



FOCUS gets funds back

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

The Newcastle City Council has approved a motion to release the budgeted funds to FOCUS — the Foundation of Caring, Understanding, and Services — at the council’s regular meeting on Monday. As previously reported, in September of 2013 the council made a decision to withhold financial support to the entity from the optional 1 percent sales tax fund, at least until FOCUS could offer a proper accounting of its money handling and procedures.

“[Newcastle Mayor Greg] James indicated that FOCUS will be expected to contact the city to provide the assurance the council is seeking, and the burden of establishing communication between the two entities rests with the agency,” the News Letter Journal reported in 2013.

At Monday’s city council meeting, Donna Howard, director of FOCUS,

— See FOCUS, Page 8

In search of a headstone

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

When Neela Beardsley discovered there were United States military service men with unmarked graves in Newcastle’s Greenwood Cemetery earlier this year, she went on a search to see what could be done to mark them. Assisted by Scott Rager, she found that eligible veterans that are laid to rest in private cemeteries outside of the 131 VA cemeteries in the U.S. may receive headstones, markers or medallions to place on their final resting place.

“What Doug Jorrey did for me, is he prints out a whole list of where they go to put flags on [for Memorial Day]. They knew they were there, but they don’t have a marker,” said Beardsley.

In her research, she found out that by contacting the federal government, markers are available for veterans, but only family members can request a marker for a grave. So the quest to rectify the situation has been slowed because Beardsley and Rager, with assistance from members of VFW Post No. 2516, have not been able to locate family members of the deceased.

Getting a headstone for veterans can be done, reported Beardsley, by going to explore.va.gov and

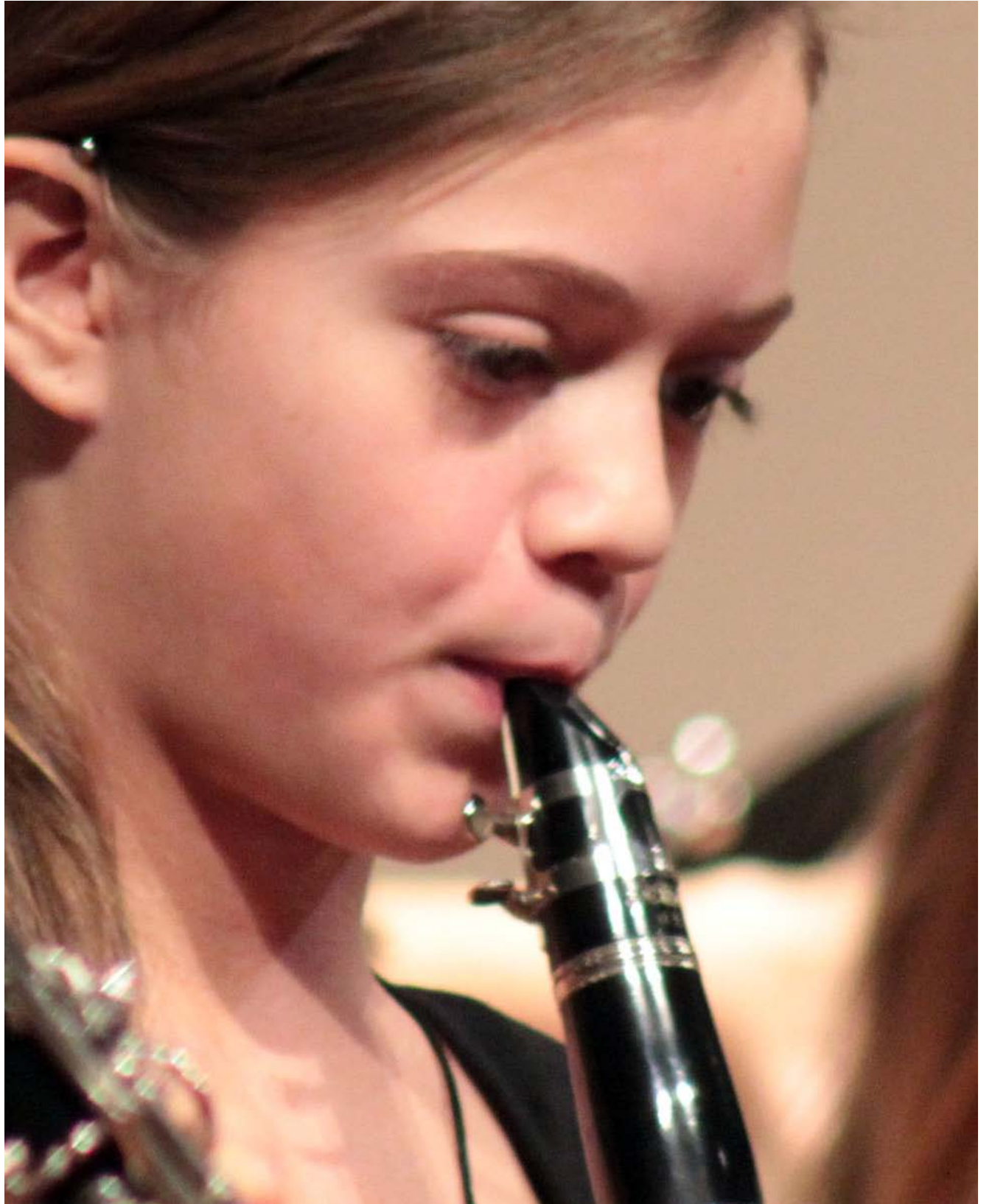
“Warden Todd Martin at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp has agreed to let one of the inmates weld flags. We don’t know what the cost will be yet. We have made a list for materials, and we have to go order all of it.”

— Neela Beardsley

clicking on the Memorial Benefits link. It will list instructions for family members to follow to inquire about how to get a headstone for their loved one’s grave.

“According to the woman I talked to, as of 2009 they changed the law, so the only people that can ask for a headstone [now] is family members. Maybe some of these people have family members,” acknowledged Beardsley, who has volunteered her time toward rectifying the situation. “Maybe if we publish these names, there is still somebody in town for all of these people. They have a really nice decorated stone, if you

— See Headstones, Page 9



Joyful noise

Nevaeh Bruggeman plays the clarinet during the Sixth Grade Band performance at the Newcastle Middle School Christmas Concert, “A Ride Down Christmas Lane,” on Dec. 9, at the Crouch Auditorium. See more from the concert on Page 7. (Photo by Amy Menerey/NLJ)

Rankin takes retirement

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

The last ‘new business’ item on the agenda of the Weston County Fair Board meeting in December was an announcement by Chairman Curtis Rankin, stating that he will not be seeking reappointment from the

board. He had assumed Dick Rich’s seat, and the term ends January 2015.

“This will be my last meeting. There is a time, and that time has come. Most of the time it has been enjoyable,” Rankin said of his tenure on the board.

Weston County Clerk Mamie Krank told the News Letter Journal

advertisements for open county boards will begin this week. Letters of intent for the open seat on the WCFB can be sent to the Weston County Commissioners, and will be considered at the Jan. 5 meeting of the commissioners.

— See Rankin, Page 11

School construction issue fixed

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Construction on Newcastle Elementary School’s addition slowed last week to determine how to resolve an issue of water from the existing building, before the foundation on the new construction could be finished. Greg Gregory, Weston County School District #1 maintenance director, told the News Letter Journal last week he anticipates, however, that the pouring of the foundation and the stem walls should continue within the next week.

NES was built in 2001, but because there had once been cattails in the landscape, explained Gregory, the area prior to construction was excavated and then filled with rock and engineered soils. He reported that the remedy to prevent problems with water from the ground has worked well.

— See Construction, Page 9



Van Ewing Construction crew is hard at work preparing the foundation for the Newcastle Elementary School addition last week.

Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Get ready to get fit!

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

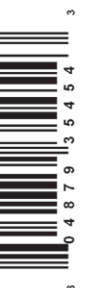
The new year is quickly upon us, with the opportunity for the community to join together by starting the new year off with health and fitness. For the second year in a row, Eastern Wyoming College Newcastle Outreach Office has teamed up with the Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce for a community wide 12-week fitness challenge, A New Year, A New You.

“I would love to have as many teams participate as last year!” proclaimed Kristin Wilkes, Weston County School District #1 nurse.

Last year, 108 people in 21 teams of five individuals participated, losing a total of 1,238.3 pounds in 12 weeks. The top team was The Incredibles, winning \$216 each in Chamber Bucks. Team Beehler took second place, receiving \$192.60, and the We Go Girls were awarded \$86.40 in Chamber Bucks. Again, in 2015, the top three teams will be

— See Challenge, Page 11

WEATHER FORECAST	Thursday Mostly Sunny Hi 37 Lo 20	Friday Sunny Hi 36 Lo 21	Saturday Partly Cloudy Hi 41 Lo 22	Sunday Mostly Cloudy Hi 40, Lo 30	Monday Rain/Snow Hi 40 Lo 23	Tuesday Partly Cloudy Hi 33, Lo 21	Wednesday Snow Hi 32 Lo 20	INSIDE • Sworn in, Page 3 • Success, Page 6 • Nutcracker, Page 9 • Cantata, Page 10



Opinion

News Letter Journal

Our View

Something we can support

We were pleased to report on the front page of this week's issue that the Newcastle City Council voted unanimously to again begin providing a portion of optional one percent sales tax funds to FOCUS.

The council decided to withhold those funds a little more than a year ago in response to concerns expressed—many of them by this newspaper—over the manner in which business was conducted and finances were managed at the local agency that provides support for victims of domestic violence.

At the time, Mayor Greg James told FOCUS that the city would reconsider providing funding to the agency only after it had demonstrated that those concerns had been addressed.

On Monday night, the council determined that FOCUS Director Donna Howard and the agency's current board have done just that, and we wholeheartedly agree.

Over the course of Howard's tenure, greater efforts have been made to reach out and report to the community on the agency's activities, and overall FOCUS has presented a much more professional demeanor.

We salute Howard, the board, and all of those community members who have taken part in the transformation, and applaud the efforts that have been made to instill in residents some level of confidence in the agency.

That fact that the city council's confidence has been restored is obviously important because the additional funds will provide an extra bit of stability for the agency, but restoring the confidence of residents in FOCUS was even more important because it is vital that the victims who most need the agency can trust that the support they seek can and will be delivered.

A year ago, we feared the agency would be unable to recover, and we're glad to have been proven wrong. We congratulate Howard and her board for doing so.

Letters to the Editor

We can't see what we choose to not even look at

Dear Editor,

Sunday morning, December 14, 2014, there was an interesting program on NPR (WPR) radio. A "TED Talks" guest speaker was telling about one of our human frailties.

"Willful Blindness" affected most of the citizens of Libby, Montana. They chose to 'not believe' that the vermiculite mined there had anything to do with their health. Even, an ex-Governor told of when he was a boy, he and others played on the tailings pile.

Eventually, asbestosis (the first cousin to lung cancer) was named as the cause of death for many deceased citizens.

"Willful Blindness" affected many of us when we were being told of "Weapons of Mass Destruction." Many credible people said that it didn't make any sense. No WMD were found. We were the willful blind.

Our cost was great, but if we learned something it was maybe worth it. Now we are being told that Social Security and Food Stamps are going to "break the nation."

Even our Sainted ex-Senator Alan Simpson and his faithful, deficit cutting companion Erskine Bowles sing the same song.

Can it be that "Willful Blindness" is being suggested to us again?

These many Letters to the Editor have consistently complained that the threat to a sound economy is egregious over-spending on our war machine, failure of many, many corporations to pay a fair or even any tax, profits being hidden overseas and even suspicious tax "rebates."

If it looks like a corrupt Congress, and smells like a corrupt Congress — it probably is. But, never-mind all of that, the patrons

of the coffee shop continue to insist that we submit to willful blindness and blame the retired, the unemployed and the abandoned young mothers.

Indeed, blame everybody except Corrupt Congress Critters and the Big Business Corrupters.

—Jerry Baird

Equality can't be assured because we aren't equals

Dear Editor,

In response to Jerry Baird's most recent letter, "We can get informed or we will get what we deserve," December 11, 2014, page 2, I have a question for Mr. Baird.

Do you want more equality and less freedom or less equality and more freedom.

I assume from the tone of your letters that you consider a person with a thousand dollars as less than equal to a fat cat with a million dollars.

These conditions are two sides of the same coin. You cannot increase the equality of one person by taking goods from another who has more by regulations, nor can you reduce the goods of the second person by increasing regulations that prevent him from achieving his goods without increasing the regulations on both people.

It is a given that not every person has equal abilities, which would result in equal outcomes. Many of the European countries try to achieve this condition with more regulations, but they all fail.

Just as some people have more athletic abilities so do people have more talents for achievement in a multitude of endeavors.

—Don Thorson



It is time to turn back towards religion

"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of shadow and death, I will fear no evil for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23: 1-4).

My Grandma Jaeger and Grandpa Bob taught me this verse early on in life. It has made me the person I am today, so my faith is very important to me. Except, religion is being pushed away both locally and nationally. Fortunately, there are methods to help this problem in today's society.

In normal, everyday lives, we make excuses to not pursue our faith. Religion is getting pushed away by common citizens as well as by celebrities. We, as a society, can fix this problem on both levels.

Unreasonable and just flat out lame excuses are used every day to substitute for religion. I always hear the phrase when I ask someone if he or she went to church, "I don't have time for that." In most churches, the sermon lasts only about an hour, plus there are snacks and visiting time afterwards. Most people spend the same amount of time watching TV, so that is not a reasonable excuse for not going to church. Another excuse I hear is that he or she has something more important going on. Now, there are some instances where that is understandable because a person has an appointment planned or a trip to Rapid City scheduled, but sometimes the excuse is used and the person will just stay at home. Again, people are just trying to make excuses for not going. I understand that we are free to do what we want and do not have to go to church, it is just that these excuses are unacceptable.

Every day, teenagers experience pressure

to ignore religion and engage in bad activities. Teenagers are under more pressure than ever before to make bad choices due to the amount of easier access to these bad things. By giving in to these bad temptations—like sex, alcohol, and drugs—we are steered away from our religion, which will always be there for us. We are obviously pressured by other people every day to go away from what we believe in.



Dillon Ehlers
Say Yahweh

Even though religion is being pushed away, there are solutions that we can do as a community to help us once again embrace religion. Making an effort to go to church is the first step to this problem. This will set a good example to the young people watching us closely. Do not be afraid to share your religion with others, even if that person does not share the same beliefs as you. You will be surprised how interesting the conversation can be if you are both intrigued in the topic.

With that said, make sure you are not too pushy, or are trying to make that person change his or her beliefs to what you believe. This will cause an argument, which could end badly. Encouraging youth to join a local church youth group is another positive resolution. It does not matter the age of a person, whether you're 18 or 80 years old, you can be the encouraging one. That person will then have someone to go to if he or she is having problems. By realizing the importance of religion in our lives, we can live happier and embrace religion and the importance of it strongly once again.

Nationally, we are being pushed away from our religious beliefs and it is mainly because of bad influences from famous people. Song writers, especially pop and hip hop artists, are the guiltiest of this. Many of their songs are about sex, alcohol, drugs, and other temptations. These artists are targeting our youth and encouraging them by claiming that doing

these things is fun and good. They do not sing about being a good person and making good choices, so that puts a lot of pressure on today's teenagers. These celebrities are slowly killing religion, something that is desperately needed by many to help them make good choices.

Although there are a lot of bad influences, there are some celebrities who are not afraid to show their religion and to encourage others to be good people as a whole. Christian bands, like Skillet, are widely known for encouraging people to make good decisions. They are not ashamed to talk about their religion and do not care what other people think about them. Some sport figures like football players Tim Tebow and Husain Abdullah, are not scared to show their religion to others either. Tim Tebow is a Christian, whose trademark of kneeling and praying to God before games and after scoring touchdowns is very popular, especially in this region. Husain Abdullah is a Muslim, who was seen praying after scoring a touchdown off an interception this year. These athletes inspire young players to believe that they too can follow their dreams and not be afraid to hide their faith. We need more figures like these to help bring religion back to its full potential and importance. By showing their faith to the world, these celebrities and athletes have made huge differences in people's lives and we all should follow in their footsteps no matter what your religion is.

People, both in our community and throughout the world, are pushing away religion from those that hold it most dear. Faith is being set off to the side, but we can help save religion from extinction for those who need it the most, which is everyone. Religion can mean everything to a person.

My grandparents were devoted Christians and I am proud to have followed in their footsteps. Faith has helped me get through some of the toughest times in my life, and it can make a big difference in everyone else's life as well.

Fear of change keeps us from being great

Albert Einstein, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King all have one characteristic in common; they stood up for what they believed in and started change.

Regardless of people's negativity, they did not let others deter them and neither should you.

People are afraid of change. Do not let fear, or others, discourage you. When noticing a problem, confront it and understand change takes longer than a day.

People will always be scared of the unknown. It is human nature to look for the bad in situations. This is why people are not being optimistic or supportive towards change.

Many people have the "nothing good lasts forever" mentality. This is why many choose not to try new activities. Most fail, for the fear of failure.

When wanting to inspire change,

people will try to discourage you. Due to the fact that some people are negative, you may begin with little to no support. However, this does not mean you should not try. That is never the case.

If our fore-fathers had not had the courage to take the first step into change, our world would be the same as it was back in the day.

Many of the changes we now enjoy and appreciate started off as one person standing up until others finally saw the potential and greatness in their change.

Albert Einstein was not appreciated in his time, and now he is in every science teaching curriculum.

The only real failure, is the failure to try. If you see a problem, especially

one that you are passionately against, address it. Strive to fix the issue. You can do a whole lot more than you think.

Of course, it will be difficult, but that does not mean you should not try. I know when I am passionate about a sport or topic, I want to share my passion with people.

There is always the chance of you sparking someone's passion for something and possibly changing their lives for the better. If there is a chance for you to better even one person's life in a positive direction, why not?

As humans, we can be selfish and think about ourselves. We are all guilty of it. For once, let's think of others and what we are going to leave for our future generations. It is better to be known as the

person that tried relentlessly, rather than the person that sat in the corner, watching, and doing nothing about it.

Change is not easy to start. It doesn't matter if you are prepared and have fully thought it out, change will not happen in a day. You have to be realistic and set short- and long-term goals. It is going to take a great deal of effort and patience.

Once you start thinking or even acting upon trying to change an issue, do not give up. Keep pushing.

The most successful people in our society are the ones that are persistent until they reach their goal. Nothing that is ever worth it, comes easy in life.

If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

No matter the difficulty, do not listen to the negativity, instead strive to better the future. People may not approve or support it now, but eventually they may see the great in it.



Natalie Artilles
Steppin' it up

Who

Bob Bonnar
Publisher and Editor

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With News or to Advertise
307-746-2777
Call
FAX: 307-746-2660
E-mail: editor@news1j.com

What

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

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Why

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Treats for everyone

A delightful array of treats were on hand during the Edward Jones Investments Holiday Open House, held Dec. 5 for the community to enjoy. Pictured are Jeff Virchow and Francie Goode. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Don Hansen, attorney for Weston County School District #1, swears in new board members (standing) Joe Corley, Dana Gordon, Dean Johnson and Melissa Stalder, as existing members Tom Wright, Bob Bonnar, Tina Chick and John Riesland observe (seated).

New members sworn in

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Weston County School District #1 began its meeting on Dec. 10 with four new board members, Joe Corley, Dana Gordon, Melissa Stalder and prior trustee Dean Johnson taking the oath of office from attorney Don Hansen.

Bob Bonnar, previous vice-chairman of the board, was named chairman, assuming the duties from superintendent Brad LaCroix, who began the meeting.

“Thank you all for the vote of confidence — hopefully I earn it in the course of the next year,” Bonnar stated.

He then accepted nominations for vice chairman. Board member John Riesland was the first to be nominated for the position, but he declined, because of his duties on the Wyoming School Board Association, stating he would like to share responsibilities throughout the board. Tina Chick was then nominated for vice chairman, and the motion was unanimously accepted.

Ronnie Mills, board member since 2000, was once again named board clerk. Tom Wright, WCSD #1 trustee since 1975, was nominated and named treasurer.

Immediately following every WCSD #1 board of trustees meeting, a board meeting for the Eastern Weston County Public Recreation

District convenes.

“They serve on two different boards, because one is composed of the other members. The only thing the two boards have in common is the same people. Truly, we have the school district meeting adjourn and then they call the Rec Board to order. They basically deal with Rec Board business and Rec Board budgeting,” LaCroix informed the News Letter Journal, explaining that the Public Recreation District board members are the same as that of the WCSD #1 board, but each member plays a different role.

Chairman for Public Recreation District is Chick, vice-chairman is Gordon, board clerk is Johnson, and the treasurer is Stalder.

Wright later explained that the second board was formed in 1992, when WCSD #1 trustees decided to build another pool. A bond was issued to finance the operating expenses. It should also be noted that the Public Recreation District is a separate entity from the Newcastle City Recreation Board, which disperses money to community organizations from the city council’s budget.

“The mil levy is used to operate the pool and a couple of other things. Today it maintains the pool costs 60 to 65 percent,” added Wright. He also noted the school district recreation board has helped fund numerous sport-related activities and projects in the community.

The First State Bank of Newcastle would like to announce the addition of Randy Lang to the staff as a Loan Officer.



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Dr. Scott Croft

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a Time to Reflect

Join us in celebrating the Reason for the Season
December 24 at 5 & 7 p.m.



Remember the miracle and rejoice in His name!

Christ the King Lutheran Church
224 West Rd. 746-2415

ELI SAMUEL MIRICH
JAN. 28, 1938–
NOV. 29, 2014

Eli Mirich passed away on Nov. 29, 2014, following a lengthy illness. Services will be held at a later date.


Eli was born on Jan. 28, 1938, to his parents, Theodore and Sophie Mirich. He graduated from Newcastle High School in 1956.

Eli is preceded in death by his parents, Theodore Mirich and Sophie Mirich; his sister, Betty Fordyce; and his brother-in-law, Wayne Fordyce.

He is survived by his wife, Lois Mirich of Lingle; his sons, Paul (Polly) Mirich of Lingle and Theodore Mirich of Houston; his daughter, Angela

Mirich-Holder of Spangdahlem, Germany; and five grandchildren, Jacob, Hordan, Kyle, Kiera and Savannah.

RICHARD WEBECK
NOV. 5, 1940–
DEC. 3, 2014



Richard Webeck was born near Onamia, Minn., on Nov. 5, 1940, to Francis and Mildred (Johnson) Webeck.

He was an ambitious young man; he built his first log home at age 12 and had

numerous jobs as a young man, including beginning work as a taxidermist.

He worked at Pillsbury Mills in Minneapolis, and later moved back near his home town of Onamia to work at Land O' Lakes, retiring from there after 20 years. He also owned a dairy farm.

As a free spirit, he had a very strong faith in God. Guns, hunting, camping and fishing were interests he enjoyed, along with restoring old cars and making sculptures from scrap iron.

He was a real handyman, and could fix just about anything. Oil paintings was also something he enjoyed.

Christmas Day was a special time for him, because that is when he met his wife Mary of 36 years. Together they moved to Newcastle in November 1994.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary; and three sons, Jim (Bonnie) Webeck, Kenny (Michel) Webeck from a previous marriage, and Jason Webeck. His is also survived by two brothers, Ron (Becky) and Randy (Diane) Webeck; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and numerous nephews and a niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and numerous relatives and friends.

Memorials can be sent to P.O. Box 11, Newcastle, WY 82701.



Pickin' up goodies
Danny Dixon gets ready to pick his favorites from the trays of goodies at the Short Stop's Customer Appreciation Day last Friday. (Photo by Pam Penfield/NLJ)


LET US REPLENISH THE SEED OF FAITH THROUGH...

Regular Church Attendance



- ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm.
- BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (Open to All) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr; 746-3626.
- CAMBRIA COMMUNITY CHURCH:** Pastor Todd Olson, 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm
- CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL:** Rev. Sally Boyd, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, Morning Prayer 10 a.m.; 2nd & 4th Saturday 4 p.m., Holy Eucharist. haydishall@hotmail.com
- CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor John Hopper, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Greg James, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Meeting 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5:00 pm; Weekday Mass 8 am.
- COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley, 746-9712, Worship 10 am.
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Gary Anderson, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Bible Study 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Teaching Service 6 pm; Wednesday Service 6:30 pm.
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** Pastor Lynn Schleicher, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Sunday School 9:45 am; Worship 10:45 am; PrayerService 5 pm, Christian Academy.
- FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Jeff Thoms, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 a.m. Children's Church and 11:45 a.m. Contemporary Praise & Worship Service.
- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Andersen, Evangelical Free Church meets at the Weston County Senior Services; Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am. Call 746-8091.
- KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 p.m. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am.
- NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sunday Worship 10 am; Wednesday Night Prayer.
- NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, meets at Black Gold Realty Building, 1517 W. Main, 746-5542. Sunday Worship 10 am.
- OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am and 6 pm.
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Gary Force, 78 Old Hwy 85, 746-3504 or 278-0254, Pastoral Assistant Jason Logan 746-2974. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11:20 am.
- ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Killian Muli, Upton. Sunday Mass 11:30 a.m.
- VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366.
- UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Sharee Johnson, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 a.m.; Adult Study 10:30 a.m.; 1st & 3rd Wed Evenings Prayer and Praise Service 7 pm.

The Fruits of Winter



Winter in a cold climate, with its unique challenges, can be symbolic of surviving tough times. Often the challenges of life teach us how strong we really are; any difficulty we overcome can increase our confidence. Yet, in order to be strong in every situation, we must have an equally strong faith in God. Do you want to feel invincible? Worship God this week and learn of His love for you; the more you come to know Him, the more confident you will be. With God beside you it will feel like summer all year.

Photo Credit: istockphoto.com/galder

Jesus said to his disciples:
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardner."
John 15:1

Weekly Scripture Reading

Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Malachi	Malachi	Micah
35:1-10	56:1-8	57:1-21	60:1-22	2:17-3:12	3:13-4:6	5:2-15

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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100 YEARS AGO - DEC. 17, 1914

There will be a Christmas program given by the school children at Boyd church on Christmas Eve. They will also have a tree after the program.

A masked ball will be given at the Armory hall on New Year's Eve. The Barnes orchestra will furnish the music and supper will be served at midnight.

Jno. R. Jones is running the antelope haulage engine in place of Zack Portwood, who was seriously injured last Friday.

"The Old Maid's" bungalow is now fully occupied, and has the appearance of a seminary — not a cemetery by any means — situated next door to a boys' academy. Incidentally cuckoo clocks are in great demand.

C.T. Caswell journeyed to Sundance last Friday where he was married to Miss Margaret Schill, recently of this place. Both of the young people are greatly liked here, and had a large number of friends outside of Cambria. As they figure on making their home here, they will have a rousing reception on their return.

Zack Portwood met with a serious accident last Friday at the Antelope pit mouth. It appears that several of the miners were lifting a car by means of a block and tackle when the rope broke and the car came down on a pry, which threw Mr. Portwood against the timbers, knocking him unconscious, causing a temporary paralysis. At present Mr. Portwood is improving very nicely, much to the gratification of his many friends.

The Fiddler Creek Womens Club met at Mrs. John

Schneider's last Thursday. It being the last meeting of the year, the husbands of the club women were invited and all enjoyed the hostess' delicious dinner, after which many interesting subjects were discussed.

J.H. Pridgeon and F.C. Bartholomew built a shed at the Pridgeon school house to be used to shelter the ponies used by the teacher and children in driving to school. Mr. Pridgeon furnished the material.

A nine-pound boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Cardicia last Saturday.

George M. Culver is preparing to begin his ice harvest soon. The ice is of good quality and ranges in thickness from 12 to 14 inches.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ackley, of Boyd, were down to the county seat last Friday doing their Christmas shopping. Mr. Ackley marketed a load of fine-dressed pork.

G.H. Cummings and Miss Edna Overton were united in marriage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cummings in this city yesterday at high noon, Judge Cooper officiating. The ceremony was witnessed by a few immediate relatives, after which a wedding dinner was served.

75 YEARS AGO - DEC. 21, 1939

The Newcastle Dogies kept on the winning side of the scoreboard, but the locals failed to display the good ball handling and defensive work that won them the tri-county championship two weeks ago, when they defeated a weak Lusk team 31 to 24 here Friday night.

The Weston County Poultry Marketing Association received

turkeys from 65 Weston County growers. The shipment included 2,170 birds. The total poucentage of poultry received was 25,789.

Mrs. Lampert and Ed Hawley of the Elk Mountain area played for a dance at Skull Creek Saturday night.

Harry and Merritt Mann and Carrol Anderson helped Ralph Coe brand and dehorn cattle Sunday in the Elk Mountain area.

Alvin Watson and Alex Mitich are selling Farm Bureau membership tickets on the Prairie this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carney became the parents of a 7-pound baby boy on Sunday at the Ira Baldwin home.

Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Landrigan planned to leave today for Salt Lake City, Utah, where they will spend the Christmas holidays visiting their daughters, Mary and Cora Landrigan, who reside there.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Helm of the oil field are the proud parents of a 5-pound, 7-ounce baby girl, born to them Monday at the Acord Hospital. The baby has been named Mary Ann.

Dave Crum, Lorraine Cummings and Frances Jackson arrived at their respective homes in Newcastle on Friday evening to visit over the Christmas holidays. They are all students at the Wyoming University at Laramie.

A Christmas Night Dance is to be held at the Roundhouse, with music by Raggy Reuben and his orchestra.

Don Townsend left Saturday morning for Cheyenne, where he boarded a plane for Riverside, Calif., where he will spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Roy Townsend, who are spending



the winter months along the West Coast.

50 YEARS AGO - DEC. 17, 1964

Leo Perino was re-elected head of Weston County ASC committee.

During the Huntley-Brinkley televised news report on Thursday, Herbert D. Livingston of Newcastle and William R. Krueger of Shell appeared on the nationally televised program in their roles as voting delegates to the American Farm Bureau convention in Philadelphia.

Members of the Sunshine Club held their Christmas dinner on Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Pearl Wade, with 13 present.

Members of the Golden Age Club held a dinner and party Thursday evening at the National Bank hospitality room.

Ellsworth Baker, county pioneer, celebrated his 95th birthday on Nov. 30. He is a resident of the Hotel Del Mar.

Jack Rawhouser and Butch, Johnny and Vic Purcelli, and Mr. and Mrs. David Rawhouser Jr., of the Boyd area, attended the sale at Sturgis Wednesday.

The Newcastle Dogies lost their opening game of the 1964-65 basketball season last Friday when they were downed by Wheatland, 62 to 52.

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From the Vault of the Anna Miller Museum:
An unidentified woman and child stands on the porch at the MW Ranch in the early 1900s.

Kitty Moats Complex
Craft Fair & Bake Sale
December 19 & 20
Starts at 9 a.m.
Lunch will be served

All proceeds go to the upkeep of the building and grounds for community and county activities.

WHAT'S UP		Meetings & Events Calendar	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Dec. 18	2 p.m.	Open House	Dixon Brothers
	5 p.m.	WC Health Services Board Meeting	Board Room
	7:30 p.m.	Mason's Meeting	Masonic Lodge
Dec. 19	9 a.m.	Craft Fair and Bake Sale	Kitty Moats Complex
	11:30 a.m.	WC Library Meeting	Newcastle Library
	1 p.m.	Art Reception	Newcastle Library
	7 p.m.	Dance - Music by Western Ramblers	WC Senior Center
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Christ the King Lutheran Church
Dec. 20	9 a.m.	Craft Fair and Bake Sale	Kitty Moats Complex
Dec. 21	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Dec. 22	1 p.m.	Low Vision Support Group	WC Senior Center
	1 p.m.	Card Making Class	Four Corners Country Inn
Dec. 23	2 p.m.	Farwell Party for Jennifer Hinkhouse	USDA Building
	6:45 p.m.	ALANON Meeting (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star Meeting	Masonic Lodge
Dec. 24	6:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday Blood Draw	WC Health Services
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church

The Weston County Courthouse will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24 for an employee appreciation day.

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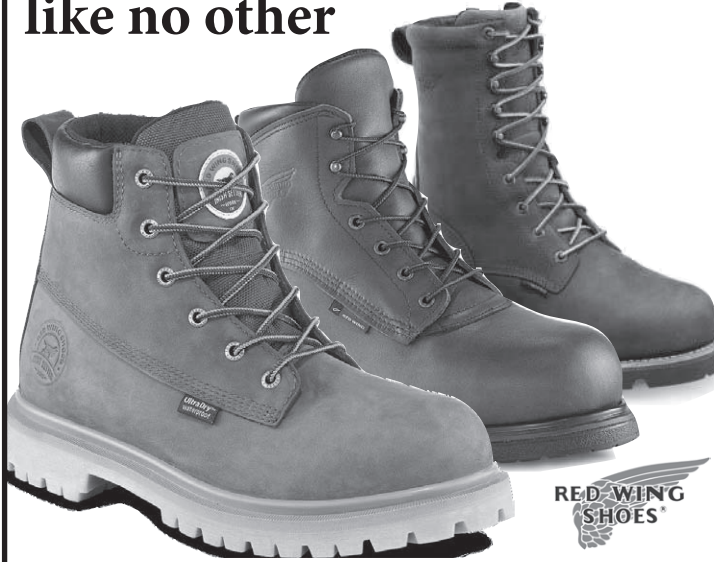
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Finding success in optics

Alexis Shultz
News Letter Journal

Brendon Weaver, 1988 graduate of Newcastle High School, recently launched a new company, Maven, with partners Cade Maestas and Mike Lilygren. The Lander-based company specializes in custom, high-end binoculars.

The three men previously worked together in the manufacture and design of outdoor products, specifically high-end optics. They had the opportunity to work with a good friend, who owns a factory in Japan, to produce the base products of a new line of high-end optics, and that is how the idea came about, explained Weaver in an interview with the News Letter Journal.

Weaver explained that they began organizing the company about two years ago, but didn't launch to sell until August of 2014, so they have only been on the market for four to five months.

"The first time I [saw the word 'Maven'] was in the book by Malcom Gladwell called, 'The Tipping Point,' professed Weaver, explaining where the company name came from. He added that a maven is somewhat of an educated expert, someone who knows things before others. A maven is someone who spreads the word to others about new products or trends, and this is how they rely on their product being sold.

"We rely on people to sell our product," stated Weaver, explaining that since their product is not available in stores, they rely greatly on people spreading the word.

Weaver said that to purchase a set of their binoculars people have to visit their website, mavenbuilt.com, where they will find the various options to build their own, very specific, binoculars. Every binocular sold by Maven is custom made, with options including what kind of rubber will be used and the colors, among other more specific details. Customers can also have their names engraved on the product.

"They compete with the best optics in the world," explained Weaver, adding that by selling them direct on their website, mavenbuilt.com, they can avoid retail mark-up. By comparison, he said, binoculars that compare to their product would cost roughly \$2,000 retail, whereas they can sell the Maven product for half the price, because they avoid the retail mark-up.

"I think people like having the option of a high-end optic for less than \$2,000," professed Weaver. He said that so far they have had a good holiday season. He added that, with a great response so far, a company like theirs grows slowly because they lack the benefit of selling their product in stores, but they gain by offering a custom product at a better price.

Weaver said they rely greatly on public



Submitted photos

Above, Brendon Weaver demonstrates the high-end binoculars manufactured by the company he and partners Cade Maestas and Mike Lilygren own, Maven. Below, Weaver (far right) with his family, from left, Matisse, wife Stephanie, and Pruitt.



relations to sell their product, and have thus far been successful this way. He mentioned that their product has won two Gear of the Year Awards this year, one in "Men's Journal" and the other in "National Geographic Adventure." They were also listed in the Christmas issue of "Outside Magazine," in a section called "Covet," which talks about the coolest gear on the market for gifts this season.

"The way that our company works, we are partnered with a factory in Japan, so the [base portion of the] binoculars aren't made in Wyoming," professed Weaver, explaining that the frame and glass are made in Japan, but all the customization is done in the United States. The final packaging and shipping is done directly in Lander. He added that they do, in fact, consider themselves a Wyoming business.

Community members recognized

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts recognizes outstanding individuals who help to promote and implement conservation of natural resource throughout the state of Wyoming. Each year they accept nominations, and this year two of the nominations from Weston County Natural Resource District were recognized.

WACD named Newcastle High School Science instructor Doug Scribner as Teacher of the Year. He was recognized as an educator that takes extraordinary steps to ensure that balanced natural resource conservation education in the classroom. He was considered with the other nominees throughout the state by the specific examples of educational events and activities provided by Jennifer Hinkhouse, district manager of Weston County Natural Conservation District.

Wyoming State Forestry Division's assistant district forester, Jeremy Dedic, was also recognized, being named Technician of the Year for the state. He was nominated by two offices, Hinkhouse with WCNRD, and by Sarah Anderson of Crook County Natural Conservation District.

Scribner told the News Letter Journal the honor was unexpected but appreciated. He was able to attend the WACD annual awards luncheon on Nov. 19 in Sheridan.

"I think that it is important for students to understand the importance of conservation issues, especially when it comes to water and soil. Water is an important resource in this state, and future generations need to understand how to manage that resource. The current pine beetle outbreak poses another problem for students to investigate, looking at



Doug Miyamoto, deputy director for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts President Shaun Sims stand with Newcastle High School Science instructor Doug Scribner, who was presented with the Teacher of the Year award from the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

In appreciation for his work with the Natural Conservation Districts in both Weston and Crook counties, Jeremy Dedic, Wyoming State Forestry Division's assistant district forester, was awarded Technician of the Year by the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

the possible uses for the trees that have been killed," he said. NHS biology and research classes have been participating in field trips to stock ponds,

create living snow fences, and pine beetle management sites. Guest speakers from the Wyoming State Forestry and conservation districts have also

visited the classroom to talk on the same subjects.

This year classes will continue to investigate and collect data on snow captured by living snow fences. Also, several students are conducting independent projects involving charcoal. Charcoal has several uses, but the main focus of current research is as a soil amendment to increase soil fertility.

"Incorporating these concepts in class gives the students a local example to apply their knowledge. It also gives them an opportunity to participate in projects that last more than a couple weeks. We currently have two years of snow fence data, and we will continue to add to that each year," Scribner acknowledged.

Hinkhouse stated Dedic was recognized for his work with other agencies and for going above and beyond.

"His job doesn't require him to do any of this, but he does anyway," she professed.

He facilitates the programs with his partners in both conservation districts in Weston and Crook counties. He keeps track of information that comes in for the mountain pine beetle, coordinating where they are at and whose properties have been treated in both counties. Locally, he works with Hinkhouse on fire rehabilitation, coordinating efforts with them.

Dedic explained that this is the outward shell of a partnership, of which he is just one part. The conservation districts help with the money, while WSFD designs the concepts.

"It's cool I got this award, but I wouldn't have gotten this without the partners to do this work for us. Without them, we would not be getting any of this done," Dedic noted. "It truly is a good partnership. I am just one part of a greater partnership getting projects done."



Sounds of the season

Newcastle Middle School presented its annual Christmas concerts of the NMS bands and choirs on Dec. 8, at the Crouch Auditorium. In "A Ride Down Christmas Lane," the audience enjoyed renditions of traditional Christmas tunes, as well as some new versions of old classics. The bands were conducted by Ryan Whipple, the choirs by Janelle Ellis, accompanied by Kristin Wilkes.

Above, Peyton Purviance, a member of the Eighth Grade Band, plays the clarinet during "Sleigh Ride." At left, sixth-grader Shayla Thomas on percussion. Below, Caitlyn Pehringer, Elizabeth Haynes, Jaidyn Wright, Mercedes Voelker, Lacey Johnson and Rebecca Henkle show their 'reindeer horns' while singing "Reindeer on the Roof."

Photos by Amy Menerey/NLJ



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At home on the 'Frontier'

Above, Lexie, the RENEW mascot, sports her holiday Christmas sweater as she rides in style throughout Frontier Home, Ranch and Hardware's Chamber Coffee held Thursday, Dec. 4. Below, Jim Darlington, and Bill and Vina Morris were among those who enjoyed refreshments and good conversation during the event. (Photo by Pam Penfield/NLJ)




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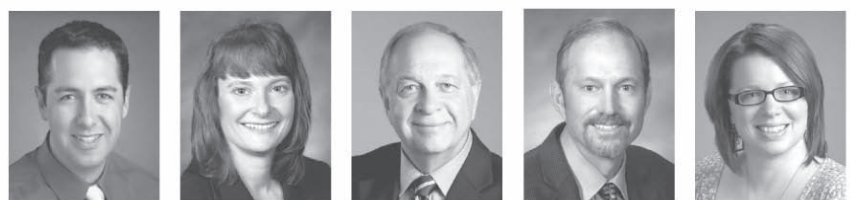
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Pediatrics	Tara Ulmer, MD (605) 644-4170	4th Thursday

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FOCUS

did just that. Howard provided an update of what FOCUS has been doing in recent months, which included the fact that they have seen more people to date this year than last. Howard reported that she currently has six board members as well as two part-time employees, and they have been successful in raising awareness in the community.

She also provided the council with an internal review of the financial situation at FOCUS that was conducted by Mark Sylte of Crowell and Sylte. This review was done to prove to the council that FOCUS has been conducting their finances in a proper manner.

"There were no substantial findings. We made a couple of additions into the process that we're using," Howard reported. "I was already providing the [FOCUS] board with a monthly report, and [Sylte] asked that the board members sign off on it, so we adopted that after the recommendation came through."

Howard explained that this was one of the recommendations that came from Sylte, and in order to comply with the city council's requests, the FOCUS Board of Directors adopted some changes to their policies and procedures.

"Mr. Sylte made it very clear this was not an audit, but is, in fact, a review of financial practices and policies. I guess you could call it a routine report," stated James.

"We had [this] in our normal budget cycle, they're budgeted for funding for FOCUS, but they had withheld that until we had some evidence that things were being handled properly financially. I've read this report through completely. There are no exceptions to what has been going on," reported James.

James spoke in reference to the money allotted for FOCUS that comes from the optional 1 percent sales tax, roughly \$6,500.

"I think it would be appropriate to have a motion to release the budgeted funds to FOCUS," James professed at Monday's meeting.

Councilman Roger Hesse made the motion to release the funds to FOCUS, with Councilman Todd Quigley seconding this motion. During discussion of the motion, Councilwoman Linda Hunt asked if funds released would be from this date forward, or if the city would be giving FOCUS funds dating back to July 1.

"We would back it up to this fiscal year," explained James. "There would be only one payment made at this point, with another one to be made the end of this quarter. We are not going back to another fiscal year."

Charita Brunner, Newcastle city clerk and treasurer, reported that the next payment will be made in January and she will just do a double payment for FOCUS to cover the full funds for the fiscal year.

After the discussion of the motion made by Hesse, all members of the council approved the motion to return the funds to FOCUS for the current fiscal year.

\$50,000 REWARD

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

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

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

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



Paid for in part by the News Letter Journal

Newcastle dancers perform in 'Nutcracker'

Alexis Shultz
NLJ Reporter

"I'm so very proud and very impressed," professed Jessica Graham, instructor at the Meadowlark Academy of Dance, when asked about the Nov. 23 performance of "The Great Russian Nutcracker" that she and her dancers participated in with the Russian Ballet in Gillette.

As previously reported, Graham had the opportunity to take seven dancers to perform in the ballet: Hannah Riley, who played a French girl and snow maiden, Naveah Hintz and Asia Graham as mice, KateLyne Sloamot, Lilly Peterson and Moriahn Kenney, who were snow maidens in the performance, and Avril Norma, who portrayed a party girl.

Graham added that she had an eighth performer audition, but he was not picked for the part due to the fact that he was too tall for the costumes, and since they are professional costumes none of them could be altered in size.

"All the kids had to be there by 11," explained Graham, explaining that was when the parents had to drop



Courtesy of Jessica Graham
Seven dancers from Meadowlark Academy in Newcastle performed at the Gillette Cam-Plex Nov. 23, where they danced in "The Great Russian Nutcracker," with the Russian Ballet.

From start to finish, the girls were backstage for eight and a half hours with a full professional stage crew and professional dancers.

"It was awesome," stated Graham, referring to the times spent with the professional crews.

Graham explained that when they arrived they had to check in all the dancers then proceed to hair and makeup. At this time they were taken inside where they were given their costumes to make sure everything fit and was right.

"I was very impressed with how they all came together," professed Graham. She said the costumes went over the girls' leotard and tights and just snapped. She explained that the girls were required to provide their own shoes, tights, and leotards, with the rest of the costume being provided.

After putting on their costumes, the girls had their hair and makeup touched up and were taken to have pictures done in their full costumes, then returned backstage to remove the costumes until the performance.

"Then they went out and did a run-through with the professionals," reported Graham.

She said the rehearsals were done part by part, and not a complete run-through of the performance. She explained that this was difficult at times, due to the accents of the professional dancers as well as the fact that dancers had to change their entrance and exit plans to adjust to the rest of the performers.

At this time the girls went back to the green room to enjoy lunch and entertain themselves before stretching for the main performance.

There was one glitch, though. "The mice were almost late getting on-stage," stated Graham, explaining that the backstage crew was wrong and almost sent the girls out too late. She reported that the girls were almost arguing with the crew, trying to explain to them that it was time for them to go on-stage, and eventually the crew opened the door just in time for the girls to enter before it was too late.

"They were very impressed with our kids," professed Graham, adding that she received specific comments from the group about things her dancers were doing well, and this made her very proud.

Headstones

from page 1

ask for it."

The graves that are missing headstones are for Neil Townsend, Harley Hollaway, Edward Craig, Logan McClough, George Shelhart, Donald Green and Donald Huss. The grave of Charles Wicker needs a name plate, and records indicate there are also three unknown soldiers at Greenwood Cemetery in Newcastle. If family members cannot be found, Beardsley would like to place a waving flag, with the name of the individual underneath, to be placed on the final resting place of the veteran.

"Warden Todd Martin at the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp has agreed to let one of the inmates weld flags," she said of the plan. "We don't know what the cost will be yet. We have made a list for materials, and we have to go order all of it."

However, donations are being sought to be able to mark the graves of those veterans whose family members cannot be found.

Additionally, they have identified the grave of a VFW Ladies Auxiliary member, Ruth Schlup, which does not have a marker. Her grave is not eligible for a headstone from the federal government,

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website, explore.va.gov, special care is given to pay lasting tribute to the memory of veterans who served and sacrificed, and that of their families. VA maintains 131 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new sites to accommodate veterans and loved ones in their time of need. In a few years, 95 percent of veterans will have a burial option located within about an hour's drive of their home, the site states.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are automatically entitled to VA burial services. Spouses and dependent children are eligible, too. The following burial services may be provided to veterans and their loved ones:

- Burial in a VA national cemetery
- Opening and closing of the grave, burial of cremated remains, or placement in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Ordering and inscription of a headstone or marker with an inscription
- Provision of a burial flag
- Award of a Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Performance of a committal service with military honors
- Transportation of flower arrangements from committal service to gravesite

Requirements include discharge papers. According to the VA, it takes about 10 minutes to establish eligibility in a VA national cemetery, and some veterans may be eligible for burial allowances or use benefits for private cemetery burials.

To find out more, call 1-800-535-1117.

but Beardsley would like to have a cross made to be placed at the grave.

Anyone who wishes to donate can send a check, identified as being for headstones, to the local VFW, or send to 2990 W. Main Street. Donations of rebar, sheets of carbon steel or two-inch pipe would also be appreciated.

Rager, who has been assisting with the project, said he is glad that someone is

looking into rectifying the situation of unmarked graves of veterans, but there are other graves also in need of headstones.

On an additional note, John Larsen, president of VFW Post 2516, stated that if community members have a loved one in the cemetery that does not get a flag placed on their grave for Memorial Day, they can let him know and that person's resting place will be added to the list.

Construction

from page 1

"What the problem was, is when they started digging out for the foundation they ran into a lot of water. What I think happened was it created a little bit of a bath tub. On the south end when they started digging into that they caught the tail end of that, so we had a lot of water that was 10 to 15 feet out from the existing building. Water was running out of the wall, which was running out of the engineered soil," Gregory explained.

Originally it appeared that water was seeping out of the wall right up next to the foundation of the existing building, creating puddles, but within two days, it was gone. A little farther to the west, he described, the same problem was occurring.

"What put my mind at ease is you come out even eight feet from that — we dug some pot holes and let it sit for a few days — there was absolutely zero water. So that told me it was coming from the existing soils. The other thing was, we just come through probably a record moisture year, and on top of that we irrigate the lawns, I could see where it would come from," he said.

Finding a remedy to properly treat the soil to build a foundation on is not new to the school district when it comes to

construction. During past construction they have also had to over-excavate four to six feet, then start out with three- to four-inch rock and pack it in for about 18 inches, then build it up with engineered soil. Sometimes a fabric called Geotech is used. Gregory said it looks similar to the orange plastic snow fence that can be seen in the Wyoming countryside. With dirt packed in it, this fabric ties the soil together, giving a good, solid permanent base to start pouring the foundation.

When discovered, the water problem led to a long meeting on Wednesday with a realm of interested parties — architects, engineers, structural engineers and the like — putting their heads together to come up with a solution. The Wyoming School Facilities Division thought they had final say on the project, however, Gregory explained that Newcastle is unique in that they keep some jurisdiction for themselves. He added that the city was more than fair, and he appreciates that they were watching out for the district. Lengthy discussions were held, but it was determined the city does have input.

"We came to the conclusion that what was done, was done right. By the end of yes-

terday, I think everyone was on the same page, and they are moving forward again to pouring the foundation and the stem walls. Then they will start hauling in dirt in there and get it compacted. Then they can start building it up from there," informed the maintenance director.

He doesn't anticipate that this issue has caused any delay in getting into the new building addition before the 2015-2016 school year, since extra time was allotted for construction in the cold winter months. So far, he noted, the winter weather has cooperated, and he hopes it will continue.

Originally they hoped to break ground on the addition in the spring, allowing them to begin using the building when school resumed after Christmas break, however with some delays on financing from the state that didn't happen until the fall.

"With the way things turned out in the new schedule, I don't see any problems with them making the deadline," Gregory stated. "As I see it right now, we will be fine, barring any more big issues. I know there will be other issues, but we will just deal with it. I think we will have a really nice building when we are done."

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DC1 Eric Ralls
USCG: Dauntless (UMEC624)
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CMR 415 Box 8507
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1LT Daniel Johnson
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APO AP 96319-0042
(Son of Randy & Mary Dixon)

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San Diego CA 92113
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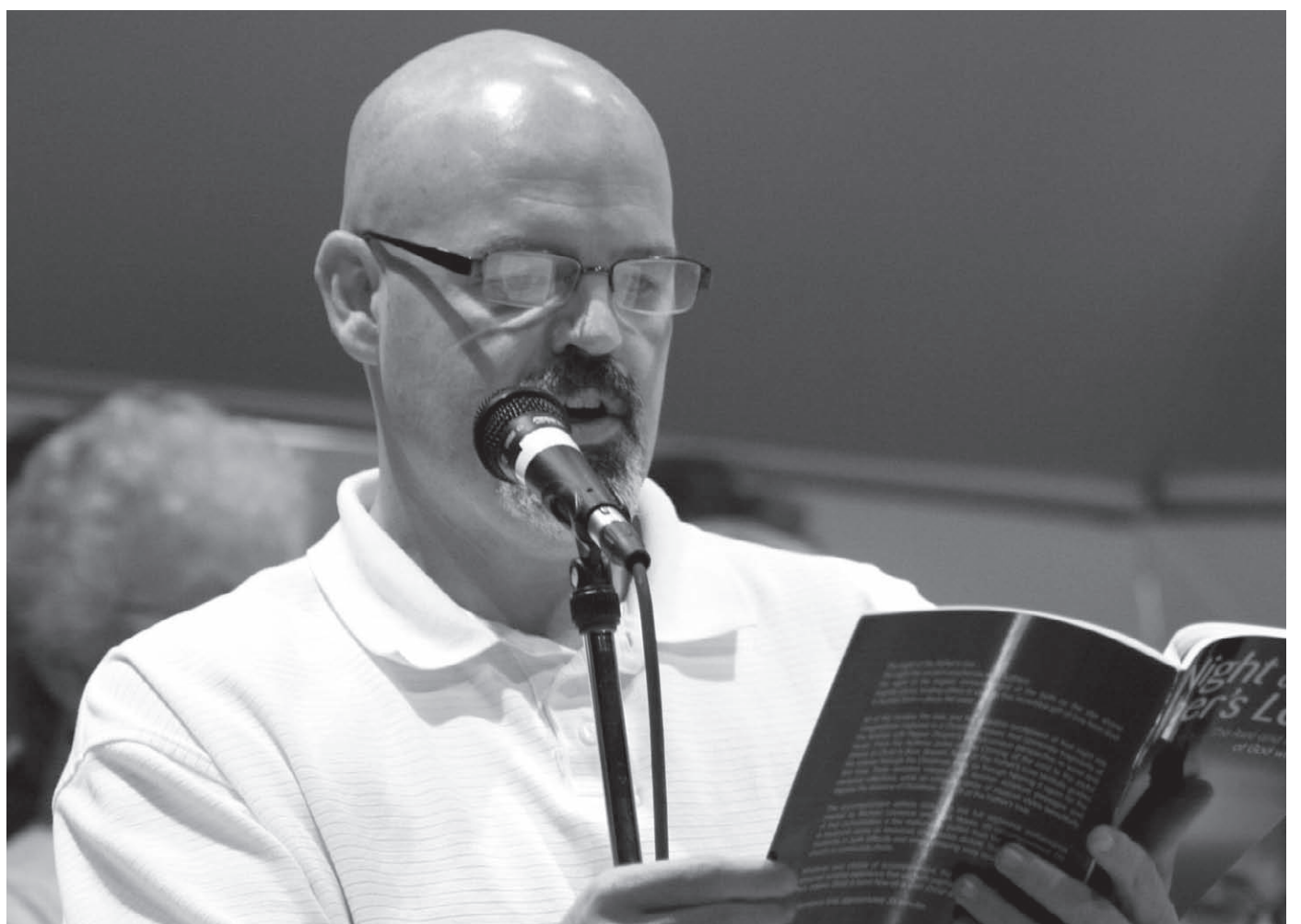

Musical celebration

The Community Cantata presented "Night of the Father's Love," Sunday afternoon at the Crouch Auditorium in Newcastle. The program, by Pepper Choplin, presented the mystery, the awe, and the excitement of that night, the night of Jesus' birth, imaginatively captured in a Christmas mosaic that included both spoken word and music. The Cantata singers were accompanied by Newcastle's bell choir, adding to an intriguing array of musical styles to express the essence of Christmas: the gift of the Father's love.

Photos by Bob Bonnar, Summer Bonnar & Stephanie Bonnar



Top of page, a group of children gather around to listen to Irene Ward tell the story "Twinkle Little Star." Above, soloist Rick Keuck. At right, Delores Sylte chimes in for the bell choir. Below, Cody Nelson narrates a story from "Night of the Father's Love: The Awe and Mystery of God With Us."





Happy retirement!

Retired District Judge Dan R. Price, Don Hansen, Marilyn Hansen, Pam Pzinski, and Carol Sylte visit at the Courthouse Retirement Party for Commissioners Lenard Seeley and Jerry Shepperson as well as Hansen, county attorney, Mamie Krank, Weston County Clerk, and Sandy Walford Clerk of District Court. (Photo by Pam Penfield/NLJ)

Challenge

awarded Chamber Bucks, but new this year individual weight loss winners will also receive monetary prizes. "By giving Chamber Bucks, it encourages business back into the community and helps make an overall positive community program while promoting a healthy lifestyle and supporting local businesses," Kim Conzelman, director of EWYC, told the News Letter Journal. She continued to say the program will run similar to last year, with the cost being \$100 per team of five. Registration can be done online through WCDSD1.org, by clicking on departments, Eastern Wyoming College Outreach, and finally a button on the side of the page for Registration for Community Education Classes. The fee can be mailed to EWC Newcastle Outreach at 116 Casper Ave.

Wilkes said that if someone wants to participate and they don't have a team, that's okay — organizers can help put together a team. Several in the last challenge participated as individuals for the support and accountability of the program. The idea behind starting the challenge in January, explained both Wilkes and Conzelman, is because that is when people are most motivated, and the 12-week time-frame will end Wednesday, April 1, before Easter, allowing people to indulge for the holiday.

Deadline for registration will be on Monday, Jan. 5, which is also the day the office will reopen after Christmas break. Hopefully, with the addition of online registration, there won't be long waiting times that first day, Conzelman noted.

"Last year we didn't anticipate the large interest and had registration and weigh-in on one night. It caused people to have to wait. So we are hoping with online registration and weigh-in starting on Wednesday, Jan. 7, it will speed up the process and accommodate

schedules," she said. For accountability, Wednesdays will remain the days for contestants to weigh-in, however, this year they will be able to do so at the Newcastle High School office from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

"My schedule is more flexible this year, so people can go in early. I hope they will take advantage of that, allowing them to get it over with and go on with their day," Wilkes commented.

As part of the New Year, New You program, there will be a fitness challenge in February using a pedometer to register number of steps taken. Daily food journaling will be the nutrition challenge in March. Conzelman added how much she appreciates the help of NHS secretaries, Laurie Farella and Diana McCormack, with the challenges and weigh-ins.

For encouragement, the nurse sends weekly emails about nutrition, health and fitness to help motivate participants. She said she will continue to add new information, as well as bring back some of the important articles and quotes from last year.

"I find inspirational quotes and pictures along with health tips. During the pedometer challenge, I find different tips on how to take extra steps, or some five-minute exercise videos to share. During March, I find healthy recipes to send," Wilkes acknowledged.

Especially toward the end of the challenge, she knows the participants could use inspiration and motivation, so she tries to send emails to support them then.

Both women hope the community will take advantage of the incentive program and hope to have more teams and contestants than last year.

"It ends on April Fool's Day. Not sure what we will pull out of our sleeves on the last weigh-in day," cautioned Conzelman with a smile.

Rankin

After making the announcement, comments came forth from others in attendance at the WCFB meeting, stating the Rankin would be missed as a member of the board.

"I would like to add to the meeting a very heartfelt thanks to you, and the support that you have given to Jeannette and I.

Make no doubt about it, we couldn't have done it without you," said Tom Streeter, Weston County Fairgrounds manager.

Zane Marty interjected that he feels Rankin has done a good job, and Marty appreciates what he has learned from the experienced board member.

Streeter made a suggestion that the board make a plan describing how things should be handled at the facility, which was readily encouraged by Rankin.

"Don't think that I am leaving. I am not going to be on this board, but I will be around for a time," Rankin concluded.



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By Maggi, Primrose Resident since December 2013

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Generations

News Letter Journal

Worms unharmed by 127 mph flight

Denice Piscioti
NLJ Reporter

Newcastle High School's science department has sent up weather balloons throughout the years, but not with the capabilities of tracking it and collecting data, as they were able to on Thursday, Dec. 4. The Wyoming National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Grant Consortium loaned the school the necessary equipment for the project.

For about three years, NHS Science instructor Jim Stith has wanted to do a weather balloon. Through a grant from the Wyoming Department of Education and the Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium, it was made possible.

Stith explained that the school has been able to put up their own weather balloons in the past, but haven't had the equipment to track them and recover them safely.

"[That's] the part we have been missing. So they loaned us the giant trunk with what we needed inside, and they came up the day of the launch and did it," reported Stith. "It was pretty awesome! I was super excited just to be able to do it."

Philip Bergmaier and Michelle Turner, members of the consortium from the University of Wyoming, came to assist in filling the weather balloon and tracking it. Many students and teachers also had the opportunity to watch as the balloon was filled and launched at 9:40 a.m.

"He said the first time around we like to come and help everyone out and make sure everything goes well, which was terribly appreciated," Stith stated.

About 600 square feet was needed to house the balloon as it was being filled, making the logical indoor space to fill it the Industrial Arts building at the school. Two helium tanks were used to fill the balloon, which was almost 10 feet across when it left the building.

"It began getting so big that when we left, Phil was almost crawling out of the shop door to get it out," he reported. "It will get 25 feet across and then burst."

Trailing the balloon was what was called the "payload" — a series of boxes that contained Shaylee Curren's science project, sensors and a Geiger counter.

Stith, Bergmaier, Turner and Curren followed the balloon in a school vehicle. The group was able to track it through a global positioning system.

"[We had] the command module, which was the GPS, and we had this sweet antenna on top of the Suburban that when we had a line of sight we could communicate [with the weather balloon] and it would tell us where it was, how high it was, how fast it was traveling. We were about Rapid City [S.D.] when it went below the horizon. Then we had to use the second ones, which the very last box was the spot GPS — little GPS units that send it to the internet, and we have to check that," informed Stith.

As they followed the balloon, it was visible up until the time the group reached the South Dakota state line. When it was in the jet stream, the balloon went about 127 miles per hour.

Tracking the balloon, even with GPS, proved to be a challenge in South Dakota, he recalled, especially on [Highway] 44, where cell phone coverage was spotty at best.

Three cameras were used to get a balloon view of what was going on, looking to the side, looking down and facing up to watch the balloon explode, however that one malfunctioned not allowing that view possible.

"The videos are really nauseating to watch, because it just spins, flipping around spinning," Stith admitted.

The balloon went up 90,000 feet with temperatures of -60 degrees. A computer program was used by entering variables to determine the approximate landing location, where it would burst and at what altitude it would be at before landing, he explained.

The balloon landed near Scenic, S.D., 120 miles away by road, near the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, less than three miles from the Badlands National Park. Stith described walking through a field to find that the parachute had deployed on a bluff with the packages arriving safely on the ground.

The launch gave Stith and his students the knowledge to be able to do one themselves. He hopes to be able to do another balloon launch in the spring involving Newcastle Elementary School students. The Wyoming NASA



Denice Piscioti/NLJ

Above, Philip Bergmaier and Michelle Turner, members of the NASA Space Grant Consortium at the University of Wyoming, help Newcastle High School science instructor Jim Stith fill a weather balloon, which they then tracked from Wyoming into South Dakota. Below, students and staff watch as they get set to release the weather balloon.

Space Grant Consortium has offered to loan the school another trunk with equipment again.

"We collected a lot of data. We got Shaylee's science experiment done. We played with Geiger counters to check out ionizing radiation, now we can go through that data," Stith reported.

Curren was the only NHS student to ride with the group tracking the balloon, and the only student who showed interest in using the balloon for her science fair project. The idea was to see what would happen to worms at a high altitude by putting them in capsules that held pressure with hand warmers.

"It was pretty cool! Basically, for my experiment I just wanted to see how it would affect the Lumbriculus — a water worm that is really good at regenerating itself — and the worms. It didn't affect them much. The actual worms got stretched out a little bit," she acknowledged.



Karp recognized for her dedication

Sonja Karp of Weston County School District #1 was named a Peabody Energy Leader in Education for the 2014-15 school year, and awarded \$1,000 at a ceremony at Newcastle High School on Dec. 2, for her dedication and commitment to students.

"It's her attention to detail and her ability to develop relationships with her students that sets Karp, a teacher at Newcastle High School, apart from other instructors. Her preparation for classes is phenomenal. She is a true leader in classroom instruction design and effective implementation of curriculum. Sonja's connection to students is authentic and deeply important to her. She has the ability to make students believe they are capable of doing more and doing things better than they might expect. Sonja is admired



Bob Bonnarr/NLJ

Phil Dinsmoor, from Peabody Energy's Gillette office, with Sonja Karp, as she receives the Peabody Leaders in Education Award on Dec. 2.

for her ability to move students to a higher plane of expectations for themselves," stated a release from Peabody. The Peabody Energy Leaders in Education program

rewards dedicated education professionals — from teachers and coaches to librarians and counselors — who inspire and motivate youth to succeed. Award recipients are selected throughout the school year by a committee of top educators and business leaders.

"We are grateful for the inspiration Sonja Karp provides to her students, and we applaud her leadership within the school community," said Greg Boyce, chairman and chief executive officer of Peabody Energy, in the release. "Ms. Karp is to be commended as an individual who excels at her profession and we are pleased to recognize her as a Peabody Energy Leader in Education."

The Leaders program was developed in Missouri in 2009, and reflects Peabody's commitment to make a positive impact

in the communities where the company's employees live and work, by honoring those who inspire students. The 2014-2015 award program is continuing to accept nominations and is open to educational professionals of public, private and independent schools in designated communities where Peabody Energy employees live and work. Nominations may be made at www.PeabodyEnergyLeadersInEducation.org.

Honorees are selected from a diverse group of educators. They can range from veteran teachers to individuals in support staff roles such as administrators, coaches or counselors. Each 2014-2015 Leader in Education will be honored at an awards gala after this school year, where one will be named Educator of the Year and awarded \$5,000.

In Brief ...

Ayres takes second

The Hastings College Bronco Forensics team finished third overall at the 2014 Out Limits Swing tournament hosted by the University of Nebraska-Kearney on Dec. 6-7. During the tournament Jess Ayres, a senior from Newcastle, placed second in Extemporaneous Speaking, and sixth in Impromptu Speaking.

The team will break for the holiday season, returning to competition in January.

Founded in 1882, Hastings College is a private, four-year liberal arts institution located in Hastings, Neb., that focuses on student academic and extracurricular achievement. Hastings College offers more than 60 majors in 32 areas of study and 13 pre-professional programs. Visit Hastings.edu for more information.

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Sports

News Letter Journal

Schedule

Wrestling				
12/18	VJ	Buffalo Bison	H	5PM
12/19	VJ	Wright Duals	A	9AM

Boys Basketball				
12/18	VJ	Sundance Bulldogs	A	4PM
12/19	VJ	State Line Shootout	A	2PM
12/20	VJ	State Line Shootout	A	10AM

Girls Basketball				
12/18	VJ	Sundance Bulldogs	A	4PM
12/19	VJ	State Line Shootout	A	2PM
12/20	VJ	State Line Shootout	A	10AM

The Score

NMS Girls 8th Grade A Team
 Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014
 Newcastle 35, Twin Spruce 14
 Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014
 Newcastle 17, Lead 13
 3A Championships Saturday, Dec 13
 Final: 3rd Place
 Newcastle 27, Torrington 26
 Newcastle 11, Buffalo 41
 Newcastle 40, Glenrock 24
 Monday, Dec. 15, 2014
 Newcastle 21, Hulett 14

NMS Girls 7th Grade A Team
 Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014
 Newcastle 28, Twin Spruce 19
 Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014
 Newcastle 18, Lead 28
 3A Championships, Dec. 13
 Newcastle 18, Buffalo 31
 Newcastle 34, Torrington 40 OT
 Monday, Dec. 15, 2014
 Newcastle 38, Hulett 0

My favorite things ...

Raindrops on roses, and whiskers on kittens ...
 I've had that song bouncing around in my head for a few weeks now, because that was our annual girls' Christmas party theme this year.

We decided last year that we would give a basket of gifts of our favorite things, and we had an entire year to compile those items.

I, of course, waited until late November to begin putting my basket together, and it turns out that it is harder than one might imagine to decide what favorite things to include.

- What do I choose when I love iPads and iPhones and cool phone cases,
- Flip flops and dresses and tropical places,
- Soft, cozy blankets and bracelets and rings.
- These are few of my favorite things.
- Keurigs and K-cups and pumpkin spice creamers,
- Lattes and frappes and Cinnabun steamers,
- Wonderful restaurants with waiters that sing,
- These are a few of my favorite things.
- 3-D mascara, eyeliner and lippy,
- Leggings and tunics that don't make me look hippy,
- Boots and leg warmers and silky linings,
- These are a few of my favorite things.
- Music and Netflix and the TV show "Castle,"
- Amazon shopping without

— See Karp, Page 20



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

Ladies hit the ground running

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

It's a long haul over the mountain and through the woods to beautiful Cody, but the Lady Dogies were anxious to make the trip last Thursday to kick off their 2014-2015 basketball season at the East West Challenge tournament.

Starting for the team this season are junior point guard Abby Gray, senior guard Scottlyn Wiggins, junior forward Alyssa Dawson, junior forward Kendra Back and senior center Bailey Karp.

The squad hit the ground running, being matched against the No. 2 Powell Lady Panthers on Friday afternoon.

Having been unable to play in the Meet the Dogies scrimmage, this was the ladies' first time competing for the year and, knowing that they were facing a formidable opponent in Powell, the nerves were pretty evident.

The Lady Dogies came out tentative while the Lady Panthers did not, and by the end of the first quarter, Newcastle found themselves in a 21 to 5 deficit.

The second quarter was very similar to the first, with Powell putting on an offensive show to finish the half with a 39-11 lead over the Dogies.

Having dug themselves a pretty big hole, the ladies had



a lot of points to make up in the second half, but Powell wasn't about to let them back in the game.

The third and fourth quarters were a little more evenly matched, with the Lady Dogies only being outscored by seven points, but Powell cruised to a big win with a final score of 61-26.

Gray led the team in scoring with seven points, followed by Wiggins with six, and Karp was the leading rebounder, snagging nine off the boards.

"Obviously the outcome wasn't what we were looking for, but I also don't think it was very indicative of how we stack up against Powell," head coach Tyler Bartlett declared. "They are an extremely talented team, but we feel like we can be much more competitive with them should we see them again. The bottom line is we had a lot of girls who were very nervous and it showed. Going forward we shouldn't have to worry about the first-game jitters,

— See Ladies, Page 20

Courtesy of Cody Enterprise
Alyssa Dawson fights for a rebound in the Lady Dogies' first win of the season over the Cody Lady Broncs, on Saturday in Cody.

All that could go wrong

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

Murphy's Law was at work against the Dogie boys' basketball team this weekend as they competed in their season opener at the East West Challenge tournament in Buffalo on Friday and Saturday.

It seemed as though everything that could go wrong did go wrong for the squad. The already small team went into the tourney a man down, as Triston Roberson was unable to play, having not participated in enough practices to be eligible to compete because of a knee injury he sustained at the end of the football season.

Leading scorer Taylor Allen sprained his ankle near the end of the first game so was not able to play in the two games on Saturday, and Dillon Ehlers' strained back that he suffered in football limited his playing time as well.

"It's disappointing when you have injuries that impact your game," head coach Allen Von Eye frowned. "We knew we were going in without Roberson, but we planned for that, and had some core kids that we really wanted to get on the floor and get them moving. So when other injuries interfere with that, the

— See Men, Page 14

Alex Shoemaker/Buffalo Bulletin
Dillon Ehlers gives it everything he has and gets two of his game-high 13 points during the Dogies' fourth quarter push against the Pinedale Wranglers in Buffalo on Saturday.



Pool will be empty for season

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Reporter

It is the season for boys' swimming, however due to a lack of numbers once again this year, Newcastle was not able to get enough swimmers to put together a team.

There were a couple of boys who expressed an interest in the program, but according to sources at the high school, that interest didn't pan out.

The program has been struggling throughout the last few years, and school officials have expressed concern about that, and are determined to put together some guidelines that might help the program get back on its feet.

In the past, if there were one or two boys who wanted to compete, Newcastle teamed up with the Buffalo swim program to give them that opportunity.

There are no hard and fast rules about the number of swimmers necessary to make up a team, like there is in other sports, but the school would like to see at least four members so the Dogies can put together a relay squad.

According to Newcastle High School Principal Tracy Ragland, a proposal is being put together to be presented to the school board that offers a plan for going forward with establishing guidelines and criteria for the sport, in order to try to bring the program back around.

For now, though, the pool will remain empty without a boys' swim team.

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Planning Board	2 Positions	3 Yr. Term
Recreation (Mallo) Board	2 Positions	4 Yr. Term
Solid Waste District (Osage Dump)	3 Positions	4 Yr. Term
Fair Board	1 Position	5 Yr. Term
Historic Preservation Board	2 Positions	3 Yr. Term
<i>Unexpired Term. Expires 2017</i>		
Predatory Animal Control Board	2 Positions	3 Yr. Term
<i>1 Sportsman, 1 Public Representative</i>		
Weed & Pest Board	3 Positions	4 Yr. Term

Anyone wishing to submit an application for any of the above positions may contact the Weston County Clerk's Office, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Anyone wishing to apply may submit a written letter of interest. Letters need to be received by 4:30 a.m. on January 5, 2015. Weed and Pest Applicants need to contact the Weed & Pest office for qualifications. This matter will be considered by the Board of Commissioners on January 6, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.

Weston County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicapped status in employment or the provision of services.

Wrestlers learning from mistakes

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Reporter

The combined Newcastle/Upton grapplers opened their 2014-2015 season with a busy weekend traveling to Belle Fourche for a triangular on Thursday and to the Lusk Invitational tournament on Friday and Saturday.

The first team that the squad took on was the Belle Fourche Broncs, and according to head coach Lee McCoy, the team was pretty rusty.

"We were making a lot of mental mistakes, like locking our hands and committing false starts," admitted McCoy.

Those mistakes ultimately led to a Dogie/Bobcat team loss, 16-54.

Though the team didn't come out on top, there were some individual winners. Ricky Larson and Wyatt Corley each won their matches with a pin, and Trayton Dawson won his match by decision, 17-4.

Open forfeit losses in four of the weight classes didn't help the team's overall finish as well.

The match-up against Custer

went better for the home team, as they claimed the victory over the Wildcats, 36-33.

Seven of the 10 wrestlers won their matches, including Dawson, Donovan Prell, Dennon Parks and Corley winning by pin, Bryson Tidyman and Larson winning by decision, and Bryce Womack winning by forfeit.

Despite forfeit losses in four weight classes once again, the team held on for the win.

"I was really happy with our shape for this early in the season, and I think that was the difference in the dual against Custer," reasoned McCoy. "Against Belle Fourche, we were just not sharp. We let them bring the attacks and we weren't putting moves together. When competing against talented kids, you cannot stop wrestling — and you have to be one move ahead of the other guy, but we just weren't getting that done," he admitted.

McCoy went on to say that he would like to see Belle Fourche later on in the season, as he believes that the outcome of the match would be different.

Coming off a one and one

The Stats

Newcastle vs. Belle Fourche 12-11: L 16-54
106: Trayton Dawson W 17-4
113: Donovan Prell L pin
120: Bryson Tidyman L pin
126: Dennon Parks L pin
132: Zach Schuessler L pin
138: Ricky Larson W pin
145: Bradon Rushton L pin
152: Wyatt Corley: W pin
160: L Forfeit
170: Nick Bock L pin
182: L Forfeit
195: L Double forfeit
220: L Double forfeit
285: Bryce Womack L pin

Newcastle vs. Custer 12-11: W 36-33
106: Trayton Dawson W pin
113: Donovan Prell W pin
120: Bryson Tidyman W 8-6
126: Dennon Parks W pin
132: Zach Schuessler L 3-6
138: Ricky Larson W 10-7
145: Bradon Rushton L pin
152: Wyatt Corley: W pin
160: L Forfeit
170: Nick Bock L pin
182: L Double Forfeit
195: L Forfeit
220: L Forfeit
285: Bryce Womack W forfeit

Lusk Invite 12-12 & 12-13: 2nd Place
106: Trayton Dawson second place
113: Donovan Prell first place
120: Dennon Parks third place
138: Ricky Larson first place
145: Bradon Rushton first place
152: Wyatt Corley second place
285: Bryce Womack second place

finish on Thursday, the team headed south to Lusk the next two days to compete in the Lusk Invitational.

As a team, the Dogie/Bobcat wrestlers had a good showing, placing second behind Moorcroft.

Individually, the team placed seven out of the 12 kids. Champions included Prell at 113 pounds, Larson at 138 and Bradon Rushton at 145. Runners up were Dawson at 106 pounds, Corley at 152 and Womack at 285. Parks rounded out the team finishers, placing third at 120.

"Overall, I'm pleased with how we wrestled this week. I was impressed with the fact that we were battling in every match. We had some matches where our young kids were up against some salty veterans, and we were bringing the attacks," McCoy smiled.

The Newcastle/Upton team hopes to carry over their success as they face off against Buffalo in a dual in Upton, beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, and then the team travels to Wright for a dual beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Men from page 13.....



Allex Shoemaker/Bufalo Bulletin

Cooper Karp goes up for two of his 12 points in the team's hard-fought loss against the Pinedale Wranglers Saturday at the East West Challenge tournament in Buffalo.

game changes in a hurry," he added.

Because of the injuries to Allen and Ehlers, there were some younger players who were thrown into the mix a little earlier than anyone expected, but according to Von Eye, they rose to the challenge and did what they needed to while gaining some very good experience early on in the season.

The initial match-up in the tournament pitted the Dogies against the No. 2 Powell Panthers, who lived up to their ranking as a powerhouse.

"Against Powell we just came out flat and a little scared," Von Eye admitted.

The Panthers like to push the ball and take advantage of the transition game, and though the Dogies were aware of their opponent's preferred style of playing, the team's defense wasn't where it needed to be to slow down Powell's offensive onslaught.

The team struggled to score, especially in the first half, and went into the locker room with a significant deficit on the scoreboard.

After taking a little time to breathe, the team looked better in the second half.

"We started coming into our own, especially late in the third," Von Eye stated. "Then in the fourth quarter we started doing what we needed to do and finally started to play some good defense, especially in the half court."

The Dogies outscored the Panthers in the fourth quarter and were feeling pretty good about their performance, but then two injuries changed the course of the next day's game strategy.

Allen, who led the team in scoring with 23 points against Powell, suffered a significant ankle sprain with seconds to go in the game, that put him on the bench for the remainder of the tournament, and Ehlers went down taking a charge during the second quarter, aggravating a back strain that he had sustained during the football season.

"Dillon was gutting it out as hard as he could during the game, but he just couldn't move very well after taking the charge," acknowledged Von Eye.

Though putting up a much better effort in the second half, the team couldn't overcome the Panthers' lead and dropped the game, 43-70.

Behind Allen in scoring were Ehlers with eight points, with Cooper Karp and Cam Quigley adding five points each.

On Saturday morning, the Dogies went

up against the Pinedale Wranglers without Allen. Given the significant offensive presence he provides, the team struggled to score.

"We had some good looks, but just couldn't get a bucket," Von Eye commented. "Defensively, Pinedale does a good job, too. They beat and belt and really stop penetration pretty well, but we were still able to get some good looks — we just could not finish."

In the first quarter, they were down 17 to zero until freshman Quigley, who got the nod to start the game in Allen's place, put an end to the scoring drought with the first two points of the game to close out the quarter with a score of 2-17.

The Dogies started to come around in the second quarter, finishing the half much better than they had started it.

Once again, the fourth quarter was when the boys started to shine and play the type of game they are looking to play.

"We made a great run at them in the fourth quarter and started playing some really good basketball," grinned Von Eye. "We had some guys who really stepped up."

Quigley had some huge plays in the fourth, and Karp had some big plays as well.

"Cooper started playing very aggressively and had some huge offensive boards and just some good offensive touches for buckets. Dillon got some steals, Colton Sweet had some huge offensive rebounds for us that kept us alive and put some points on the board, but we just ran out of gas," Von Eye explained.

The men were able to cut the 20-point deficit to three late in the game, but just didn't have the legs to overcome the Wranglers, and fell short, losing 42-50.

Leading scorers were Ehlers with 13, Karp with 12 and Quigley with nine.

In the final game of the tournament, the Dogies took on the Jackson Broncs. Following the disappointment of the Pinedale game, the boys struggled to match the intensity they played with during the previous fourth quarter.

"In the first quarter, we played some great basketball. Defensively, we were doing some really good things, especially in the half court and we were patient and doing good things on offense as well," stated Von Eye.

In the second quarter, the team seemed to sit back a little and relax, according to Von Eye. The Broncs hit a couple of big shots that put the team back on their heels a little

The Stats

Newcastle vs. Powell: 43-70
Dillon Ehlers: 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals
Colton Sweet: 4 rebounds, 4 assists
Taylor Allen: 23 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals
Alec Walker: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist
Cooper Karp: 5 points, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 1 block
Cam Quigley: 5 points, 4 rebounds
Dawson Norton: 1 rebound, 1 assist 2 steals
Kaulien Sundstrom: 1 rebound

Newcastle vs. Pinedale: 42-50
Dillon Ehlers: 13 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
Colton Sweet: 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals
Alec Walker: 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal
Cooper Karp: 12 points, 5 rebounds
Cam Quigley: 9 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals
Dawson Norton: 4 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal
Vincent Oedeekoven: 1 point, 1 rebound, 1 steal

Newcastle vs. Jackson: 25-55
Dillon Ehlers: 4 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal
Colton Sweet: 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal
Alec Walker: 2 rebounds, 1 steal
Cooper Karp: 2 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal
Cam Quigley: 11 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals
Dawson Norton: 3 points, 4 rebounds
Vincent Oedeekoven: 3 points, 1 rebound
Alec Martinez: 2 points

bit, and those shots appeared to have a bit of a demoralizing effect on the men.

The close game that the Dogies had been in during the first quarter started to get away from them and they found themselves down heading into the half.

Unfortunately, the squad was unable to turn the game around in the second half as they had done in the previous two games, and ended up falling to the Broncs by a score of 25-55.

"I tell the kids every single year that the third game of the tournament is my favorite one, because that's when we see where we are at this point in the season. Both teams are tired, so it is in this game that we start to see mental fortitude — and it's really all about guts," Von Eye noted.

Leading the Dogies in scoring in this final match-up were Quigley with 11 and Ehlers with four.

Given the many circumstances that the team was faced with during the course of the tournament, the coaches got a chance to see what some of the younger players are capable of contributing.

"Cam Quigley stepped up in the tournament and played some fabulous basketball," Von Eye exclaimed. "He showed that as a freshman, the Varsity game wasn't too big for him offensively and defensively," he added.

Von Eye noted that Quigley was the team's leading rebounder, despite the fact that he lacks the height of other players on the court.

Ehlers was also a major contributor, despite the fact that he was playing through a great deal of pain for most of the tournament.

"We also had some bench guys that really stepped up. Dawson Norton took a charge in every single game, and that's huge because it's a momentum changer that can really turn things around in a close game," Von Eye expressed.

The season is still very young, and the coaches know the areas that need improvement.

"We need to be more disciplined and make sure that we are taking care of the little things. Defensively, we have got to improve our intensity and consistency, so we will keep working on that," stated Von Eye.

The Dogies will get a chance to work on those things as they compete in another tournament this weekend where they will take on Sundance, Belle Fourche and Lead-Deadwood in the Stateline Shootout this Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 18-20.

According to the coaches, there will be some tough competition, but they are looking forward to seeing what the team will do with the addition of Roberson to the roster on Friday and Saturday, and are hopeful that Ehlers and Allen will be in a better physical condition to offer their full talents to the team as well.

Dogie Band



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Back row from left: Robert Harbarger, Abygail Bock, Alex Henkle, Layne Crisman, Connor Peterson, Paul Lambert. Second row: Adam Armstrong, Lyle Whitney, Nolan Behnke, Kaitlyn Schalesky, Megan Logan, Cameron Quigley, Band Director Ryan Whipple. Third row: Shalee Douglas, Rosemarie McMahon, Glory Bateman, Haley Barker, Jae Whitney, Nathaniel Behnke. Front row: Kaitlyn DeFord, Charlotte Ballieu, Tava Rose, Lovell Prell, Alexis Krogman, Kinlee Whitney. Not pictured: Aspen Checketts



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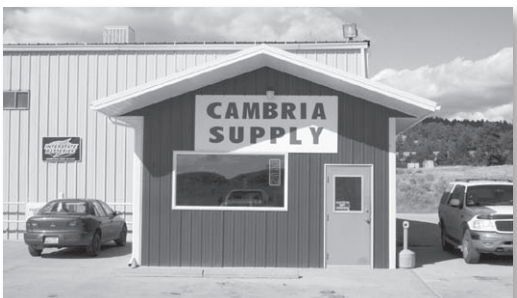
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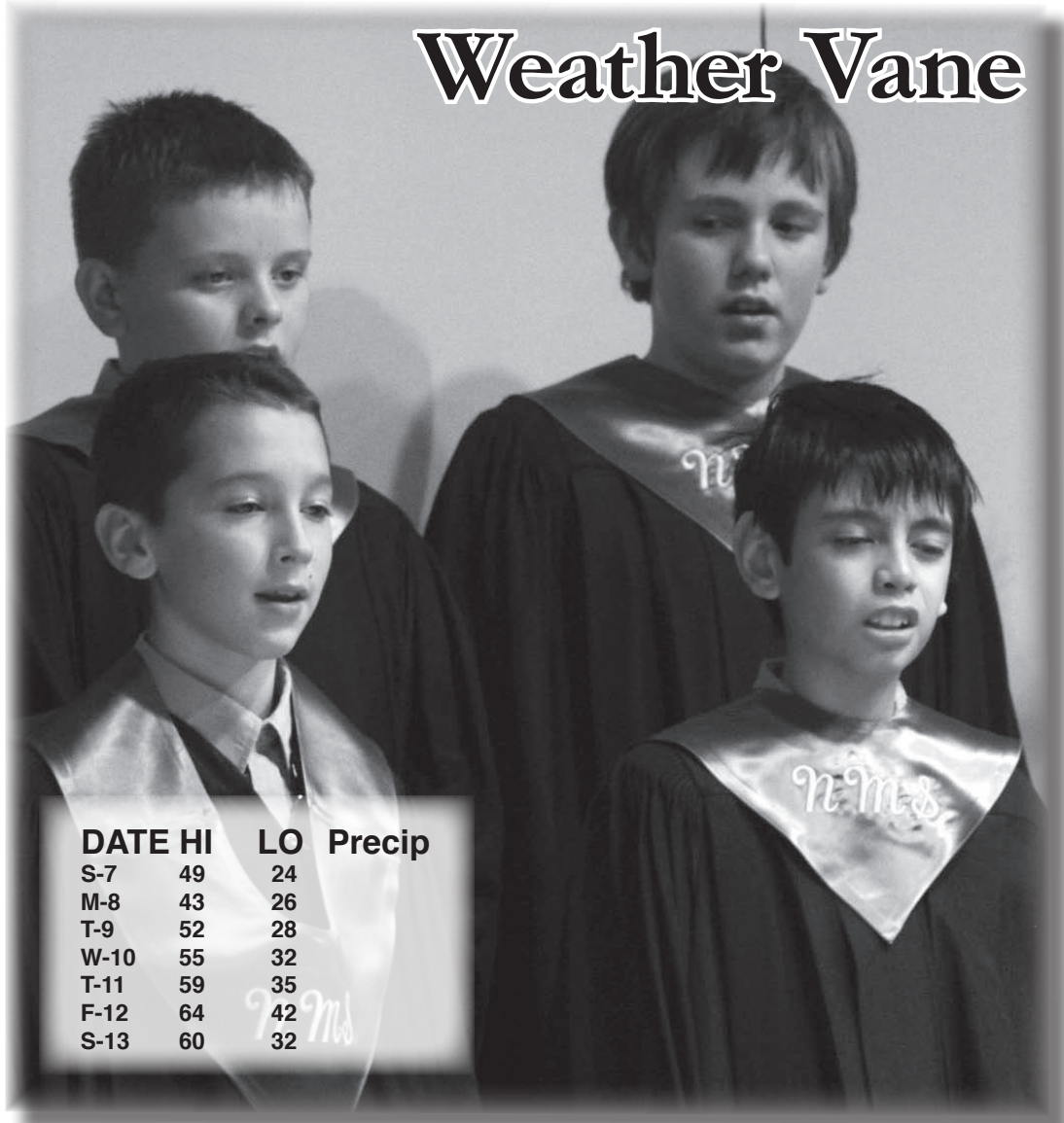
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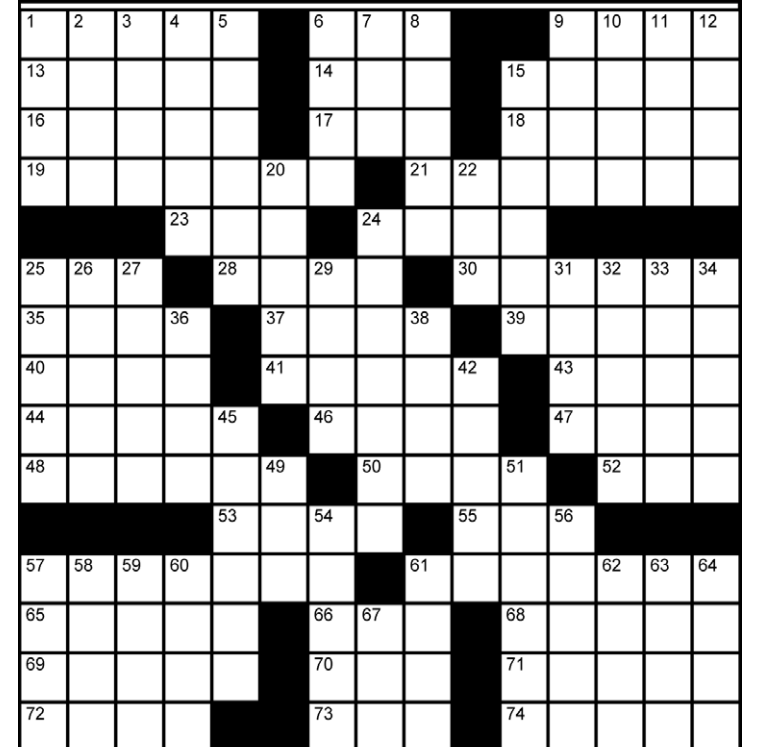
ACROSS

- French pancake
- Trig function
- *The steam ____ motive drove Western growth
- Flotsam and jetsam alternative
- Earned at Kellogg School of Management
- In any degree at all, archaic
- Discrimination against elderly people
- Black gold
- Traction aid
- *Spaghetti _____
- *Precursor to cowboy
- Type of tree
- Cough syrup balsam
- Contrary conjunction
- Heracles' wife
- Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g.
- "Put a lid ____!"
- Russian mountain chain
- Lorry in America
- Capital of Norway
- Special Administrative Region of China
- Tubular pasta
- Rock bottom
- *____ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent
- Norse deity and husband of Frigg
- Shoe hole
- Audio bounce-back
- Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
- Frequenter
- ____ de Triomphe
- *Type of Wild West wagon
- Metallurgy factory
- Run off to wed
- Female sheep
- "____ two shoes"
- RAF member
- Spring mo.
- Plural of ostium
- A chronic drinker, pl.
- *Billy the Kid's was less than 20 when killing his first
- Lofty homes

DOWN

- Bird weapon
- Angry display
- Shining armor
- Fusilli, e.g.
- Catch in a net
- Ke\$ha's 2012 hit
- ____-Wan
- Artillery burst
- Beauty or babe
- Curved molding
- Blacken
- Football great ____ Graham
- *Jury did it to Wild Bill Hickock after famous gunfight
- Watery discharge from eyes or nose
- Priestly garb
- *She often worked in one room in Old West
- *The Wilderness Road trail-blazer
- "Take it back!"
- Found over "n" in Spanish
- Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
- Rice-like pasta
- *Sacagawea, e.g.
- To ____ a play
- *They were often traded
- Work hard
- Nonclerical
- Early Irish alphabet
- Bemoan
- Triple ____ loop in skating

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Last week's answers

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Blotter

December 7, 2014
 Traffic hazard reported. Drunk driver reported, one arrest. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Welfare check requested. Ministerial assistance requested. Assault reported, one arrest. Missing dog reported. 911 hang up.

December 8
 Traffic stop, Citation issued. Assist other agency. Traffic hazard reported. Suspicious activity reported. Extra patrol requested. Assist other agency. 911 hang up. Motorist assist. Phone fraud reported. Assist other agency. Barking dog complaint. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Motorist assist. Welfare check requested.

December 9
 School walk through. 911 hang up. Phone scam reported. Suspicious activity reported. Ministerial assistance requested. VIN inspection requested. Found property reported. Domestic reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. 911 hang up. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued.

December 10
 Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Assist other agency. Arrest Warrant issued. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Arrest Warrant issued.

December 11
 Civil problem reported. Civil problem reported. Parking complaint. Assist other agency. Drugs found. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Drunk driver reported. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Equipment



Repair Order issued. Traffic stop, Equipment Repair Order issued. Message delivery requested. Traffic stop, DUI arrest.

December 12
 Civil problem reported. Assault reported. Assault reported. VIN inspection requested. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Barking dog complaint. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Written Warning issued. Motorist

assist. Parking complaint. Traffic stop, Citation issued. Report of a dog at large. Traffic stop, Verbal Warning issued. Welfare check requested. Theft reported. Report of a dog at large.

December 13
 Suspicious activity reported. Noise complaint. Suspicious activity reported. Traffic stop, Citation issued. 911 hang up. Domestic problem reported. Suspicious activity reported. Residential alarm reported.

Public Notice

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT PURSUANT TO W.S. § 16-6-116 (LexisNexis 2014)

To all persons, firms or corporations who have any claims for work done for or any materials furnished to: Howard White Construction, P.O. Box 373, 901 3rd Avenue, Upton, WY 82730

Public Works Project: Kitty Moats Project for Osage Improvement and Service District -project located in Osage, Wyoming.

Notice is hereby given that the Osage Improvement and Service District, a Wyoming special improvement district, has accepted the work as substantially completed according to the plans, terms, specifications, contingencies and rules set forth between the Osage Improvement and Service District and Howard White Construction in their contract for the Kitty Moats Project.

On the 7th day of January, 2015, being the forty-first day after the first publication of this Notice, the Osage Improvement and Service District will pay to Howard White Construction, the full amount due under said contract; and in the event that your claim is not properly filed with the Osage Improvement and Service District prior to that date, the same shall be forever waived.

This notice is given by the pursuant to W.S. § 16-6-116 (LexisNexis 2014), which provides:

§ 16-6-116. Final settlement with and payment to contractor; required notices.

When any public work is let by contract the commission, board or person under whose direction or supervision the work is being carried on and conducted and upon whose approval intermediate and final estimates are paid for the construction of the work, forty (40) days before the final estimate is paid, shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, published nearest the point at which the work is being carried on, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and also to post in three (3) conspicuous places on the work, a notice setting forth in substance, that the commission, board or person has accepted the work as completed according to the plans and specifications and rules set forth in the contract between the commission, board or person and the contractor, and that the contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore. The notice shall also set forth that upon the 41st day (and the notice shall specify the exact date) after the first publication of the notice the commission, board or person under whose direction or supervision the work has been carried on will pay to the contractor the full amount due under the contract. This section does not relieve the contractor and the sureties on his bond from any claims for work or labor done or materials or supplies furnished in the execution of the contract.

Dated the 27th of November, 2014

Osage Improvement and Service District
 Osage, Wyoming
 Joseph R. Wood, Jr., Chairperson
 Osage Improvement and Service District

(Publish: December 4, 11 and 18, 2014)

Public Notice

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

Civil Action No. 1573
MIRANDA WATKINS
DECEDENT'S WRONGFUL DEATH REPRESENTATIVE,
 Petitioner.

NOTICE OF ACTION TO APPOINTMENT WRONGFUL DEATH REPRESENTATIVE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to W.S. §1-38-105 that an action to appoint a wrongful death representative has been instituted in the Sixth Judicial District Court, Weston County, by Miranda Watkins for minor child KAK born in 1996. Any person claiming to qualify as personal representative under W.S. §1-38-104(a) may intervene as a matter of right, by notifying the Weston County District Court.

DATED this 10th day of December, 2014.

Bobbi Overfield WSB #6-3631
 Messenger and Overfield, P.C.
 P.O. Box 111
 Thermopolis, WY 82443
 (307) 864-5541

(Publish December 18 and 25, 2014 and January 1, 2015)

Budget Notice

NOTICE OF BUDGET AMENDMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Weston County Commissioners proposes to amend the county budget for the fiscal year 2015 in the following particulars:

Increase the General Fund portion of the budget because of unanticipated revenue for the HAABS-HAER survey of Toomey's Mill, in the amount of \$9,195.00, the local portion of the grant totals \$1,895.00, to be taken out of the financial administration expenditure account.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that these matters will be considered and acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners at their meeting on January 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

DATED this 5th day of December, 2014.

Board of County Commissioners
 Weston County, Wyoming

(Publish December 18, 2014)

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Classifieds

news letter journal

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We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your help, support, hugs, phone calls, cards, plants, donations, prayers and the wonderful dinner at Kitty Moats. We greatly appreciate everything you all have done for all of us through this difficult time.
Sincerely,
The Family of Joe Wood Sr.

it's living in Newcastle, where simple acts of kindness every day are what makes this a great community and the best place to live!
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Anonymous Recipient

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TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting on Tues. at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church upstairs. Contact Joyce Brown 746-3696.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meeting every Thurs. morning at the Weston County Senior Center. Contact Ellen Butts, 746-4251.

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Weston County Senior Center

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Ladies from page 13.....

and as we continue to improve, our confidence should increase as well," he predicted.

With the first game out of the way, the Lady Dogies looked a little better on Saturday as they took on the Cody Lady Broncs in the first match-up of the day.

Offensively, the squad was noticeably looser, getting up more shots and putting more points on the scoreboard.

By the end of the first half they had scored nearly as many points as they had in the entire game the previous day as they headed into the locker room, up 20-17.

The second half was also solid for the ladies as they continued to average about 10 points per quarter to take their first victory of the season with a final score of 38-29.

Dawson showed off her athleticism, picking up her first double-double of the season, leading the team with 13 points and 11 rebounds and picking up three steals and one block.

Gray was second in scoring once again adding seven points to her team's score as well as grabbing four steals of her own.

"This wasn't a perfect game by any means, but I do think this was as close to a complete game as we had over the weekend," Bartlett explained. "We were playing a road game a long way from home and were coming off of a pretty big defeat. The girls showed a lot of character playing the way they did."

"We held Cody to 29 points while doing a few different things defensively, and we took a little better care of the basketball. Overall we did a better job of accomplishing what we need to in order to be successful this season."



Sonja Karp/NLJ

Scottlyn Wiggins takes a Cody Lady Bronc to the basket for an old-fashioned 3-point play in the team's win on Saturday, at the East West Challenge tournament in Cody.

The second game of the day, and the third of the tournament, pitted the Lady Dogies against the Lady Wranglers of Pinedale.

"The third game in two days can be tough sometimes, and it certainly was for us," Bartlett admitted. "We simply weren't in the kind of shape we needed to be and it showed in this game. Our legs were heavy and we were moving slow on both ends of the floor."

The fatigue was more evident on the defensive end of the court in the first quarter as the team allowed their opponent to outscore them, 12-10.

The squad fell off offensively in the second quarter as well and went into half-time down, 18-24.

The second half was a different story, however, as the ladies found their inside presence feeding Bailey Karp who, though scoreless in the first half, picked up six quick points early in the third quarter to tie the game.

That offensive run gave the team a needed confidence boost, and they were able to hold onto the lead to take the win, 46-42.

Karp led a very balanced team effort with 12 points, seven rebounds, two steals and one block. Gray contributed 10 points, seven rebounds, four assists and two steals, while Dawson added seven points, eight rebounds and one steal.

"This game became a little more of a grind than maybe it should have been, but that really turned out to be a positive for us," Bartlett stated. "We had to find a way to scratch and claw our way back into a game, and got experience playing late in a tight game. We didn't maybe play the way we wanted to, but there were also a lot of bright spots and learning experiences to build on."

With the victory, the squad wrapped up the first tournament with an early season record of two wins and one loss.

Bartlett concluded that though the team got off to a rocky start on Friday, he was pleased overall with the team's performance over the weekend.

"We started to take better care of the basketball as the

The Stats

<p>Newcastle v. Powell: 26-61 Alyssa Dawson: 4 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals Scottlyn Wiggins: 6 points, 6 rebounds, Kendra Back: 2 points, 3 rebounds, Abby Gray: 7 points, 4 points, 3 assists, 1 steal Bailey Karp: 1 point, 9 rebounds Abi Devereaux: 2 points, 1 assist Rachel Henkle: 1 point, 1 rebound Kaprina Jones: 2 points, 2 rebounds Aspen Checketts: 1 point</p>
<p>Newcastle v. Cody: 38-29 Alyssa Dawson: 13 points, 11 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 block Scottlyn Wiggins: 5 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal Kendra Back: 4 points, 4 rebounds Abby Gray: 7 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals Bailey Karp: 2 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals Abi Devereaux: 7 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal Rachel Henkle: 2 rebounds, 1 steal Kaprina Jones: 1 rebound, 1 steal</p>
<p>Newcastle v. Pinedale: 46-42 Alyssa Dawson: 7 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal Scottlyn Wiggins: 3 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals Kendra Back: 5 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist Abby Gray: 10 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals Bailey Karp: 12 points, 7 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block Abi Devereaux: 4 points, 3 rebounds Rachel Henkle: 3 rebounds Kaprina Jones: 2 points, 1 rebound Rachel Ehlers: 1 point Alyssa Umphlett: 2 points</p>

games went on, and there were times when we really showed what we want to do offensively and defensively. We've got a long way to go, but thankfully we have a few months to get there," Bartlett smiled.

The team will get back to practice this week to work on some of their weaknesses as they prepare for some tough games this coming weekend at the Stateline Shootout.

"Sundance is probably adjusting a little bit since they've lost a few seniors, including all-state point guard Kacie O'Connor," Bartlett explained. "However, Lead-Deadwood brings back a ton of talent and will be a very formidable opponent, and Belle Fourche has had our number each of the past two years. Hopefully we can change that trend in Belle on Saturday," he smiled.

The Varsity and JV squads will tip off the tournament in Sundance at 5:30 on Thursday, Dec. 18, and will travel to Belle Fourche on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19 and 20 to take on Belle Fourche and Lead-Deadwood.

Karp from page 13.....

department-store hassle,

Trivia Crack because a challenge it brings,

These are a few of my favorite things.

Mountains and beaches and rain while I'm sleeping,

Old dogs and kittens and baby chicks peeping,

Great food and great friends and family outings,

These are a few of my favorite things ...

With all of these and more in mind, I ultimately went with a soft, cozy blanket, bracelets, a soft scarf, coffee, Smokehouse Almonds, garlic salt and a bottle of chardonnay. This is perhaps an odd com-

bination, but it is very much a reflection of me.

The gift exchange was a huge success, with all of my friends putting together fabulous gifts of their favorite items, and we discovered something quite interesting — the baskets were pretty similar. Turns out we like many of the same things, which I guess shouldn't be all that surprising given that we are friends who spend a lot of time together!

We will definitely be using this gift idea again, and if I could just figure out how to include a tropical beach in my basket, I think I'd have the best gift ever!

Art Show OPENING

PAINTINGS BY Donna Gochanour
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Amy Menercy

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