

News Letter Journal

Weston County

February 18, 2016

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 130

Week 7

Orange 4 Love



Betoney Dixon, Hailee Cheshier, Nicole Earnest, Brenna Watkins along with other Newcastle High School students, listen during an assembly hosted by representatives of FOCUS at Crouch Auditorium. FOCUS distributed t-shirts at the event meant to bring attention to February's status as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

Officials say Newcastle is SAFE

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

Law enforcement officials in both Weston County and Newcastle agree that this is a relatively safe place to live, but the types of crimes that are most likely to be encountered by people differs considerably depending on whether you live inside Newcastle or own a home or business out in the county.

The different perspectives on local crime offered to the News Letter Journal by Newcastle Police Chief Jim Owens and Weston County Sheriff Bryan Colvard's report bolstered the claim made in a report recently published by consumeraffairs.com that announced Newcastle as the fourth safest city in Wyoming.

"I think, overall, we are actually extremely safe," professed Owens.

According to Natalie Donohue with Consumer Affairs, the study was published to show homeowners and prospective movers the burglary rates. She noted that the numbers used in the study were based on 2014 statistics and that the cities covered were taken directly from the FBI's reports on burglary for cities across the United States.

The report states that burglary rates are down 25 percent in Newcastle and Donohue clarified that this is based off

— See **Safe**, Page 6

Best Little Town on Earth sends an Angel to Heaven

Bob Bonnar
NLJ Reporter

A massive search for a missing child brought countless residents of Weston County together over the Valentine's Day weekend, and they have remained united in support for her family and each other after the child tragically died at the local hospital a few hours after being found.

People from all walks of life ventured out in near blizzard conditions late Saturday afternoon to find two-year old Miira Williams when word began to spread that she had wandered away from her home southeast of Upton and become lost, and people from all corners of Weston County—and beyond—tracked the saga for hours on social media as searchers trudged through the snow and wind to find her.

Hopes soared that evening when it was reported that Miira had been found, but quickly turned back to fear and trepidation when the little girl's mother, Maci Williams, reported that her daughter's long exposure to the elements had taken a devastating toll and doctors at

Weston County Health Services were "fighting to save her life!"

The community's worst fears were realized a little more than an hour after midnight when Maci Williams broke the news of her daughter's death to those who had been reaching out to the family through expressions of faith and hope on Facebook.

"Our precious baby girl, Mirralynne, went to dance with Jesus at 12:46 a.m. The doctors and nurses tried so so so hard to save her. It was just too late. Thank you for all of your prayers," Maci posted.

That report marked an end to an ordeal that began sometime around 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon when Miira's absence was discovered, and friends and family launched a frantic search that would continue for nearly six hours.

"We got the call at 4:56 p.m., and at that time she had been missing for approximately an hour," Weston County Sheriff Bryan Colvard told the News Letter Journal.

He reported that Miira had gone missing from her family's residence

at 180 Nester Road, just southeast of Upton, and that deputies arrived at the scene to find a search was already well underway.

"Weston County Sheriff's Search and Rescue was notified on the way up there, and so was Upton Ambulance and Fire. Once deputies arrived, they found that several people had already been searching and were searching," Colvard indicated.

He said weather conditions were deteriorating rapidly at the time, with wet snow falling amidst high winds in near freezing temperatures. Daylight was fading quickly as well, and as a result the officials who arrived on scene made an initial search plan with the individuals who had already assembled to help.

"The deputies began a hasty controlled search," Colvard reported, indicating that the immediate areas north, south, east and west of the home were scoured.

The Sheriff's press release noted that he arrived a short time later, along with Search and Rescue, and a more thorough search effort was launched.

"We laid out grids and went shoulder to shoulder and fanned out," Colvard said.

He explained that emergency officials combined with approximately 80 neighbors and other volunteers to form six teams that spread out to search in all directions.

"We divided the emergency responders with all of the groups, so every group had emergency responders with the group," Colvard stated. He estimated that Search and Rescue arrived at the scene at approximately 6 p.m., and marveled at how quickly the coordinated search effort came together.

"Even though it was difficult to keep organized, it organized pretty quickly," the Sheriff reasoned.

In addition to the Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue and the Upton Police Department, Colvard reported that nearly a dozen other agencies were involved in the effort over the course of the evening, including the Newcastle Police Department, Upton Fire Department and EMS, Osage Fire Department

— See **Angel**, Page 7

Live or die

Reps decide which bills to debate in short session

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

The initial week of the 2016 Legislative Budget Session concluded last Friday, and Rep. Hans Hunt (House District 02) and Rep. Tyler Lindholm (House District 01) both provided the NLJ with written updates as to what transpired over its five-day course.

The House began on Monday, Feb. 8, with more than 170 bills to consider, and Hunt reported that following the customary State of the State and State of the Judiciary addresses, a number of committee bills were heard. Among those which passed were the annual water omnibus bill, which seeks to appropriate funds for state water development projects; several bills concerning financial regulation from the Corporations Committee; and HB 19, which is the latest version of the ongoing state student assessment revisions.

Among bills which failed introduction, Hunt noted, were a bill that would have created an anonymous tip hotline for school safety, which Hunt had expressed reservations about; a

— See **Bills**, Page 3

Commissioners take step toward road identification

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

Confusion over ownership and responsibility for various roads throughout Weston County has plagued county officials for a number of years, and earlier this month a decision was made that may mark the beginning of a process to provide some clarification on those issues moving forward.

The Weston County Commissioners passed a motion at their Feb. 2 meeting to allow a small working group made up of county officials to proceed with putting two townships through

— See **Roads**, Page 3

Upton holds off on city hall decision

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

Upton town officials know that something has to be done to address a number of issues they are confronting in regards to city government facilities, but after considering their options over the course of the past few months they have elected to hold off a bit longer on making a decision because of uncertainty surrounding future revenue and how it will impact the town's budget.

At their Feb. 9 meeting the Upton Town Council opted to delay on making a decision on the proposed cost-consolidating move of the police department and city hall to the Upton Community Center. Mayor Dustin Upton told the council that he feels a more informed decision on any potential

move or renovation will be able to be made later this year after the town's budget has been determined.

At a Jan. 12 workshop held on the matter, those council members then in attendance said that they were leaning toward renovating the existing city hall building in order to accommodate both the town government and police department, rather than making the move to the community center. However, on Feb. 9 there seemed to be no general consensus among the council on which option the town should pursue.

Council members gave a figure of \$100,000 as the latest rough estimate for the potential renovation of city hall. As for the community center move, City Superintendent Mark Lindstrom noted it would cost \$30,000 just to get the police

department and town government moved in, but that there would be significant additional costs over time.

Lindstrom noted that space would remain limited at the existing city hall building, even after renovation, and renovations would have to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, which would add to costs.

A decision will have to be made at some point, because the city hall building cannot be left as is, Lindstrom further stated.

Upton resident Vicki Schiller asked whether grant money might be available to help remodel the community center, though Lindstrom said that remodel money for non-historical buildings is currently difficult to

— See **Upton**, Page 7

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Partly Cloudy/Windy Hi 62, Lo 33	Friday Sunny/Windy Hi 54, Lo 33	Saturday Mostly Sunny Hi 53, Lo 29	Sunday Sunny Hi 46, Lo 26	Monday Partly Cloudy Hi 50, Lo 29	Tuesday Mostly Sunny Hi 50, Lo 30	Wednesday Mostly Sunny Hi 52, Lo 32	INSIDE • Hunter's Safety, Page 6 • Best Little Tidbits, Page 7 • Swim Champion, Page 9 • Runners Reward, Page 16	

Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our view

The Weston County Way

We can imagine nothing sadder than the loss of a child as young as Miira Williams, and know that the Upton community and all of Weston County are still reeling from the terrible events that unfolded on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Our hearts go out to Miira's family, but also to those hearty volunteers who braved a blustery February evening to search hours for the little girl until she was found— only to learn a short while later that the happy ending they worked so hard to produce had been snatched away when they heard the news of her passing.

But in the midst of last weekend's tragedy, a strange and wonderful scenario began to play itself out, and we can't help but marvel yet again at the strength, courage and compassion of the people who call Weston County home.

The outpouring of love for Miira's family came as no surprise to any of us, as we have seen the ability of our small communities to rally in support of our friends and neighbors in times of trouble on countless occasions over the years. We are never better than when our fellow residents are confronted by life's cruel realities or the twisted hand of fate, and this publication has reported time and again on instances when the community has come together to help an individual or family through a crisis.

That was certainly the case in this instance as well, and the knowledge that the people of Upton would wrap the Williams family in their warm embrace and help them through this trial provided some solace for those of us who maintained a vigil on social media throughout the search for Miira and the subsequent battle she faced at the hospital that night.

At the same time, the rollercoaster of emotions that many of us experienced as the heartbreaking events played themselves out made the story of Miira's death a hard one to tell, and we hesitated to print an account of the cold, hard facts of that night because— on the surface at least— it seemed impossible to produce anything but additional pain and hopelessness for those who are already struggling so mightily with the unfathomable death of one so young.

Then we saw the message Maci Williams, Miira's mother, delivered to her community and all of those who had extended condolences and prayers to she and her family through their time of trial.

She expressed gratitude to "the town of Upton, and the entire world" for the support they had received throughout the ordeal, but what we found truly remarkable was the expression of faith and understanding that was included in a grieving mother's message at a time when so many of us are undoubtedly struggling to maintain any faith or understanding ourselves. Her invitation to the rest of us to find peace in the wake of Miira's death is truly amazing, and her ability to shun bitterness and accept the outpouring of love from her community is beyond admirable.

Her desire to make her daughter's death— and life— something through which all of us can embrace faith and hope is something that we can only marvel at.

And respect. That's why our account of her family's terrible ordeal appears below a headline that embraces promise instead of focusing on sadness, and we hope all of us can somehow find a way to channel our energies into such thinking as we move forward.

It really is the Weston County way.

Filling Scalia's big shoes

As early as grade school, I recall learning about how our system of government, created by our Founding Fathers and written in the U.S. Constitution, was divided into three branches.

The legislative (Congress) makes laws. The executive (President) carries out laws. The judicial (Supreme and other courts) evaluates laws.

We were taught the reason for having these three branches was to ensure no group or individual would gain too much control, thereby providing checks and balances over each branch.

I have always felt blessed and grateful to live in this great country, the Land of the Free, Home of the Brave. Our Founding Fathers had experienced a tyrannical government of taxation without representation, and fought, with many paying the ultimate price, to ensure freedom for their generation as well as future generations.

Their forethought and wisdom preserved these individual freedoms and liberties, ensuring a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people". It is obvious that to do so each branch of government must have strength, do their duty and exercise their power to prevent tyranny to ensure our freedoms.

In my adult life, I have found myself wanting to mail my old social studies textbooks to the people serving in these branches.

I feel like our current executive branch is overreaching its power, making laws by executive decision, and in the form of taxes and regulations. In my view, our legislative branch has become weak, and I had enormous faith in the Supreme Court until June 28, 2012— the day the Affordable Care Act was declared legal and binding.

I felt the American people had been greatly deceived by the executive branch (President Obama) and the Supreme Court put their stamp of approval on it. I was mad at Chief Justice John Roberts for his vote, and interpretation of it being a tax. In Wyoming, the ACA has eliminated our choice of health insurance providers. There is only one game left in the Cowboy State. It is Blue Cross Blue Shield. Having only one choice here, some Wyoming people are paying hefty premiums, upwards of \$1,500 a month for healthcare coverage that includes a \$6,000 deductible.

When people are being asked to pay more for their healthcare insurance than what it costs to keep a roof over their head, it is just plain wrong. Many cannot afford this premium, and then are penal-

ized and taxed for having no insurance.

I still feel as though all branches of government have failed the American people concerning the ACA. Talk is cheap when you know average families are suffering. In 2018, the ACA's Cadillac tax will be enacted, which will then place a tax on your employer if they provide a policy that is deemed "Cadillac," meaning it provides too good of coverage for you and your family. As I see it, this part of the act is trying to collapse employer-provided insurance and force those people onto the ACA, thus creating a single payer system.

I'm quite sure our Founding Fathers would not approve of the burdens the ACA is placing on average Americans.

I wanted to know who fought for the American people concerning this law, and there were four on the Supreme Court. Justice Antonin Scalia was one.

Four months after the landmark ACA decision, Justice Scalia accepted an invitation by Caitlin Wallace, leader of the Federalist Society and then a third-year law student at the University of Wyoming. I read the newspaper articles covering his speech. He had accepted the invitation and was passing through Laramie after an unsuccessful antelope hunt. I was impressed that he had accepted the invite to our state, but more so by his passionate and humorous case for sticking to the original meaning of the U.S. Constitution.

He regarded himself as an "originalist," meaning he reaches a decision on cases by looking to the original meaning of the Constitution, and said he deplored the popular notion that the Constitution changes to meet society's needs. Explaining his idea of an "enduring Constitution," which he said sticks to its original meaning, he compared this to when people read Shakespeare in that they use a glossary to check the original meaning of his words.

In his speech, Scalia noted that a Constitution that can shift and evolve offers the people no real protection, noting that every country in the world that has a dictator has a great Constitution that's roundly ignored. I am thankful he made the trek to UW and hope his words have been firmly rooted here in the next generation of law scholars— and those across our great country. I am deeply saddened by Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's recent death. We have lost a legal giant, a true American hero and defender of our Constitution. God help us in finding someone to fill his shoes.



Kim Dean
Solve It

Who



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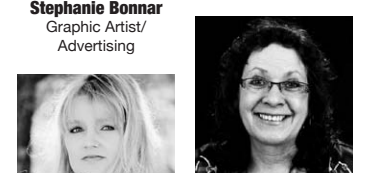
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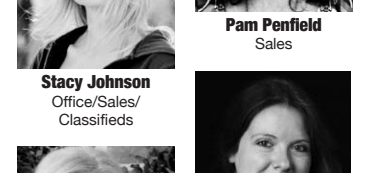
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What

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Why

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

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Letters to the Editor

Smoking should be banned in all of our restaurants

Dear Editor,
Throughout the community, several restaurants allow smoking. In my opinion, smoking should be forbidden in all restaurants. There are many reasons smoking should be banned, such as harming others, the strong odor and litter reduction.

Smoking not only harms the person smoking, but it also harms the people around the smoker. "Smokers Harm Others," printed in the *Daily Telegraph* on January 1, 2005, hypothesized that smoking harms people, and not just the smoker. Second hand smoke increases a non-smoker's chance to get lung cancer by 24 percent and heart disease by 25 percent.

In my opinion, one can taste the smoke when near a smoker. That means some goes into one's mouth, and no one likes smoke in their mouth— especially while trying to eat. As one can see, smoking is bad for people.

The odor of smoke is strong and inconvenient when eating. In "Third Hand Smoke Poses Lingering Damage" printed in *Science News for Students* on December 3, 2014, Beth Mole wrote that "every cigarette leaves behind airborne pollutants that are very harmful."

Eating and having the aroma of smoke around is unpleasant. When a person is trying to sit down and enjoy a meal, it is difficult with the lingering stench of smoke flying through the air.

For those who choose to have a smoke free restaurant, cleaning costs would be a lot cheaper because the restaurant wouldn't have to be cleaned as often. A non-smoking environment would bring in new non-smoking customers, and the same smoking customers would still come in and eat due to the fact that they are there to eat the food, not just to smoke.

The odor of cigarettes can also harm people. Having cigarette butts all over a restaurant parking lot can look terrible. In "Smoking hurts People – and the Environment" printed in *Weekly Reader* on November 10, 2000 it was stated that

cigarettes have hundreds of poisons in them. Animals could eat the cigarette butts, and it could hurt them a lot.

Having cigarette butts in a parking lot looks unclean and trashy. Another person has to take the time to pick all of them up. A little kid could come and pick up a cigarette butt and think that it is food and put it in their mouth and get sick. Clearly, cigarette butts in a parking lot can be dangerous to the environment as well.

Many restaurants allow smoking, but in my opinion there should be no smoking in any restaurants.

—Michelle Lewis

More should be done to protect schools and students

Dear Editor,
The Weston County School District #1 Board has been taking steps toward making the schools safer by locking the doors, putting cameras up, and doing drills.

Many schools throughout the nation are doing active shooter drills in case of an intruder because schools need to be prepared for intruders. Many schools need to improve because schools should be safer, and safe schools involve keeping students safe from intruders, drugs, and other students.

Schools should keep the students safe from intruders. Most intruders that enter schools intend to hurt or kill children. In, 2003, David J. Schonfeld M.D and Scott Newgas M.S.W., in an article titled, "School Crisis in Response Initiative," in the September issue of the *OVC Bulletin* stated, "Recent tragic events have made us painfully aware that our schools have been and still may continue to be sites of violence."

Most of the time when one turns on the news there is a report of school shootings somewhere in the world. Children are at risk when an intruder with a weapon enters a school. They may or may not have a reason for committing such heinous crimes, but students become innocent victims because of these devastating deeds.



(Ed. note: The preceding letters were written for an assignment in Debb Proctor's Freshmen English class. Please send any responses to these letters to editor@newslj.com)

—Max Brown

Roads from page 1

a road identification process.

The townships in question are Township 47N, Range 68W and Township 48N, Range 68W. The county's expectation is that the process will result in a finding that there are no legally established county roads in the area of the townships, though a resolution will be required to finalize any determination.

The commissioners vote did not authorize any other area of the county to be put through a process of road identification, though the move was conceived as potentially being the initial step in an eventual countywide process.

The primary road in question within the area of one of two of the townships is North Raven Creek Road. Though a portion of that road was established as a county road by resolution in 1967, according to County Attorney William Curley there is no available evidence that the area that falls within T47N, R68W was ever legally established.

Curley indicated that he and County Geographic Information System Coordinator Fran Lehman have been in contact with affected landowner Reuben Ritthaler. According to Curley, Ritthaler would like the entirety of the road to eventually be considered private and intends to speak with other adjacent landowners on the matter.

Lehman presented the commissioners with a large county map on which roads that need to be addressed in some way by the county were illustrated. She said that the purpose of the modest start to the road identification process is that it will function as a trial to see how the county fares.

Road and Bridge Office Manager Becky Hadlock added that the hope is to clarify the status of roads for landowners, hunters, and other concerned parties.

"We're hoping this will clear up a lot," she said. "The roads that so-and-so doesn't think have been properly established, we can do that when we get to that road, so that there's no question whether it's a county road or not."

The commissioners expressed a number of concerns about potential problems that might arise from the road identification process. Commissioner Tony Barton worried, for example, about whether mineral deposit lease holders might file suit should they be cut off from ready access in the case that a road is determined not to be an established county road, while Commissioner Tracy Hunt worried about advertising potential changes and how best to communicate plans to the public.

Attorney Curley responded that though mineral extraction companies are free to pursue continued road access, they can't determine the status of a road in the name of the public good in the way that the county can and that only the county can establish a road as a county road.

In terms of advertising, Curley said that direct notification of adjacent landowners is not required by statute, but that Crook County Attorney Joe Baron practices extensive notification in such circumstances.

No mailings are required, Hadlock further clarified for Hunt, but newspaper advertising would be conducted for four weeks.

Curley stated he anticipates that the working group could bring a report back to the commissioners on the project's initial phase, to be used as a learning tool should the county decide to extend the road identification process to other areas of the county. He said that, generally speaking, he does not see the road identification process as adversarial, acknowledging that there will likely be members of the public more knowledgeable about particular roads than the county.

Bills from page 1

bill that would have set penalties for those in possession of edible marijuana products; and a resolution requesting the U.S. Congress to pass definitions and standards for genetically modified organisms.

Upon the House's adjournment, the Ed Committee passed HB 13, which seeks to keep student email correspondence private and out of public records, Hunt further reported.

On Tuesday, the Ag Committee met in the morning and passed the water omnibus bill, and that same day a total of 48 bills were introduced in the House, according to Hunt.

Among the bills which passed introduction and were referred to committees, Hunt mentioned, were HB 40, which would lower the legal blood alcohol limit while operating boats from .1 to .08; HB 67, which would allow for a sales tax exemption on meals delivered from senior centers; two bills concerning specialized license plates for retired firefighters and tribal members; and Joint Resolution 2, which encourages the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to induct the late Kenny Sailors, a UW player in the 1940s, into its membership.

Hunt reported that bills that failed Tuesday included HB 3, which would have decriminalized marijuana; HB 72, which would have made state student testing optional; HB 12, which would have allowed for the trapping of mountain lions; and HB 5, which would have restricted an employer from asking about criminal records when hiring employees.

Among the bills which passed introduction on Wednesday, Hunt continued, were HB 94, which would allow for wine to be included with beer in temporary liquor licenses at public events; HB 86, which would repeal gun free zones in schools; HB 17, allowing for collection of sheds and antlers on state lands; and House Resolution 4, which calls on the U.S. Congress to better manage grizzly bears and wolves within Wyoming.

Bills which failed Wednesday, Hunt continued, included HB 93, which would have allowed state and local governments to exercise joint control of housing authorities, as well as several bills concerning the restructuring of school finance.

Later that afternoon the Ed Committee passed education accountability bill HB 19 with several amendments that Hunt described as making the bill more streamlined.

On Thursday morning

the Ag Committee unanimously passed HB 36, which eliminates the sunset date for defining livestock dealers, Hunt mentioned. Among bills introduced in the House that day were HB 97, allowing for compensation for livestock lost to wolves; HB 99, which would call for restrictions on what a possible constitutional convention could discuss; and HB 119, which changes campaign reporting requirements to reflect recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Bills which failed introduction, Hunt continued, included HB 103, which would have allowed for recording of all interim committee meetings; HB 106, which would have allowed for overnight camping on state lands; HB 98, which would have created a non-discrimination act concerning religious issues; HB 122, which would have eliminated electioneering restrictions around polling places during early voting periods; and HB 111, which would have made it so that an employee could not be fired for discussing their wages with other employees at work.

Friday, Feb. 12, saw the introduction of those bills remaining, though Hunt observed that many of them were immediately killed. Those that failed included two bills that would have provided tax exemptions on rodeo tickets and certain recreational automobiles; HB 131, which would have allowed county commissioners the option of placing on the ballot a sales tax on food products; two proposed amendments which would have created term limits and allowed the legislature to overturn Supreme Court rulings; HB 132, which would have made strangulation of a household member a felony; and HB 152, which would have changed the legal definition of marijuana products within the state.

Bills which passed introduction, Hunt stated, included three budget bills from the Appropriations Committee that contain the appropriations funds for capital construction, abandoned mine lands funds, and appropriations for school facilities projects, as well as HB 140, which makes minor amendments to definitions for attorneys, and HB 141, which allows for more simplified attorney liens.

Up for third and final reading in the House before going on to the Senate, Hunt added, were digital student privacy bill HB 13, and HB 55 and HB 56, which allow for nursing licensure compacts with other states.

The Ed Committee met during lunch on Friday to consider HB 73 and HB 87, Hunt also mentioned. HB 73, which failed unanimously, would have allowed for the firing of teachers who have been accused of certain felonies such as burglary, but whose cases have been temporarily deferred by the court. HB 87, which passed unanimously, would allow for school districts to be compensated for the part-time attendance of students who come from outside of their districts. An example of this would be the students who are enrolled in Niobrara County via the online Virtual Academy, noted Hunt.

For his part, Lindholm mentioned in a written update that this year's budget consists of five separate bills, each addressing different fiscal areas, an arrangement he said he favors. The division of the budget into distinct bills dealing with schools, local governments, the capitol renovation, abandoned mine land funds, and the general budget allows for a greater degree of public transparency, he stated.

Lindholm, however, pointed out his objection to there being no standalone bill on Medicaid expansion, though he noted that Medicaid expansion can still be brought forward as a budget amendment. Expansion of Medicaid had been woven into Governor Mead's proposed budget, but the Joint Appropriations Committee voted for its removal prior to the commencement of the session.

Lindholm is personally opposed to the expansion but indicated he regrets that discussion of the matter has been curtailed.

"This is extremely disappointing as it limits debate and limits the opportunity for dialogue to take place," he wrote, "Poor legislation in my opinion and a tactic that I will not support."

Lindholm further noted that four of the five pieces of legislation he's supporting this session have moved ahead.

Bills forwarded by Lindholm that were still under consideration early this week were HB 16, which seeks to mandate that state agencies plan for the possibility of a reduction in their federal funding; HB 26, which would allow for the use of "digital currencies"; HB79, which would repeal a law allowing the recall of local officials in municipalities operating under the commission form of government; and HB104, which seeks to expand the Food Freedom Act to meats under specified conditions.



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*to all who
contributed
to My Golden
Valentine 2016*

Thank You



I would like to thank everyone that supported me by "flocking" their friends. You made my Close-Up trip to Washington D.C. possible. Thanks to your generosity, I will have the incredible opportunity to learn about our country's history first hand.

Rya Liggett

U.F.W. Post 2516
invites family and friends to celebrate the life of

Delwayne Zundel

**Saturday, February 20, 2016
from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

A lunch will be served. Feel free to bring a dish of your own to share.

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, If so we saw it there. Perhaps
you spoke the kindest words, As any friend could say; Perhaps
you were not there at all, Just thought of us that day. Whatever
you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much whatever the
part. We thank you dearly for everything in our time of sorrow.*

Sincerely:

The family of Helen Kaiser
Dusty & Barb Rhoades — Bob & Judy Gould
Randy & Jane Rhoades — Toby & Evette Rhoades
Rocky & Kim Rhoades



nlj

Obituaries

Miiralyne Kay Williams
Jul. 15, 2013-Feb. 14, 2016
Miiralyne Kay Williams, 2 of Upton, passed away on February 14, 2016.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 19, 2016 at the Upton Community Center. Memorials have been established to benefit the Upton Fire Department and Weston County Search and Rescue.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Roberts & Isburg Funeral Chapel of Sundance. Online condolences may be written at fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com

Melanie Marie Cool McKinley
Mar. 5, 1956-Feb. 12, 2016
Melanie Marie Cool McKinley passed away on February 12, 2016, at the Weston County Health Services.

She was born March 5, 1956 in Newcastle Wyo. to Dale and Peggy (Cornelison) Cool. Melanie was the 4th of 5 children.

Melanie attended Newcastle Schools and graduated in 1974. She was involved in many activities during her school years. She was also crowned Weston County Rodeo Queen in 1976. She attended one year of college at the University of Wyoming and continued three more years of college through night classes in Newcastle.

Her love for music started around age 10 and continued through her life. She sang and played guitar in 3 bands until she lost her voice in her early 20's.

Melanie Cool was married to Dalton McKinley in Newcastle on December 6, 1980. Unto this marriage one child was born. Keelie Dale McKinley was born August 25,

1982, in Newcastle. Melanie and Dalton were later divorced. Melanie had a multitude of occupations but her true passions in life were her quantum energy healing, yard saling and antique dealing.

Melanie lost her hard fought battle with cancer on February 12. She was determined it was not going to beat her, but now she is no longer suffering and is at peace. She had a big caring heart, a one of a kind, wonderful laugh and was very musically talented. She will be very missed, but we are very thankful she is no longer suffering.

Melanie was preceded in death by her father Dale Cool, her ex-husband Dalton McKinley, her grandparents Harold and Rhonda Cool, Clarice and Wes McGlone, nephew Shad Bruce, and great nephew Dakota Bruce.

She is survived by her daughter Keelie (Chris) Magrum, two grandchildren Tucker and Gracie of Casper. Her mother and step-father Peggy (Ken) Franklin, sisters Sheri (Tom) Bruce, Teena (Richard) Ratts all of Newcastle, brother Don (Carol) Cool, sister Tanice (Clint) Slagle all of Gillette. Step-brother Kent Franklin of Cheyenne, aunt Colleen Pollat of Newcastle, Linda Clausing and uncle Dean (Dona) Cornelison of Billings, MT. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cremation has taken place at Kinkade Mortuary in Sturgis, S.D.

Memorial Services will be held at the First United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 20, at 2 p.m.

Marvin "Marv" Kiesling
Jun. 6, 1936-Feb. 12, 2016

Marvin "Marv" Kiesling died peacefully at home on February 12, 2016 in Loveland, Colo. at the age of 79.

Marv is survived by his wife of 44 years, Janice (Skalicky) Kiesling; daughters, Kris (Eric) Ritter, and Melissa (Nick) Pascucci; grandchildren, Cassidy and Cameron Ritter, and Giana Pascucci. Siblings, Dorothy Kinnie, Bettie (Vern) Nelson, Edward (Beverly) Kiesling and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by a brother, Myron Kiesling, and a life-long friend, Gene Worden.

Marv was born on June 6, 1936 in Newcastle to George and Lois (Brown) Kiesling. He graduated from Loveland High School, and later Colorado State College (now UNC) in 1959 with a degree in Business Administration. After graduation he started working for Conoco as a District Sales Representative. He married Jan in 1971. Next, they moved to Dillon, Colo., and Marv purchased an oil and gas distributorship. He developed three retail businesses and a condominium complex in Dillon. Marv and Jan moved to Greeley in 1981. In Greeley, he established Golf Tournaments Incorporated, a golf cart rental business that serviced all of Colorado.

Marv was an avid golfer, and chose his houses based on the golf courses nearby. He was a sociable individual who loved family, friends, golf, and politics. His children remember him as a loving father who encouraged them to pursue their goals. He was a member of the Mountain View Presbyterian Church.

A funeral is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Mountain View Presbyterian Church with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Marv's life. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the PVH and MCR Foundation (Cardiovascular Care) 2315 E Harmony, Suite 200 Fort Collins, CO 80528.

Condolences can be sent to Kibbey Fishburn Funeral Home, 1102 Lincoln Ave., Loveland, CO 80537.

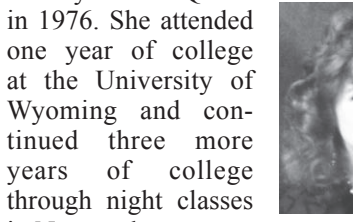
Mary Smelser
Nov. 15, 1939-Feb. 14, 2016
Funeral service for Mary Smelser will be held 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 19, 2016 at First Assembly of God Church with Pastor Dan Holden officiating. Internment to follow at Bethlehem Cemetery. Visitation will be held 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2016 at Gillette Memorial Chapel.

Mary Elizabeth (Willard) Smelser of Gillette passed away on Sunday, February 14, 2016 at her home from a battle with cancer. Mary was born November 15, 1939 at a private home in Newcastle to Al and Bessie (Owens) Willard. She grew up on a small ranch southeast of Newcastle. Mary attended a country school called Sweet School; east of Newcastle through the eighth grade.

On June 7, 1958 she married Duane Smelser of Gillette, Wyo. Two children were born to this union. Mary spent most of her life in Wyoming, except for a few years when Duane went to college.

Mary worked as a telephone operator when she was young. Duane and Mary pastored several churches in Wyoming, the last being in Wright, Wyo. while Mary also drove school

— See **Obituaries**, Page 5



Melanie McKinley



Marvin Kiesling



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





Faith and Values



- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm.
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626.
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Pastor Todd Olson, 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 pm.
- **CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 am; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 pm, Holy Eucharist. haydishall@hotmail.com
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am.
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Greg James, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am.
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Weekday Mass 8 am.
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley, 746-9712, Worship 10 am.
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Bible Study 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Teaching Service 6 pm; Wednesday Service 6:30 pm.
- **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** Mike Wiles, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service 5 pm; Eita Nova Youth Group Wednesday 6:30 pm Christian Academy.

- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Mark Thurman, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 a.m. Children's Church and 11:45 am. Contemporary Praise & Worship Service.
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, Evangelical Free Church meets at the Weston County Senior Services; Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am. Call 746-8091.
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 p.m. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am.
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer.
- **NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, meets at Haydis Hall (Next to Christ Episcopal Church), 746-5542. Sunday Worship 6 pm.
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Gary Force, 78 Old Hwy 85, Pastoral Assistant Matt Dooley 949-0831 and Joe Story 605-891-9954. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:00 am.
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, Upton. Sunday Mass 11:30 a.m.
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366.
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Sharee Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 a.m.; Adult Study 10:30 a.m.; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm.

The Human Connection



Most of us can remember a time when we spoke to people instead of recordings, when addresses were for physical places and did not consist of www.com, when "service" station did not mean self-service. We spoke person-to-person and eye to eye on nearly every occasion. Today when you are face to face with someone, let your spirit shine through. Visit God's house each week and greet your fellow worshippers warmly. Make the most of your human connections.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Luke 15:11-32	Luke 18:15-30	Luke 18:31-43	Luke 19:1-10	Leviticus 19:1-18	Deut. 6:1-25	Luke 10:25-37
<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>						
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The sponsors of this feature do so with the hope that more people will attend the church or synagogue of their choice on a weekly basis

Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

February 20, 1891
125 Years Ago

The Arlington will give a masquerade ball next Monday evening. Costumes at Handel's.

A hobo was arrested this week for obstructing the sidewalk with one of Doc. Gatewood's big post office 5 cent cigars.

Hon. B.F. Fowler, U.S. District Attorney for Wyoming, was in Newcastle Thursday & Friday. He returned to Sundance by way of the B.&M. system

on Friday.

Edward Dewire, of Lake View State of Washington came to Newcastle this week, & took back with him the six orphan children who were left alone in the world by the death of their mother, Mrs. F.A. Campbell.

A carpenter at the mines came to town & got a hurrah & found himself sometime in the night down under the railroad bridge in a freezing condition. The next morning, he told a long & startling tale about being held up under the threats of death by two ruffians.

February 17, 1916
100 Years Ago

Judge Raymond returned Wednesday morning from Rawlins, where he had been called to try the Meldrum Murder Case. Meldrum failed to appear when the case

was called. The judge gave his bondsmen until 1:30 p.m. to produce the defendant. On their failure the bond of \$18,000.00 was forfeited. The case is continued until April 17th, when it will be tried if the defendant is apprehended.

Ralph & Lewis Patton were visiting at the F.W. Coates last Sunday.

We hear that we are going to have a school on the creek. Can it be possible? We had commenced to think that Cold Creek was not on the map. Buck Horn News.

S.V. Washburn had had men & teams at work this week hauling sawdust & covering the ice in his ice houses. The ice for domestic use, which was brought from the LAK Lake has been packed in the big storage house near the Burlington Round House, in sufficient quantity to supply the demand throughout the coming season.

H.C. Wehr, of Edgemont, has taken over the Smith lease of the Roirden Hotel in the city & expects to take charge of the business within the next two weeks. Mrs. Smith will manage the hotel until the new proprietor returns to Newcastle.

February 20, 1941
75 Years Ago

The Stockholders meeting of the Lodge Pole Oil Company was held at the Antler's Hotel February 5th. All directors were present new stockholders were taken in but no new elections were made.

A popular Newcastle couple, Mr. & Mrs. D.D. Darland, were being congratulated this week following the announcement of their marriage which took place at Wayne, Nebraska December 28, 1940.

Mr. & Mrs. James Rhoades & Jim Jr. of Custer, Mr. & Mrs. Estell Huber, Mrs. Tobe Kaiser, Leola and Delbert Fryer visited at B.W. Huber's Sunday at Spotted Horse, Wyoming.

Mrs. K. Farah was hostess to the members of a contract club on Friday afternoon at her home.

Should have seen it in color



Cold Springs School with unidentified school children. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

Obituaries

from page 4

bus for CCSD. Mary was an excellent seamstress, she also loved jigsaw puzzles and travelling in the R.V.

Mary is survived by her husband; Duane Smelser of 57 years, daughter; Connie (Rick) McQuin of Gillette, Wyo., and son; Kevin (Naomi) Smelser of Fort Collins, Colo., sister; Bertie Shields of Casper, Wyo., five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her special family Roy and Tara Adist and girls;

Machiah and Quinlyn who she became Grandma Mary to. She is preceded in death by her parents and grandsons; Ben and Bryan McQuin. Memorials and condolences may be sent in Mary's name in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel 210 West 5th Street, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be sent via internet at gillettermemorialchapel.com.

Ruth Alice Snedeker
Jul. 21, 1922-Feb. 16, 2016
Ruth Alice Snedeker, age

93, of Hot Springs, S.D., passed away, February 16, 2016, at the Fall River Hospital in Hot Springs, S.D.

Ruth was born on July 21, 1922, to William J. Yeager and Arla O. (Lightwine) Yeager, in Niobrara County, Wyo.

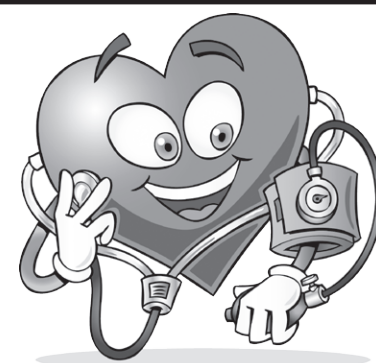
Ruth is survived by her daughters, Juanita Schroeder of Wall, S.D.; Jesse Soskie of Lisco, Neb.; Nancy Hawthorne of Reno, Nev.; sister-in-law, Lucia Yeager of Newcastle; 4 grandchildren and 6 great

-grandchildren.

Ruth was preceded in death by her two husbands, Darrel Hawthorn, Cark Snedeker; brother, Harold H. Yeager; and 2 grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date.

Arrangements have been placed in the care of Chamberlain-McColley's Funeral Home in Hot Springs, S.D. Written condolences may be made at chamberlainmccolleys.com.



HEALTHY HEARTS FUN FAIR

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
9 A.M. - NOON

NHS COMMONS & PRACTICE GYM



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APPOINTMENT TO CITY COUNCIL

Persons interested in seeking to be appointed to the Council of the City of Newcastle should submit a letter of interest to the Council by mailing or submitting said letter in person at the City Hall office, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701 no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2016. Applicant must be a resident and registered eligible voter of the City of Newcastle. Appointee will fill open council seat until 2016 election. Questions may be addressed to the City Office, M-F, 8-5, at (307) 746-3535.

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WHAT'S UP

February 2016

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Wed 17	9:00 a.m.	WC Senior Service	WC Senior Center
	12:00 p.m.	Newcastle Lions Club	WC Senior Center
	1:00 p.m.	Creative Handicraft Group	WC Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	WC Weed & Pest	Weed & Pest Office
	6:00 p.m.	WC Humane Society	Shelter
	7:00 p.m.	Book Discussion	WC Library
Thurs 18	6:00 p.m.	WC Health Services	Board Room
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri 19	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sun 21	2:00 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Catholic Church
Mon 22	1:00 p.m.	Low Vision Support Group	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Tues 23	5:30 p.m.	Newcastle Soccer Youth Registration	HS Commons
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Hospital Board Room
	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star	Eastern Star #30
Wed 24	1:00 p.m.	Creative Handicraft Group	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	WCSD #1 Board Meeting	Administration Building
Thurs 25	11:45 a.m.	WC Health Services Foundation	Hospital Board Room
	12:00 p.m.	Chamber General Membership Mtg.	Chamber Office, Visitor Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room

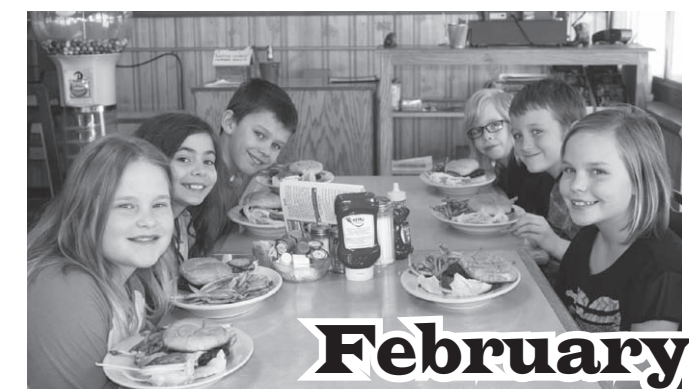
For a complete listing of events, for more information on these events, or to list your own event, visit the Chamber website at newcastlewyo.com

Calendar Sponsored by
Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 17**
Billy Quick
- February 18**
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Koester ☺
Krystal Crinklaw
Jerry Baird
Jasper Bloom
- February 19**
Rhyse Rhoades
- February 20**
Jonnaye Rosenau
- February 21**
Tina Sundstrom
- February 22**
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Dinges ☺
Shane Sweet
- February 23**
Don McColley
- February 24**
Malika Straube
Kyle Jorrey
- February 25**
Mark Yeatman

Newcastle Elementary School



February Good Deed Winners

Brittney Rainbolt 5th, Destiny Vaughn 4th,
Steven Huey 4th, Michael Manders 5th,
Aydenn Phillips 3rd, Savannah Carr 3rd



Daily Drink Specials

Happy Hour 4 - 6 p.m.

- Margarita ~ Monday
(5 different flavors)
- Ladies Night ~ Tuesday
(\$1 off ladies drinks, free pool)
- Wing ~ Wednesday
(12 wings & pitcher of beer \$15)
- Thirsty ~ Thursday
(\$1 beer & \$1 off Jack Daniels)
- Freaky ~ Friday
(bartenders choice)
- Sangria ~ Saturday

Weekend Special
buckets of beer
domestic bottles
or cans 5 for \$11

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Thank you for all of your wonderful volunteer work Jerry!
From Mondell Heights and Weston County residents

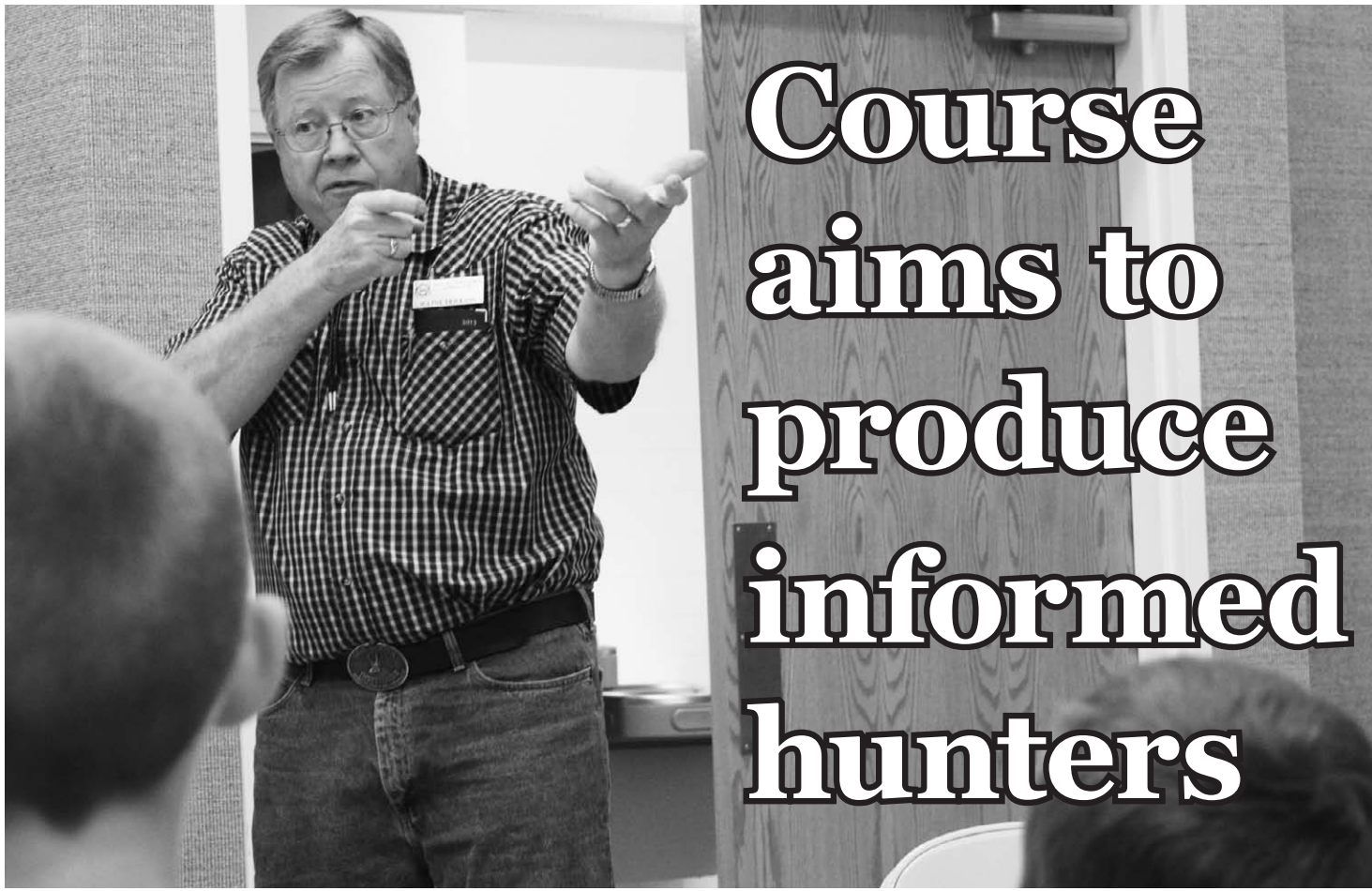
2016 Custer City Trade Show

Sponsored by the Custer Area Chamber of Commerce
www.custersd.com

Saturday, March 5
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Custer High School
Wildcat Lane

Admission is a free-will donation, all proceeds go to the Crazy Horse Civil Air Patrol.



Course aims to produce informed hunters

Dr. Wayne Erickson gestures as he makes a point during a hunter education course last fall. Erickson, who has served as the local coordinator for the course for the past 12 years, named elk as his favorite game animal. (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

With the biggest chunk of hunting season in the rear view mirror for another year, there is no better time to start educating those who may be taking to the field next year on the importance of doing so safely, and aspiring hunters are currently in the midst of an education course held at the Mormon church in Newcastle. The course is run locally twice a year.

Dr. Wayne Erickson, a Newcastle dentist who has been involved in hunter education for the past two decades, said the course is a prerequisite for all those seeking to obtain a hunting license in the State of Wyoming.

"Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1966 has to have a hunter education certificate to go hunting," he told the NLJ. He added, however, that a mentor program recently instituted does allow a young person to apply to the state for authorization to hunt, without a certificate, for a one-year period with a qualified adult.

Erickson has served as the local coordinator for the hunter education course for the past twelve years and explained

it runs in three-hour sessions twice weekly over a three-week period. One Saturday is also set aside as a range day where participants practice the four basic shooting positions -- standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone -- with .22 caliber rifles.

Students must pass a comprehensive test at the course's end, Erickson explained, and must retake the class if they fail. Once they pass, the certificate is good for the student's lifetime.

The course attracts all age groups, including its share of young people, though the minimum age to obtain a hunting license in the state is 12.

"We've had a nine-year-old or two," Erickson recalled. "It's very difficult for them. We like the students to be at least 10 or above. 11, 12, 13 is better. It's just easier for them."

Ten dollars is charged as a course fee in order to help pay for materials, and the classes are taught on an all-volunteer basis.

Erickson said that finding additional instructors has been a challenge and that he'd love to see more interested parties step forward.

Becoming an instructor is not particularly difficult,

Erickson went on to say, the basic requirement being to take the class oneself and then to audit the class while teaching one subject. Instructors also undergo continuing education courses themselves in order to ensure quality and consistency of hunter education across the state.

Over the years he has taught the course Erickson said he doesn't think much has changed, but acknowledged that hunting is perhaps not as popular as it once was. Still, he said there exist reasons that a person not immediately seeking a hunting license might wish to take the class.

"Whether you hunt or not, it's an excellent class to take because you learn safe firearm handling," he reasoned. "You learn game identification. The students learn how [state] Game and Fish manages the wildlife."

"The general population sometimes thinks that hunters are the ones who make animals go extinct because they over-harvest," Bill Morris, whom Erickson described as the grandfather of hunter education in Newcastle, continued of the misperceptions dispelled by the class. "But that is not true at all. It's the hunters who have really

[conserved] the animals."

Morris has been involved in hunter instruction for more than 40 years. He spoke to the NLJ of the safety benefits of exposing young people to proper firearm handling through classes like the hunter education course and said parents make a big mistake when they don't take the time to answer their children's questions about guns.

Morris said he believes that young people especially benefit when parents enroll in the hunter education class alongside their kids. Younger students get more out of the class that way, he figured.

"A lot of these accidental shootings and so forth would never take place if parents would spend a little more time with their kids [explaining] firearms," he stated.

Those interested in attending a hunter education course can register at the website of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department under the education tab. Course dates aren't normally posted until about a month before they begin, Erickson said.

The hunter education course is also available in an online format with one day of in-person instruction.

Local gun enthusiasts challenge Obama claims

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

Area firearms enthusiasts who spoke to the NLJ disputed the stated aims and potential efficacy of a set of executive actions on gun control announced by President Obama early last month.

Among the announced steps to be taken are ones that require Federal Firearms Licenses for more of those persons engaged in selling guns, expand and improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, remove legal barriers preventing states from providing mental health information that would exclude individuals from gun ownership to the federal government, and sponsor or conduct research into so-called smart gun technology that prevents anyone besides a designated user from firing a weapon.

Though executive actions carry with them less legal weight than executive orders, critics argue they still represent a tendency toward governance through administrative fiat.

Dan Keierleber, president of the board of the Weston County Sportsman's Club, is among those critics.

He told the NLJ the President's executive actions circumvent Congress and stated also his belief that they wouldn't have prevented any of the incidents over the past several years that have kept questions of gun violence in the national spotlight.

Of claims repeatedly made by the President that it is necessary to close a "loophole" that allows for private individuals to conduct sales at a gun show, Keierleber suggested such arguments are disingenuous.

"One thing you've got to understand is that this does not just affect somebody going to a gun show," he said. "If you were to sell a couple of guns out of your home as a private individual, that would affect that."

"When any of these politicians gets up and talks about the 'gun show loophole,' he continued, "that is individual sales."

Criminals, Keierleber went on to say, will continue to ignore or attempt to circumvent laws intended to curtail gun crime.

"The law abiding citizen is being penalized in this," he said.

Weston County Sportsman's Club Board Member Kraig Stuart, a former police officer who said he has been involved in firearms instruction for about 40 years, tended to agree.

Stuart, who runs a firearms safety course for women alongside Keierleber, worried that the free course might be derailed in the future should it eventually become necessary to conduct background checks on participants, which he said he fears is coming down the pipeline.

In regard to the President's claim that gun sales off the internet are a major avenue for those seeking to avoid going through a background check, Stuart indicated he doesn't see how that's even possible.

"When I buy a gun on the internet it has to be sent to a [licensed] dealer," explained Stuart. "... Before he gives me the gun ... the dealer does a background check."

Of the planned crackdown on internet sales, a fact sheet on the President's executive actions published on the White House's official site reads in part, "Those engaged in the business of dealing in firearms who utilize the Internet or other technologies must obtain a license, just as a dealer whose business is run out of a traditional brick-and-mortar store."

Matt Ramsey, a local realtor who operates a South Dakota-based business that sells guns and thus maintains a Federal Firearms License as a dealer, went further than Stuart. He called the President's assertion that unmonitored gun sales are rampant on the internet "a stone cold lie."

"All of us who have ever shopped online or sold a gun

online, you have to ship a gun to an FFL dealer," Ramsey explained.

Ramsey further characterized some of the executive actions enumerated by the White House as vague.

He said he believes federal authorities intentionally refrain from specifying the number of guns sold that would require obtaining an FFL in order to have flexibility in regard to when and against whom they opt to pursue criminal charges.

On the question of how a dealer is defined, the aforementioned fact sheet on the executive actions seems to support Ramsey's accusation that the licensure rules are intentionally arbitrary.

"There is no specific threshold number of firearms purchased or sold that triggers the licensure requirement," it reads. "But it is important to note that even a few transactions, when combined with other evidence, can be sufficient to establish that a person is 'engaged in the business.'" For example, courts have upheld convictions for dealing without a license when as few as two firearms were sold or when only one or two transactions took place, when other factors also were present."

In light of the executive actions, a 15-page document titled "Do I Need a License to Buy and Sell Firearms?" dated January of this year and available on the website of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, aims to provide clarification as to who does and does not require licensure.

Ramsey further stated he doesn't believe any of the President's executive actions will help to prevent crime, even if they might potentially help solve one after the fact by helping to establish a history of ownership.

Even so, Ramsey said that while licensed dealers are required to record every gun that they buy in a gun book, one of the biggest misconceptions is that detailed information is provided on the gun purchased as part of the NICS process. The only information that is actually specified, he indicated, is whether the weapon is a handgun or long gun.

Of what the President has deemed a gun show loophole, Ramsey echoed Keierleber in noting that established dealers still have to conduct background checks when selling their wares at gun shows and that what is really at issue is an attack on private sales between individuals.

"Yes, there's guns going from one individual to another individual," Ramsey continued, "but the only way to stop that is to do what we're all afraid of, which is to register every gun in the United States and track every sale, which they say they don't want. But when they complain about one individual selling a gun to another individual, the only way to monitor that is to know how many guns and where they're all at."

Ramsey further objected to what he said is the unilateral nature of the executive actions, adding that they represent a superficial attempt to address more deep-seated social issues.

"The stuff he's sending down doesn't help the gun problem. They really need to determine why society is rotting away and kids will shoot each other rather than get in a fist fight ... It's not the guns, it's the mentality of our society," he concluded.

The application for a federal dealer's license consists of multipage paperwork and fingerprinting as part of a background check. Licenses are issued for a period of three years and require a \$200 fee, according to the licensure forms available on the ATF's webpage.

A fact sheet on the President's executive actions dated Jan. 4 can be found on the White House's official site at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/04/fact-sheet-new-executive-actions-reduce-gun-violence-and-make-our>.

Safe

from page 1

years previous to 2014. It also announced that the odds of being burglarized in Newcastle are 1 in 294.

Owens agreed with the report, adding that a few years ago a number of burglaries were committed but those numbers have quickly declined.

"We did have a rash of them a few years ago," he admitted.

While the online report focused on burglaries, Owens acknowledged that those issues seen by his officers in the city are generally not related to that specific crime, at least at the present time. Had the Consumer Affairs study factored in other types of crimes, it may have changed how Newcastle was ranked, as Owens indicated that a majority of "person to person" crime in Newcastle is assault related. Those crimes, however, usually involve people who know each other, and are most likely to fall under the specific categories of domestic abuse or relationship violence.

Sheriff Bryan Colvard professed that Weston County could probably be considered a little safer than Newcastle because crime tends to occur at higher rates in population centers. In this case, however, because the study focused on burglaries, the county may have been ranked lower than Newcastle if the report would have included counties as well.

"Theft is typically the biggest felony issue seen in the county, with the oil fields seeing things go missing," proclaimed Colvard, indicating that those crimes aren't

necessarily targeting victims in their homes, which was the focus of the study conducted by Consumer Affairs.

There aren't a large number of felony crimes occurring in Weston County, but law enforcement officials deal with their share of misdemeanors and whether it is in city limits or the outlying areas the majority of them seem to be associated with substance abuse. The types of substances being abused, however, does appear to differ between the city and the county.

"Probably the largest single repeated crime we have is drug involvement, whether it be distribution or possession of a controlled substance. That is the biggest issue we are dealing with right now," announced Owens.

That differs from the county, where alcohol is more likely to draw the attention of law enforcement.

"Alcohol related incidents are the biggest crimes committed within the county, as far as misdemeanors," Colvard reported.

That problem has taken a back seat to drug-related issues in Newcastle, and according to a report he presented recently to the Newcastle City Council, Owens' department has actually seen a decrease in one of the crimes most associated with alcohol use, although a number of factors could play into those statistics.

Owens told the council that DUI arrests decreased dramatically from 2014 to 2015, but admitted that the decrease in DUI

Newcastle Police Department Totals for 2015	
Calls for Service:	4,937
Total Arrests:	155
Warrant Arrests:	29
Domestic Violence Arrests:	15
DUI Arrests:	26
<i>Reported by Chief of Police Jim Owens on January 4</i>	
Statics Presented by Consumer Affairs	
Burglary Odds:	1:294
Burglary Rates:	Down 25%
Police Officers per 10k:	45.43
Crime Rate Per 1k:	43.73
Crimes Per Date:	.42
<i>These numbers lead to Newcastle being ranked the 4th safest city in Wyoming.</i>	

numbers could be attributed to less actual bars being located in downtown Newcastle or to challenges the community has faced in keeping the department fully-staffed.

While statistics can shift considerably in areas with lower populations, Donohue indicated that Wyoming ranks lower than other states on average in burglary instances as a whole, and local law enforcement officials said that while the Consumer Affairs study focused only on burglaries, they believe that the overall crime picture in this part of the state is pretty favorable.

"Overall, we live in a very safe place," Owens maintained.

City Beat

- Chief of Police Jim Owens told the Newcastle City Council in January that the body cameras worn by his officers have proven to be valuable tools for the Police Department. The cameras, which were put into use in 2015, are worn on the officer's chest and turned on whenever they are in contact with another individual. Owens reported that, nationally, concerns and issues have been raised regarding the cameras, but those issues have not yet been seen in Newcastle to date. He believes the cameras have

- become a very valuable asset.
- The Newcastle Police Department received a total of three new police vehicles to replace cars that no longer operated as needed. To date, two of those patrol vehicles are in use and the third is being equipped with the proper technology.
- In January, the city council approved Owens' request to donate one of those old patrol vehicles to the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy. He reported that the cost of stripping the vehicle of all of its

- equipment in order to sell it to the public costs roughly \$2,000. He indicated that such a vehicle is likely to attract approximately \$500 in a silent auction, resulting in a significant loss to the city. He told the council that the academy will put the vehicle to use in training exercises, and the equipment would not have to be removed because it has value in such training.
- Lance Reibel was announced at one time as a potential new officer for the department, but Owens said that hire fell

- through. He told the council last month that another candidate would begin testing in February, and at the February 1 meeting he requested permission to offer a conditional rate to the new officer effective February 21 if all testing goes well, which the council approved.
- A check for \$330 was received by the Newcastle Police Department from the State Attorney General as the city's share of forfeited funds from a drug arrest by Officer Tacy that took place in 2014.

Naughty or Nice



Black Hills Energy's Nicole McFarland and Something Healthy's Patti Cole listen intently to a presentation on energy efficiency given by BHE at Crossroads Cantina last Thursday. (Pam Penfield/NLJ)

Angel

from page 1.....

and EMS, Newcastle Fire Department, Weston County Fire Protection District, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Weston County Emergency Management, Weston County Road and Bridge, Burlington Northern Railroad and Newcastle Ambulance Service.

"The Sheriff's Office, along with the Upton Police Department, coordinated the release of information statewide for the missing child and conducted interviews with family, friends and neighbors in an attempt to cover any and all possible scenarios. Wyoming Highway Patrol dispatched troopers to the scene to provide perimeter security and a checkpoint for vehicles traveling into and near the search area," Colvard wrote in the press release, in which he estimated that close to 100 people were involved in the search.

More than three hours later Miira was remarkably discovered nearly a mile away from her home, but exposure to the frigid elements had taken a toll on the small child.

"She was found at approximately 9:40 p.m. by searchers, about seven-eighths of a mile southwest of her residence. CPR was initiated immediately, and she was transported by ambulance to WCHS," Colvard said.

Unfortunately, the time Miira had spent in the cold proved to be too much for the little girl to overcome, and Maci made a plea for prayers on Facebook two hours after she was found, reporting that her daughter's heart would not beat on its own.

An hour later, Miira lost her battle, but her mother has continued to provide faith and encouragement to the community that has joined her in mourning the loss of her child.

"Regardless of your faith or beliefs, I must

share with you how I have found peace through this horrific tragedy. There is absolutely no humanly, worldly way that my teeny tiny girl could have walked an entire mile over such rough terrain, through the wind, rain, and snow, cross a barbed wire fence, all without a scratch or bump or bruise on her body... without the LORD holding her hand, guiding her, and keeping her safe and comfortable until he laid her down and took her soul to heaven. She never even cried. She had no tear marks on her face. She was just sleeping so peacefully. This was God's plan! I know she had Jesus with her through every single step," Maci said Tuesday on Facebook.

She took the opportunity in that same message, posted amidst scores of compassionate and heartfelt expressions of grief and support, to thank those who had rallied to find her daughter and assure them that there was nothing more they could have done on that dark and stormy evening.

"I cannot accurately express my gratitude towards all of you for the incredible effort that was put forth to find my missing daughter, Miira. So many people were ready and willing to walk miles upon miles upon miles through terrible weather conditions to find that precious baby. Please know that nothing could have changed the outcome of the Lord's plan!" she said.

Sheriff Colvard marveled at the response of the community as well, noting that the effort put forth to find the two-year old was remarkable.

"It was pretty impressive for a community that size to throw this together and coordinate it that quickly. That's a kudos to Upton," he professed.

Upton

from page 1.....

come by and he is unaware of any viable prospective sources.

Council member Travis Beck said that he wishes to hold off on making a decision on the matter for the time being, while Council member Mark Mitchell stated that, though he hates to see public offices take over a portion of the community center, he views the community center move as the best bet. Even if the city hall and police department were combined, he reasoned, the town would still be paying to operate the community center at a loss.

"If we keep this open, we're still going to lose \$24,000 a year basically on this building," Mitchell said of the commu-

nity center. "The way things are going with the financial situation we're facing, I can see us closing this building. Obviously I'm not in favor of that, but it's going to strangle us if we're not careful."

Mitchell said he would like to see the gym utilized more to help with costs, though Deputy Clerk Kelley Millar said it actually sees quite a bit of usage, though most of that usage is free.

"I agree we've got to do something but finding a solution is not as easy as we thought," interjected Councilmember David Watt. "It's going to cost a lot to use that other side [of the community center], to turn

it into the city hall and cop shop. Utilities are going to go up as well, so it's going to cost us more than what it normally costs us now."

Mayor Upton told the council the prospect of maintaining all three buildings -- the police department, city hall, and community center -- worries him, but that it's also concerning to put a figure of \$100,000 toward the current city hall.

Still, Upton said he feels it's best to wait and see given the current indecision and uncertainty.

"Budget season is coming up. We'll be able to decide then what finances we're going to be looking at," he concluded.

Best Little Tidbits

Discussion items at the Feb. 9 meeting of the Upton Town Council included the following:

- The council voted to approve a lease agreement between the Town of Upton and Jory Hillman and Neil and Vicki Schiller for the operation of the Cedar Pines Golf Course.
- An ordinance vacating and abandoning portions of Cedar Street and 5th Avenue in the Neiman Addition passed on third and final reading.
- At the suggestion of City Attorney Mark Hughes, the council passed an ordinance on first reading that will allow the town to give a 30-day notice before hauling away junk or abandoned vehicles and charging the vehicle's owner a storage fee. The current ordinance only allows the town to issue a citation of up to \$750. Hughes suggested that the change would give additional force to the existing ordinance and give the town an alternative option in cases where, for example, the owner is unknown.
- Liquor licenses were approved for Country Corner, Cowboy Bar, Sunset Amigos, and Western Bar and Café.
- The council voted to pass a resolution in support of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities' legislative agenda for the 2016 Budget Session and efforts to gain appropriation of state funding for all municipalities across the state.
- Fire Chief John Strong reported that the

- 2016 Fireman's Ball drew about 120 people and netted the fire department approximately \$6,000.
- City Superintendent Mark Lindstrom stated that he has received a letter from the Wyoming Water Development Commission requesting that he appear before their board in March. The letter is in regard to a well project the town has opted to discontinue, for which the town received water commission funding of more than \$50,000. The council is concerned the town may have to pay back the money. Attorney Hughes offered to look over the relevant regulations for Lindstrom and assist him however possible.
- Superintendent Lindstrom reported that the town has received a permit from the DEQ for the construction of a transfer station for hauling solid waste out of the area. Lindstrom noted that there is no specified time limitation on the permit's use.
- The 2016 Festival of Tables will be held on March 19 to raise funds for Upton City Park, Deputy Clerk Kelley Millar reported. Table will cost \$175 each.
- Attorney Hughes advised ensuring the town's website is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to avoid a recent spate of lawsuits related to website access.



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Saturday, April 16



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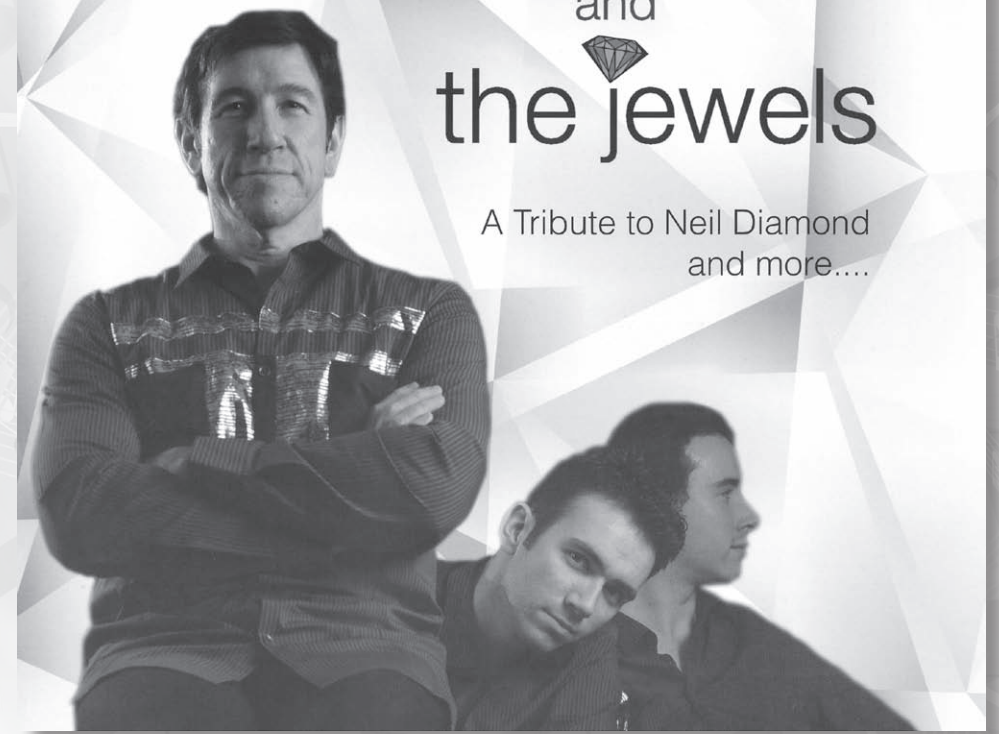


Results from the Wyoming Health Fair Blood Draw will be available. Draw to be held March 31 in Upton and April 1-2 in Newcastle.

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Generations

News Letter Journal

NICE WHEELS!



Transportation Director Mark Peterson stands before one of WCSD #1's 20 buses on Feb. 4. Getting the district's students to and from school safely is a team effort, he told the NLJ (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

School's drivers have plenty to be proud of

Todd Bennington
NLJ Reporter

The local school district is always looking for a few good men or women to keep the wheels on their buses turning, and for those who've always wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes of WCSD #1's Transportation Department, Director Mark Peterson recently gave the NLJ a tour of the district's bus barn facility, where buses are maintained in order to ensure that Newcastle's students get safely to and from school and extracurricular activities each day.

Peterson, whose team includes Transportation Secretary Tomi Yeager, Transportation Assistant Randy Geisinger, and Mechanic Adam Egging, said his department employs 17 people at the moment.

Currently he's in the process of training a substitute bus driver, Peterson mentioned, adding that the district is short of subs these days.

"I'd like to get the word out that it isn't as scary as it may look," Peterson said of managing a busload of unruly youngsters to whom the driver's back is usually turned.

Still, Peterson acknowledged that it's not without its challenges.

"You've got to learn your student management, which some of that, that just takes time," he explained. "You've got to get in there and experience it. But I try to give them the basics on student management. [You can't] let the distractions get in your way and cause you to be an unsafe driver."

Peterson, who retired from the Air Force after 23 years of service, said it's probably his military background that causes him to put so much emphasis on training, and he insists on setting up his drivers for success. He said sometimes it takes an extra week or two for trainees to get the hang of things but that it's time well spent. Some of his best drivers have been moms, he said, with no prior experience operating large vehicles.

Attitude is also important, emphasized Peterson, who currently has one child of his own in the district.

"You've got to have a love for kids. That's what I look at. When I interview people I really try to get a feel for [whether] they're going to be good for kids. Do I want my kids riding a bus with that person? Will that person be a safe driver? Will that person treat them with respect and set them up for success?"

Drug testing and background checks are

also part of the hiring process, and drivers must maintain a Class 'B' CDL with school bus and passenger endorsements. The state also requires a minimum of six hours of continuing annual training.

Virtually all the transportation staff function as substitute drivers, Peterson added, regardless of their position.

"It really gives me a perspective on what my drivers are faced with day-to-day and helps me with management, being really hands on," he figured.

Peterson said he often finds it refreshing to get out of the office and away from paperwork in order to work a bus route. Transportation Secretary Tomi Yeager, who's been with the district for about 10 years, agreed.

"You get to interact with all the kids, and if you're having a bad day they tend to perk you up. They test your patience, but it keeps you on your toes," she said.

Though Peterson also admitted the kids can sometimes stress him out, more so than having to maneuver a big bus by itself, he said that driving is generally a pleasure because of the character of the district's students. Rarely are seats cut or otherwise vandalized, and in his six years on the job Peterson said he has only had to take one student off the bus for what was a minor scuffle.

More daunting challenges to the department include winter weather, and Peterson said he's thoroughly enjoying the mild winter thus far. It's always a difficult call to make when deciding whether to cancel transportation to sporting events or for field trips, he stated, but newer technologies like GPS and real-time internet weather reports are very useful when it comes to questions of safety.

The department's schedule can range anywhere from three to four out-of-area trips in a week to having as many as six buses out at one time, Peterson further mentioned, depending on the time of year.

Flats and blowouts are largely unknown these days, Peterson went on to say, something which he attributes to improvements in tire technology in recent decades. Still, with the long distances the district buses travel, problems can occur. In that case the department is often dependent on the assistance of other districts and vice-versa. Because of that, the transportation community is a tight knit one.

"We look out for each other," said Peterson.

Another benefit of taking on a bus driving position in the local school district, according to the transportation director, is the quality of the district's fleet and the facility in which the vehicles are stored and maintained.

Built on the spot occupied by the previous facility, which was lost to fire in Nov. 2008, Newcastle's bus barn provides storage space for the district's buses, of which there are 20 in total, protecting them from the elements. Peterson indicated indoor storage is a luxury not available to every school district and helps increase the lifespan of the buses, though some of his rural-route drivers are allowed to keep the buses they drive at home.

Full-size buses can cost well over \$130,000, he said, and the buses are auctioned or traded in after a specified mileage or period of service. The department primarily utilizes Georgia-built Blue Bird buses, though its smaller buses are made in Canada.

"The used buses from Wyoming, they're pretty highly sought after. We really take very good care of our buses," Peterson explained, adding "When that bus goes out on an activity our names are on that. We take pride in it. That represents the school district. That represents Newcastle. We want to send a sharp-looking bus out there that represents us well."

To that end a heated wash bay means dirty buses can be hosed down even when it's freezing out, and a portable lift system allows buses to be suspended mid-air in order to provide easier access to undercarriages for maintenance and repairs.

When it comes to actual work on the buses, Peterson said that the department mostly stocks Blue Bird parts and that they enjoy the convenience of having mainly one make of bus to work on. Mechanic Adam Egging, who has been with the district for about nine years, said the implementation of federal emissions standards has been the biggest hurdle as of late.

"They're phasing all that in, so it's been kind of a challenge to get all that to work right," he said.

Peterson related that a popular saying within the transportation community is "education begins with transportation." The department's staff takes that to heart, he said, viewing their role as the first step when it comes to educating students.

"They do keep kids at the forefront of everything," he said of his staff. "They do what's best for kids. That's what it's all about. They're just a great bunch of people to work with."

"It's a great job for somebody who maybe has kids in school," Peterson said of the bottom line on bus driving, adding, "Really the fun part of it ... is when you go to the grocery store or something and you'll have [kids] come up and they'll tell their mom and dad, 'Hey, he's my bus driver' and want their mom and dad to meet you. That's pretty cool."

School Notes

Discussion items at the Feb. 10 meeting of the WCSD #1 Board of Trustees included the following:

- The trustees approved an agreement with First State Bank for the use of Kozisek Aquatic Center by the bank's employees and their family members for the period of Feb. 1, 2016 to Jan. 31, 2017.
- Attorney Don Hansen presented on a recently decided case in which Lincoln County School District #2 was sued for an incident involving a lunchroom table that resulted in the death of a five-year-old boy. Hansen brought up the case because of certain elements, potentially applicable to WCSD #1, that he said he hopes the board will take into account in future decision making.
- Student Representative Sierra LaCroix said a planned blood drive has been cancelled due to scheduling issues. Student-made valentines were to be presented to RENEW, she added.
- Special Education Director Tobey Cass provided a visual presentation on a recent Special Olympics ski event held at Terry Peak.
- Middle School Principal Todd Quigley reported 50 students went on an incentive trip for good behavior, attending a musical at the Heritage Center Theater in Gillette. Eighth-graders will be performing a musical version of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow at Crouch Auditorium on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m., he added.
- High School Principal Tracy Ragland reported that regional accreditation body the Higher Learning Commission appears to be backing off from more stringent faculty qualification rules that would require concurrent program teachers to possess a master's degree specific to the subject they teach. Ragland mentioned that HLC seems to be recognizing some of the problems inherent in making such a change and has introduced an extension waiver that would delay compliance as far out as Sept. 2022.
- As a point of interest, Ragland presented the district information on the Hitachi ETG-4000, an optical topography system which is usual in treating learning problems such as dyslexia. Each unit costs \$400,000, and the systems are difficult to obtain due to low production quantities. Ragland said the University of Wyoming is currently looking to procure one.
- Superintendent Brad LaCroix mentioned what he said are developing problems with the middle school parking lot due to the amount of traffic it sees. LaCroix said he is considering moving the drop off/pickup area to the south side of the high school next fall in order to help increase safety by reducing the traffic flow.
- Following the conclusion of the school board meeting, Community Rec Director Jessica Bettorf presented the Eastern Weston County Recreation Board with three proposed fee structures for the use of district facilities, including the weight rooms, pool, and open gyms. One of the proposals reflects current costs, while the others are respectively designed to increase and maximize facility usage. Superintendent LaCroix emphasized that consistency in what users are charged is important regardless of what decision is made. On a related note, Business Manager Deb Sylte mentioned she believes it makes sense to combine the different accounts associated with the district's rec facilities. No action was taken.

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Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

Girls Basketball			
02/19	V9	Glenrock Herders	A 4 PM
02/20	V9	Rawlins Outlaws	A 12 PM
Boys Basketball			
02/19	V9	Glenrock Herders	H 4 PM
02/20	V9	Rawlins Outlaws	A 12 PM
Wrestling			
02/19-20	3A	East Regionals at Torrington	A 10 AM
Boys Swimming			
02/16	V9	Newcastle Qualifier	H 4 PM
MS Boys Basketball			
02/16		Moorcroft Wolves	H 4 PM
02/16		B Team @ Upton	A 4 PM
02/18		B Team vs Gillette Rec	H 4 PM
02/20		7th Grade 3A Championships @ Wheatland	9 AM
02/20		8th Grade 3A Championships @ Glenrock	9 AM
02/23		Sundance Bulldogs	H 4 PM

Scores

MS Boys Basketball			
02/2	7th B	Newcastle 33	Hulett 17
	8th A	Newcastle 35	Upton 38
	8th B	Newcastle 4	Hulett 27
02/4	7th B	Newcastle 24	Edgemont 16
	8th B	Newcastle 9	Edgemont 37
02/5	8th A	Newcastle 32	Custer 26
02/6	7th B	Newcastle 11	Douglas 47
		Newcastle 32	Glenrock 16
	8th B	Newcastle 11	Torrington 37
		Newcastle 11	Douglas 47
02/9	8th A	Newcastle 24	Wright 23
02/11	8th A	Newcastle 43	Lead 37
02/13	8th A	Newcastle 35	Buffalo 39
	8th A	Newcastle 42	Wright 25

Press stressed



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

Once again this week, sportsmanship in high school athletics is predominantly on my mind.

Over the course of my many encounters with this aspect of competition, I have experienced a multitude of positive displays, but continue to be incredibly disappointed when the opposite situation plays out.

Unfortunately, last weekend I had the displeasure of seeing one of those negative scenarios unfold as I traveled to watch the Dogies play against a conference opponent.

Many times over the years, our Newcastle teams have run up against very talented competition in this tough 3A class, and many times our squad is simply out-manned and out-played. The fact that we lose some contests by a pretty significant amount is not necessarily something new.

We are one of the smallest schools in 3A, and so numbers will come to bear from time to time. Not only that, but talent goes in streaks it seems, so it's not surprising that sometimes our conference opponents are "stacked" with great talent.

This is just something that is bound to happen.

Regardless of the talent of our team or theirs, one aspect of high school basketball, in particular, that continues to get under my craw is when coaches – ours or theirs – continue to apply full court pressure to the losing team when they are up late in the game.

Just such a scenario took place this weekend. The Dogies' opponent was up 36-38 points late in the third quarter, but they continued to apply very aggressive full court pressure despite their dominating lead.

Now, I am not suggesting in any way, shape or form that our opponent should have stopped playing the defense they are capable of playing. However, is it necessary to continue to apply full-court pressure when it was clear that their win was not in question?

It's my opinion that it is not.

This, of course, is not the first time I've seen this happen in basketball, and it's not the first time I've been irritated by it. Whether it's my beloved Dogies who are experiencing the frustration this creates or any other team, I believe that the sportsmanlike thing to do when your team has completely dominated their opponent is to pull the press, because doing so does not mean you stop playing aggressive defense. It just means you pull it to half court.

Fortunately in the contest last weekend, the coach redeemed himself by not allowing his team to shoot the

— See Karp, Page 10



Off their pedestal

Dogies hand Worland their first loss

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Despite a 12-3 overall record, the Lady Dogies headed into last weekend hungry for another win against the Buffalo Lady Bison. They were even more excited to even the score with the top-ranked and undefeated Lady Warriors of Worland. The last time the Lady Dogies met up with the teams from either side of the Bighorn Mountains, the Lady Bison gave Newcastle a run for their money and the Lady Warriors handed a 20-point loss to them in the Dome.

But with three weeks to brood about the loss to Worland, the Lady Dogies went into the matchup determined to prove that the Lady Warriors had nothing on them, and prove

it they did.

"I just can't say enough about the entire team effort on Saturday night. We tell our kids all the time that coaching is overrated and that players win games. That couldn't be more evident than it was in Saturday's game," head coach Tyler Bartlett beamed. "We ran the same offense and defense for the entire 32 minutes, and other than a few plays out of timeouts, we didn't call many sets either. It really came down to our kids answering the bell every time they had to. We never trailed in that game and it's a testament to how bad our girls wanted that win and how well they played as a team."

The Lady Dogies, led by the Big Three – Abby Gray, Alyssa Dawson and Hannah Cass – came out strong against the Lady Warriors and worked together to give Worland more than they could handle on both ends of the court.

"Obviously Abby, Alyssa, and Hannah were outstanding," Bartlett declared. "They com-



Senior Alyssa Dawson drives past a Worland defender in Saturday's upset. Above left: The Dogies celebrate as the final seconds tick off the clock, signaling the Warriors first defeat in the 2015-16 campaign. (Sonja Karp/NLJ and Sisco Molina/Northern Wyoming Daily News)

bined to score 54 of our 61 points and showed why each of them should be considered for All-State honors at the end of the season."

Bartlett was quick to note, however, that his entire squad played pivotal roles that contributed to the ladies' win.

"People need to realize how critical all nine of our kids were in that game. For instance, Abi Deveraux was matched up on Haley Schneider (two-time All-State) all night long and did an outstanding job of making her work for everything she got. She ended up with 15 points, but nine of those came from the free throw line, and some of them on some fairly questionable calls," Bartlett beamed.

"And I could not be prouder of Kendra Back's performance in that game. Playing in pain

the entire night after spraining her ankle on Friday, she held the best post in our conference to 11 points. Just a perfect demonstration of this team's commitment to each other and willingness to do what it takes to win."

While the Lady Warriors went on a run late in the game and tied the contest on several occasions, the Lady Dogies never appeared to panic and answered each one, pulling ahead by six to eight points and ultimately knocked their foe off their undefeated pedestal by a score of 61-51.

Leading the way was Gray with 19, followed by Dawson with 18 and Cass with 17. Kaprina Jones chipped in five points and Deveraux added two to round out the scoring for the Lady Dogies. Cass added to her

double-digit scoring by pulling down 10 rebounds, executing two assists, grabbing two steals and throwing down two blocks. Gray also had an impressive seven assists, three steals and three rebounds on the night.

The big win on the road was preceded by a 16 point victory over the Lady Bison in the Dome on Friday. Given this was the Lady Dogies' final game in the Dome, the seniors who make up the squad's starting lineup, were honored prior to the warmup for the contest.

"I think early in the game you could see how the emotion of Senior Night affected all of our girls. Offensively, we looked just a little too excited and had a couple turnovers right out of the gate. Thankfully for

— See Ladies, Page 10

Riley wins conference title

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

Heading into the 3A Conference Swim Meet last Friday and Saturday in Rawlins, the inexperienced Dogie squad was feeling some jitters, knowing how important the outcome of the weekend

would be for their State Meet hopes.

Though the nerves may have gotten the best of a few, the team put up some good times and added athletes to the slate for the culminating Dogie squad was feeling some jitters, knowing how important the outcome of the weekend

"As a team, we were mixed

as far as best times, but most everyone had a best time in at least one event," stated head coach Doug Scribner.

Eythan Riley continued to put up strong times in his events, including an effort that secured the conference championship for the freshman in the 500 Free. He dominated

his competition to finish in 5:38.70, a full 22 seconds in front of the second-place finisher. Given his time was second only to the 3A West's top finisher from Lander, who is also a freshman, Riley should earn a great seed for the state event.

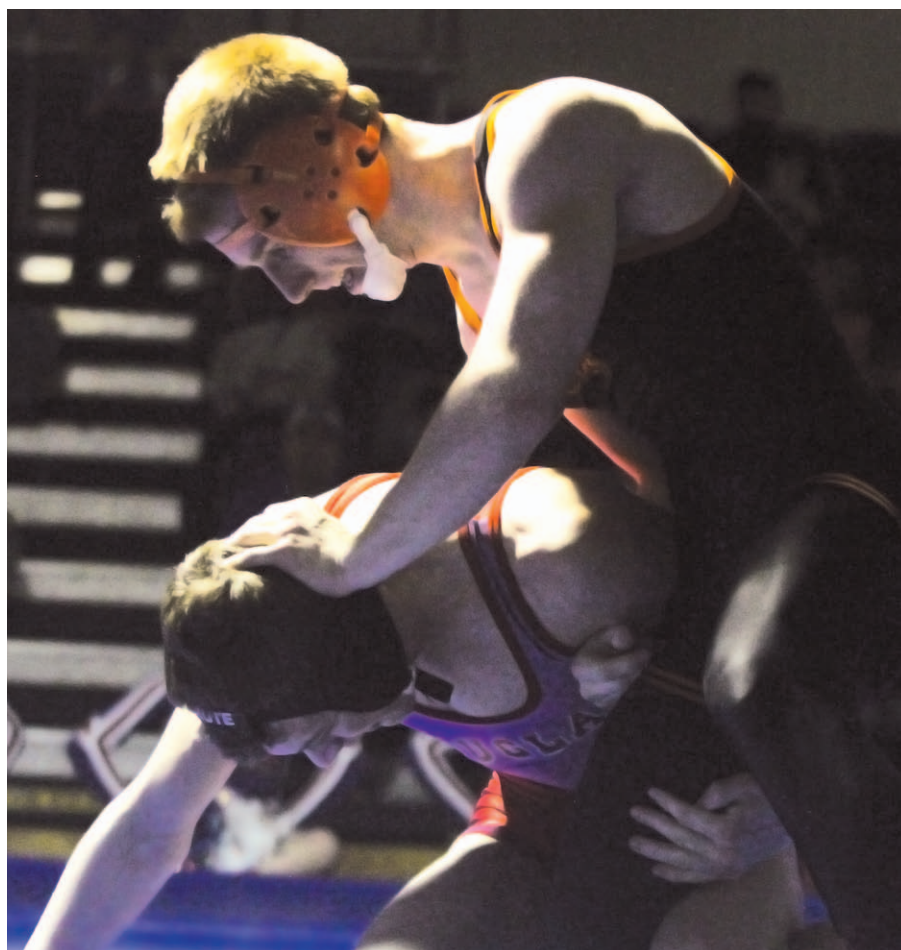
In addition to his great

finish in the 500, Riley also took third in the 200 Free and helped his team to a fifth place finish in the 200 and 400 Free Relay events.

Freshman Jacob Yeatman also had a good showing, finishing sixth in the 200 IM with the state event.

— See Swimming, Page 10

Grapplers set sights on post-season



Newcastle senior Ricky Larson tries to gain an advantage over his foe in Douglas on Saturday. (Cody Tucker/Douglas Budget)

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

In their final regular season competition, the combined Newcastle/Upton wrestling team saw split results as they dominated the Wheatland Bulldogs last Thursday before falling to the Douglas Bearcats on Saturday.

The dichotomy in the squad's finishes was mirrored in their familiarity with each opponent. While Douglas has been a regular and frequent adversary, the Bulldogs were much less familiar as a foe.

"We really hadn't seen much of Wheatland this season, and I figured it would be a tough dual," head coach Lee McCoy began. "As it turned out, we really rolled past the Bulldogs. We looked sharp and ended up winning 51-15."

With a day to recuperate, Newcastle/

Upton was off to Douglas to take on the Bearcats once again in the regular season finale, and that match proved to be much more competitive.

"There was no doubt this was going to be a dog fight! The coaches knew we could beat them, but there wouldn't be any room for error," McCoy exclaimed.

Knowing the team was going in with one loss due to forfeit, all knew that they would need to be in top form to come away with a win.

Dawson (113), Connolly (126), Corley (152) and Marchant (182) each pulled their weight, defeating their opponents with a pin. Unfortunately, the remaining Dogie/Bobcats couldn't get the best of their competition, though the wins didn't come easy for the Bearcats either.

Both Parks and Bryce Womack (285) lost their matches by only one point, while Baker and Schuessler each took their opponent late into the match before they found themselves on the losing end.

"Douglas is a top 3A team and they're not just going to roll over," McCoy admitted. "I thought we wrestled well, but had some matches not go our way. I know I've said this before and it was very apparent during this

— See Grapplers, Page 16

The mountains win again

Ballers rolled by Buffalo and Worland

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The second time was certainly not the charm for the Dogies as they faced two of the toughest teams in 3A back-to-back last Friday and Saturday.

In fact, the circumstances surrounding the contests seemed like déjà vu in many ways.

When the teams faced off in January, the Dogies dropped both contests by significant margins, and though Newcastle is playing better basketball now than they were earlier this year, the Buffalo Bison and the top ranked Worland Warriors have also stepped up their already pretty impressive games.

Knowing what they were up against, the squad realized they would have to play their best if they hoped to turn the tables on these powerhouse opponents, and when the weekend began it looked for a moment as if things just may turn out differently the second time around.

"We had great energy and enthusiasm to start the game against Buffalo, and I thought

we executed our game plan very well," head coach Allen Von Eye began.

"We did a really good job defensively on the Peterson kid, which forced them to move Trey Schroefel to the point guard position. We also executed well on the offensive end during the first quarter," he continued. The coach had strategized to get Schroefel moved to the point in an effort to take one of the top three scorers in the state out of the shooting guard position to cut down on his scoring opportunities.

That worked for a time, and the fact that Dogies were very effective with their play in the first quarter was evident by the score, as Newcastle held the lead 12-9 as time ticked off the clock at the end of the frame.

"Unfortunately, the shots stopped falling during the second quarter," Von Eye sighed.

That would result in Buffalo outscoring the Dogies 18-2 in the second quarter, and the Bison took a 27-14 lead as the teams headed into the locker room.

"We still did some good things offensively and I think we still played pretty well on the defensive end, but when shots are not falling it puts way too much stress on your defense. Despite playing well defensively, our inadequacy on offense enabled them to stretch the lead a bit," Von Eye reasoned.

Unfortunately, the break did nothing to change the course of the contest for the Dogies as the Bison came out with a vengeance and outscored the home team 35-7 in the next eight minutes.

"The third quarter was probably one of our worst of the season, mostly because of our inability to execute our press-breakers," Von Eye frowned. "We've had issues with turnovers, passing, strong dribbles in games before, but struggling like this against their full court pressure was a bit frustrating. We didn't execute our press-breakers like we have

in the past and, more importantly, we were unable to diagnosis the types of pressure that they were using, which put us in tough situations."

Despite a promising start to the contest, the Buffalo game turned out a mirror image of the first time the Dogies played them and when the fourth quarter came to a close, Newcastle was on the losing end 33-71.

Taylor Allen led his team in scoring with 14 points, followed by Cam Quigley with seven and Cooper Karp with six. Cade Ostenson and Derek Lewis rounded out the scoring with three points each.

On Saturday, the Dogies had to put the disheartening home loss behind them when they loaded up and headed over the mountain to take on an even more daunting opponent in the Worland Warriors.

Though the Dogies scored a three in their opening possession, according to Von Eye his team just didn't seem to be able to execute the game plan the way in which they needed.

"We knew going in that we needed to have a bounce back game by getting off to a fast start," Von Eye declared. "If you follow a game like the Buffalo one up with a slow start, it can be disastrous. We did a good job early, like we knew we needed to, but unfortunately from the onset (the opening possession) there was a common negative scene that we would see throughout the ball game, which was a lack of focus."

By anyone's standards, Worland is a tough team to defend because you have to guard the perimeter as well as have a great interior defensive game, as nearly every player they throw on the court is capable of scoring in multiple positions. Unfortunately, the Dogies were never able to execute solid defense in either aspect of the game.

"Worland is a great basketball team that is loaded with shooters/scorers. They have all sorts of individuals that can



Triston Roberson beats the Worland defenders to the hole for an easy bucket, but such scoring opportunities were few and far between for the Dogies last weekend. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

create their own shots and in turn create opportunities for others. We were unable to play the type of defense that we needed to in order to be successful," Von Eye admitted.

In addition to less than stellar defense on Newcastle's part, it also appeared as though the tempo of the contest played more into the Warrior's game plan than the Dogies'.

"We saw the old adage that you can't bring a knife to a gun fight really play out in this game," Von Eye exclaimed. "They have far too many weapons and that is much more their style of basketball than it is ours to try to get into a run and gun game."

When the storm had passed and the dust had settled, the Dogies picked up their second loss to this quality team by a score of 57-96.

"They are good and deserve the number one spot in the state," Von Eye acknowledged.

Allen did everything he could to give his Dogies a shot

and scored a career high 32 points while pulling down four rebounds, throwing four assists and nabbing two steals, but his efforts weren't enough to battle against a team that went 10-12 deep in scoring.

"I thought Taylor's fire was amazing to see, as he continually tried to will us back into the game, not only on the offensive side (to the tune of 23 first half points) but also on the defensive side versus Hoyt [Nicholas]," Von Eye nodded.

Following Allen in scoring were Ostenson with eight, Quigley with six, Dawson Norton with four and Vincent Oedekoven with three. Karp and Kaullen Sundstrom rounded out the scoring with two points each.

"Again, it was a story of our unforced errors that hit us in spurts throughout the first half that really sealed the deal. We would have a dropped pass here, a weak dribble here, or a pass between two players there that just hurt us while trying to

keep up with them," Von Eye explained.

The pace is not about to slow down for the Dogies as they prepare for two very important contests this weekend. They will host their final home game of the season on Friday as the Glenrock Herders come to town, and will then travel to Rawlins on Saturday to take on the Outlaws.

"Glenrock is a team built in similar fashion to our own, as it is a scrappy, hard-working, defensive oriented team, and though they lack the elite scorer that we have in Taylor, the similarities are evident," Von Eye explained.

"Rawlins has been somewhat of an enigma this year because they have absolutely dominated some teams (especially once Wall came back), yet they have been handled quite easily by Wheatland both times. It just goes to show you the parity in our league and the importance of showing up every single night," he finished.

Basketball

Newcastle v Buffalo 2-12-16: 33-71

Taylor Allen: 14 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 1 steal
Cam Quigley: 7 points, 3 rebounds
Cooper Karp: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Triston Roberson: 3 rebounds, 2 assists
Cade Ostenson: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist
Vincent Oedekoven: 1 rebound, 1 assist
Dawson Norton: 3 rebounds 1 assist
Derek Lewis: 3 points
Bryson Tidymann: 1 assist

Newcastle @ Worland 2-13-16: 57-96

Taylor Allen: 32 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals
Cam Quigley: 6 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal
Cooper Karp: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist
Triston Roberson: 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal
Cade Ostenson: 8 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal
Vincent Oedekoven: 3 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist
Dawson Norton: 4 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist
Kaullen Sundstrom: 2 points, 1 rebound

Karp

from page 9.....

ball in the last two minutes of the ball game in order to keep his squad from slapping 100 on the Dogies, which I thought was very commendable.

However, that's when the student section disappointed me with their lack of sportsmanship. In the final seconds of the game when their team held a 40-point advantage over the Dogies, they began a cheer which I felt went far beyond applauding their players and moved into the arena of humiliating Newcastle.

Cheering that your team is going to win is completely understandable, but then screaming that the other is the losing team over and over takes it to a whole different level. The fact that the boys had been mercy-ruled late in the third or early in the fourth quarter was bad enough, but to then have to listen to being called "losers" just added insult to injury.

I'm all for school spirit, but not when it's mean school spirit. No one in that gym doubted the skill and ability of the home team, but when the student section began to behave in that manner, it completely cheapened the hard work and talent their team had put into not only that victory, but into the success of their overall season.

The one bright side to this whole debacle was that these kinds of experiences are much less common than are the great displays of sportsmanship around the state. For every one of these situations, there are multiple examples of wonderful moments in sports, and I'm looking forward to the next one to take away the bad taste in my mouth from this one.

Ladies

from page 9.....

us, that energy served us well on the defensive end, as we forced Buffalo into some turnovers and missed shots early as well," Bartlett smiled.

After the squad settled down and focused on the game, it was evident to all in attendance that Newcastle controlled the contest through its entirety, holding a talented team like Buffalo to only ten points in the first half and 36 overall.

"To be able to accomplish that takes consistent team effort on defense. I was particularly pleased with how Alyssa Umphlett and Rachel Henkle played defensively. Alyssa essentially took their best player (Tana Dahlberg) out of their game plan for a stretch in the second half. Dahlberg has about six inches on Alyssa but she made up for it with energy and effort. Rachel's strength and physicality really bothered Buffalo. She may have ended up fouling out, but each of her five fouls were committed doing things she's coached to do, and doing so aggressively," Bartlett boasted.

Because his squad held a dominant lead late in the game, Bartlett was pleased to be able to pull his seniors so they could get the

recognition he felt they deserved.

"I'm so proud of those five girls and their commitment and dedication to this team," he began. "I told them after the game that I've never coached a more special group in my 10 years as a coach. Rachel Henkle probably said it best in the locker room when she told the seniors, 'You guys have set the bar so high, and it makes the rest of us have to work up to that level too. You have made each of us better.'"

Cass led her team in their 52-36 win with 14 points, 15 rebounds, three assists, one steal and six blocks. Dawson was close behind with 13 points, eight rebounds, one assist and one steal, followed by Gray with seven points, four rebounds, three assists and one steal. Deveraux added six points, Jones had five, Henkle had three and Back and Umphlett each put in two to round out the scoring.

The Lady Dogies are on the road for the remainder of the season and will travel to Glenrock on Friday to take on the Lady Herders, and then go on to Rawlins for a matchup against the Lady Outlaws on Saturday.

"The bottom line is, we have two more big weeks ahead of us. Nothing but road games left for this group, and this weekend's overnight trip to Glenrock and Rawlins will test our team's discipline and focus. We need to have a good week of practice and keep the momentum going, and as always, we'll definitely have some things to work on and improve this week," Bartlett professed.

Lady Basketball

Newcastle v. Buffalo 2-12-16: 52-36

Alyssa Dawson: 13 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Abby Gray: 7 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal
Hannah Cass: 14 points, 15 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 6 blocks
Abi Deveraux: 6 points, 2 rebound, 2 assists, 2 steals
Kendra Back: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal
Rachel Henkle: 3 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal
Kaprina Jones: 5 points, 2 rebounds
Alyssa Umphlett: 2 points, 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block
Rachel Ehlers: 1 rebound

Newcastle @ Worland 2-13-16: 61-51

Alyssa Dawson: 18 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Abby Gray: 19 points, 3 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals
Hannah Cass: 17 points, 10 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks
Abi Deveraux: 2 points, 1 assist
Kendra Back: 3 rebounds, 1 steal
Rachel Henkle: 2 rebounds
Kaprina Jones: 5 points, 4 rebounds

"I hope my patients felt like a family member was caring for them."

I Am Regional Health

Kelly W., RN
Surgical Services Nurse
Spearfish

Regional Health
Helping Patients and Communities Live Well

See more of Kelly's story at regionalhealth.com/IAMRegional

the **Get it HERE** guide

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A comprehensive listing of Weston County businesses, the people that run them and the goods and services available to you right here at home!

Contact Pam Penfield at the News Letter Journal **today** to reserve a space for your business!

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FAMILY, CAREER AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF AMERICA



Back row: Shelby Vandersnick, Ashton Alarid, Katie Deford, Cassie Hawley, Emily Sandoval, Murray Hebring. Middle row: Heather Donner, KyAnne Scott, Sami Walden, Angela Troupe, Nakayla Liggett, Sponsor Lianna Scribner. Front row: Brittane Hebring, Makayla Hofner, Danika Guse, Charlotte Ballieu, Betty Terry, Tiffany Hess, Catherine Thomas. (Photo courtesy of LifeTouch)



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Newcastle Vision Clinic
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Rob's Hot Oil
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Craig Wiggins 746-3521



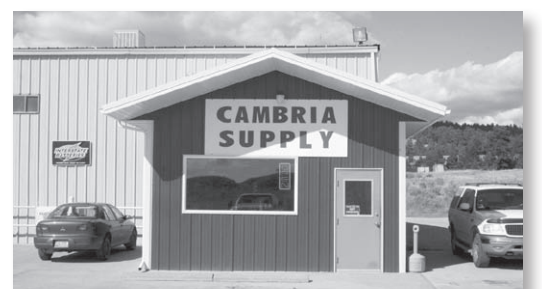
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News Letter Journal
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21 Electric
Josh Liggett - 746-5165

Blotter

January 31, 2016
Traffic stop, Citation issued.

February 1
Two VIN inspections requested. Report of a dog at large. Assist other agency. Information requested. 911 hang up.

February 2
Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Search Warrants executed.

February 3
Found property reported. VIN inspection requested. Traffic stop, One arrest. Found dog reported.

February 4
Extra patrol requested. Civil problem reported. Extra patrol requested. Arrest Warrant issued. Arrest Warrant issued. Fight reported, Two citations issued. Report of a dog at large. Report of a dog at large.

February 5
Civil standby requested. Trespass reported. VIN inspection requested. Gas drive off reported. VIN inspection requested. Traffic stop written warning issued. Civil standby requested.

February 6
Suicide threats. Suspicious activity reported. Domestic reported. Vandalism reported. Domestic reported. Disturbance reported. Minor accident reported. Assist other agency.

February 7
Open door discovered. Possible fire reported. Weather hazard reported. Traffic hazard reported. Domestic problem reported. Medical assist.

February 8
Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic hazard reported. Traffic hazard reported. Ministerial assistance requested. Ministerial

assistance requested. Animal control assistance requested. Found property reported. VIN inspection requested. 911 hang up. Theft reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic control requested. Report of dog at large. Civil standby requested.

February 9
Report of a dog at large. Mail scam reported. Mail theft reported. Game problem reported. DUI reported, one arrest. Lost property reported. Harassment reported. Assist other agency. Trespassing reported. Drunk driver reported. Fight reported.

February 10
911 hang up. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Medical assist. 911 hang up. Welfare check requested. Commercial alarm reported.

February 11
Welfare check requested. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Internet theft reported. Arrest Warrant issued. Hit and Run accident reported. Assist other agency. Message delivery requested. Lost property reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Found property reported.

February 12
Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. 911 hang up. Assist other agency. Hit and Run accident reported.

February 13
911 hang up. Suspicious activity reported. Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Fire alarm reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Missing dog reported. Traffic hazard reported. Runaway reported.



Warning issued. Medical assist. 911 hang up. Welfare check requested. Commercial alarm reported.

February 11
Welfare check requested. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Internet theft reported. Arrest Warrant issued. Hit and Run accident reported. Assist other agency. Message delivery requested. Lost property reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Found property reported.

February 12
Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. 911 hang up. Assist other agency. Hit and Run accident reported.

February 13
911 hang up. Suspicious activity reported. Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Fire alarm reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Missing dog reported. Traffic hazard reported. Runaway reported.

Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) has given Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) authority to adjust its Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) to reflect a net increase of \$10,142,401 per annum in wholesale power costs charged by its supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, effective for usage on and after January 10, 2016, subject to notice, protest, intervention petition, opportunity for hearing, refund, and such further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.

The effect of the proposed increase on an average residential customer monthly bill is approximately \$3.96 per month, based on an 898 kWh/month typical residential usage, excluding taxes. Actual bills will vary with usage.

PRECorp's Application is on file with the Commission at its offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at PRECorp's offices in Sundance, Wyoming, and may be inspected by any interested person during regular business hours.

Anyone desiring to file a public comment, statement, protest, intervention petition or request for a public hearing in this matter must file with the Commission in writing on or before March 1, 2016. The petition shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or want to make a statement, a protest or a public comment, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay by dialing 711. Please contact us as soon as possible to help us serve you better and please include reference to Docket No. 10014-165-CP-15.

Dated: February 1, 2016.

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Procedural Rules and Special Regulations, notice is hereby given of the Application of Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp or the Cooperative) for authority to increase its overall system revenue by \$11,506,749 per annum and revise its tariffs, as more fully described below.

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

On January 27, 2016, PRECorp submitted its Application, together with exhibits and testimony, requesting authority to increase its overall system revenue by \$11,506,749 per annum and revise its tariffs. PRECorp has requested that the new rates become effective on or before January 10, 2017. PRECorp also filed its proposed, revised tariffs to reflect the overall increase in rates to its customer classes. The rates ultimately approved by the Commission on an individual customer class basis may deviate from those proposed by the Cooperative.

In its Application, PRECorp proposed to: [i] increase its overall system revenues by \$11,506,749 per annum; [ii] restate the base cost of power in the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) mechanism to reflect the current level of power cost; [iii] revise the existing base rates to reflect the appropriate recovery of COPA revenue based on the restated base cost of power; and [iv] revise rates to recognize changes in the cost of providing service and move rates for all rate classes closer to the cost of service. The impact of the proposed rate change on the average residential customer will be to increase the monthly billed charge from \$111.15 to \$119.82.

The proposed net revenue adjustments by class are as follows:

	Change	Percent Change
Residential (All Classes)	\$1,512,887	7.83
Seasonal Irrigation	\$145,975	9.40
General Service	\$44,742	12.03
General Service – CBM	\$1,055,992	8.45
Large Power	\$797,505	17.12
Large Power Transmission	\$2,248,608	5.88
Large Power Transmission – CBM	\$260,423	0.35
Large Power Transmission – General	\$4,088	0.08
Large Power Compression – CBM	(\$4,143)	(0.84)
Lighting	\$55	0.00
Total Revenue	\$21,176	7.00
	\$11,506,749	5.94

This is not a complete description of the Application. PRECorp's Application is on file with the Commission at its offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at the Cooperative's offices located in Sundance, Wyoming, and may be inspected there by any interested person during regular business hours. The proposed changes to PRECorp's tariffs are also available on its website at www.precorp.coop.

Anyone desiring to file a public comment, statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must file with the Commission in writing on or before March 4, 2016. Any intervention request filed with the Commission shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing which you will attend and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or write to the Commission, 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications-impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 10014-168-CR-16 in your communications.

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

Legal Notice

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by BFX Infrastructure, LLC to authorize the use of a portable mechanical refrigeration fleet, consisting of 15 units, which can be located at production sites in Wyoming except for the Upper Green River Basin Ozone Non-Attainment Area. Each portable mechanical refrigeration unit is to consist of vessels and exchangers to chill a gas stream, an ethylene glycol dehydration unit, an 800 hp or less generator engine, and an 800 hp or less compressor engine.

For the duration of the public comment period, copies of the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <http://deq.wyoming.gov/aqd/new-source-review/resources/applications-on-notice/> and at the Weston County Clerk's office, Newcastle, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17th St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0001992 in your comment. Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 21, 2016 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests.

(Publish February 18, 2016)

WCSD #1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 FEDERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 DECEMBER 2015

Vendor/Payee	Amount
APPLE	\$6,079.50
AVI Systems, INC.	\$2,560.00
CEC	\$1,840.00
University of Wyoming Extension	\$520.00
BBY PUBLICATIONS	\$1,885.00
NORCO, INC	\$4,675.96
VISA	\$3,626.03
VISA	\$607.46
VISA	\$2,085.90
VISA	\$1,684.00
VISA	\$3,636.56
Checking Account Total:	\$29,200.41
Grand Total:	\$29,200.41

(Publish February 18, 2016)

Bid Notice

BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees, Weston County School District Number 1, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, hereinafter referred to as "Owner", will receive sealed bid proposals for the Weston County School District 1 - Newcastle High School EIFS Resurfacing, Newcastle, Wyoming.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

The work includes damage repair and resurfacing of all existing Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) at the Newcastle High School building.

BID OPENING

BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL 10:00 AM, February 24, 2016 in the Weston County School District's Administration Offices Conference Room located at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY 82701, then publicly opened and read aloud.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

A PREBID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM, February 10, 2016 at the Weston County School District's Administration Offices Conference Room located at 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY 82701. Attendance for Bidders is mandatory, however it will be allowed to attend by phone if physical attendance is not possible. The required attendance call in number is: 866-730-7514 - Participant Pin: 896415#

Call in participants are required to identify themselves, the Company they represent, and their contact information at the start of the Pre-Bid meeting at 10:00am and will be added to the list of meeting attendants. Any attendants who do not identify themselves at that time will be disqualified as prime bidders.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS

The Bidding Documents may be obtained by visiting the SFD Website at: <http://sfd.wyo.gov/projects/process>

Steps

- Step One – Click on "Link to Projects and Online Bidding".
- Step Two – Scroll down and on the left side of the page choose "Weston County School District 1 - Newcastle High School EIFS Resurfacing" under the Construction tab.
- Step Three – Click "Download Project PDF" and enter information.

CLARIFICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF BID DOCUMENTS

Questions regarding clarification or interpretation of the bid documents shall be addressed in writing to:

ARCHITECT:

Dale Buckingham Architects, LLC
45 East Loucks Street, Suite 301
Sheridan, WY 82801
Ph: (307) 672-8270
info@dbarchitectsllc.com

Each bidder and sub-bidder shall review the work indicated by other trades to determine whether it is complete and adequate to the extent that it affects his own work.

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

WCSD #1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 FEDERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 JANUARY 2016

Vendor/Payee	Amount
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$15,821.64
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$2,698.12
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$14,789.81
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$769.71
LRP	\$2,290.00
NORCO LLC	\$1,600.29
VISA	\$593.57
VISA	\$7,291.90
VISA	\$5,660.11
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$1,738.34
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$14,992.61
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$13,420.06
Checking Account Total:	\$81,666.16
Grand Total:	\$81,666.16

(Publish February 18, 2016)

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FILING AN APPLICATION FOR BRANCH OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that Pinnacle Bank — Wyoming, 2000 Main Street, Torrington, Wyoming 82240 has filed an application to establish a branch office at 1401 Washington Boulevard, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at the Kansas City Regional Office, 1100 Walnut Street, Suite 2100, Kansas City, Missouri 64106 not later than March 31, 2016. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential file will be made available upon request February 18th, 2016.

(Publish February 18, 25 and March 3, 2016)

Election Notice

PROCLAMATION & NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR CAMBRIA IMPROVEMENT & SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016

Notice is hereby given that CAMBRIA IMPROVEMENT & SERVICE DISTRICT is seeking applicants for ONE (1) DIRECTOR to serve on the Board of Directors for a FOUR (4) year term.

Any qualified elector or landowner within the boundaries of Cambria Improvement and Service District may apply for the position of Director by filing an application with the District's secretary, Sharron Ackerman. To receive an application please call 746-2205. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED BY APRIL 10, 2016.

All qualified electors and landowners within the District's boundaries are entitled to vote, either in person at the Weston County Library meeting room or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained by calling the secretary or by written request to Cambria Improvement & Service District at P.O. Box 91, Newcastle, WY 82701. Absentee ballots must be received no later than May 9, 2016.

(Publish February 18, 25 and March 3, 2016)

Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) has given Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) authority to increase the Heat Credit in its optional Residential Heat Rate (RHR) tariff effective for usage on and after January 10, 2016. This revision is the result of a change in the underlying rates charged to PRECorp by its supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The Commission's approval of this application is subject to notice, protest, intervention petition, opportunity for hearing, refund, and such further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.

On November 23, 2015, PRECorp submitted its application to revise the Heat Credit in its RHR tariff consistent with the most recently approved Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) Electric Heat Rate. PRECorp states the RHR is an optional rate available to residential customers with permanent electric resistance heat and/or electric heat pump space heating systems that allows them to receive a credit against their heating energy charges. The RHR tariff provides a discounted rate for qualifying loads and is offered in conjunction with the Basin Electric Heat Rate program. The Heat Credit proposed by the Cooperative is intended to equal its total avoided wholesale cost per kWh based on Basin's published Electric Heat Rate. The RHR has three components: [i] a Basic Charge; [ii] an Energy Charge; and [iii] a Heat Credit. In this application, PRECorp proposes to increase its Heat Credit from \$0.02879 to \$0.03361 per kWh for qualifying systems for the period of October through April established in its tariffs.

PRECorp's application is on file with the Commission at its offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at PRECorp's offices in Sundance, Wyoming, and may be inspected by any interested person during regular business hours.

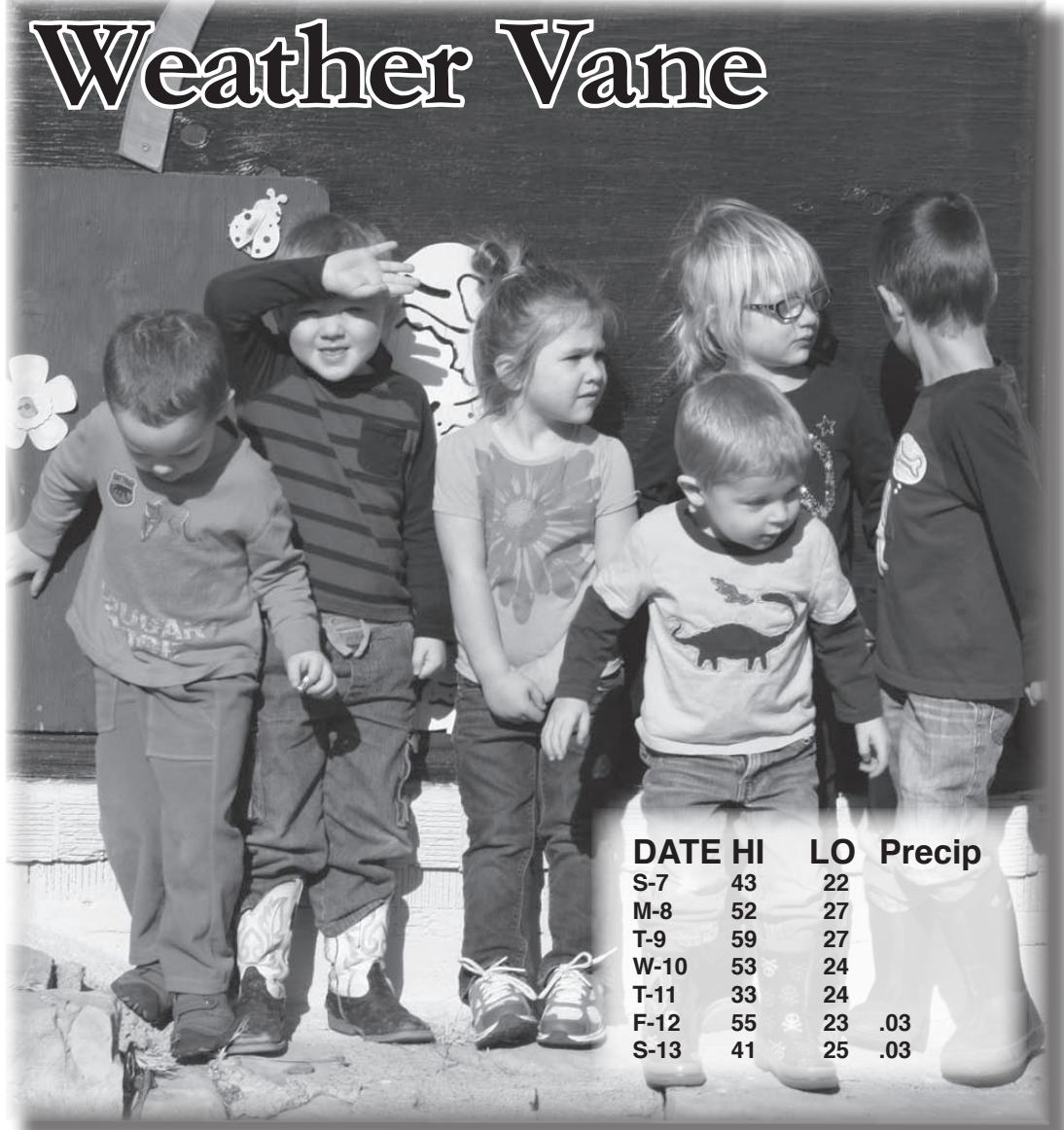
Anyone desiring to file an intervention petition, request for a public hearing, public comment, statement, or protest in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before February 26, 2016. Please include reference to Docket No. 10014-166-CT-15 in your communications.

If you wish to file an intervention petition, request for a public hearing that you will attend, or wish to make a public comment, statement, or protest, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay by dialing 711.

Dated: February 1, 2016.

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

Weather Vane



	DATE	HI	LO	Precip
S-7	43	22		
M-8	52	27		
T-9	59	27		
W-10	53	24		
T-11	33	24		
F-12	55	23	.03	
S-13	41	25	.03	

Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given by First State Bank of Newcastle, a Wyoming banking corporation, that default has occurred under the terms of that certain Mortgage which secures the payment of indebtedness due to First State Bank of Newcastle and which Mortgage is a lien upon the following-described real property together with improvements thereon and appurtenances appertaining thereto situate in Weston County, Wyoming ("Mortgaged Property"), to wit:

The South 60 feet of Lots 5 and 6, Block 4, Original Town of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming, according to the recorded plat thereof; AND

A tract of land located in the City of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming, described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 4 in Block 14 in the Original Town of Newcastle, Wyoming; thence running Easterly along the alley line of said Lot for a distance of 30 feet; thence running Northerly 45 feet; thence running Westerly 30 feet to the Westerly lot line of said Lot 4; thence running southerly 45 feet to the place of beginning, all of said property being in the Original Town of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming, according to the recorded plat thereof;

which Mortgage is dated August 31, 2012 and Aaron Seekings is the mortgagor and First State Bank of Newcastle is the mortgagee and which was recorded on September 10, 2012 in Book 339 of Photos at page 815 in the real property records in and for Weston County, Wyoming maintained in the Office of the County Clerk of Weston County, Wyoming.

Said Mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of default thereunder First State Bank of Newcastle, as mortgagee, declares to be operative. No suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof. The amount(s) of the indebtedness due to First State Bank of Newcastle upon the obligations secured by the Mortgage (principal, interest, late fees and other amounts, if any) as of the date of first publication of this Notice is \$76,136.89, to which will be added the costs and expenses of foreclosure (including reasonable attorney's fees) and interest accruing after the date of this Notice, and to which any payments made toward such indebtedness will be credited.

First State Bank of Newcastle as mortgagee will have said Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the Mortgaged Property above-described to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff (or Deputy Sheriff) in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 a.m. on March 1, 2016 at the front door of the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. The amount(s) due to First State Bank of Newcastle secured by the Mortgage shall be announced at the time of sale.

The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale, and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid.

First State Bank of Newcastle
A Wyoming banking corporation
By: James M. Peck
Attorney No. 5-2021
Hansen and Peck
Attorneys At Law
18 West Main
Newcastle, Wyoming 82701
(307) 746-2761

(Publish January 28, February 4, 11 and 18, 2016)

Probate Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
IN AND FOR WESTON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
**GLENDA M. WILLADSON,
Deceased.**
Probate No. PR-8036

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DECREE OF SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ron L. Willadson filed in the District Court, Sixth Judicial District, Weston County, Wyoming, an Application For Decree Of Summary Distribution to Ron L. Willadson and Scott R. Willadson as the heirs of Glenda M. Willadson, of Decedent's interest in the following-described property in Weston County, Wyoming:

Lots 1, 2 and 3; Block 32, Forest Hill Park Addition, Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming Wells Fargo Accounts

The application is filed under the provisions of Section 2-1-205, Wyoming Statutes.

If no objection to the application is filed with the Court within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication, the Court shall enter a decree establishing the right and title to the property.

DATED this 4th day of February, 2016

GIDGET MACKIE
Clerk of District Court

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) has given Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) authority to adjust its Small Power Production (SPP) tariff, effective on and after January 10, 2016. This revision is the result of a change in the underlying rates charged to PRECorp by its supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The Commission's approval of this application is subject to notice, protest, intervention petition, opportunity for hearing, refund, and such further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.

PRECorp is a Class A member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) and purchases all of its power requirements from Basin. Its avoided cost is equal to Basin's published avoided cost for its Western System. Basin's current avoided cost rate is \$0.0130 per kWh, which is mirrored in PRECorp's current SPP tariff. For 2016, Basin has increased the rate to \$0.0135 per kWh, which PRECorp requested to match.

PRECorp's application is on file with the Commission at its offices in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and at PRECorp's offices in Sundance, Wyoming, and may be inspected by any interested person during regular business hours.

Anyone desiring to file an intervention petition, request for a public hearing, public comment, statement, or protest in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before February 26, 2016. Please mention Docket No. 10014-167-CT-15 in your communications.

If you wish to file an intervention petition, request for a public hearing that you will attend, or wish to make a public comment, statement, or protest, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, call the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission through Wyoming Relay by dialing 711.

Dated: February 1, 2016.

(Publish February 11 and 18, 2016)

Fun and Games

THE OSCARS

- ACROSS**
- Closet wood
 - Universal time
 - Baby's first word?
 - Courtyards
 - Galley equipment
 - Two-_____ like Janus
 - To eat greedily
 - "Much _____ About Nothing"
 - Give a speech
 - *Tarantino's "The _____ Eight"
 - *Matt Damon's nominated role
 - Party bowlful
 - Larger-than-life
 - *Competitor to The Oscars' 2016 broadcaster
 - Mt. Everest to Earth
 - Like meters and kilograms
 - Foot curve
 - World's Fair, e.g.
 - Get wool from sheep
 - Hard to find
 - Rekindled
 - "The Road Runner" corporation
 - Not hidden
 - Black Friday event
 - London subway
 - Moves down
 - Theories
 - Relieve from
 - *Oscar-winner De Niro in "Once _____ a Time in America"
 - Club on a card, e.g.
 - Barely adequate
 - *Seven-time nominee Kate
 - Like a lemon, tastewise
 - *_____ Cube outta Compton
 - Glittery stone
 - Place to throw shrimp on the barbie
 - *_____ Heflin, Supporting Actor winner in 1942
 - With clear mind
 - Moore in "Arthur" and Belushi in "Animal House"
 - Paris in Tour de France, e.g.
 - *What the winner for Film Editing does

- DOWN**
- *Witherspoon won for starring in his biopic
 - Europe's highest volcano
 - "Doggone it!"
 - *ABC did it to 2015's Academy Awards show
 - Basket-making fiber
 - Orr's score
 - *Like Max
 - Walk heavy-footed
 - Marketplace
 - Palm tree berry
 - Of higher order
 - Port in Yemen
 - Military units
 - Ritalin, e.g.
 - Deadeye's forte
 - Make comprehensible
 - *Cate Blanchett's 2015 role
 - Audience's approval
 - Nut holder
 - *The two leads in 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer"
 - Not this
 - Happen again
 - More than one iamb
 - *It stars Stallone
 - This location
 - Great masters' medium, pl.
 - Allegro and lento, in music
 - *Blacklisted screenwriter
 - Baden-Baden, e.g.

- *Firth, nominated for 2009's "A _____ Man"
- EVOO source
- Imposter
- Rand McNally products
- UN civil aviation agency, acr.
- As opposed to gross
- *2001 Oscar-nominated movie starring #61 Across
- Direct one's way
- Sites
- Leave on the cutting room floor
- Kennedy and Turner
- Campbell's container

CROSSWORD

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72						73				74			

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

Last week's answers

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Feb. 24 - Closed

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3 bdrm, 1 bath house, \$800 per month plus utilities and deposit. Call (307) 746-8045.

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16x80, 3 bdrm, 2 bath mobile home. Recent remodel, central air, no pets. Call (307) 941-2641 or (307) 299-3697.

Mobile home, very nice. 2 bdrm, 2 full bath, all appliances and central air, large deck, large shed, 1 yr. lease, no pets, no smoking. \$550 mo. plus utilities. Call (307) 746-3429.

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For Sale

92 Ford 1/2 ton, 4x4, needs steering column. \$1,000 OBO. Call (307) 629-1813. 07-3tc

For Sale

2005 F-250 4x4, Ford Lariat, 84,000 miles, diesel. Excellent condition. Super cab, trailer brakes, heated leather seats. Call (307) 746-3609. 05-3tr

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United Methodist women collect holiday cards and stamps for St. Judes hospital. If you can help, please bring to our church office Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to noon. Thank you for your help. 04-6tp

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ALANON (Help for family & friends of alcoholics) meets every Monday night at 7 p.m. Mondell Heights.

HELPING HANDS FOUNDATION OF WESTON COUNTY. Applications are now available for help. Please contact Glenna at (307) 468-2316 or Marion (307) 746-2928.

Veterans Outreach & Advocacy Program (Wyo.Dept. of Health/BHD). OEF/OIF veterans eligibility, (307) 630-3230.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting every

Thursday morning at the Weston County Senior Center. Contact Ellen Butts, 746-4251. Meeting on Tuesday at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact Joyce Brown 746-3696.

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Request for Bid
Sealed bids for Vehicle Glass Replacement for the Department of Administration and Information (A&I), Risk Management Section will be received through the Public Purchase on-line bidding system until 2:00 p.m., March 3, 2016.
Written questions regarding this Request for Bid or the procurement process will be submitted through the Public Purchase on-line bidding system until 10:00 a.m., February 12, 2016. Any questions received after the deadline will not be accepted or considered.
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A Message from Weston County Public Health

If you know someone who is in crisis: Take a step forward

Get involved; first tell the person you are concerned and tell them why
Recognize the signs of someone who is depressed or suicidal
Availability of means. Remove any firearms, drugs or sharp objects that could be used for suicide
Core symptoms of major depression are a "down" or depressed mood for more than two weeks
Encourage the person to see a counselor, physician, minister, or mental health professional immediately


If YOU are in crisis: Take a step back

Getting help is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign of strength
Realize you're not alone; there are people who care about you and want to help
Avoid alcohol drugs and other methods of self-medication especially if you are in crisis
Contact a friend, family member, teacher, minister who can be with you during this crisis
Everyone's recovery is different; don't give up. With help, comes hope

For more information and resources, go to www.gracefor2brothers.com
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Gatorade accolades



The recognitions continue to pile up for NHS Senior Calbi Ausmann, who was recognized in a special ceremony in the Dogie Dome last Friday after being named the Gatorade Wyoming Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year for 2015-16. Ausmann was recognized for capping off an undefeated 2015 season by winning her second 3A state championship in a row after beating her nearest competitor by a full half minute at the State Meet. Dogie cross country coach Pat Hayman presents the award, which also recognizes academic achievement and exemplary character, to the senior who has also maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout her high school career. (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

Swimming

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a time of 2:30.74, third in the 100 Free in 54.11. He contributed to his team's fifth place finishes in the 200 Medley and 200 Free Relay races.

For both Riley and Yeatman, whether they would qualify for the State Meet was not in question as each had punched their tickets earlier in the season, but there were some other Dogies who were looking at the Conference Meet as their chance to make it to the big dance.

Two seniors who were both new to the pool this year were able to achieve their goal of qualifying in one individual event each. Jesse Kopp made the grade in the one meter diving by earning a career high 248.35 points to clinch sixth place and a spot on the board

at State, while Jacob Hobbs raced under the mark in the 100 Breaststroke by finishing in 1:19.64 during the prelims, which guaranteed his place on the blocks as well.

"We were pretty nervous, which I think affected some of our guys, but being either new swimmers or young or both, it is understandable they were nervous," Scribner nodded. "Overall, I am very pleased with how they did and the fact that they raced hard and were very competitive, which is something we have consistently done every week."

When post-season conference awards were handed out, Riley was named to the All-Conference squad, while teammate Yeatman received an All-Conference Honorable

Mention, but the whole team seemed to feed off of the excitement of competing in a culminating event after their program had been dormant for two years.

"It is encouraging to hear the guys' excitement, not only for State but also for next year," Scribner smiled. "It is also encouraging to have placed three freshman in the top 12 (Yeatman, Riley and Kyle Allard) in their individual events."

In addition to the three relay events, as of now, the squad is certain to send four individuals to the State Meet next weekend. They still have one more shot at adding more to the slate when Newcastle hosts a last-chance qualifier meet this Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Swimming

Newcastle @ Conference Meet 2/12-2/13-16	
1. Rawlins 351.5	4. Buffalo 183
2. Worland 243	5. Newcastle 125
3. Douglas 204	6. Cody 115.5
200 Medley Relay:	
5 Kaden Curren, Flint Hossfeld, Jacob Yeatman, Kyle Allard	2:34.37
200 Free:	
3 Eythan Riley 3AQ	2:05.10
11 Jacob Hobbs	2:30.53
200 IM:	
6 Jacob Yeatman 3AQ	2:30.74
1 Meter Diving	
6 Jesse Kopp	248.35
100 Free:	
3 Jacob Yeatman 3AQ	54.11
11 Kyle Allard	1:10.66
500 Free:	
1 Eythan Riley 3AQ	5:38.70
200 Free Relay:	
5 Jacob Yeatman, Kyle Allard, Jesse Kopp, Eythan Riley	1:52.35
100 Breaststroke:	
10 Jacob Hobbs	1:22.59
400 Free Relay:	
5 Eythan Riley, Flint Hossfeld, Kaden Curren, Jacob Hobbs	4:59.26

Gridder signs

Bob Bonnar
 NLJ Reporter

Like a lot of boys, Ricky Larson always hoped to play football in college, and he is a step closer to making that dream a reality after signing a Letter of Intent to join the Yellow Jackets of Black Hills State University next year.

"It's always been a dream to play football for as long as I can. I always knew I wanted to play football in college, and I started talking to their coaches and just kind of worked my way in there," Larson told the News Letter Journal.

He had been looking at the opportunities presented by Chadron State College, and strongly considered enrolling in that school before a representative from BHSU came to Newcastle High School and told him about the South Dakota school's programming.

"I wanted to go to school for business and accounting, something like that. I looked into them (BHSU) more, and their business program got me interested," he revealed.

After deciding that the BHSU business program offered what he was looking for, all that was left was for Larson to see if he could secure a spot on their football team. The chance to do so presented itself during a walk-on tryout, and the Dogie took advantage of the opportunity.

"They pretty much tell you about the program, and you get to talk to the coaches and hear their philosophies. They show you all of their facilities. It's a really neat deal. It wasn't a whole lot of competing really, but the coaches were excited I was there," Larson described, indicating that he was excited when the Yellow Jacket coaches recognized him from team and individual



football camps he had attended in Spearfish previously.

"That was kind of a nice feeling," he smiled. "They were excited that I'm from Newcastle. They like football players from here."

The fact that Larson has participated in camps at BHSU probably helped him secure a spot in the program, especially considering the perception that— at 5'8" and 160 pounds— he is too small to play college football.

"I always heard that, especially being a linebacker. It's not really a position where small guys go, but I just took what they said and went out there and tried to prove them wrong," Larson grinned.

Larson weighs less than 160 pounds at present, as he is in the middle of his final season of high school wrestling, but he said his future coaches understand that he will have to wait to bulk-up for college football.

"They told me I obviously would have to get bigger, but understand that during wrestling season I'm a bit smaller," said Larson, who indicated that he has always concentrated on the season at hand. "When that season rolls around, that is what I'm worried about. I take everything as it comes,

and focus on one thing at a time."

His parents, Saul and Debbi, look forward to being able to continue to follow his football career, and the whole family was comfortable with the philosophy of his new coaches.

"They stress that sports comes second to your school work," Ricky nodded.

Larson has not been offered a scholarship at this time, but he welcomes the opportunity to participate as a walk-on, and hopes it turns into something bigger somewhere down the road.

"They haven't given me a scholarship, but somewhere along the line I'll get one as long as I keep working hard. I pretty much have to prove myself. Being a walk on, there's obviously that little bit of proving ground before they give you a little bit of money," he said.

For now, Larson is excited just to have the chance to compete at the next level, and for the long-time Bronco fan, the ability to sign his Letter of Intent in the same week that Denver toppled Carolina in the Super Bowl has created a memory that will last for a long time.

"It was a great week, probably the best week I could have had," he beamed.

Grapplers

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dual— we're so close to being a top team, but we just seem to fall a little short."

Often at a wrestling dual, there will be a few exhibition matches, which give those who aren't competing in a scoring class for their squad a chance to get on the mat and compete. There were three such matches in Douglas that were notable on the day.

"Something that deserves mention is Zach Schuessler, JP Moberly, and Gavin Durfee each wrestled three special needs kids as exhibition matches. These guys showed true sportsmanship on the mat,

and that sometimes winning isn't the most important thing. Everyone in the gym appreciated what our boys did," McCoy beamed.

Sophomore Teigan Marchant stated that the exhibition matches by Moberly and Durfee were "the best losses he has ever seen."

"Both of their matches received over 6,000 views on Hudl within a day and a half. The Douglas kids' moms both came down and shook JP's and Gavin's hands when their matches were over, so that was pretty cool," Marchant smiled. The Dogies/Bobcats have

one last week of practice to close the gap on their conference competition as they

prepare for the Regional Meet in Torrington this Friday and Saturday.

Wrestling

Newcastle/Upton @ Wheatland Dual 2/11/16 Newcastle 51 Wheatland 15	Newcastle/Upton @ Douglas Dual 2/13/16 Newcastle 24 Douglas 40
106: Reid Holmes W by Forfeit	106: Reid Holmes L by Fall
113: Trayton Dawson W by Fall	113: Trayton Dawson W by Fall
120: Lovell Prell L by Fall	120: Alan Baker L by Fall
126: Payton Connolly W by Decision 8-2	126: Payton Connolly W by Fall
132: Dennon Parks W by Fall	132: Dennon Parks L by Decision 10-11
138: Ricky Larson W by Fall	138: Ricky Larson L by MD 0-10
145: Zach Schuessler W by Forfeit	145: Zach Schuessler L by Fall
152: Marshall Rhoades L by Fall	152: Wyatt Corley W by Fall
160: Wyatt Corley W by Fall	160: James Moberly L by Decision 3-9
170: James Moberly W by Fall	170: L by Forfeit
182: Teigan Marchant W by Injury	182: Teigan Marchant W by Fall
195: Double Forfeit	195: Double Forfeit
220: Double Forfeit	220: Double Forfeit
285: Bryce Womack L by Decision 0-1	285: Bryce Womack L by Fall