

News Letter Journal

Weston County

December 8, 2016

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 130 Week 49

REFINERY AND HOSPITAL EXPANSIONS BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY

New bank also contributes to coffers

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

With the rest of the state reeling from the extreme contraction of mineral resources, Weston County has emerged as a singular outlier in a sea of troubles—at least in terms of sales tax collection.

“The annual sales tax in three of Wyoming’s 23 counties grew. Weston County recorded the fastest increase at 18 percent. Lincoln and Teton County

were the other two,” Newcastle City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James said.

Wyoming’s sales tax collections dropped a record 20.9 percent this past fiscal year, the largest drop in the state’s history, according to an annual report from the Wyoming Economic Analysis Division. The 20.9 percent drop only accounts for the state’s mandatory four percent sales tax. When including the optional, locally imposed taxes, Wyoming collected \$863.9 million in sales tax, down 22.7 percent from last year.

“The state’s pivotal industry – mining (including oil and gas extraction) experienced the worst decline,

at -50.1 percent, during the year,” the report claimed. It also indicated that construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, and machinery and equipment rentals experienced declines ranging around 20 percent.

“Some of it has had to do with national politics because Wyoming is so heavily dependent on natural resources—oil, coal, and gas,” explained James, the former Newcastle mayor who was recently appointed City Clerk/Treasurer. “Some of it has had to do strictly with economics. Natural gas is significantly less expensive than coal, then companies will go to burning natural gas. That’s hurt

as much as national politics in my opinion.”

While Lincoln and Teton Counties also saw increases in sales tax collection, their respective margins of 5.0 and 4.8 percent appear paltry to Weston County’s 18.7. The report credits an above average tourism year for these positive results, but for James, the theory just doesn’t match the facts.

“It says they were mostly insulated from the fluctuation of mineral activities, but instead benefitted from robust tourism. I personally question that,” James stated. “In talking with some of the business owners that

benefit significantly from tourism, anecdotally we didn’t see and haven’t seen that kind of tourism increase. I’m not sure where the statistics for this comes from,” James said.

The treasurer also disagrees with the report’s statement that Weston County has been sheltered from mineral extraction’s freefall.

“I think it would be unfair to our community and our businesses here to deny that. I’ve had a chance to chat with some of the businesses that service the mineral extraction industry, and they have seen things

— See **Sales Tax**, Page 3

Season’s greetings



Bea Jagelski welcomes Elizabeth Goodart at First State Bank’s annual open house. Guests were treated with snacks, presents and complimentary door prizes.(Andy McKay/NLJ)

Icy highway claims life of California teen

Bob Bonnar
NLJ Associate Publisher

An icy stretch of road between Newcastle and Lusk is being blamed for an accident last month that took the life of a California teenager.

According to a press release from the Wyoming Highway Patrol, 16-year old Firebaugh, California resident Dayla Banda died at Children’s Hospital in Denver, Colorado on November 30 as a result of an accident that occurred on Highway 85 north of Lusk on November 19.

WHP reported that the crash occurred at 9:05 a.m. near mile post 158 when a northbound 2016 Mazda 3 driven by 46-year old Maritza Rodriguez, also of Firebaugh, went into a fishtail slide after traveling over a patch of ice.

“During the fishtail, the Mazda entered the southbound lane of US 85. A southbound Ford F-350 pickup truck, driven by 34-year old Lusk resident Jerrad Blair, swerved into the northbound lane to avoid the oncoming Mazda. As the Ford truck swerved into the northbound lane to avoid the Mazda, the Mazda reentered the northbound lane. The two vehicles crashed head-on at the centerline of the highway,” the release stated.

WHP Sergeant David Wagener reported that Dayla Banda, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was transported by ground ambulance to Lusk before being taken by helicopter ambulance to the hospital in Denver. He also indicated that a second 16-year old, who was not identified, was not wearing her seatbelt either and was also transported by helicopter to Children’s Hospital in Denver, where she was hospitalized for her injuries.

The driver of the Mazda, Rodriguez, was wearing her seatbelt at the time of the accident, and was taken by ground ambulance to the hospital in Lusk for treatment. Baird was also transported to Lusk, where he was treated for his injuries and released.

According to the Highway Patrol, the ice covered road conditions are being investigated as the contributing factor in the crash, which resulted in Wyoming’s 108th highway fatality of 2016. There were 139 fatalities during the same period in 2015.

Be winter aware

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

With winter upon us and the potential for winter emergencies ever-present, Black Hills Energy is prepared for the season and encouraging individuals to be prepared as well.

Part of the focus of this Wednesday’s Open House at the company’s Newcastle office was put on sharing winterization tips with customers and providing them with important safety precautions to help make sure residents are prepared.

“Our winter emergency plans are in place,” stated Vice President for Black Hills Energy’s Wyoming Electric and Natural Gas Operations Shirley Welte in a press

release. “Like firemen, when the bell rings, our employees are ready to respond quickly and effectively when called upon.”

The company is encouraging customers to make sure they are prepared for potential worst-case scenarios by having blankets, flashlights and fresh batteries stockpiled, and a fully charged cell phone on hand.

They also suggest that people consider an annual furnace inspection and tune-up to make sure heating equipment is running properly and venting carbon monoxide safely.

“Natural gas is a clean, safe, reliable source of energy for heating more than 70

— See **Winterize**, Page 7

Pay as you dump

Landfill fees can no longer be charged to water accounts

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

The City of Newcastle has long allowed water customers to have any charges they incur for use of the city’s landfill put on their

monthly water bill, but officials have decided to discontinue the practice because it creates problems with accounting.

Although only a handful of people were charging landfill use to their water accounts, it was determined that the present accounting

system doesn’t allow for such a practice. As a result, after January 1 the dozen or so people that were having landfill fees applied to their water bills will no longer be allowed to do so.

— See **Landfill**, Page 8

A vision for the future

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

Newcastle has a new eye doctor, thanks in part to a recruiting effort by the man who served the community in that capacity for a number of years.

“I married my wife in 2005, and she is actually (Carl) Cottrell’s niece. You could say he got me excited about becoming an eye doctor,” shared Dr. Dustin Asay O.D.

Dr. Cottrell may have originally lured the man who would fill the position he once held in this community into being an eye doctor, but Asay said he has since found out it is a great profession that allows him to help people on a different level, and he was excited to begin working at Newcastle Vision Clinic on November 7.

The new eye doctor came to Newcastle from Casper, and in addition to his wife, Amber, the couple’s two children— Preslee, 8, and Thomas, 5— are also excited to call Newcastle home.

Prior to marrying Amber, Asay grew up in Powell, where he graduated from high

school before moving on to Casper College to get his Associates Degree. He continued to attend school in Casper to receive his undergraduate degree through the University of Wyoming before attending the Pennsylvania School of Optometry.

Before they moved to Philadelphia, Dustin and Amber welcomed their daughter into the world, and by the time he graduated in 2013— where he received training that included externships in Gillette, Fort Kelnap and Browning, Montana—the couple had welcomed their son into the family fold.

After graduation the family moved back to Wyoming, and Asay got a job in Casper at the Eye Institute of Wyoming, where he worked for the three years prior to the family’s move to Newcastle.

“This opportunity came up and we decided to take it,” shared Asay, who noted he was excited about the change.

“We are keeping busy here. Casper is a little slow, and one struggles to build a client base. I like the fast pace of the Newcastle office,” announced Asay, who joked that people seem to enjoy seeing the eye doctor here.



Dr. Dustin Asay hit the ground running when he arrived in Newcastle and has been seeing a steady stream of patients for a number of weeks. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Sunny Hi 12, Lo 6	Friday Partly Cloudy Hi 32, Lo 18	Saturday Mostly Cloudy Hi 34, Lo 11	Sunday Partly Cloudy Hi 27, Lo 12	Monday Partly Cloudy Hi 27, Lo 8	Tuesday Partly Cloudy Hi 17, Lo 0	Wednesday Snow Showers Hi 18, Lo 9	INSIDE • Miners’ Meeting Place, Page 6 • A Look at the Legion, Page 10 • Hoops Are Here, Page 11 • Grappling Growth, Page 12	

Opinion

News Letter Journal

Guest Editorial

Court leaves transparency up to local governments

The Wyoming's Supreme Court handed the state's government agencies a tremendous opportunity last week.

The court ruled 3-2 on Nov. 30 that government agencies may charge members of the public a fee to simply look at public documents that exist only in an electronic form. Not to grab a copy and walk off, mind you. Wyoming's laws have always allowed for a "reasonable" copying fee for someone wanting to get a hard copy of a document. The Supreme Court's ruling would apply to anyone simply wanting to see, view or inspect an electronic document.

This ruling was a bit of a surprise coming from a court that has steadfastly defended government transparency throughout the 47-year history of the Wyoming Public Records Act. Writing for the majority, Justice William Hill said there are costs associated with retrieving electronic documents that do not exist when dealing with paper files.

This flies in the face of what Wyoming's taxpayers were told while being asked to spend billions of dollars on advanced computer systems for government agencies — that it is easier to store and retrieve documents in an electronic form than in a paper form.

Justice Hill's ruling said the costs associated with electronic documents are so onerous as to render a crucial line of Wyoming law meaningless: "Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing a fee to be charged as a condition of making a public record available for inspection." (W.S. 16-4-204(a)).

But no matter.

The important thing to note here is that the Supreme Court ruled government agencies *may* charge a fee for the simple service of making public documents available to the very people who paid for them. Not shall or must. May.

This means the state's cities, towns, counties, school districts — any entity that generates documents — can now take the lead in promoting the principles of government transparency.

A properly operating government relies on an informed electorate capable of deciding how it should be governed. Access to the government documents that spell out how government resources are used and why government decisions are made is crucial to that goal.

As a result, when asked to retrieve a document, local government agencies should think twice before taking advantage of the court's ruling. A person making a reasonable request to see public documents should not be discouraged from doing so by an access fee.

After all, Wyoming's taxpayers have already paid to have these documents generated and stored. Charging someone a fee to simply inspect what they already own doesn't make much sense.

It would be reasonable to guess the overwhelming majority of people running for public office in Wyoming vowed to keep the voters informed on what happens within government.

Here is the opportunity to live up to those promises, to set the pace for transparency in Wyoming, by adopting policies that would allow people to simply inspect at no cost the documents they already own.

Of course, occasionally, a burdensome request will be received. And Wyoming law gives agencies the latitude to deal with such requests in such a way their usual business won't be disrupted.

But the bottom line for all government agencies at every level should be to increase citizen participation in government, not to discourage it. Charging a fee for each and every document request, regardless of size or expanse, seems counterproductive.

As Justice Michael Davis wrote in the opinion's dissent: "... (T)here can be no doubt that such fees could be used to discourage access."

We fervently hope Justice Davis' prediction does not come to pass. It now falls to the state's elected officials to protect the rights of Wyoming's citizens. The rights to review the information those citizens need to make informed decisions.

We are hopeful those officials will err on the side of the people.

—Jim Angell
Executive Director, Wyoming Press Association

Wyoming must get paid for its wind resource

Driving Interstate 80 home to Lander from Cheyenne recently, I crested the commanding rise in Carbon County looking west towards Walcott Junction, just a few miles after beginning the descent from the Elk Mountain plateau. From this wonderful spot you can see more than 25 miles towards Sinclair and Rawlins and gaze south up the Saratoga valley and north towards the Shirley Basin.

Over the years making this drive home from legislative sessions, I have witnessed many beautiful sunsets on the western horizon across this 50-plus mile vista. On this particular evening, I considered what the view will be like south of Sinclair, almost to Saratoga, with 1,000 blinking red lights, each marking the location of a giant turbine in the largest wind farm in the world.

Wind energy has been on my mind a lot lately. Efforts within the Joint Revenue Committee to increase the tax on wind energy production, culminating at a meeting in Buffalo a few weeks ago, have been a topic of particular interest this year. The members of the Revenue Committee have been subjected to the most concentrated lobbying effort against the tax on wind energy I've witnessed in my career as a legislator.

The list of people working for the wind interests reads like a "Who's Who" of Wyoming influence — some of the biggest names and largest Cheyenne law firms, well-known economic experts and former Wyoming State bureaucrats. The contingency from Carbon County was impressive, too — elected officials and economic development representatives seemed more enamored with the short-term infusion of funds from the mostly out-of-state construction work than the extremely small number of long-term sustainable jobs the project would create. In contrast, I recently received a startling letter from a California State Senator warning me to protect my constituents from being "... saved" by California's energy bureaucrats and radical environmentalists.

A surprising amount of new information was revealed by the testimony at the September meeting. The "party line" of wind developers has always been that Wyoming's minute 1/10 cent per kWh wind tax was keeping them out of Wyoming. But, "out of the woodwork" came a host of folks saying that they had projects "ready to go" under the existing tax structure, only if Wyoming did not raise the tax.

One developer, whose company's official Cheyenne address is one of the so-called "professional registered agents," informed the Committee his company had a project in the works for the Shirley Basin that would be up to three times the size of the proposed wind farm between Saratoga and Rawlins. It is hard to imagine 3,000

additional wind turbines in the Shirley Basin.

Transmission capacity is the key and it is clear Wyoming is transmission constrained — but only for now. Lack of transmission means low prices to producers of electricity from Wyoming wind. One wind developer testified that wind was only worth two cents per kWh now, revealing that his company profits more from the 2.3 per kWh federal tax credit than from payments for the electricity they produce. Rocky Mountain Power responded to Committee

questions and explained the company's progress in building the Gateway West transmission project that will eliminate the transmission bottleneck — which is why wind developers are pushing hard now. When the transmission constraint is resolved, prices will rebound and the boom will be on.

The Rawlins-Saratoga project is different and that boom is now, because astonishingly, the developer is solving the transmission problem by building his own transmission line all the way to Nevada. The new transmission line, plus the 1,000 wind turbines, roads and other facilities makes this possibly the single largest private infrastructure project in Wyoming since construction of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Because this project will not be transmission-constrained, it will earn higher returns on the investment. The developer is silent on how much he will make, but a good guess is that the revenue will be nearly six cents per kWh. Using a price of six cents and other information from the company's website, one can see that over the next 20 years, the developer of the Rawlins-Saratoga project will receive more than \$10.2 billion in revenue, while paying less than 8 percent in Wyoming taxes of all types, including property, sales and wind production taxes.

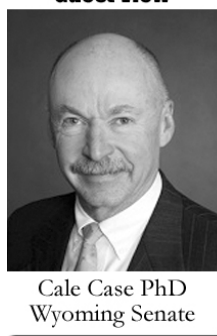
Raising the existing wind production tax to 1/2 cent per kWh will increase Wyoming's 20-year tax receipts to only 14 percent of total project revenue — small compensation for the loss of one of Wyoming's treasured open spaces.

One issue that stands out to me is the permanence of wind projects. Since the real effort of development is mostly wrapped up in the fixed permanent costs of permitting, siting, building roads and transmission lines, wind farms once established will be there for generations. Of course, turbines, towers and generators will wear out, but since the cost of replacement is small in comparison to the total initial costs, there is no reason for a developer to walk away. Thus wind farms, in a practical sense, will always be here — irreversibly altering the Wyoming landscape.

Wyoming will experience these negative impacts while gaining very little

— See Case, Page 3

Guest View



Cale Case PhD
Wyoming Senate

Who



Bob Bonnar
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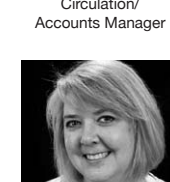
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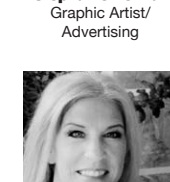
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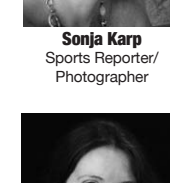
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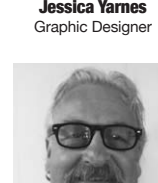
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What

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Why

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Deadline for Letters is noon on Friday

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for making our town beautiful and festive

Dear Editor,

Just a short note of public appreciation for past and present blessings in which many of you have and continue to participate.

First, thank you to all who helped to design, plant, and cultivate the hanging baskets and coal car flower boxes all throughout this past spring, summer and fall. You've shared your horticultural skills in a manner to bless the entire community with beautiful blossoms and fascinating foliage.

And furthermore, your work demonstrates in a beautiful and tangible way that you actually care about this place we call home.

And now, during the Christmas season we are sincerely thankful to all of you who spend the money and take the time and trouble to decorate your homes and businesses with colorful and dazzling light displays that brighten the dark winter nights and express the joy of Christians for the greatest gift ever given to a sin-darkened world.

It's been a real pleasure to take my wife, recently arrived from the Philippines and experiencing her first northern winter and American Christmas, on slow drives through the neighborhoods of Newcastle to view and admire the results of your Christmas time efforts at this most festive time of the year.

So if you happen to notice a white car moving slowly past your seasonally ornamented property, this is no cause for alarm. It's probably just us, enjoying the fruits of your labor.

—Leonard and Ann Lang

Knuckle-draggers continue to curse our system

Dear Editor,

What a lot — maybe most of us — wanted from our next government was less corruption. What we got was a choice between tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee.

Maybe it is true that democracy has a natural life-span of only around 200 years. Do we have to start a revolution, like we did in the 1770's, in order to "clean out the swamp?"

Given our recent experience, would we even want to start down the same path to what amounts to a circular firing squad? I hate to be a political Cassandra, but it is hard to see any politically good outcome under present or proposed near future.

Should we consider a new Constitutional Convention? At least we would have firsthand knowledge of the multiple ways that the "KDN" (Knuckle Dragging Neanderthals) sabotage our "best laid plans."

Most likely, the "KDN" would infiltrate the convention and contaminate the proceedings by insisting on inserting self-serving clauses for their own personal benefit.



—Jerry Baird

Modern Cleaners



Modern Cleaners owner Angie Gravos serves an open house visitor some of her homemade chili. She confessed she looks forward to the day each year. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

Sales Tax

from page 1

fairly significantly go down," James reported. James instead points to recent local projects, namely the \$65 million expansion at the Wyoming Refinery Company, as the principal driver affecting the positive trend in tax revenue.

"The most substantial growth mainly attributed to equipment updates and expansion in the manufacture industry. Very largely, the rebuilding additions and expansions at the refinery are most attributable to that," James attested. He additionally included the hospital renovations and the new Pinnacle Bank building as big contributing factors.

While this may be news to the EAD, it comes as no surprise to Wyoming Refinery Company president James Runyon.

"I knew our expansions would bring new business to the community. Large construction projects tend to drive local economies significantly when you bring in large numbers of workers for long lengths of time," Runyon explained.

"In addition to the work of the staff and locals, we also had about 300-400 contractors during that two year period of time to do the expansion. Right on the heels of that expansion, we put in a new unit to reduce benzene in our gasoline. It took 150-200 at its peak to get all the modules installed by September of this year," Runyon said.

The three year project, which adds 6,000 barrels a day to production, was committed to after the refinery decided they had a large enough market to sustain the expansion.

"It's an expansion to 20,000 barrels a day. We planned originally in 2011 to expand it after looking at the market conditions. We also expanded our employee base by around eight to ten percent," Runyon reported.

The local market is largely driven by the nearby coal mines, which have a near inexhaustible thirst.

"We have contracts with the mines, and just one of those contracts is for 3,000 of diesel

alone. The market's always been here, it was just a matter of making the refinery big enough so the mines could buy from us rather than shipping it from Cheyenne or Billings," stated Runyon.

But with the projects now finished at the refinery, Weston County may soon find itself in the same predicament as the rest of the state.

"I guess from my position, I see it as more of an anomaly than as a real increase in business. I'm not sure if it is going to be able to sustain itself," James posited.

While expecting the imminent drop in tax revenue, James wants to reassure residents that the city is in a good position to weather the storm.

"Newcastle is financially sound. We want to be conservative with what we do with those reserves. Looking forward into this next budget year, I don't see much, if any, increase in funding from the state," he predicted, explaining that the continued shortfall in state revenues will make it difficult for the city to commit to costly improvements.

"I remain optimistic about all of this. We're going to continue to operate the city and continue to operate it well. But these kinds of downturns inhibit our ability to do the nice things, the fun things we would like to do. It isn't a matter of whether we want to do it, but should we do it," James mused.

He believes that the energy industry will make something of a comeback, however, and the state revenue picture could improve as a result.

"In the past, we haven't had both coal and oil down at the same time. Usually it seems that when one is down, the other is up, but this time it seems they've both been hit. I think it will be a gradual recovery. In spite of the national politics and posturing regarding renewable energy, there is no viable way to replace the energy produced by coal, oil and gas. It just can't be done," James said.

Case

from page 2

in the way of tax revenues or employment opportunities. Further, our own electricity mix already has plentiful wind energy production.

On the other hand, the benefits of the new wind power will accrue to the West Coast, supporting the Coasters' electrical needs and desires to be environmentally responsible. It seems like the beneficiaries of this energy source could provide a small compensation for the impact on Wyoming.

They can afford it. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Los Angeles area households paid an average of 21.0 cents per kWh in July 2016. This cost is only going up. Given the high prices that Californians pay, a 1/2 cent tax to compensate the people of Wyoming for a landscape that will be permanently lost for future generations seems minimal.

Do not get me wrong; I am a green guy, and I like the idea of a renewable energy future. But we should be realistic about the gigantic operational considerations of more renewables in the electricity mix, especially as solar and wind become increasing proportions.

The experience of Germany may be relevant. The country has ventured so far down the renewable path that the operational issues caused by intermittent production have forced a net increase in coal-fired generation to deal with system swings. Costs have gone up too—in some areas of Germany electricity costs have approached 40 cents per kWh.

In the 2017 legislative session, another bill will be introduced to tax wind-generated electricity at the rate of 1/2 cent per kWh. I hope that citizens will give this proposal their support and the Legislature

will take an objective look. In January, Wyoming's political climate will have changed from that prevailing at the September Revenue Committee meeting in Buffalo. New leadership and new legislators will be sworn in. New committee members will serve on the Revenue and other standing Committees. Wyoming's economic picture will also be clearer.

The Legislature will benefit by hearing from residents who are concerned about the future of Wyoming's grand vistas.

Do not let lawmakers and special interest groups bury Wyoming in wind generation for the West Coast's electricity without fair compensation for Wyoming's future generations.

These future citizens are the ones who will see turbines, lights, and transmission lines and wonder about how marvelous our vistas must have been in the early 21st century.

Get Something Special for the Special People on Your Christmas List

Need a little Christmas cash? From personal loans to credit cards, the team at First State Bank can help you ensure there's a gift under the tree for everyone on your Christmas list this Holiday Season. Visit with one of our bank professionals at our downtown Newcastle location, or call us, for more information.



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PERSON of the year

It is time to select Weston County's Person of the Year for 2016!

And we need our readers to tell us who we should consider.

We invite you to nominate an individual that you believe has made a significant contribution to **Weston County and its residents** over the course of the past year.

Stop by News Letter Journal at 14 W. Main St. or call 746-2777 to submit your nomination or email them to editor@news1j.com

We will publish feature stories on our top 8-12 nominees in the January 5, 2017 issue of the News Letter Journal.



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Who is responsible for repairs during a home sale?

Many questions arise during the home-buying process. Buyers looking at homes that require a good deal of TLC may wonder who is responsible for the home's repairs, particularly if such repairs are needed to secure a certificate of occupancy. Depending on the situation, there is no clear-cut answer.

There is no perfect home, and things that are acceptable to the current owner may not be acceptable to the buyer who is looking to become the next owner. The home-buying process is typically a careful cooperation between buyer and seller to find a middle ground. The buyer may have to make some concessions, as will the seller. Ultimately, it is this cooperation that often determines if the sale goes through or is terminated.

Before any negotiations can begin regarding repairs, it is advisable for a buyer to have an independent inspector come out and look over the home and property. Most real estate agents will suggest this be done as a first priority -- even before a contract is entered on the home. An inspection will unveil any potential problems in a home and indicate things that the buyer may not be aware of, including items that do not meet with code or could be unsafe. An inspector also may point out problems that could cause a mortgage lender to give pause. This may mean the lender will deem problems unsafe and refuse to fund the mortgage until repairs are made.

A copy of this inspection report should be sent to the home seller to review with his or her attorney and real estate agent. The buyer working with his own real estate attorney and agent can petition for certain repairs to be made. Many sellers will make such repairs to ensure the purchase goes through, or they will accept a lower purchase price to compensate for the needed repairs, which the buyer will then make. Buyers might want to hire a good real estate attorney to write clauses into the contract to protect their interests. This allows the buyer to forfeit the sale

and walk away from the contract should an issue arise. The rules often change when buying a home that is a short sale or in foreclosure. A home that is in distress is typically in this situation because the current owners cannot afford to pay their mortgage, and thusly, are not able to afford repairs. According to Think Glink, a money-management Web site, buyers may try to negotiate repairs with the seller, but they shouldn't assume that sellers (or lenders in the event of a bank-owned home) are responsible for the repairs. Generally speaking, most short sales and foreclosures are sold "as is" and may even specify that repairs and requirements for the certificate of occupancy are the buyer's responsibility. A buyer also can ask to have the home price reduced to cover the repairs. But foreclosures are often already deeply discounted.

Buyers should know that, for a home that is not in foreclosure, there are some repairs that should ultimately be the responsibility of the seller. If these repairs are not made, a buyer should think strongly about walking away from the deal, according to Why6Percent.com, a real estate marketing site. Such repairs include:

- * lender-required repairs that could impact home safety
- * leaky pipes
- * water penetration issues, including a bad roof
- * unsafe decking or handrails
- * wet basements or crawl spaces
- * insecure foundations or obvious structural damage
- * poorly functioning sewer lines or septic system

It is always advisable for buyers to speak with a reliable real estate attorney and a trusted real estate agent to guide them through the process of buying a home. These people can help buyers navigate the important decisions that can affect the home they'll be living in for the next several years.

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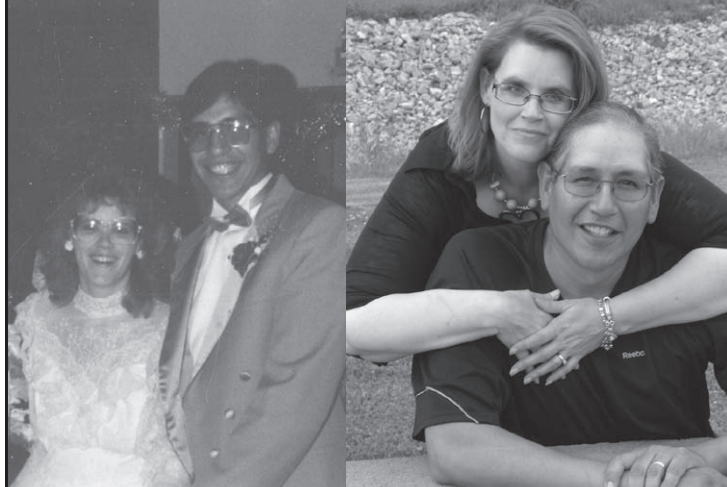
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Obituaries

Edwin S. Erland
May 20, 1949-Nov. 30, 2016

Edwin S. Erland recently of Upton age 67, passed away suddenly Wednesday the 30 of November of complications from cancer.

Edwin was the son of Sidney and Virginia (Jones) Erland born May 20, 1949. He is survived by sisters Lila & Robert Hill, Sharon and Tom Zeestraten, Cheryl Folkner, Brother Don (Kami) Erland, and his best friend Christopher.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, his parents and nephew Steven, a niece Virginia and brother-in-law Jim Folkner.

The memorial service will be held January 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Upton Seventh Day Adventist Church 825 Holly Street in Upton.

A memorial has been set set up at Firstier Bank in Upton, Wyoming, PO Box 506 Upton, WY 82730.

Willa "Joyce" Gaskill Kruse
Feb. 28, 1945-Nov. 29, 2016

Willa "Joyce" Gaskill Kruse passed away on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at Custer Regional hospital after a lengthy five year battle with cancer. Joyce was born on February 28, 1945 in Newcastle to Paul and Frances (Austin) Gaskill. Joyce grew up on the family ranch 50 miles South of Newcastle on the Cheyenne River. She attended grade school at 7-mile school and high school in Newcastle. Following graduation Joyce attended Chadron State College, Chadron, Neb., for one year and then worked at the Chadron Radio Station for one year. She then transferred to Pillsbury Bible College, Owatonna, Minn., where she received a B.S. Degree in Bible and Business. It was during this time she met the Love of Her Life and married Daniel Kruse of Clara City, Minn. on August 9, 1968. To this union were born Lynelle, Jolene and Dalen. Joyce was blessed with three granddaughters, Erica Hoskey, Jessica Hoskey and Elena Kruse and two grandsons, Connor Powell and Nathan Kruse.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Dan Kruse of Custer S.D.; son, Dalen (Jessica) Kruse of San Marcos, Calif.; daughters, Lynelle (Ron) Hoskey of Chelsea, Iowa; Jolene (Bob) Powell

of Custer, S.D.; sisters, Sue (Charles) Archibald of Buffalo, Wyo.; Erma Owens of Wright, Wyo.; Mary Jane Nettles of Thermopolis, Wyo.; Patti (Nick) Allguer of Wright, Wyo.; five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joyce received Jesus as her personal Savior at 7-mile Bible School and was very active in the church she attended, including teaching at Berean Christian School for 10 years. She enjoyed Women's Bible Studies, Ladies Luncheons, and Church Fellowships.

She worked at a Minn. Variety Store, The Pink Geranium, The Country Peddler and Dakota Territory Trading Post. Some of her hobbies included home decorating, sewing, crocheting, fishing for Walleyes on the Missouri River, singing in church choirs, reading, finding bargains at garage sales and auctions and shopping trips with her daughters and granddaughters. She also enjoyed spending the winter months in Yuma, Ariz.

Joyce dearly loved her family and friends and her loving heart and beautiful smile will be missed by all.

A visitation was held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday, December 2, 2016, at Chamberlain McColley's Funeral Home in Custer, S.D.

Committal services were held 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Custer Cemetery in Custer, S.D.

A celebration of life was held 1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3, 2016, at the Mt. View Baptist Church in Custer, S.D. with Pastor Matt Furse officiating.

A memorial in Joyce's name has been established to benefit Hospice of the Hills in Custer, S.D.

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

John Alfred (Jack) Larson
Oct. 28, 1924-Nov. 28, 2016

John Alfred (Jack) Larson passed away Monday, November 28, 2016 in Cheyenne, Wyo. at age 92. He was born October 28, 1924, the son of John Ephraim Larson and Florence Isabel Gibbs.

As a young man, he enjoyed working with horses, and earned pocket money breaking them to ride. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 31, 1942, and served three years, two months, and four days, discharged as a Boatswain's Mate 1st Class on February 13, 1946.

His main duty station while in the service was in Waimanalo, Hawaii, as a member of Standard Landing Craft Unit (SLCU) 12. Waimanalo was designated an Amphibious Training Base, and John spent much of his time training U.S. Navy personnel to operate LCMs (Landing Craft Mechanized).

He married Mary Lou Mather on June 27, 1947, and they spent the early part of their marriage in Newcastle, Wyo., where his mother's family lived. After a short time, they moved back to Wallace County, where he worked as a dairy farmer. During his lifetime, some of his activities involved participating in the 7th Cavalry Drill team, serving on the ASCS Committee, Fair Board, Mountain Empire Dairyman's Association, and he enjoyed bowling on Tuesday nights. He and Mary Lou retired from dairy farming and moved back to Newcastle in 1987. While retired, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, carpentry, woodworking, and leathercraft, as well as playing cards with relatives.

He is survived by wife Mary Lou Larson, son Larry Larson (Sherry Larson) of Oak Grove, Mo., and daughter Mary Anne Larson (Chris Roger) of Arvada, Colo.; sisters Ellen Larson Huffman (Jack Huffman, deceased) of Thornton, Colo., Lois Larson Fischer Wiles (Earl Wiles) of Leoti, Kan., Elizabeth (Betty) Larson (Kenneth Schreiber) of Laguna Hills, Calif., brothers: Joseph (Judy) Larson of Manhattan, Kan., and Richard (Anita) Larson of Thornton, Colo. He was preceded in death by Father John Ephraim Larson and Mother Florence Isabel Gibbs, Stepmother Ella DeBeer Larson, sister Margaret Larson Cheney; Brother Floyd Larson; and Brother Paul Larson.

Funeral services for Jack were held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. MT at the United Methodist Church in Sharon Springs with Pastor Duncan Ibuuri and Reverend Paul McNall officiating. Burial with Military Honors took place in the Sharon Springs Cemetery.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. MT at the Koons-Russell Funeral Home in Sharon Springs.

— See **Obituaries**, Page 5

Newcastle Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M.
Meetings are held the First and Third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
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of Custer, S.D.; sisters, Sue (Charles) Archibald of Buffalo, Wyo.; Erma Owens of Wright, Wyo.; Mary Jane Nettles of Thermopolis, Wyo.; Patti (Nick) Allguer of Wright, Wyo.; five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

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— See **Obituaries**, Page 5

Faith & Values

God will make a way when there seems to be no way.

Daily Devotional Reading

Dec 8	Dec 9	Dec 10	Dec 11	Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14
Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Jeremiah	Malachi
45.1-25	48.1-22	62.1-12	65.17-25	66.1-24	23.1-8	1.1-14

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Recapture

A PIECE OF HISTORY

December 11, 1891
General Manager Holdrege has been out on the Newcastle & Western extension for some time. He visited Sheridan.

B.S. Bentley has found the oil well in good shape & the drill will commence its downward plunge today.

L.T. Griggs has been appointed Deputy United States Marshall & was over in the center of the Hills this week on business connected with that office.

A car load of Gillette coal will be received in Newcastle in a few days & will be sold. This is to test the coal & determine whether it will pay to ship.

Hon. N.K. Griggs & Judge M.B. Camplin have been invited to lecture before the county teachers' institute to be held here during the week commencing December 28th.

The revenue of the City of Newcastle for the current fiscal year will be about \$75,000. The city is almost free from debt, & yet has a \$5,000.00 sewer system, an \$8,000.00 city hall & has spent \$6,000.00 in street grading.

December 14, 1916
On Monday evening last week, Mrs. J.N. McCullough became lost near her home on Main Beaver, but fortunately not for long & without injury further than a good scare to the members of the family. Mr. & Mrs. McCullough & son were returning home after dark in a new Ford car purchased that

day, & when near home the car stopped & the son began investigation as to the cause. Mrs. McCullough decided to walk on toward home instead of waiting for the car, & in taking what she supposed was a short cut to the house, she took a path that led in another direction. On arriving at home & not finding "mother," Mr. McCullough & son started back to meet her, which they succeeded in doing, but not until all had been given a scare that they do not wish again.

The Riordan Hotel will serve a special Christmas dinner on

December 25th.

G.L. Sherwood came in after supplies for the XA Ranch last Saturday.

A.C. Rice of Howard was transacting business in the city last Saturday.

The Centennial Oil Company, of this city, will receive 7,000 gallons of oil next Saturday.

A.C. Church, of the Newcastle Roller Mills, is still running a day & night shift, & turns out about 250 sacks of flour a day. The farmers are still busy hauling in grain & at times the miss is over-crowded, there by the farmers having to wait a day or two before they can unload grain.

December 11, 1941
Christmas shopping continued at a brisk pace in beautifully decorated business district here this week, & local residents are completing their lawn & home decorations to vie for the prizes in the city wide contest.

At least ten persons from Weston County are in the Pacific war zone, a check of unofficial sources disclosed here this week. Known to be on the island group are three civilians, three Weston County youths in the Army, three in the Navy, and one in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

The Boy Scouts of America & the Cub Scouts will gather waste paper here Saturday, it was announced this week. The drive will be made between the hours of 9 a.m. & noon, when the scouts will call at homes & businesses.

Automobiles driven by Scott Moore & Francis Cowger collided last week near the old Wolfe place. No one was seriously injured but both cars were damaged.

Raymond & Ted Percifield are freighting culverts to the new Upton-Sundance road.

Lesley Simpson hauled wheat for Louis Micoline the past week.



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Should have seen it in color



This photo shows the Train Depot. In Newcastle, The Riordan Hotel is on the left of the photo. Circa 1900s. (Photo Courtesy of Anna Miller Museum)

Customer Appreciation Day & Chamber Coffee

Friday December 9 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Join us for a Chamber Coffee at 10:00 a.m.



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Obituaries

from page 4

Memorials may be designated to the Sharon Springs VFW and may be left at the service or mailed to Koons-Russell Funeral Home, 211 N. Main St., Goodland, Kansas 67735.

Online condolences may be left at www.koonsrussellfuneralhome.com.

Funeral service arrangements were entrusted to the Koons-Russell Funeral Home in Sharon Springs.

Nathan Lee Simmons Sept. 24, 1988-

Nathan Lee Simmons, born September 24, 1988, the youngest of 3 children of Larry and April Simmons. The family lived in Newcastle where he attended school and graduated from Newcastle High School in May 2007.

After graduating from high school he joined the United States Army. He spent 8

years in the military service. He did four tours in Baghdad, Iraq and Afghanistan.

During this time he met and married Melissa Telley on March 21, 2008 at Ponca State Park in Nebraska. They have two beautiful daughters, Piper Rose and Sonya Leigh.

He was preceded in death by Clifford

— See **Obituaries**, Page 6

WHAT'S UP December 2016

Weston County Meetings & Events Calendar

	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thurs 08	5:30 p.m.	City Planning Commission	City Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
Fri 09	10:00 a.m.	Customer Appreciation/Chamber Coffee	WC True Value
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Tea	Corpus Christi Catholic Church
	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 10	12:00 p.m.	Kids at Christmas Open House	Maverik
	7:00 p.m.	Miner's On Main Grand Opening	12 S. Sumner Ave. (Next to Isabella's)
	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Sun 11	2:00 p.m.	Community Cantata	Crouch Auditorium
	7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery	Cambria Church Basement
Mon 12	1:00 p.m.	AARP	WC Senior Center
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:00 p.m.	Weston County Sportsman Club	Indoor Range
	7:00 p.m.	WC Predator Board Meeting	Masonic Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Middle School Concert	Crouch Auditorium
Tues 13	12:00 p.m.	Alzheimers/Dementia Support Group	WC Senior Center
	12:00 p.m.	WC CowBelles	WC Senior Center
	1:30 p.m.	Dirt Daubers Garden Club	TBA
	3:00 p.m.	WC Natural Resource District	USDA Building
	6:00 p.m.	American Legion	State Forestry Building
	6:30 p.m.	WC Fair Board	Event Center
	6:30 p.m.	WC Sheriff's Search & Rescue Mtg.	Fire Hall
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	Mondell Heights, Breakfast Room
7:30 p.m.	High School Concert	Crouch Auditorium	
Wed 14	2:00 p.m.	Flowering Fingers Garden Club	TBA
	7:00 p.m.	Mallo Camp Board	Public Health Building
	7:00 p.m.	WCSD #1 Board Meeting	Administration Building
	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
Thurs 15	6:00 p.m.	WC Health Services Meeting	Board Room
	7:00 p.m.	AA Meeting	WC Senior Center, Family Room
	7:00 p.m.	Children's Center Concert	Crouch Auditorium
	7:30 p.m.	Masons	Masonic Lodge #13
Fri 16	7:00 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Sat 17	7:00 p.m.	NA Meeting	Cambria Church Basement
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Variety Show	First United Methodist Church
Sun 18	1:00 p.m.	Christmas Variety Show	First United Methodist Church
	7:15 p.m.	Women Only Life Recovery Meeting	Cambria Church Basement

Calendar Sponsored by Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- December 8**
Duane Ottema
Bill Spence ☩
David Kachelhoffer
Shawna Praeuner
- December 9**
Paul Piana
Bailey Mumm
- December 10**
Kylee Bonnema
- December 11**
Kaulen Sundstrom
- December 12**
Michelle Garhart
- December 14**
Rod & Betty Petranek
Rebekah S. Olson
- December 15**
Mike Baldwin
- December 16**
Jennifer Stevenson
- December 17**
Larry Berger
Shannon Proctor
Paetyn Sylte

Super Saturday

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A look into Isabella's new addition, Miner's On Main. Owner Hattie Stoudt shared that Miner's will continue to add more decor to match its rustic theme. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

A BLUE-COLLAR BAR

Miner's offers another drinking and dining alternative

Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

It's no news that Isabella's is sporting a new bar, coined Miner's on Main, with stained wood walls and a large bar top. They opened their doors back in October for a soft opening, but are excited to officially announce their grand opening this Saturday, December 10.

Once home to a small ice cream parlor, the room on the south side of Isabella's has been repurposed as a sports bar and grill.

"This side of the building was a storage area, and was basically wasted space. We kept getting requests for hard liquors and drafts, so this was an opportunity to fill a void, not only for the business but for the community," said Hattie Stoudt, who has been an owner of Isabella's since 2013.

The remodel has done wonders. Implementing a utilitarian inspiration, the interior has a rustic air with worn and rugged textures from natural well-aged timbers, complemented with just enough polish to betray its skilled workman's touch. Its inspiration derives from Stoudt's waste not, want not philosophy.

"Mostly it's my craziness I guess. I like wood and old historical things. I like being able to recycle and upcycle materials. A lot of the wood we used was scrap wood that was available to us for free," Stoudt shared.

The table tops were scrap wood she was offered by the gentleman who supplied her with the blue pine that panel the bar's walls. Stoudt found other local outlets to construct her furnishings.

"We had lots of help from Lucas and Todd Anderson. They did the majority of all the woodwork. We wanted to add some metal elements as well, and Colton Cummings did the stools and other metal work. They did a great job in pulling it all together," Stoudt disclosed.

The result is a stunning mining architectural style that gained popularity in Colorado.

"We themed it as a mining bar to add something different, but it is also historical to the area. We wanted something that blue-collar workers could relate to and appreciate," Stoudt said.

Making the bar approachable to members of the community is paramount to Miner's future success.

"If you can make it through the winter months, you make your profits in the summer during the tourist season. During the winter months, we're here for our locals and provide for them an awesome restaurant and bar to eat at," Stoudt said.

Isabella's added a new dimension with a full service bar at Miner's, but they've hit the change in stride.

"It hasn't been that difficult actually. Most people know exactly what they want when they

come in, so they make it easy for us. We've added more product and met the needs of our customers. We've bought those things, and keep providing for them, so they keep coming back," Stoudt stated.

Miner's plans to meet local consumer's needs by offering a unique beer mug promotion.

"We're offering a mug club. For a fee, you can be a part of the mug club annually, and there's incentives that come with it—discounted drinks, discounted menu items, and free items. You can bring in your own mug and store it here if you want. We've also picked out certain ones you can order that you can personalize. Then, when you come in, you can grab your mug and enjoy a draft beer," Stoudt mused.

Another draw is the buckets of free peanuts scattered throughout the tables and bar top. Customers are encouraged to toss the discarded husks to the floor.

"We usually go through about 50 pounds of peanuts a week. You can always dine on Isabella's side if you have peanut allergies. It's been a hit. People love it. They throw their peanuts all over," Stoudt said.

Stoudt plans to expand its food hours to allow bar patrons to stay and enjoy their drinks with some wholesome food.

"We're planning on opening late for food on Fridays and Saturdays, and a late night menu from 8 p.m. to midnight for our bar patrons and do more bar food, finger food kind of dishes—something that is easy and affordable for our customers," Stoudt explained.

When adding a whole new component to a business, many owners run into unforeseen issues that can affect the original business as well as the new. While having trepidations as they prepared for the addition, Stoudt says she and her staff feel like they have things under control.

"As far as operations and transitioning, we had already had it planned out. Ticket times haven't been slacking, we are still getting food out at a reasonable rate. We're offering as good of, if not better, service as we have in the past," Stoudt reported.

Stoudt and the rest of the staff at Miner's hope the novelty of their business doesn't wear off, and they continue to provide the best product and service they possibly can.

"It's about the customers for us. We wouldn't do this and put the money into the business if we weren't trying to provide a great bar and dining experience for our customers," professed Stoudt.

Stoudt believes Miner's will add just another unique feature in a community she has come to love. She sees that any successful enterprise in Newcastle only benefits the rest of the community.

"We just wanted something that does two things. First, to generate revenue—because if we're successful and profitable, we can employ people. In the summer, we have anywhere from 14-20 employees. Second, to provide a place for people to gather—somewhere to eat, drink, hang out, and have meetings, parties, events, anything. If there is a group or a party, we can cater to those," Stoudt stated.

Never too early to think about spring

Alexis Barker
NLJ Reporter

Although Weston County is experiencing its first arctic blast of the season this week, the Weston County Natural Resource District is already reminding people that spring is on the way!

WCNRD is now taking tree orders for next year, and order forms are available to the public at their Newcastle office. Although orders are not officially due until the beginning of April, Weston County Natural Resource District Manager Lacey Sloan encourages all of those who are interested in planting trees next spring to get their orders in as quickly as possible.

"The thing I want to stress is, if people want any sort of evergreen tree in large tubes, or even bare root, get your tails on it because those go quick," she urged, adding that a limited number of each species of tree offered will be available, and those who turn in their orders first are more likely to receive the trees they want.

According to Sloan, one of the primary reasons she made the order forms available in November instead of the beginning of the year is her hope that people would fill them out and get them in quicker, but to date, no order forms have been returned to the WCNRD and the quantity of trees available is changing frequently.

"The quantities change on a regular basis. I have to submit the orders on a weekly basis," reported Sloan, who explained that the availability changes rapidly because of the demand placed on the facilities from which she purchases the trees. The bare root and tubed trees come from Colorado State University's seedling program, and the large potted shrubs and trees are ordered from

Crestwood Growers in Utah.

Sloan further explained that a bare root tree literally comes as a tree with bare roots, often packed with saw dust and then plastic wrapped to keep the roots moist. The large tube trees arrive packaged in a manner similar to an ice cube tray, with little roots covered in soil.

Each of these types of tree packages are available for a variety of species. The bare root packages come in quantities of 25 for each specific species at a cost of \$35, and the large tube trees come in lots of 30, with a cost of \$85. The height of the bare root trees varies by species, while the large tube trees have a maximum height of five to 12 inches.

The large shrubs are sold individually in a five gallon size for \$20, with 12 species available. The 15 species of

large potted trees also come in a five gallon size and are of varying heights. They cost \$30.

This year, residents interested in ordering trees have an additional option to do so through the WCNRD. Sloan has reserved a quantity of 50 evergreen trees—that will be three to four years old and cost \$20 apiece.

"That particular size is good for replacing trees in a snow fence or wind break, or for anyone that just wants one in their yard," announced Sloan.

Tree orders must be received no later than April 3, and order forms are available in the WCNRD office or at www.westoncountynrd.org. Those looking to order should contact Sloan to check on species availability at 746-3264 Extension 4.



The wreaths displayed at Friday's Festival of Trees began life as evergreens, and WCNRD is offering residents the opportunity to grow their own. (Pamela Penfield/NLJ)

Young artists sought for poster contest

Each year an Arbor Day Poster Contest is hosted by the National Resource Districts and PLT. The coming year's theme is "Trees are Terrific for You and Me," and is open to all Wyoming fourth and fifth graders that attend either public, private or home schools. The contest is held through the school, and local winners go on to the state level, where an overall winner is picked. "It is a really big thing for the kids to get that

recognition, and it gives them an opportunity to be artistic. It also gives teachers the opportunity to take advantage of the contest during the holiday season, and they can tie it with their science and art," commented Weston County Natural Resource District Manager Lacey Sloan. "I think it would be neat if we had someone from this area win. I feel like we are in the little corner of Wyoming, and we need to get it out there."

Obituaries

from page 5

(Nathan Lee Simmons Cont.)
Lucas, Mamie and William Noldner, Gertrude and Buzz Brown, Carrie Morris, Stoney Gerst, Jeff Plymnesser and Guy Morris.

He is survived by Melissa Simmons and his two daughters, Piper Rose and Sonya Leigh. Father Larry and Theresa Simmons, mother April and Keith Ayleworth, grandparents Lois Lucas, Florence and Jack Dempsey, Elvin (Bud) W. Simmons Jr., sisters Jamie Simmons, Susanne and Wayne Dutcher, Susanne and Wayne Dutcher, aunts and uncles Mami and Ed Sconiers, Cheri and Everett Schulze and Tom Lucas. Niece

and nephew Susanne Dutcher and Trent Dutcher.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, December 10 at the Newcastle VFW, 2990 West Main St. at 3:00 p.m.

Wade Richard Helms
Jun. 29, 1949-Nov. 18, 2016

Wade Helms was born in San Diego, Calif. on June 29, 1949. He passed peacefully at home on November 18, 2016.

He was the son of Wade and Belinda Helms, who have both passed on. Wade and his wife, Linda, were married on April 13, 1968 in

Lemon Grove, Calif., after he returned home from Vietnam.

He is survived by his wife, Linda, his two children, Tammy Helms and Travis Helms and Travis' wife Nichole. He is also survived by his two sisters, Jackie Hill and Shauna Tinker.

Wade was honored on October 17th, 2016 with the "Quilt of Valor."

There will be no services, but there will be a Celebration of Life this summer.

The family respectfully requests any donations go to lung cancer research.



Wade Helms



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
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Pinnacle



A long line of guests make their way through the assorted goodies at the Festival of Trees buffet table. The homemade treats help make the event a special occasion every year. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

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Winterize

from page 1

million homes in the United States," shared Welte. "You schedule regular maintenance on a car for efficient performance, safe operation and longer life. In the same way, it's important to do the same for your furnace and other heating equipment."

Fire danger is another important consideration when it comes to winter safety, as a number of people utilize either fireplaces or wood burning stoves as heat sources in their homes.

There are a number of items people should pay attention to when utilizing these sources to keep their families safe and prevent house fires.

"People should keep anything that could be combustible from out in front of the fireplace or wood stove. This time of year it is popular to hang your lights and stockings, but heat conduction breaks material down to an ignition temp," cautioned Newcastle Volunteer Fireman Don Stevenson. Weston County Fire Warden Daniel Tysdal agreed, noting that there should be at least a three-foot space around the wood stove or fireplace that contains nothing that could catch fire. He said this should also be considered a "kid free" space.

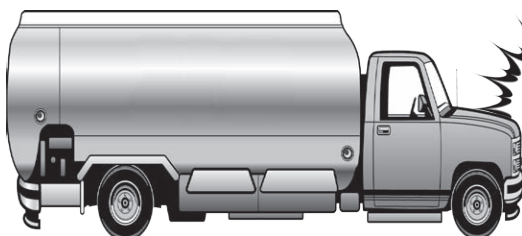
It is important to make sure these type of heat sources are

maintained regularly as well.

"People should have their wood stoves and fireplaces cleaned and inspected before using them for the season. How often those items will need cleaned after that depends on the wood burned," revealed Stevenson, who explained that creosote will build up in the chimneys and get hot enough to act as a fuel. That is one of the primary causes of chimney fires.

Stevenson also warned that in addition to fireplaces and wood stoves, extension cords and space heaters create risk and can be a potential fire hazard during winter months as well.

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Landfill

On November 21, City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James reported to the Newcastle City Council that the charging of landfill use to an individual's water account required a significant amount of "hand work" at the City Office. He had approached City Engineers Bob Hartley and Mike Moore to discuss the issue, and they determined the best solution was to discontinue the practice.

"There are currently a few residents that charge at the dump for disposal...It was brought to our attention that it creates accounting problems to charge this way," Moore told the News Letter Journal, noting that the charged amounts had to be hand written on the water account bills because the city's system didn't allow for them to be entered on the computer.

According to Hartley, charging at the landfill began when contractors with water accounts were allowed to put dump fees on their accounts, and it slowly grew to include a handful of other individuals who pay city water accounts but even a handling a small number of accounts in such a manner proved troublesome.

"It came down to that accounting issue, and we were asked if it would be okay to move away from that and go back to paying the fee right at the landfill," reported Moore, who indicated that they are giving people a grace period to adjust to paying right at the scale, but will begin requiring all landfill fees be paid directly at the dump beginning January 1. Hartley said that a notice has been posted at the landfill to notify users of the change.

Moore maintained that the City of Newcastle currently utilizes an accounting system that does not allow for landfill charges to be put on the water bill, which is an entirely separate account. He did, however, indicate that such a practice is something that could be looked into in the future.

"Currently, there is no way to set up credit with the city to do that. It is a great idea to have charge accounts, especially for bigger customers... I suppose that could change down the road, but there is no current way to do that easily," announced Moore.



A drilling rig rises above the tree line near the Newcastle City Shop, and should reach the Madison Formation in about a month. (Alexis Barker/NLJ)

City Beats

Notes from the December 5 Newcastle City Council Meeting.

- A drilling rig that will begin work in the next few days has been erected at the location of the city's new water well near the Newcastle City Shop and the Weston County Humane Society. The rig will drill to roughly 3,000 feet, and it will take crews about 30 days to reach final depth. After drilling is finished, completion work will be required before the well can be brought on line.
- After meeting in executive session, the council approved a motion by Kara Sweet to pay an additional \$4,000 for audit services as requested by Ketel Thorstensen, LLP. City Clerk/Treasurer Greg James told the News Letter Journal that after lengthy communications with the auditors, city officials determined there was unanticipated accounting work performed that was necessary for the firm to complete their work. The council decided that justified the request.
- Police Chief Jim Owens told the council that the Newcastle Police Department's Dodge Durango was broken into in Denver, and a number of items were stolen from it. The vehicle was in Denver because Detective Brandon Vaughn was attending a homicide investigation course there. "You would think a vehicle would be safe in the parking lot of a Sheriff's Department, but obviously that is not the case in Denver," Owens told the council. After the incident was discovered, security cameras revealed a gentleman committing the crime after driving up in a vehicle reported stolen in Nebraska. A nationwide BOLO, or all points bulletin, has been issued on the vehicle and the stolen items—which included two different types of body armor, a shotgun, and Vaughn's badge. Owens admitted that a complete inventory had not been completed at the time of Monday's meeting.



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Home for the Holidays



Clockwise from top: The Parade of Lights floats were left along Main Street as children flocked to see Santa in front of Isabella's (Photo Courtesy of Skull Creek Studio). Mary Dixon helps children shoppers create their very own Christmas ribbons. Lilly James chooses a present for her parents at the children's shopping day at the Methodist Church. Deb Carr and Barb Voss share a laugh at the Wedding Closet's annual holiday open house. (Alexis Barker and Pamela Penfield/NLJ)

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<p>9</p> <p>Customer Appreciation Weston County True Value 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Christmas Tea Keeping Christ in Christmas 1 - 3 p.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Kids Christmas Open House Maverik 12 - 5 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Community Cantata and Handbell Choir 2:00 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Christmas Concert Middle School 7:30 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Christmas Concert High School 7:30 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Christmas Concert Weston County Children's Center 7:00 p.m. at Crouch Auditorium</p>
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Sounds of the Season

For the Ages

News Letter Journal

Local Legion comes back strong



Don Dafoe thanks those who gathered at last week's Festival of Trees for their generosity, and the crowd responded by serenading him to honor his birthday. (Andy McKay/NLJ)

By Andy McKay
NLJ Reporter

Membership in the American Legion has seen diminishing numbers recently, and Newcastle's Post #3 appeared to be going down the same road, but seemingly overnight the Legion has gone from flickering into oblivion to kindling a bright future.

Founded in 1919 following the First World War, the American Legion was the champion of what would become Veteran's Affairs and the "GI Bill of Rights." They are still engaged in their near-century-old legacy by continuing to lobby for government accountability for veterans and adequate funding for benefits like health care, disabilities, and education.

One possible reason for the trend of declining membership may well stem from confusion over the difference in qualifications to join the Legion and its close affiliate Veterans of Foreign Wars, but the new Post Commander in Newcastle is helping the local organization grow by overcoming those misperceptions.

"To be in the VFW you need to have had boots on the ground. You don't have to do that to be in the American Legion. One day of national duty qualifies you for membership, as long as you still have an honorable discharge," Don Dafoe, commander of American Legion Post #3, professed.

"I joined back in '62, during the

Vietnam Era, and spent six years in the Wyoming National Guard. I graduated in '64, so I was in the Guard for a year and a half before I even graduated," Dafoe said. "I didn't want to have to wait for the draft or anything else."

Dafoe, who was initially barred from entering the Legion since he didn't serve overseas, has made inclusion a focal point of his tenure of office.

"I was told, 'You're not eligible to join,' but you don't have to have been deployed to join the Legion. I found that out and started sharing it with everyone I could," Dafoe confessed.

After the immediate past commander resigned to rejoin the ranks as a general member, Dafoe was offered the post.

"I told them, 'I'll take it over, but I don't sit still,'" Dafoe reminisced.

His motivation in his post is to reverse the trend of declining membership by recruiting younger members.

"I want to try to get the younger generation involved, but most just got out and don't want anything to do with the military. They see it as military, but it's about helping the other veterans out," Dafoe explained.

The Legion has started to see returns from the efforts of Dafoe and others, an important step considering its aging membership.

"I used to be one of the youngest ones there. We're all getting old," Dafoe somberly stated, indicating he

believes the key to recruitment is finding activities that engage a wide range of age groups. One such event is the annual Motorcycle Rodeo.

"It's a bunch of American Legion members who ride motorcycles. This next one is coming up July 1," Dafoe said excitedly.

Rather than focusing on speed and power like at Sturgis, the rodeo instead features events like the Slow Race, which requires teamwork and good balance.

"You do a slow race on a big bike- your feet can't touch the ground. Riders go through an obstacle course through four cones with tennis balls on top. The driver weaves around the cones as the passenger grabs the tennis balls. They then have to ride over a teeter totter. After that, they ride back through the course and put the balls back. We had a positive response to it," Dafoe described.

Another event at the rodeo is popularly called jousting. While it may sound like the medieval sport of attempting to unseat an opponent from his steed, jousting with a motorcycle is less violent. Rather than trying to strike another person with a long stick, riders instead try to capture rings placed on top of traffic cones with long sticks. While the feat sounds easy, the trial is difficult in execution.

"We call it jousting, but it's more like ring retrieval. It's just good clean fun, and that's what we do," Dafoe said. He divulged that only one rider was able to retrieve a ring at last year's rodeo, which boasts Legion members from around the state and even outside of it. And it doesn't only attract families to the grand stands to watch the festivities either, as the participants also have a blast, and Dafoe has received assurances that the Rapid City Legion plans on returning next year.

In addition to community events, the Legion also sponsors scholarship programs like the Good Citizen Award and Boys and Girls State.

Boys State dates back 80 years and today boasts over 19,500 participants nationally. Boys and Girls Nation is the more prestigious final competition, featuring the top two finishers from each of the 49 participating states.

"This last year we sent four boys, one of whom also went to Nationals, and two to Girls State," Dafoe reported.

"The boys go down to Douglas to the State Fairgrounds and they're down there for a week. They have one day where they go down to the capitol in Cheyenne to get in government on a state level," Dafoe explained, indicating he isn't yet as familiar with the Girls State program.

"They're all Juniors, and they come back and talk with the Sophomores to get them excited about it. We do get the cream of the crop," Dafoe stated.

While Boys and Girls State is exclusively for the Junior class, the

American Legion's Oratorical Contest is open to all high schools, and also begins on a local level.

"You basically have to have a pretty good knowledge of the Constitution. They ask you a question, and you have to give a two minute speech," Dafoe explained. Better performance translates to better scholarships.

"The higher up the ladder you get, the higher the funds get," Dafoe proclaimed.

To cap off a successful rebuilding year, Pinnacle Bank chose the American Legion as one of the beneficiaries for this year's Festival of Trees fundraiser. In a fun coincidence, the Festival coincided with Dafoe's birthday, and the audience joined in with friends as they sang Happy Birthday. As a cherry on the top, the money from the charity event will help not only ensure projects like Boys and Girls State continue, but that the Legion can branch out and provide more unique services.

"It's one of the fundraisers we have to help be able to send kids to Boys State and Girls State. More

funds mean we can start new things like Poker Runs, but you can never know what the future holds. We're just taking it one step at a time," Dafoe said.

The Legion members made an appearance at last weekend's Parade of Lights, and their float boasted flags from all the different branches of the military.

"We all chipped in and bought all the different flags. It's a big step doing that. I saw a lot of guys saluting the float. Did it work? You bet!" Dafoe professed, saying he feels the float provided much needed visibility for the group.

"I talked with three vets this evening. Most people don't even know we have an American Legion here. We don't have a building on Main Street like so many others," Dafoe explained.

As the Legion involves itself more in the community, Dafoe believes the Post will continue to prosper.

"We're getting out and doing more. What we do is help out other veterans, and that helps the communities," Dafoe said.

Senior Happenings

WC Senior Services

December 8			
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.		
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.		
December 9			
Rolls	9:00 a.m.		
Blood Pressure Check	9:30 a.m.		
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.		
December 12			
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.		
AARP	1:00 p.m.		
December 13			
Dementia Support Group	10:30 a.m.		
Cowbells	12:00 p.m.		
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.		
December 14			
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.		
Manor Here for Lunch			
Marna Kuehne Reps	12:00 p.m.		
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch		
Card Class	4:00 p.m.		
December 15			
Trip to Lodge			
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.		
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.		
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.		
December 16			
Rolls	9:00 a.m.		
Bridge Ladies	1:00 p.m.		
December 19			
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.		
December 20			
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.		
Helping Hands Board	6:00 p.m.		
December 21			
Senior Fitness	9:00 a.m.		
Toenail Clinic	9:00 a.m.		
Mondell Here for Lunch			
Lions	12:00 p.m.		
Creative Handcrafts	After Lunch		
December 22			
Mexican Train	1:00 p.m.		
Ceramics	1:00 p.m.		
Manor			
December 8			
Food Fancy	10:30 a.m.		
Manicures	2:00 p.m.		
Scrabble	6:15 p.m.		
December 9			
Greedy	10:30 a.m.		
Bingo	2:00 p.m.		
Movie	6:00 p.m.		
December 10			
Guggenheim	11:00 a.m.		
Happy Hour	3:00 p.m.		
Bingo	6:15 p.m.		

December 11			
Who Am I	11:00 a.m.		
Church	2:00 p.m.		
Holiday	3:00 p.m.		
December 12			
Res. Council	10:30 a.m.		
Cooking	3:00 p.m.		
Bingo	6:15 p.m.		
December 13			
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.		
Keepsake Crafters	2:00 p.m.		
Stories	4:00 p.m.		
LIGHTS	6:15 p.m.		
December 14			
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.		
Crossword	10:30 p.m.		
Bingo	2:00 p.m.		
LIGHTS	6:15 p.m.		
December 15			
Staycation	10:30 a.m.		
AI and the Gang	2:00 p.m.		
Social Hour	6:15 p.m.		
December 16			
Greedy	10:30 a.m.		
Bingo	2:00 p.m.		
Movie	6:00 p.m.		
December 17			
Quizball	11:00 a.m.		
Movie	2:00 p.m.		
Bingo	6:15 p.m.		
December 18			
Trivia	11:00 a.m.		
Church	2:00 p.m.		
December 19			
Childrens Choir	9:00 a.m.		
Wii	10:30 a.m.		
Tony's Tunes	3:00 p.m.		
Bingo	6:15 p.m.		
December 20			
Ceramics	10:30 a.m.		
Keepsake Crafters	2:00 p.m.		
Stories	4:00 p.m.		
Cards	6:15 p.m.		
December 21			
Catholic Study	10:00 a.m.		
Bean Bag	10:30 p.m.		
Out To Lunch	11:30 a.m.		
Bingo	2:00 p.m.		
Farkel	6:15 p.m.		
December 22			
Reminisce	10:30 p.m.		
Manicures	2:00 p.m.		
Social Hour	6:15 p.m.		

Cowboy Hall of Fame nominations sought

The Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame (WCHF) has named three classes totaling 140 Honorees to date, and on December 1 nominations opened for the class of 2017. They will close again on February 28, 2017.

The website link for nomination forms is <http://www.wyomingcowboyhalloffame.com/nomination/>. Clear instructions for nominating are outlined at the WCHF website, and photos can be submitted along with each nomination.

The WCHF can only consider and induct nominated individuals, so the Board seriously urges residents to think of the worthy individuals within your acquaintance, and do everything possible to make sure they are nominated.

"The 'Cowboy State' is proud of that designation, and WCHF is excited and eager to enshrine each worthy man and woman into WCHF," a press release issued by Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns proclaimed.

There are 10 geographic regions within the state, and nominations for each region will be vetted and filtered by local committees after the nominations close, with the top choices moving up the line for consideration by WCHF Board of Directors in the Spring.

"If you need assistance with your nomination contact a committee or Board Member near you. They are listed at www.wyomingcowboyhalloffame.com/," the release stated.

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We are proud of the continued improvements that are being made to our Newcastle operation, and we salute all of those in our community who have taken steps to enhance and beautify our hometown.



Par Pacific

Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

High School Boys Basketball
 12/9-10 East West Challenge at Buffalo
 12/12 Sundance Bulldogs 9 H 5:30 PM
 12/15 Sundance Bulldogs V9 H 4 PM
 12/16-17 State Line Shoot-out at Lead TBA

High School Girls Basketball
 12/09-10 East West Challenge at Cody
 12/12 Sundance Bulldogs 9 H 4 PM
 12/15 Sundance Bulldogs V9 H 4 PM
 12/16-17 State Line Shoot-out Lead TBA

High School Wrestling
 12/08 Custer Wildcats VJ A TBA
 12/9-10 Rapid City Invite VJ A TBA
 12/15 Buffalo Bison @ Upton V9 H 6 PM
 12/16-17 Battle in the Big Horn V9 A 12 PM

High School Boys Swimming
 12/16 Newcastle Triangular V9 H 4PM
 12/17 Newcastle Invitational V9 H 10 AM

Middle School Wrestling
 12/10 Newcastle Team Duals H 9 AM
 12/15 Districts @ Moorcroft 2:00 PM

Middle School Girls Basketball
 12/8 Lead Goldiggers H 4 PM
 12/13 *Sundance Bulldogs H 4 PM
 12/16 Districts @ Wright TBA

Scores

Middle School Girls Basketball
 11/29 @ Lusk 7A L 7-31
 8A L 16-19
 12/1 vs Wright 7A L 10-43
 8A L 24-27

12/3 3A Tournament in Douglas
 7A vs Wheatland L 7-32
 7A vs Buffalo L 9-28
 12/3 3A Tournament in Wheatland
 8A vs Torrington L 26-39
 8A vs Buffalo W 22-14

Let them play, let them play



It's the opening week for the 2016-2017 winter sports season, so that means it's my favorite

time of year – the beginning of high school hoops. I haven't always had to wait until the second weekend in December to get my round-ball fix, but that has changed.

A couple of years ago, the WHSAA Board of Directors shortened the high school basketball season by one week, restricting the official start of practice to the Monday after the Thanksgiving break.

The reasoning behind the change was that it would give players in the schools who made it to the football championships a bit of a rest between seasons, and would allow for family time over the holiday. Unfortunately, the move also reduced the number of games that teams could play in a season that many had complained was too long and too demanding.

While the WHSAA has claimed that the shortened preparation time has not had an adverse impact on the quality of play on opening weekend, I'm not sure many coaches would agree with that assertion.

In the past, there were three "extra" days of practice that could be put in during the week of Thanksgiving which allowed coaches time to work

— See **Karp**, Page 18



TAKE IT ON THE RUN

Sophomore Cade Ostenson is part of a trio of guards who return to this year's squad with varsity experience under their belts, and Coach Allen Von Eye will expect them to lead the way on both ends of the floor. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

Dogies hope to push the action

By Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

Youth, inexperience and size will be challenges the Dogie basketball squad will have to face heading into the 2016-2017 season, but head coach Allen Von Eye is excited to see how his talented and athletic players evolve as they gain valuable court time throughout the year.

The team graduated six seniors from last season, however the Dogies are returning starters Triston Roberson and Cam Quigley to the lineup, as well as Cade Ostenson, who saw consider-

able time on the court. Lyle Whitney, who contributed in 13 of last year's contests, will also bring some varsity experience to the squad.

"We like to have experience, especially at the guard spot, and all three of the kids who saw a lot of time last year are guards. It's nice to have some experience there for the pressure you'll see at the 3A level," Von Eye explained. "Other than that, we're a bunch of young bucks, and we'll be playing a lot of sophomores and a freshman at the varsity level."

Basketball intelligence, athleticism and a great work ethic are qualities that Von Eye is

excited that his young players possess, as he believes that will go a long way toward getting his squad to a place where they will be able to compete against their older, more experienced opponents.

"I really like what I'm seeing so far. Our vocalization is the best it's been in years. We've got older kids who are directing the younger players and getting them where they need to be to utilize our skill set. Because we ran the motion offense last year, our older— or more experienced— players know the motion offense and the reads, so it was nice to see that so early in the year," Von

Eye nodded.

A lack of size will also be problematic for the Dogies when going up against several conference opponents this season. With his tallest players only standing 6'0", Von Eye admitted that when facing teams with 6'4" to 6'7" posts, defending the paint will be a challenge.

"Our lack of size means we are going to be switching up our schematics this season," he explained. "We will be pushing the ball a lot harder, and we won't be placing the same emphasis on defensive rebounding that we have in the past. We're still going to play

great defense and we're going to box out, but we're also going to be sending a couple guys down the floor so that if we get the rebound we can get out and go. If they get an offensive board and score, we're willing to trade that as long as we can answer back."

The fast-paced game the Dogies plan to play should be a crowd pleaser, but this style of play also presents a risk for a squad without a great deal of depth on the bench.

"That does get a little scary for us," Von Eye admitted. "We've got good, young athletes

— See **Ballers**, Page 12

Phase Two

Swimmers excited to build on last year's rebirth

By Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

In year two of the Dogie swim team's comeback run, head coach Doug Scribner is excited for his squad's prospects. Having graduated only two seniors— and only one of whom was a state qualifier— he welcomes back his two top finishers from last season, as well as seven others who have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming year.

"As freshmen, Eythan Riley and Jacob Yeatman not only qualified, but

placed in the top six and top 12 in last year's State Meet, and they've been working in the off-season so I expect them to continue to be competitive this year," Scribner began. "We are also returning senior Flint Hossfeld who joined us mid-season last year, and he put in quite a bit of work over the summer and is coming into this season in pretty good shape."

Hossfeld took advantage of his job as a lifeguard over the summer to complete Kozisek Aquatic Center's English Channel Challenge, which required him to swim 30 miles. Not only did accomplishing this feat give Hossfeld greater endurance, it went a long way toward improving his Freestyle form, which Scribner

— See **Swimmers**, Page 18



While they lack experience, Flint Hossfeld and Brandon Benson bring senior wisdom and leadership to the rebuilding Dogie squad. (Stephanie Bonnar/NLJ)

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Senior Zach Schuessler has enjoyed some success in the past, and coaches expect him to have a break-out year this season. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

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Look at them grow!

Wrestling numbers up by 50 percent

By Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

The combined Newcastle/Upton wrestling team has been hard at work preparing for a busy opening weekend, and head coach Lee McCoy of Upton, along with assistant coaches Sean Crabtree and Duke Ottema of Newcastle, are excited for the upcoming season.

McCoy is returning for his third season at the helm, while Ottema has been a long-time member of the coaching staff. Former head coach Crabtree is returning in the assistant coach capacity after a two-year hiatus from the sport.

"I would say that we should be among the top three in the conference," Crabtree predicted. "We have quite a few kids who are between 120 and 140 pounds, and it looks as though we can fill every weight class but one—at 220."

Having only graduated three last season, the Dogies/Bobcats return three seniors, including Bryce Womack and Zach Schuessler of NHS and James Moberly of UHS. The team also welcomes back their three state placers from last year, all Newcastle juniors—state runner-up Teigen Marchant and Trayton Dawson and Wyatt Corley, who both finished in their respective weight classes.

Early season rankings put Marchant and Corley in the number one spot at 182 and 152 respectively, while Dawson is ranked number two at 112 and Womack holds the number three position at heavyweight.

While individual performances were strong last year for the squad, low numbers held the team back from placing well in tournaments and duals. With 20 athletes out for the sport this season (up seven from the previous year), Newcastle/Upton is looking to put up more team points as they will not be forced to forfeit open weight classes.

Obviously, the four ranked grapplers will be ones to watch as the year plays out, but Crabtree also noted there are others that he expects to be contenders.

"Schuessler will definitely be in the mix this year at 138, and we've got a couple of other guys who will do some good things for us as well," he predicted.

The season is getting underway quickly for the Dogies/Bobcats with a quadrangular in Custer this Thursday, so the team needed to get in some extra work last week. Weight certification took place last Friday in Gillette, and afterward coaches and athletes participated in a "lock-in," in which the team spent the night at the school putting in more work.

"The lock-in is basically another training opportunity for the season," Womack explained. "This is when we get to see who the really devoted people are because we not only do our normal practices, but we swim and lift as well."

Following the quad on Thursday, Newcastle/Upton will travel to Rapid City for an invitational tournament on Friday and Saturday.

"We're really excited and ready to get started this weekend, and to see how we stack up against some pretty good competition," Crabtree nodded. "The Rapid City Invite is a big meet where we will see kids from 4A and 3A schools in Wyoming and from AA and A schools in South Dakota, so it will give our guys some great looks right out of the gate."

Ballers

from page 11.....

that move really, really well and I think we can put some pressure on people. But, you're always going to give something up with that and without depth we have to be very, very disciplined to keep from getting into foul trouble. We don't have a place to go if we get into that situation."

As per usual, the 3A East conference is anticipated to be very tough again this year, and Von Eye noted that he is aware that his squad will experience some growing pains early in the

season. However, as the season progresses, he is expecting to see them rise to the challenge.

"I'm very excited for the year. The guys have been working very, very hard so far, and their attention to detail has really caught my eye. As a young team that is undersized and under-experienced, we have to pay attention to the little things and do things right. We have to be the most disciplined team on the floor each night because we have a lot of physical things that will

be going against us. We have to play our game and do things our way, and I anticipate we will be a team who does that," he predicted.

The Dogies will tip off their season this Friday at the East/West Tournament in Buffalo. They will take on the Cody Broncs on Friday afternoon, the Pinedale Wranglers on Saturday morning and will finish off the weekend with the Powell Panthers on Saturday afternoon. Fans will be able to follow the games on The Cube.

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The Weston County Children's Center/Region III Developmental Services extends heartfelt appreciation to Weston County Senior Services, Auctioneers Mark and Mona Stenson and business, organizations and individuals who provided decorated trees, wreaths and baskets for the Festival of Trees. Our thanks also goes to those who purchased trees, wreaths and baskets.

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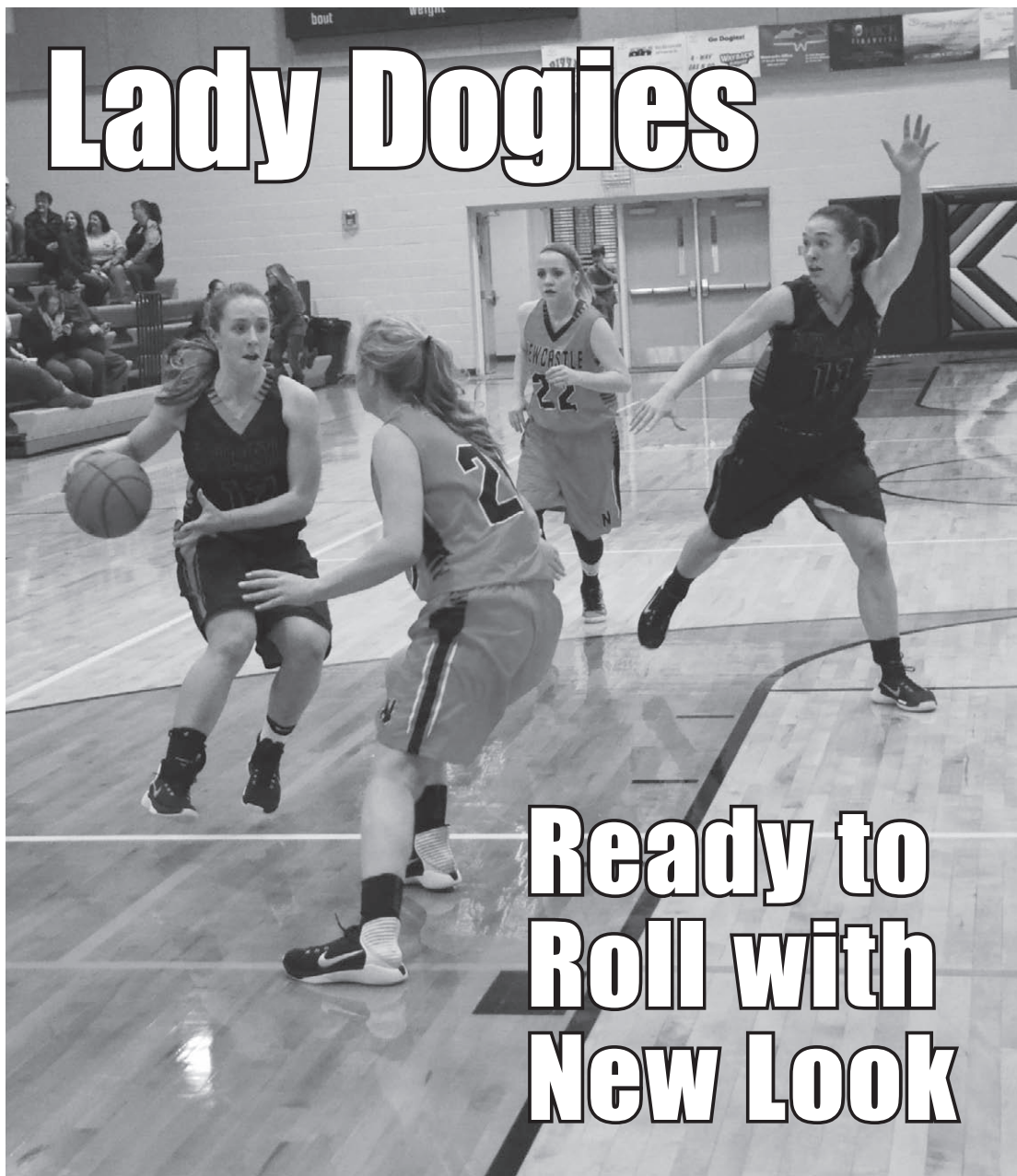
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Rachel Henkle cuts to the basket as her sister, Sarah, lunges into a jump stop to set up a pass to her. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

By Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The 2016-2017 Lady Dogie basketball team may seem as if they're starting over after graduating five senior starters from last season, but with the talent and experience they are returning to the court, they're not starting from square one.

"Those five seniors were talented and worked hard. They were intelligent and were high-character kids who did a lot for our program for four years," began head coach Tyler Bartlett. "The nice thing is, we've had a lot of other great senior classes, so we've been in this situation before. We've had a lot of good seniors leave over the years, so we just have to remember that every year is a new season and we have to continue to build from there."

Five new seniors are ready to step into the vacant leadership roles, and according to Bartlett, are hungry to prove that they are also pretty talented and have a great deal to give to the program.

"This is year eight that we've been running this program so I feel like, though we lose a lot of talent and really good kids from year-to-year, we've still got a lot of talent and really good kids in our program. This year's seniors have a little bit of a chip on their shoulder because they know they're going to be discounted after those five left, but they are ready to show they've got some pretty good talent themselves," the coach professed.

The returning seniors include Rachel Henkle, Kaprina Jones, Rachel Ehlers and Alyssa Umphlett. Taylor Spain will be suiting up this season as well after taking a two-year hiatus from the squad due to injury.

"I was watching a volleyball game earlier this year, and I thought, man, Taylor's looking pretty good," Bartlett grinned. "She was out there moving, diving and playing pretty well so I reached out to her and said we'd sure take you back if you want to come back, and she was thinking along those same lines herself. We're really excited to have her back, because it's not a token pick up. She's going to be out there playing and contributing, and we're excited about having those five seniors."

In addition, the Lady Dogies also return junior Sarah Henkle and sophomores Lexus Voelker and Mackenzie Wagoner to their roster, all of whom saw some varsity court time last season. Though only eight, Bartlett stated that these players will make up his varsity squad to start the season.

"I feel really good about our roster at this point, and we're just waiting to see who else steps up," he nodded. "We're not as deep as I'd like to be, but at the same time, these are the kids who are buying in and doing what we're asking them to do defensively—giving us the effort every day that we want—and when we get more kids to do that, we'll expand that varsity roster."

Bartlett is not expecting to have to wait long, as he has 13 other players who have their eyes focused on being one of those added to the varsity lineup, and who have demonstrated commitment to the program early in the season.

"We had 21 kids show up on Monday and 21 show up on Friday, so that's awesome," he exclaimed. "I would argue that was the hardest week of practice we've ever had. We conditioned the heck out of them, we worked them, we yelled at them and they came back for more so that speaks to the level of the kids' character that they're in it and they're committed, so we're excited about that."

The Lady Dogies will be giving the fans and their opponents a bit of a different look this season. While they return a great deal of speed and athleticism to the court, Bartlett admits that shooting beyond the arc will not be a strong point for this squad. As such, he plans on utilizing his players' strengths to run an up-tempo offensive and defensive game.

"We are planning on playing a faster game this season. In the past, we've talked about it, we've done it a little bit, but this season we are really preaching it," he determined. "We're going to get out and defend, and get in passing lanes to try to create turnovers because we know that our best offense is going to be in the open court. We're not necessarily going to be hitting a bunch of threes in transition. We're thinking to get shots up, rebound and put it back is a good option for us. We've got two very good post players that I would put up against anyone in the conference, so we're going to try to get an open look and take a good shot, and if we don't make it, those two will clean it up for us."

Bartlett admitted his team would probably experience some growing pains early in the season as this new game plan is a little outside the comfort zone for his squad, but he anticipates they will adapt and develop as the year progresses.

Bartlett also expressed his excitement about the number of freshmen out this season.

"We have 11 freshmen that we're really excited about, and we're really hoping we can have three teams where we can let those freshmen play at the freshmen level against other 3A teams to develop their skills," he stated. "And at the same time, we have some pretty talented freshmen who will give us some good minutes at the JV level just like we've had in the past. While 21 isn't exactly the number we'd like, we feel like it's enough to fill three teams and give everyone playing time so they can really develop."

The ladies will have the opportunity to work on this new style of play as they get their season started this weekend at the East/West Tournament in Cody. They will open up with the Powell Lady Panthers on Friday afternoon, then face the Pinedale Lady Wranglers Saturday morning, and finish up with the Cody Lady Broncs on Saturday afternoon.

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Foreclosure Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having occurred and all prerequisites to foreclosure having been met, notice is hereby given that the mortgage given by Tracy L. Hintz, mortgagor, in favor of GMAC Mortgage Corporation, mortgagee, dated September 18, 2006, recorded September 19, 2006, in Book 290 of Photos, Page 0674 in the Office of the Clerk of Weston County, Wyoming, given to secure payment of a note in the original amount of Seventy Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety One Dollars and 00/100 (\$79,291.00). Said note and mortgage were assigned to the Wyoming Community Development Authority by Assignment dated September 18, 2006, and recorded September 19, 2006, in Book 290 of Photos, Page 0681 in the Office of the Clerk of Weston County, Wyoming. The past amount due as of November 28, 2016, is Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One Dollars and 30/100 (\$3,531.30), plus accruing interest, fees and costs, and the amount due as of November 28, 2016, is Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and 13/100 (\$69,538.13), plus accruing interest, fees and costs. Said mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of default the owner of the Note and Mortgage declares to have become operative and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the mortgage or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued. Written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten days prior to the commencement of this publication. The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting the bid.

Therefore, said mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the following described real property located in Weston County, Wyoming, described as:

LOT 6 AND THE WEST 25' OF LOT 7 IN BLOCK 2 OF ROBY ADDITION TO NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED THEREON.

which has the address of 1010 Wood Street, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701,

to be sold by public auction by the Sheriff to the highest bidder, for cash, at 10:00 a.m. on January 3, 2017, at the Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701. The sale will take place only if a representative of the Wyoming Community Development Authority, or its agent, is present.

Wyoming Community Development Authority
By: Thomas A. Valdez
Chapman Valdez & Lansing
125 West 2nd Street
P.O. Box 2710
Casper, WY 82602

(Publish December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2016)

Foreclosure Notice

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note ("Note") and real estate mortgage ("Mortgage"). The Mortgage dated May 11, 2001, was executed and delivered by Clifford J. Small Jr. ("Mortgagor(s)") to Major Mortgage, as security for the Note of the same date, and said Mortgage was recorded on May 11, 2001, at Instrument No. 644169 in Book 250 of Photos, Page 261 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and WHEREAS, the mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

To Wyoming Community Development Authority on May 11, 2001, recorded December 18, 2001 at Instrument No. 648825 in Book 254 of Photos, Page 298.

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

WHEREAS, the Mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of said default, the Mortgagee declares to have become operative, and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued; and

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$63,400.50 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$60,395.56 plus interest accrued to the date of the first publication of this notice in the amount of \$2,033.74, plus other costs in the amount of \$971.20, plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

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;

NOW, THEREFORE Wyoming Community Development Authority, as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on January 3, 2017 at the front door of the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming, Weston County, for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

LOTS (9) AND TEN (10) IN BLOCK (4) OF GREENWOOD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

which has the address of 426 Pine Avenue, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701.

Together with all improvements thereon situate and all fixtures and appurtenances thereto.

Wyoming Community Development Authority
By: Danette Baldacci
Crowley Fleck PLLP
101 West Brundage Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
1-844-280-7990

(Publish December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2016)

WCSD #1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 NOVEMBER 2016

Vendor/Payee	Amount
ARBUCKLE LODGE	\$534.00
BLACK HILLS CHEMICAL CO.	\$528.66
CDW GOVERNMENT, INC	\$546.64
CITY OF NEWCASTLE	\$2,556.31
ECOLAB PEST ELIMINATION DIV.	\$635.43
GATEWAY AUTO SUPPLY	\$1,093.66
HAMPTON BUFFALO	\$850.00
HAMPTON RAWLINS	\$1,456.00
HANSEN AND PECK	\$6,755.00
MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC	\$7,284.00
NEWSLETTER JOURNAL	\$767.50
NORCO LLC	\$1,051.72
POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORP RENEW	\$5,884.54
RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	\$1,680.00
ST JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S HOME	\$1,217.01
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE	\$14,942.18
UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC	\$11,061.40
WCSD#1-ACTIVITY	\$541.87
WCSD-Food Service	\$702.49
WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES	\$25,000.00
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$2,475.00
AT&T MOBILITY	\$1,012,091.55
BEST WESTERN PLUS FRONTIER INN	\$869.91
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$900.00
DICK BLICK	\$27,188.73
DECKER'S MARKET	\$1,197.27
DRIVE TRAIN INDUSTRIES	\$1,199.31
GOLDEN WEST TECHNOLOGIES & HAGGERTY'S MUSICWORKS	\$538.96
HAMPTON INN GREENRIVER	\$5,267.00
HAWKINS, INC	\$550.00
HOLIDAY INN - LARAMIE	\$1,000.00
IDENTIFIX	\$578.99
MARCO	\$534.00
NORTHEAST WYOMING	\$1,428.00
NORTHEAST WYOMING	\$8,281.19
PEARSON EDUCATION INC	\$15,860.50
POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORP	\$1,680.00
RAMKOTA HOTEL CASPER	\$2,765.62
RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	\$8,387.06
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VISA	\$956.29
VISA	\$988.72
VISA	\$2,473.12
VISA	\$936.00
WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES	\$3,512.50
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EASTBAY	\$2,248.77
GILLETTE STEEL CENTER	\$822.00
HAUFF MID-AMERICA SPORTS	\$4,166.40
HOLIDAY INN - LARAMIE	\$534.00
PATRICK PATTON	\$842.80
SHERI SAXTON	\$500.00
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR-13	\$4,448.54
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR-13	\$1,661.96
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$1,526.93
LISA BAKER	\$4,884.00
CARRIE MANDERS	\$610.00
VISA	\$3,801.50
VISA	\$600.36
VISA	\$2,000.00
VISA	\$533.49
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WOODY'S	\$1,426.92
WYAA	\$860.00
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BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$4,490.19
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$767.54
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$8,733.24
Checking Account Total:	\$13,990.97
DEAN FOODS NC	\$2,887.43
SWISHER	\$771.81
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$9,120.47
DEAN FOODS NC	\$1,230.26
SYSCO MONTANA INC	\$8,579.28
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$18,531.26
Checking Account Total:	\$41,120.51
DALE BUCKINGHAM ARCHITECTS LLC	\$1,590.11
MICHAEL'S CONSTRUCTION, INC	\$13,076.38
Checking Account Total:	\$14,666.49
VAN EWING CONSTRUCTION, INC	\$13,780.00
Checking Account Total:	\$13,780.00
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$15,560.58
WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST -	\$784.14
Checking Account Total:	\$16,344.72
EASTERN WYOMING COLLEGE	\$545.00
BLACK HILLS ENERGY	\$622.88
Checking Account Total:	\$1,167.88
Grand Total:	\$1,323,676.37

(Publish December 8, 2016)

News Letter Journal
14 W. Main Street,
Newcastle

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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 11/07/2011 executed and delivered by Gerald J. Gesinger, ("Mortgagor") to Guild Mortgage Company, a California Corporation and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by said Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company, a California Corporation, and which Mortgage was recorded on 11/09/2011, as Reception No. 731214 Book 332 Page 0835 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and The property covered by said Mortgage is described as follows:

LOT SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK TWO (2), BLACK HILLS VIEW ADDITION TO THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING

With an address of : 109 Frontier Ave. Newcastle, WY 82701.

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 scheduled for 10:00 in the forenoon on 12/06/2016 at the Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Weston County, State of Wyoming, has been postponed to 10:00 in the forenoon on 01/17/2017 at Weston County Courthouse located at 1 West Main, Newcastle, Weston County, State of Wyoming.

Guild Mortgage Company
By: Klatt, Augustine, Sayer,
Treinen & Rastede, P.C.
925 E. 4th St.
Waterloo, IA 50703
(319) 234-2530

(Publish December 8, 15, 22, 29 and January 5 and 12, 2016)



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14 West Main Street
Newcastle, WY 82701
(307) 746-2777
(307) 746-2660 FAX

Not just for bird cages!

After you've read all there is to know about Weston County, you can use your News Letter Journal for any one of these great ideas:

- Fire starter
- Make a paper hat
- Paper boat for a child
- Clean windows
- Paper airplane
- Make a piñata
- Weave a basket
- Make jewelry
- Line shelves/drawers
- Absorb moisture in boots
- Insulate drafty windows
- Use as a child's placemat
- Use for scavenger hunt/word search
- Play basketball w/trash can
- Garden mulch
- Odor remover (containers/boxes)
- Packaging material

What can YOU do to reduce?

Recycle Repurpose Reuse

News Letter Journal
14 W. Main St. PO Box 40
Newcastle WY 82701
(307) 746-2777

Weather Vane

DATE	HI	LO	Precip
S-28	41	22	.04
M-29	28	21	
T-30	30	13	
W-1	31	17	
T-2	37	15	
F-3	34	17	
S-4	38	21	

Blotter

November 27, 2016
 Suspicious activity reported. Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Open door discovered. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic hazard reported. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Phone harassment reported. Two VIN inspections requested. Report of dogs at large. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency.

November 28
 Vandalism reported. Mail fraud reported. Four VIN inspections requested. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Drunk driver reported. Harassment reported. Traffic control



requested. Suspicious activity reported. Arrest Warrant issued. Motorist assist. Commercial alarm reported. 911 hang up. Assist other agency.

November 29
 Traffic hazard reported. VIN inspection requested. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Fight reported. Missing child reported. Welfare check requested. Motorist assist.

November 30
 Commercial alarm reported. Assist other agency. Civil assist. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

ID theft reported. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

December 1
 Suspicious activity, One arrest. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Parking complaint. Assist other agency. Assist other agency. Suspicious activity reported.

December 2
 Suspicious activity reported. Suspicious activity reported. Minor accident reported. Suspicious activity reported. Medical assist. Assist other agency. Commercial alarm reported. Parking complaint. Drunk driver reported.

December 3
 Hazard reported. Assist other agency. Theft reported. Minor accident reported.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that on November 30, 2016 application for the Transfer of Ownership for a Retail Liquor License was made at the City of Newcastle. The application is for the transfer of Retail Liquor License #3, Barbara A. & William H. Brown (dba) The Little Ceramic & Smoke Shop, 2007 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming to: Decker's Food Center of Newcastle, Inc. (dba) Smoke Shop Liquors, 2007 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. Protest against this transfer if there be any, will be heard at 7:30 p.m. December 19, 2016 in the Newcastle City Council Chambers at City Hall, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, Wyoming.

Dated: November 30, 2016
 Gregory H. James, Clerk/Treasurer
 City of Newcastle

(Publish December 8 and 15, 2016)

Meeting Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Weston County Predator Board will meet on Monday, December 12, at the Masonic Lodge in Newcastle at 7:00 p.m. The board will be voting on new members, and voting on the livestock fees.

(Publish December 8, 2016)

WCSD #1 Fed. Warrants

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

Vendor/Payee	Amount
SOLUTION TREE	\$1,200.00
Dr Carol Tolman	\$14,208.82
VISA	\$2,110.20
VISA	\$1,041.00
VISA	\$1,798.40
VISA	\$1,423.61
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$672.51
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$17,017.41
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$13,340.54
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$559.76
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$2,386.67
Checking Account Total:	\$55,758.92
Grand Total:	\$55,758.92

(Publish December 8, 2016)

WCSD #1 Fed. Warrants

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

Vendor/Payee	Amount
WCSD #1-TRANSPORTATION	\$529.62
WYOMING AFSCHOOL ALLIANCE	\$1,650.00
EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE	\$2,042.04
NBI	\$1,366.00
RIFTON EQUIPMENT	\$2,925.00
VISA	\$2,226.51
VISA	\$876.88
VISA	\$953.98
VISA	\$3,790.17
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$2,819.05
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$13,340.55
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$16,569.16
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$1,404.37
WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$894.39
WESTON COUNTY CHILDRENS CENTER	\$2,974.00
WESTON COUNTY CHILDRENS CENTER	\$5,020.00
Checking Account Total:	\$59,381.72
Grand Total:	\$59,381.72

(Publish December 8, 2016)

Deadline for Legals is noon on Friday

Fun and Games

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- ACROSS**
- Romans' cleansing hangout, pl.
 - Bartender's Triple _____
 - Legal wrong
 - Be in harmony
 - **And to _____ a good night"
 - Fraction
 - Big dipper
 - Flying saucer?
 - To stand forth
 - *Hanukkah spinning top
 - *C.C. Moore's character
 - **_____ the fields we go laughing all the way"
 - Actor Wilder, 1933-2016
 - Fast-food staple
 - Unpleasant road display?
 - *How many days of Christmas?
 - Pinocchio, e.g.
 - *Like Tim Cratchit
 - Iron setting
 - Like Andersen's duckling
 - Many times
 - World's longest river
 - Bellhop, technically
 - Fork prong
 - Malaria symptom
 - School supplies staple
 - Pale gray
 - H in HMS
 - "_____ there, done that"
 - R in rpm
 - *Tournament of Roses tradi-
 - 57.
 60. *Burning block
 - Lacy neckwear
 - Poe's Morgue, e.g.
 67. Guanaco's cousin
 68. Mountain ridge
 69. Retirement plan
 70. Cowboy movie
 71. _____ farewell, past tense
 72. Ensign, for short
 73. Small songbirds
- DOWN**
- Shiny on top?
 - Lab culture
 - "Trade" without one vowel
 - Sunny prefix
 - Sowing machine
 - Author Bellow
 - *North Pole worker
 - Bring to an end
 - De Niro's ride, 1976
 - Relating to ear
 - Classic board game
 - *Marines' giftee
 - Checks out again at the library
 - Muse of love poetry
 - Blast maker
 - Herbalist's bitter cure
 - *New Year stemware
 26. _____ mortis
 27. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meeting spot
 - *Stocking stuffer
 - Tallest volcano in Europe
 - "Gone with the Wind" actress
 33. Monetary worth
 - Mideast V.I.P.
 36. Whiskey grain, pl.
 38. Strong desires
 42. India's first Prime Minister
 45. Sales lure
 49. *Prominent Christmas color
 51. Like directory pages
 54. Bone-chilling
 56. Relating to velum
 57. Legal prefix
 58. In the sack
 59. Learning method
 60. Those voting "yes"

- *A Christmas present given on the 26th
62. Black cat, e.g.
63. Needlefish, pl.
64. Mike Tyson's punch
66. Big coffee holder

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Last week's answers

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6	7	9	4	1	3	2	5	8
3	8	6	5	4	9	7	2	1
7	4	2	1	6	8	3	9	5
1	9	5	3	7	2	8	6	4

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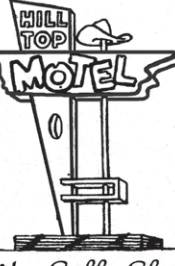
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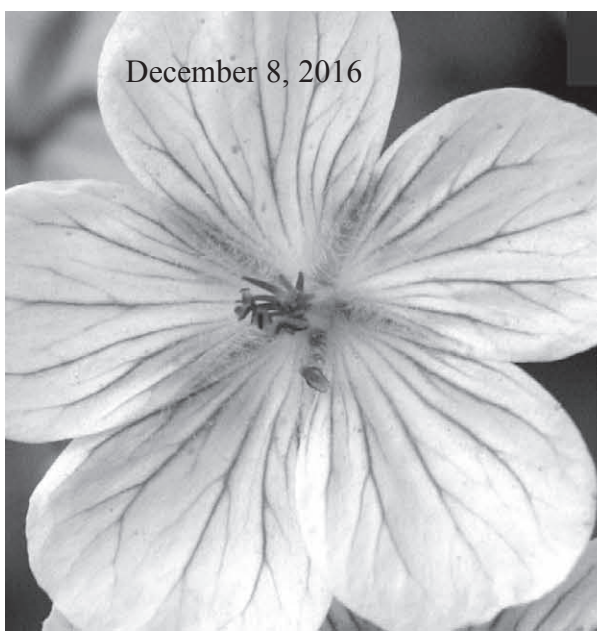
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Attn: 117 Cow Elk Hunters

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Self-Help

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ALANON

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

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

Self-Help

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting every Thursday morning at the Weston County Senior Center. Contact Ellen Butts, 746-4251. Meeting on Tuesday at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact Joyce Brown 746-3696.

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✓ Facilitate positive relationships with co-workers.
✓ Perform daily loading/unloading reports for management review.
✓ Analyze day to day events that may present hazards to either fellow employees or to company property.
The successful candidate will have the following qualifications and experiences:
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• Must have CDL with Hazmat endorsement.
• Must have minimum of 2 years as a CDL carrier.
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• Must be willing to work various weekends, holidays or evenings.
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• Model Train Display - Nici Self Museum
• Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides - Mt. View Hotel
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Karp

from page 11

on skill development without having to jump into offense and defense work right off the bat.

In the current format, teams have only nine practices in which to prepare for their opening weekend tournaments. As most coaches would attest, that is not much time for a team to work on offensive and defensive sets while working on skill development.

As such, it often results in ugly play as the season gets underway. Unfortunately, it's not just that the game is sloppy, the lack of preparation can possibly contribute to early season injuries when teams are not quite ready to hit the floor with the skill and knowledge to play at the pace required of them.

Recently, I heard a rumor that the WHSAA is kicking around the idea of shortening the basketball season by reducing, once again, the number of contests each team could play in a season and by eliminating the early season and holiday tournaments altogether.

The argument being posited is that by doing this, it will cut down the class time players are missing in school.

Unfortunately, I highly doubt that doing this will have



Seniors Alyssa Umphlett and Taylor Spain hustle down a loose ball at practice last week. (Sonja Karp/NLJ)

any real impact on missed class time. Already schedules have been revised so that nearly all contests take place on Fridays and Saturdays, and quite frankly, basketball players probably miss much less school than do swimmers or cross country runners.

For the latter two sports, their competitions often take place during the week and usually are all-day events. In basketball, the contests take place after school is out so most often, even if teams need to travel, they will make

it to at least part of the school day.

A coach I was speaking to recently also pointed out to me that losing even more contests is truly a disservice to these athletes, and I agree with that claim.

Most players have only the four years in high school to be able to play the game competitively. By taking away even more contests, over the course of a career, that adds up to quite a few missed opportunities to compete in the sport they love.

True, the season is long. However, when one factors in the Christmas break, it's not excessive. Football and volleyball both start in August and can last into November, so comparatively, basketball isn't that much longer.

Quite frankly, I wish the season would be extended back the way it was before, and I bet others who love the sport as much as I do feel the same. Hopefully the powers-that-be won't make any more cuts and those rumors never come to fruition.

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Swimmers

from page 11

believes will bode well for him this year.

"Flint's strength has been, and continues to be, the breast stroke. However, after swimming 30 miles of freestyle this summer, he will be pretty competitive in that stroke as well," he nodded.

Riley, who was the 2016 conference champ in the 500 Free, swam in the Newcastle Swim Club during the off-season where he continued to perfect his signature races, the 200 and 500 yard freestyle. Yeatman, who is a sprinter, worked out with the girls during the fall.

The Dogies also return five sophomores from last season and add senior Brandon Benson to the squad. Benson is a newcomer to the sport, however, as a runner he brings a great deal of endurance to the pool. Scribner is confident that, with a little work, he will help the squad this year.

"This is Brandon's first year swimming ever," Scribner grinned. "He wanted to try swimming, so he's starting from the beginning. He's got a lot of endurance, so we just need to work on technique and I think he'll be fine. We see progress in him every day, and he's picking it up pretty quickly."

While Scribner is pleased with the number of swimmers out this season, he admitted that none are interested in diving, so that is one aspect of the team competition where the Dogies will take a hit in scoring. However, when compared to other teams across the conference, Newcastle's numbers should be comparable to, or even higher than, other schools.

"Right now it's kind of rumor as far as how things might shake out around the conference because boys' swimming is not like girls as it is a much smaller sport. You really never know how many swim-

mers the other schools will have until the first meets, and boys' numbers are always pretty low anyway," Scribner explained. "With nine on our squad, we should be right there size-wise with the other teams around the conference. The boys are really excited and are working hard. They want to improve from last year, and my goal is get them to qualify for state."

The swim season kicks off this weekend around the state, but the Dogies will be sitting this one out. Usually the squad competes in Gillette on the opening weekend, but the Camels are on the road this year and there are no other meets close by for Newcastle to attend.

Therefore, the Dogies will start their season on Friday, December 16, with a triangular at home, and then will host the Newcastle Invite on Saturday, December 17.

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