

News Letter Journal

Weston County

February 20, 2014

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 128

Week 8



"He had kind of a dry sense of humor. He always had something he could tease people about in a good-natured way."

Remembering His Honor

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Honorable Fred R. Dollison, Circuit Court judge for Weston County, a Newcastle native who has served the county as a member of the Sixth Judicial District since 2003, died from natural causes at his home in Sundance on Monday, Feb. 10. He was 65.

After practicing as a criminal defense and civil attorney in the Sheridan area since the mid-1980s, Dollison began his judicial career in 2002 in Crook County. It's a transition for which many lawyers ultimately aim, according to niece Tracey Dollison Decker, who herself serves as a state prosecutor in

Pennington County, S.D.

"In the legal profession, of course, that's a pretty high goal. That's kind of what you hope to achieve as a lawyer, to someday get a chance to be on the bench," she told the News Letter Journal. "That was a job he applied for a few times before he finally got the opportunity, and that's not uncommon. A lot of judges don't get the job the first time they put in for it."

She recalled her uncle as anything but the stiff, buttoned-down figure of the judge that springs to mind for many members of the public. Dollison would appear at

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Proficiency still debated

By Denise Piscioti of NLJ

After a lengthy discussion at their Feb. 11 meeting, the Weston County School District #1 Board of Trustees broached the subject of changing their expectations regarding what proficiency means when it comes to quarterly grades. The issue was brought up by Chairman Bill Lambert, but no decision was made and it was decided to have the discussion at a board training later.

"The quarter grade data, remember a couple of years ago, we started looking at that data saying

this is a discrepancy between what we know about test scores and this quarter's grades. So we calibrated our grades and we prefer that the cut-off for proficiency is a B not a C. So when you are looking at that data and you make that adjustment, it is pretty close to what other norm reference tests show us about where the kids actually perform," stated Newcastle Middle School Principal Scott Shoop in his report to the board.

Earlier the trustees had received

— See Grades, Page 9

Working out state's budget

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The 2014 Budget Session of the Wyoming State Legislature convened Feb. 10 with Gov. Matt Mead delivering his State of the State address in which he trumpeted Wyoming's improved economy over the past several years, decreased unemployment, and leveling off of government growth. Local Representatives Mark Semlek and Hans Hunt of respective House Districts 1 and 2 both released brief updates of their own work and the general goings-on over the course of the session's first week.

Hunt wrote that the Agriculture Committee, of which he's a member, met

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Donations help imprisoned mothers

By Denise Piscioti of NLJ

Prison studies have shown that incorporating a nursery program at women's prisons can reduce recidivism, the risk of criminals being repeat offenders. To that end, the Wyoming Association of Churches, which advocated for a nursery program at the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk, approached the United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church in Newcastle to

Other inmates will be trained as caregivers. The focus and ultimate safety is about the child ... The mother/child building will be limited to two children at a time."

— Wyoming Women's Center Associate Warden Martha Decker

help gather supplies needed for the program in hopes of it being operational this summer.

Traditionally a baby shower is held for new mothers to gather supplies, with guests bringing gifts for the

anticipated arrival of the child. The UMW decided to hold a similar event to benefit female prisoners, which was held on May 12 last year, on Mother's Day, Chris French, the president of the group, informed the News Letter Journal. Invitations were sent to area churches inviting them to the celebration at FUMC.

A cake and decorations made the occasion festive while ladies from the Mormon, Catholic and Lutheran churches joined the Methodist women

who enjoyed fellowship as they brought in infant items to be sent to the Women's Center later this year.

"We just invited other churches, also [asking] if they wanted to donate to the baby shower. People went to sales to get baby things," said Sharon Roness, UMW member who spearheaded the project.

Prior to the event, The Women's Center had sent a list of items needed,

— See Women, Page 3

Fundraiser taking steps

By Denise Piscioti of NLJ

Every year, the Weston County Children's Center raises funds for the Eva Marie Bock Memorial Preschool Scholarship Fund, which helps children attend preschool in Weston and Crook counties. The past three years the fundraisers have been auctions, however this year the group has decided to change the fundraiser to a 5k walk/run to be held on Sunday, March 23, at 1 p.m. starting at the center.

"It will be a fun family event! Bring your kids, bring your strollers — whatever you need. Just come on out and participate with us!" encouraged Tina Chick, a counselor at WCCC.

Eva Marie Bock was an early childhood special education instructor and speech language pathologist assistant at WCCC who passed away suddenly on Sept. 11, 2008. Her passion for every child — regardless of the parent's circumstances — to have the opportunity to attend preschool has lived on through a scholarship in her name.

Scholarships are available for all five communities — Newcastle, Upton, Hulett, Moorcroft and Sundance, the preschools in Crook and Weston counties support. They are

awarded based on individual family needs and circumstances.

Initially, Bock's family, friends and co-workers began having live auctions to raise money for the memorial scholarship fund. It was her love of shopping that instigated the idea of earning money to help children attend preschool by holding an event for

people to buy gift baskets and other fun items. Although the auctions have been well attended, this year the fundraiser has been changed to a fun family event everyone can participate in.

"Well, as much as Eva Marie loved to shop, she also liked being fit and healthy. I think the walk/run would be something that she would be a big part of and would encourage everyone to stay fit and join in the fun. I think the walk/run is just a great way to remember her and help families that are unable to pay for preschool for their children," Susan Wiggins, a friend and former co-worker of Bock's, told the News Letter Journal. "The whole family can participate — it's just a good time."

"This is just something different. We tried to schedule so that it wouldn't interfere with

— See Fundraiser, Page 10



Horsin' around

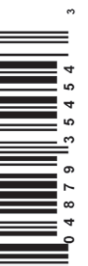
Coen Tavegie and Denton Reese tussle during the Newcastle High School Rodeo Club's annual chili feed and slave auction at the Weston County Senior Services center Friday. Read more on Page 10. (Todd Bennington/NLJ)

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Partly Cloudy Hi 34, Lo 21	Friday Snow Showers Hi 34 Lo 16	Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 27 Lo 12	Sunday Mostly Cloudy Hi 24, Lo 11	Monday Snow Showers Hi 22, Lo 4	Tuesday Partly Cloudy Hi 27, Lo 10	Wednesday Partly Cloudy Hi 46 Lo 16

INSIDE!

ON THE MAT

WYOMING WRESTLING



Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

FOCUS on what is best for victims

We certainly hope the miscommunication that apparently took place between officials from the City of Newcastle, Northern Wyoming Mental Health and FOCUS doesn't lead to any of those agencies walking away from a proposal that would allow the latter two agencies to share resources in an effort to better serve clients that rely on one or both of them for help.

Last week's Page 1 story, "City, Mental Health seek FOCUS takeover," spent a lot of time detailing tension between those entities by bringing to light accusations and misgivings expressed by representatives of all three, but we hope that the organizations will move beyond the obvious hard feelings and work toward a long-term solution that will ensure valuable services are available to a growing number of local residents who need them.

We share the view expressed by the majority of the Newcastle City Council that a significant partnership between FOCUS and Northern Wyoming Mental Health is likely to produce positive results for this community and its residents, and were disappointed to hear the Division of Victim Services in Cheyenne would not be willing to consider a proposal that would allow the two entities to merge. It is our understanding that the primary mission of the Division of Victim Services — as it relates to FOCUS and similar agencies throughout the state — is to ensure that Wyoming communities offer the best level of service possible to victims of domestic violence, abuse and other crimes in the manner that makes the most sense in each locale. That's why FOCUS is managed by a local board, and not simply run through a state office.

It's hard to understand why some type of merger with Northern Wyoming Mental Health wouldn't be favorably received under that criteria. Like FOCUS, NWMH is a non-profit entity governed by a board made up of local residents, and it should be safe to assume that the two entities provide services to many of the same clients.

Additionally, Mental Health enjoys the benefit of a newly remodeled building in Newcastle, and that structure is strategically located to provide a level of confidentiality to clients that simply doesn't exist at the FOCUS office. NWMH also boasts a full staff of licensed professionals who are trained to deal with the underlying issues that are frequently being confronted by clients of FOCUS, and having those professionals readily available to consult or intervene in some of these cases would seem to only strengthen the level of service that can be offered to victims. As a regional entity, NWMH is also able to access resources in other communities in northeast Wyoming that may not be immediately available in Weston County.

While it is obvious that housing the two entities in one building could decrease overhead for both agencies, it should also be noted that there are probably savings to be found in the tight budgets of both through sharing of staff, responsibilities and other resources.

There can be no doubt that domestic violence and abuse are very real problems in Weston County (see The Blotter on Page 14), and we have rapidly grown to realize that mental health issues can often contribute to the situations that result in a need for the types of services offered by FOCUS. We encourage local officials to put the admittedly rough start to the conversation surrounding the thought of combining the two entities behind them, so they can seriously consider the benefits to the residents of this community who need the services offered by them.

Watch your step

We finally seem to be emerging from what has been one of the longer, colder and more miserable winters endured in Weston County in recent memory, but we all know that winter — in some form or another — will make a few more appearances here before spring takes hold for good.

Winters, like the one we hope is now fading, invariably wear on our nerves and our patience tends to grow pretty thin after shivering, shoveling and slipping through four months of temperatures that consistently stay below freezing.

Unfortunately, we can't control the weather (I don't care what Al Gore says) so we tend to look for another target for our frustration at about this time every year. Inevitably, that target ends up being those who try to make winter a little less uncomfortable and inconvenient for us, and in the past few weeks local officials report that they've begun hearing the all-too-familiar complaints about the manner in which they approached snow and ice removal this winter.

I personally prefer blaming the aforementioned former vice president, but I certainly understand the desire to cuss plow drivers, crew supervisors and those who decide which streets and sidewalks get cleared first. It makes you feel a little better for a little while — and if you work yourself into a pretty decent rage and cuss real loud, I think it actually warms you up a couple of degrees.

But when the rant is over and the anger fades, we're still left with the fact that we made a conscious choice to live in northeast Wyoming — maybe because we know Al Gore never comes here — which means snow, ice and bone-chilling wind are things we simply have to accept and deal with six to nine months out of each year.

We'd probably be alright with that, but at some point in our history, government took it upon itself to try to deal with the reality of winter for us and that means the majority of us are going to occasionally (or constantly) question how they do it, how often they do it, and why they don't spend more time and effort dealing with the realities of winter that impact us the most personally.

Of course, in the same wind-shortened breath, we're also going to raise a little hell about how much we pay in taxes, and how much of that money is being spent on somebody else's winter reality.

When it comes to state and local government, however, it is hard not to at least acknowledge that we are getting far more bang for taxpayer's bucks than we used to when it comes

to fighting the losing battle against winter.

Ever since the Wyoming Department of Transportation rebuilt Newcastle's Main Street and widened the sidewalks bordering it several years ago, we have benefitted from having city crews respond after almost every snow to use equipment to clear a wide path on both sides of the street. Some of you might not be able to remember when we were forced to do all of that work ourselves, but as the operator of a Main Street business (particularly one that insists on wearing shorts at least 350 days out of the year) I certainly can.

We have also benefitted from a systematic approach to snow and ice removal that focuses on first clearing the major arteries, as it should, but also makes provisions for clearing secondary roads when time allows. You might not agree with the system — or which roads are prioritized — but believe me when I say that the current system is better than no system at all (or worse yet, a system that changed constantly depending on who happened to be in city or county government at the time, or who their friends were).

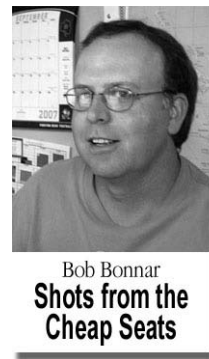
Add to that the development of chemicals that melt ice and snow faster, and can actually serve to keep it at bay after a few applications, and we're far better off now than we were even just a few years ago.

I know that's small comfort for those of you who have found yourself planted on your butt on said snow and ice this winter, but it's really the only comfort I — or the people you've been cussing and shaking your fist at for the past few weeks — can offer.

Of course, I could waste your time and this newspaper's space by listing a set of tips put out for state employees to help them avoid slips and falls. However, if you don't already know that you're less likely to take a tumble if you wear proper footwear, avoid shortcuts, walk more slowly on stairs, are careful when shifting your weight, anticipate black ice and watch for areas where melting and refreezing is likely to occur, then you would probably be better served by me suggesting that Arizona is always nice at this time of year.

If you're still bound and determined to exercise your own winter demons by blasting those responsible for making the season a bit less unpleasant, then you probably feel a little better when you have something to express displeasure over. If that is the case then I've got good news for you as winter slowly fades.

Construction season is right around the corner, and we'll have even more to complain about then!



Bob Bonnar
Shots from the Cheap Seats



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What

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

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Archie Callander	746-2450
Donnie Stevenson	746-4300
City Hall	746-3535

www.newcastlewyoming.org

Letters to the Editor

Tired of the drive

Dear Editor,

Should kids have to drive 15 miles just to go to practice? Well that's the problem faced by the Newcastle indoor soccer team. We have to drive 15 miles during the winter just to go to practice.

Safety is the biggest reason why the indoor soccer team should be able to practice in Newcastle. Osage is where we have to practice. The gym is nice and a good place to practice, but that's not why we should practice here at one of the nice gyms in our home town.

Indoor practice is all through the winter, so 90 percent of the time the roads will be icy and snowy. Throughout America, there are around 7,400 people killed each year in car crashes, and over 670,000 people are injured — 24 percent of all of those crashes happen during hazardous conditions (ice, snow, and rain). Just the safety concern should be enough to sway people's minds, but there's more.

Money is the next big thing. With over an hour a week put into driving, that costs a lot more money than just driving to the school. Time also could be a problem. Some parents might not have the time to keep on driving their kids to practice. Parents low on money might not be able to afford entry fees into the tournaments, and the cost for the gas to drive to practice could make it even tougher.

There is an easy fix for these problems. Since there is practice twice a week, we could do it in the morning on the days that the other sports don't have morning practice. That would be best for everybody. We wouldn't be bothering anybody, it would

cost parents less, and they wouldn't have to run as much to get kids that are already at the school. It would be easy as that to fix these problems.

—Gabe McCoy

School needs more activities

Dear Editor,

Golf, soccer, football, volleyball, and basketball — these are all sports that high school students in Newcastle play, but there are plenty of students who do not have the abilities to go out and play these sports. They do not have anything to do, but stay home and sit around.

The school district should offer more activities so that more students can be involved in an extracurricular activity because it helps them manage time better if they participate, they have more responsibility, and can have some fun while they're at it.

Whenever a student participates in a sport or other extracurricular activity, it has been seen that they use their time more effectively. In 2000, Misti Snow in the article "Teens cram their lives full of activities," that was printed in the Star Tribune, interviewed students who stated their opinion on extracurricular activities. These opinions varied from "I don't participate in them because of the amount of chores and homework I have" to "I play them because it helps me get out of homework," but most opinions made the point that they participate in sports or after school activities because they need a challenge while they also have some fun doing something that they like. If more Newcastle High School students would participate, they would have more responsibility.



Another reason high schools should offer more activities is because students have more responsibilities. As time advances and teens become more responsible, adults begin to allow them to do more of what they want — such as be with friends or have more time with the T.V. It is stated in an article that appeared in the Portland Press in 2005, "Greater Consequences than Losing a Spot in Sports," that parents should allow their kids to be in trouble for their actions. It tells them that they should be more responsible next time that they decide to do something. When a student participates in a sport or other activity, their chances of drinking or doing other things that may hurt their reputation becomes less.

The final reason that there should be more offered is because students can have fun while learning some new skills. In 2001, Rose Rennekamp stated in her article, "Teens who get involved gain benefits," that students in high school only have three priorities. These priorities are sometimes not enough to just get them ready for the work world or college. When they are having fun in sports, they learn more about being fair and becoming a person who other people can respect when they meet them.

Volleyball, football, soccer, and basketball, these sports are offered at Newcastle High School. Students participate in these sports, but a majority of the school does not. If more sports are offered, then more students will participate in them and learn more skills, manage their time better, and have a little more responsibility.

—Holden Schultz

(Ed. note: The preceding letters were written by students in Debb Proctor's Freshmen English class at Newcastle High School. Any responses to these letters should be sent to the News Letter Journal.)



Photo courtesy of Erin Nitschke
Erin Nitschke and her father, the Honorable Fred R. Dollison, who passed away last week. Dollison served as District Court judge in Weston County since 2003.

Dollison

from page 1

family reunions riding his Victory motorcycle, she said, and his car sported a license plate that read “judge.” He jokingly introduced his niece to colleagues as “the persecutor.”

“He had kind of a dry sense of humor,” she continued of her uncle. “He always had something he could tease people about in a good-natured way. As an adult he was really easy to be around. I think as a kid some of us were kind of intimidated by him because he was a big man and kind of a loud character. As you grew up and got to know him, he was really a gentle soul with a really good sense of humor and very smart.”

“... That kind of carried into his work, too,” he niece said, speaking of those who happened to come before him in his professional capacity. “I know he was pretty firm and fair and could probably intimidate and scare people that didn’t know his softer side.”

Perhaps most tellingly, Tracey said it was her uncle who influenced her choice of career and that she hopes to emulate him by taking a position on the bench someday herself.

Nephew Doug Dollison, a Newcastle resident, expressed similar sentiments about his late uncle. He described the elder Dollison as a man of honor and integrity who took after his father — Doug’s grandfather, John Dollison — whose footsteps Fred followed in by serving in the U.S. Navy as a young man.

“He was a gentle person but in his job he was hard when he needed to be, his nephew recalled. “He was always very kind to us but he was always very witty too. That’s one thing that stood out about Fred, that he was very clever, very witty.”



Photo courtesy of Eliza Dollison

A motorcycle enthusiast, Dollison, third from left, was known for driving his Victory to family reunions. From left, his cousin Marty Autensmith, Autensmith’s daughter Elli, Dollison, and Dollison’s brother, Mike.

Doug went on to observe that it seemed to be very important for his uncle, who divided his work week between Sundance and Newcastle, to have the opportunity to serve as a judge in the area in which he grew up and that, by all accounts, he was well respected.

“I’m sure in a small town you have people who don’t like this person or that person, but I never heard anyone say that they didn’t like him, that they had a bad experience with him or whatever. All I ever heard was that he was fair ...” his nephew recalled.

So fair in fact that Doug speculated, “Fred was such ... an honorable person. If I ever ended up in front of him ... I guarantee he’d throw the book at me. He’d give me exactly what I deserved. Quite frankly, I’d expect it.”

Funeral services for the Honorable Fred R. Dollison took place on Monday in Sheridan.

Women

from page 1

such as baby bottles, cereal, formula, pacifiers, teething rings, rattles, diapers of various sizes, diaper rash ointment, wipes, towels, washcloths, soap, lotion, crib sheets, blankets, toys and clothes. The generosity of the local ladies filled eight large totes with items that were retrieved from Wyoming Women’s Center Associate Warden Martha Decker on Feb. 5 at the church.

Before Decker took the items to Lusk, however, she gave a slide presentation in the Fellowship Hall of the church for the ladies in attendance. She explained that currently, when women at the state prison give birth, they spend two days with their newborns before giving them to someone else to raise, without a chance to bond with their child.

“Everything that happens in a main community, happens in prison, too,” Decker pointed out.

The idea behind the nursery program is to help break the generational cycle that occurs because, Decker stated, mothers in prison have a greater chance of having children that will eventually also be behind bars. The hope is that the mothers will bond with their child and learn good parenting skills, ultimately breaking the cycle.

“There is a very strong relationship between participation in parenting programs and lower crime rates. Research demonstrates that parenting programs can increase children’s odds of healthy social, behavioral and cognitive development,” according to information in the slide presentation on the parenting program.

A part of the facility no longer in use has been remodeled for the purpose of the program. It will contain 11 inmate rooms, one enclosed staff office and one open staff



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Martha Decker, associate warden at Wyoming Women’s Center in Lusk, discusses what happens when women have babies in prison, and a new program aimed at allowing female prisoners at the facility to bond with their children.

area, common day room, dining/classroom, bathroom/shower areas, kitchen area and outside play area.

The other component of the program is to have day/overnight visitations with children living outside of the prison. Children under the age of 16 will be allowed six- to eight-hour visits, children from 1 to 6 years old will be eligible to stay overnight with their mother in one of the rooms.

“Other inmates will be trained as caregivers. The focus and ultimate safety is about the child,” she continued. “The mother/child building will be limited to two children at a time.”

Only minimum custody inmates will be participating in the program. Other eligibility requirements include sentence structure, type and nature of the crime, medical and psychological history. To be eligible for the program, the inmate cannot have been convicted of first- or second-degree murder,

manslaughter, first-degree sexual assault, first-degree assault robbery, all other sexual offenses, stalking involving a minor, kidnapping, arson, child abuse, incest or other crimes against children.

The projected minimum date a child can stay with the mother after birth is 18 months. When the mothers leave with children they will be given essential items to help care for the child, such as diapers, bottles, clothes — many of the items donated by the ladies in Weston County.

As the program is instituted and progresses, however donations will continue to be needed. Roness told the NLJ they will stay in contact with the Wyoming Association of Churches for future needs the Women’s Center might have.

“We have been very, very blessed with donations — obviously with the look at the back room,” smiled a grateful Decker after the presentation, when pointing to the eight totes waiting to be taken to Lusk.



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Obituaries

HAZEL MAY ANDERSEN
Jan. 25, 1922–Feb. 13, 2014



Hazel Anderson

Hazel May Andersen passed to heaven on Feb. 13, 2014, in Newcastle, at the age of 92.

Hazel was born in Fedora, S.D., on Jan. 25, 1922, to her beloved parents, Lee and Stella Hart.

“HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST”

God saw her getting tired and a cure was not to be so he put his arms around her and whispered “Come unto me.” With tearful eyes we watched her suffer and saw her fade away. Although we loved her dearly, we could not make her stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us - He only takes the best.

— Author Unknown

Private services will be held to honor the life and passing of the beautiful spirit that many have been blessed to know.

Hazel is survived by her daughter, Joyce Jones of Newcastle; her son, Ronald (Barbara) Schneider of Moorcroft; and her daughter, Peggy (Richard) Wilkerson of Pine Haven. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Collin (Debbie), Steven, Dwayne (Cheryl), Ronica (Ken), Wendy (Quent) and Roger (Carrie); along with eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Her family said, “We often said that the world would be a better place if everyone in the world could love and receive as much love as she did in her lifetime. While we will miss her every day, we celebrate that she will once again be with her beloved parents, her husband Carrol C. “Beanie” Andersen, her son Gary Lee Schneider, her son in her heart, Gary Jones, as well as her sister Leona and brothers, Wallace, Doug and Frank.”

THE HONORABLE FRED R. DOLLISON

June 9, 1948–Feb. 10, 2014

The Honorable Fred R. Dollison, Judge of Wyoming’s 6th Judicial District, passed away at his home in Sundance on Feb. 10, 2014.

Dollison was born June



Fred Dollison

9, 1948, in Hot Springs, S.D. He attended schools in Newcastle and joined the United States Navy in 1967 where he served honorably until his discharge in March of 1973. He then attended Sheridan College in 1973 and earned honor books in Humanities and Social Science, served on the Student Senate, played intramural sports, was a member of the Chess Club, Phi Theta Kappa, and Veteran’s Club, all while working nights as the head custodian in the Whitney Building.

After graduation Fred transferred to the University of Wyoming, earning a Bachelor of Science in Political Science, with honors, and was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, (The National Political Science Honor Society), Phi Beta Kappa, and Pi Sigma Alpha honors societies. Fred continued his education with a Juris Doctorate degree from the college of Law in 1980.

After graduation Fred moved back to Sheridan and joined the firm of Badley, Rasmussen, and Shoumaker. In 1985 Fred started a solo practice which continued until 1990 when he formed a partnership with Mike Shoumaker. A year later their partnership joined with Virgil Kinnaird and Rene Botten to form Northern Wyoming Law Associates, and he continued in practice until 2002, when he was appointed as the First Circuit Court Judge in Crook County. In January 2003, he became the Circuit Court Judge in Weston County.

Fred’s achievements are impressive by all standards. He represented Sheridan County School District No. 2 for nine years and was a member of the National Association of School Board Attorneys, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the National Organization on Legal Problems in Education, as well as serving in all offices of the Sheridan County Bar Association.

Fred was active in his church; he taught the youth confirmation class and served as an elder on the governing session. Fred made time to be involved in many local civic organizations and even shared his knowledge of the law as an adjunct faculty member at Sheridan College.

Fred married Cheri in 1972 and together they have raised a wonderful child, Erin. Erin and her husband, Mark Nitschke, are both currently employed at Sheridan College. It seems the whole family has been employed at the college in one capacity or another. Cheri was administrative staff and managed the book store, while her father, Harold Gilbert, was one of Sheridan College’s first agricul-

tural faculty members. When asked about Sheridan College and its value in his life Fred stated, “Sheridan College gave me a solid foundation upon which I was able to build my life and career.”

Fred is survived by his wife, Cheri; daughter, Erin and husband Mark of Sheridan; sister, Judy Hawthorne and husband Bob of Chadron, Neb.; brothers, Rollie of Osage and Mike of Newcastle; aunt and uncle, Mike and JoAnn Smith; aunt, Beth Hoef; and very special cousins and nieces and nephews.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, John Earl Dollison and Doris Rogers Dollison; infant brother, James Jay; grandparents, Fred Vaughn Dollison and Flossie Fern Prell Dollison, and Raymond Rogers and Myrtle Ruth Maudlin Rogers.

Memorial Services were held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 17, at the First Presbyterian Church in Sheridan. A memorial has been established to benefit the Sheridan Dog and Cat Shelter and the American Cancer Society. Condolences may be sent to 1456 N. Heights Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801.

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

WANDA FAITH

Feb. 1, 1943–Feb. 9, 2014

Wanda Faith, 71, of Spearfish, S.D., died Feb. 9, 2014, at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare Center.

Wanda was born Feb. 1, 1943, at Belle Fourche, S.D. She grew up on the family ranch in Crook County, where she attended rural school. During this time, she developed a great love for horses. She then began working in Gillette, and moved to Oklahoma for a time, before returning to live with her family. They moved to Belle Fourche, and then moved to Spearfish in 1969.

Wanda was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 26; she had lived with her parents since that time, until moving into the Dorsett Healthcare Center in 1986, where she has lived ever since and developed many friendships with residents and staff.

While living there, she met Jerry Somers of Spearfish, who became a close friend. The two spent a lot of time together “terrorizing the town” on their electric wheelchairs, as long as she was able to get out and about. Wanda’s three favorite things were terrorizing the town with Jerry, watching “Days of Our Lives” at 1 o’clock every day, and horses.

Wanda is survived by her close friend,

Jerry Somers, Spearfish; his parents, Stan and Jean Somers, Spearfish; and many friends at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare Center. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Visitation was from 3-5 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapel in Spearfish. Memorial Services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 14 at the multi-purpose room at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare Center in Spearfish. Interment will be at a later date at Pine Slope Cemetery in Belle Fourche.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Isburg Funeral Chapels and Crematory Service of Spearfish. Online condolences may be left at www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com.

RICK ‘RICKY’ LOU JOHNSON
Sept. 2, 1952–Feb. 15, 2014

Rick “Ricky”



Rick Johnson

Lou Johnson was born on Sept. 2, 1952, in Hot Springs, S.D., to Louis and Gladys Johnson.

The family returned home to Newcastle, where Rick grew up. As a family, the favorite pastime was camping, and they did a lot of that during his childhood. Rick liked basketball — loved shooting hoops for hours in the yard — and motorcycles. He did not, however like school. Rick quit school at the end of his freshmen year, and went to work above Sheridan at Eaton’s Dude Ranch in the Big Horn Mountains. Rick worked there until he was old enough to join the United States Navy at the age of 18.

Rick served in the Navy for almost 18 years. He was sent to school to be a Navy cook, then later to chef’s school. He served on the *U.S.S. McCoy* and saw ports all over the world. He was in the Vietnam War, and at the end of his service he was a chef for the military brass at NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). When Rick left the Navy in 1991, he came home to Newcastle.

In 1992, he met Sherrie Hogan — the woman he always claimed he waited 39 years to meet — and they married on Aug. 26, 1994. Rick worked at the hospital in food service for a brief time, and then got a position at the Wyoming Honor Camp, running the food program for the inmates. He later transferred to the prison in Rawlins, where he worked until he had to retire in January 2013, due to a diagnosis of stage four lung cancer.

Rick and Sherrie moved back to Newcastle in February of 2013 to be

close to his sister and his nephews.

Rick was a homebody and loved spending time at home with Sherrie. They liked to go to the flea markets and find unusual treasures together. Through the years, Sherrie battled many different health issues, with Rick by her side, taking care of her every step of the way. Rick’s four step-daughters are eternally grateful for all of the loving care of their mom.

Rick particularly loved their little dogs, and played with them constantly. The dogs were his babies.

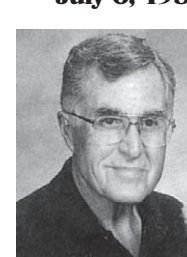
After a valiant fight, Rick left this world on Feb. 15, 2014. Rick is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Sherrie Johnson of Newcastle, one sister, Deb (Jack) Loeb, three nephews, Bart (Pennie) Loeb, Beau Loeb, and Blaze Loeb, one great-nephew, Chase Loeb, two great-nieces, Jordan Loeb and Berkeley Loeb, all of Newcastle; and four step-daughters, Tammy (John) Lees, Teri (Art) Tackett, Ashland KY, Nancy (Jim) Harper, Rapid City, S.D., and Tanya (Mike) Stangle, St. Charles, S.D.

There will be a viewing on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 in the evening at Worden Chapel. Services will be at Worden Funeral Chapel at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 21.

Burial will be that afternoon at The Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, S.D.

In lieu of flowers or a memorial, Sherrie’s daughters request that monetary donation be made to help with medical expenses incurred.

PAUL RICHARD MILLHOUSE
July 6, 1934–Feb. 15, 2014



Paul Millhouse

Funeral services for Paul Millhouse, 79-year-old Buffalo man who passed away Feb. 15, 2014, at the Johnson County Health Care Center, were held Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal

Church in Buffalo, with Father Doug Wasinger officiating. Visitation was held at the Harness Funeral Home Chapel on Monday from 1 until 9 p.m. A private family interment will be at a later date. Donations in Paul’s memory may be made to the St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Organ Fund or the St. Francis Animal Shelter in care of the Harness Funeral Home at 351 N. Adams in Buffalo.

Paul Richard Millhouse was born on July 6, 1934, in Newcastle, to Ralph and Elsie Millhouse. He attended elementary and junior high in Newcastle and moved

— See **Obituaries**, Page 5

LET US REPLENISH THE SEED OF FAITH THROUGH...

Regular Church Attendance



• ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH: Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children’s Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm.

• BAHAI FAITH: Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626.

• CAMBRIA COMMUNITY CHURCH: Pastor Chris Walton, 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm

• CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL: Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 a.m.; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 p.m., Holy Eucharist. haydishall@hotmail.com

• CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH: Pastor John Hopper, 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 Meeting 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 5:00 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: Pastor Lynn Schleicher, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service 5 pm, Christian Academy.

• FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Pastor Paul Holland, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Sunday School 8:45 am; Church Services 8 & 10 am; Nursery care available.

• 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. Sunday Worship 10 am; Wednesday Night Prayer.

• NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP: Pastor Wayne Wilson, meets at Black Gold Realty Building, 1517 W. Main, 746-5542. Sunday Worship 10 am.

• OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH: 348 Sheridan St. Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.

• SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST: Pastor Gary Force, 78 Old Hwy 85, 746-3504 or 278-0254, Pastoral Assistant Jason Logan 746-2974. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:20 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. Sheree Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 10:30 am; Children’s Church & Nursery are available; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm.

A New Identity



Every day we leave impressions on those around us. How we present ourselves reflects on our unique individuality, our personality and convictions. Our selfishness or unselfishness in small ways, our ability to remain calm when a storm surrounds us, whether we mostly smile or mostly frown...these traits tell others something about us, something about who we truly are. In 1 John 5:7 we hear, “And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth.” Celebrate your identity at your house of worship each week; let God’s truth leave an impression on you.

Weekly Scripture Reading					
John 10:22-42	Matthew 18:1-14	Matthew 19:13-30	Matthew 22:15-40	Leviticus 19:1-18	Deut. 6:1-25
1 John 1:1-2:6					

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Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.
— Matthew 5:16

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Obituaries continued

to Billings, Mont., where he graduated from Billings Senior High with the class of 1952.

He was married on Jan. 24, 1954, in Billings to Marjorie Llewellyn and they made their home in Billings where Paul was attending Eastern Montana College. He graduated from Eastern in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He and Marje moved to Colstrip, Mont., where Paul taught business education and music for five years. In 1961 they moved to Buffalo where Paul taught business at Johnson County High School. In 1965 he took a teaching position with Sheridan College in the Business Education Department. He received a Master's Degree from the University of Wyoming and continued teaching at Sheridan College for 28 years. He retired from Sheridan College as the head of the Business Education Department in 1995, and he and Marje continued living in Buffalo. After retiring Paul drove school bus and activities bus for many years.

He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and was a hospice volunteer for many years. He was on the Johnson County School Board for nine years and was their chairman for two of those years. He was a member of the Bread of Life Food Pantry Board and delivered Meals on Wheels. Paul

was an avid runner and ran 33 Klondike Rush 10s. He played men's league golf for many years and enjoyed biking, hiking and walking his dogs. Paul was a very supportive parent and loved spending time with his family. He loved Buffalo and was a dedicated volunteer.

He is survived by his wife Marje of Buffalo; two sons, Dirk Millhouse of Denver and Todd Millhouse and his wife Debbie of Buffalo; one daughter, Sue Reynolds of Colorado Springs, Colo.; seven grandchildren, Jayson, Travis, Adam, Carter and Ashley Millhouse and Elliot and Sarah Reynolds; and four step-grandchildren, Sean Zalonis, and Elizabeth, Katherine and Paul Haeussler. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

MAJ. CHARLES H. SWIM
April 14, 1927-Feb. 8, 2014

Major Charles H. Swim, U.S. Army retired, left this world on Feb. 8, 2014. He was born on April 14, 1927, in Detroit, Mich., despite telling many people that he was born in Kentucky.

He was preceded in death by his parents and step-father;



Charles Swim

his brother, Ron; his wife, Monique; his first wife, Helen Verona "Nancy", and his great grandson, Jason Edward Tayloe.

He is survived by his wife Sherry; his children, Sherry Worden (Mike) and her children and grandchildren, Cathy Swim and her son and grandson, Linda Casterline and her children and grandchildren, Charles Jr. (Donna) and their children and grandchildren, Lisbeth Ireland (Tom), Martha Glenn (Dennis) and their children and grandchildren, and John-Steven Swim.

Charles was an underage veteran, featured in America's Youngest Warriors, Vol. III, as he enlisted in the Army at age 15. He was caught right before his 17th birthday. He then went on to serve six years in the Navy, finishing World War II in the Pacific Campaign. Charles left the Navy to rejoin the Army, where he completed OCS and would retire at the rank of Major, not before graduating high school in the Navy and college in the Army. He then served as a California State parole agent for 27 years. During this time he successfully sued the State of California for parole agents to have the right to carry firearms, in addition to changing the wording of the California Penal Code to include the wording "protection of the public" when referencing

Parole Agents Association of California, and was instrumental in the formation of the California Correctional Peace Officer's Association.

After retirement, Charlie was often called by active law enforcement to advise and assist. He was asked to lecture at Butte College to pass on his vast knowledge and experience. He had done so much research in his field that Charlie was appointed to be the first official "historian" for the Butte County Sheriff's Office, a badge he wore with pride. He was a 60-plus-year member of the Elks Club (BPOE), a Life Master of the American Contract Bridge Association, a lifetime member of VFW and NRA, past president of Lions Club, member of Retired Officers Association, member of Veterans of Underage Military Service Inc, and co-owner (janitor/Sherry's husband) of Pip Printing.

Services were held Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. at the St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Paradise. Burial and Military Honors were held at Paradise Cemetery following the service. Visitation was held at Chapel of the Pines Funeral Home on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14. A Hosted Wake followed burial at St. Thomas More Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Wounded Warriors, Chapel of the Pines Funeral home, in memory of Charles H. Swim.

100 YEARS AGO - FEB. 19, 1914

Deputy Sheriff Nelson effected the capture last Friday of Ernest Cooley, who burglarized the T.P. Sweet residence on Beaver Creek recently.

Sheriff Hackney is expected home in the morning with J.W. Patt, G.W. Green and M.F. Woods, who have been extradited from the state of South Dakota to answer to a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses from Mrs. Dickey, of Cambria.

Last Sunday evening a baby girl arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Ost in this city. Sunday evening the stork also visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Fann in this city and left a baby girl. And on Tuesday a baby boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sundstrum of this city.

Fred Sweet, Herb Coates, Thomas Phillips, Willie and Jim Thomson, all of the Beaver Creek area, autoed to town Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Gammons departed for her home in Belle Fourche last Tuesday, after quite an extensive visit with her mother and brothers here in the Clifton area.

Mrs. Stanaley arrived in Clifton Tuesday evening from Iowa to join her husband who is one of the new homesteaders on Sheep Creek.

J.C. Shell of the Horton area made final proof on his homestead in Newcastle Feb. 15, W.E. Dodgon and W. Lucas acting as witnesses.

Clarence Foltz has been busy in the Iron Creek for a few days hauling feed and looking after a bunch of cattle for the YT ranch. This bunch of stock was trailed through from Orin Junction.

Harry Reed went up to the Ammerman ranch Friday evening to remain until Sunday when he returned to the Alverson ranch where he is cutting fence posts and saw logs.

Daniel W. Patton came in from the ranch and spent Sunday in town with his family.

J.J. Mkulcahy Jr. arrived in the city Saturday from Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, and is the guest of his brother Paul, of this city. He may decide to locate here.

Mrs. S.S. Sanderson, who went to Iowa to spend the winter, has accepted a position as inspector in a sun bonnet factory in Des Moines.

The Philathea girls entertained the Baraca boys at Mrs. R.A. Smith's home Friday evening.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carey died last Friday night. He was buried

in the local Cambria cemetery last Sunday forenoon.

75 YEARS AGO - FEB. 16, 1939

The George Monroe Post No. 3, American Legion, will observe its 20th anniversary next month at a meeting to be held in Upton.

Five matched bowling games have been played during the past week with the Craig Chevrolet team rolling up the largest score, 2,029.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sczumovich of the Prairie area motored to Newcastle Saturday with Alvin Watson and daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Varner and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rawhouser were dinner guests Sunday at Harold Cool's in the Prairie area.

Don and Bob McCarthy and Leonard Shuck of the Clifton area went to Newcastle Monday evening to attend the Newcastle-Sundance basketball game and the show.

Dora Boulden took up the duties of office clerk in the county welfare office last Tuesday morning, upon the resignation of Mrs. Bernard Lappe.

Carr's had a load of feed delivered to their sheep camp on the Joe Gibbs place last week.

Dick Zeerst had a load of feed brought out last week and had the bad luck of getting stuck in the river.

In a whirlwind game, which at halftime gave the Newcastle Dogies an 18 to 13 edge, the Gillette Camels staged a brilliant final quarter scoring rally to give them another conference victory, 29 to 25, here Friday night.

Cold Creek was visited by some severe cold weather this week. The thermometer registered about 50 below zero Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Ed Elston of Dewey was injured last week when he threw his shoulder out of place while chopping wood.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Updike and son Billy were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Updike on Sunday.

The oil field school entertained the Oil City school at a Valentine party Tuesday afternoon.

The dance at the Legion hall in Osage on Saturday night was well attended. The Crossley orchestra played.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Neimcyk and little daughter from the East Antelope coal mine spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Simmons in the Clareton area.



50 YEARS AGO - FEB 19, 1964

Funeral services for Delbert Earl Robinson were held Monday afternoon at the First Methodist Church. Robinson, 35, was killed last Thursday when his light plane tipped a power line over Oil Creek Canyon northwest of Newcastle and crashed.

Bob Tupper is the new manager of Weston County Co-op, according to a recent announcement.

The Newcastle Dogies won an easy victory over Upton Tuesday evening, 57 to 34.

George F. Wilcox is the new sheriff for Weston County. The board of county commissioners appointed Wilcox to succeed Clarence Japp, who has resigned effective March 1. Wilcox has resigned from the Wyoming Highway Patrol effective March 1. He has served with the patrol for almost 19 years.

The Twentieth Century Club met at the home of Jean Franz Thursday with 11 members present. Mrs. Marian Baldwin was in charge of the program and introduced the guest speaker, Judge Rodney Guthrie, who spoke on juvenile court.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Morgan entertained the Newcastle Motel association at its monthly dinner meeting Saturday evening at their home.

The C.C. Kirkpatrick home was beautifully decorated Sunday when Mrs. Kirkpatrick entertained at an open house in honor of the 90th birthday of her sister, Mrs. Jessie Chambers.

Newcastle Dogie wrestlers won two tough matches last weekend. Friday night the Dogie grapplers downed Torrington 35 to 10 and Saturday night Wheatland 29 to 19. Newcastle matmen entered in the tourney are Lauris Tysdal, Lanny Reimer, Lonnie and Ken Dickenson, Dan Silbaugh, Rance Denton, George Darrow, Terry Elliott, David Lamb, Lee Thompson, Larry Holwell and Doug Ottema.

WHAT'S UP		Meetings & Events Calendar	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb. 20	8:30 a.m.	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)	W.C. Senior Center
	12:30 p.m.	Good Citizen Awards	NES
	6 p.m.	W.C. Health Services Meeting	Board Room
Feb. 21	7:30 p.m.	Masons Meeting	Masonic Lodge
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
Feb. 22	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
	6 p.m.	People First Chili Feed	Corpus Christi Church
	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
Feb. 23	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	11 a.m.	Blood Drive	W.C. Senior Center
	1 p.m.	Low Vision Support Group	W.C. Senior Center
Feb. 24	7 p.m.	Square Dance Lessons	Newcastle Elementary
	4:45 p.m.	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)	United Methodist Church
	6:45 p.m.	ALANON (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
Feb. 25	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star Meeting	Masonic Lodge
	10 a.m.	Grand Opening	Strawberry Patch
	4:30 p.m.	Open House	Newcastle Christian School
Feb. 26	7 p.m.	Ladies Firearms Safety & Self Defense	Indoor Range
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	8:30 a.m.	Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)	W.C. Senior Center
Feb. 27	11:45 a.m.	W.C. Health Services Foundation Mtg.	Board Room
	11:30 a.m.	W.C. Library Board Meeting	Newcastle Library
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Feb. 28	7 p.m.	Dance - Music by Western Ramblers	W.C. Senior Center
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall

The Imaginary Invalid by Moliere
Dinner Theatre March 26, 27, 28 & 29
Matinee on March 29
 Tickets available at the News Letter Journal & Woody's Food Center. Also available by calling 746-4245

A Memorial Service
In loving Memory of
Robert Byram
 will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, February 24, 2014 at New Life Wesleyan Church in Gillette, WY

Strawberry Patch Quilt Shop
Grand Opening
February 26
 Join us on our adventure and investigate the classes that will be offered in March, the continually changing fabric, the local artist's booths and the friendly meeting place.
Strawberry Patch Quilt Shop
 210 W. Main • 746-3116
 Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Are you faster than a Cub Scout?
 Newcastle Cub Scout Pack 66
 Pinewood Derby Races
Saturday, February 22
 Weston County Senior Center
 Races start at 10 a.m.
 Come watch the races and enjoy the fun!

Wyoming Size
We guarantee you won't go away hungry!
Lunch and Dinner Specials.
 Watch for upcoming St. Patrick's Day events
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 Restaurant: Mon-Sat. 11am-9pm • Sun 11am-6pm
 Lounge: Mon-Sat 1pm-close • Sun 11am-close

Kindergarten
Parents/Guardians
 The Newcastle Elementary K-2 School would like you to contact their office by Friday, February 21, 2014 and pre-register your child for kindergarten. This preliminary information will help us keep you informed about future developments concerned with your child's kindergarten career.
 If your son or daughter's fifth birthday is on or before September 15, and you wish to have him or her enter kindergarten this next year, please call the School Office at 746-2717 and ask for Renee. At this time we will sign your child up for Kindergarten Screening which will be held April 24 and 25.

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Going the distance

By Donna Gochanour for NLJ

Homer Hastings is well known around town — especially for his love of running and apparent ceaseless energy — but I first heard his name from a friend of his over in Rapid City. My anesthesiologist for my recent cataract surgery, Gary Haven, turned out to be an old running partner of Mr. Hastings, proving once again that it's a small world. Hastings has run an amazing 97,000 miles throughout his career, and the only thing that stopped him was the advent of a blood clot in his leg. When asked what made him start running in the first place, his answer was to lose weight.

"It kind of grows on you," he added, as to why he kept on going.

He has run 54 marathons in Boston, New York, Minneapolis and Denver, and to crown it all, he ran 25 marathons in a row in the Mt. Rushmore Marathon, completing that last run when he was 61 years old.

In June of 2001, he organized the Elk Mountain Run, advertised as the "toughest 10 miles in the Hills," stating that there would be no awards, no entry fee, no T-shirts, and no wimps. Also that year, on Super Bowl Sunday, the Frostbite 5000, a 3.1 mile race where Hastings was quoted as saying, "we'll be out there if it's 50 degrees below." Over the years he also met some famous runners — one was

Frank Shorter who was the Olympic Champion in 1972, and another is Bill Rodgers, four-time winner of the New York Marathon.

When asked just how a person should start running, Hastings replied that he recommends a slow start at first, a couple of hours a day. Hastings just built up from there. He said that the job he held for 23 years as a custodian at the courthouse gave him a window of time in the afternoons every day and provided a time where he could get out and run. He also got a lot of running in while in the Army. He spent time in Vietnam in 1966, serving in a big convalescent center as an aide, and later at Walter Reed Hospital where he spent nine months working with amputees. He confesses that running becomes an addiction and a sport that he enjoyed very much. It became very much a part of his life.

Hastings says that he has been retired for about four years now. Although he misses running a lot, he is a big fan of the high school cross country team and follows the team around. He also goes to the football and basketball games. His wife, Marlys, is wheelchair-bound now and is living at Weston County Manor, so Hastings spends a lot of time each day keeping her company. It has been an interesting life for him and one that he has enjoyed.



Donna Gochanour/For NLJ

Homer Hastings may not be running as much himself these days, but he still enjoys cheering on other runners from Newcastle High School, as well as football and basketball players.



90 years — and counting!

At the Feb. 9 celebration of Fred Perino's 90th birthday, he was asked what has been the biggest change he has seen in his many years. "Well, I think technology was one of the biggest changes, and I don't understand any of it!" he said smiling. When he was asked just what he attributes to living to see his 90th birthday, his answer was, "Good hard work! I don't think work hurts you if you do it right." How does it feel to be 90? "I don't see much change, it just snuck up on ya," he said, adding, "I enjoyed my life." Pictured with him at his birthday celebration are Jim and Irene Piscioti. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

A naked lady in the midst

Back in the early 1970s, when we first got to Alaska, I was enchanted to see that I could get lessons in oil painting right there on the Air Force Base where we were stationed. I ran right down and enrolled. I learned a great deal that time but I soon figured out that I didn't want to be painting like the instructor, so I poked around and started taking lessons everywhere. I took classes in watercolor, print making, life drawing classes, color theory, speed painting — and I sopped it up like a wet sponge. It was fantastic!

I'd been messing with oil paints for a long time. When we were still in Ohio my husband asked me what I wanted for my birthday and I casually mentioned that we sure needed a new garbage can. Well, I came home from work that day to find a very large, new, shiny clean garbage can with a big red bow on it. I snorted and walked across the room and lifted the lid and then sat down and bawled like a baby. It was packed with artist's painting supplies. It was magnificent.

When I got to Alaska and started this whole gig, what I didn't think about was the oil boom that was going on at the time, with the construction of the Alaska pipeline. Those guys had money burning holes in their pockets and you



Donna Gochanour
I Remember When

could sell them darn near anything — even an amateur painting. And there were some truly awful ones out there.

I took color theory and she sent me home — I already knew it all.

I took Army Kirschbaum's life drawing class, one-minute, two-minute fast pencil sketches. Made you really look. Army sat on a stool on a stage and we drew him. We drew pots and pans, light bulbs, all sorts of stuff. And then one day we came in to find we had a live model. I want to state right now that after the initial shock of finding a stark-naked lady on the stool, on the stage, as we began quickly drawing we never even noticed she was naked. I noted that she was a redhead and that she was sort of blue with cold, but then there was no more time. Army kept us pushing that pencil while he strode up and down and critiqued. Finally he got to the little older gentleman in the front row and I saw him lean over Mr. Finley and I heard him say, "Mr. Finley, you just have to learn to relax!" We couldn't help it, it was hilarious and poor Mr. Finley was a red-faced mass of embarrassment. We were pretty sure we knew just what Mr. Finley had to relax and we snickered, giggled and

laughed behind our sleeves until we were sick to our stomachs. No more sketching that day!

That first year, I answered an ad in the Base newspaper looking for people who wanted to join an artist's group. I jumped at it. We had a meeting and in the end, there were 16 of us. Within a very short time that first year, we opened a little artist's co-op store that we named Gallery 20 in the JC Penny Mall downtown in Anchorage. We each rented a space, we each worked one day a week and we shared expenses using our profits from sales. I was queen for a day, making money I never dreamed of. See, I told you, those oil guys would buy anything! But it wasn't just about money. I won prizes at the Alaska State Fair, ribbons at the Anchorage Museum of Fine Arts, put on art shows in The Captain Cook Hotel, in Fairbanks at the University, in the Sears Mall, but the best part had to be talking and sharing information with other artists. I made life-long friends. Never again, would time and circumstances meet in that manner; I hit it right on the button.

*Alaskan bumper sticker: "Please God give me another oil boom, I promise not to p**s it away this time."*

As a special note, Armond (Army) Kirschbaum passed away Dec. 4, 2012. He had become an important figure in both the art world and the music world. His biography can be found on the internet.

Senior Happenings

Weston County Senior Services

Feb. 20: Trip to The Lodge
Feb. 21: Beltone Hearing & Clinic
Feb. 24: United Blood Services blood drive
Feb. 25: Mexican Train
Feb. 26: Ceramics
Feb. 27: Fancy Workers
Feb. 28: Dance, 7-10 p.m.

Weston County Manor

Feb. 20: AI & The Gang, 2 p.m.
Feb. 20: Farkel, 6 p.m.
Feb. 21: Greedy, 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 23: Trivia 11 a.m.
Feb. 22: Tell It Like It Is, 11 a.m.
Feb. 24: Cooking, 3 p.m.
Feb. 27: Manicures, 2 p.m.



We would like to congratulate Dixon Bros. on their attractive new headquarters. It is a great example of how much a local business can accomplish, and shows how successful we can be in Weston County.

We continue to improve the appearance of our Newcastle plant through cleanup and new construction and applaud others in Newcastle who demonstrate a desire to make it one of the most appealing communities in the Black Hills.



Caution: Winter isn't over yet

It's February. This is the time of year that we in Wyoming have become so accustomed to winter that it is easy to develop a complacency toward the dangers winter weather can mean for us. Winter cold and snow can create a variety of challenges that can impact our routine errands and work activities.



Susanne Voss
Workforce Watch

It's important to remember that individuals and workers are at increased risk of cold stress when the temperatures get near to or dip below zero. Increased wind speeds can cause the air temperature to feel even colder, further increasing the risk of cold stress of those working outdoors, such as miners, snow cleanup crews, oil and gas workers, construction workers, postal workers, police officers, pipeline workers, city and county crews, and firefighters.

When the body is unable to warm itself, cold-related stress may result in tissue damage and possibly death. Four factors contribute to cold stress: cold air temperatures, high velocity air movement, dampness of the air, and contact with cold water or surfaces.

How cold is too cold?

A cold environment forces the body to work harder to maintain its temperature.

NWS Windchill Chart

		Temperature (°F)																		
		Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45
Wind (mph)	5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40	-46	-52	-57	-63	
	10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47	-53	-59	-66	-72	
	15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51	-58	-64	-71	-77	
	20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55	-61	-68	-74	-81	
	25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58	-64	-71	-78	-84	
	30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60	-67	-73	-80	-87	
	35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-82	-89	
	40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78	-84	-91	
	45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79	-86	-93	
	50	26	19	12	4	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81	-88	-95	
	55	25	18	11	4	-3	-11	-18	-25	-32	-39	-46	-54	-61	-68	-75	-82	-89	-97	
60	25	17	10	3	-4	-11	-19	-26	-33	-40	-48	-55	-62	-69	-76	-84	-91	-98		

Frostbite Times: 30 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes

Wind Chill (°F) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})
Where, T= Air Temperature (°F) V= Wind Speed (mph) Effective 11/01/01

Courtesy of the National Weather Service

Cold air, water and snow all draw heat from the body. The most common problems faced in the cold are hypothermia, frostbite, and trench foot.

At the Newcastle Workforce Center, we're often asked how long is 'too long' to be outdoors in frigid temps and wind. This table from www.osha.gov may be of help:

Tips for working in cold weather

Wearing appropriate clothing and being aware of how your body is reacting to the cold are important to preventing cold stress. Avoiding alcohol, certain medications and smoking can also help minimize the risk.

Protective clothing is

the most important way to avoid cold stress. The type of fabric even makes a difference. Cotton loses its insulation value when it becomes wet. Wool, silk and most synthetics, on the other hand, retain their insulation even when wet. Here are some clothing recommendations for working in cold environments:

- Wear at least three layers of clothing. An inner layer of wool, silk or synthetic to wick moisture away from the body. A middle layer of wool or synthetic to provide insulation even when wet. An outer wind and rain protection layer that allows some ventilation to prevent overheating. Layering provides better insulation. Do not wear tight fitting clothing.

- Wear a hat or hood to help keep your whole body warmer. Hats reduce the amount of body heat that escapes from your head.

- Wear insulated boots or other footwear.

- Keep extra clothing (including underwear) handy in case you get wet and need to change.

- Do not underestimate the wetting effects of perspiration. Often times wicking and venting of the body's sweat and heat are more important than protecting from rain or snow.

Be sure to visit www.osha.gov for more tips on working in winter weather.

Stay warm out there, and remember: Less than six weeks until spring!

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Budget

from page 1

Tuesday morning, Feb. 11, where the committee passed a bill designed to streamline the permitting process for drilling water wells. Later that afternoon, the House convened to consider a number of bills for introduction. Among those that passed were a resolution voicing support for economic partnership with Taiwan, a bill to increase the filing fee of civil lawsuits in district courts, and two bills to better define the duties of the newly created lottery bill. Failing to gain introduction were bills to decrease penalties for marijuana possession, increase the minimum wage, and decrease the severance tax for coal. Non-budget bills require a two-thirds vote to gain introduction during budget sessions.

Wednesday, Feb. 12, saw the successful introduction of two bills of which Hunt was the main sponsor. The first extends the life of the current endowment challenge fundraising program for Critical Access Hospitals, the other would eliminate the limit on how much wine may be shipped to an individual household. A bill to push back the Common Core standards was also introduced. Later in the day, the Education Committee, on which Hunt serves, met to discuss a bill lifting the moratorium on the construction and funding of alternative schools, which passed the committee.

Thursday, Hunt went on to write, witnessed the successful introduction of a number of additional bills in the House. Among these where a bill forbidding the use of drones by law enforcement without warrant, a bill to allow for a local tax option that would be voted directly on by the people and would go toward communities, and a bill that would allow teaching

staff to carry guns in schools. Those bills that failed included one that would allow concealed weapons permit holders to carry concealed weapons in schools and a bill that aimed to restore voting rights to certain non-violent felons. Hunt's proposed amendment to the state constitution, which would have outlined duties for local school districts, also failed upon introduction, while the aforementioned bill addressing water-well permitting passed through third and final reading.

Among those bills failing to gain introduction on Feb. 14 were a bill to eliminate certain lifetime hunting licenses, a bill that would have made the Attorney General's office an elected position, and a bill to give firefighters collective bargaining rights. Gaining introduction were bills to promote tourism more broadly, a bill to increase the interstate speed limit to 80 miles per hour in good road conditions, and a bill to define the boundaries of the Wind River Reservation in state statute.

Passing the education committee that same day were bills to allow local school districts to determine how to handle guns on school property themselves and a bill allowing broader control over leasing of equipment for construction projects on school properties.

In turn, Rep. Semlek released a more general statement noting that of local interest this session will be the proposed \$175 million revenue sharing for local governments, an increase over the budget of two years ago. Overall, Semlek observed, the budget closely resembles the previous one in terms of proposed expenditures, and he said the expected downturn in coal and

natural gas sales will likely result in the Legislature lowering expenditures for the next few years.

Proposed legislation, Semlek continued, will fund bark beetle remediation efforts at \$2 million per year for the next two years, and he lauded the efforts of state, local, and national agencies in working to preserve and manage forests.

Addressing the recent Supreme Court ruling against Senate File 104, Semlek noted that the most common response from constituents has been to suggest that the Legislature repeal SF104 and not hold a "special session."

"As some of you might remember, I was a 'no' vote on SF104, and I am mindful of those concerns," he wrote. "The issue is further complicated by a number of other legislative proposals that were passed to make SF104 work. I understand the frustration of the Legislature not seeing the results that they believed should come about with the dramatic increase in funding that has occurred in the last few years for K-12 in Wyoming, but I am not convinced that the federal or state governments have the ability to meaningfully effect much change. Patrons, parents, school district trustees, teachers, school administrators and the community at large, working with their school district, will likely have the most success of making positive advancements in student education."

Semlek went on to emphasize that he believes responsibility and accountability for education should fall primarily at the local level.

The 2014 Budget Session is scheduled to run through Friday, March 7.

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Photo courtesy of LifeTouch

Back row from left: Mr. Merrill, Joe Danens, Dawson Norton, Josie Podio, Robert Neate, Kolton Hall, Wade Gordon, Trace Buckert. Middle row: Ashten Marchant, Courtney Coy, James Lewis, Lynnell Hanson, Kaprina Jones, Garrett Liggett, Rhyse Rhoades. Front row: Kaullen Sundstrom, Patricia Miller, Laura Chord, Grace Carlin, Grace Sandrini, Abi Deveraux, Clayton Colvard, Dusty Neate.




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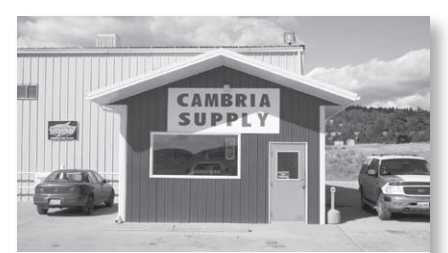
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Welcome home

Weston County Museum District Director Bobbie Jo Stith, assistant director Liz Barritt, and museum district board member Terri Newman revel in the Red Onion Museum's new digs at 729 Birch Street in Upton, on Feb. 6. Built in 1918, the former residence to which the museum is in the process of moving has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment in recent years. "Everything important is no older than 2006, but the house maintains its 1918 flavor," said Stith. The move resolves long-standing uncertainty regarding the future location of the Red Onion, which has shared space with Upton's City Hall since 1996. (Photo by Todd Bennington)

Grades

from page 1

data comparing NMS grades in the first two quarters of the 2013/2014 school year. In Math, 100 percent of both sixth- and seventh-graders were at a C or better, 96 percent of eighth-graders were there also with 94 percent of Algebra I students receiving at least a C for the first quarter. Percentages were slightly lower for the second quarter — all still in the 90 percent, except for Algebra I, rose to 100 percent.

English was similar, with sixth and seventh grades both scoring at 100 percent with grades above a C, with sixth grade reading the same. Eighth-graders were only slightly lower in English with 98 percent receiving a C or better. In the second quarter, the seventh grade English class fell to 96 percent and eighth-graders were at 98 percent.

All three grades were at 100 percent with a C or above in Science first quarter. However, sixth-graders went down to 86 percent in second quarter with seventh-graders at 94 percent and eighth-graders at 95.

Both seventh- and eighth-graders remained at 94 and 98 percent consecutively with a C or better for both quarters. Sixth-graders began the first quarter at 100 percent and fell to 94 percent with a C or better for the last quarter graded.

Lambert directly asked Shoop if the principal feels the rigor is strong enough in the classes, making sure every student is at the same level.

"We have infused our whole system with support. So the issue is not whether [or not you did] learn, it is what we care about. Then the quality of work, if you hand in a paper with a C, we might call you on the carpet because we believe you are capable of better. So we expect those grades to go higher because of that support. But we have had that conversation — let's ramp up the rigor," Shoop reasoned.

Brad LaCroix, WCSD #1 Superintendent, said in grades kindergarten through 12 the objective is to wrap the students in support with extra help, but one obstacle they encounter with some students is not that they can't do the work, but that they won't do it.

"We still struggle with that

as the piece. And so I think you have to be careful with the word 'proficient' in how we use it in that dashboard. I do think the word proficiency when we are talking about teacher judgment can be a bit misleading," he continued. "It's really about where that student is, what they are learning and how they are using their support system."

Trustee Tom Wright pointed out that they have had this conversation before, however he finds it hard believe that a grade of a C isn't proficient, because it is a passing grade.

"Proficiency is our base level at which I expect you to be able to pass. If you're proficient, shouldn't C-level work? It's hard for me to explain philosophically that you have to get B work just to be proficient; a B seems like it should be moderately skilled and A highly skilled," remarked Wright.

According to Shoop, the staff views the letter grade of C as competent and he believes the difference is that, as administrators they analyze the different kinds of data to give the student help they need to meet the standard level — a system he doesn't believe is available at the high school or college level.

"It is pretty robust, so that is why I think we have made that adjustment, because when we analyze all of the data, as soon as we made that jump with our grade book, then we could see correlations all over the place," he reported.

Shoop agreed with board member Christine Winter, who reasoned that comparing the Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students rating of proficiency was the decision behind making the cutoff for the level of ability at a B and above, with the number of students receiving those grades matching the quantity of proficiency ratings.

"On something like quarter grades, what I remember is trying to reduce the choice that students have in terms of failing or not doing their homework or whatever ... How do you guys tease out if it is not rigorous enough or if it is the [Needs Extra Time] program?" Winter questioned Shoop.

His reply was that making sure the level of questions

that are asked have rigor. In the Professional Learning Communities the teachers discuss what rigor looks like. They share what assignments are given and receive feedback regarding whether or not is consistent enough.

"I am still not satisfied, to be honest with you. I want more rigor — that was the whole reason we went to a leveled system. That was a lot of the reason we put all this support in our system so we can ask more of kids. 'You can, and you will, we will help you,' that is what we say," he answered.

Winter said she struggles with the philosophical difference of treating students like little adults, teaching them responsibility or giving them an education.

LaCroix indicated that wrapping students around any kind of support services and engaging students as much as possible is the answer.

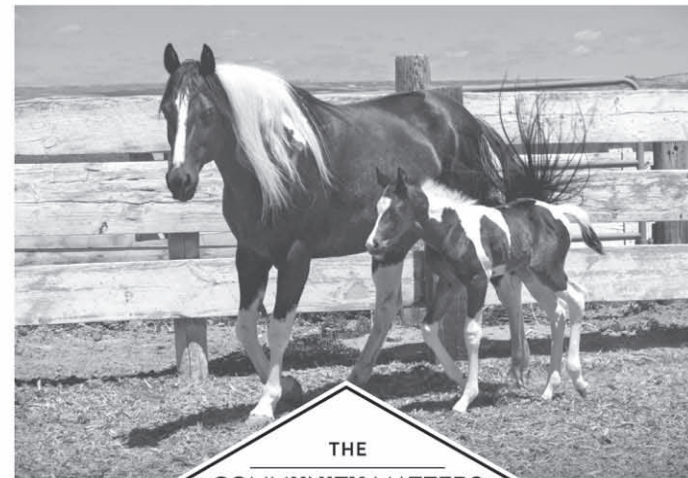
"I guess there are philosophical differences on the board. And Scott, I think I appreciate what you are doing and I think maybe the wall is too steep. I still say, before they leave here, they better know how to go to class, they better know how to tell time and they better know how to hand in paperwork," interjected Lambert. "I hope we prepare them for life."

The NMS principal agreed with the chairman, stressing the importance of constantly teaching them that skill level.

WCSO #1 Trustee Tina Chick questioned why, when the school system finally gets the data they are hoping for, they second-guess what the results are, rather than applauding their accomplishments.

"I think it is okay to say, 'Wow! Nice job.' I appreciate the fact that [what] you are still working towards is, is it rigorous, is it enough, is it what our kids need. I appreciate that because that is how we get better. I appreciate how you continue to work for what's better for our kids. But at the same time I want to say, 'good job,' because the data is there," concluded Chick.

"Good point!" agreed Wright.



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CODE RED

Emergency Notification Drill

On Thursday, February 20th, at 1:00pm, the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp conducted a notification drill to residents registered in the Code RED system within a ten (10) mile radius of the facility. If you live within this radius and were not contacted, and would like to be, please log onto the **Weston County Homeland Security Website**, <http://www.westongov.com>, and follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page. Those without Internet access may call their office at 307-746-4315, Monday through Friday, (8AM-5PM) to supply your information over the phone. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. Boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number, additional phone numbers can be entered as well.

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For information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in the death of Katherine Grace Coffee.

On the morning of June 3, 2011, the body of **Katherine Grace Coffee, also known as Katy Coffee**, age 35, was discovered in her home in Newcastle, the victim of an apparent homicide. Her death is being investigated by the Newcastle Police Department and the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation.

Anyone with information about the crime or knowledge of Coffee's whereabouts on the evening and night-time hours of Thursday, June 2, 2011, are asked to please call the **Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation** at (307) 682-1796, or the **Newcastle Police Department** at (307) 746-4486.

Coffee's family has offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone that can provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person/s involved in this crime.

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Feds may grant state portion of Ranch A

By **Todd Bennington of NLJ**

U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis' H.R. 1684, the Ranch A Consolidation and Management Improvement Act, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 27, according to a press release issued by her office. The bill aims to consolidate the historic property and provide flexibility to the foundation that manages it for the State of Wyoming by transferring an additional 10 acres of land containing one of the site's main buildings, the Babcock House, to the state, the press release goes on to explain.

Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, who said he was involved in the legislation in its initial stages several years ago, explained to the News Letter Journal that the exclusion of the 10 acres in the initial transfer of land appears to have been an oversight.

"When the feds transferred [the land to the state] — everyone believes that it was unintentional — but somehow they left off that piece of ground that held the Babcock House, so the state did not have title to it even though they've been

using it and renting it out. The title was vested into the federal government and this merely transfers that piece of ground back to Ranch A."

Built by newspaper publisher Moses Annenberg in the early 1930s, the property has changed hands several times during its history and was once owned by Nels H. Smith, the 18th governor of Wyoming (1939-1943), whose son, Pete, was Driskill's mother's stepfather. Later, it was used for a number of years as a research laboratory and fish hatchery by the federal government, Driskill indicated.

Driskill went on to describe Ranch A as a world-class facility, noting also that it falls under the administration of State Lands rather than State Parks, as would otherwise be expected.

"It's an absolute treasure," Driskill said, describing the property, "beautiful settings and built by a very rich man at the height of the Depression, and the buildings are just stunning."

H.R. 1684 has been received in the U.S. Senate and is currently being referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, according to congress.gov, an official site.



Up for auction

Above, Roy Castle of Castle Auctioneer Service offers up Thomas Davis of the Newcastle High School Rodeo Club to the highest bidder. The club held a "slave" auction as part of its annual fundraising event, grossing a record \$7,300 from the auction and dinner. Left, Joey Danens sells tickets for a gun raffle that raised an additional \$2,000 for the club. The fundraiser took place at the Weston County Senior Citizens' Center on Friday evening.

Photos by Todd Bennington/NLJ



Fundraiser

from page 1

the sporting events," added Kim Bock, special education coordinator at WCCC and Eva Marie's cousin.

The organizers of the event encourage participants to pre-register as soon as possible on the website to guarantee everyone receives the correct T-shirt they will get to wear at the event. Registration is easy at www.embrunwalk.com, or forms can be obtained at WCCC at 104 Stampede Street in Newcastle.

The website was built by WCCC staff member Alyssa Arp, with detailed information about the event. It was funded by Chick Financial. Other businesses who donate will be recognized on the website and at the event.

On the website individuals

can sign up for the event, pay through a PayPal account or a credit card and order T-shirts.


Entry fees are \$30 for a single person, which includes a T-shirt, \$15 for students 12-18, or \$60 for a family of four which includes two adult T-shirts. Additional adult T-shirts can be purchased for \$15 and children sizes for \$10.

"We were just trying to think of a traditional family with two adults and two children and with that you get two free T-shirts and have the option of buying T-shirts for the little ones, too. And you can do all that on the website. There also is just a 'donate' button on the website so [a person] could just go in and donate if they didn't want to run or walk," Chick stated. "We tried to make it user friendly.

They can get ahold of us, too, if for some reason something doesn't work on the website."

Organizers are hoping that it being on Sunday afternoon, people from all five communities who benefit from the scholarship will be able to attend the event. Check-in will begin at noon, with the first flight for the event leaving at 1 p.m. Chick emphasized that runners will begin first to avoid issues of them maneuvering around walkers and strollers.


"One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the scholarship fund. We are getting donations from all of the communities that benefit from the scholarships to help defer the costs of the T-shirts," reported another event organizer, Brenda Clarke.




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Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

Newcastle			
Boys Basketball			
02/20	V9	*Buffalo Bison	H 4PM
02/22	V9	*Douglas Bearcats	A 2:30PM
03/01	V9	*Torrington Trailblazers	H 2:30PM
Girls Basketball			
02/20	V9	*Buffalo Bison	H 4PM
03/01	V9	*Torrington Trailblazers	H 2:30PM
Wrestling			
02/21	V	3A East Regionals at Newcastle	H 10AM
02/22	V	3A East Regionals at Newcastle	H 9AM
02/28	V	3A State Championships at Casper	A 9AM
03/01	V	3A State Championships at Casper	A 9AM

Upton

Boys Basketball			
2/21		Moorcroft @Moorcroft	4/7PM
2/27-3/1		Regionals @TBA	TBA
3/6-8		State @Casper	TBA
Girls Basketball			
2/21		Moorcroft @Moorcroft	4/5:30PM
2/27-3/1		Regional @TBA	TBA
3/6-8		STATE @Casper	TBA

The Score

8th Grade A Team Basketball
Feb. 7 Newcastle 37, Custer 16
Feb. 11 Newcastle 51, Sundance 13

Slow starts continue

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Boys basketball continued what has been a disappointing season as they dropped games on the road last week to both Worland and Glenrock, losing 65-57 and 71-43, respectively, to the Warriors and Herders.

Friday's game against Worland was the far more competitive of the pair, with the Dogies pulling to within six points a number of times in what would eventually be an 8-point loss. Newcastle, said Coach Allen Von Eye, had simply let the Warriors gain too big of a lead early on, one which would prove impossible to overcome.

"We let them get going a little early and they jumped out on us," Von Eye recalled. "I think it was 15-6 ... Through the remaining three quarters we out-scored them, but when you dig yourself a hole on the road you expend a lot of energy trying to battle back. I thought we worked our tails off. We played really, really hard throughout the entire basketball game. Kids were flying around doing what they needed to do."

Despite individual heroics, however, which included the performance of Wade Gordon, who attempted to carry the Dogies almost single-handedly with 24 points and 10 rebounds, the Dogies simply failed to stop Worland from scoring.

"Defensively we couldn't get stops when we needed to," said Von Eye, "and that makes it real difficult when you're trying to come back. We shot the ball pretty well. We had some guys who stepped up and did some great things offensively, but when you can't get stops on the road, it's just really difficult."

Even so, Newcastle did manage to limit the offensive output of Worland's leading scorer.

"We put [Gordon] on their best basketball player, as well, and with the exception of their best basketball player hitting a couple threes early, we limited him ... to less points than he's been held to all year long in the conference. So we felt good about some little things like that."

Things turned decidedly ugly for Newcastle on Saturday, however, as they attempted to take on Glenrock in a game that was never close and ended up

— See Men, Page 12

Mens Stats

Varsity:	
Worland 65, Newcastle 57	
Field Goal Percentage 45	
Free-Throw Percentage 74	
Rebounds 26	
Assists 9	
Steals 5	
Individual Stats:	
Points: Wade Gordon 24; Dillon Ehlers 15; Justin Francis 8	
Rebounds: Wade Gordon 18; Dillon Ehlers 8	
Assists: Trenton Engle 5	
Steals: Wade Gordon 3	
Glenrock 71, Newcastle 43	
Field Goal Percentage 55	
Free-Throw Percentage 38	
Rebounds 17	
Assists 8	
Steals 5	
Individual Stats:	
Points: Wade Gordon 24; Justin Francis 9	
Rebounds: Wade Gordon 8; Justin Francis 4	
Assists: Wade Gordon 3; Trenton Engle 3	
Steals: Wade Gordon 3	

Girls split weekend games

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Lady Dogies dropped a game at home to Worland on Friday by a score of 57-42 before walking away with a 38-23 win over Glenrock on the road Saturday. The scores are misleading, however, as both games remained close contests until the fourth quarter.

"With Worland on Friday we were down one at the end of the first quarter, down one at halftime, down two going into the fourth quarter," Coach Tyler Bartlett explained of what would develop into a 15-point loss. "We were all tied up at the beginning of the fourth quarter and then let [Worland] go on little bit of a tear."

Having fallen behind significantly for the first time in the contest, Newcastle opted for a change of strategy, a move that ultimately backfired and allowed the Warriors to put the Dogies away.

"We ended up down six points midway through the fourth quarter," Bartlett

recalled, "and we had to do some things that we wouldn't normally do. We had to take some risks to try to create turnovers and they really took advantage of us. We were right where we needed to be but just didn't do a very good job of finishing the game."

Worland also displayed a much more balanced offense than the Dogies, with nine players putting points on the board for the Warriors. In contrast for Newcastle, with leading scorer Hannah Cass out with a knee injury, Abby Gray took up the offensive slack, but her contribution of 21 points proved insufficient to carry the team.

"Abby Gray ... did a really nice job offensively for us, but we didn't get a lot [of points] from everybody else," Bartlett said. "We needed to have a little better balance in the scoring and needed to have a few people to step up a little bit more."

Lack of offensive production would also prove a

— See Ladies, Page 13



Stats

Varsity:
Worland 57, Newcastle 42
Field Goal Percentage 40
Free-Throw Percentage 65
Rebounds 25
Assists 9
Steals 8
Individual Stats:
Points: Abby Gray 21; Anna Henkle 8
Rebounds: Alyssa Dawson 6
Assists: Abby Gray 4
Steals: Anna Henkle 3

Newcastle 38, Glenrock 23
Field Goal Percentage 26
Free-Throw Percentage 67
Rebounds 26
Assists 5
Steals 15
Individual Stats:
Points: Anna Henkle 12; Abby Gray 10
Rebounds: Patricia Miller 8
Assists: Hannah Cass 3
Steals: Abi Deveraux 5; Patricia Miller 4

JV:
Worland 51, Newcastle 22
Newcastle 29, Glenrock 14

Sierra LaCroix/For NLJ
Sophomore Newcastle guard Abi Deveraux handles the ball at the edge of Worland's key on Friday as Lady Warrior Carly Cottrell, formerly of Newcastle, defends.

Dogies prepare to host Regionals

3A East Regionals @ Newcastle High School
Feb. 21 10 a.m.
Feb. 22 9 a.m.

Special insert preview of the wrestlers in this edition, and at the door

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

In the gap week between the Ron Thon Memorial Invitational in Riverton and this weekend's 3A East Regional Tournament to be held in Newcastle, the Dogies took on Wheatland and Douglas in duals Thursday and Saturday, dropping both but gaining valuable mat time as they head into the post-season.

Thursday's dual at Wheatland went 48-23 in favor of the Bulldogs, though Newcastle failed to field a full team as they often have this season.

"One of [our wrestlers] had a skin issue and another was sick," said Assistant Coach Alex Schaneman. "If we had those two kids, not only would we have not given up 12 points [by forfeiture] but we probably would have won those matches. That would have been a big swing [in our favor]."

"Wheatland's got some tough kids," Head Coach Sean Crabtree added in agreement, "[but] if we had all of our



Courtesy of Phil Lampron/Douglas Budget

Top ranked 182-pounder Merritt Crabtree maintains top position against Douglas' Alex Locke on the way to a 7-0 decision win on Saturday. Newcastle will host the 3A East Regional Tournament this Friday and Saturday where many expect the Bearcats to dominate.

kids with us we should have competed a little better with [Wheatland]."

Even so, all but one of Newcastle's wins ended decisively by pin. Schaneman noted, although so did the losses. All in all, it made for a quick contest.

"[Merritt] Crabtree pinned his kid in the first period," Schaneman went on. "Preston Rushton teched his kid in the third period, beat him 16-1. Bradon [Rushton] pinned his kid in the first

period. Jake Villanueva pinned his kid in the first period as well. The kids that won did pretty well. The kids that lost also got pinned. All the matches ended in pin except for the tech fall. The dual took like 20 or 25 minutes."

Saturday's contest at Douglas, which included some exhibition matches as well, was more lopsided, with Newcastle falling 63-15, against a team that took fifth place at Ron Thon and is expected by many to clean up at

the regional meet this weekend. Coach Crabtree readily described the Bearcats as a powerhouse.

Again though, the Dogies, who have combined with Upton this year, were unable to fill out their lineup, remaining open at, and thereby forfeiting, the 113, 138, 145, 195, and 220 pound weight classes. Crabtree said he hopes to turn that around this weekend.

— See Wrestlers, Page 13

Local cowgirl wins at stock show

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

The Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City, S.D., provides a wide variety of events for both attendees and competitors. This year, Newcastle resident Kara Jo Webster not only competed in events but won the Ranch Horse Competition in both the Ladies Rancher and Novice divisions on Feb. 2 at the James Kjerstad Event Center Fairgrounds.

"Actually I have been competing for the last six or seven years. Trying to place is hard because there is some good competition," Webster acknowledged. "The last couple of years I have placed but I have never gotten first!"

This was the third year she competed with her stallion, Compaq Player. In the competition the participants are required to do several tasks they would possibly do on a ranch while showing how well they work with the horse and its natural aptitude.

What made the win even sweeter was the fact that Compaq Player was injured Christmas Eve — he split a muscle in his neck down to his shoulder and was barely able to walk. With limited riding and rehabilitation that included chiropractor visits and massage, he was able to come back and win the competition.

"He was hardly ride-able. I started riding him a week before the show really, so he had limited riding going into all of this. He has a big heart. It was so sur-



Photo courtesy of Laurie Errington

He has a big heart. It was so surprising to come back from that serious of an injury."

— Kara Jo Webster

prising to come back from that serious of an injury," reported his owner.

Webster won a buckle in both classes in addition to prize money. In the Novice competition she was up against 38 other competitors and less than 30 in the Ladies Rancher division.

"So that is pretty good! And there was not very many Wyoming people, mainly South Dakota and Nebraska, so it was kinda cool," she smiled.

"This contest shows your horse's ability. The judge is looking for a horse that will move out and do what is asked in a comfortable manner, but yet the major part of the scoring and decision of the judges is on the cow work, because that is the most important part," she reported.

The horse and its rider have the opportunity to show they know what they are doing in the cow work, which consists of four segments: sorting cow from

— See Webster, Page 13

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Men

from page 11.....

as blowout. "That one wasn't so pretty," Von Eye confessed. "I don't know what's going on with our starts recently, but we let them get out 14-0. It didn't get much better from there on. Defensively, we struggled mightily. We turned over the basketball way too much. They just flat took it to us. They killed us on the glass. They had 14 offensive rebounds, which is just not going to get it done. If you give up 14 offensive boards, teams are going to score."

Gordon again stepped up, turning in 24 points and 8 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to make things even remotely competitive in a game that Von Eye had predicted last week to be a potentially winnable one for the Dogies. In fact, as Von Eye observed, the Dogies had played much more competitively in their 63-48 loss to the Herders earlier this season.

Things don't look much more promising for Newcastle this week as they will face two tough conference teams in the likes of a surging Buffalo and a solid Douglas.

In fact, Thursday's home game against Buffalo, which will certainly be the tougher of the two, looks to be mission impossible at point.

"Buffalo is just flat on fire," Von Eye said, describing the Bison's recent fortunes. "They took down the two top teams in the conference this [past] week. They took down No. 1 Wheatland and No. 3 Rawlins. They're feeling it. They're a good basketball team, and they really took it to us up at their place."

"We're going to have to come with our lunches packed on that one," he said, speaking of the Dogies' strategy. "We'll change some things up and try to slow down the game a little bit, see if we can't play a little bit more our tempo ... We can't get in a running match with them. They're just too deep and too athletic and too fast."



Sierra LaCroix/For NLJ

Senior Dillon Ehlers concentrates on earning one of his 15 points as he prepares to shoot a free-throw against Worland on Friday. The Dogies shot 74 percent from the line in the 65-57 loss to the Warriors. Going 0-2 in games this weekend, the Dogies have fallen to a disappointing 2-17 this season.

A desperately needed win on the road Friday against Douglas looks to be more do-able at this juncture. Even so, the Bearcats roughed up the Dogies 52-34 in their first encounter this season.

"We matched up pretty well with Douglas," Von Eye reasoned of his team's chances, "and we played them really evenly through three quarters [after a sluggish start]."

Asked about what mindset has to be brought to the

table at this point in what has proven to be a brutal season for Newcastle, Von Eye said that achieving small goals with the hope that they can accumulate into a win is what's needed.

"You've got to focus on a few things, being efficient and effective in certain areas," he said. "You're scaling back your game plan ... and making sure there are some things you can go into and that your kids can see success early. We all know, when you're faced

with a real uphill battle, if you don't see success it's hard to buckle down and fight through. We've got to set some attainable goals to get us going early in the game."

Still, Von Eye affirmed, Newcastle isn't about to give up and start looking at this season as a building year.

"We're never going to give up, and we're never going to say we're looking for next year ... We're going to battle," he said with a note of defiance.

Learning for Life

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Wrestlers from page 11

"We left some kids home [this Saturday] because we had two of them with ringworm, some on the 'F' list, and we had some that were sick. I'm hoping we have a full team and that the only weights that are open are 113 and 220 for regionals," he said.

Despite being generally out-closed, the Dogies did, however, provide some challenging matchups for the Bearcats, with No. 1 ranked 182-pound Merritt Crabtree taking a 7-0 decision over fourth-ranked Alex Locke. The most interesting match though, in Coach Crabtree's estimation, occurred at 132 pounds between Bradon Rushton, who took first place at Ron Thon on the JV side, and Douglas' Zach Hoopman. Rushton, who will likely face Hoopman at both regionals and the state finale, ended up losing by a close 4-2 decision. Rushton had previously beaten Hoopman in an exciting triple-overtime match at Ron Thon.

Stats

Dual @ Wheatland on 02/13/2014
Wheatland 48.0
Newcastle 23.0
 285 Garrett Liggett lost by pin 2:15; 182: Merritt Crabtree won by pin 1:41; 170: Jake Villanueva won by pin 0:31; 160: Jaspur Siedman lost by pin 1:09; 152: James Moberly lost by pin 1:42; 132: Bradon Rushton won by pin 0:57; 126: Preston Rushton won by tech. fall 4:33 16-1; 120: Zach Schuessler lost by pin 0:33.

Dual @ Douglas on 02/15/2014
(Exhibition) Douglas 57.0
Newcastle 21.0
 120 Zach Schuessler lost by pin 3:28; 126: Preston Rushton won by pin 2:30; 132: Bradon Rushton lost by decision 4-2; 152: James Moberly lost by pin 0:34; 160: Jaspur Siedman lost by pin 0:45; 170: Jake Villanueva lost by pin 1:27; 182: Merritt Crabtree won by decision 7-0; 285: Garrett Liggett won by pin 2:03.

Dual @ Douglas on 02/15/2014
Douglas 63.0
Newcastle 15.0
 170: Jake Villanueva lost by pin 1:39; 182: Merritt Crabtree won by decision 7-0; 285: Garrett Liggett won by pin 0:00; 120: Zach Schuessler lost by pin 0:40; 126: Preston Rushton lost by pin 3:59; 132: Bradon Rushton lost by decision 4-2; 152: James Moberly lost by pin 0:55; 160: Jaspur Siedman lost by pin 0:35.

"The shots just weren't there for [Rushton] this go around," the coach reasoned. "I think maybe because [Hoopman] was at home, too, [that things went in his favor]. It was a close match. [Rushton] only lost by two points."

Additional notable matches on Saturday included Garrett Liggett's win by pin over Robert Dulmus of Douglas at heavy-weight, and an exhibition match loss by Newcastle's Villanueva to Colter Haman, who won the Ron Thon at 170 pounds. Haman stopped Villanueva by pin at the 1:39 mark.

Other matches were less hard-fought, according to Crabtree.

"Zach Schuessler wrestled a kid in an exhibition match who had a [developmental disability]. I was very proud of him. We went out and let the kid beat him ... That kid was just so happy that he won a match. Zach Schuessler gets the sportsmanship award from me," Crabtree concluded.

Webster from page 11

herd; holding cow from herd; pushing cow to clean portion of the arena; and boxing the cow in the big arena. In the Ladies division they must do this in five and a half minutes, whereas in the Novice the time limit is only five minutes and can earn up to 40 points.

The competition begins with "Dry Work," with the contestant leading the horse into the arena. The time begins when the bridle is dropped. First a hind foot is lifted then the horse is mounted on the left side, then several steps are followed — one being a specific pattern posted the morning of the competition — to earn a total of 60 points.

"In the Ladies Rancher you actually have to take it to the fence and turn it twice and that is kinda your cattle work portion of things. In the Novice all you do is cut your cow out — same thing — box it at one end of the fence and then trail it to the other end of the arena, and then they call time," she said.

Webster tries to ride a horse every day no matter what the weather is. Even though Compaq Player is a finished cutting horse, she enjoys competing in a manner that relates to everyday work. Since he's also as a stud horse, the competition allows potential customers the opportunity to see what he can do. For more information on him, visit the website www.rafterlaze-quarterhorses.com.

Prior to the Ranch Horse Competition, Compaq Player was also shown in the Quarter Horse Show and was only one point away from going to the American Quarter Horse Association's World Championship Show and Amateur Cutting.

Next year Webster is going to take a year off of the ranch horse competition and has offered to help with the course at the Black Hills Stock Show.

"It was a really good show! Another cool thing I also noticed is that some of our local people — Fred and Clara Wilson of Newcastle — were a sponsor for the event. So I thought that was kinda cool!" she proclaimed.

Ladies from page 11

problem against Glenrock on Saturday, and despite the comfortable margin by which the Dogies won, they actually trailed significantly for most of the game.

"We just shot terrible, especially in the first half," Bartlett confessed. "We just couldn't buy a bucket. We had four points at the end of the first quarter and scored two points in the entire third quarter. We just really, really struggled offensively from the field, which is a testament to our defense. To shoot the ball that poorly and still come away with a win by 15 speaks to how well we played defensively in that game."

Indeed, the Dogies shot a miserable 26 percent from the field, which was mitigated, not only by their defense, but by better than usual free-throw shooting, a category in which Newcastle has sometimes struggled this season.

"One thing that was a nice change of pace was we shot 67 percent from the free-throw line," Bartlett remarked. "It was important that we took advantage of those shots, especially in the fourth quarter. We were down five going into the fourth quarter and out-scored [Glenrock] by 20 in the fourth quarter to win by 15."

"Friday we had too many turnovers. Saturday we didn't shoot the ball well," Bartlett said in summation. "The difference between those two games is that Saturday we played a lot better

defense ... If we give up 50 or more, chances are we're going to lose that game."

With only three games now remaining in the regular season, Newcastle faces two major hurdles this week in a Buffalo team to whom they lost a close game, 55-50, earlier this year on the road, and a highly ranked Douglas team whom they shocked at home.

"Again, if we would have played better defense and gotten better stops, I feel like we could have had that game," Bartlett recalled of the loss to Buffalo. "We gave up a lot of points inside that night ... Thursday gives us a chance to avenge that loss. We'll adjust some things defensively to try to keep them out of the paint."

But while the Dogies seek to avenge the Buffalo loss in a home game on Thursday, Douglas, who are currently No. 2 in the conference, are undoubtedly still smarting from Newcastle handing them their first loss of the season a few weeks ago. The Bearcats will look to even the score in front of their hometown crowd on Saturday.

"Our last three games in conference we're going up against a few of the best," Bartlett concluded, "so it will be really interesting to see how the girls respond and how we're looking these last couple weeks before we head to Torrington for regionals."

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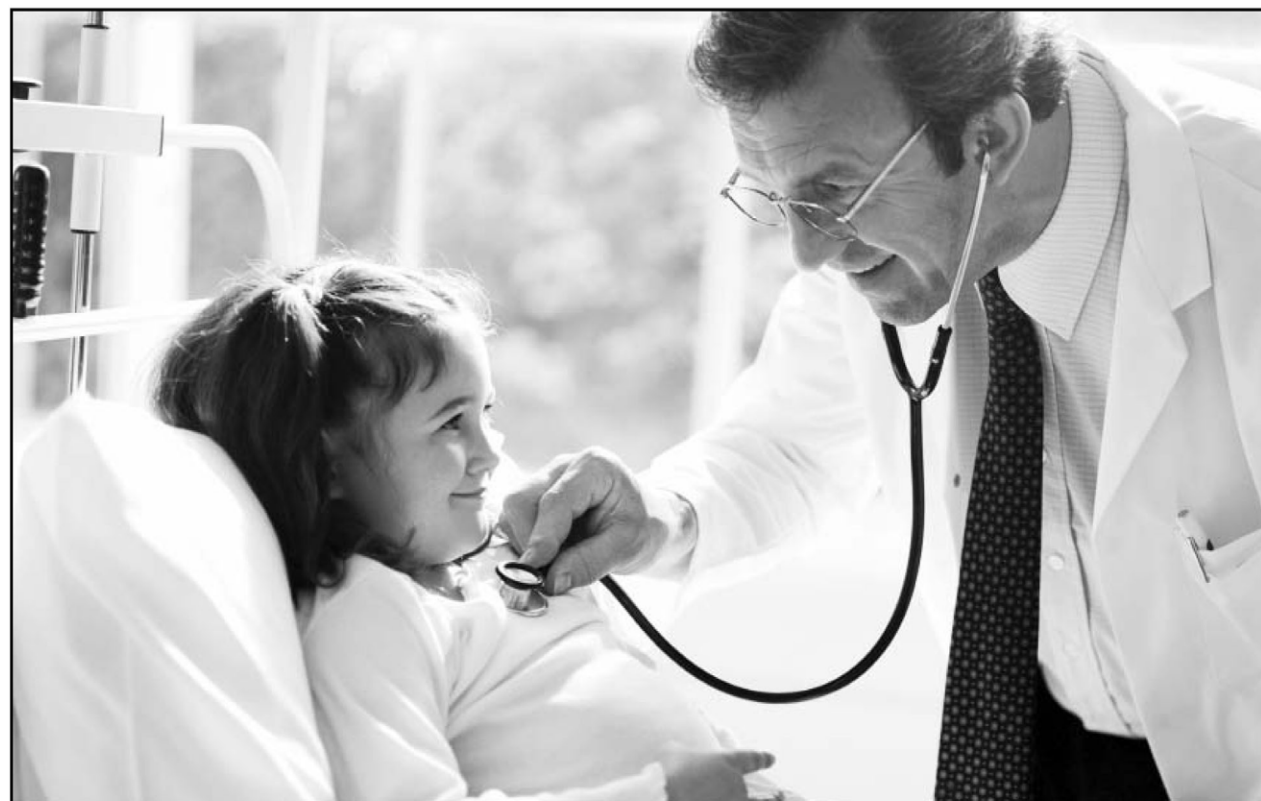
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A: 2-3 years old.



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The first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act is more than halfway over. March 31, 2014, marks the end of the open enrollment period. This deadline to enroll applies both to health plans purchased on the Federal Health Insurance Exchange and to health plans purchased in the private market. Once the open enrollment period is over, health plans may not be purchased unless an individual experiences a life event that will trigger a special enrollment period.

To sign up for plans offered on the Exchange, or to review options for assistance with costs, enroll on your own one of these ways:

- Online at healthcare.gov — The website is working much better than it did initially, making this the most efficient way to enroll in a health plan and determine eligibility for cost assistance.
- By phone — Call the Federal Call Center at 1-800-318-2596.
- By paper application — Paper applications can be downloaded from

healthcare.gov or the call center can mail you one. Paper applications take longer to process because information may need to be verified. Paper applications should be sent as soon as possible to ensure that the Exchange receives them by March 31, 2014.

Or, enroll with the help of personal assistance through:

- Navigators — Navigators are trained and certified to help consumers, small business, and their employees enroll in Exchange plans. Services are free to consumers. Contact a Wyoming Navigator by calling 2-1-1 or by visiting wyoming211.org.
- Agent and Brokers — Agents and brokers are appointed by insurance companies on the Exchange to enroll people in health plans. Agents and brokers have gone through training on health care reform and can advise on what plan may be best suited for their clients' needs.

For plans offered in the private market, enroll through an agent or broker or directly with an insurance company.



Wyoming Insurance Department
<http://doi.wyo.gov>
1 (800) 438-5768

This public service announcement is presented and paid for by the insurance companies licensed to do business in Wyoming in cooperation with the Wyoming Insurance Department. For more information on the state's insurance companies, including financial information, visit the Insurance Department website's "Consumers" section.

Blotter

February 2, 2014
 Drunk driver reported. Suicide threats reported. Assist other agency. Welfare check requested. Trespassing reported. Civil standby requested. Residential alarm reported. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Suspicious activity reported. Loud music reported.

February 3
 Suspicious activity reported. Commercial alarm reported. Civil problem reported. Phone harassment reported. Report of a dog at large. Impounded. Report of a dog at large. Four VIN inspections requested. Traffic stop, no action taken. Harassment reported. 911 hang up. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Domestic problem reported.

February 4
 Three VIN inspections requested. Welfare check requested. Found property reported. Extra patrol requested. Dog bite reported. Dog bite reported. Citizen assist. Missing sign reported.

February 5
 Elder abuse reported. Motorist assist. Minor accident reported. Arrest Warrant issued. Hit and run accident reported. VIN inspection. Arrest Warrant issued. Minor accident reported. Fire alarm reported. Frozen pipes reported. Missing dog reported.

February 6
 Report of dogs at large. Four VIN inspections requested. Assist other agency. Civil standby requested. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Hazard reported.

February 7
 Civil assist. Hazard reported. Civil standby requested. Dead deer reported. Cat trap requested. Hazard reported. Missing dog reported. Two VIN inspections requested. Traffic hazard reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, One arrest. Report of a dog at large. Barking dog complaint. Traffic stop, Equipment

Repair Order issued.
February 8
 Traffic stop, two arrests. DUI arrest. Attempted suicide reported. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, no action taken. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Domestic problem reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, no action taken.



February 9
 Request for Ministerial assistance. Report of domestic violence. VIN inspection requested. Trespassing reported. Civil standby requested. Vandalism reported. Motorist assist. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Minor accident reported. Motorist assist. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Request for Ministerial assistance. Traffic stop, Written

Warning issued.
February 10
 Assist other agency. Welfare check requested. Drug use reported. Welfare check requested. Civil standby requested. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Domestic reported. One arrest.

February 11
 Report of a domestic disturbance. Report of a dog at large. Found property reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Abandoned vehicle reported. VIN inspection. Trespass reported. Bar disturbance reported. 911 hangup. Assist other agency.

February 12
 Underage tobacco use, three citations issued. Four VIN inspections. 911 hang up. Domestic disturbance, one arrest. Traffic complaint.

February 13
 Civil standby requested. Two VIN inspections. Traffic stop, Written Warning for speed. Harassment complaint. Missing cat reported. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic complaint. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

February 14
 911 hang up. Vandalism reported. Abandoned vehicle reported. Report of a dog at large. Seven VIN inspections. Missing cat reported. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Driver re-exam requested. Traffic stop, Two arrests. Report of a dog at large. Report of a dog at large. Barking dog complaint. Domestic reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Suspicious activity reported.

February 15
 Suspicious activity reported. Minor accident

reported. Civil standby requested. Noise complaint. Suspicious activity reported. Theft reported. VIN inspection. Assault reported. Traffic complaint. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Suspicious activity reported.

Bid Notice

**INVITATION TO BID
 WESTON COUNTY, WY
 COURTHOUSE A/C REPLACEMENT
 PROJECT**

Sealed bids will be received by the Weston County Board of Commissioners until 4:30 p.m. on **March 17, 2014** at the Weston County Clerk's Office, Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, for the Weston County Courthouse A/C Replacement Project. The Weston County Courthouse A/C Replacement Project consists of one schedule. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with statement thereon, "BID ENCLOSED, Weston County Courthouse A/C Replacement Project" and submitted to the Weston County Clerk's Office at or before the stated time. Said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on **March 18, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.** No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for opening thereof. The Weston County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities in the bidding; provided, however, that any bid received after the time specified or without accompanying Bid Guarantee, as stated below, will not be considered.

Bidding documents, including technical specifications, may be obtained from the Office of the County Clerk, County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

A bid guarantee in the form of a properly executed Bid Bond payable to Weston County in the amount of not less than 5% of the total base bid amount, for each bid schedule bid upon, shall be submitted with each bid. The successful Bidder for each bid schedule will be required to execute an Agreement with Weston County, in the form supplied in the Bidding Documents, within thirty (30) days after Notice of Award is issued. The Notice of Award shall serve as notice that the Agreement is ready for execution. The Bid Guarantee shall be forfeited as liquidated damages if the Bidder fails to execute the Agreement within thirty (30) days after the Notice of Award is issued, or fails to provide proper Bond or other form of Guarantee, as approved.

(Publish February 20, 27 and March 6, 2014)

Utility Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given that a public hearing has been scheduled regarding the application of Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp or the Company), for authority to increase its retail electric rates by \$6,977,846 per annum and revise its tariffs. The public hearing is set to commence on Monday, March 10, 2014, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room located at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, in Cheyenne.

PRECorp is a public utility as defined by W.S. § 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C), and as such, is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction under W.S. § 37-2-112.

PRECorp filed its general rate application on September 4, 2013, requesting authority to increase its retail rates to its Wyoming consumers to bring them closer to cost of service. No change is proposed for Large Power Compression-CBM. In its application, PRECorp requested a rate increase of \$6,977,846 per annum with a proposed effective date of March 10, 2014. 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 Company.

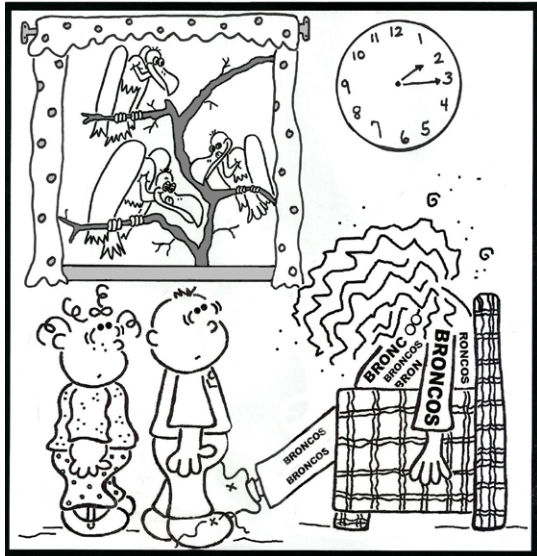
In its application, PRECorp proposes to: [i] maintain all of its current rate structures and only modify the charges, resulting in more equitable member impact; and [ii] rebase its rates to reflect current wholesale power rates and reset its Cost of Power Adjustment to zero. PRECorp also proposes to increase the monthly Basic Charges for the General Service class and Large Power Transmission and Large Power Transmission-CBM classes.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing which will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission Rules and Special Regulations. Interested persons may appear and be heard, either in person or through counsel, as provided by Commission rule.

The Commission's hearings are open to all persons. If you wish to attend the hearing and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 (Voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TTY) by dialing 711. Please mention Docket No. 10014-145-CR-13 in your correspondence. If you wish to listen to the hearing scheduled in this matter go to <http://psc.wy.us> at the appropriate time and follow the instruction to connect to the hearing. Dated: February 11, 2014.

(Publish February 20 and 27, 2014)

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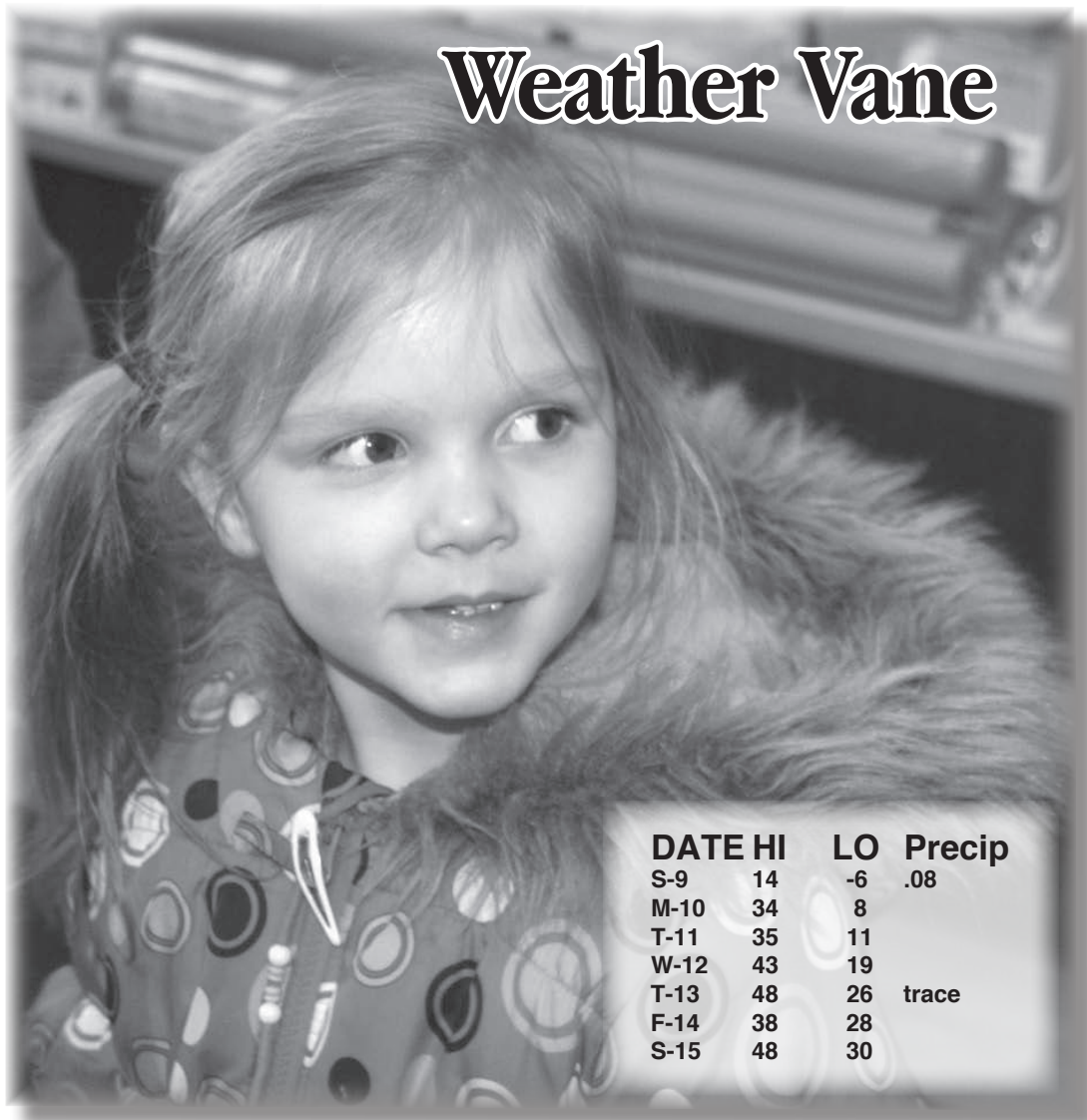
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S-9	14	-6	.08	
M-10	34	8		
T-11	35	11		
W-12	43	19		
T-13	48	26	trace	
F-14	38	28		
S-15	48	30		

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATION FOR BIDS

Completed sealed bids for the Kitty Moats Complex Project will be received from General Contractors no later than 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2014 at the project site, 551 Metz Street, Osage, WY at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud.

Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained after Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Architect's office upon deposit of \$50.00 (check or money order) and may be examined at the builder's exchanges as noted below, or the office of Schutz Foss Architects.

A Pre-Bid meeting will be held at the project site, 551 Metz Street, Osage, WY on Friday, February 28, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The Conference is mandatory for General Contractors and Mechanical Subcontractors.

All bids submitted shall be complete and contain all required items as per the Project Manual and shall include a Bid Bond in the amount of not less than 10 percent of the bid.

The Osage Improvement and Service District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, and to waive any irregularities therein. Preference shall be given to Wyoming contractors, subcontractors, laborers and materials as required by all current Wyoming Preference Acts and Wyoming Statutes Annotated (W.S.-16-6-101, et seq.).

Plans and Specifications are on file at:
 Northeast Wyoming
 Contractor Plan Service
 314 South Gillette Avenue
 Gillette, WY 82716
 307-682-3673
 307-682-0538 (fax)

Construction Industry Center, Inc.
 2771 Plant Street
 Rapid City, SD 57702
 605-343-5252
 605-343-4591 (fax)

Wyoming Plan Service
 384 W. Collins
 Casper, WY 82601
 307-265-1284
 307-266-2339 (fax)

Cheyenne Plan Service
 3016 Bent Ave.
 Cheyenne, WY 82001
 307-638-9779
 307-778-9830 (fax)

Bid Center
 800 East "A" Street
 Casper, WY 82601
 307-237-4014 (fax)

(Publish February 20, 27, March 6, 2014)

WCSD Fed. Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 WARRANTS OVER \$500 DECEMBER 2013

Vendor/Payee	Amount
ALPHA COMMUNICATIONS	\$876.00
NORTHERN WYOMING SCOTTISH RITE	\$600.00
S.P.E.C.I.A.L.S.LLC	\$2,057.64
WCSD #1-TRANSPORTATION	\$995.82
Checking Account Total:	\$4,529.46
Grand Total:	\$4,529.46

(Publish February 20, 2014)

WCSD Fed. Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 WARRANTS OVER \$500 JANUARY 2014

Vendor/Payee	Amount
CDW Government	\$1,938.06
VISA	\$6,162.76
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$111,415.21
VISA	\$1,417.05
WCSD #1-TRANSPORTATION	\$978.02
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$19,901.48
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$16,803.54
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$11,536.85
WYOMING AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE	\$500.00
Checking Account Total:	\$170,652.97
Grand Total:	\$170,652.97

(Publish February 20, 2014)

Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated September 10, 2012, executed and delivered by Nhoun Pheak and Kasie M Pheak ("Mortgagor(s)") to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Home Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns ("Mortgagee"), and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by Mortgagor(s), to Mortgagee, and which Mortgage was recorded in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming, on September 11, 2012, at Reception No. 738195 in Book 339 at Page 861;

WHEREAS, the Mortgage has been duly assigned for value by Mortgagee as follows:

Assignee: Wells Fargo Bank, NA.
 Assignment dated: October 14, 2013
 Assignment recorded: October 18, 2013
 Assignment recording information: in Book 348 at Page 211

All in the records of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale, pursuant to the terms of the Mortgage, has been served upon the record owner and party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to first publication of the notice of sale;

The property covered by said Mortgage is described as follows:

A TRACT OF LAND LYING IN THE SE1/4SW1/4 OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 47 NORTH, RANGE 66 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M., WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF WYOMING HIGHWAY 116, WITH THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF WESTON COUNTY ROAD NO. 18, WHICH POINT LIES S 89°27'W, 2874.73 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 13; THENCE S 88°51'W, 550 FEET ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID COUNTY ROAD NO. 18; THENCE N 1°09'W, 342.02 FEET; THENCE N 88°51'E, 724.26 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF SAID HIGHWAY NO. 116; THENCE S 25°51'W 383.85 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

with an address of 5 Soda Butte Rd, Upton, WY 82730.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Wyoming Statutes Section 34-4-109 (2003) that the foreclosure sale of the above Mortgage, scheduled for January 21, 2014 at the front door of the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, Weston County, State of Wyoming, has been postponed to 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on March 4, 2014 at the front door of the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, Weston County, State of Wyoming.

Wells Fargo Bank, NA.
 By: The Castle Law Group, LLC
 123 West 1st Street, Ste. 400
 Casper, WY 82601-0000
 (307) 333-5379

(Publish January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2014)

Fun and Games

WICKED WEATHER

- 62. *Outburst
- 63. Donald and Ivana, e.g.
- 64. Siesta
- 66. Repeated at rallies

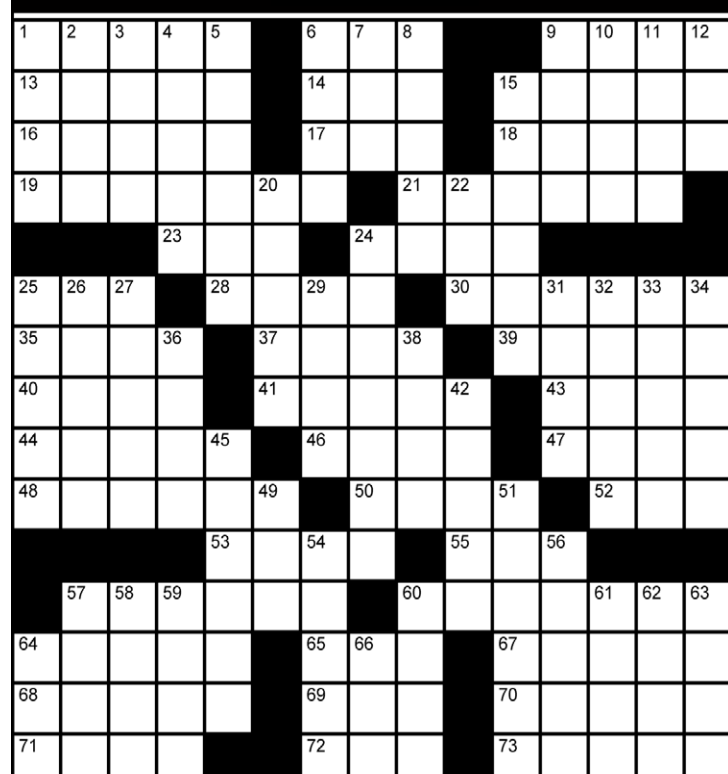
ACROSS

1. Hesitates
6. Cranberry habitat
9. _____ Cola
13. Tropical vine
14. Hole punching tool
15. "_____s Heroes"
16. Type of window
17. "Young" prefix
18. *_____ warning system for tsunamis
19. *Twists around an eye
21. *Polar _____
23. To boot
24. Long, long time
25. Communications regulator
28. *Like frostbitten fingers
30. Snake, usually
35. Porcine fat
37. Hawk's aerie, e.g.
39. Japanese animation
40. Popular three-layer cookie
41. Delivery bird?
43. Singles
44. Out in the open
46. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year
47. Poverty
48. Joseph Stalin, e.g.
50. Julia Louis-Dreyfus' show
52. Dog tags, e.g.
53. Solomon-like
55. H+, e.g.
57. *Tornado visual
60. Swell
64. Japanese-American
65. Victorian time, e.g.
67. Mountaineer's tool
68. Mountain ridge
69. "Swan Lake" steps
70. Fossil fuel rock deposit
71. Chipper
72. CafE alternative
73. Christian virtue, pl.

DOWN

1. Eastern _____
2. Ethereal
3. Flock member
4. Genuflected
5. Old West hangout
6. Misery cause
7. Be obliged
8. *Stops wind from nipping fingers
9. *Wear a heavy one in winter storm
10. Princess Fiona, at night
11. Mineral residue
12. Take your pick
15. Lifting injury
20. People, places and things
22. Goes with "aah"
24. Let off the hook
25. *Spring threat
26. Turn pumpkin into Jack-o-Lantern
27. Native American people in parts of Canada
29. Boundary line
31. *Winter bank matter
32. Biblical mount
33. Make corrections
34. The defense _____
36. Small town or hamlet
38. Test choice
42. Designing Calvin
45. Local in a college bar
49. Black ___ event
51. Type of sausage
54. Slumbered
56. Jack Black's Libre
57. *Lightning can cause this
58. "Breaking Bad" victim
59. Profit
60. Facilitate
61. Cut the crop

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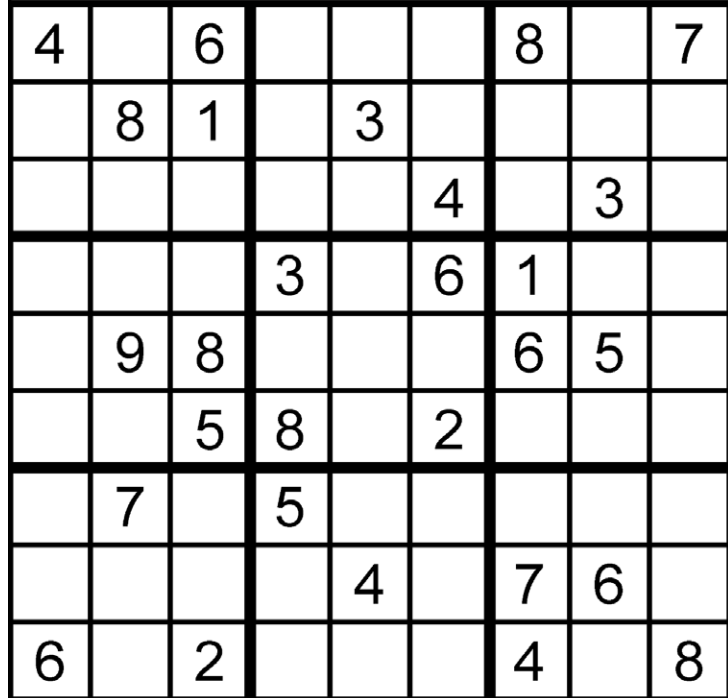
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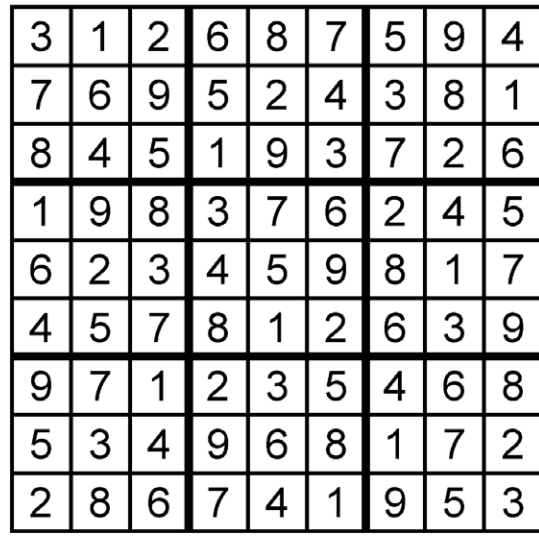
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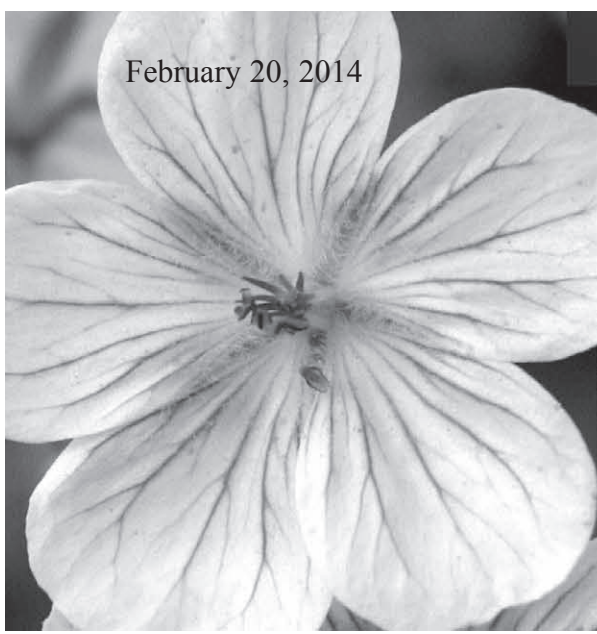
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Deadline-Friday

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Deadline

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AL-ANON (help for family and friends of alcoholics) meets every Tuesday night at 6:45 p.m. Mondell Heights.

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AA Meetings-Weston County Hospital on **Tuesdays at 7 p.m.** 23-1tc

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Self-Help

HELPING HANDS Foundation of Weston County. Applications are now available to help. Please contact Rita Conklin at 307-629-0627 for information.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting on Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact **Norma Lease 746-4568.**

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Deadline-Friday

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The Get-It-Here Directory is coming out very soon if you would like to be in it please call, Stacy, or Becky at the News Letter Journal at 746-2777. It is a great way to get your business out there in the community the cost is only \$40. Call Today or stop in. 14 W Main

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KITCHEN ASSISTANT

Weston County School District #1 has an opening for a part-time (2 hours a day) kitchen assistant at Newcastle Elementary School in Newcastle, Wyoming for the 2013-2014 school year. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY., or on the school website at www.weston1.k12.wy.us. Position will be open until filled. EOE

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The WY Honor Conservation Camp is recruiting correctional officers. Starting pay is \$2,735 per month with excellent benefits. We provide comprehensive training and stable work environment. To apply go to: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/wyoming/default.cfm>

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News Letter Journal



Teen volunteers recognized

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

The Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department Explorer program was recently bestowed Post of the Year by the Boy Scouts of America Black Hills Area Council in Rapid City, S.D. Advisors Mark Christiansen, Meritt Pederson and Nathan Butler accompanied the club's officers, Lane Zerst, chief, Nate Pillen, assistant chief, and Gavin Holmes, secretary/treasurer, to a recognition dinner held at the South Dakota School of Mines on Jan. 30 to receive the traveling trophy. The honor was received due to the dedication of the youth involved in the services, but the young men were unaware they were receiving it until they arrived. They were told they needed to be in their uniform and they were going to tour the Rapid City fire hall with a couple of advisors. When they pulled up at a different destination, they were astonished. "They prove to be the best Post out there as far as all of their training, all of their fund raising, and overall attendance. We were invited to the banquet, but the boys had no idea why. They were pretty surprised when they called their name, I actually had to say, "You guys need to get up and go get that," Christiansen said with a grin when recalling the moment. It is the first time the Newcastle Post has received the honor, Christiansen

said, and he is proud of how hard they have been training to learn how to be firefighters. "I am pretty excited for them! It's a great group of kids!" he declared. The NVFD Explorers program is operated by Learning for Life, a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, which is how they came to be honored by the council. Participants can be male or female, must have completed the eighth grade and be between the ages of 14 and 21. According to Learning for Life's website, www.exploring.learningfor-life.org, nationally more than 22,500 Explorers participate in 1,754 fire and emergency posts. The program highlights include attending National Fire and Emergency Services Exploring conferences, ride-alongs, career achievement and proficiency awards, training scenarios and scholarship opportunities. "We have advisors that are all fireman — they put a lot of time in for these boys. And they are all volunteer, too," added the advisor. Along with offering youth leadership opportunities and community service activities the program gives those interested in fire fighting as a career the experience to explore that option. Two of the Explorer officers, Zerst and Pillen, told the News Letter Journal they both hope to be professional firefighters after they finish high school. Both young men described hours spent training, checking trucks and attending meetings. Zerst said he feels honored to receive the award because it

means the time and dedication he puts into the being an Explorer paid off. "There is no way any of us would have joined if it wasn't for the guys that started it, which was Mark Christiansen mainly. I would like to thank all the fireman for helping us all the time," he continued. Zerst said he became interested in the program after seeing a poster inviting high school students to join the Explorers program. He had thought about it before, but this time he stuck to it. Pillen joined because his brother, Wyatt, and his cousin, Vincent Oedekoven, roped him into, he said, but he stuck with it because even though he joined because of them he discovered he liked it. Tragically, the group lost a member last year when Wyatt did not survive the vehicle accident he was in with Oedekoven. Zerst said this made the group stronger, giving them a reason to work harder. The second weekend in January the Explorers attended a fire school in Riverton for a total of 16 hours of classes in two days. They enjoyed going away to train and look forward to future classes in Buffalo and Cody in the next couple of months. Because of liability issues, Pillen explained, they are not permitted to go into a structure on fire, but can assist with structure or vehicle fires in town — at least until they reach the age of 18. The young firefighters wear pagers to alert them when their services are needed,

which is what alerted them to a structure fire in a garage last November where four of them had the opportunity to assist. "We have in our by-laws special kind of trainings we have to complete before we can go on scene. That is why we had so few at the garage fire — a lot of them were just newly trained so they didn't have the proper training to be there," Pillen explained. Currently there are 15 members in the Newcastle Explorers club, which is where they cap off the enrollment. Several of the students have completed all the training they can receive locally from Greg Stumpff. The goal is to get everyone at the same level. Several times during the interview with the NLJ, Zerst and Pillen expressed how much they appreciate the advice, experience and training they have received from every firefighter on the department. "I don't know how many firemen have been there to help us with everything. All of the Explorers appreciate what they have done for us," stated Zerst. Above: Jim Prell, Meritt Pederson, Orin Hutchinson, Mark Christiansen, Lane Zerst, Nate Pillen, Vincent Oedekoven, James Lewis, Joey Danens, Gavin Holmes, Tyler Lewis, Kaullen Sundstrom, Donavan Prell, James Curran, Troy Hieb, Nathan Butler. Not pictured from the Explorers are Mason Piscioti, Marshall Rhoades, Johnny Walker and Steven Helgeson.

Honors:

UW Honor Rolls
The University of Wyoming lists 10 students from Weston County on the 2013 fall semester academic Dean's and Dean's Freshman Honor Rolls. Gideon D. Baldwin, Payton N. Crawford, Kristina M. Hokanson, Kaitlyn R. Livingston, Kristina F. Mireles and Mitch D. Weigel all made the list from Newcastle, and Upton's Ryan Tyler Diehl, Dani Raye Esquivel, Kailee A. Loberg and Jessica L. Roberts were recognized. The honor rolls consist of regularly enrolled undergraduates above freshman standing who earned a 3.4 or better grade point average, and freshmen who have earned a 3.25 or better grade point average. To be eligible, students must have been enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours taken for letter grades.

Stocker, Penfield and Wright earn honors
The University of Wyoming lists three students from Wyoming on the 2013 fall semester Provost's Honor Roll. Upton's Peter L. Stocker has earned Honor Roll status, as well as Paige Helen Penfield and Amber D. Wright of Newcastle. The Provost's Honor Roll consists of undergraduates who have completed at least six but fewer than 12 hours with a minimum 3.5 grade point average for the semester.

Blumenthal named to Dean's List
Rachel Blumenthal of Newcastle was named to the Spring semester Dean's List for Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D. She is a part-time student who achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the semester. Students who have earned at least a 3.5 GPA for the semester are eligible for the Dean's List.

Youth explore the question 'What does Patriotism mean?'

By Amy Menerey of NLJ

Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2516 Ladies Auxiliary sponsors the Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest, awarding middle-schoolers for their insight on the year's theme. The annual theme is chosen by the VFW's Commander-in-Chief, with the 2013-14 theme for the contest, "What Patriotism Means To Me." Weston County winners of this year's contest are Emily Freytag, a Newcastle Middle School seventh-grader, who won first place locally and second place in the district; Destiny Seekings, NMS seventh-grader, who won second place in the contest; and Austen Kenney, a sixth-grader at Newcastle Christian Academy, who placed third. Emily was awarded \$75 for winning first place locally, and another \$75 for her placing

in the district. Destiny and Austen were awarded \$50 and \$25, respectively. "Devoted love, support, and defense of one's country is what patriotism means," wrote Emily in her winning essay. "In my opinion, patriotism is one of the main concepts in our government. You don't need patriotism to fight in wars, although patriotism helps aid in building confidence to the many soldiers that have fought, and are still fighting to this day." Destiny, in her essay, wrote, "I was born in this country and so was my entire family, we will grow up here, and we will die here. I will stand and fight for my country when given the opportunity, and I will fight to keep my rights." In his essay entry, Austen wrote, "I love that these brave men and women risk their lives for their family, friends, and country. I feel the vet-

erans who fought in wars for our country, couldn't do much more for us and our families." The essays — which were required to be no less than 300 words, but no greater than 400 words — included more thoughts on patriotism, describing personal connections as well as historical references. The contest is open to youth in grades six through eight. Judging is based on how well the youth understands, develops and presents the theme, with points given for knowledge of the theme, development of the theme and clarity of the ideas. "Those kids did very well and I was so pleased," said Barb Hansen of the Ladies Auxiliary. There were six entries for the contest this year, she said, two from Newcastle Christian Academy, and four from NMS. "We were pleased we had that many entries," Hansen



Submitted photo

Emily Freytag receives the Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest first-place award from VFW Ladies Auxiliary members Maxine Kaul and Barb Hansen at Newcastle Middle School on Jan. 24, with NMS principal Scott Shoop applauding her efforts.

said. "Hopefully next year there will be even more." Locally, judges are chosen by the Auxiliary from community members, she explained. "There were two of them this year, who are retired teachers, and they did an excellent job judging," Hansen said. The 2014-15 entry form for the next Patriot's Pen essay contest will be available in March, with a submission deadline of Nov. 1. This theme will be "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition, then contact Hansen at 746-9381 for entry. State winners of the contest are eligible for awards on the national level, with the first-place national winner receiving a \$5,000 award at the VFW/Ladies Auxiliary Community Service Conference in Washington, D.C., held in March each year.

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