ag communications.

So, for this week, we get to take a deeper look into the impact that FFA has on members' lives. We are shown the impact that FFA has not only on members but also on other community members. It is a way of paying back to the organization that has helped so many people in so many

ways. This week means a lot to quite a few hard-working people in our community, so don't forget to show your support as much as possible!

Show your support through social media or even a thank you to an enrolled member, or to our fabulous adviser Jill Pischke.

Here's what the week looks like for our local chapter. Tuesday the chapter will be having doughnuts

and doorstops for all of our teachers. The doorstops will have the chapter emblem on them. The emblems were made by freshman Cort Perino, a member of the chapter. Later, a few members will take part in reading to the kindergarten through second grade students at the elementary school. Wednesday's events are delivering Thank a Rancher baskets. The chapter nominated ranches and then voted on

the top three, who will be receiving a basket. Our chapter hopes to start this as a tradition to thank as many ranchers as possible. Thursday will consist of the Ag appreciation presentation in the Dogie Dome during the games against Douglas. Then, we close the week with Ag Olympics and Kiss a Goat. This is a relay-type game that our chapter puts on for the NHS student body. Don't forget to show

your support, and Happy National FFA Week!

*Correspondent Preslee Fitzwater is a freshman Newcastle High School student enrolled in agri-science and a member of the local FFA chapter, with an interest in Ag Communications. She has been published in two poetry books and is currently working on publishing her own book of poetry.*

## RESCHEDULED

Oral History  
by Rhonda Stearns  
has been rescheduled for  
March 5 at 1 p.m.  
Weston County Library

Please contact Cindy Dysart at the Anna Miller Museum for questions.

## Got a local story idea?

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

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Great day for a skate



Photos by Walter Sprague and Kim Dean/NLJ



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# Sports

## News Letter Journal

### SPORTS SCHEDULE

**NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Wrestling**  
2/24-25/23 VJ 3A State Championships A NOON @Casper

**Ladies' Basketball**  
2/23/23 V9 Douglas HS H 4PM  
2/25/23 V9 Buffalo HS H NOON  
3/2-4/23 V 3A East Regionals A NOON @Torrington  
3/9-11/23 V 3A State Championships A NOON @Casper

**Men's Basketball**  
2/23/23 V9 Douglas HS H 4PM  
2/25/23 V9 Buffalo HS H NOON  
3/2-4/23 V 3A East Regionals A NOON @Torrington  
3/9-11/23 V 3A State Championships A NOON @Casper

**Track**  
3/6/23 Practice H TBA

**Ladies' Soccer**  
3/6/23 Practice H TBA

**Men's Soccer**  
3/6/23 Practice H TBA

## Flying under the radar

Each week, I go to the WyoPreps website to see which basketball teams are ranked in all four classes in Wyoming, and what those rankings are. I also check to see the rankings of wrestlers across the state.

I love it when I see a Newcastle team make the top five, or to see a wrestler from Newcastle or Upton listed among the top 10 in their weight class.

For the last several years, it's pretty commonplace to see Douglas ranked at or near the top of the Coaches and Media polls in basketball, and the rank is usually pretty well-deserved, as they perpetually roster talented teams each year.

For a school like Douglas, which has significantly more athletes from which to choose as compared to other smaller schools in 3A, they generally do a pretty good job of living up to the hype.

However, if you are playing for a program that hasn't necessarily experienced the success that schools like Douglas have, flying under the radar and being underrated or being the under dogs is not always a bad thing.

This is especially true when you have young kids competing or playing on teams.

Being ranked means you have an extra large target on your back. You are on the minds of every team, and they are all looking for chinks in your armor that they can take advantage of when competing against you.

They are noticing the stats of

— See **Karpe**, Page 10



Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Editor

## Grapplers take home hardware

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Editor

The Dogies/Bobcats showed up and showed out at the 3A East Regional Tournament Friday in Douglas. Though the team hasn't fared well in duals throughout the season due to open weights, head coach Lee McCoy's crew qualified all but two athletes for the state tournament, and finished fourth as a team at the regional tourney.

"The tournament went just about as good as it could have gone," McCoy said, smiling. "I was really proud of how the kids wrestled. They left it all on the mat."

At 106 pounds, Haven Vrana dominated his weight class, pinning his quarter-finals and semi-finals opponents in 55 seconds and 1:35, respectively. In the championship match, Vrana won by tech fall with a score of 18-3. According to McCoy, Vrana probably would have gotten a pin for the title, however circumstances made it challenging for the sophomore.

"The Rawlins kid got a really bad bloody nose so they were stopping the match every 10 seconds or so for a blood time-out, which made it really hard for Haven to get anything going," McCoy explained. "He did win decisively despite that, though. I think there may have been a little bit of doubt from other kids and other coaches that he may not have been as

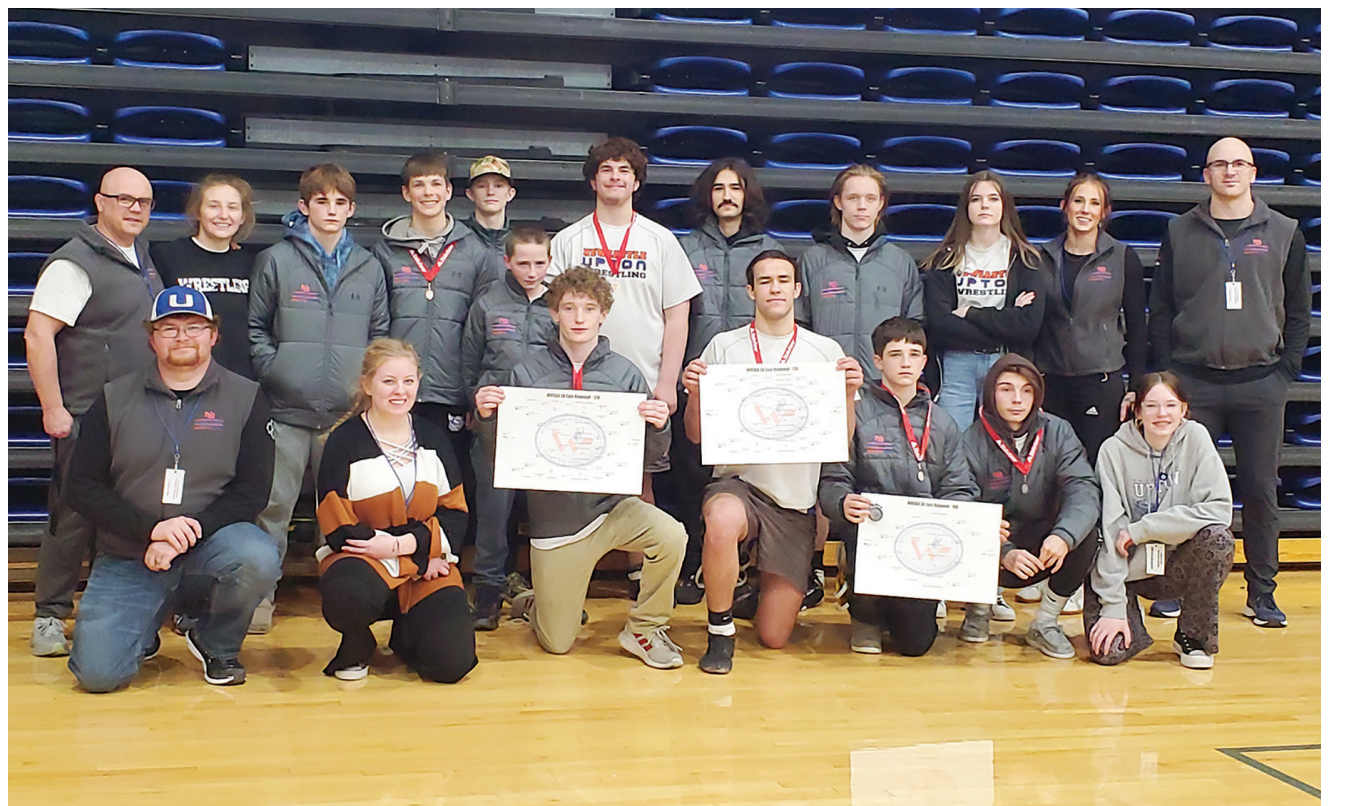


Photo courtesy of Kim Vrana

The Dogies/Bobcats had three regional champions, qualified nine of the 11 members of the team for the state tournament, and finished fourth as a team at the 3A East Regional Tournament Friday in Douglas. Though they didn't have a regional tournament, Kyah Miller and Courtney Matthews will also be competing in the first ever girls state tournament Thursday and Friday in Casper.

tough as he was being given credit for, but he removed all doubt on Friday."

Landon Norman had a pretty good showing in the 113-pound weight class. According to McCoy, given that he is just a freshman, he was feeling a little more pressure than normal

and lost a pretty close match 5-2 in the quarter-finals against a Rawlins opponent. From there, he won out to take third place, getting the better of a couple of pretty tough Worland kids, and won against Wheatland for third place.

Jackson East finished first as regional champ at 120 pounds. In the quarter-finals, he pinned his Buffalo opponent in 47 seconds. In the semis, he defeated the Wheatland wrestler

— See **Wrestlers**, Page 16

## Ladies end tough week with a win

Sonja Karp  
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies had the toughest week of their season last week as they played a couple of talented basketball teams, on Tuesday against Belle Fourche and Thursday in Douglas, then had to gut it out for a Saturday contest against an improved Torrington team on the road.

Head Coach Chad Ostenson admitted that his team didn't play as well as they are capable, so that, coupled with tough opponents, meant that Newcastle took losses against Belle 42-45, and Douglas 41-80, before coming away with a win against the Lady Trailblazers 55-45.

"If we're going to have a little slump, I guess last week was a good time for it to happen," said Ostenson. "Our defense really wasn't very good, we didn't shoot overly well, and we were half a step slow most of the time, so that didn't work out really well for us. However, those were good games for us to get us going down the stretch."

The Lady Broncs showed

up to the Dome on Tuesday in a make-up game from the Stateline Shootout Tournament in December. Belle Fourche came in with a 10-6 record, but the team that took the court certainly didn't look like one that should have lost six games in the season.

"Belle Fourche has played an impressive schedule against some good teams from the eastern side of South Dakota, so their record isn't really indicative of their abilities," Ostenson declared. "They are big, fast, and deep, and play a very physical game while rostering some pretty good athletes."

Throughout the contest on Tuesday, there were four ties and six lead changes, so it

— See **Ladies**, Page 10

Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ  
**MacKenzie Conzelman looks to pass the ball to a teammate inside the paint Saturday in Torrington. Newcastle defeated the Lady Blazers 55-45, picking up their first win of the week.**



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# NHS swimmers wrap up season

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Editor

The water was churning in the pool Thursday and Friday at the 3A State Swim meet in Gillette. When all was said and done, the times that were posted were incredibly fast, just as Dogie Coach Doug Scribner had anticipated.

Despite putting up impressive times, though, only Ramsey Gross was able to advance from the prelims on Thursday to the finals on Friday in his two individual events.

In the 50 Freestyle, Gross posted back-to-back personal records, going 23.38 in the prelims and 23.23 in the finals. Both times are over two seconds below the qualifying mark, however, they were only fast enough to earn Gross ninth in the prelims and eighth in the finals. The winner of the 50

Freestyle from Buffalo did it in a blistering 21.35 seconds.

“Ramsey had a really good time in both races. I know he wanted to get down to 22 seconds in it, but his fastest was 23.23,” Scribner began. “He went in seeded 12th, so he did a good job of moving up. There were so many good races and it was a really fun meet.”

In the 100 Backstroke, Gross went in seeded 14th, and according to Scribner he needed to go 1:02 to get into the top 12. He swam a 1:01.22 so he was 11th in prelims, and he was able to hold his 11th place for finals as well.

“Ramsey wanted to get under a minute and he was swimming next to a kid who was seeded at 59 seconds, so he was hoping to get there,” Scribner explained. “He was almost on his PR time from prelims, but he wasn’t able to break under a minute.”

Samuel Scribner qualified for the state meet in the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Freestyle. He was seeded 22nd in the 50 Free and after prelims he was 24th so he was right on his time. In the 100 Free, he had to drop four seconds to get into the top 12, which is a big number in that short of a race. Scribner finished 30th in the prelims with a time of 57.56.

Harrison Gross and Nate Strickland were the other two individual Dogie qualifiers, and they each swam the 500 Freestyle. In order to get into the top 12, each swimmer had to drop about 15 seconds, according to Scribner.

Gross put together a great swim, taking 14 seconds off his best time for a new PR. He was seeded 23rd going in, and though he had an impressive time drop and moved up to 16th in prelims, he finished

two places out of the alternates for finals.

Strickland was seeded 24th, and had hurt his ankle the day before the meet in practice, and that injury affected his finish as he added a couple of seconds to finish in 27th.

“Nate ended up adding a little bit of time because of his ankle, but he toughed it out, so I was proud of how he did in the race,” Scribner said. “And Harrison did really well and was close to making it, so that was great as well.”

In all three relays, the Dogies finished 13th, so just out of the consolation finals on Friday. Though they swam well, the speed of the other teams was just too much.

“In a couple of our relays, we were ranked better in 4A than 3A. We were seventh in the 200 Free in 4A and 13th in 3A, and that’s how they ended up falling

out as well at the state meet,” Scribner said, shrugging. “The Medley Relay was on its best time, the 200 Free was a little bit slower, though Logan [Olson] and Archer [Ohnstad] had their best splits, and the 400 Free was also on its time and Logan had a PR of under a minute for his 100 split, so he was happy about that.”

With the season coming to a close, Scribner noted that with no seniors on his team, he expects all to return next year, and he will be adding a couple of freshmen to the team next year as well.

“Points wise, we were close to how we finished last year, and everyone got faster over the course of the season,” Scribner concluded. “Everyone is pretty motivated to work over the summer, and we’ll pick up a couple of good freshmen so that will be good for us.”

## NHS Men’s Swimming

Newcastle @ 3A State Meet in Gillette 2/16-17/23

**Team Results:**  
1. Lander 326  
2. Buffalo 220  
3. Green River 177.5  
4. Riverton 112  
5. Cody 100  
6. Worland 88  
7. Kemmerer 80  
8. Evanston 76  
9. Lyman 74.5  
10. Powell 74  
11. Sublette Co. 33  
12. Rawlins 27  
13. Newcastle 7

**Individual Prelim Results:**  
200 Medley Relay: 2:04.48  
13. Logan Olson, Harrison Gross, Ramsey Gross, Archer Ohnstad  
50 Free:  
9. Ramsey Gross 23.38 PR  
29. Samuel Scribner 25.15  
100 Free:  
30. Samuel Scribner 57.56  
500 Free:  
16. Harrison Gross 5:50.12 PR  
27. Nate Strickland 6:06.76  
200 Free Relay: 1:47.96  
13. Logan Olson, Archer Ohnstad, Nate Strickland, Samuel Scribner  
100 Backstroke:  
11. Ramsey Gross 1:01.22 PR  
400 Free Relay: 3:57.70  
13. Samuel Scribner, Nate Strickland, Ramsey Gross, Logan Olson  
**Individual Finals Results:**  
50 Free:  
8. Ramsey Gross 23.23 PR  
100 Backstroke:  
11. Ramsey Gross 1:01.57

## Ladies from Page 9.....

was a battle on the hardwood. The Lady Dogies held a slim 8-5 lead at the end of the first quarter, but then the Lady Broncos rebounded to take a 23-18 lead into the half.

Newcastle out-scored them in the third quarter to pull within 2 points, but Belle out-scored the Lady Dogies by 1 point in the fourth quarter to take the 45-42 win.

Jaylen Ostenson led her team with a double-double, scoring 15 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Shelby Tidyman was next with 10 points, Hunter McFarland and Jayde Harrington each had 4 points, while MacKenzie Conzelman, Oakley Checketts and Sydney Pederson each added 3 points to round out the scoring.

What could go wrong, did, on

Thursday as the Lady Dogies took on the No. 1-ranked Lady Bearcats in Douglas. The Converse County team has one of the best players in the state in 3A, and Tidyman was tasked with face-guarding her in an effort to slow her down.

According to Coach Ostenson, his team didn’t execute their game plan against the Lady ‘Cats, and combined with more struggles in shooting, Douglas was able to roll over Newcastle.

“We made them look pretty good,” Ostenson said, with a sigh. “Lauren [Olson] still got 20 points, despite face-guarding her, and we didn’t help and do what we needed to do defensively.”

“We also left a lot of points that we should have had,” he continued. “We had a lot of

opportunities to get to the hoop and quite a few good looks from outside, but we just couldn’t finish.”

The Lady Dogies went into the locker room at halftime down, 37-15, then the Lady ‘Cats out-scored them 43-26 in the second half to come away with the 80-41 victory. Though they got close, Douglas was never able to get to the 40-point mark to mercy rule Newcastle.

Conzelman led the team with 11 points, Ostenson had 10, Tidyman eight, Harrington 7, Checketts added 3 while Pederson chipped in 2 points.

The last contest of the week was a road trip to Torrington on Saturday. The Lady Dogies led at the end of every quarter, but uncharacteristically good outside shooting by the Lady ‘Blazers kept them in the game throughout.

“Our defense still wasn’t good, but they hit a lot of shots that they don’t normally hit,” Ostenson explained. “They hit seven threes, which is out of character for them, and they banked in two or three of those. I had our kids sag off, and to give them credit, they knocked a couple of them down.”

Ostenson was dialed in again on offense as she led her team with 23 points. McFarland also hit double digits with 11 points,

Tidyman had 9, Conzelman 7, Checketts had 3 again and Harrington added 2 points.

“Coming out with a win against Torrington was good,” Ostenson said. “Playing some closer games this week was great for all of us in figuring out how to manage games. We’re going to tune up the defense and put some shots up, and put together a game plan for Douglas and Buffalo this week.”

This week, the Dogies and

Lady Dogies are planning to host a meet and greet for the Little Dogies to come and get autographs and hang out with the players a half an hour before the JV games on Saturday, and the double-header on Saturday is also the annual Totes of Hope auction.

This week is also the last week of the regular season. According to Ostenson, his team will have to beat both Douglas and Buffalo to have a chance at

getting the No. 1 seed from the Northeast.

“It’s do-able, but both teams are playing well right now, so we will need to do the same and take it one game at a time,” Ostenson said.

Games on Thursday are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m., weather permitting and on Saturday, action will tip off at 1 p.m. The meet and greet with the players will begin at around 12:30 p.m.



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Shelby Tidyman fights to get around the smothering half court defense of the Lady Bearcats in Douglas Thursday. The Lady Dogies fell to the No. 1-ranked team, 41-80.

### NHS Ladies’ Basketball

<b>Newcastle v. Belle Fourche</b> 2/14/23: 42-45 Jaylen Ostenson: 15 points, 11 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals Shelby Tidyman: 10 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist Hunter McFarland: 4 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals MacKenzie Conzelman: 3 points, 2 rebounds Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 1 rebound Jayde Harrington: 4 points, 7 rebounds, 1 steal Sydney Pederson: 3 points, 2 rebounds	<b>Newcastle @ Douglas</b> 2/16/23: 41-80 Jaylen Ostenson: 10 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block Shelby Tidyman: 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists Hunter McFarland: 1 rebound, 2 assists MacKenzie Conzelman: 11 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 2 rebounds Jayde Harrington: 7 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist Sydney Pederson: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist Julie Morris: 1 rebound	<b>Newcastle @ Torrington</b> 2/18/23: 55-45 Jaylen Ostenson: 23 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal Shelby Tidyman: 9 points, 3 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 steals Hunter McFarland: 11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal MacKenzie Conzelman: 7 points, 3 rebounds Oakley Checketts: 3 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist Jayde Harrington: 2 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block
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## Karpe from Page 9.....

every player, and watching film to see what the players do and the team does, in order to discover ways to defeat you.

And, when you enjoy a number one or two ranking, there is a lot of added pressure to prove yourself to everyone, including the naysayers.

That’s a lot to put on high school-age athletes who will feel the sting of not living up to expectations so much more vividly than do those of us with some years under our belts.

Now, I’m not suggesting that any team should sandbag, or give anything less than their best as they compete throughout the season, however, staying just out of the rankings can do a couple of positive things.

First, as previously stated, it takes the spotlight off you, and second, it can actually light a fire in an athlete or a team to prove the rest of the state wrong for not giving you the credit you deserve.

The wrestling team took the strategy of flying under the radar where they could throughout the season. Some of the top wrestlers on the Newcastle/Upton team are freshmen and sophomores, so too much attention can be a negative thing for the youngsters.

They can get too focused on the hype and either become overly anxious — which may impair their performance — or they can get too complacent that their reputation will carry them to success.

The same can be said of any team.

The Lady Dogies really have enjoyed the best of both worlds this season. They’ve been ranked among the top five every week but one (when they fell to sixth), however, the highest ranking they have received was when they were third in the first week or two in December.

Since then, they have fluctuated between fourth and fifth, and, as such, they are being given the respect they have earned. But, they may also have a chip on their shoulder, which may push them to work harder to prove they deserve to be ranked higher.

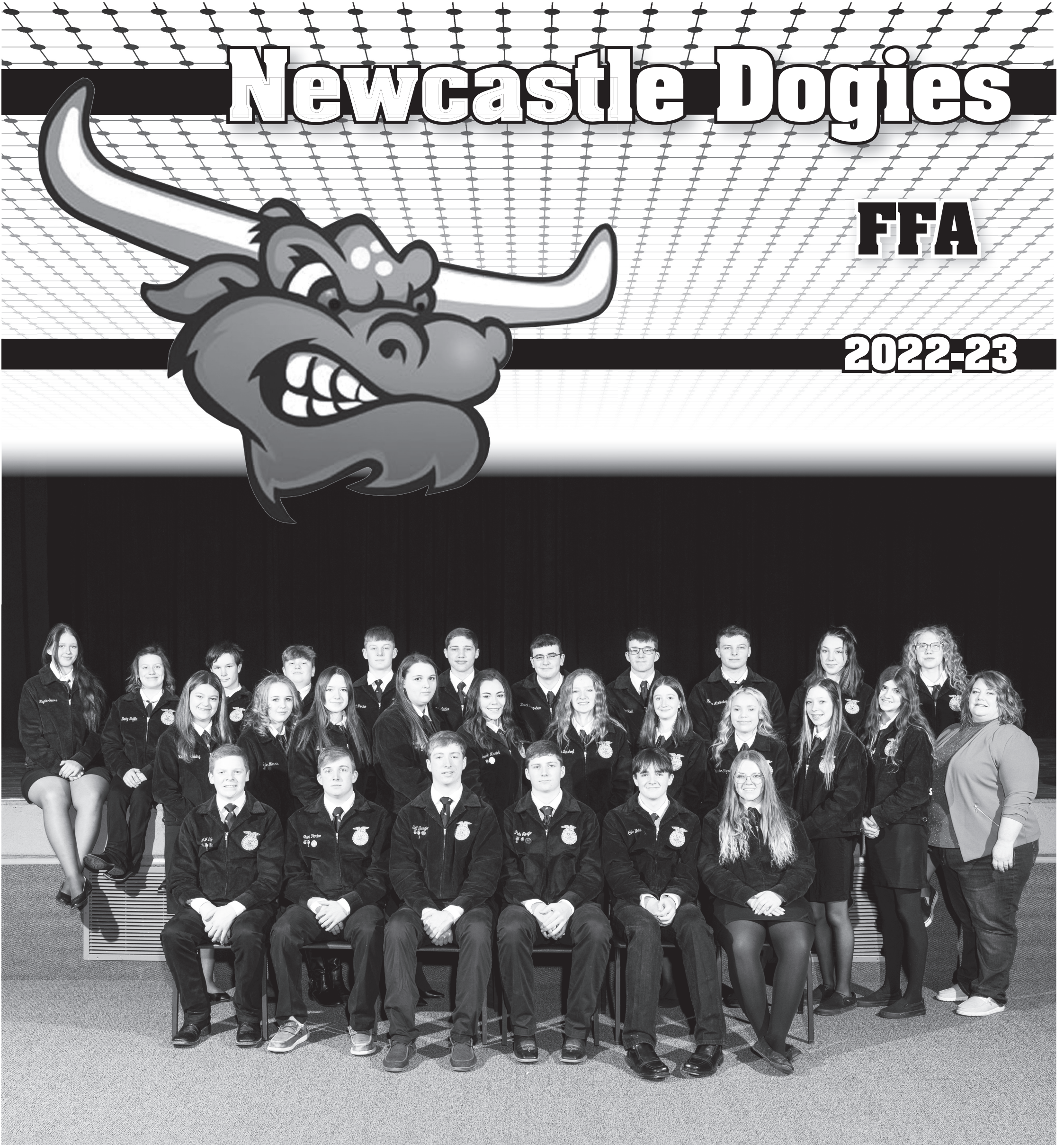
Obviously, we will see in a few short weeks whether or not the opinions of the state’s coaches and media are accurate.

As for me, I’d sure like to see our wrestlers and our Lady Dogies prove that they have been underrated and overlooked in favor of the Douglasses of Wyoming.

# Newcastle Dogies

## FFA

## 2022-23



Front Row (L-R) JJ Lipp President, Quint Perino Treasurer, Tell Tavegie Reporter, Pate Tavegie Vice President, Cole Wehri Secretary, Taylor Crinklaw Sentinel. Middle Row (L-R) Reagan Redding, Julie Morris, Brynne Kilby, Alyssa Morris, Brook Martell, Brooklyn Benshoof, Kaitlyn Blumenthal, Preslee Fitzwater, Canyon Farnsworth, Callie Christensen, Jill Pischke Advisor. Back Row (L-R) Laynie Sears, Bailey Griffin, Ben Carter, Tyler Stith, Cort Perino, Aidan Butler, Brock Bergstrom, Jace Rich, Holden McConkey, Avery Doyle, Jayde Harrington

*Photo by Emily Hartinger/Skull Creek Photography*

**#GoDogies**

**#HornsUp**

**#FFA**

**#JoinTheRide**

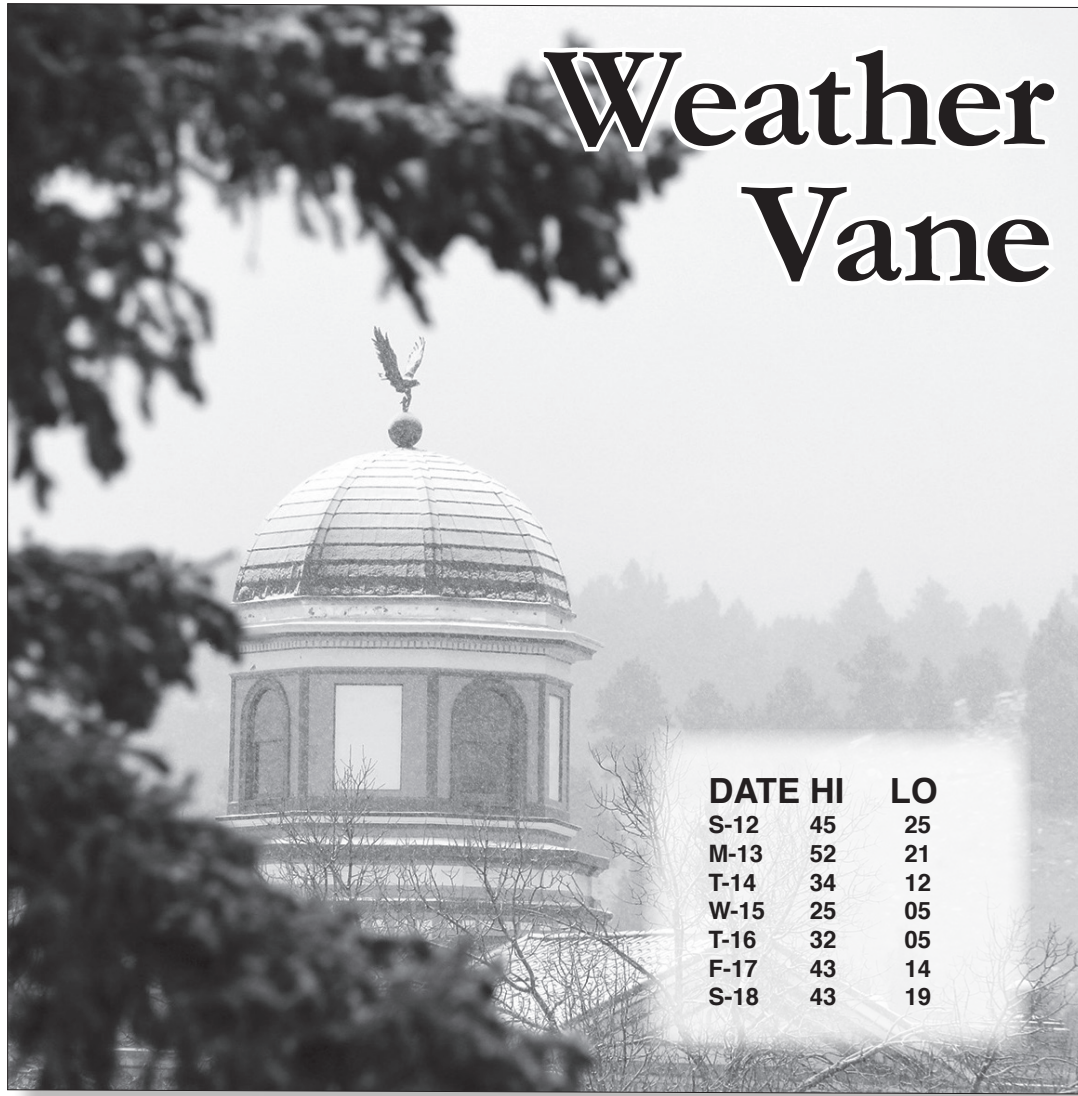
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S-12	45	25	
M-13	52	21	
T-14	34	12	
W-15	25	05	
T-16	32	05	
F-17	43	14	
S-18	43	19	

### Legal Notice

#### NOTICE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Newcastle, Wyoming has issued a certificate of substantial completion to Whetsell Carpentry LLC, 26 Breakneck Rd. Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, for work performed for the Newcastle Police Department Remodel at 30 N. Summit Ave., Newcastle WY 82701. The City has

accepted the work as completed according to the contract and associated documents and therefore the contractor is entitled to payment of the full amount due under the contract, which will occur on April 14, 2023.

The City of Newcastle, Wyoming  
By: Pam Gualtieri, Mayor

(Publish February 23 and March 2, 2023)

### Legal Notice

#### WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHEYENNE, WYOMING NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AND FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR HIGHWAY WORK

Notice is hereby given that the State Transportation Commission of Wyoming has accepted as completed according to plans, specifications and rules governing the same work performed under that certain contract between the State of Wyoming, acting through said Commission, and Streamline Markings, Inc., The Contractor, on Highway Project Number B201034 & B201A01 in Albany, Carbon, Campbell, Crook,

Johnson, Sheridan, Weston and Laramie Counties, consisting of epoxy striping, and the Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore; that the Director of the Department of Transportation will cause said Contractor to be paid the full amount due him under said contract on March 22, 2023.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is February 9, 2023.

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

Pam Fredrick  
Senior Budget Analyst  
Budget Program

(Publish February 9, 16 and 23, 2023)

### Meeting Notice

#### WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING NOTICE

Weston County Board of Trustees will have a board retreat on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 4:00 pm the Pizza Barn.

(Publish February 23, 2023)

### Public Notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Weston County Museum District has been in contact with the Upton History and Heritage Preservation Board, with talks of relocation of the Red Onion Museum in Upton. If the public has any questions, they are encouraged to contact the Weston County Museum Board. 307-746-4188.

(Publish February 23, 2023)

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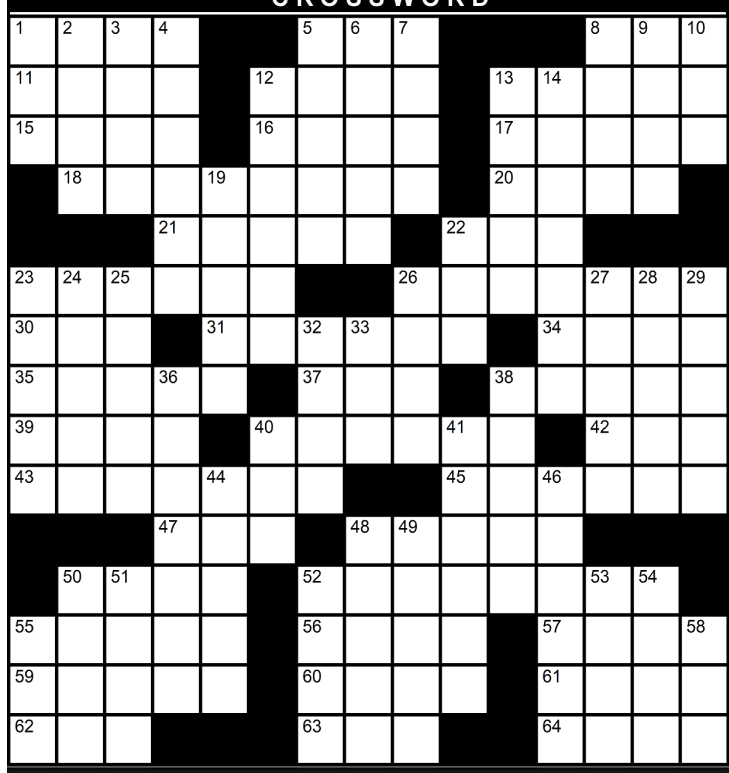
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**Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.**

Last week's answers

S	P	A	S	P	A	S	A	B	E	T				
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5	4	8	6	7	2	3	9	1
6	9	3	5	1	4	7	2	8
7	2	1	8	3	9	5	6	4

- #### BOARD GAMES
- ACROSS**
- G in mg
  - Medicinal amt.
  - Say no
  - Popular Scotch mixer
  - Country dance formation
  - List of candidates
  - Certain battery component
  - Exclamation of sorrow
  - "The Game of Unspeakable Fun"
  - "Fascinating two-handed strategy game"
  - Dutch cheese
  - Not quite right
  - "I thee \_\_\_\_"
  - Crème de \_\_\_\_
  - Where Japan is
  - Part of circumference
  - Threatened Asian or African odd-toed ungulate
  - Ready for picking
  - Reasons to sue
  - Romanian money
  - English county
  - Popular Arabic name
  - Lemon, in Paris
  - Latissimus dorsi, for short
  - Angola's southern neighbor
  - Dairy farm glands
  - Relax, or \_\_\_\_ out

- Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
  - USPS delivery
  - "Cards against what?"
  - Medicinal plant with purple berries
  - Bug-eyed
  - Tiny bottle
  - a.k.a. jumping bone
  - Plucked string instrument
  - Makes a mistake
  - "\_\_\_\_ Day," desirable square in The Game of Life
  - Bard's before
  - Rip apart
- DOWN**
- Govt. property org.
  - Fabled fliers
  - Mine passage
  - India's Chennai, pre-1996
  - Flooring choice, pl.
  - Hose woes
  - 100 centavos in Mexico
  - Rum cake
  - Particle in A-bomb
  - What's-old-is-new-again prefix
  - Somewhat late
  - Be at the helm
  - "Not chutes
  - #39 Across, pl.
  - Is no longer

- "Trade, build, settle this island"
  - Oenophile's concern
  - Curtain fabric
  - "Connect how many?"
  - Theater passage
  - Asparagus unit
  - Written works
  - Hipbones
  - Butterfly catcher
  - "Like pursuit of no vital importance"
  - "\_\_\_\_ a high note"
  - A Camel, for short
  - Result of equipment failure
  - The beauty of the ball?
  - Morgan Freeman in "Driving Miss Daisy," e.g.
  - Sign of bad news
  - Inflict a blow
  - Supernatural life force
  - Drunkard, slangily
  - Exhibiting good health
  - Swing seat, sometimes
  - Knitter's supply
  - Tree fluid
  - Dropped drug, acr.
- FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER**

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Babydoll found a playground loophole!

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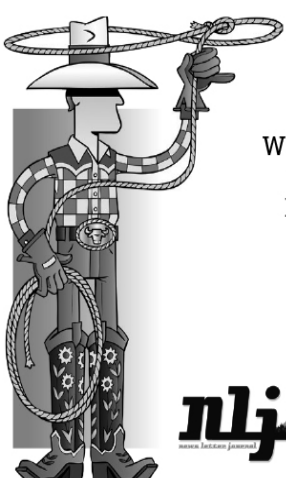
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Look for “The Cowboy State Tidbit”, a piece of Wyoming history, daily on the News Letter Journal FaceBook page.



## Cowboy State Look-In

*Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange*



### Yellowstone recruiting youth

JACKSON (WNE) — Yellowstone National Park seeks applicants for the 2023 Youth Conservation Corps, a residential work-based education program for ages 15 to 18.

Two one-month YCC sessions will be offered: June 11-July 12 and July 16-Aug. 15.

Forty-four teens will be randomly selected from across the country.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens who will be 15 by June 11 but not over 18 by Aug. 15.

No wilderness experience is

necessary, but enjoying camping is a plus, since it will be required four nights a week during work assignments.

Participants will be required to live in the park, and a minimal fee will be charged for room and board. Wages will be \$9.50 an hour.

“YCC is designed to develop an appreciation for the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage through unique educational, recreational and work experiences,” a press release said. “Corps members work together

with National Park Service staff to complete conservation projects such as trail rehabilitation, campground restoration, and a wide variety of resource management, visitor support services and maintenance projects.”

Questions can be emailed to [YELL\\_YCC\\_Office@nps.gov](mailto:YELL_YCC_Office@nps.gov).

To apply, go to [TinyURL.com/ya96c98r](http://TinyURL.com/ya96c98r). Completed application materials must be post-marked by March 1.

*This story was published on Feb. 16, 2023.*

### GCS D votes for a 4-day week

TORRINGTON (WNE) —The Goshen County School District board of trustees voted 5 to 4 Tuesday in favor of adopting a new four-day school year to begin in the 2023-2024 school year.

The implementation of the schedule is contingent, however, upon approval by the state. That decision from the state will not be known until closer to the end of the current school year.

In the past year, board members have heard presentations from administrators and conducted two public hearings at which students, parents and guardians, school staff members, teachers and community members spoke.

Three GCS D food service workers spoke Tuesday night and asked board members to consider the economic impact a four-day calendar would have on the lowest paid wage earners in the district.

The food service workers explained that the district hasn't provided how classified employees — such as custodians, janitors, bus drivers, food

service workers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, health workers or other supporting staff at the schools — can recoup the hours they will lose by not working on Fridays.

Belinda Alexander, a cook at Trail Elementary, said some students get their meals free Monday through Friday. She said she worries for the students who cannot afford an extra day of food during an economic turndown.

Michelle Tatter, who spoke at the last public hearing earlier this month and again at Tuesday's meeting, said the schedule change would negatively impact the community — especially single parents, because they would have to arrange for childcare.

A third-party, blind survey conducted by the district showed more than 60% of parents and students and roughly 73% of school district personnel support the four-day school calendar.

*This story was published on Feb. 17, 2023.*

### CWD concerns rise in Sundance

SUNDANCE (WNE) — Sundance is implementing a year-round deer cull in response to evidence that chronic wasting disease (CWD) may be much more prevalent than previously thought in the vicinity of the city.

Game Warden Nate Holst attended last week's meeting of the city council to present a proposal from Wyoming Game & Fish.

Most years, explained Holst, the city applies for a license to cull a certain number of deer. This year, the quota was 50 deer, which was subsequently filled. However, seven of those 50 deer tested positive for CWD.

This could be a reason

for concern, Holst told the council.

The Black Hills region used to sit at around a 2-3% rate of CWD. (In other words, it was estimated that two out of every hundred deer was infected). At this time, the Black Hills region sits at 7%.

Seven of 50 deer is, of course, double this percentage — it puts Sundance at a 14% prevalence rate.

Holst said he used to be the game warden for Wheatland, where CWD was first detected in Wyoming. The prevalence rate in Wheatland, he said, was 25%.

Sundance's statistic is not scary, Holst said, but “it's something to definitely note and pay attention to.”

On that basis, he said, Wyoming Game & Fish is willing to issue a year-round license that allows for up to 100 deer. Making it good at all times would allow Game & Fish and the city to “have it in our back pocket” in case the need to cull arises.

Chronic Wasting Disease CWD, sometimes called “zombie deer disease” affects deer, elk and moose and is caused by abnormally folded proteins called “prions.” These cause damage to normal prion proteins in tissues throughout the animal's body, but most often in the brain and spinal cord. CWD is always fatal.

*This story was published on Feb. 16, 2023.*

### Gillette hopes to modernize brand

GILLETTE (WNE) — In the next few years, the Gillette City Council hopes to update the city's brand and logo.

The city council has no desire to move away from the Energy Capital of the Nation moniker.

“Everybody in this room, we're proud of the energy we supply,” said Councilman Tim Carsrud at a recent city council retreat. “We built (this community) on energy, and I for one, I don't ever want to tap out.”

“The people that built Gillette still live here,” said Councilman Jim West. “If we offend those people with what we're doing, we're just shooting ourselves in the foot.”

Mayor Shay Lundvall said he's “very much in favor” of rebranding, and that now is a good time to modernize and update things.

“It's a prime opportunity to recalibrate,” Lundvall said. “We're going to incorporate our heritage and everything that has made Gillette what it is, but also provide some current direction, and

make it a little bit more modern.”

Carsrud said the energy industry will be here for a while, and it makes no sense to leave it behind.

“We are always just one federal administration away from being the Energy Capital of the Nation, we're always one administration away from bankruptcy,” Carsrud said.

“It would be good to always make sure we have our heritage and what made Gillette incorporated in our logo,” said Councilwoman Heidi Gross.

“We can update our logo. It's getting kind of old,” West said.

“It definitely says who we are,” said Councilwoman Trish Simonson.

Rebranding is costly, and the project would be done in phases.

“Hopefully by year two or year three, it's well underway, if not close to being done,” Lundvall said. “I don't want to drag this on.”

*This story was published on Feb. 18, 2023.*

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##### Hope Dealers

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##### Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

Position	Status
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Registration/Admitting Clerk	FT
CNA, In-Home Services	PT
RN - Long-term Care	FT/PT/PRN
CNA - LTC (\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus)	FT&PT
Acute Care CNA	FT
Acute Care RN	PT/PRN
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Environmental Services Aide	FT, PT, PRN

Employment Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the hospital front desk.

Fax completed applications/resume packets to 307-746-3726, or email [CTurner@wchs-wy.org](mailto:CTurner@wchs-wy.org).

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### Payroll Clerk Position

Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for a full-time payroll clerk. Applications are available on the school website at [wcsd1.org](http://wcsd1.org) or at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY. WCSD 1 is an E.O.E.



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### Weston County Job Opening

The Weston County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for **MAINTENANCE MANAGER**

Performs work necessary to maintain all county facilities. Inspects and monitors building systems to determine cost-effective repairs and/or replacements. Will repair various items, systems, and components to ensure that all items are available and in safe working condition. Must evaluate preventative maintenance schedules to include fire protection, alarm systems, and other systems. Maintain outside grounds year round. Monitors work performed by independent contractors. Must respond to emergency situations and resolve any safety concerns. Occasional light cleaning. A detailed job description is available at [westongov.com](http://westongov.com) or the Weston County Clerk's Office. Starting pay between \$3,200-\$3,680 DOE with full county benefits.

Please submit a cover letter and resumé to the Clerk's Office at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY 82701. Position will be open until filled. For questions, please call (307) 746-4744



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# Dogie hoopsters suffer first quarter blues

**Sonja Karp**  
NLJ Sports Editor

In this season of rebuilding, Head Coach Allen Von Eye's squad has shown marked improvement from their first game, however, as last week's contests proved, they are still struggling to come out strong right out of the gate.

It was a challenging three-game week for the Dogies as they dropped their first contest against Belle Fourche at home on Tuesday 34-62, then lost 30-72 on the road to the No. 1-ranked Douglas Bearcats on Thursday, and finally fell to the Trailblazers 44-78 in Torrington on Saturday.

"We got off to a slow start in each game, which has been our trend in the last few contests we've played," admitted Von Eye. "I was really happy with our third quarter stats in each, though, and really, with our

stats for the final three quarters. But when we dig ourselves a big hole in the first few minutes of the game, it makes it really tough to climb out of."

Belle Fourche came into the game on Tuesday with a deceptive record of 6-11. Apparently, like the Lady Broncs, the boys' team has taken on some pretty talented opponents and, according to Von Eye, have lost some very close ball games during the season.

"We knew they would be solid," Von Eye said. "They are athletic and well-coached, so we knew what we were in for."

A slow start for the Dogies showed as the first quarter came to a close with Newcastle down 3-19 against the Broncs. From there, Von Eye's crew settled in a bit but still went into the locker room with a 40-13 deficit at the half.

Newcastle scored another 10 points to Belle's 16 in the third quarter, then out-scored the Broncs 11-6 in the fourth — but it was too little too late, so they dropped the contest.

"That first quarter really got us between not being able to finish at the rack and with the turnovers we had early," Von Eye said. "We gave them opportunities to score when we turned the ball over early, and they took advantage of that, but we also did some good things as well."

Zander White led his team with 12 points, Wyatt Cole and Teddy Troftgruben had 8 points apiece, Quint Perino added 4 points while Will Beastrum chipped in 2 points.

After the loss on Tuesday, the Dogies had one practice before taking on the No. 1-seeded Douglas Bearcats on their floor on Thursday.

"They are the fastest team we've seen all year," Von Eye said. "They push it up the floor and come at you hard. We were hesitant and scared on defense, and we gave up way too many buckets early on."

Again, the Dogies struggled

in the first quarter of play, fronting the Bearcats 21 points while being unable to get any points of their own. The Bearcats out-scored the Dogies in the second and third quarters, but Newcastle matched them in points in the fourth where they scored 13 apiece.

"The guys' effort is not something I've ever questioned, but we did see a little jogging on Thursday," Von Eye admitted. "So I challenged them to show that that is not who we are. Then, despite being down pretty far, in the last three quarters you saw us battle and try to get after things."

The Dogies shot 40% for the game and had 45% efficiency in their shooting, so it was one of the team's better offensive games. However, they gave the Bearcats 23 extra shots in turnovers, so it made it tough to be in a game against a team like Douglas.

Cole led his team with 12 points, Perino was close behind with 11, Pate Tavegie had 3 points, while Teddy Troftgruben and Beastrum each added 2 points to round out the scoring.

In their final game on Saturday, once again a slow start to the game landed the Dogies in a 20-point deficit by the time the first quarter came to a close.

"Torrington is a team who has been improving throughout the year. They are an up and coming team with some young kids who are playing well and will only get better," Von Eye prefaced. "But, everything we wanted and talked about doing all week, we didn't do at the beginning for the first five minutes or so."

Despite battling the 'Blazers for the final three quarters, the Dogies were unable to dig themselves out of the hole, so dropped their third contest of the week.

"We finally settled in and started moving the ball," Von Eye said. "We got to the paint a lot and had some good looks,



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Newcastle High School freshman Teddy Troftgruben had a great game against the Trailblazers in Torrington Saturday. He repeatedly made defensive and offensive plays and was a firecracker for the Dogies.

but we missed quite a few of those in the first half, which didn't help."

Perino led his team with 12 points, White and Beastrum each had 8, Cole and Teddy Troftgruben scored 6 points apiece, while Tavegie and Thatcher Troftgruben chipped

in 2 points each.

This week, the Dogies will face off against the two best teams in the East Conference at home as they host Douglas on Thursday and Buffalo on Saturday.

"We'll play Douglas three times in three weeks, so that

is good for us heading into regionals," Von Eye said. "We'll get an intimate knowledge of them and put ourselves in the best position possible for that first round of regionals."

Games begin at 4 p.m. on Thursday and 1 p.m. on Saturday.

## NHS Men's Basketball

Newcastle v. Belle Fourche 2/14/23: 34-62

Quint Perino: 4 points, 6 rebounds  
Zander White: 12 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist  
Wyatt Cole: 8 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 charge taken  
JJ Lipp: 4 rebounds, 3 assists  
Will Beastrum: 2 points, 7 rebounds  
Thatcher Troftgruben: 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 charge taken  
Teddy Troftgruben: 8 points, 5 rebounds  
Connor Stohlhammer: 1 rebound, 1 steal

Newcastle @ Douglas 2/16/23: 30-72

Quint Perino: 11 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist  
Zander White: 4 rebounds, 4 assists  
Wyatt Cole: 12 points  
JJ Lipp: 4 rebounds  
Will Beastrum: 2 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal  
Thatcher Troftgruben: 4 rebounds, 1 charge taken  
Teddy Troftgruben: 2 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists  
Pate Tavegie: 3 points

Newcastle @ Torrington 2/18/23: 44-78

Quint Perino: 12 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal  
Zander White: 8 points, 2 rebounds, 6 assists  
Wyatt Cole: 6 points, 1 rebound, 1 block  
JJ Lipp: 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 charge taken  
Will Beastrum: 8 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 blocks  
Thatcher Troftgruben: 2 points, 1 assist, 1 charge taken  
Teddy Troftgruben: 6 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals  
Pate Tavegie: 2 points  
Marshall Merchen: 1 rebound, 1 steal

## Wrestlers

from Page 9

who beat him last week in the duals. However, on Friday, he pinned him in 1:50.

"He tore through his dudes, but the big match-up was in the finals against Blaine Johnson from Douglas, who is tough," McCoy began. "He's been on Jackson's hit list for a year and he ended up pinning him in the second period in 3:05. It was a good, overwhelming win for Jackson."

The only surprise was Trey Schneider at 126 pounds who, though he finished in the top eight so he qualified for state, he did not end up in the top four.

"The rib injury Trey suffered earlier was giving him a hard time," McCoy said. "However, the bright side of that was that Scott Larson, our other 126-pounder, had a fantastic tournament, finishing second. I wish we had two at every weight, so that when one is down, the other can step in."

Larson, who entered the tournament seeded fifth, was pitted against the No. 2-seeded wrestler from Torrington in the quarter-final round. Despite the seeding, Larson pinned him in 1:37. He then won in the semis by fall in 1:56, then was defeated by the returning state champion from Rawlins

in the title match.

"Scott had an outstanding tournament, and he was on a mission," said McCoy. "In the championship, Scott took his guy down right away and had him on his back pretty early. However, toward the end of the first period, Scott got caught in a cradle and got pinned. He went for broke like I wanted him to, and he ended up getting second."

Unfortunately, Larson and Schneider will meet up in the very first round at state, so that will be a tough one for the team.

"Trey goes in unseeded, so it was the luck of the draw, but definitely not where we want them. Both will come out determined to win, and I won't say a word when this situation comes out. I let the two of them settle it on the mat," McCoy said.

Like Schneider, Casey Matthews (132) and Thomas Prell (138) didn't earn a place at the regional tournament as they only wrestle out the top four matches. However, each finished in the top eight so will go into the state tournament unseeded.

"Trey drew Scott, Casey drew the No. 1 seed from Pinedale to start, and Thomas drew the Buffalo kid who

**NHS/UHS Wrestling**  
Newcastle/Upton @ 3A East Regional Tournament in Douglas 2/17/23  
Varsity Team Results:  
1. Douglas 191  
2. Worland 182.5  
3. Rawlins 173  
4. Newcastle/Upton 134  
5. Torrington 91.5  
6. Buffalo 89  
7. Burns/Pine Bluffs 88  
8. Wheatland 76

Individual Varsity Results:  
106: Charlie Bowles DNP 0-2  
106: Haven Vrana 1st Place 3-0  
113: Landon Norman 3rd Place 3-1  
113: Caden Vrana DNP 0-2  
120: Jackson East 1st Place 3-0  
126: Scott Larson 2nd Place 3-1  
126: Trey Schneider 5th Place 3-2  
132: Casey Matthews DNP 3-2  
138: Thomas Prell DNP 2-2  
170: Jacob Prell 1st Place 3-0  
285: Heath Henkle 3rd Place 2-1

beat him twice at regionals," McCoy chuckled. "None of those are great draws for us, but we'll just go out and wrestle one match at a time and see how it goes."

Jacob Prell was also regional champ at 170. Though he wrestled 182 throughout the season, in a strategic move, he dropped to 170 for regionals, and the move paid off for the senior. "We devised the plan after the quad

in Douglas where he had a chance to wrestle a couple of the 182-pounders. I had overheard a couple of the kids talking about their plans for regionals, so we talked to Jacob about dropping to 170," McCoy explained. "It worked out well for him, and he feels good at that weight. He's a little lighter and a little quicker, and he pinned his way through the quarter-finals and semi-finals."

He then faced Hazen Camino from Buffalo for the championship, and the two wrestlers have a lot of history. Camino beat Prell at state last year in overtime, however, he turned the tables and beat Camino in overtime at regionals this year.

"I was so proud of Jacob," McCoy said. "He had an outstanding regionals and his championship match was a great one for him."

Heath Henkle at 285 didn't have many wrestlers in his bracket. He got pinned in the quarter-finals by the Douglas heavyweight who is number one, but then he came back to beat a Burns opponent by decision in the consolation semis, and won the third place match by pinning Rawlins in 2:06.

"That was great for Heath, because

he has worked so hard but not had a lot of success throughout the season," McCoy said. "But he had a couple of quality wins on Friday that got him a seed at state, and he has a pretty favorable draw there."

In addition to the regular state tournament, which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday this week in Casper, there will also be the very first girls' state tournament this year, taking place on Thursday and Friday.

Kyah Miller is going in seeded second at 120 and Courtney Matthews is unseeded so will draw in at 115 pounds.

"It's Kyah's tournament to win," determined McCoy. "The number one girl from Jackson is undefeated, but she is a freshman. I don't think Kyah will have any problems getting to the finals, and I feel like her experience will pay off. Hopefully we come home with three or four or five state champions and it will be a pretty good year for us."

Due to the forecast of a severe winter storm coming through this week, the team left for Casper on Tuesday in order to ensure that they were able to make the trip.

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