



# News Letter Journal

Weston County

December 26, 2013

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 127 Week 52

### 2013 Headlines:

- Council makes play for cleanup
- School bus driver arrested
- More cops, more calls
- Driver facing federal charges
- Kitty round-up to begin
- Hospital EMR one step closer
- Project will make walkways safer
- New landfill rates on the way
- Locking the doors (schools)
- Changes to Postal Service ...
- Clearer definition of mobile home
- Trustees sound off on hazing
- War wages on (beetles)
- New deposit on past-due accounts
- Forest Service moving in with BLM
- What is 'proficient'?
- Beware of scammers
- Sheriff wants a dog on force
- Landfill issues not going away
- Drug bust: Two women charged ...
- Grand Old Party getting younger
- County keeps adding to labor force
- Referendum: Senate File 104
- City takes notice of 911 services
- Million bucks: OISD a step away ...
- Rates suggested for landfill
- Counterfeits hit local bank
- Another bus stop questioned
- District coffers will be smaller
- Pushing for preparedness
- Runway project nears completion
- Program verifies insurance status
- Dogie ousted by UW fair director
- Deadline to sign looms (SF104)
- Community calls for local control
- Wyoming rated No. 1 in suicides
- Creating successful students
- WCHS ready to go live
- Improvements include zone change
- Weather spotters needed
- Wyoming Club begins build
- Local gravel in short supply
- Road project to cost 19 mil
- A trio of triceratops [discovered]
- Train horn project ready and waiting
- Next stop: Miss America
- State seeks info on event center
- RER's plan approved
- Clinic being sold
- No arrest in Coffee case
- Plea agreement in RX case
- No dollars for drug dog
- Escape alerts streamlined
- Fire put out quickly
- Booze sale hours extended
- Repairs begin: Hwy 16 Bypass
- Pipeline saves county valuation
- No contest for rodeo queen
- Cat wrangling eating up CSO's time
- Combined effort needed to maintain dispatch center
- School numbers are down
- County likely to create new position
- Event center still under discussion
- Education committee to meet here
- WCSD#1 ahead of state PAWS slump
- Last leg of train crossing work
- County fair board still simmering
- FOCUS goes dark
- Wyoming insurance commissioner comes to Newcastle
- District set to pay more
- NHS Hall of Fame inductees
- Cedar Hills joins Regional Health
- City pulls funding for FOCUS
- Suicide rates up
- Public will weigh in on Industrial Park roads
- Fair Board fireworks result in resignation
- Council votes to fix water facility
- Job requirements not clear: County project manager
- CEO credits first year a success
- Newcastle raises utility deposit
- FOCUS hopes to rally
- Museums seeking assistance
- Suicide comes to fore
- Winter blows in early
- WIC, DFS still open (government shutdown)
- Perkins offers 'something to do'
- Suicide: Two self-inflicted deaths confirmed
- Atlas hits ranchers the hardest
- Data grab concerns board
- Taking flight made easier
- Red Onion needs new home
- Leaders prepped on 'new' math
- City cracks down on unlicensed dogs
- Trash talk: Regional landfill under discussion
- Still no gravel
- Water crane may gain reprieve
- Grade school misses AYP
- Suicide subject of book discussion at Newcastle Middle School
- Disposal of medicine made easier
- Prairie dogs under debate
- County supports Rare Earth City, county hold off funding FOCUS
- Red Onion receives extension
- Crash claims life
- Winning the war (pine beetles)
- Plans for NES addition nearing completion
- Barritt joins Red Onion staff
- City keeps crane, raises price
- FOCUS Board members quit, blame newspaper
- Public weighs in on critters
- City a victim of identity theft
- County pens anti-ferret letter to feds
- Report details tax revenue decline
- DFS building construction questioned
- WCHS favors Medicaid expansion
- Dispatch center faces hurdles
- BHP's Osage plant will come down

## County made national news

When looking back on the year and the stories reported by Weston County's news source, the News Letter Journal, several issues have gained prominence in addition to the day-to-day happenings of the community's schools,

government, progress, mishaps and achievements. Many of NLJ's stories have focused on ongoing issues from the previous year(s), such as the saga of the Weston County Event Center, the "round-up" of feral cats in Newcastle, and the process —

and final achievement — of quieting the trains that run up and down the tracks each day, moving valuable resources into and out of our community.

There were, however, a few stories that gained attention and put our small northeast

Wyoming community and some of its residents into the national spotlight — for better or worse.

Here, in our 2013 Year in Review issue, we summarize those events before looking ahead to a new year of serving up the stories about our commu-

nity that make you laugh or cry, offer hope or irritation, inspire action, celebrate achievements or point out shortcomings. In essence, those things that make up everyday life in Weston County — the good, the bad and the ugly. Here's a look back.



## Three, then four

The official state dinosaur of Wyoming is the triceratops, so it should come as no surprise that many of the creatures bones have been found in the Cowboy State. This year, though, marked what has been touted as the discovery of the most complete set of triceratops bones found in one site — in Weston County.

Donley Darnell and his wife Nancy are the third generation to run D&W Livestock in Weston County. Nancy's grandfather bought the ranch in 1947 and Donley and Nancy moved there when they were married in 1971, according to Farm Aid.org. The prairies and grasslands they inhabit south of Newcastle has provided the Darnells with room for their cattle to graze and proliferate, but it has also provided something more — dinosaur bones. And those dinosaur bones have made history.

Donley Darnell knew the area held ancient treasures. Dinosaur bones had been found there in the early 1900s, and the rancher himself had previously found fossils. But when

— See **Triceratops**, Page 12

## Remark brought outrage from both left & right

Hunt responded by telling Fulbright that if she is uncomfortable with the culture of Wyoming she is more than welcome to leave the state.

"I'll be blunt. If you don't like the political atmosphere of Wyoming, then by all means, leave," Hunt's response began, before stating his position on fracking, offering that dangers of the practice have not been scientifically founded or proven.

"It offends me to no end when liberal out-of-staters such as yourself move into Wyoming, trying to get away from where they came from, and then pompously demand that Wyoming conform to their way of thinking," Hunt then wrote.

"We are, and will continue

to be, a state which stands a head above the rest in terms of economic security. Our ability to do that is, in large part, to our 'live and let live' mentality when it comes to allowing economic development, and limiting government oversight. So, to conclude, if you're so worried about what our legislature is working on, then go back home," he concluded.

While this particular exchange was widely circulated on both the internet and through several media outlets around the state — and eventually throughout the United States — it was by no means unusual according to other lawmakers who represent Weston County in the state legislature.

— See **Hunt**, Page 10

The 62nd general session of the Wyoming State Legislature offered more than its share of heated battles in February of 2013, and Newcastle's lone representative in the state capitol found himself in the eye of the storm after a contentious email exchange between himself and a state resident living outside his district was widely distributed via the internet.

Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle, drew criticism when he responded to a threat by Rev. Audette Fulbright of Cheyenne to move out of the state if Wyoming lawmakers approved legislation that would have allowed concealed weapons to be carried in schools. She also indicated a concern about 'fracking'

in Wyoming, a practice that increases production in oil and gas wells, but that some believe endangers water sources and the environment.

"My husband and I moved to Wyoming not too long ago. We believed it was a good place to raise children. With the recent and reactive expansion of gun laws and the profoundly serious dangers of fracking, we find we are seriously reconsidering our decision, which is wrenching to all of us. However, the safety of our family must come first. We are waiting to see what the legislature does this session. I know of other new-to-Wyoming families in similar contemplation," Fulbright wrote in an email distributed to all members of the House of Representatives.

## Science fair fiasco

By his own account, Conrad Farnsworth is an average guy, albeit a "singing, science nerd." His parents, Jamie and Tom, are well known in Newcastle, his mother a piano teacher and his father a business owner. His science teachers at Newcastle High School understood his passion for science exploration and most likely weren't surprised when he built a machine in his father's garage he dubbed the Lux Æterna. But this wasn't your average science experiment.

Using parts purchased mostly from the internet, Farnsworth used the Lux Æterna to create nuclear fusion, becoming one of only 15 high school students in the world to have done so, according to reports. The story of his accomplishment went viral and soon the entire world, it seemed, was talking about "this kid from Newcastle, Wyoming, who created a nuclear fusion reactor in his dad's garage."

His accomplishment was heralded in magazines, newspapers and television shows, including CNN and Fox News, on which he did an interview.

For the young man about to graduate from high school, it was, no doubt, an



Conrad Farnsworth, right, shown at his Newcastle High School Graduation with Mykel Owens, became embroiled in a dispute after he was disqualified from the International Science and Engineering Fair and was unable to enter his nuclear fusion reactor.

NLJ File Photo

— See **Farnsworth**, Page 9

## Bringing home the crown

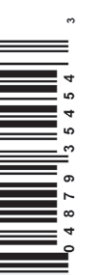
Newcastle, Wyoming. A small town in northeastern Wyoming, certainly not as well known nationally as its nearby landmarks Devils Tower and Mount Rushmore. In September, though, the words "Newcastle Wyoming" were uttered more than once on national television if you were watching the Miss America Pageant on ABC. That's because, for the first time, a Newcastle native was crowned Miss Wyoming and competed on the Miss America stage in Atlantic City, N.J.

"I am very, very proud to represent Weston County. It's home for me. I am very humbled to be Miss Wyoming," Rebecca Podio told the News Letter Journal, shortly after being crowned June 22 at the WYO Theater in Sheridan.

For the accomplished young woman who was raised on a local ranch and graduated from Newcastle High School, it was her fourth time competing in the Miss Wyoming Scholarship Pageant, but she said her interest in pageants geared toward the scholarships available. Podio's first title was in 2003, when

— See **Podio**, Page 8

<b>WEATHER FORECAST</b>	<b>Thursday</b> Partly Sunny Hi 38, Lo 22	<b>Friday</b> Sunny Hi 47 Lo 23	<b>Saturday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 36 Lo 13	<b>Sunday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 30, Lo 10	<b>Monday</b> Mostly Sunny Hi 29, Lo 20	<b>Tuesday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 27, Lo 14	<b>Wednesday</b> Partly Cloudy Hi 30 Lo 19	<b>INSIDE</b> 2013 Year in Review <b>Next Week:</b> 2013 Person of the Year



Opinion News Letter Journal

Our View

Our hope

While we generally believe that it is better to hope for a brighter future than it is to dwell on troubles of the past...

Although we'd like our Year in Review issue to be strictly a celebration of this community's triumphs and joys...

So while we do devote a good deal of space in this issue to the good things that happened in Weston County in the past year...

Even so, some readers will probably notice that the most frightening issue to face this community in the past year...

That's because the subject of suicide is still one people are loathe to discuss, and this newspaper's decision to confront the epidemic of self-inflicted deaths in Weston County...

A conscious choice was made to exacerbate the pain of those closest to the victim in the immediate aftermath of these tragedies in an effort to raise awareness and prevent future deaths...

The problem has touched too many lives in Weston County for there to be any shame attached to the struggles and despair of those who have contemplated suicide...

A new resolution

Jessalynn Centifanto Winter Solace

The New Year is soon upon us, full of high hopes, well wishes and the sore reminder of failed resolutions from last year.

So what will define this New Year from any other? Will this New Year be defined in the way we "bring it in" with the perfect party and list of well-meant resolutions?

Now, I could repeat the age-old mantra of "realistic expectations and goals" found in every self-help book and magazine article...

At the root of most New Year's resolutions is the innate ambition to grow and develop and the unquenchable desire to be happy and loved that is within all of us...

So, the question becomes, how should this affect our outlook on ourselves as an individual, considering that as an individual we live within— and are a part of a community— that we give and take with?

the change in someone else's life — in our community — and see how that changes us as an individual.

There are many things that I regret looking back on my years and many hopes that I have for this new one, but one thing that I have never regretted is a kindness shown to someone else...

Some people may not accept kindness or love at the time you show it to them because they may have a hurt too deep, but your kindness can be the start of healing in their lives...

Others will become a mirror looking back at you, full of the love and kindness you show them. As you are filled with the joy and love of others, the natural response in you will be to do more...

Forget "attainable goals," let's start with love that pushes people to do more than they could ever dream.

So, this is my encouragement to you all in this new and exciting year: love without reserve, show kindness, be okay with failing and celebrate the moments and the people that push you to do more...

Deadline for Letters is noon on Friday

This town may cure seven-year itch

I'm not a country girl. I didn't grow up on a ranch, nor in a small town. I grew up, for the most part, in and around Anchorage, Alaska...



Amy Meneray Just Thinkin'

I must admit that as large as the area grew — doubling its population between 1980 and 1990, and with a population of more than 93,000 people in 2012...

There was a connection among most Alaskans — everyone had friends or family, or friends of friends from Kenai to Fairbanks, a distance of about 500 miles...

A connection, but not necessarily a closeness. Since moving to Newcastle seven years ago — which by the way was only meant to be a pit stop...

Somewhere along the way though (I'm sure part of it was my boss literally pushing me out into a

more public role), I got to know more people in this small town — and they figured out who I am too. Oh, I've tried to hide in my little office...

One of my life's passions has also drawn me out more, my love of photography — here's where I put in my shameful plug for my sideline, Lost Cabin Photo...

In an effort to show and sell some of my work, though, I have recently tried to be more visible in the community, mostly with the help of Linda Hunt and the Touch of Wyoming events she promotes...

Anyway, this revelation of sorts occurred to me very recently, that maybe, just maybe, I don't hate small towns after all.

Let me explain. I like going to Wal-Mart. I like having more than a half dozen restaurants to choose from. I like going bowling. I like going to a bar where there's live music...

Recently, though, I've attended several events in Newcastle and discovered that I KNOW THESE

PEOPLE. I know their names (I'm really, really bad at names folks, I apologize here and now for past and future failures of my memory)...

Then, last week, my sister — who is now the newcomer from Alaska living in Upton — sent my Mom a Christmas card. Mom's lived in Newcastle longer than I, she's been here since 1993...

My well-intentioned sister sent Mom a lovely Christmas card, but neglected to include in the address "WY 82701."

Back home in Alaska, this would be a problem, and most likely the card never would have made it anywhere near its destination. But since this is a small town the card went from the Upton post office...

So, yes, I get weary of my lack of restaurant choices and sometimes bristle at a lack of anonymity, but — I can't believe I'm going to say this — sometimes living in a small town is pretty cool!

The same day of the card mishap I also had the opportunity to deliver some "vitamin H" — hugs — to a couple of this town's residents that were going through rough times...

Writing group provides creative outlet

Rudyard Kipling once said that, "words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind."

I cannot help but agree. Words inspire and defeat, hurt and heal. They can tell lies or teach the truth. There are endless possibilities with all of the words in the world at your disposal...

Writing is so often a solitary hobby or profession. While the solitude is necessary at times, all writers can benefit from simply just sharing their work. Sharing, however, can be difficult...

That very judgment which I feel so wary of can be a good thing, though,

if it is turned into more constructive criticism. The only way for writers to receive critique like that is by letting their work be seen by others...

A group made up of people who are trusted, who understand the trials and difficulties of writing, can create the best environment in which to share. Fiction, articles, essays, poetry, letters, non-fiction...

Newcastle was once home to a group just like this. It was a writer's workshop formed through the Eastern Wyoming College, classified as a community education class...



Kerry Waite The Most Powerful Drug

the art, as well.

We quickly formed a very friendly, accepting atmosphere where all of us were able to share our work without fear of harsh judgment. Instead we gave constructive criticism and passed around ideas, prompts, and knowledge...

Eventually the people who took part in this group began to move away, or grew too busy to continue attending. Although some of us would have loved to continue the group, we decided that it would be better to discontinue our meetings as interest continued to fall...

Who What Where When Why - Staff bios and contact information for various roles like Publisher, Editor, Office Manager, etc.

Call 307-746-2777 - With News or to Advertise - Fax: 307-746-2660

Where - Stop in Monday through Friday at 14 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming. Includes subscription rates.

Why - To provide news and entertainment for, and to serve the best interests of, the people of Weston County. Serving Weston County since 1889.

# FOCUS hires Howard

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

After deliberating in an executive session at their Dec. 19 meeting, the three remaining members of the board of Foundation of Caring, Understanding and Services (FOCUS), Kenneth Pitlick, Andrew Macke and Dave Whitford, selected interim director Donna Howard to head the agency on a permanent basis. Howard, who had come at the recommendation of the State of Wyoming, was hired by the board on Sept. 25 of this year to assist in helping the long-troubled agency — which has most recently faced the resignation of two longtime board members — regain its footing.

Asked by the News Letter Journal if she had sought a permanent position with FOCUS all along, Howard indicated that was not the case.

“When I first came on, [the board] asked if I wanted to [become the permanent director], and I said I absolutely didn’t want them to even consider that, because I couldn’t, at the beginning, voice my opinion about what really needed to be done if I was considering doing the job [on a permanent basis] ... I said, ‘no, I don’t want you to even think about that, because I don’t know what I want to do either.’”

Howard, however, said that her feelings changed during the course of the past several months as she worked to help get the program, which had been closed for a time following the August resignation of all its employees, back on track and once again providing services to the community.


“[Once] I got over here and started working in the community I really liked the challenge,” she said. “First of all, the program is needed. Second of all, I have a good board. Third, we’re moving forward. We’re getting stuff done.”

“[The board] developed the job description and application process,” Howard continued of how the hiring process went. “I submitted that to the three places that were free, because [FOCUS] didn’t have money: the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Division of Victims Services — who sent it out broad-based through all their email [contacts] — and [the Department of] Workforce Services ... Once I saw the job description ... and the challenge, I decided that it’s something I would really like to do, because I enjoy working in the community, with the clients, and with the board, so I submitted my resume.”

“We had the [Division of Victims Services] regional representative Sandra Stevens, she’s in Crook County, [look over the applications],” Howard continued. “I just gave her all the resumés, since I had submitted one also, and she reviewed them and gave a recommendation to the board. When [the board] went into executive session they had the envelope from Sandy, they reviewed the resumés, [which were seven in total], and her recommendation.”


Howard, who has been a resident of Gillette since 1980, said she plans to resign her current position as director of Crook County Senior Services and is currently in the process of finding a home in the Newcastle area.

## New Beginnings




The new year is a perfect time to make a fresh financial start. Whether your goal is to pay off debt, save for a major purchase or start investing your money, we have the expertise and tools to help you succeed. Come in today and get started.

First State Bank will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31 and will remain closed through Wednesday, January 1.



**First State Bank**  
OF NEWCASTLE

FDIC www.fsbnewcastle.com • 307-746-4411 



## Rockin' the house

"Jinglin' All the Way!" was presented by Newcastle Middle School bands and choirs at Crouch Auditorium on Dec. 16. First to entertain the audience were bands composed of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, directed by Ryan Whipple. Songs included "A Celtic Christmas," "Up On a Housetop" and "Jingle Bell Rock." Janelle Ellis then led the choir from each grade in Christmas selections such as "Deck the Halls" and "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen." Pictured are Johnna Dawson, Lauren Lacey, Chloe Smith, Greg Bechel, Shelby Stith, Garrett Carlin, Shelby Davis, Emily Rushton and Chase Loeb. (Photo by Denice Piscioti/NLJ)

# NOTICE

The first half of the 2013 property taxes became delinquent November 10, 2013. If you pay the **FULL TAXES** by December 31, 2013, no interest will be charged.

Susan Overman, Weston County Treasurer

Publish: December 12, 19 & 26, 2013

# Case against Napolitano dismissed

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

A federal charge against Newcastle resident Twylla Dean Napolitano was dismissed on Dec. 10, court documents indicate. Napolitano had faced one count of falsifying wildlife records, which carries with it a maximum penalty of one year in prison and \$100,000 fine.

“Ms. Napolitano participated in a proffer with the government and has cooperated with the government,” the motion submitted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Desiree Wilson on Dec. 5 reads in part. “The ends of justice require that the indictment against her be dismissed.”

U.S. Attorney Spokesman John Powell, who spoke with the News Letter Journal last Wednesday, said he was constrained as to what information he could provide, because five other defendants in the case continue to face indictment on a variety of charges related to the alleged interstate trafficking of wildlife.

“I certainly can acknowledge that the charges were dropped,” he said, “but I can’t be specific as to why until the case itself is concluded in court. At that point I can speak to it more. At this point I can’t because the case isn’t adjudicated yet.”

“What I can tell you in general, not being specific about this case,” he continued, “is that when people do cooperate with the government and provide information as appropriate, their charges are often either reduced or dismissed based on what their participation is and how much that helped the government’s case.”

Trial for the five other defendants, four of them local residents, is set to begin on March 17 at U.S. District Court in Casper. The charges against them relate to incidents that are alleged to have occurred between October 2008 and November 2010. The group was indicted on Sept. 26 of this year, after a lengthy joint investigation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.



**Eastern Wyoming College  
Newcastle Outreach  
January Community  
Education Classes**

<p><b>Beginning Quilting</b> Fee: \$45 + Supplies Day: Tuesdays January 14 - February 18 Time: 6:00-8:30 pm Registration Deadline: 1/7/14</p> <p><b>Country Lanes Quilt</b> Fee: \$50 + Supplies Day: Thursdays January 16 - February 20 Time: 6:00-8:30 pm Registration Deadline: 1/9/14</p> <p><b>Pottery</b> Fee: \$75 + \$25 for Supplies Day: Saturdays February 8 - February 22 Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm Registration Deadline: 1/31/14</p> <p><b>Basics in Microsoft Excel</b> Fee: \$100 Day: Mondays January 27 - March 3 Time: 6:00- 8:00pm Registration Deadline: 1/20/14</p>	<p><b>Culture Kitchen: Thailand Cuisine</b> Fee: \$20 for Supplies Day: Monday, January 13, 2014 Time: 6:00 - 8:30pm Registration Deadline: 1/7/14</p> <p><b>Men’s League Basketball</b> Fee: \$10 Day: Sundays &amp; Wednesdays January 8 - February 26 Registration Night: 6:30pm, Jan. 8, 2014 in the HS Commons</p> <p><b>Successful Boards II</b> Fee: No Fee Day: Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays January 14 - January 16 Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM Registration Deadline: 1/7/14</p> <p><b>Drivers Education</b> Fee: \$50 Day: Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays Class Begins: January 28 Time: 8:00am - 12:00pm Registration Deadline: 1/24/14</p>
--	--

**On-Going Classes:**  
Indoor Walking - No fee  
Yoga - \$35 per month  
Women’s Fit Club - No fee  
Zumba - \$35 per month  
Karate - \$10 single / \$20 per family per month  
Square Dancing - \$2 per person, per session  
**\*Please stop by NHS room 120 to register**

The Eastern Wyoming College Newcastle Outreach will be closed for Christmas break December 23 - January 3.  
Please visit us on the web at: [www.weston1.k12.wy.us](http://www.weston1.k12.wy.us)  
to register (click on Department - Eastern Wyoming College - Register for Community Education Classes) or call us at 746-3606

## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2013

### KATIE, KARLI, & PAYTON

*From all of us. We love & pray for you.*

**MAMAW AND PAPA**

Steve and Michele, Stephen Jr, Liz,  
Mikayla, Mary & Maddie  
Rebecca Marjason & family

Richard & Amy, Alex, Kirstin, & Kali Burrow  
Ben & Andrea, Jacob, Aubrey, & Kendal Marjason  
Micheal & Kristy & Harper Marjason  
Dr. Jeffery Pinkerton & Dawn, Ali, John & Reed  
Joe Coyperger & family  
Full Throttle Sunday School  
Judson Road Animal Clinic  
Susan Richards C.A.S.A  
Granny Kay & Mister Mister







**MCCALL BRYNLEY BENSON**, born Dec. 7, 2012, to Aaron Benson and Crystal Stevens-Benson  
**CHELSEA ROSE HELMS**, born Dec. 22, 2013, to Mike and Bridget Helms.  
**WESTIN DWIGHT**, born March 4, 21013, to Justin and McKaylia Stevenson  
**ALAN RAY KAUFMAN**, born March 17, 2013, to Josh Kaufman and Katie White  
**JENNIFER EILEEN SANFORD**, born March 31, 2013, to Carl and Amanda Sanford

**PORTER GRAYSON BEHNKE**, born on April 4, 2013, to Jessica and Nic Behnke  
**ANDEN JAMES HUGH DIXON**, born on May 23, 2013, to Austin and Jennifer Dixon  
**SARAYA PAIGE WALKER-SMITH** born Sept. 13, 2013, to Ty Smith and Tiffany Walker  
**CARTER PAUL DOELL** born Oct. 4, 2013, to Brandon and Rachel Doell  
**OWEN JAMES** born Oct. 8, 2013, to Russell and Nicole James

**100 YEARS AGO - DEC. 25, 1913**

Mrs. R.W. Curry has leased the Riordan Hotel and has already taken charge of the rooms and office. She will open the dining room Friday morning, Dec. 26, and be prepared to serve meals that suit the taste and satisfy the stomach.

Mrs. C.L. Granger made her regular trip to Newcastle Friday.

John Semsey was on the Sundance mail wagon the past week. Chas. Roark was on the Sundance mail wagon while Louie Semsey was detained at Horton.

Sam Beers, of Cold Springs, was a Horton visitor Saturday, where he engaged C.L. Rush to clerk his sale Saturday, Dec. 27.

Anton Hansen and Chas. Roark drove to Newcastle Saturday, where Anton took the train for Pringle, S.D., to spend the holidays.

About 70 people met to enjoy the Christmas program at the new Howard schoolhouse on last Thursday night. At the close of an excellent program rendered by the pupils of the South Beaver and Howard schools, treats were distributed to all and an hour was spent in social enjoyment.

Ice is now frozen to a depth of about 12 inches and some are storing away a generous supply of the cooling commodity for next summer's use. A good icehouse is inexpensive and one of the best and most useful improvements to be made on the ranch.

B.C. Warren, foreman at the YT ranch, was one of a trio who rode in from the ranch Tuesday evening to see what Santa was displaying.

Remember the Public Reception at the Library New Year's night at eight o'clock. A good entertainment has been arranged, lunch will be served and all are cordially invited.

Taylor Crow and family were down from their Plum Creek home last Monday. Mrs. Crow and children took the train for Crawford, Neb., that evening, where they will spend Christmas with Mrs. Crow's parents.

**75 YEARS AGO - DEC. 22, 1938**

County Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Olivia Pickle, who was elected vice president of the county superintendents' organization for the coming year, will serve as president of the organization instead, it was learned this week.

Funeral services were held here Monday afternoon at the Newcastle Mortuary Chapel for Mrs. Wm. Ertman, 77, who died at her home in Newcastle

Saturday night following an illness of about three months.

Jack McIntyre entertained on Monday afternoon at a one o'clock turkey dinner in honor of his wife, who was celebrating her birthday. The party was given at the home of Mrs. Virgil Mikesell, and was a surprise to the honored guest. The birthday cake was trimmed with pink roses and lettering.

D.G. Ellenwood announced this week that he had leased the building, part of which is occupied by the City Meat Market, on Warren Avenue, and is completely remodeling it in preparation to open a modern café soon. Ellenwood will occupy the rooms previously used by the City Bakery.

Mrs. John Cool returned home Friday after spending the past week in Newcastle at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Leo Currey, helping care for the new granddaughter.

The sum of \$8,568.45, the first installment of the equalization fund payments, has been distributed among the school districts in Weston County, County Superintendent Olivia Pickle announced this week.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Folger on last Friday, a baby girl weighing 4 pounds, 13 ounces, at their home in Newcastle.

Don Baldwin is expected home Saturday from Dallas, Texas, where he attends the Southern Methodist University. He will spend the vacation at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Baldwin.

Ed Landrigan plans to leave today for Cheyenne, where he will meet his sisters, Mary and Cora, of Salt Lake. The Misses Landrigan plan to visit here for about 10 days. Frances Ward expects to accompany them home from Cheyenne where she teaches school.

Mrs. Nels H. Smith, the stately brown-haired, blue-eyed woman who in less than two weeks will become the first lady of Wyoming, will enter her new position as the first "native daughter" to be the wife of a state governor, it was revealed.

F.E. Warren, chairman of the inaugural ball committee, announced the people of Cheyenne will be host to other Wyomingites at the inaugural reception and ball at the state capitol building on the night of Monday, Jan. 2.

Ross Allen and son Ervin, of the Prairie area, motored to the county seat Saturday.

The Osage Women's Club observed Wyoming Day at their regular day of meeting. The L. & C. Club of Upton and



some D.A.R.'s and Trail Blazers were present.

The Osage Brownies and some Girl Scouts gave the play, "Grumpy Santa Claus" at the Legion Hall Saturday night.

Mrs. Albert Groner and son, of Red Butte area, visited at the Daniel Patton home on Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Crowley and daughter and Bill Gallamore and Gertrude Crowley were Sunday visitors at the Adam Groner home.

Death claims Mrs. Margaret Babbage Christmas morning in Newcastle, at the age of 84 years, 6 months, and 21 days.

**50 YEARS AGO - DEC. 26, 1963**

Construction of an addition to Berman Lumber Company was started Monday. The addition will house a "debarker" unit which will allow slabs, edging and debris to be sold as chips to a Wisconsin firm. The wood fiber is used in the manufacturing of various papers.

The Newcastle grapplers placed second in the Spearfish Invitational Wrestling Tournament last weekend.

The Newcastle hoopsters split in their two games last week against Douglas and Lusk. Friday evening, the sharp-shooting and rebounding Dogies defeated Douglas 53 to 40. Saturday night the Dogies lost a heart-breaker as Lusk edged them 40 to 39.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cool moved to Newcastle Monday to spend the winter. They will return to their ranch in the Boyd area in the spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hamaker and son went to Florida last week to spend the holidays visiting with relatives of Mrs. Hamaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay George were in Newcastle Monday from the Lone Tree area. Clay went to the Inyan Kara pasture meeting and Mrs. George spent the afternoon visiting with Mrs. Mary Goodson.

The Sunshine Club held their December meeting at the home of Mrs. Emma Johnson, with 12 members and a visitor attending.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Newcastle Game Room  
 112 W. Main St. • 746-2241  
 Monday-Thursday 3-9 p.m. • Friday 3-10 p.m.  
 Saturday Noon-10 p.m. • Sunday Noon-8 p.m.

Do you need assistance with late rent or utilities?  
 Do you need assistance with past due medical bills, dental work or glasses?

Contact Julie or Sara at 307-347-6185 and ask about our CSBG Emergency Assistance funds.

Together, we can make 2014 a year of Health & Healing!

My four week program starts January 7<sup>th</sup>. It is designed to help with the four key issues people struggle with after the holidays & moving into the new year.

- Stress Management
- Nutrition
- Financial Health
- Setting & Reaching Goals

A New You Health Connection

Call Jenny at (307) 746-8157 to reserve your spot today!

**CARR CUSTOM FENCING**

Jon Carr  
 Cell: 746-6477  
 Newcastle, WY

A healthy & happy Holiday Season to everyone

Subway eat fresh.

Candi Meyers, Autumn Meyers, Jalene Detillion, Brandon Taylor, Connie Garcia, Blake Delkey

**Sharon's Home Health**  
 now offering  
**Home Care Services**

Help for your loved ones to stay at home or relief for family care givers.

Companion Care: Wake Up & Tuck In Routine, Medication Reminders, Shopping, Light Housekeeping, Grooming, & Escort to Appointments.

For more information please call 307-756-3344

**Erickson Family Dental Center**

Wayne B. Erickson DDS  
 307-746-4600  
 130 South Seneca  
 On Call 24/7... 746-8963

45 Years Experience

Bethany, a Hunter Ed grad, an intern at our office and her great trophy.

Let us help with your smile

We wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thanks for your support this last year and we are looking forward to a great time next year!

WHAT'S UP		Meetings & Events Calendar	
DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Dec. 26	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Star Meeting	Masonic Lodge
Dec. 27	11:30 a.m.	W.C. Library Board Meeting	Newcastle Library
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall
Dec. 29	2 p.m.	Bingo	Corpus Christi Church
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Dec. 30	7 p.m.	Square Dance Lessons	Newcastle Elementary
Dec. 31	6:45 p.m.	ALANON (746-9791)	Mondell Heights
Jan. 1	7 p.m.	Ladies Firearms Safety & Self Defense	Indoor Range
	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
Jan. 2	4 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Meeting	W.C. Senior Center
	6 p.m.	Chamber Board Meeting	Fountain Inn
	7:30 p.m.	Mason's Meeting	Masonic Lodge
	7:30 p.m.	Salt Creek Water District Meeting	District Office
Jan. 3	7 p.m.	AA Meeting	Corpus Christi Church
	7:30 p.m.	Square Dancing	Newcastle Elementary
	7:30 p.m.	Bingo	VFW Hall

Birthdays & Anniversaries

**Dec. 26:** Crystal Pillen-Benson, Tammy Elliott  
**Dec. 28:** Leona Carr  
**Dec. 29:** Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sylte, Scott Sewell, Tom & Melanie Sylte, Dan Roberts  
**Dec. 30:** Michelle Lewis, Jenny Jorrey  
**Dec. 31:** Joe Murphy

*In Loving Memory  
 December 28, 2011*

*If memories bring us closer we are never far apart, because you're always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.*

*Loving you still~  
 Your family*

**Dixon Bros., Inc.**  
 would like to congratulate  
**Jack Peterson**  
 on his 42 years of service.

Jack will be retiring at the end of the year. Please join us in recognizing Jack's retirement at a cake and coffee reception on

**Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
 from 3 - 4:30 p.m.


*Believe*

Sunset Pet Grooming and Solid Gold all natural pet food keeps your pet healthy and happy the whole year through.

Sunset Pet Grooming  
746-5865 • 1425 Sunset St.



Kick your heels up with us  
New Year's Eve!



Merry Christmas

Restaurant  
Tues-Sat 11am-8pm  
Lounge  
Tues-Sat 11 am-Close  
Closed Sunday & Monday

ANTLERS  
746-2982

Merry Christmas!

Open Christmas Eve  
Join us for Nachos & Chili  
Open Christmas Day



HI-10  
RESTAURANT  
2951 W. Main St. • 746-4055  
Open 6am-10pm 7 Days a Week

# NOTICE

Weston County has the following positions available:

Planning Board	2 Positions	3 Yr. Term
Recreation (Mallo) Board	1 Position	4 Yr. Term
Fair Board	1 Position	5 Yr. Term
Historic Preservation Board	6 Positions	3 Yr. Term
Predatory Animal Control	1 Position	3 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 8:00 a.m. on January 7, 2014. This matter will be considered on January 7, 2014, at 10:00 a.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.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RT COMMUNICATIONS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

We provide a wide variety of products and services including the following basic residential service offerings:


Single Party Residential Service	\$23.99	\$60.00
Single Party Residential Lifeline service	\$11.24	\$60.00

In addition to the above monthly rates, there is a \$6.50 Federal Subscriber Line Charge (SLC). Lifeline Service is non-transferable and only eligible customers may enroll in the program. The program is limited to one discount per household. The Federal Lifeline program provides \$9.25 in total support.

The above rates include the following:

- Local calling and the ability to receive unlimited incoming calls
- Touch tone capability
- Access to operator services, directory assistance, and long distance service providers
- Voice grade access to the public switched network
- Free access to emergency 9-1-1 calls and 800 or 800-like toll free services
- One free directory listing
- One free white pages telephone directory
- Free access to telephone relay services
- Free access to the Business Office

For additional information please contact our Business Office at 1.800.647.9841



130 South 9th  
Worland, WY 82401  
1-800-647-9841 or (307) 347-7020  
www.rtcom.net



## Sale of local clinic tops medical news

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

The medical community saw several major changes in 2013, most of which were anticipated, such as the implementation of Electronic Medical Records, however unexpected was the sale of the only medical clinic in Weston County, when both Newcastle and Upton locations of Cedar Hills Family Clinic P.C. were bought by Regional Health.

Reimer announced in June at a press conference the change was coming. It was not a new idea to the doctors, in 2007 a collaboration was considered to help maintain the future of the clinic.

"In the ensuing months we will be able to have visiting specialists — OB, pediatrics, general surgery and orthopedics," the doctor stated at the press conference. "It is really going to be a joint effort. There will be benefits [Regional Health] will receive, by referrals, because there are things we cannot do here, and many of those are to Rapid. Then big hospitals need us to do that, so they are going to help us stay here. I know it is going to bring more stuff to our county."

Representatives from Regional Health, Glenn Bryant, chief operating officer for Regional Health Network, Jeff Roehrich, director of Finance and Operations for Regional Health Physicians, Pamela Stillman-Rokusek, lead communications coordinator, and Alexa Stulken, Regional Health PR/Marketing Department, echoed Reimer's sentiments at the press conference. In September, negotiations were complete and the new owners took over the clinic. Although the local clinics are no longer privately owned by Dr. Mike Jording, Dr. Chuck Franklin and Dr. Lanny Reimer, the previous owners assured the public that all of the doctors, nurses and staff remained the same.

After the completion of the sale of the clinic, Weston County Health Services Chief Executive Officer Maureen Cadwell told the NLJ that since Jan. 1, 1998, Regional Health has managed WCHS, but the hospital had no plans to change their existing relationship with Regional Health.

"They manage the facility. That means that my position — the CEO position — is a Regional Health employee. The local board interviews and selects Regional Health employees and they drive who is hired. The local elected board controls anything that has to do with the CEO position, including evaluations," explained Cadwell.

She is employed by Regional Health, she explained, with her salary paid by the board to Regional Health. However, she specifically stated, it is the WCHS board that she reports to.

The federally mandated implementation of an electronic medical records system was



NLJ File Photo

Cynthia Nunley presents information about the Affordable Care Act and insurance options at Weston County Health Services Nov. 18.

pursued actively during 2013, to meet the deadline of initiating the program before 2014. Doing so meant WCHS would receive monetary incentives from Medicaid and Medicare, Cadwell explained to the News Letter Journal at the beginning of the year.

In January, after months of deliberating about which EMR system WCHS would use, the organization decided to go with Cerner through Billings Clinic.

Weekly meetings were held around the hospital, explained Chief Financial Officer Lynn Moller. Conference calls were used to explain the process and answer questions, providing guidance to get the program going.

In March hospital staff began using a prototype that was programmed with a basic build for the EMR. This gave the staff opportunity to train and work with the new system before actual implementation of the EMR with patients a couple of weeks before the July 3 start date for Meaningful Use, the set of standards defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Incentive Programs — which governs the use of the EMR and allows eligible facilities to earn incentive payments with specific criteria are met — Cadwell stated.

A month into the new venture, the CEO reported to the News Letter Journal the institution of EMR was going well.

One of the benefits of having medical records in an electronic format, she offered, is the ability

to get patient health information to and from other medical facilities. To help provide a secure exchange of that health information, the Wyoming Governor's Office enlisted the WY e-Health Partnership Inc. to develop strategic and operational plans in the state of Wyoming. It provides oversight to Wyoming's Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program, as administered by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

In June, Heather Roe Day, a representative of WY e-Health Partnership, visited with WCHS board members to explain how the organization works. The purpose is to promote the adoption and Meaningful Use — requirements for accountability from the federal government — of health information technology.

The system is a secure exchange of health information through the Internet, with health providers currently only available for exchange through the state of Wyoming, with future plans to connect to other states.

The WCHS board unanimously agreed in favor of the motion to join the exchange at the beginning of the program, which would mean a cost savings to the facility.

"Patients do not have access to this information, it is for providers who need to go out and look at the data — hospitals, physicians, labs, long-term care facilities, home health folks,

others who fit in that criteria, Public Health and limited to just that. It is for purposes of treatment, payment, health care operations and public health," explained Roe Day.

WCHS fared well in regard to its budget, Moller reported to the board of directors at the annual budget meeting on June 20.

"For the fiscal year 2013, we budgeted that we could have an operating loss as great as \$1.4 million and it looks like — and I am projecting for June — if it comes out the way we think it is going to come out it will be about \$340,000," Moller explained to the News Letter Journal. "It is looking much better. We are ahead of where we were last year at this time."

In preparation for the Affordable Care Act that will take effect on Jan. 1, 2014, Tom Hirsig, Wyoming Department of Insurance commissioner visited Newcastle to inform the community about the effect of the new law on Wyoming citizens.

"I know this topic is becoming near and dear to all of your hearts. It's a big change in the insurance agency — the biggest change that has ever happened to the insurance agency. Last count on regulations — and I think we got a couple thousand over the last couple of weeks — is 30,000 pages of regulations with this thing. It's big! Don't get overwhelmed with that, you just need to know how it affects you and what you need to know to make the best decisions," began Hirsig.

The presentation was designed to inform, not be a political representation, he offered, stating that the changes are coming and the people of Wyoming need to know how to be prepared for it.

The Supreme Court made the decision in June of 2012 to allow states to opt out of the Medicaid Expansion that was included in the ACA, and Wyoming was one of the states that did so, but the stance of WCHS is that Medicaid Expansion in Wyoming would be beneficial.

"On behalf of hospitals, we think the Medicaid Expansion is a good thing. Because the majority of people we see who don't have insurance are in the emergency room, which is a higher level of cost to everybody," explained Cadwell. "If we can get people to sign up for insurance and or Medicaid, that is going to help us in the end," she said in December.

With her first year as CEO under her belt in 2013, Cadwell reported she feels confident with the direction of WCHS.

"In the year I have been here we have been able to implement many things like the electronic health record, which is huge," she stated. "There are glitches, but staff are doing a good job with it. When we first started it, I let the staff know it was going to be the biggest change you've ever seen in health care."



### Community Christmas

Mashayla Harder, center, enjoys a laugh with her mom, Leslie, left, and her aunt, Shawn Smith, right, on Friday, Dec. 6, at the Community Christmas Tea. The theme for this year's event, which took place at Newcastle Foursquare Church, was "Jesus is the Light of the World." Those in attendance enjoyed a variety of snacks and refreshments. (Photo by Todd Bennington/NLJ)

# For the Ages

## Trip brings season into focus

By Donna Gochanour for NLJ

Many of you probably know that my sister-in-law, Sharon Roness, went on a trip the end of October to Israel, the Holy Land. Along with her were her daughter Leah and Leah's husband, J. John Brown. She met John and Leah in Minneapolis and they flew into Boston where they met up with Leah and John's son, Michael.

Michael lives in a Monastery there where he is studying to become a Monk. Sharon says that the convent next door provided them with guest quarters, dormitory style, with bunk beds where people can come and stay, eat, rest and attend services — a sort of a retreat. There was a dress code in place, both for the convent and for the whole trip, stressing modesty and requiring longer skirts, sleeves and a head covering.

Packing for the trip and for the limited baggage allowance was a sort of magic trick that was solved somewhat by layering clothes, Sharon said — wear it if you can't pack it! She was anticipating different types of weather for places they would be.

Meanwhile, both the Monastery and the convent had been busily packing gifts to be taken with them, things such as packages of incense, alms for the poor, things such as crosses and prayer robes to be blessed while in the Holy Land. The end result was that each pilgrim had an extra suitcase full of things being taken to those in the Holy Land, and which required an extra airline fee. On the 27th, they boarded a



Photo courtesy of Sharon Roness

**Sharon Roness, with daughter and son-in-law Leah and J. John Brown, and grandson Michael, who is studying to be a Monk, at the Pool of Bethesda, which is also called Sheep's Pool, in Israel. "This is where Jesus told the lame man to take up his bed and walk," noted Roness.**

Lufthansa flight to Tel Aviv, via Frankfurt, Germany. Leaving Frankfurt, there were extra security checks to pass through before they continued on to Israel. They arrived in Tel Aviv the following afternoon and took a one-hour bus ride into Jerusalem. The road signs were all in both Arabic and English, which made traveling much easier, she explained. There was dinner and orientation that afternoon and then the next day they were up and following a busy itinerary.

A fact that impressed me as we talked about this trip was that it was only seven miles from the place where Jesus was born to the place where he died. Most of his time during his ministry on earth was spent, however, about a hundred miles

away around the Sea of Galilee.

On their first day of touring, Oct. 29, our four pilgrims visited the two Holiest sites, the Church of the Nativity and the Holy Sepulcher. While the cathedrals and historic sites, churches and shrines were all beautifully crafted and many hours of loving labor had gone into them, little remained of anything as it had originally been. The group was told that basically it was done to preserve the sites, as closely to the original spot as possible.

Here, in this new country, we think a building is really very old when it's only two or three hundred years. The buildings over there, and in other countries in the "old country" are often much more and these in the Holy Land may go back

as much as 2,000 years.

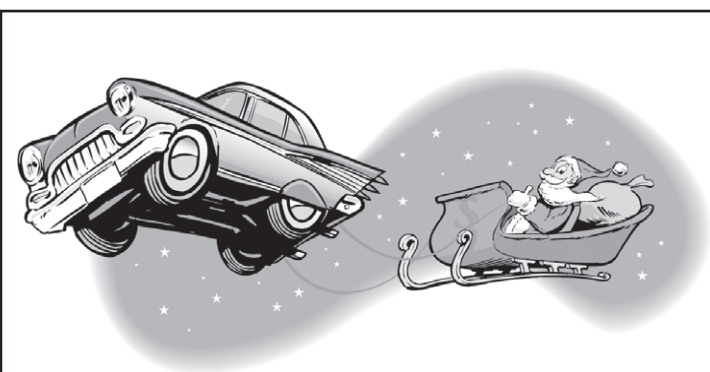
I asked Sharon if there was anything left there that gave her the feeling of the Nativity and her answer was that it was mainly the landscape. For instance in the Shepherd's Field, the surrounding caves and the clothing, possibly, gave her a sense of long ago, in another time and how it might have been.

At Christmas time in Bethlehem, there are numerous processions and religious ceremonies, among them the Roman Catholics, the Greek Orthodox, and the Armenian Orthodox. Midnight Mass is broadcast all over the world from the Church of the Nativity on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Bell is rung from the tower of this church with thousands of people crowded around at the foot of the tower.

For the next several days, filled with tours and in looking at their itinerary list, they covered every single Biblical location and church. It was a busy trip all of the way up until the 9th of November when they started the journey home.

My brother Larry told me that when he finally went to the airport in Rapid City to get his wife, Sharon looked like a bag lady — she who is always so nicely dressed looked like she was ready for her own shopping cart and street living. To save luggage fees, she wore everything she could. He almost didn't recognize her!

It was a wonderful trip to be able to take and Sharon said she enjoyed the taste of other cultures and ways of living, and the wonderful history that they got to learn about, especially at this time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



We'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas with miles of smiles!

**VOELKER'S AUTO BODY & GLASS**



May God Bless You with Health and Happiness in the New Year. Merry Christmas!



**CODE OF THE WEST**  
Business Management/Public Relations Consulting  
Shane Sellers 746-8378

## Fond memories of Christmas

All day I've been turning my Christmas days over in my mind, wanting to write a column about this holiday, and all I could remember out of 60-plus Christmases were the ones out of my childhood, back in North Dakota.

Once I left to go out in the wide world, it most often was just my own family, our little kids and us and very often we didn't have that on Christmas Day, not until Dad came home from wherever he was sent by the Air Force.

But still with me is the warm feeling of school and church programs and big family dinners. There is nothing quite like standing in front of the big stained glass window at Zion Lutheran Church and hearing 20 or more kids belting out "Joy to the World" or "Oh Come All Ye Faithful." The smallest child always sang "Away in a Manger" all the while twisting at clothing and shuffling feet self-consciously and running off the stage to sit beside proud parents, all happy smiles afterward.

And more than anything else, I remember all of our family gathered together at this house or that, some 20 to 25 kids and 10 or 12 "grown ups." One particular year I wrote about recently and posted on our Roness Family Facebook page.

It was a year of deep snow. Road plows were very rare then and we rode over to Uncle Einar's house in a big sled with two horses pulling, that our neighbor Ellisons had hitched up. I remember Engvald telling me to bend by knees a little so I wouldn't fall over so easy, along with

the glide of the sled over the snow and the jingle of the horses' harness.

I remember well the sight of all those wet snowsuits, rubber overshoes, scarves and coats spread all over Aunt Elvira's entry porch. The noise level rose, with men sitting in the dining room talking and playing Pinochle, ladies in the kitchen laughing and visiting and putting the holiday meal together. All of us kids were in one of the bedrooms, playing kid card games, giggling and teasing each other.

Uncle Einar led us in singing the Table Prayer before we ate and the men were always served first, sitting at the dining room table. Kids came next, each getting a plate and going back to the bedroom, their retreat. The women all ate in the kitchen and carried on with their gossip and their stories, just talking and "catching up." After the meal was done and the dishes done, the kids might go outside and go sledding until dark and at some point in the evening, of course, we would all gather at the piano to sing. We loved to sing together, and after Christmas Carols, it could be ordinary songs or it might be church hymns, we didn't care. We just liked to sing. We had probably drawn names at Thanksgiving for a gift exchange and so this was a good time for that to happen.

Then there was the ride home in the sled, snow bright and sparkling on the ground, stars sparkling overhead. Well, they just don't make Christmas like that very much anymore! Merry Christmas everyone!



Donna Gochanour  
**I Remember When**

## Happenings . . . .

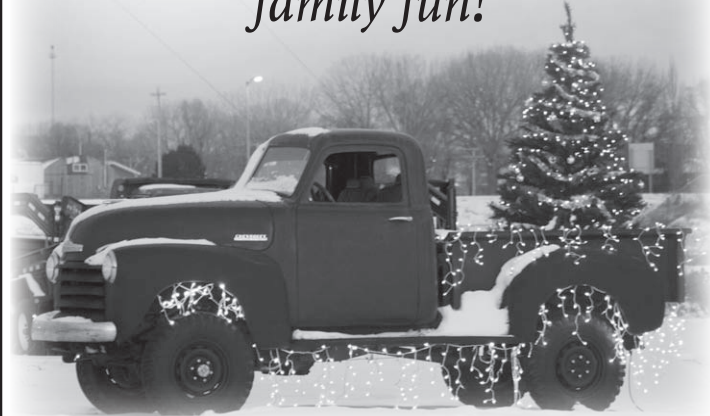
### Weston County Senior Services

- Dec. 26: Mexican Train 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 27: Bridge Ladies 1 p.m.
- Jan. 2: Trip to Tin Lizzie 8 a.m.
- Jan. 2: Mexican Train 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 3: Bridge Ladies 1 p.m.
- Jan. 7: Mexican Train 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 9: Hearing Aid Clinic 1 p.m.
- Jan. 10: Hearing Aid Clinic 9 a.m.
- Jan. 10: Blood Draw

### Weston County Manor

- Dec. 26: Men's Club 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 27: Bingo 2 p.m.
- Dec. 28: Movie 2 p.m.
- Dec. 28: Bingo 6 p.m.
- Dec. 29: Church 2 p.m.
- Dec. 30: Cooking 3 p.m.
- Dec. 30: Bingo 6 p.m.
- Dec. 31: Keepsake Krafters 2 p.m.
- Dec. 31: Lutheran Services 4 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Rosebowl Parade
- Jan. 1: Bingo 2 p.m.
- Jan. 2: Al and the Gang 2 p.m.
- Jan. 3: Bingo 2 p.m.
- Jan. 3: Movie 6 p.m.
- Jan. 4: Alphabet Plus 11 a.m.
- Jan. 4: Bible Study 7th Day
- Jan. 5: Laughter Group 11 a.m.
- Jan. 6: Crazy Cart 3 p.m.
- Jan. 7: Stories 4 p.m.
- Jan. 8: Catholic Study 10 a.m.
- Jan. 8: Card Club
- Jan. 9: Food Fancy 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 9: Apples to Apples 6 p.m.
- Jan. 10: Movie 6 p.m.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with good old-fashioned family fun!



Take time to relax & enjoy the wonder of the holidays!



**New Year's Eve Ugly Sweater Contest**  
First Place Prize  
Closed at 2 p.m. Dec. 24  
Open at 5 p.m. Dec. 25  
Closed New Years Day  
**FOUNTAIN INN**  
746-2921 • 1 Fountain Plaza  
Restaurant: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm & 5pm-9pm  
Sat 10am-9pm • Sun 10am-6pm  
Lounge: Mon-Sat 1pm-close • Sun 11am-close

Wishing you a joyous Holiday Season and a smashing New Year!



Shade-e Lady Window Fashions  
Laurie Martin - 746-3300  
Your Certified Hunter Douglas Dealer

### Podio

from page 1.....

she was crowned Miss National Pre-Teen. In 2012 she was crowned the second runner-up to Miss Wyoming, which led to her attending the National Sweetheart Pageant held by the Jaycees of Illinois, to which each runner-up for Miss America was invited. Never losing sight of her goals, she graduated from the University of Wyoming in May, earning three Bachelor of Science degrees: in Petroleum Engineering, Finance, and Economics.

In addition, she has been involved in several philanthropic endeavors, donating time to Make-A-Wish Foundation of Wyoming and the Delta Delta Delta sorority's efforts on behalf of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, as well as being a volunteer for the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness.

The preliminary rounds of the Miss America Pageant were streamed live on the internet, and Podio's hometown supporters were able to cast their votes online in support of her for a People's Choice award. In preparation for the Miss America Pageant Podio was quite busy, participating in the Macy's Day Parade, doing rehearsals, interviews and appearances. At the "Show your Shoes" Parade down the Atlantic City Boardwalk, where more than 225,000 people were in attendance, Podio, in true Wyoming fashion, sported cowboy boots.

Although she wasn't named Miss America — she didn't make it to the top 15 — the experience was well worth every effort, she indicated.

"It is a great experience, to be a part of that Miss America class. I wanted that, not only for my career, but also for the opportunity to represent Wyoming," she told the News Letter Journal in June.

The scholarship Podio won by being named as Miss



NLJ File Photo

There was no shortage of well-wishers on hand to congratulate Rebecca Podio, Miss Wyoming, after her return from the Miss America Pageant to Weston County.

Wyoming will be used to help her obtain a master's degree as a charter financial analyst, she told NLJ, with plans to obtain a professional engineering license.

The Monday after she graduated from UW she began her career as a production engineer for Osage Partners, a job she said she loves. She told the News Letter Journal she was happy to be living and working in the area in which she grew up. As a production engineer, she thought her opportunities would take her to North Dakota, but she was glad her path led her back home. Podio has been vocal about her background influencing where she is today, and the achievements

she has attained.

"She is a positive role model for all youth and young women across the state," stated a release from the Miss Wyoming Pageant.

In a blog she posted on Blogspot Sept. 16, after the Miss America Pageant, Podio wrote:

"On my drive back to the Cowboy State, I completed phone interviews and reflected on my time and Miss America. The amazing experience it was, the fact that I had just spent two weeks with 53 of the most extraordinary women in America — I realized that these women would be some of my closest friends for the rest of my life.

"My first week back in the

307 was filled with events that were part of Newcastle High School Homecoming as well as a small gathering of community members to welcome me home," she continued. "I was honored to be invited to the first annual Newcastle High School Hall of Fame Inductions and to be part of the homecoming parade. The warm welcome from my hometown was truly touching."

As she continues her reign as Miss Wyoming, Podio travels statewide, speaking with youth, educators, civic and state organizations, at conventions — and of course Weston County appearances where her hometown welcomes her with open arms.

# Tree of Love

Thank you for helping Lifeline raise \$6,960 to help subsidize a Lifeline for elderly and disabled persons in Weston County who live alone or are at risk of falling in their homes. The persons listed below represent friends, family and businesses who are being remembered with a donation to Lifeline of Weston County.

### In Memory Of

- Larry and Cathy Beck
- Edgar & Dorothy Beck
- Joe and Callie Slattery
- Floyd Stanton
- Victoria Heller
- Catherine Leighton
- Clyde and Nancy Bayne
- Angie Bayne
- Ray & Shirley Bergquist
- Dick & Loreen Schwarze
- Honey DeFord
- Jerry DeFord
- Bill and Lois Ann Boulden
- Nellie M. Boulden
- Lyle & Joyce Sylte
- Ben & Myrtle Strickling
- Earl Hamilton
- Doris Hamilton
- Janet Capps
- Glen & Jean Barr
- Sarah Clyde
- Doris & Mike Halls
- Patt Lynch
- Karen Lynch
- Martha Rich
- Dad & Mom Shields
- Ronnie Rich
- Grady & Lori Kilgore
- Marge Bain
- Edna Jahrig
- Larry Curtis
- Judy Curtis
- Irene Tunnell
- Aaron G. Tunnell
- Gen Roan
- Ralph Roan
- Marty Gulley
- Koski Parents
- June Streets
- Grandson Danny Stith
- Janice Whitley
- Thomas L. Whitley
- Doug Hughes DDS
- Iris M. Hughes
- Fern Morris
- Dick Morris
- Family and Friends of the Bickfords
- Harland & Ruth Bickford
- Pat Townsend
- Chuck Townsend
- Joe & Marian Simmons
- Wyoma Honadel
- Howard Honadel
- Jeane Sack
- Wayne Sack
- Mindy Darrow
- Phyllis Thompson
- Bob Thompson
- Donna Elliott
- Ted M. Elliott
- Katherine Jones
- Carol Smith
- Wendy Morris
- Pat (Arp) Wheeler

- Dick & Bonnie Rich
- Bill & Nell Koch
- Elmer & Pauline Rich
- Marie Podio
- Toots Adkins
- LD Roby
- Merelene Jo Roby
- Donnie Ray Roby
- JoAnn Fassbender
- Alice Denny Morris
- Lloyd Denny
- Louis Morris
- Ed Denny
- George Denny
- Busy Beaver Club
- Olga Holwell
- Mary Butler
- George N. Butler
- George Butler III
- Jeanette Berdahl
- Stew Berdahl
- Jr. Ratcliff
- Al & Brenda Costello
- Elmer & Pauline Rich
- Ronnie Rich
- Todd Kelsey
- Louise Shaw
- Patricia Coy
- Eleanor Babb
- Clark Babb
- Myra Clingan
- Harry Clingan
- Dianna Davis & Family
- Merle (Pug) Davis
- Fern Morris
- Dick Morris
- Dee & Tracy Tupa
- Randall Hemenway
- Newcastle SDA Church
- Helen Dexter
- Laura Bock
- Gerald "Deac" Bock
- Michael & MaryAnn Sepke
- Mitchell Patrick Marcinkowski Jr
- RD & Laurel Manning
- Courtney Rae "Boo" Miller
- Carmen Rowles "Lallatin Memorial"
- Tom & Lillian Lallatin
- Mary Decker
- Larry Decker
- Max Decker
- Kelly & Louise Stith
- Clarence Stith
- Agnes Stith
- Marvin Paulson
- Anna Mae Paulson
- Pete & LeAnn Kenagy
- Danny Stith
- Tom & Shari Bruce
- Shad Bruce
- Carol Stephenson
- Dr. Henry Stephenson
- Judy Varner King
- Ray "Kink" & Ruth Varner
- Terry Singer
- Beverly Schuerman

- Deb Sewell
- Marie Sewell
- Maureen Cadwell
- Geraldine Crisman
- Roy Crisman Jr.
- Ferne Ferry
- James J. Cadwell
- Matt & Peggy Carr
- All deceased family members
- Betty & Billy Price
- Bill Price
- Shawn Price
- Matt Hansen
- Brian Price
- Kodi & Kyle Alyesworth
- Berna Grendahl
- Minor Grendahl
- Terri Wineteer
- Mable Hinz
- Carl Hinz
- Heather Stieler
- Teddy Elliott
- Harland Bickford
- Wayne & Charlotte Daigh
- David Wayne Daigh
- Joe Emil
- Maggie Emil
- John Daigh
- Gary and Carol Underberg
- Mary Lewis
- Jim Piana
- Joan M. Piana
- Cathryn Crosetti
- Craig Limberger
- Janatt Singer
- Ted Singer
- Mamie Krank
- Mamie Gilkison
- Clarence Gilkison
- Anna Logan
- Artie Mercer
- Norma Rumbolz
- Robert Rumbolz
- Joni & David Kachelhoffer
- Cliff & Donna Falk
- Marian Stickel
- John H. Stickel
- Ron Willadson
- Martha Slagle
- Dennis & Kathy Roeber
- David Roeber
- Jackie Perkins
- Ken Stevenson
- Bill Price
- Elta Eatherton
- Harold Eatherton
- Mark Kirpatrick Walker
- Bill & June Kirpatrick
- Peggy Franklin
- Shad Bruce
- Lavonne Fried
- James L. Fried
- Marilyn Wright
- Douglas Lynn Wright
- Carolyn Ellerton
- Keith Ellerton

- Ruby Huckins
- Robert Huckins
- Ron Huckins
- Chuck, Allison, Carter, & Camryn
- Farella
- Chuck Stevenson
- Dick Shaw
- Earl Watt
- Kim Dean
- Kenneth "Pa Pa Ken Ken" Hanson
- Delores "Grandma Tootie" Boisen
- Irene Ward
- Curtis Spillane
- Jim & Carol Gustin
- Erick & Helen Berdahl
- Clara Overaag
- Aaron Price & Ashley Malsam
- Shawn Price
- Bill "Papa" Price
- Ann & Rick McColley
- Robert S. Thompson
- Virginia Garhart
- Eugene Garhart
- Donna Garhart
- Nicole Garhart Ellsbery
- Ron & Mary Mills
- Vern & Vi Mills
- Cable & Vera Jones
- Fred & Ruby Siegfried
- Tom & Judy Mitich
- Gene & Nita Mills
- Steve Manders
- A-1 Agency
- Jean Franz
- Fran & Sandy Bulawa
- Jim Bulawa
- Doug & Deb Jorrey
- Shiloh Cobb
- Gary Huber
- Col (retired) Robert S. Thompson
- Heather & Jason Boyer
- Doug Holwell
- Momma, Jordan, Logan & Families
- Jacob Dowdy
- Anita Ottema
- Don Ottema
- Shirley Dietz
- Jim Dietz
- Ken & Jaque Tremelling
- Bill & Alice Tremelling

### In Honor Of

- Don & Betty Jording
- Jording Family
- FirsTier Bank
- All Veterans
- Mildred Butolph
- Lorraine Curry
- Barbara Crow
- Willis & Jean Franz
- Carl & Wyoma Jungck
- All Lifeline Subscribers
- Guy & Karen Spears
- Catherine Pickett
- Paul & Helen Weyrich
- All Veterans
- Anna Logan
- Marcella Wilson
- Gen Roan
- Home Health Staff
- Heather & Jason Boyer
- Joan Holwell
- Mary Gulliksen
- Harry & Inga Thorson
- Pat Rogers
- Don "Donny" Rogers

### Businesses

- Dixon Brothers Inc.
- Black Hills Dental
- Wyoming Refining Company
- Gateway Auto Supply
- Flowers & Things
- KASL Radio
- News Letter Journal
- First State Bank
- Elliott Chiropractic
- Wyoming Automotive
- Edward Jones Investments
- Black Hills Exploration & Production
- Black Hills Auto & Towing
- Sage Motel
- Rapid City Regional Hospital
- Newcastle Equipment
- Whirlwind Construction
- Deckers Food & Floral Center
- Farnsworth Services

### Volunteers

- Donna Elliott
- Gen Roan
- Barry Peterson
- Kathy Jones
- Stacie Moberly

### Other Donations

- Elizabeth Cummings
- Neela Beardsley
- Jeff Virchow
- Irma Fouch
- Kiesel's



746-3553

Italics = Donor's Name(s) • Bold = In Honor or Memory of



# Farnsworth

from page 1

exciting time to be a budding scientist.

That high, though, took a serious dip when he entered the prestigious International Science and Engineering Fair, the prize Farnsworth had eyed during his four years of high school as he worked on the nuclear fusion reactor. At the ISEF thousands of high school students from around the world compete for \$4 million in scholarships and prize money. With a nuclear fusion reactor, it would seem Farnsworth was a shoe-in for some major bucks. That didn't happen though. Due to a technicality that would raise many questions regarding the process of qualifying for the ISEF, the advice of his NHS science teachers, and the ethics of the Wyoming State Science Fair director, he was disqualified.

The young scientist made his way to the ISEF on May 12. He was eager to find out how his experiment — designed to increase the output of fusion reactions — fared against other top minds of his generation. Two days after arriving at ISEF, which is put on by the Society for Science and the Public and sponsored by Intel, he was crushed to learn that he would not be allowed to compete.

The problem, according to Michele Glidden, director of science and education programs for the Society for Science and the Public, was that students are only allowed to compete in one qualifying regional fair, and then another larger qualifying fair such as a state fair. "The order in which those events occurred was the reverse of the order in which they were allowed ..." Glidden told the News Letter Journal in May, shortly after the event.

Farnsworth and his teachers said they were not aware that his attendance at an ISEF-qualifying science fair at the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, S.D., was a violation, and pointed to the fact that students can actually qualify for ISEF through attendance at two different science fairs in Wyoming that are affiliated with ISEF — the Northern Wyoming District Science Fair in Greybull and the State Science Fair in Laramie — as a source of the confusion. NHS science teacher Sharla Dowding, the director of the Northeast District Science Fair held in Newcastle — which is not ISEF affiliated — said the decision had been made by local school officials a few years ago to attend the regional fair in Rapid City, instead of the one in Greybull, because it was closer and required less time out of school for students. Another NHS science teacher, Doug Scribner, who attended ISEF with Farnsworth, said he explained the situation to Glidden when she informed them of the disqualification on May 14. Scribner and Dowding both insisted they didn't know they were violating a rule by taking students to the Rapid City science fair. The disqualification was even more devastating to Farnsworth after learning that the infraction had been brought to the attention of ISEF administrators by then-director of the Wyoming State Science Fair, Dr. Annie Bergman, PhD., an

employee of the University of Wyoming. He shared his frustration in a number of Facebook posts over the ensuing days, and clearly indicated that he believed Bergman had gone out of her way to bring what he and his teachers claim was an unintentional violation to the attention of event organizers. "I did break the rules. There is no doubt about that. That's the reason I am not competing tomorrow. Did I know I was? No. It's the fact that that woman has made it her personal duty to see that I do not compete," Farnsworth wrote in response to those who expressed concern regarding the level of frustration demonstrated in his earlier posts. Scribner took a milder approach, noting that he believed Bergman, in her first year as director of the Wyoming State Science Fair, simply didn't know that Newcastle teachers had informed both the fair director in Greybull and the previous director of the Laramie fair of the decision to participate in Rapid City instead of Greybull. Bergman called the actions of local science teachers "cheating," and indicated that she believed they were "shopping" for fairs that would qualify a local student. "Everybody knows it's an infraction," she asserted, when interviewed shortly after the event by NLJ.

Farnsworth, when interviewed after his disqualification, said his disappointment resided in the fact that he didn't have a chance to find out if his project would have been good enough to claim one of those coveted prizes. "I just wanted to compete," he told the NLJ. His bitterness over not being allowed to compete, and not finding out he was prevented from doing so until after he arrived in Arizona, led Farnsworth to seek out Bergman and express his displeasure about her involvement in his disqualification, and he admitted publicly in his Facebook posts that he used profanity when he confronted the Wyoming State Science Fair director.

That exchange prompted an email Bergman sent to Farnsworth's principal, in which she said a table full of "UW faculty, parents, teachers and students" were all extremely offended by the Newcastle student's comments, and encouraged Ragland or a guidance counselor to encourage him to behave in a more respectful and mature manner. She also said in the email that the situation was the result of "very poor, unethical choices by adults," apparently in reference to the teachers who allowed Farnsworth to participate in the South Dakota science fair, and claimed that she was wrongly accused of reporting the infraction to ISEF authorities. "I was not the one to report the infraction to the ISEF administration," she wrote to Ragland. She made the same statement in a subsequent interview with the News Letter Journal, claiming that the complaint was raised by an individual from another state, but refused to reveal which state. That claim was refuted by Glidden a day later, however, and she said that the investigation into Farnsworth's eligibility was in fact prompted

by a conversation initiated by Bergman. "After someone told us about the circumstance, we had to investigate. The students from the Wyoming State Fair informed [Bergman], and she then informed us of that fact," Glidden told the News Letter Journal. Farnsworth said the tone of his conversation with Bergman was also a result of her refusal to communicate with either him or his teachers before, during or after the infraction was brought to the attention of ISEF authorities.

A day after her interview with the News Letter Journal, Bergman was no longer available for comment, and, according to Kay Persichitte, dean of the College of Education for UW, was no longer an employee as of May 22, after the international science fair. Her immediate supervisor, Jacqueline Leonard, director of the University of Wyoming's Science and Math Teaching Center, said Bergman was not authorized to speak to the News Letter Journal about the incident, or to send the letter to Ragland, and referred future interview queries to Persichitte, who told NLJ that the thoughts expressed by Bergman, in both the interview and the letter to Ragland, were not sanctioned or approved by the University of Wyoming.

"It's frustrating having four years to get to a single point go down the drain," Farnsworth told Fox News. "And it's silly. It's a science fair. Seriously, aren't they supposed to be promoting science and not bureaucracy?"

In June, on Farnsworth's website, nuclearfarnsworth.com, he wrote:

"I have made a personal resolution to post only awesome things on my blog ... but I feel like this needs to be said. Over the past few weeks, there has been quite a bit of blood spilled over this whole ordeal. Did I want it? Do I feel satisfied? Kind of. I am glad that progress has been made and that this issue had been brought up and dealt with so quickly. Am I happy [Bergman] lost her job and had her name ruined? No. She made her bed and now she has to sleep in it though. It's rather disappointing that an issue like this makes it all the way to Fox News, but the very fact that a reactor had been built in as intellectually dry a place as Wyoming does not. I guess the world likes hearing bad news. Any-who, I won't look a gift horse in the mouth. Any publicity is good publicity and I hope to use it to make professional connections.

"Blood was spilled. I'm not happy that she lost her job, but I am content with the fact that this issue has been exposed, publicized, dealt with, and resolved. I am also INCREDIBLY, UNBELIEVABLY, and EPIC-LY thankful that I have so many people willing to support me and who are pulling for me."

Farnsworth, the tall, bespectacled young man that can sometimes be seen smoking a cigar, is now a student at South Dakota School of Mines, where he continues his studies and pursues his other hobbies that include astrophotography, videography, electronics and mechanical engineering.

## Cherish the Spirit of Christmas and the Joy of Friendship.



### Wyoming Automotive

Terry, Frances, Ray, Kelly, Troy, John & Becky

Here's hoping your holiday plans run smoothly.



Having you for customer really gives us a lift.

Thanks!  
Gary Rich, Tony Harris,  
and Angie Round

### Rich's Automotive

## Safe Travels

this holiday season.



### Dixon Bros., Inc.

## Warmest Wishes

for a happy holiday season & a wonderful new year.

## Wesco Gas

78 Hwy 450 • 746-4405




# May the Good Lord Bless You and Your Family



Thank you for blessing ours



JackMaster Construction



**REJOICE,  
FOR HE IS BORN!**

May the miracle of the season brighten your heart and home this Christmas. As we count our blessings at this special time of year, we count you among them.


**Pat Crow Law Office**



**Kids helping kids**

Newcastle Elementary School Assistant Principal Heidi Stuzman assist Kyler Scott, Brook Martell and Yestin Davis at Shopko on Thursday, Dec. 19, purchase for clothes for Operation Santa, which benefits other students. The kids spent weeks earning money for the project. They were assisted by teachers and adult volunteers including four adults from the same family, Kelli Tavegie, Linda Tysdal, Deb Hamilton and Alaina Liggett. (Photo by Denice Pisciotti/NLJ)

**ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY!**



**GET YOUR  
NEW YEAR'S COODIES AT  
WOODY'S  
FOOD CENTER**

**LET IT SNOW!  
LET IT SNOW!  
LET IT SNOW!**



*And may all your  
Christmases be white*

**Hansen Equipment**  
746-4278

**Hunt**

from page 1

They told the News Letter Journal that the level of respect demonstrated in communications they received during the session had decreased considerably.

"I have had more nasty emails this year than ever before," confirmed Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower.

In Hunt's case, he said the response he submitted to Fulbright's email was partly the result of receiving it later in the afternoon after having been worn down by a full day of debates and a session full of contentious discourse.

"Normally I just delete those types of emails, but that day I had had enough, and against my better judgment, I responded," he told the News Letter Journal in February.

Driskill pointed to the fact that Fulbright is not a resident of Hunt's district, and indicated that legislators are sometimes challenged by the need to wade through mass emails from people they don't technically represent as they try to collect input from the citizens who do hail from their own district. He said the backlash from Hunt's exchange could result in decreased communication between lawmakers and constituents in the future.

"Hans was responding to a constituent outside of his district, and I would hope that the people sending these negative messages should realize that if this type of behavior continues, they will be lucky to have anyone outside their district respond to them. It could possibly lead to no response from within the district as well," Driskill cautioned, indicating that his practice is to not respond to emails that are threatening or negative in their tone.

Driskill also indicated that

the people legislators are asked to represent bring a variety of beliefs to the table, and he believes that polarization of those beliefs has contributed to a lack of sound decision-making at the federal government level. He doesn't want Wyoming residents and their elected representatives to allow themselves to go down that path.

"What we [legislators] do requires a high level of compassion between ourselves and who we work with. This includes lobbyists, constituents and the news media. When the level of decorum declines, it is the start of where we are at nationally. I would like to point out that in the Wyoming Legislature we have no defined party lines. Bills are co-sponsored, carried and worked on without regard to party. If we allow ourselves to be drug into this environment, then all in the state will suffer," said Driskill, who received one email during the current session that accused him of turning his back on his own Republican beliefs.

After running the story regarding the exchange between Hunt and Fulbright, the NLJ received numerous letters, some in defense of Hunt, others in defense of Fulbright. Other Wyoming publications reported the exchange and it wasn't long before national news media picked up the story about Wyoming's youngest representative.

The responses varied widely. After a story ran in The Washington Times, online responses included such comments as "Republican Rep. Hunt ran unopposed in the general election. A good illustration of the dangers of a one-party state." Another wrote, "I agree with him. Dont [sic] come here and try to change us. We are doing just fine. Why

did she move her family here anyhow? Probably to get away from people telling her things she didnt [sic] want to hear."

In a public opinion piece by Kerry Drake, editor of the nonprofit online newspaper the Casper Citizen, Drake opined, "If we're not open-minded enough to listen to intelligent people with different views, Wyoming loses. If children who are born here are raised to believe that they are better than others who move here later in life, Wyoming loses."

And if someone can't bring a few concerns to a state legislator without being berated and then told to get the hell out of here if they don't like it, Wyoming loses. Big time."

In response to Drake's opinion piece one person wrote, "There's no defending Hunt's sanctimonious and ham-fisted response, but you have conveniently left out the part of Fulbright's letter in which she writes that her family has only just recently moved here and she's seriously considering leaving. That's why Hunt takes her up on her offer, not because Hunt is in the habit of attacking people with a love-it-or-leave-it response."

When the NLJ spoke with Hunt shortly after the incident, he indicated that he learned a lesson from what transpired as a result of his exchange with Fulbright, and said he probably won't send responses of that nature in the future. At the same time he didn't regret what he said, and offered no apology.

"If you put the two emails together, my response was pretty sharp, but it was pretty much tit-for-tat. She suggested that if the political atmosphere of Wyoming kept going, they would reconsider their decision to move here, and I just said 'here's the door.' Honestly if


she had not said she was going to leave, I don't think I would have said that," he suggested.

In response to the Hunt-Fulbright exchange, the increase in 'nasty emails' referred to by Driskill and other Wyoming legislators, and the nonproductive direction in which it appeared Wyoming's legislature could be heading, NLJ took the position that it was time to put the name-calling behind, and go back to what Wyoming does best.

"The current session of the Wyoming State Legislature may very well be the most riveting and entertaining in recent memory, and that is due in large part to the erosion of respect shown by both public officials and the citizens they serve," opined NLJ's Publisher Bob Bonnar in the Feb. 14 edition. "It's hard to say where the disappearance of civility began, but there is little doubt as to where this is all going to end. You need look no further than Washington, D.C., to see the level of failure and futility that is achieved when people choose to set aside rational discussion, attempts at persuasion and a willingness to compromise."


"What we've chosen is to replace a system that seeks to focus on issues and find acceptable solutions with one that instead focuses on identifying enemies, questioning motives, attacking character, and seeking the personal destruction of those we view as our opponents. We sincerely believe that government in Wyoming is more effective than that practiced anywhere else. If we hope that will continue to be true, we must force ourselves to steer away from the antics that play so well in 30-second sound-bites, and return to a time not so long ago when we were more concerned with producing results than declaring winners."

**To our friends and customers~**  
Our entire Agency extends our warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.




**A-1** A-1 Agency Real Estate & Insurance  
Shawnda, Valerie, Jim, Sharron & Ruthie

*Cheers  
to you this  
Christmas and  
New Year's*



*Have a safe and healthy  
holiday season!*

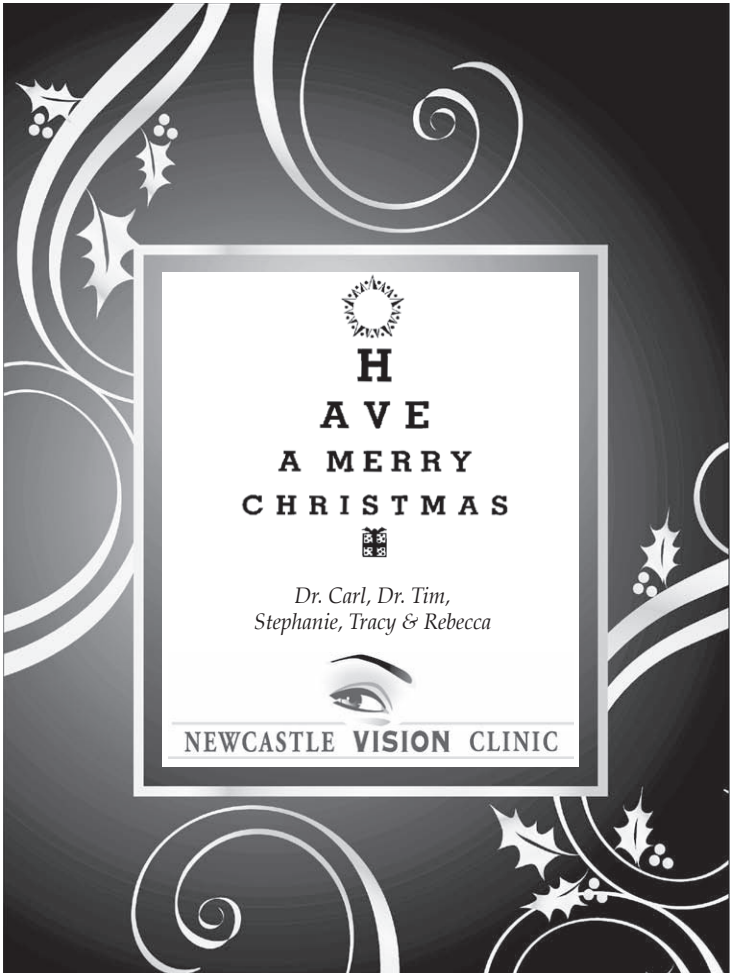
**Cap N' Bottle**  
Wade and Tonya  
Christensen  
746-2693 • 623 West Main Street



**H  
AVE  
A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

*Dr. Carl, Dr. Tim,  
Stephanie, Tracy & Rebecca*

**NEWCASTLE VISION CLINIC**





# Education position debated

By Bob Bonnar of NLJ

In a year when the Wyoming State Legislature approved a statewide lottery, passed a 10-cent per gallon increase on the state fuel tax, and even considered an act that would make outlaws of federal authorities who attempt to impose firearm restrictions on the people of Wyoming, no single issue captured the attention of Wyoming voters as much as the first piece of legislation signed into law by Gov. Matt Mead.

Senate File 104, which stripped the authority and duties of the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction in Wyoming, wasn't even filed or introduced until the legislature went into session early this year, but it rolled through both the House of Representatives and the Senate in less than two weeks, and was quickly signed by the governor, becoming Senate Enrolled Act 1 and going into effect immediately. The bill sailed through the legislature despite the fact that three of the four lawmakers who represent Weston County voted against it.

Rep. Hans Hunt, R-Newcastle, who joined Rep. Mark Semlek, R-Moorcroft, in voting against SF104 when it passed third reading in the House by a 39-20 vote, predicted that the governor would show favor to the bill. Sen. Ogen Driskill, R-Devils Tower, voted for the bill in the Senate, but Sen. Curt Meier, R-LaGrange, was one of the nine who voted against it.

The measure passed both houses of the legislature despite a groundswell of opposition from Wyoming voters who believed that lawmakers had taken their voice away by, for all purposes, eliminating an elected position and replacing it with an individual who is appointed by the governor.

Weston County Commissioner Tracy Hunt began working immediately after the conclusion of the session to invite advocates of Senate File 104 and the dethroned Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill to attend public forums here so the people of the county would have the information they needed to make an informed decision

when presented with the petition that hoped to place the measure on next year's ballot.

One of the bill's sponsors, House Speaker Tom Lubnau, R-Gillette, appeared at the Weston County Senior Services Center on April 16 to present the merits of the legislation, and Hill made a presentation to the public a week later, at on April 23, at the Crouch Auditorium to convey her arguments for why the people of Wyoming should repeal the law and restore her duties and authority.

Many of SF104's opponents have claimed any effort to eliminate the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction, or modify the duties of the office so significantly, should have been made through the Constitutional amendment process.

The Wyoming Secretary of State's office announced on March 8 that it had certified the application for referendum (the process that allows the voters of the state to approve or reject acts of the legislature) to repeal Senate Enrolled Act 1, which transferred the majority of Hill's duties to an appointed director of the Department of Education. The petition, which was sponsored by three Wyoming citizens, required 37,606 valid signatures to have the referendum placed on the 2014 ballot, and had to be filed at the Secretary of State's office by May 28, 2013, 90 days after the conclusion of the 2013 legislative session in which the law was passed.

The referendum effort failed to gather the required number of signatures, but the issue didn't go away, especially not in Weston County. On May 7, at the Newcastle Country Club, the Weston County School District #1 Board of Trustees responded to some of the questions raised by citizens concerned about SF104 and its impact on local schools by inviting members of the public to attend an open conversation that lasted about three hours.

A Wyoming Supreme Court case that lawmakers who supported SF104 used as justification for the legislation, and which Gov. Matt Mead referred to when he signed the act into

law, raised questions about whether the duties of local officials would be limited by current and future legislation, and Weston County School District #1 Board Chairman Bill Lambert raised those concerns publicly on a number of occasions.

"I guess this court decision was the Washakie case, which I believe they told us at Cindy Hill's deal it was strictly a money issue. But I think the legislators are taking it a step further. In this Governor Mead quote it said, 'The courts said these and other constitutional expressions should leave no doubt the Legislature has complete control over the state's school system in every respect.' And I guess as we visit today, I think everybody should keep that in the back of their mind. To me that takes all the responsibilities and authorities out of the local school board and local people and puts it into state legislators' hands. I think now is the time to get some lines drawn about what are local school board's supposed to do," Lambert said as he began that discussion.

The general agreement at the end of the meeting was appreciation for what the schools in Newcastle have done for children and how the community can help keep it going in a positive direction. The option of drafting a proposed Constitutional Amendment that defines the role of local school boards was suggested, and WCSD #1 trustees wrote and presented a resolution seeking exactly that a few months later at the Wyoming School Boards Association's annual meeting that was approved by the group.

Prior to the WSBA meeting, in September, Crouch Auditorium served as the site for an interim meeting of the Wyoming State Legislature's Select Committee on Statewide Education Accountability. Lambert urged committee members to take the time to discuss issues with local leaders and educators, and made it clear that officials in WCSD #1 are interested in forming a relationship with legislators and providing input to those making decisions that will affect schools here and around the state.



## Season's Greetings

During the holidays it's the spirit of the season that brings people together. At Pinnacle Bank we hope that you get to spend the holidays with those that matter the most to you; your family, friends and neighbors. Wishing you every happiness this holiday season and throughout the year, from all of us at Pinnacle Bank.

NEWCASTLE 204 West Main Street, 307.746.4466 • [wypinnbank.com](http://wypinnbank.com)



THE WAY BANKING SHOULD BE



## A Roku Player And Internet Service From RT Communications Adds Up to Amazing TV Entertainment

Sign up for RT Communications' high speed Internet service and get a FREE Roku Streaming Player. New and Upgrading customers signing up for high speed Internet service before December 31, 2013 are eligible to receive a FREE Roku player. Some restrictions apply so call today for all the details.

With a Roku streaming player and RT Internet service, you have the opportunity to enjoy a vast array of streaming entertainment on your TV. More than 750 channels are available for viewing through Roku including: Netflix, Hulu Plus, Amazon Instant Video, HBO Go, Pandora and Disney. Roku also offers easy searches through channels and titles with its quick interface.



COMMUNICATIONS  
130 South 9th Worland, WY 82401  
1-800-647-9841 or (307) 347-7020  
[www.rtcom.net](http://www.rtcom.net)



**Roku. The #1 selling streaming player.**

- The best selection of entertainment
- Sets up in minutes with built-in wireless
- Works with virtually any TV

Residential customers only. Limited time offer. Requires a one (1) year service agreement. Some video services like Netflix, Hulu Plus and Amazon Instant Video require subscriptions or pay per views not included in this offer.



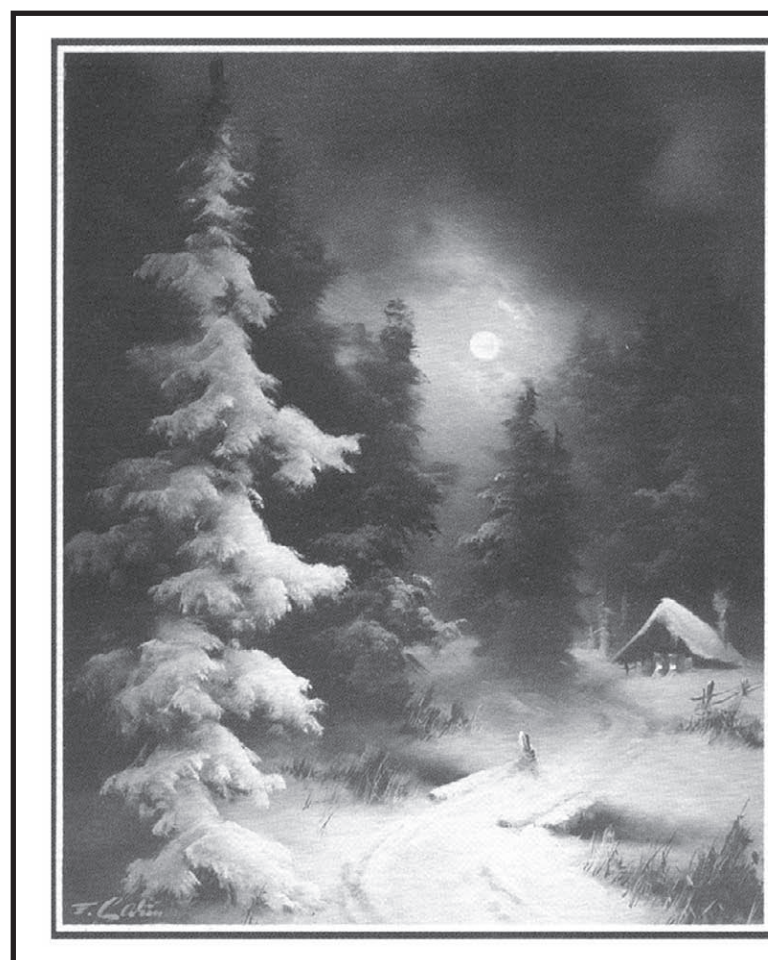
### Merry gentlemen

The Newcastle High School Bands and Choirs presented "Season's Greetings" Dec. 17 at the Crouch Auditorium. Pictured are Mason Sundstrom, Cooper Karp, Collin Heath and Dawson Norton. (Photo by Bob Bonnar/NLJ)

[www.news1j.com](http://www.news1j.com)

### Wishes of Resounding Joy

During this holiest of seasons and throughout the year, may the blessings of love and joy echo throughout your heart and home. It's been our pleasure to serve you this past year, and we're grateful for the loyal support you've shown us. Thanks, friends and please accept our sincere wishes for a happy holiday.



To our patients, associates and friends ~ our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season, trimmed with the blessings of peace, love and joy. We value your trust in us and are proud to serve you.

With Well Wishes from  
Our Entire Staff

NEWCASTLE  
REGIONAL MEDICAL CLINIC

(307) 746-3582  
1121 Washington Boulevard • Newcastle, WY  
Closed at noon December 24 • Closed all day December 25

**It's more than a sunrise.  
IT'S A NEW BEGINNING.**

Embracing change isn't just about expanding your horizons. It's about being protected from the very beginning. With Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming, it's more than hometown service and coverage that goes with you anywhere. It's a team that works with you and your doctors to make sure you get the best care when you need it.



**It's more than coverage. It's care.**



**WYOMING**

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

VIEW PLAN OPTIONS AT  
[BCBSWY.com/shopping](http://BCBSWY.com/shopping)

## Triceratops

from page 1

an amateur paleontologist told Darnell he'd found some dino bones on his land, the rancher soon realized this find was unusual, so he contacted Pete Larson of the nearby Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in Hill City, S.D., to come and check it out. What Larson and his partners from the Naturalis Biodiversity Center of the Netherlands discovered when they began digging in May was the bones of not one, but three triceratops, that all apparently died together.

This was unusual not only because the bones of the triceratops were so complete — the larger of them might possibly be the most complete set of triceratops bones ever discovered — but because it had previously been believed that these creatures were loners by nature.

When initially contacted by the News Letter Journal, Larson indicated that the location of the site — on private land — was being held in secret, however NLJ reporter Denise Piscioti was invited to the discovery site to interview Larson and view the work in progress.

A discovery this significant, though, wasn't to remain secret for long. Stories soon emerged in Wyoming newspapers of the discovery — and its location on the Darnell ranch — followed by reports on CNN, Discover Magazine, Archeology News Network, Newsday and Western Digs, to name a few.

As the story unfolded nationwide, the paleontologists indicated that the site holds the bones of not three, but four triceratops, of different ages.

The four-legged, three-horned adult triceratops weighed close to five tons, stood eight feet tall and were 24 feet long, with fairly large brains, probably about the size of six walnuts, Larson told Piscioti in that June interview. They were hunted by many of the other creatures living at that time, including the tyrannosaurus rex, which weighed about the same but stood taller. T. rex bones have been found in the same area, and Larson has since speculated publicly that T. rex might have been responsible for the death of these triceratops. He also hypothesized that the discovery of these dinosaurs in what amounts to a mass grave could indicate a type of family unit previously unheard of, although others in his field have since said the accumulation of bones could be the result of some type of catastrophic event instead.

"This is a very significant find, not only because there was more than one individual, but apparently one skeleton is quite complete. But also there are different aged individuals,



NLJ File Photo

so we have different sizes. It will be a long time before we can tell if they are male or female," Larson told NLJ in June. "We have sort of a half grown individual as well. It is very exciting to me, because having skeleton parts from that small of an individual is very important, and very few isolated bones of small triceratops have been found, so it's very, very important."

Why have so many dinosaurs been found in this area for more than 100 years? Larson explained that from the end of the age of dinosaurs — approximately 67 to 66.5 million years ago — they lived and died here, and were also buried here. The uplifting of the Black Hills have caused their remains to be exhumed by the forces of weathering. The current area of erosion that exposed their remains is the Upper Cretaceous Lance Formation, between Newcastle and Lance Creek.

The discovery on the Darnell property, though significant and historical in terms of finding this many nearly complete triceratops in one site, is not the first major dinosaur discovery in northeast Wyoming — and surely won't be the last.

Historically the most complete triceratops found — 76 percent complete — was discovered south of this new discovery, also not far from Newcastle. Another one,

approximately 50 percent complete, was discovered on Zerbst Ranch near Lance Creek.

The Hanson Research Station at Hanson Ranch, also in the Lance Formation, continues to be excavated where more than 25,000 animals have reportedly been found.

As for this year's discovery on the Darnell property, Larson's original timeline has been extended, and it now looks as though the painstaking process of exhuming the bones will continue next spring — or longer if they discover more bones at the site.

After being removed the bones are being taken to the Black Hills Institute where the work of piecing them together and manufacturing missing bones begins. Eventually, Larson indicated, they will probably go on display at the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, a national museum of natural history and a research center in the Netherlands, the partners in the dig.

"That museum is planning an opening of the new Dinosaur Hall in 2017. So we will be working on these specimens until close to that date. We will prepare them, probably mold and cast some things to produce some other bones that fit the missing parts of the skeletons. Then we will mount the original bones and they will be put on exhibits for the world to see," Larson postulated in June.

**Northeast Wyoming Benefit for West River South Dakota Neighbors**  
**Saturday, January 4, 2014**  
Crook County Fairgrounds - Shooting Sports Building - Sundance, Wyoming  
5 PM – Social Hour, Supper (Served until gone), Silent Auction  
7 PM – Live Auction  
8:30 PM – Chancey Williams & The Younger Brothers Band Live Performance  
Tickets at the Door are \$20 • Children 6 & Under Free



Come help and support our West River, SD friends and neighbors affected by Winter Storm Atlas. We have a fun evening planned with excellent food, excellent entertainment, cash bar and live and silent auctions.

**100% of the proceeds from benefit donated to the Rancher Relief Fund**

We are accepting items for the live and silent auctions, big or small!  
To make a donation or for more information, please call Ty or Jen Krell @ 307-746-2665

*This ad space brought to you by the News Letter Journal*

**Blessed Be The Day**  
*May His word bring exceeding great joy to you and your family on Christmas Day and all season long.*  
**Merry Christmas**

**End of the year SAVINGS!**

<p><b>Lighting</b> GE is Light Instant On Soft White CFL Bulbs (5 pack)</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>60W</td><td>962-381</td><td>\$18<sup>00</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>75W</td><td>324-095</td><td>\$21<sup>00</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>100W</td><td>324-855</td><td>\$24<sup>00</sup></td></tr> </table> 	60W	962-381	\$18 <sup>00</sup>	75W	324-095	\$21 <sup>00</sup>	100W	324-855	\$24 <sup>00</sup>	<p><b>Audio Vox-RCA USB Wall Plate Charger</b> Turns any standard outlet into a USB outlet in seconds 261-461</p> <p><b>RCA</b> <b>\$12<sup>99</sup></b></p> 			
60W	962-381	\$18 <sup>00</sup>											
75W	324-095	\$21 <sup>00</sup>											
100W	324-855	\$24 <sup>00</sup>											
<p><b>Fire Extinguisher</b> Fights all common fires Class ABC 334-417</p> <p><b>\$16<sup>99</sup></b></p>  <p><b>Kidde</b></p>	<p><b>Poly Grain Scoop</b> 501-924</p> <p><b>\$16<sup>99</sup></b></p>  <p><b>AMES TRUE TEMPER</b></p>												
<p><b>Extension Cord</b> <b>Woods</b> For extreme cold to -58° 25 ft. 16/3 973-081</p> <p><b>\$12<sup>00</sup></b></p> 	<p><b>Softener Salt</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Solar Salt</td><td>141-770</td><td>\$4<sup>00</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Bag</td><td>908-202</td><td>\$5<sup>00</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Yellow Bag</td><td>908-210</td><td>\$6<sup>00</sup></td></tr> <tr><td>Green Bag</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>  <p><b>Cargill</b></p>	Solar Salt	141-770	\$4 <sup>00</sup>	Blue Bag	908-202	\$5 <sup>00</sup>	Yellow Bag	908-210	\$6 <sup>00</sup>	Green Bag		
Solar Salt	141-770	\$4 <sup>00</sup>											
Blue Bag	908-202	\$5 <sup>00</sup>											
Yellow Bag	908-210	\$6 <sup>00</sup>											
Green Bag													
<p><b>Air Compressor Coupler</b> 445-502</p> <p><b>\$4<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p><b>20% OFF</b> All Plews-TruPlate Couplers &amp; Plugs</p> 	<p><b>Chore Gloves</b> LG &amp; XL 929-406, 748-350</p> <p><b>\$13<sup>99</sup>/pr</b></p>  <p><b>W.L. wells lamont</b></p>												
<p><b>Shop Vac</b> 16 gal. Ultra Pro Wet/Dry Vac 483-560</p> <p><b>\$120<sup>00</sup></b></p>  <p><b>shop-vac</b></p>	<p><b>Knight Chemicals Walk Safe Ice Melt</b> 8 lb. jug 894-527</p> <p><b>\$9<sup>00</sup></b> Safer for pets</p> 												

**FRONTIER Home, Ranch & Hardware**  
21 South Railway Ave • Newcastle WY • (307) 746-3144  
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 am-6:00 pm • Sat 8:00 am-5:00 pm • Closed Sunday

We accept:    



**Schedule**

Newcastle			
Boys Basketball	01/04	V9	Lusk Tigers
		A	3PM
Girls Basketball	01/04	V9	Lusk Tigers
		A	3PM
Wrestling	01/07	VJ	Lusk Tigers
		H	5PM

**Upton**

Boys Basketball	1/10	Arvada/Clearmont @Clearmont	5:30PM
	1/11	NSI @Sheridan	2:30PM
Girls Basketball	1/10	Arvada/Clearmont @Clearmont	4PM
	1/11	NSI @Sheridan	1PM

**The Score**

NHS Boys Varsity Basketball  
Dec. 19 @ home  
Newcastle 64, Sundance 47  
Dec. 20-21 State Line Shootout @ Sundance  
Lead-Deadwood 75, Newcastle 53  
Belle Fourche 70, Newcastle 48

NHS Girls Varsity Basketball  
Dec. 19 @ home  
Newcastle 47, Sundance 42  
Lead-Deadwood 54, Newcastle 51  
Belle Fourche 49, Newcastle 38

*\*Complete sports results and stories for the week of Dec. 15-21 will run in next week's News Letter Journal.*

**Track teams made big turnaround**

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

The Dogie track program made a dramatic about-face this past spring, with both the boys and girls teams placing third at the 2013 3A East Regional Meet hosted at home by Newcastle before falling somewhat short of expectations at the state meet at Casper. Still, the season represented a vast improvement over 2012, which had seen the boys place a disappointing sixth at the regional meet while the girls scored only four points in taking an eighth-place finish at the same.

— See **Track**, Page 24

**Back in the game**

By Denice Piscioti of NLJ

For the first time since 2008, the 2012-2013 Newcastle High School Girls Basketball Team went to the Wyoming 3A State Tournament in Casper in March. The experience was something Coach Tyler Bartlett and Coach Chad Ostenson worked to achieve in the four years they had been coaching the team.

The tourney kicked off on a high note for the Dogies when they won their first game, against the Lyman Eagles, by three points, leading them to the semi-finals. Although they lost

the next two games, the coaches were proud of what the team did achieve.

“We ended up being fourth at State — that is a big accomplishment for a team that last year won six games and this year won 16! It was a pretty big turnaround, one of the biggest in the state, I would say. It wasn’t something that just happened in one year, it happened in four. A lot of the credit goes to the three seniors. They have been with us since we were hired, and leaders since then,” Bartlett offered, looking back on the season’s accomplishments.

He attributed the team’s success in large part to the effort in the off-season of those seniors, Maddee Foster, Paige Smith and Shenae LaCroix. The coach said that, better than anyone, they worked hard during the summer by leading workouts, organizing open gyms and attending team camps.

“The saying is champions are won in the off-season. We might not have won a championship, but the reason we got to go to State and the reason we did so well is because of the time and effort that they put in, in June. That is the biggest lesson that we can take from those three seniors — the time you put in, at the end of the season pays off,” Bartlett recognized.

At the beginning of the season, Bartlett expected, and received, good things from the three seniors that had been on the Varsity team since they were sophomores. He noted in November of 2012 that the team was not a tall one, but they made up for it with effort, character and heart.

“Those are three kids we expect some good things out of this year,” he predicted at the time. “Yea, they are going to be undersized, but they make up for it with effort and some of the other things they do on the court. The team is short but we have a lot of athletes. We may not be the tallest, but we are going to be pretty quick, pretty fast and we are going to take

advantage of that.”

The first games of the season proved to be a good start for the Newcastle High School Girls Basketball Team when they traveled to Cody to participate in the East-West Challenge. The first game against Powell, the only game the Newcastle Dogies lost, taught the players valuable lessons they carried with them into the following competitions with Cody and Pinedale. Defense was the tone of that weekend, reported Coach Tyler Bartlett.

For the girls’ first home game, against the Custer Wildcats, they started out nervous, slow, the coach indicated at the time. As the game against the Custer Wildcats progressed, though, the Dogies gained momentum to win by a landslide 60-19. Every Varsity player had the opportunity to play in the game with almost everyone scoring points for the team.

Unfortunately their next showing

— See **Girls**, Page 14

**Runners post record times in 2013**

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

Despite posting record times for Newcastle that likely would have secured them a first-place finish in just about any other year, boys cross country finished third at State behind strong Star Valley and Jackson teams this fall, while the Dogie ladies fared less well, taking a disappointing eighth in a field of nine.

The season began in August with Newcastle looking to better the sixth-place finishes both the boys and girls took at State in 2012, the sense of competition being bolstered by a number of returners and lots of jockeying for Varsity spots.

“I don’t know who is going to be on that team,” Coach Pat Hayman said as the Dogies geared up for the season. “I really don’t. I’m

always surprised as the year progresses. That’s the beauty of having a team as big as we’ve got. We’ve got eight or nine guys fighting with the seven already on Varsity to get those spots.”

The Dogies faced some of their toughest competition in the first few meets of the season. The traditional season opener at Mallo Camp — a comparably intimate setting — was cancelled due

to a scheduling conflict, so Newcastle instead headed to the Douglas Early Bird Meet at Ellsworth Air Force Base where they took on a number of bigger schools.

Sophomore Calbi Ausmann took seventh at that Aug. 30 meet, while senior Justin Francis led the Dogie boys by placing ninth. Hayman took the position that getting roughed up early in the season by the big boys

was a good source of motivation for his team.

“It was just a good wake-up call about why we’ve got to come down to the park, and why we’ve got to run hill repeats on Wednesday,” he said at the time. “Those are the race-specific workouts, and if you can’t push yourself here, you’re not going to be able to push yourself in a

— See **Cross Country**, Page 14

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**The Wyoming Club™**

*Matt Ramsey, Bill Hall and the Weinreis Brothers*

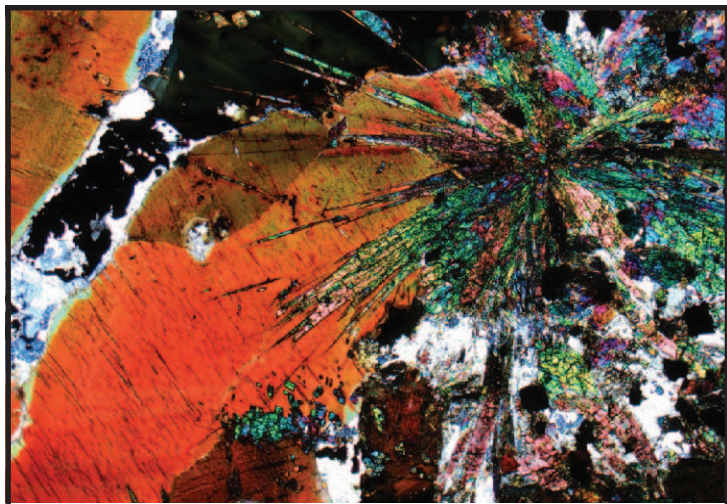


Photo of a thin section of the ore's host rock at the Bear Lodge Project as seen through a polarizing microscope

**Season's Greetings  
and Best Wishes  
in 2014**



**with best wishes for the New Year!  
Newcastle Ambulance Service**



Thank you Weston County for your continued support.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**NORTH PLATTE  
PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
360 West Main St. Newcastle, WY 82701  
307-746-3573

## Cross Country

from page 13

race. We've got to understand that."

In a preview of the course they would later run at State, Newcastle next made an appearance at the Michelle Ludwig Invite at Sheridan on Sept. 7. There, they again placed toward the back of the pack, as they competed in a big field populated by a number of 4A schools.

Hayman, however, said he was content with the times being run.

"... I've been telling our kids it's all relative. We've already been to Rapid and that was big too. I brought them to two big tough meets with dang near all the 4A schools there in the first two weeks ... It's tough to get beat like they did, but I guarantee they aren't going to get beat like that in any other meet I bring them to, including conference and state."

Indeed, Newcastle quickly became much more competitive at the smaller meets in which they next participated. At the Belle Fourche Invitational on Sept. 12, the boys took first and the girls sixth despite the absence of a couple of top runners. Francis again led the way for the boys with 18:06 while Laura Chord finished first for the ladies with a time of 19:02. Next, at the Sept. 19 Custer Invitational, the boys placed second behind their Custer hosts while the girls were a more modest seventh in a field of eight teams, though Hill City came out ahead of the Lady Dogies by only one point. This was despite the continued absence of a couple of key male and female runners due to injury and illness.

"I would say overall that we're pleased with every group that we have," assistant coach Kathy Beehler reflected at the time. "Each group is moving up. One group might have started more toward the bottom of the pack, and now they're more toward the middle. Pretty soon they'll be running toward the front. We're just happy our kids are getting better faster than the teams we're racing."

One of the highlights of the season came just days later on Sept. 24 at the Hot Springs Invitational where the boys and girls shared the spotlight, both placing first in fields of four teams. The boys placed six runners in the top eight to take the clear win. The girls, on the other hand, with only one runner in the top four spots, made up in consistency across the board what they lacked in pure speed.

"If everybody's doing their job ... I'd say your fifth runner is more important than you first, actually," Hayman explained of the girls' win and the team aspect of what seems at first glance to be a wholly individual sport.

"It was neat that our boys and girls both won the Hot Springs [Invitational]," Hayman would later reflect after the season's conclusion. "That always does something for a team, when both win a meet."

At the Sturgis Invitational on Oct. 3, the boys continued their dominance, taking five of the top nine positions for first place. This time Tristan Mitchell was first for Newcastle, and third overall,

with a time of 16:59 over the 5-k course. The girls, in contrast, took sixth. Senior Lynell Hanson chalked the girls' finish up to a strong field of competitors and the relative inexperience of many of the girls in comparison to the boys.

Oct. 10th's Buffalo Invitational, the last meet of the regular season, saw the boys again take first while the girls took fifth in a field of six. The course was among the most challenging Newcastle had run all season, with soft sand and a challenging hill.

Despite the boys' victory, Hayman suggested things would become more difficult from there on out.

"When you're running like the boys — we went two, three, four, six, and seven — when you do that you can just see you've won ... but that isn't going to happen at State, not with Cody and Star Valley in the mix."

The much anticipated Absaraka Conference meet on Oct. 18 at Glenrock Golf Club took place in miserable weather conditions that only made a tough, hilly course that much more difficult. The Dogie boys took first with 31 points ahead of Buffalo (55) and Worland (60), as the girls came in fourth ahead of the Glenrock team who had beaten them the week before.

"... they gave a great effort," Hayman said at the time, in reference to the girls, but he was less content with the performance turned in by his male runners.

"The boys, I felt like they were a little bit off even though they won," he said,

unsure of the exact reasons. "I just felt like they were off ... You get four in the top 10 and your next guy is 12th. Are you going to gripe about that? Well, we weren't running full power. I don't know why, but better to get it out of our system now and get going for State. It was a decisive win, but I just didn't feel that we ran as well as we could have."

By the State Championship Meet in Sheridan on Oct. 26, the boys seemed to have shaken off their funk, however, turning in a record-setting performance for Newcastle. Tristan Mitchell led the way with a time of 16:45, which was the best ever for the Dogies at State. Overall, the boys sported the fastest top five times they've ever had, every male runner on the team had a personal best, and their average of 17:15 beat the 17:45 average of the 1999 team that Hayman said he considered to be his best ever.

Despite all this, Newcastle found themselves placing only third behind Star Valley and Jackson teams who turned in stellar performances in their own right.

"We were in it. I'd thought we'd won. I really had," said an evidently disappointed Hayman.

Still, he said he saw the third-place finish only as motivation to train harder for next year beginning with summer roadwork. Even the girls, who finished eighth in a field of nine at State, should place within the top four next time around given they are willing to put forward the required effort, Hayman predicted.

## Girls

from page 13

in the Dogie Dome, against the Sundance Bulldogs in the Stateline Shootout lacked that momentum, with only one win during the three games.

The girls continued to fight, sometimes with a win, and sometimes with a loss — but fighting nevertheless.

The game against the Lead-Deadwood Goldiggers ended with a Newcastle loss, 57-47. Similar problems arose for the team the following day against the Belle Fourche Broncos. In the third quarter the Dogies found themselves in a hole they were not able to dig out — but not without a fight — with the game ending in a close score of 47-46.

Conference play began after the first of the new year, with the Dogies struggling to get back into the swing of things after the holiday break.

The Newcastle girls next proved they were able to bring their game when pitted against the Wheatland Bulldogs on the road, winning 45-34, but they fell short the following day on their home turf against the Rawlins Outlaws with a loss of 53-36. However, the Dogies won the next two conference games at home.

They met up with the Glenrock Herders in the Dogie Dome, followed by a double-header against the Worland Warriors, playing strong in the first half but losing power in the second.

"For whatever reason, if we were unaccustomed to that or whatever, it was coming out of half time that we let teams back into it. Start of the third quarter for both of those games we didn't come out ready to defend, didn't come out and get buckets," Bartlett commiserated at the time. "We just let teams back in that probably shouldn't have been in it."

The following weekend became a turning point in the season for the much-improved Lady Dogies in terms of finding out exactly where they stacked up against the rest of their conference, and the team — which struggled in the bottom half of the conference for the past few years — claimed a spot in the top tier.

Against the Buffalo Bison, the Newcastle High School Girls' Basketball Team started out slower than usual, but were able to turn momentum in their direction to win their fourth conference game of the season in a close contest that ended with the score 42-39 in favor of the Dogies.

Two days later they competed against the number one team in the state, the Douglas Bearcats, but the Converse team was able to win impressively to remain unbeaten.

On the last game in January the Dogies proved they were a force to be reckoned with in the 3A East Conference. Foul trouble, coupled with not handling the Trailblazers' pressure defense, gave the opposition the advantage to go on a run and take the lead in the fourth quarter of the game, but even after struggling in the middle of the game the Dogies kept their composure and rose to the challenge, becoming solid down the stretch to win the game by four points.

Next, when pitted against the Wheatland Bulldogs, the girls held the lead up until the last 50 seconds of the game, but were out-scored when the Bulldogs made four points to win, 46-50.

The following morning, after a long bus trip, the ladies gave it their all but lost to the Rawlins Outlaws, 50-73.

Bartlett and the Lady Dogies didn't

give up though, and proved they could make a comeback when they met the Warriors. The Ladies only gave up eight points in the last half of the game, bringing home a win, 46-37. The next day, playing the Glenrock Herders, they rode a wave of exhilaration as they beat the Herders 40-33.

As the season neared its end, the Ladies continued to attack the hoop in a game against the Bison, but missed shots proved their downfall in a game that concluded with a score of 62-56, in favor of the Bison.

The undefeated Bearcats traveled to Newcastle from Douglas next, and despite a loss of 60-30, Bartlett was proud of how well the team competed.

The following weekend, the team played their last regular season game against the Torrington Trailblazers, which turned out to be a close game at the end in favor of the opponents, 56-50.

Still, despite some losses and bumps along the way, Bartlett was pleased with the Lady Dogies' progress and fortitude during a season that brought them to the state tourney for the first time since 2008.

"I just couldn't be prouder of that team and what they were able to accomplish. Like any season, we had our ups and downs, but the bottom line is the kids put in the time and effort necessary to be successful. I really feel like that team has laid the foundation for a lot of success in the future. They've shown that if you set high goals and are willing to work for them, you can accomplish a lot of great things. After some down years and tough seasons, it was a great experience to be a part of," reflected the coach as he looked back on the season.

**Happy Holidays  
from your friends  
& neighbors at**

**WESTON COUNTY  
HEALTH SERVICES**

Quality Care, Right Here

1124 Washington Blvd. Newcastle, WY 82701 • Hospital (307)746-4491 • Manor (307)746-2793 • Physical Therapy (307)746-3720



# Finally, some relief from horns

The trains of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad have been steadily blowing through Newcastle for decades, hauling coal from the mines of the Powder River Basin as well as other commodities. At each crossing, those trains have been blowing warning horns for years, and although many residents respect their need for safety, the wailing of the horns day and night have become a nuisance, especially for those living closest to the crossings.



As a result of the Wyoming State Legislature's allocation of \$5 million toward quieting the noise from trains across the state, however, the implementation of wayside horns was finally completed this year in Newcastle — but not without delays that kept people wondering, "will they ever really quiet those horns?"

In June, the News Letter Journal reported on the progress.

"All the paperwork has been done with Burlington Northern and all the paperwork has been done with the Wyoming Department of Transportation. We are now just waiting on the company out of Fort Worth, Texas, to come on out here and get to work on installing the horn system," City Engineer Bob Hartley reported. "The last thing I heard is that the workers should be out here any day now ..."

The system features an installed horn system at the crossings, directing a blast in the direction of oncoming traffic, rather than down the railroad tracks themselves.

"We handled our portion that we needed

to do last year, hoping that the workers would be able to start in the winter. They wanted to wait until they thought it was warm enough to come this way and start work. I've received e-mails stating that they should be here any day now to start the construction of the wayside horns," Hartley indicated in June.

Newcastle was not the only city on the list of wayside horn projects to be completed in Wyoming though, and apparently was not at the top of the contractor's list.

"I'm not sure where we stand on the schedule, but I'm sure we won't be the first town they hit to work on the project," WYDOT Resident Engineer Joni Kachelhoffer expressed.

Residents continued to wait, though, and in August the NLJ again asked, "what's the status of the wayside horns?"

At that time, Hartley indicated that the project would most likely be complete before snow hit the ground.

The construction of the median at the Second Avenue crossing had been completed, Hartley told the News Letter Journal,

and the installation of the wayside horns was set to begin.

"We did get notice from the DOT that the contractor is supposed to be here to begin work on the wayside horns on Sept. 16," Hartley reported.

"He's got to install the horns, get them all operational and get the notifications, and it's all up and running. He told me at one time that it would take about 30 days for that, so we may — by the middle of October — be up and running," he predicted in August.

In addition to performing the actual physical installation of the horns and the other equipment needed to ensure their operation, the contractor was also required to file appropriate reports and notifications to BNSF, after which the system would be approved for operation.

In November, the system was finally put into operation. With little fanfare it was announced by Hartley that the train horns would go silent, when the wayside horns would be turned on for the first time. The new wayside horns are not exactly "silent," but according to residents have significantly decreased the decibel level previously heard.

Although the agreement with WYDOT required the City of Newcastle to assume only a small percentage of the cost for construction of the barrier at Second Avenue and installation of the wayside horns at the other two crossings, it was estimated that maintenance of the horns at those two crossings will cost the city several thousand dollars every year.

## More 2013 News, In brief

### Still unresolved

Weston County's million-dollar event center, sitting vacant a year and a half after completion, was still in the news in 2013 as a resolution as to the building's structural problems still had not been addressed.

In March, Kim Basham, a forensic engineer from Cheyenne, and Kyle Gillette of Schutz Foss Architects, the project manager for the construction of the event center, discussed problems in the building that began to reveal themselves shortly after it was built. Basham came to the community March 4 at the request of the county commissioners to inspect the building, and to prepare a report suggesting steps that should be taken to repair damage that is the result of a water leak that degraded the foundation of the building.

In June, Dave Spencer of the Wyoming Business Council met with the Weston County Commissioners to discuss the future of the event center. According to Spencer, the State Loan and Investment Board had summoned him to write a report regarding the current progress of repairs on the event center, so he approached the commissioners for answers.

A total of \$500,000 in state grant money approved by the SLIB was awarded for the construction of the building and Commissioner Marty Ertman related her belief that the decay of the structure should be a concern to state officials. She informed the council that after State Treasurer Mark Gordon helped with clean-up duties at a June Republican meeting, he asked for a tour of the event center, where he took pictures of the structural damages with his cell phone.

The commissioners discussed the fact that the building had moved three inches,

indicating that it may be too late to save the building, but were awaiting Basham's final evaluation.

Mediation was implemented after months of discussions and negotiations with Paul Reed Construction, the company that was awarded the bid to construct the event center, and their insurance company had, to that date, produced no results on the repair of the building. The status of the building, and its repairs, is still in limbo.

### No arrests

The two-year anniversary of the shooting death of 35-year-old Katy Coffee in her home on the west edge of Newcastle came and went on June 2 without any clear answers to the questions residents have regarding who killed Coffee and why.

Rumors circulated in the month of June regarding a possible arrest, but law enforcement officials reported they still had not identified any suspects in the murder, although investigators with the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation told the News Letter Journal they were continuing to check on leads in the case.

DCI has refused to release to the public any details of the crime, or reveal any clues they have collected, in the hopes that the perpetrator might speak about the crime to someone who will contact law enforcement, and if that person has details that haven't been revealed it could lead investigators to the person or persons responsible for the crime.

There is a \$50,000 reward being offered by Coffee's family to any individual who provides information to law enforcement that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for her death. Anyone who believes they may be in possession of such information is encouraged to contact

the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation at (307) 682-1796, or the Newcastle Police Department at 746-4486. Those who wish to remain anonymous can call the department's secret witness hotline at 746-3888.

### Penalties imposed

A growing number of delinquent city utility accounts presented a problem that was discussed at length by the Newcastle City Council, with a number of proposed solutions discussed in February, including the possibility of a new deposit requirement for service reconnection. At their Sept. 16 meeting, the council read a series of ordinances into the public record that will increase the utility deposit for water, sewage and garbage, for those who are delinquent on their payments. The deposit would be raised to \$200 or the combined total of the highest two months out of the previous 12 months, whichever is greater, according to copies of the ordinances.

Barring any obstacles, it was reported, the new ordinances would go into effect Oct. 17.

Utility deposits with the City of Newcastle are refundable after making 12 months of on-time payments.

### Build begins

With all applicable permits secured and winter in the rear-view mirror, construction had begun on a pair of homes at the Wyoming Club, and developers announced in June that they would begin selling lots at the property in the summer.

The resort community on property overlooking the Salt Creek Valley along U.S. Highway 85 north of Newcastle, will feature a championship golf course, horseback riding and luxury accommodations and amenities. In the works for a

number of years, Wyoming Club Director Bill Hall said that in the time it took to secure permits, prepare the property for sales, and bring together the development team, the concept of the Wyoming Club had been put before a number of prospective buyers. He reported that the vision was well received by those who may be interested in becoming members.

### New highway project

In June, the Wyoming Department of Transportation announced it will take on its largest project to date in Weston County. WYDOT Resident Engineer Joni Kachelhoffer told the News Letter Journal that plans for reconstruction of the eight-and-a-half-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 16 between the Dixon Brothers approach and the state line will have a complete overhaul. With many different repairs and upgrades to be made on the strip of highway, she said in June, the project is estimated to take two years to complete.

The project will include construction of a center turn lane that will make it safer for travelers to turn off onto county roads while still allowing for flow of traffic to continue without having to stop for turning vehicles. The turn lane is expected to cut down the numbers of accidents on the strip caused by travelers trying to pass vehicles exiting onto county roads. Many other improvements are proposed to take place as well, such as rehabilitation of the three bridges spanning that section of Highway 16, dirt work, and fencing.

The bid letting for the project closed on June 13 and was expected to cost close to \$20 million, however no start date for the project had been announced. The estimated finish date, however, is October of 2015, Kachelhoffer reported.

We hope your holiday is harmonious in every way, and that your home echoes with the sounds of laughter as you celebrate Christmas.

Thank you for welcoming us into your community.

We look forward to being there when you need us in the new year.

**EmCare**  
Making Health Care Work Better.™

Happy Holidays!

We look forward to seeing you in the spring!

Newcastle Country Club

Best wishes and many thanks  
We couldn't have done it without your support.

Thank You and Merry Christmas!

**Black Hills Auto Salvage**      **Sage Motel**  
746-4976 • 1-800-468-4976      746-2724

Treasure

even the smallest gifts this holiday, and every day!  
Thank you for your support in 2013.

**Treasured Florals & Gifts**  
1903 W. Main St, Suite 3 • 746-4349 • After Hours 746-5015

Wishing you a tangle-free holiday.

Jill, Hartman, Agent  
420 West Main Street  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
Bus: 307-746-9689  
jill.hartman.b66q@statefarm.com

May all your days be merry and bright.  
A safe and joyous season to everyone. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

**State Farm**™  
State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

**CHICK FINANCIAL**  
How's Your Nest Egg Doing?  
David Chick • 746-9154

Wishing you a beautiful Holiday Season and a New Year full of peace and happiness.

Modern Cleaners & Graphic Designs  
Rosemary, Angie, Kris and Kat



# A busy year for governing bodies

By Todd Bennington of NLJ

2013 was a year of sometimes tumultuous change for the boards of the Weston County Fair, Weston County Museum District, and the Foundation of Caring, Understanding and Services (FOCUS).

These changes began in January with Dianna Williams and Chris Beardsley taking over as the respective administrative director and interim advocate director for FOCUS, the local agency responsible for dealing with issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The two replaced former director Amy Natchke who had been fired from the organization in November 2012 amongst an atmosphere of controversy and suspicion.

"I do want to acknowledge that we have had a lot of issues, not just in the past year, but in the past 30 years," Williams said at the time, apparently hopeful the agency was moving in the right direction. "There have been a lot of issues and a lot of ups and downs, but we are still here ..."

Things were mostly quiet board-wise until later in the year when, on Aug. 13, tensions boiled over at the Weston County Fair Board, a year after the Weston County Commissioners had removed a board member. At issue was the commitment of Craig Deveraux, who had been appointed to fill the seat left vacant by Colleen Donaldson's removal, owing to his absence at a significant number of meetings. Other points of contention were financial issues and the timeliness of payments related to the Open Horse Show and Gymkhanas.

Just a week later, the Aug. 21 board meeting of FOCUS saw the resignation of all three of the agency's employees, with Dianna Williams, who had come on board in January as administrative director, leveling a number of accusations against the FOCUS board and calling for the agency to either be dissolved or purged of its existing board members. Further controversy arose when board chair Milinda Wineteer called for an executive session to conduct board training with state representatives in apparent violation of state statute on how board meetings are to be conducted. The resignations crippled the agency and resulted in its immediate closure.

As a direct result of the shutdown of FOCUS, the Newcastle City Council voted unanimously on Sept. 3 to withhold financial support from the agency until it could demonstrate it is providing some level of service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The move came just hours after the FOCUS board convened for an emergency meeting at which they quickly agreed to hire a consultant before immediately adjourning. The meeting was controversial owing to the fact the decision appeared to have been decided by board members in advance and the cryptic answer given by board chair Wineteer — "to help with FOCUS" — when asked about the purpose for hiring a consultant.

On Sept. 9, tempers again flared at a meeting of the Weston County Fair Board, leading to a hastily called executive session and the resignation of Sue Kettley, the assistant manager of the fairgrounds. The meeting was attended by a half dozen members of the public who brought up several topics to the board. Kettley took issue with a number of the points raised and the discussion deteriorated to the point Kettley was asked to leave the room after she had an emotional outburst directed against those leveling accusations against her. Kettley tendered her resignation the next day.

Kettley's departure came toward the end of a meeting at which several contentious issues had been touched upon, among them the reimbursements for Gymkhanas held



NLJ File Photo

**Bill Taylor taught a Board Training Class in October to help people better understand the roles of board members.**

over the summer, which was discussed at length to the apparent satisfaction of those in attendance. However, longtime donor and competitor Laurie Farella stirred yet more controversy when she read a letter to the board voicing her discontent at how the 50-year-old tradition of the junior rodeo had been carried out during the past several years. Farella recommended a junior rodeo open meeting, with advertising through newspaper and radio, to be held at the fairgrounds, with the fair board present and Weston County Commissioners invited. The board responded positively by agreeing to draft a letter to 2014 Weston County Junior Rodeo superintendents Barney and Connie Hiser, as well as past superintendents, recommending an advertised open public meeting be held.

By their Sept. 25 meeting, a capsized FOCUS organization was beginning to right itself, with board members voting to hire Crook County Senior Services Director Donna Howard as interim director, who brought with her a wealth of experience in assisting such ailing organizations. A previous decision to hire a consultant was reversed after board members concluded the agency was unable to follow through with doing so. The board also agreed to attend board training and advocate training as they prepared to hire a new permanent executive director.

Owing to resignations and the retirement of Jeanette Ray, who oversaw the daily operations of Upton's Red Onion Museum, the Weston County Museum District announced in late September that they were looking to fill two assistant director positions. These would eventually be filled by Liz Barrett and Wendy Robinson.

However, uncertainty quickly mounted for the museum district when they received a letter dated Oct. 10 from the Upton Town Council indicating the Red Onion needed to vacate the space it shares with Upton's City Hall within 30 days in order to make room for renovations. Museum district personnel said the letter was an unexpected one and that while they had been looking for a new space for some time, previous discussions with Upton's Town Council had not indicated that a move was urgent. Concern was raised by those associated with the museum district as to how temperature-sensitive artifacts might be stored as a new space was sought for the Red Onion. On Oct. 18, museum district board member Sam Haptonstall reported to the News Letter Journal that he felt he had engaged in an amicable discussion with Upton Mayor Don Sharkey that day, and that Sharkey had agreed to again bring the issue before the town council.

In early November, after meeting with recently hired interim director Donna Howard, the Newcastle City Council and Weston County Board of Commissioners opted to withhold funding from FOCUS for the time being, despite the fact FOCUS was now providing limited services. Both bodies said they wished to see FOCUS become fully operational and demonstrate increased communication and transparency before releasing funds.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 12, the Upton Town Council reversed its previous decision and voted to allow the Red Onion to remain six more months in the 725 Second Street building the museum shares with the Upton City Hall. The discussion between council members and representatives of the museum district proved to be an awkward one, however, as those associated with the museum were operating under the assumption an extension had already been granted, while council members professed to be unaware that any such agreement had been reached. Neither Sharkey nor Haptonstall, who were supposed by the museum district to have already brokered a deal for the extension, were present at the meeting. Museum District Director Bobbie Jo Stith informed the NLJ that museum officials had met with a real estate agent immediately following the meeting and now had some good leads on museum-appropriate buildings.

At the FOCUS board's Nov. 20 meeting board chairman Milinda Wineteer and board vice-chairman Sharon Strickland both announced they were resigning immediately from the board after a lengthy executive session. The resignations were apparently precipitated by interim director Donna Howard's report to the board, made earlier in the evening, about the public perception of FOCUS and what steps needed to be taken to move the agency forward. Wineteer and Strickland countered that public perception was inaccurate and heavily criticized the News Letter Journal's coverage of the agency.

The year was rounded out at the FOCUS board's next meeting on Dec. 19, the last of the year for the agency, which witnessed discussion by the remaining three board members as to how to recruit new membership and a vote to hire Donna Howard as the agency's new executive director. Howard indicated to the board at that meeting that she had made the necessary submissions through the online IntelliGrants system in order for FOCUS to begin receiving state and federal funding in the form of reimbursements. Technical problems with the IntelliGrants system had previously proven a major stumbling block for the agency.

Let the child in you come out to play this holiday season. Our family would like to wish your family a very **Merry Christmas!**

Newcastle Equipment  
Ron, Mary, Chris,  
Kyle, Tyler, Clinton, Nancy & Joyce

May the spirit of the season fill your heart with joy.

**Black Hills Exploration & Production**

**O' Little Star of Bethlehem**

May Peace and enlightenment guide you, and may God bless you and your loved ones during this holiest of seasons.

Kelly, Dick, Liz and Tasha

at&t authorized retailer

**ADVANCED**  
Communication Systems, Inc.  
1807 West Main Street in Newcastle • 746-9614

You're on Our Good List!

As we celebrate this holy season, let's remember to treat one another with kindness, love and understanding. We hope you'll join us in the true spirit of the season with prayers of peace and goodwill toward all mankind.

From our flock to yours, our best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**Double METALS**  
Wayne & Laura Oney

**Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!**

Thank you for your patronage in 2013.

Acorn Storage  
G&C Glass  
Gary & Carol Underberg





# What to do about the trash?

The topic of trash in Weston County has been a point of discussion throughout the year. The City of Newcastle's landfill on Old Highway 85, though owned by the city, is used by all residents of the county so the issue of making certain that those using the landfill are all paying equally into its upkeep was discussed at length at various meetings held throughout 2013.

In January, Newcastle City Engineer Bob Hartley indicated that scales had been installed at the landfill to weigh the amount of garbage being brought in.

"The charges will not be set up until after the Sanitation Committee of the city council meets after the first of February," Hartley told the News Letter Journal in January.

A study was being conducted, he indicated, to determine what the cost should be. Also, regulations involving the disposal of solid waste has been, and continues to be, a concern in regard to landfills in Weston County.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality met with both city and county officials in Newcastle on Feb. 5 to discuss those regulations and what they would mean for local landfills.

"We wanted to get all of the players together in the county — the county, the City of Newcastle, the Town of Upton, and the Osage Sanitation District — and get them all there at one time so they could give us an idea of where they're going," Hartley said after the meeting.

No decisions were made, and no specific course of action was identified, but the meeting served to put alternatives in front of decision-makers from the various local governments.

Options discussed included the City of Newcastle continuing to operate its own landfill, as well as the possibility that it could be converted into a transfer station for a county or regional landfill. Newcastle's landfill, which has a present life expectancy of 10 years but is currently permitted for only the next three, could even become a countywide or regional landfill. If that were to happen, it would probably only occur after the formation of a county sanitation district, which would have to be approved by voters.

"If we do that, do we continue to run a landfill in Newcastle, does it become a county landfill somewhere else, or do we get out of the landfill business altogether and start shipping our garbage? At the meeting, everybody got educated as far as what DEQ is looking at, some of the costs, and some of the funding scenarios through the legislature," Hartley said after the February meeting, noting that the additional interest in the issue shown by lawmakers in recent years resulted in some financial benefit, but it has also created problems in the respect that the equations and figures used in recent studies are no longer valid.

In respect to clean-up of old dumps, during the 2013 Legislative Session the Wyoming State Legislature set aside \$40 million during the general session for remediation of old landfills in Wyoming, and Newcastle's old dump, north of Rattlesnake Ridge, was on the list of 11 high-priority landfills in the state slated to receive funding under House Bill 65, which was supported by all four of the legislators who represent Weston County, NLJ reported.

The estimated cost of investigating groundwater contamination from methane in Newcastle Landfill No. 1, the design and installation of monitoring, and the remediation system itself, is \$1,338,487 for the first 10 years, and \$308,844 for the 10 years after that, NLJ reported. Under the legislation, the state will cover 75 percent of that cost, and the City of Newcastle will

be responsible for picking up 25 percent of the tab.

Although the money was set aside, no time-table was provided for the remediation, and late in the session the legislature indicated that if the cost of wildfires during the summer were to exceed the amount of money set aside for that effort, the State could take money from the landfill fund to cover the cost of fighting fires.

"The legislature didn't used to be involved in landfills and the granting of funds, but they came up with money for remediation, and the closure of landfills and transfer sites. That changed some of the cost analysis we've done in the past as far as shipping our garbage," Hartley reasoned, indicating that the City of Newcastle completed a study, funded partially by DEQ, on funding landfills four or five years ago.

As part of that study, the city looked into the cost of shipping garbage if the landfill was closed, but it was unclear if money set aside by the legislature for communities that shut down landfills or converted them into transfer stations would be enough.

"The problem is that there isn't near enough money in there for what they've got. I think they've got 1/20th or 1/30th of the amount they need for what's sitting on the table," Hartley reported, adding that Newcastle and Weston County have yet to submit any kind of proposal to the state, which means any local measure to address landfills aren't even "on the state's table" yet.

While the state legislature indicated a desire to help make the economics of closing and consolidating landfills more acceptable, the city engineer said that only a fraction of the money required to do so statewide had been earmarked for such efforts.

Another issue, Hartley pointed out, is whether or not — if the city decided to continue running the landfill in the current manner — the state would grant a lifetime permit for the landfill when the term of the current four-year permit expires.

"We have to determine if it's even feasible for us to apply for a lifetime permit," Hartley reasoned.

With Upton officials already making plans to close their landfill, discussions centered on landfills as a countywide issue, and how best to serve the entire county. Hartley suggested that it could ultimately be in the best interest of all involved to form a county sanitation district.

"Our obligation is to the city and the residents. We've got to protect them, and what their expense is going to be, but if you look at the big picture, it's a county-wide problem and need, including Upton, because they have already made the commitment to close their landfill. Hopefully the county, city, Town of Upton and Osage Sanitation District can come together over it, and go to the people, and it might make sense to go to a county sanitation district. That would give you the ability to help pay for it with a mil levy countywide, which would offset the cost and keep it down to county landowners for their day-to-day garbage too," Hartley explained in March.

Hartley, meanwhile, was keeping the city council updated on issues presented by leaching of materials from the old landfill, saying that while HB 65 gave the city some direction, it was unclear when the work would take place.

The Sanitation Committee presented their recommendation during a Newcastle City Council meeting on April 16 for new rates and fees to be implemented with use of the added scales at the Newcastle Landfill, NLJ reported.

The rate change would modify the sliding scale rate to a flat-rate weighted fee of five cents per pound of dumped

rubbish for Newcastle residents and four cents per pound of garbage for commercial dumping companies. The newly modified system would do away with the one free dump a month that residents previously obtained by bringing their water bill to the landfill, but would keep the fee free of charge for dumping metal and white goods. The Demolition Permit rate that encourages demolition of old dilapidated structures would also jump in price, from about 20 percent of the normal landfill fees to around 50 percent.

The motion to continue with the Sanitation Committee recommendations was made and voted upon three times as required, and passed into city ordinance on the 1st of July.

Area landfills continued to be under discussion in regard to how to proceed for the future.

At the Oct. 21 meeting of the Newcastle City Council, Hartley reported on his attendance of a meeting hosted by the Town of Moorcroft regarding a proposed regional landfill. Wyoming DEQ representatives and some state legislators were among those present.

As Hartley reported to the council, Moorcroft is looking for support for the project from surrounding communities.

"Basically what it amounted to," Hartley told the council, "is that Moorcroft wants to build a regional landfill, and as we've discussed before, [the question is] do they have the ability to do it. I think they're beginning to realize that they're not too sure now, so they are looking for participation from all the surrounding towns: Sundance, Hulett, Newcastle. There are still a lot of questions out there to be answered. They're still working on some of those answers. They asked me if the City of Newcastle would be interested. I informed them I couldn't speak for the mayor and [city] council, but we're always willing to look at anything."

Hartley went on to tell the council that he advised Moorcroft to consider all aspects of the potential project before proceeding and that any such landfill should be optimally located.

"I understand [Moorcroft's] looking at it [as an opportunity for] economic development. But we need to look at the tonnages [of waste] and mile hauls, if we're going to jump in the middle of that. Where are the tonnages coming from? What's most centrally located in the best soil possible? That may not be Moorcroft. Of course that went over like a lead balloon when you're sitting in Moorcroft saying that. But it may be Upton. It may be Osage. [Moorcroft] definitely wants Newcastle's involvement, because we [potentially] are going to have some of the higher tonnages going to them."

Hartley went on to say that not all parties in attendance expressed enthusiasm for the potential project, and emphasized that it was still very much in the initial planning stages.

Hartley noted that the closure of landfills at Sundance and Hulett, as well as the pending closure of Upton's facility, have necessitated the exploration of alternate options.

Hartley expressed concern that the decision is time sensitive and despite possible interest on the part of Newcastle in Moorcroft as a potential site for waste disposal, the city probably cannot afford to wait to see Moorcroft's plan come to fruition.

Indeed, with Moorcroft being in Crook County, the plan seems problematic at even the most essential level.

"Can we go across county lines to do district [landfills]? Nobody knows the answer to that at this point as far as I'm aware," Hartley said.

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you the very best for the New Year.



**Black Hills Plumbing & Heating**  
122 S. Summit • 746-4502



## A Red Carpet Christmas

We'd like to take the floor to wish everyone a wall-to-wall wonderful season. We're so glad you rolled in to see us!

**CLT**

FLOORING & FURNISHINGS

Randy, Theresa, Jayne, Peggy, Beau, Carol & Chuck

## Happy Holidays from all of us!

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Earl Christensen  | Rita Cook       |
| Joan Mahan        | Lloyd Beckton   |
| Beverly Will      | Marge Elliott   |
| Lee Albert        | Harry Crawford  |
| Verne Barton      | Kathy Watson    |
| Jacob Roll        | Francis Carr    |
| Patricia Stordahl | Curtis Wineteer |
| Ray Austin        | Gary Donner     |
| Margie Giffin     | Ruth Snedeker   |

Frank Humes

We look forward to your visiting us in 2014!

Mondell Heights Residents

**May Your Holidays Be Merry**

and the New Year filled with friends, family and good times!

Kitchen will close at 2 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Closed Christmas Day.

**West End Coffee, Grill & Lounge**

**The Spirit of Peace**

The staff would like to wish our community a peaceful and compassionate holiday.

**If not, call us, we can help.**

Chris, Hope, Jim, Starla, Diane, Nikki, Barb & Sue  
Northern Wyoming Mental Health Center  
420 Deanne Ave. • 746-4456

We hope you have all the parts you need for a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

We appreciate your support throughout the year!

**NAPA GATEWAY AUTO SUPPLY, INC.**

John and Cindy Burrell, Sonja, Jon, Andy, Adam, Shelley, Tyler, Ainsley, Liam, Lacey & Dianne

# Christmas in the County



## CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE of CHRIST'S BIRTH

Amidst all the fun and excitement of the holiday season, let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas: the wondrous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

At this special time of year, we're especially thankful for the many blessings we enjoy. Operating a business in a wonderful community like this is something for which we're truly grateful. Please accept our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

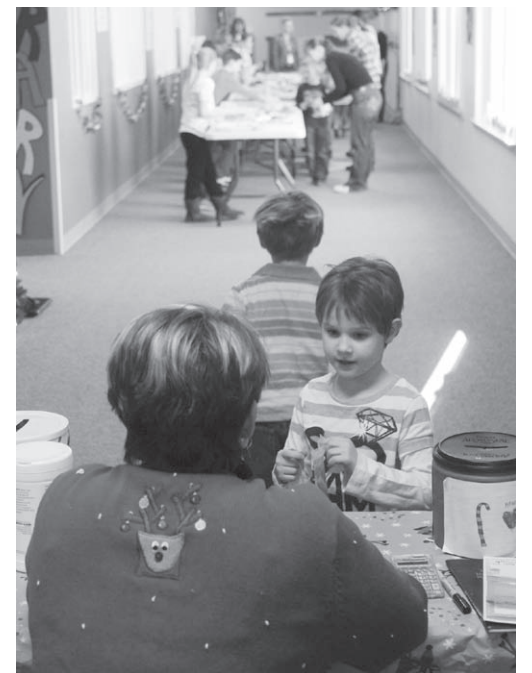
### Farnsworth Services



## NES celebrates

Students were busy during the month of December at Newcastle Elementary School. Concerts, Cookie Day and visits with Santa filled their days.

Above, Varsity Bock sings during the Christmas concert of kindergarten through second-graders on Dec. 12. At right, Susie LaCroix assists Madison Gisi during the Cookie Day event. NES fourth-graders made and decorated cookies to be sold Dec. 18 by NES third-graders, raising money to buy clothes for Kids Helping Kids and Operation Santa. Below, Santa Claus made a special trip to visit the students on Dec. 17, but LacyKay Winters looks skeptical. Hot items requested by students included a gorilla, monkeys, a banana, a zebra, a penguin and a snake.



Photos by Denice Piscioti/NLJ



## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



From,

### Worden Funeral Directors & Staff

Michael Worden, Madeline Worden, Cynthia Crabtree, Sherry Worden



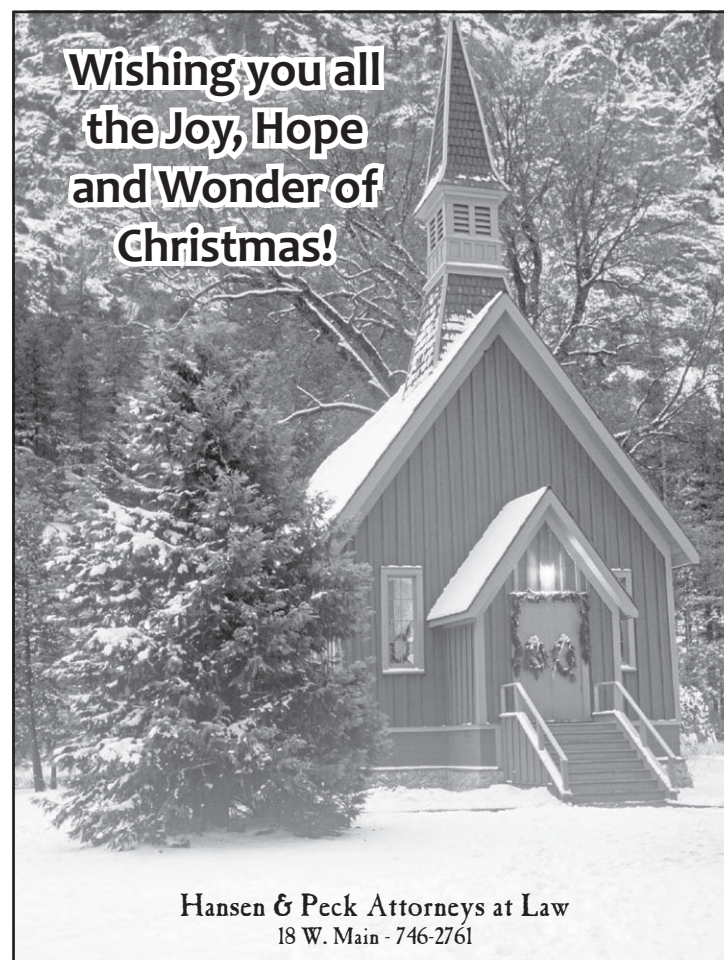
Much Joy and Happiness to You and Yours  
Merry Christmas from all of us



## Decker's

FLORAL & GIFT

Wishing you all the Joy, Hope and Wonder of Christmas!



Hansen & Peck Attorneys at Law  
18 W. Main - 746-2761

## Good Tidings!

Celebrate a safe and warm holiday season with family and friends. Many thanks for your valued patronage.

Reg & Sharon





**City Council Minutes**

**NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013**

Mayor Greg James called the regular meeting of Monday December 16, 2013 to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were: Mayor Greg James, Archie Callander, Iva Carter, Roger Hespe, Linda Hunt, . Absent: Todd Quigley. Also present Department Heads: City Attorney Jim Peck, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer Mills, Police Chief Jim Owens and Engineer Hartley as well as several guests.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Archie Callander

moved and Roger Hespe seconded to approve the agenda for December 16, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Linda Hunt moved and Roger Hespe seconded to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION:** Linda Hunt nominated Hattie Conley for new owner of Isabellas

**CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION:** There were no certificates of appreciation.

**CITIZEN'S BUSINESS – IN WRITING:** None  
**CITIZEN'S BUSINESS – VERBAL** - Bruce Perkins regarding extended hours Dec 31, 2013 at midnight until Jan 1, 2014 at midnight for New Years. Linda Hunt moved and Iva Carter seconded to approve the extended hours. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:** - 1. Mayor asked the council to think about the standing committees and if they wanted to remain in the same committees, with the new council member filling in the open position from the vacancy of Jim Bunch. 2. Linda Hunt wanted to confirm the time for the candidate forum on January 13, 2014 at 6:00PM.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**  
**City Clerk/Treasurer Brunner –** 1. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Mills asked that the office be closed on Dec 24, 2013 at noon, the council approved the closure. 2. Feb 26-28, 2014 is the WAM winter work shop, the City is needing a

representative for a voting delegate. Iva Carter stated she would be interested.

**City Attorney Jim Peck -** 1. Fees for liquor license. All fees are at least the minimum except for the bar and grill license, which the City does not have any applications at this time.

7:15PM Public hearing bid opening for land sale. There were two bids, Clay Andersen for \$5,501.00 and Weston Land Investments, LLC for \$9,955.00. There was no public comment. Linda Hunt moved to accept the bid from Weston Land Investments, LLC in the amount of \$9,955.00, Roger Hespe seconded, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public hearing closed at 7:23PM  
**City Attorney Peck** continued, Roger Hespe moved to leave all fees as is except raise the fees for the Bar and Grill license to \$1500, Linda Hunt seconded, **MOTION CARRIED.** 2. We have two dog trials coming up the first two weeks in January 2014.

**City Engineer Hartley:** 1. The City had a water break on Rodeo, the city crew found old asbestos cement pipe, break repaired on Monday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. 2. The city crews plan on replacing the old water line on Birch Street, closing off Birch St, and hopefully being completed by the end of winter, weather permitting. 3. We continue to rod sewers. 4. Bob attended a four day class in Casper on FEMA, which had a lot of good information on the flood plains and helping save people money on flood insurance. 5. Has sent plats to Utility companies on the land at Washington Park and they should be getting back on costs to present to the council the first meeting in January. 6. Will be on vacation from December 19-January 6, 2014.

**Police Chief Jim Owens -** 1. Recapped the activity for the month of November.

7:30PM Public hearing regarding proposed land trade. City owning .835 acres which divides Centennial Park along the by-pass, and .236 acres owned by Manewal Bradley, valued at \$1,000.00 a piece. There was no public comment. Roger Hespe moved to trade .236 acres owned by Manewal Bradley with the .835 acres owned by the city, Archie Callander seconded, **MOTION CARRIED.** Public hearing closed at 7:40PM

**Police Chief Owens continued:** 2. Attended an impaired driving conference. After a 4 year decrease in alcohol related traffic fatalities, it is now on the increase. People with the interlocking devices are figuring a way to bypass the device. 3. There is concern with Wyoming, as of January 1, 2014 any one over 21 can purchase one ounce of marijuana a day in Colorado.

7:45PM Public hearing for FY 2013-2014 budget adjustment: **RESOLUTION # 7, SERIES 2013, A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE TO INCREASE BY RESOLUTION THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET BY \$30,000.00 TO COVER EXPENSES OTHER ENGINEERING SERVICES IN THE STREET FY 2103-2014 BUDGET.** No public comment, Roger Hespe moved to pass the resolution, Iva Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public hearing closed at 7:50PM  
**Chief Owens Continued:** 3. reported that both Herrberg and Tacy are 4 and 5 on the alternate list at the academy. They will both be there on the start date of January 9, 2014, to do the

PT testing and hopefully one or both will be taking the thirteen week course, if not then, the next class is in April..

There was no STANDING COMMITTEE, WRITTEN BUSINESS, NEW BUSINESS, or OLD BUSINESS reports.

Archie Callander moved and Linda Hunt seconded to pay claims dated December 16, 2013. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
Archie Callander moved and Linda Hunt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:56PM.

**Claims:** AD Pro, case of paper,\$49.90; Al Cornella Refrigeration, Ice maker serviced, \$212.10;Anderson Plumbing, meter rprs, \$218.00; Big Horn Tire Inc, Tires; \$878.18; Black Hills Power, Power Purchased; \$1539.15; Black Hills Printing and Signs, cards/decals \$ 35.16; Black Hills Truck and Trailer, Parts, \$ 514.38; Butler Machinery CO, Adaptor, \$64.02; Cambria Supply, supplies, \$866.52; Collins Communications, offsite storage, \$45.00; CAN Surety, Bond for notary, \$100.00; CRA Payment Center, Glass cab and parts, \$791.63; Culligan Water Conditioning, Water purchased \$37.50; Deckers Food Center, grocery, \$25.88; Draphix, LLC, inkjet cartridges, \$251.63; Freedom to Choose, Page ad, \$ 245.00; Frontier Home Ranch and Hardware, supplies, \$298.04; Gateway Auto Supply, parts, \$1554.79; Hallie Bell, Cleaning 12/1-12/15/2013, \$ 360.50; Hansen Equipment, Welding, cutting kit,\$324.00; James Peck, monthly retainer, \$2800.00; Minuteman Lube Center, service 2011 Chevy Silverado, \$66.69; Newcastle Equipment, Repairs, parts, \$1061.04; Newcastle Hardware, supplies, \$628.85; Newcastle Mtrs, repairs, \$536.07; News Letter Journal, Ink cartridges, \$110.24; Newcastle Police Dept, Postage, tokens, \$73.07; Newcastle Volunteer Fire Dept, first aid training, pension fund, \$3213.76; News Letter Journal, Legals, supplies, \$2187.55; Norco, supplies, \$22.63; Palmer Johnson Power Systems LLC, PTO, \$6272.12; Office Shop Leasing, Copier lease, \$106.81; One Call of Wyoming, July/November locate tickets, \$39.75; Rapid Delivery, Deliveries, \$79.20; RT Communications, Telephone \$1233.21; Sheehan Mack Sales, Clutch, \$7772.74; Shopko, supplies, \$336.72; Street Décor, Santa, \$ 924.60; Timberline, gravel Frontier/Stockade final payment, \$58536.25; Tri Star Surveying, Bradley/City tract, \$649.00; Two Way Radio Service, Clips, pager, \$216.00; WCS Telecom, long distance charges, \$139.64; WEBT, insurance, \$ 105.50; Wesco, Propane, \$1202.41; Weston Co Road and Bridge, Fuel Nov 2013, \$12416.18; Weston Co Clerk, Youth Services, \$915.34; Weston Co Treasurer, Elec, Telephone, Gas, \$ 904.18; Weston Co Fire Protection District, Roof Repair, \$ 8990.00; Weston County Health Services, Drug Screening, \$35.00; Weston Co Humane Society, Food Fee, \$6.00; Weston Co True Value, supplies, \$247.83; WY Assoc of Rural Water, 2014 Voting Membership, \$375.00; WY Dept of Transportation, Quiet Zone, \$5807.31;Wyoming Automotive, Supplies, \$2022.19; WY Secretary of State, Notary, \$30.00; **WATER DEPOSIT REFUND:** Rick Huston, \$6.80; James Pearce \$30.48.

Greg James, Mayor  
ATTEST: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Deb Mills

(Publish December 26, 2013)

**Bid Notice**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**WESTON COUNTY  
OLD SHOP ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Sealed bids will be received by the Weston County Board of Commissioners until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2014 at the Weston County Clerk's Office, Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, Wyoming 82701, for the Weston County Old Shop Roof Replacement Project. The Weston County Old Shop Roof Replacement Project consists of one schedule. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with statement thereon, "BID ENCLOSED, Weston County Old Shop Roof Replacement Project" and submitted to the Weston County Clerk's Office at or before the stated time. Said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on January 7, 2014 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY 82701. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for opening thereof. The Weston County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities in the bidding; provided, however, that any bid received after the time specified or without accompanying Bid Guarantee, as stated below, will not be considered.

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

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

(Publish December 12, 19 and 26, 2013)

**Meeting Notice**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Weston County Museum District Board will meet on Thurs., Jan. 9, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at the Anna Miller Museum in Newcastle. This is a change of date for the regular meeting due to the New Year holiday. The meeting is open to the public.

(Publish December 26, 2013)

**Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR TRANSFER OF LOCATION FOR A  
RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE**

Notice is hereby given that on December 4, 2013 application for the Transfer of Ownership for a Restaurant License #2 was made at the City of Newcastle. The application is for transfer from Kenneth and Debra McKee, dba: Isabella's to Hattie L. Conley, dba Isabella's. Protests against this transfer, if there be any, will be heard at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2013 in the Newcastle City Council Chambers at City Hall, Newcastle, Wyoming.

Dated: December 4, 2013

Charita Brunner  
Clerk/Treasurer City of Newcastle

(Publish December 12, 19, 26, 2013 and January 2, 2014)



# They don't even have to know you were late!

Give them a subsription **TODAY** and  
we'll blame it on circulation delays

**Gift Subscription:** The ideal gift for your friends and relatives. Like a weekly letter from home, they'll be reminded of your thoughtfulness all year long!

**Mailing Address**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Holiday Rates!

**Billing Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**New**       **Renew**

In Weston County – \$40.50

Out of County – \$52

Senior/Military – \$25

Students, in state – \$22

Students, out of state – \$28

Please charge my subscription to:     Visa     Mastercard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

**News Letter Journal**

Complete this form and mail to **News Letter Journal**,  
P.O. Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701.

You can also stop in our office at 14 W. Main in  
Newcastle, or order by phone by calling (307) 746-2777



# Business

news letter journal

**NEWCASTLE MOTORS**

The car guy you all know is now in town!

**Rod Petranek**

746-4475 or 866-328-7960  
Evening Number 746-9622

Your local post frame, steel roof & concrete builder  
Custom Construction & Remodeling

For all your construction needs call

**Jackmaster Construction**  
Craig Wiggins  
746-3521

**Cleaning Unlimited**  
Your Total Commercial & Residential Cleaning Service



• Fire & Water Restoration  
• Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning  
• 24-Hour Service

**746-3296**  
Colleen Donaldson, Owner

CODE OF THE WEST



Business Management  
Public Relations Consulting  
Shane Sellers 746-8378  
shane@wyopr.com

Honest, practical, straight forward  
**Business Advice**



**New Tires • Tire Repair  
Oil Change • Brakes  
Auto Mechanic Services**

746-2544 • 629-1694  
610 Morrissey Road

**AFFORDABLE LAWN CARE!**



**Speedy Landscaping LLC**

Sprinkler Systems Winterization,  
Lawn Care, Tree Trimming,  
Handyman Services

**629-0749**  
Speedylandscaping.com  
Leave Your Pain In The Grass To Us!

**DBM Storage**

923 S. Summit

- 5x10 - \$25.00
- 10x20 - \$55.00

Donny/Barb Munger  
(307) 941-1010 or  
(307) 941-1570



**First State INSURANCE**

MEMBER OF BURNS INSURANCE AGENCY

Joanna Akers, Agent • Jessica Bettorf, Agent  
24 N Sumner • 307-746-4411 • www.fsbnewcastle.com

Not FDIC Insured. Not Guaranteed by the Bank. Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency. May Go Down in Value. Not a Deposit

**4 Way Gas n Go**

Just West of 4-Way Stop at US Hwys 85 & 16

- T-Shirts • Souvenirs • Gifts
- 3 Sizes of Storage Units

1226 Washington  
Newcastle WY

**Retiring soon? Let's talk.**

Jeff Virchow  
Financial Advisor  
2013 West Main Suite 103  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
307-746-2667  
www.edwardjones.com

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
Member SIPC

Residential Commercial      New and Remodel Concrete



**WHITE CONSTRUCTION**  
Upton, Wyoming  
307-468-2702

Visit us online at  
<http://whiteconstruction.biz>

**Get Results!**

Advertise your business here!

**Special RATE!**

Small ads (1x2)  
\$10.00 per week\*

Large ads (2x2)  
\$18.00 per week\*

\* 26-week run required

Call 746-2777



**Roofing**

Window Installation  
Blow-In Insulation  
Interior Remodel  
Seamless Gutters  
Siding, Garages,  
Decks, Fences

**All Your Construction Needs**  
**Matthew Aldrich**  
Office: (307) 746-3262 Toll Free: (866) 711-9102

**Gillette Full-Service Decorating Service**



Phone: 307-686-5110  
Fax: 307-686-7791  
Toll-free: 877-686-5110

200 W. 2nd St.  
Gillette WY 82716  
twoguys@2guysdeco.com  
2guysdeco.com

**2 Guys' Deco Flooring AMERICA**

**STARDUST HOMES**

Your Local Dealer for Heckaman Homes

11 Meadowview Lane • Newcastle • 746-4947 / 941-9998



Singles and Doublewides built to HUD standards. Modular built to IRC/UBC code. Same as a Stick Built. Homes now available with attached garages! Available for your foundation within 5 weeks of order date!

**LONE WOLF CONSTRUCTION**



114 N. Sumner Ave. Newcastle, WY  
IN BUSINESS OVER 20 YEARS

Roofing • Siding • Decks • Windows  
Doors • Pole Barns • Painting, Int & Ext

Free Estimates • Insured  
**CALL DARBY**  
(307) 746-8552

I might consider jogging, if I ever see one



Joan Rivers

Mark's **BARBER & STYLE SHOP**  
Old School Barber Shop

Expert at Long & Short  
Quick & Efficient  
38 years Experience  
Great Haircuts & Great Prices

114 W. Hudson St.  
Spearfish, SD 57783  
(605) 642-8603

**\$2.00 Off**

**Pines Motel**  
746-4334



It feels just like Grandma's

248 E. Wentworth  
Newcastle WY 82701

**Gun Vault, LLC**



Buy Sell Trade

Gunsmith on Duty Daily

605-662-SHOT (7468)  
500 2nd Ave.  
Edgemont, SD

**Doell Rental**

Storage Units in several sizes

746-5536  
746-5332

Locally Owned  
Propane Bulk Delivery  
Home • Ranch • Oilfield  
No Surcharge

**Wesco Gas**

**Wesco Gas • P.O. Box 760  
Newcastle WY 82701  
307-746-4405**

**Storage West**

12x24 - 10x20  
10x10 - 8x12

3490 W. Main  
**746-9469**

**Culligan**

Richard D. Olstad  
Culligan  
Water Conditioning  
746-4279

715 Jensen Hwy., P.O. Box 906  
Hot Spring, SD 57747  
605-745-3196

746-2777

**News Letter Journal**

Public Fax • Public Copier  
Office Supplies • Printer Cartridges • Legal Forms  
Notary Services • Business Card Printing • Stamps

14 W. Main • Newcastle, WY

**Anderson Plumbing & Contracting**  
Clay C. Andersen

Licensed • Bonded • Insured  
Master Plumber & Builder  
Construction & Remodels  
Plumbing Installations & Repairs

Residential & Light Commercial  
30 Years' Experience

746-2209  
or  
746-8045

**SMOKEY MARK'S AUCTION & APPRAISAL CO.**

307-746-2120  
smokeymarkauction.com

**CLT**

**Flooring and Furnishings**

Your One Stop Shop for All Your Home Furnishings!  
Furniture • Mattresses • Carpet • Linoleum • Tile  
Ceramic Tile • Hardwood Flooring • Laminate Flooring  
Window Treatments • Lamps • Artwork

1600 W. Main • Newcastle • 746-3335 • 1-800-416-0318  
Free Estiamtes • Professional Installation



# We have Appliances



**KitchenAid**<sup>®</sup>  
FOR THE WAY IT'S MADE.<sup>®</sup>

**Amana**<sup>®</sup>



Remember us when  
your need arises!

**FRONTIER**  
Home, Ranch & Hardware

21 South Railway Ave • Newcastle WY • (307) 746-3144  
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 am-6:00 pm • Sat 8:00 am-5:00 pm • Closed Sunday

We accept:



## Track

from page 13

The season began for the Dogies in early March with Pat Hayman taking over full coaching duties from co-head coach Brett Weaver, who had retired after the 2012 season, taking with him three decades of coaching experience. Hayman was joined by assistants Allen Von Eye, Chad Ostenson, Mike Gregory, Kathy Beehler, Arlie Davis and Nicole Ackermann, who worked to oversee a team of nearly 50 athletes, a high turnout that would contribute to the team's overall success this season and the Dogies' outright dominance at several of the season's meets.

Competition kicked off for Newcastle at the Chadron Invitational in mid-March, it being the first time the Dogies had competed at the in-door Nebraska meet in several years. There Tristan Mitchell placed first in the mile and half-mile runs, while Abby Gettinger took second in the same events for the girls. Hannah Cass added a second-place performance in the long jump.

"We weren't at full strength this week, but we have the potential to be good," Coach Hayman said after that first event in an apparent foreshadowing of the season to come.

March 28 saw the Dogies at home, hosting the Speedgoat Classic in a warm-up for the 3A East Regional Meet, which the Dogies would host in May. This early-season meet would turn out to be among the best home showings for Dogie track in recent memory, with the boys placing second behind Custer and the girls third behind Custer and first-place Hill City. Freshman Calbi Ausmann qualified for the state meet in the one- and two-mile runs, while Hannah Cass and Anna Henkle did the same in the long jump.

"This is better than we have been in about 10 years," Hayman happily observed of Newcastle's overall performance.

With the cancellation of the Southern Hills Invite this year, for their next competitive endeavor Newcastle chose to place themselves on a far bigger stage than they normally do the first week of April, attending the Queen City Classic High School Track and Field Meet at Lyle Hare Stadium in Spearfish, S.D. There, the Dogies found themselves among 1,400 participants from 28 different schools.

Despite the steep odds, Newcastle performed in impressive fashion in the northern hills, holding their own against a number of regional powerhouses. Eight athletes earned medals, with Calbi Ausmann being the highest placer as she came in second in the mile. Two additional individuals and a relay team turned in state-qualifying times: JT Harper in the 100-meter dash, Chris

Spain in discus, and — as a group — Spain, Ty Borgialli, Phil Jagelski and Kevin Kiem in the 4x100 meter relay.

Hayman, who noted that a number of his athletes were at that point in the season already on the verge of qualifying for State, said of the event, "We are continually improving our marks and times, and that's what we want to do. People are dropping times and people are getting personal bests. Everybody's hard work is paying off."

Unfortunately for the Dogies and their efforts to better themselves for the fast-approaching regional meet, adverse weather conditions kept them out of competition for most of the rest of April. Still, Newcastle was able to host the Wright Panthers and a small contingent of participants from Upton at the hastily assembled Sasquatch Stampede on Saturday, April 20, despite a downfall of sleet that threatened to put the breaks on the event.

Happy to be competing after a layoff of several weeks, the Lady Dogies bested the rival Panthers 227-126, while the boys out-pointed them 322.5-156.6. Ausmann qualified for State at the meet in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:25:86, while Cass had a personal best in the long jump at 16 feet, 9.5 inches, and Ethan Schuessler garnered attention by placing first in the 400-meter dash with a time of 54.73.

With there being only a few meets remaining before the start of Regionals on May 10, Newcastle next took advantage of the Scott Hardy Invitational, this time hosted by Wright, where the Dogie boys took the overall team title and the girls were second only to Gillette. The boys swept all three relay events, while the girls took first in the 4x100 and 4x800 meter relays and second in the 4x400.

"Everybody except for a few of the competitors achieved personal records, especially the sprints and jumps. There was not one person that added time in sprints," Hayman observed. Still he wasn't yet content with the Dogies' performance at this late juncture.

"I am pleased with the results, but not satisfied yet," he went on. "We are physically there, but we need to get mentally stronger. We need to get that part of our game to the next level, and that is what we are looking for."

Newcastle's high team scores at the Scott Hardy event came despite the partial absence of Cass, Spain and Ausmann, who all left early to attend the Meet of Champions, which features the top 10 athletes in each event from 1A through 4A. There, Ausmann placed second

in the mile, Cass took seventh in the long jump, and Spain was fourth in discus.

"That's one of the gutsiest mile races I have ever seen," Hayman said of Ausmann's performance. She had come in a mere 3/100th's of a second behind the first place finisher.

The following week Newcastle hosted the Race to the Ball Invite, but poor weather conditions kept athletes from all schools from performing at their best. Better weather was to be had days later at the Bulldog/Bobcat Invite in Upton where the Dogies were dominant. All Newcastle athletes achieved personal bests at the event, according to Hayman, with the boys and girls combining for a total of 34 top-five finishes. These were the last meets of the regular season before the Dogies hosted the 2013 East Regional Meet on May 10-11.

The Regional Meet would prove to be the Dogies' crowning moment of the 2013 season. Dozens of Newcastle athletes qualified for State in contrast to the mere handful who had done so the year prior. The boys and girls both took third place at the event with the girls having 15 top-eight placers and five individual championships. Ausmann took first in the 800-, 1600-, and 3200-meter runs, and Cass won the high jump and 400-meter dash. For their part, the boys contributed 13 top-eight finishes, with JT Harper winning both the 100-meter dash and long jump.

"I don't know if I've ever seen that many great things at a regional meet," Hayman said in the days following the event. "I took my hat off to them and applauded them at practice today."

Disappointingly for Newcastle, however, the Dogies were unable to live up to the expectations brought on by their stellar performance at Regionals when it came time for the state meet a few days later on May 16-18. At Casper, the boys placed in the middle of a 16-team field, coming in eighth, while the girls took ninth place.

Though expected to place higher, Hayman reasoned his athletes, many of whom had never competed at State before, had benefitted from the experience. He went on to say that he remained very pleased with the team's turnaround this year and lauded the efforts of a number of individual athletes.

"We didn't have the performance we had at Regionals, but we had some good performances. Calbi Ausmann got third in three things. Chris Spain placed in the discus and Hannah in the high jump and long jump. Seniors JT Harper and Ty Borgialli did some good things too," Hayman said of how the season had wound up.

Merry Christmas



Weston County School District #1 would like to thank you for letting us be a part of your child's life. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to helping your child succeed in an exciting new year!

Merry Christmas

Your helpful,  
hometown  
hardware store  
wishes you  
the happiest of  
holidays.



**NH** NEWCASTLE  
HARDWARE

219 W Main St.  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
307-746-9391

**The Green River United Methodist Church**  
is sadly closing its doors for good.

Everything in the building must go!  
**JOIN US FOR A FINAL CLOSING SALE**  
Saturday, December 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

in the church basement.  
410 Upland Way • Green River, WY  
Call Merrilyn Shanebrook at 307-871-1361 for more information.