

News Letter Journal

Weston County

November 17, 2022

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 136 Week 46

Resignations put chamber on standby

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce Director Barbie Turner and board President Sandy Martin both resigned from their respective roles on Nov. 8, hours after the duo engaged in a heated exchange with city leaders

during a presentation to the Newcastle City Council.

According to a letter provided by board Vice President Garrett Borton, the resignations put the chamber in a sticky situation moving forward. The letter is addressed to chamber membership, requesting help to keep the entity alive.

“As of this time, we have three board members: Vice President Garrett Borton, Trustee Megan Sams and Trustee James Curren. Per our bylaws, this is not enough to function as a board and the chamber will need to shut its doors by Dec. 31,” the letter says. “As a board we do not want to see this happen, and in an amicable effort

to save the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce we are seeking your help and cooperation in meeting a quorum and finding a director.”

Because of the nature of the chamber’s business, the letter states that the board feels that business owners or representatives would be the best additions to keep the entity alive.

At this time, the letter continues, the chamber board has also postponed the annual Parade of Lights and chamber banquet until further notice.

“The banquet has a bit of time in order to proceed with the function, but the Parade of Lights is coming up fast

— See **Chamber**, Page 2

Mills calls it quits

Board taking letters of interest to fill seat

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Just one day after the 2022 general election, Ronnie Mills resigned from the Weston County School District No. 1 board of trustees in a Nov. 9 letter addressed to Chairwoman Tina Chick. Mills served 22 years as a trustee, and had two years of his four-year term left to serve. He was not a candidate on the Nov. 8 ballot.

“As a result of numerous discussions I’ve had with you, other board members, the administration and my family over the last several months, I’ve made the difficult decision to retire as a Board

— See **Mills**, Page 7

‘Moola Lagoon’

\$1.3 million needed to clean sewer pond

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

A much needed biosolids removal project for Newcastle’s sewer lagoons will cost \$1.3 million, according to Greg Stumpf, public works supervisor. The City Council awarded the bid to Midwest Injection Inc. in October, the only

— See **Sewer**, Page 7

Playing tribute



Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Newcastle Middle School seventh-grader Scott Rayburn plays the trombone while eighth-grader Sean Paul plays percussion during the school’s band performance at the annual Veterans Day program Nov. 11 at Crouch Auditorium. See more photos on Page 7.

Author publishes Vikings-inspired novels

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

Weston County has yet another published author in the books, so to speak, after Melissa Stroh began rapid releasing the first four books of her “Tale of the Clans” series, a project that has been 20 years in the making.

“If you’re looking for a Hallmark story, my stories are not it,” Stroh said. “It’s meant to be real — not whitewashed and pretty.”

As they dive into these “edgy Christian historical fiction” novels set in 10th-century Ireland, readers will find themselves at the end of the Viking era. Some people might wonder what “edgy” entails, and Stroh explained that her characters were created to be as real as possible, dealing with normal life problems, situations and feelings, often barely clinging to the “edge” of faith and hope.

Stroh knew she wanted to write a book ever since she was a teenager, she said, but she doubted her

“If you’re looking for a Hallmark story, my stories are not it. It’s meant to be real — not whitewashed and pretty.”

— Melissa Stroh

ability and talent. However, after marrying her husband, Matt Stroh, and attending Frontier School of the Bible, she said, God laid it on her heart again.

She began writing a fantasy novel, but it didn’t seem to be going anywhere. As she began reading books by some of her favorite authors, including Francine Rivers, she realized she was writing in the wrong genre.

“This is really my passion ... where I would rather write,” Stroh said. That’s when the adventure of compiling a historical fiction novel began.

Stroh wanted the setting to be in the Middle Ages, and she chose Ireland

because of her family roots there. She researched Irish history until she found an era that fit best with the story she already had in mind and then she tailored her novel to be more historically accurate.

Although most of the figures in her novels are “completely fictional,” she did include some historical characters and poured a lot of research into making it historically accurate.

Stroh attended her first writer’s conference in 2003, where she gathered advice from agents and editors to learn as much as she could to improve her writing. Stroh said it was a wake-up call on how little she actually knew.

“There were a lot of hiccups along the way,” she said.

Her first book was finished and revamped that same year and had several rewrites, but due to health problems and raising kids, she had to put down her books.

When she reached a point in life where she could pick up writing

— See **Stroh**, Page 8



Photo by Kim Dean/NLJ

Melissa Stroh recently published her first series, “Tale of the Clans,” a 20-plus-year project. The setting of the plot is inspired by 10th century Ireland toward the end of the Viking era and is meant to be an “adventure-laden escape” leading readers back to God, their “first love.”

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 12, Lo -4



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 19, Lo 11



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 29, Lo 12



Sunday
Mostly Sunny
Hi 40 Lo 17



Monday
Sunny
Hi 40, Lo 21



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 44, Lo 23



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 42, Lo 23



INSIDE

- Election, Page 6
- Ostenson, Page 9
- Schools, Page 9
- Chickens, Page 10



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
to our customers & community

The bank will be closed Nov. 24th for Thanksgiving



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Join the First State Bank team in the bank lobby on Friday, Dec. 2 for our annual Customer Appreciation Day.

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Celebrating a new home



Photos by Kim Dean/NLJ

Cars lined Newcastle's Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 5, for Hometown Medical Clinic's open house and ribbon cutting at their new location in the heart of downtown, at 219 West Main. A large number of people came out to tour the updated and beautifully decorated building, meet the clinic staff, register for door prizes, and enjoy refreshments. Above, Ashley Tupper, AFRN, FNP-BC and owner of Hometown Medical, was happy to greet and show visitors her new clinic building. Newcastle City councilman Tyrel Owens congratulates and visits with Tupper during the open house. Below, Derick Douglas and Mike Tupper share a laugh.

THANK YOU

I truly appreciate and thank you for your support. I am humbled and honored, and look forward to serving you in Wyoming House District 1.

— Representative Chip Neiman, House District 1.

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"I enjoy the feeling of security that having a Lifeline provides. It makes me feel more secure and I could use it if I needed to. My family feels a relief in knowing that I have it and I believe it is an important thing to have."
— LeRoy Dummer

Chamber

from Page 1.....

and could be postponed a couple of weeks," the letter says.

It notes that individuals interested in serving should contact a chamber representative by Nov. 23 if the organization hopes to save this year's Parade of Lights.

Martin's disapproval for the performance of various local entities — most recently the Weston County Fair Board and the News Letter Journal — has been voiced several times at public meetings over the past few months, and her displeasure was again on display during the discussion at the City Council meeting on Nov. 7.

The conversation became contentious when the topic turned to funding for the chamber and Turner's roles and responsibilities as director. Martin and Turner abruptly left the meeting over the course of that conversation, and then announced their resignations the following morning.

The News Letter Journal has previously reported on interactions between Turner and both the city council and Board of Weston County Commissioners regarding hours that the Newcastle Visitors Center is open. Those discussions resulted in stipulations being applied to provided funding that would require Turner to regularly be at the office, which also serves as Newcastle's visitor center. Both entities also reduced the amount of funding provided to

the chamber.

As reported in the July 28 story "Chamber's money woes," the city had cut the amount it funded the chamber from \$13,000 to \$10,000. The county reduced its funding to \$2,300.

When Turner and Martin questioned the stipulation again on Nov. 7 by claiming that Turner's time was better spent visiting businesses in the community, Councilman Tyrel Owens defended the requirement. He further suggested Turner document her time and tasks away from the office to demonstrate why the time spent away from the office is producing more value than keeping

the visitor center open.

Both Martin and Turner explained that they believe that Turner needed to be out visiting businesses to truly accomplish the chamber's goals. They said that she sees very few people at the visitor's center when she is there.

"One of the things I'm curious about, you (the chamber) get a subsidy from the city. If she (Turner) is doing so much good work away from the chamber office itself, maybe you could provide documentation. So we can see how the funds are being spent. Let us know what you are attending, who was there and the support you are drumming up," Owens said.

He and Mayor Pam Gualtieri both noted that they had received several comments of concern regarding the chamber's availability and access to the visitors center.

"I want to say, I am available to the public. If they leave a message, I call them back," Turner said.

Martin said that she believed the council was being petty by requesting documentation of Turner's activities.

"I think that is petty. ... We know what she does," Martin said.

To view the discussion with the City Council in its entirety, watch the video of the November 7 meeting on the NLJ's Youtube channel.

— Tyrel Owens, Newcastle City Councilman

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nlj IDEAS

Our View

Thanks to those who served

Here at the News Letter Journal, we aim to recognize and thank our local veterans throughout the year. Additionally, for Veterans Day, which is celebrated each year on Nov. 11, we highlight stories of our local service people. You can find this year's Veterans Day content in last week's newspaper.

By doing so we make a point to extend a huge thank you to all of those who surrendered a portion of — if not their entire life — to serve this country and fight for all of us who live in the United States of America. If you missed this year's edition, you can pick up a copy at the NLJ office and read about some of Weston County's youngest service members.

We would also like to recognize Weston County School District No. 1 for their annual Veterans Day program, which strives to recognize and honor all of our veterans in music, song, and word.

This year, the program, in front of a packed auditorium,

featured as guest speaker retired Marine Joe Bolton of Gillette, who shared highlights about Veterans Day and his life, both in the Marines in service to his country and beyond. Bolton's presentation was bolstered by several musical performances by students from each of Newcastle's three schools. It was, and always is, a reverent and moving occasion, especially when veteran members of the audience are asked to stand to be recognized.

Also taking place last week was the 2022 General Election, on Nov. 8, and we would like to thank everyone who ran for office, offering to give of their time in public service — often in times of stress and acrimony. Serving in an elected position, we realize, is often an unthankful job, and with Thanksgiving coming up we want to extend our appreciation to all who hold elected offices as well as those who have volunteered to do so by becoming candidates. A huge congratulations to all of those who were elected.

(See photos from the Veterans Day program on page 6.)

POLL of the WEEK

QUESTION:
When do you start decorating for Christmas?

- Before Thanksgiving
- Thanksgiving Week
- In December

Go to newsjlj.com to vote!
Look for results in next week's News Letter Journal.

RESULTS:
How do you feel about election results in Weston County?

- Sad 54% (13 votes)
- Happy 33% (8 votes)
- Don't care 13% (3 votes)

Check out the News Letter Journal at newsjlj.com

Letter to the Editor

The means to do our job

To the Editor:

Regarding your Nov. 2, 2022, article entitled "WCHS board tables bylaw suggestion," thank you for the opportunity to explain and to let your readers know that their board is not up to shenanigans, as the article slightly indicated. The truth is, the board is looking for ways to be more transparent and get more done more efficiently.

Firstly, an executive (steering) committee is a standing committee, typically made up of the three officers elected by the board. There would be no quorum, so no action is authorized. This committee would meet regularly to research items that need extra attention. Their work and findings would be taken back to the full board for consideration. An executive committee takes on the "big picture" tasks and steers the group toward meaningful productive board meetings. After all,

our constituents elected us to do the job of due diligence and oversight of their healthcare facility. Based upon my three and a half years of board experience, it is nearly impossible to address the many areas of concern in a two-hour monthly meeting, resulting in many unresolved issues.

Secondly, having this type of committee would make us compliant with the Open Meeting Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). These rules govern how boards must conduct public business. All board related action and discussion must be open to the public and transparent,

including personal emails and text correspondence between board members. Unfortunately, the extent of these rules makes it difficult for board members to socialize, network, brainstorm ideas, share information, or vent outside of sanctioned monthly meetings — even though this spontaneous communication could benefit their organization and board effectiveness.

Although Weston County Health Services is one of the smallest Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in Wyoming, this board is ultimately responsible for the oversight of the chief executive officer, a multi-million-dollar budget, fiscal accountability, the well being of 200 employees, ensuring safety, quality and patient satisfaction, and approving numerous policies, while dealing with the rising pressures from unfunded government mandates, increased regulations, double digit inflation, supply chain issues, staff shortages, retention and recruitment, increased uninsured or underinsured patients, decreases in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, and coping with negative operating margins which needs serious scrutiny.

Being an unpaid volunteer board member is not for the faint of heart, but I have full confidence that this board is committed to the success and sustainability of WCHS — if granted the methods to do so.

Thank you for your trust,

LeAnn Kenagy, Chair, WCHS Board of Trustees



Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

The big red wave sure would have helped WY

Elections have consequences. Especially on a national level.

It's taken a few days to digest the consequences of the big mid-term national elections Tuesday.

Here in Wyoming, our general election was a faint imitation of our amazing primary last August. That primary drew record numbers of voters and saw international press interest as it was viewed as a Liz Cheney versus Donald Trump

battle. Liz was trounced by national record numbers in that race by Harriet Hageman, who cruised to general election victory Tuesday. Harriet is now our representative and I predict she will do very well for us in Washington, D. C.

Tuesday night in Wyoming could be described as a big yawner. There were a few upsets but none were seismic. Rep. Chad Banks (D-Rock Springs) was the last Democrat to be elected from Sweetwater County and lost

his legislative seat.

In the big picture, our red state got redder. A whole lot of folks were glad State Sen. Ogden Driskill (R-Devils Tower) was reelected despite a few bumps in the road.

To get a big turnout in Wyoming, you need these huge primary election races like the Cheney-Hageman (Trump) race. The biggest recent one prior to that was the 2018 primary, which featured three Republican candidates spending over \$2 million each in

their quest for governor.

One of those was Mark Gordon who won in 2018 and cruised to a second term Tuesday night. He can only hope his next four years will not include drama like a COVID pandemic, oil dropping at \$0 barrel, and a crashing economy.

The outlook over the next four years looks much better. Most everybody in Wyoming has been pleasantly surprised by recent projections that we are awash with cash. Plus, we have boatloads of money

left over from the pandemic federal spending.

Next year's legislative session will be fun to watch as fiscal conservatives will want to stash that money into savings while the few moderates who are left will try to pay for more social programs, like Medicare expansion.

Former U. S. Sen. Al Simpson always famously said that "in Wyoming, everything is political, except politics — which is personal."

His comment correctly anticipated this past election season. Wyoming used to be somewhat above the nastiness that you would see across the country. Not anymore.

Twenty years ago, when I was involved in a statewide Republican race, it seemed there were two litmus tests you needed to pass, if you wanted to be successful as a statewide GOP politician.

The first was guns. You better be pro-hunting and you needed to be a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The second was abortion. You better be pro-life.

These two are still in effect but other things are coming into play these days.

There appears to be a difference between pro-gun and really, really pro-gun.

WyGo (Wyoming Gun Owners) displaced NRA and now there is another gun organization (Gun Owners of America) that is not quite so extreme. Either way, this could be a minefield for a candidate in today's world.

Back in 2002, the state Republican Committee was a huge factor.

Today that central committee is somewhat more conservative than many of our state's elected officials. And the committee is not shy about pushing different candidates than the incumbents. We saw this across the state this year.

On the national level, we had such high hopes going into Tuesday.

Even liberal CNN was predicting a big night for Republicans, calling for a Red Wave. But it ended up being a red ripple.

As I write this, there is a possibility that the GOP might still end up with modest control of the U. S. House. This is important for it could provide some sanity returning to the national

spending spree and the silly policies of President Joe Biden's White House.

The House will be dominated by Republicans, which brings up the sad fact that Wyoming lost a golden opportunity for increased clout when Rep. Liz Cheney decided to vote to impeach President Trump. That decision 18 months ago cost her and the state of Wyoming unbelievable opportunities. These are lost gifts to our state, which will not be duplicated in a lifetime.

She was already the third-ranked Republican and possibly could have been in line to be speaker of the house. Alas, all that potential is now gone.

Bill Sniffin is a retired newspaper publisher who has penned a number of books about Wyoming. Check out additional columns written by Bill at www.billsniffin.com, and find volumes from his coffee table book series, which have sold over 30,000 copies, for sale at the News Letter Journal.

(Editor's Note: This column was edited for content.)

News Letter Journal: WPA and NNA Award Winner

WHO



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WHAT

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

WHERE

Stop in Monday-Friday at 14 West Main Street, Newcastle, Wyoming
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WHEN

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WHY

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



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commissioner.

-Garrett Borton

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Obituaries

GENEVIEVE ANNE ELLIS
April 14, 1938–Nov. 6, 2022

Genevieve Anne Ellis, age 84, passed away Nov. 6, 2022, at Monument Health in Rapid City, S.D., with her sons by her side.

Gen was born in Newcastle, Wyo., on April 14, 1938, to Stanley II and Mabel (Elliott) Pzinski. She spent her childhood on the family ranch, being raised with her sister, Lorene, and brother, Stanley III, with numerous cousins and extended family nearby to play and socialize with. Gen met her husband of 68 years, John, in high school and they were married at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. John and Gen were blessed with two sons, John Stanley and Craig Lawrence.

Gen attended Newcastle schools, with the exception of first grade, which she learned at home. She graduated from Newcastle High school in 1956. Her high school career included activities with school clubs such as Future Teachers of America, Future Homemakers of America, Glee Club, Pep Club, and track. She was also active in the youth organizations at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. Never one to be idle,

from the age of 7 she became an associate member of 4-H and received many awards throughout the years for style and construction of clothing, home beautification, foods, landscaping, and judging.

Gen continued her post-high school education through independent study, correspondence courses, and summer sessions at Black Hills State College. She excelled in courses such as oil, pastel, acrylic, and watercolor painting, pottery and ceramics, various crafts and interior design and decoration. She shared her gifts with the community by providing local children and adults with private art lessons. She later served as a paraprofessional at Gertrude Burns Elementary School running the Rewards Center and helping teach art classes.

Additionally, Gen helped out with Cub Scouts, serving as Den Mother, and as a member of the Cub Scout Council. She was a 4-H leader for many years in the clothing and home improvement categories. Gen took great pride in her boys, creating a welcoming home, and being a superb hostess. In 1959, she was awarded Top Home Improvement Leader for Weston County from the University of Wyoming. She also organized the Home Extension group called "The Artful Homemakers," and was secretary-treasurer and president of the Home Extension Council.

In 1974, when her husband John and son John Stanley formed the J and J Construction business, Gen rolled up her sleeves and worked right alongside the men. This included an extensive rejuvenation of an entire block of Walden Avenue in Newcastle. This neighborhood dated back to the 1890s and included outhouses and horse corrals, as well as nearly 100 years of accumulated rubble. The family cleaned up the area and replaced it with

new homes, essentially creating their own neighborhood. In total, J and J construction built more than 23 homes in the Newcastle area. Gen was responsible for much of the interior design and painting of these homes. Additionally, John and Gen owned multiple rental properties and operated two mobile home courts in the area.

For more than 25 years, Gen served as bookkeeper, sales associate, chief custodian, and display artist for Weston County True Value, which her son John Stanley purchased in 1988. Husband John worked at the True Value every Saturday and after his shift at the Wyoming Transportation Department. Son Craig, a teacher, worked many summer breaks. Gen loved this time with the family all working together and visiting with the numerous friends and family who would drop by to chat.

Gen was preceded in death by her parents, Stanley II and Mabel; her husband, John; her brother, Stanley III; brothers-in-law, Eddie Linke, Wayne Burr, and Dean Ray; and sister-in-law, Ruth Ann Ray.

She is survived by her sons and their wives, John (Janelle), and Craig (Renel); her sister, Lorene Linke; sisters-in-law, Mary Lou Burr and Judi Pzinski, grandchildren, Jessica, Jordan (Kelsey), Cameron (Megan), and Avery; great-grandchildren, Waylon, Bristol, Nolan, and Bennett; as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Father Brian Hess officiating.

Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railway Ave., Newcastle, WY, 82701 or expressions of sympathy may also be made online at meridianmortuary.com.

JOANN HAWK
Sept. 1, 1945–Nov. 7, 2022

JoAnn Hawk was born in Newcastle, Wyo., to Roy and Beulah Cool on Sept. 1, 1945. JoAnn was the youngest of seven children. She graduated high school with the class of 1962.

She married her first husband, Bill Wrage, a year or two after graduation and had two children, a daughter, Willie Jo Wrage on July 23, 1964, and a son, Steven Roy Wrage on Sept. 3, 1966.

They divorced in 1972 and she moved to Billings, Mont., after being accepted into the Mountain Plains Family Training Program. Upon completion of the program, she moved to Cheyenne, Wyo., where she got a job working at the state capital as a secretary. Soon after starting there, she was offered a better secretarial job at the Mountain Plains Family Training Program main office in Cheyenne.

She worked for Vern Hawk there for five years. Then, the program ended, and she married Vern Hawk. Shortly after that she moved to Lodi, Calif., where she worked at the Lodi Grape Festival office until 1985 when her son graduated high school.

After that JoAnn enrolled in college and achieved her master's degree in Sociology and graduated valedictorian of her class. She went on to teach at Delta College in Stockton, Calif., and UC Stanislaus in Stanislaus, Calif.

She is preceded in death by her first husband, Bill Wrage; her daughter, Willie Jo Wrage Benson Hawk; and her second husband, Vern Hawk.

She is survived by two of her sisters, Martha Hokanson and Betty Shults; her son, Steven Wrage; two granddaughters, Tangelia Rose Love and Shawnee Lee Wrage; her great-granddaughter, Erl (Ember Rose Love); and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many, many friends.

JoAnn was an extraordinary treasure who not only brightened the lives of the ones who knew her, but also made the world a brighter place. It is noticeably dimmer with her absence, and she is missed and loved immensely.

No services are planned. Condolences may be sent to the family in care of Meridian Mortuary, 111 S. Railway Ave., Newcastle, WY, 82701 or expressions of sympathy may also be made online at meridianmortuary.com.

ANDREW N. MITICH
Feb. 13, 1955–Nov. 11, 2022

Andrew N. Mitich, formerly of Newcastle, passed away on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022, at Casper Medical Center, Casper, Wyo. A celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19, at noon at the Hillcrest Baptist Church in Riverton, Wyo. A lunch will follow. A complete obituary will follow.



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faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

November 18 Psalm 93	November 22 Psalm 98
November 19 Psalm 95	November 23 Psalm 99
November 20 Psalm 96	November 24 Psalm 100
November 21 Psalm 97	<i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i>

- **ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH:** Rev. Norm Brotzman, 216 S. Seneca, 746-2249. Call to Worship 9:30 am; Children's Church during Call to Worship; Faith Rally Sunday 6 pm
- **BAHA'I FAITH:** Firesides (open to all) 1st & 3rd Fridays 7:30 pm at 15 Skyview Dr, 746-3626
- **CAMBRIA COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH:** 19 Stampede St. 746-2321. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship 10:30 am; Youth (6-12 grades) and Adult Bible Study Sunday Evening 6-7 pm; Wednesday Night Youth and Adult Bible Study 6 pm; Life Recovery Bible Study Sunday Night 7 pm
- **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** Rev. Kenli Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. haydishall@hotmail.com. Service times: Sunday 4 pm
- **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH:** Pastor Rob Carr, 224 West Road, West of Dow Park, 746-2415. Sunday Worship 9 am
- **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS:** Bishop Ty Checketts, 120 Ash, 746-4131. Sunday Sacrament Mtg 9 am; Sunday School 10:20 am; Relief Society & Priesthood Mtg 11:15 am
- **CHURCH ON THE HILL:** Pastor Wayne Wilson, 301 Delaware, 746-9663. Adult Sunday School 9:30 am; Prayer 10:15 am; Worship 10:45 am; Prayer Service Tuesday 6 pm; Undeafated Youth/children's ministry (3 years old-12th Grade) Wednesday 6 pm
- **CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, 19 W. Winthrop, 746-4219. Saturday Mass 5 pm; Sunday Mass 8 am; Weekday Mass 7 am
- **COUNTRY CHURCH:** Four Corners, Pastor Bill Haley and Micah Popma, 746-9712. Worship 10 am
- **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH:** Pastor Ben Roberts, 903 S. Summit, 746-2188. Sunday School 9:15 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Evening Service 6 pm;
- **AWANA Clubs** Wednesday 6:30 pm
- **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Rev. Ron Sample, 23 N. Seneca, 746-4119. Adult Bible Study 8:45 am; Traditional Church Services 10 am; 10:15 am Children's Church; Youth Group Sunday evenings 5:30-7 pm
- **GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP:** Pastor Jon Anderson, 12 Old Hwy. 85, Evangelical Free Church, Bible Study 9:15 am, Worship 10:30 am. Call 746-8091
- **KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES:** 5018 US Hwy 16, 746-2319 or 746-4517. Tuesday 7 pm. Congregation Bible Study, Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting. Sunday Public Talk 10 am; Watchtower 11 am
- **NEWCASTLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH:** Pastor Mick Bohn, 1525 S. Summit, 746-3618. Sun. Worship 10 am; Wed. Night Prayer
- **OSAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH:** 348 Sheridan St. in Osage, 465-2341. Sunday School 10 am; Worship 11 am
- **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST:** Pastor Lester Bently 612-240-7536, 78 Old Hwy 85. Saturday Sabbath School 9:30 am; Worship 11 am
- **ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Father Brian Hess, Upton. Sunday Mass 5 pm
- **UPTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** Pastor Donnie Holt, 834 Pine, Upton, 468-9302. Worship 9 am; Fellowship 10 am
- **VICTORY NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH:** Rev. Theodore L. Halls, 414 Pine, 746-4366

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
~ John 15:5



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25 Years Ago
Nov. 20, 1997

Discussions about whether or not Weston County School District No. 1 should go to a four-day school week are just that — discussions — at this state. District Discussion Team member Ed Turner said the Discussion Team, which is acting as a steering committee on the issue, not from a financial point of view, but from an education viewpoint.

She thinks she may be the oldest person ever to be adopted. Caroline Scout first met Larry and Patricia Price six years ago when she and her three children became tenants at the Price house. And if you are wondering why Larry, about to retire, would decide to adopt a full-grown daughter, just ask him. "The reason is because we love her."

Rumors of a second knife incident in the Newcastle School District were confirmed this week by Middle High School Principal Scott Shoop. Principal Shoop said that a 13-year-old middle school student, whose name will be released, has been suspended from school for 10 days.

Nine-year-old Kayla Scheck of Newcastle is in stable condition in Rapid City Regional Hospital following an accident south of Mule Creek Junction on Sunday, Nov. 9. Scheck was thrown from the vehicle after it hit black ice, skidded, hit a guard rail and flipped over.

The largest attended and most interesting meeting of the Lions Club that has been held for months, took place last evening at the library club rooms when the Newcastle club were hosts to 31 members of the Custer Chamber of Commerce. The Newcastle



Lions Club is one of the oldest Lions Clubs in the world.

50 Years Ago
Nov. 16, 1972

Three men were overcome by fumes last Friday at the Tesoro Refinery in Newcastle. They were taken to the Weston County Memorial Hospital for treatment. Gerald Little, plant manager said the men were using water and a caustic solution and were adding hydrochloric acid when the reaction created fumes that overcame the men.

John G. Schmitz, American party candidate for president, received 46 write-in votes in Weston County in the Nov. 7 general election. A committee in the county had been urging the write-in vote and had stickers available for pasting on the ballots.

A doll clinic has been opened up in Newcastle by Mrs. William F. Anderson.

The Newcastle Police Department has obtained

a speed gun radar for use in enforcing the speed limits in Newcastle. The radar unit was obtained from the Wyoming Department of Highway Safety and is currently in use.

The Lite-A-Bike program in Newcastle will be Saturday, Nov. 18. Bicycles are to be taken to the Elkhorn Service during the day and florescent tape will be put on the bikes for safety use. The tape reflects car lights so the bikes may be seen after dark. The youngsters may also register for two prizes which may be used on the bikes.

The Busy Beaver Club met November 9 at the home of Gladys Gibbs. The hostess read a letter from her pen pal in England and for the devotion, a poem entitled "My God, How Can It Be."

100 Years Ago
Nov. 16, 1922

Saturday afternoon at the Court House, immediately following the song recital by the

children of the primary grades, the George Monroe Post of the American Legion was formally presented with a beautiful silk-wool flag, through the courtesy of Congressman Frank W. Mondell.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 1922, at about 4:30 in the afternoon, an unavoidable accident occurred in Mine No. 2, at Cambria, Wyoming, when Daniel Rapeich was crushed to death by a fall of rock. Death was instantaneous.

At the McCarthy Pharmacy Tuesday at promptly 12 o'clock noon, Mayor Charles Dow officiated in the locking of the chest of beautiful Community Plate silverware and the mixing of the winning key with the 5,000 other keys that are to be given away absolutely free with each 50¢ purchase. At the rate the keys are going at the present time it will take but a short time to dispose of the entire 5,000 and then the trial of keys to see who will unlock the chest commences.

The City Council have purchased a new American LaFrance fire truck, hose cart and chemical apparatus combined. The truck should be delivered here at any time. The outfit is mounted on Ford running gear and there are said to be eight others like it in this state.

On Sunday evening will be held the formal opening of the New Edison theatre in the building formerly occupied by the News Journal. This building has been thoroughly remodeled and seating capacity has been arranged for about 280 persons. Harry Carey in "Man to Man" will be the opening attraction and that the theatre will be packed to capacity, is a fore-drawn conclusion.

Weston County Courthouse

will be closed on Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving, and on Nov. 25 for Employee Appreciation Day. We will be open again for regular business on Nov. 28.



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From the vault ...



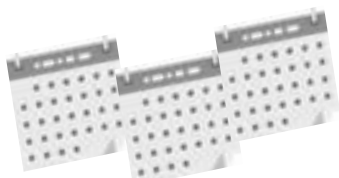
Courtesy of WC Historical Society/Anna Miller Museum collection

This is a photo of the old Newcastle High School building.

LET US KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING

Is your group or organization hosting an event?

Send your event listings to design@newsli.com for inclusion in the News Letter Journal's weekly What's Up Calendar



WHAT'S UP

WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri. Nov. 18	6-10AM 9AM 1PM 5:30PM 7-10PM	W.H.F. Wellness Screening Blood Draw Caramel Rolls Bridge BINGO Western Ramblers Dance	W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center V.F.W. Hall W.C. Senior Center
Sat. Nov. 19	9AM-1PM 4-9PM 6PM	"Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar Benefit for Bart Loebs Cambria Bowhunters Christmas Party	First United Methodist Church W.C. Senior Center Newc. Lodge & Conv. Ctr.
Mon. Nov. 21	8PM 9AM 1PM 6PM 7PM 7PM	United Fund Pie Auction Exercise Class Computer Clinic W.C. Children's Center Directors Mtg. Alcoholics Anonymous Newcastle City Council	W.C. Senior Center, Michael's Rm. W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Children's Center W.C. Senior Center City Council Chambers
Tues. Nov. 22	11AM 1PM 3:30PM	Story Time Bridge & Dominoes Alzheimers/Dementia Support	W.C. Library W.C. Senior Center Zoom
Wed. Nov. 23	6:30-8:30AM 9AM 9AM-1PM	Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class GiGi's Closet	W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center First United Methodist Church
Thurs. Nov. 24	NOON 5:30PM 7PM	W.C.H.S. Foundation Mtg. Understanding Grief Series Alcoholics Anonymous Thanksgiving Holidays, Closed	W.C. Health Services Board Rm. Meridian Mortuary W.C. Senior Center Anna Miller Museum
Nov. 24-25			

NEWS TODAY

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Retired Marine Joe Bolton of Gillette shared a presentation, above, on the history of each of the armed services, Veterans Day, and his life, during the Veterans Day program Friday at Crouch Auditorium. Top right, members of Newcastle Elementary School's choir perform. At right, Newcastle High School's choir sings. Below, vocal and band instructor Ryan Whipple performs with the Newcastle High School band. At left, local veteran Willis Franz, 102 years old, stands during the recognition for each branch of the military.



Photos by Alexis Barker and Kim Dean/NLJ

Election write-ins make noise but don't prevail

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

A total of 2,845 ballots were cast in the 2022 general election in Weston County, and the results were certified on Nov. 10, two days after the election, according to Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock. She noted that a total of 745 absentee ballots were requested in the county before the election.

Despite facing active write-in campaigns, both Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, and Rep. Allen Slagle, R-Newcastle, held on to their primary wins to cruise through the

general election. With voters in the three counties of Campbell, Crook and Weston, a total of 6,364 total ballots were cast in Senate District 1. Driskill received 4,785 votes, while 22% of the votes, or 1,579, were cast for a write-in campaign, according to the Wyoming secretary of state's website.

In Slagle's inaugural general election, he secured 2,927 votes across the three voting counties of Goshen, Niobrara and Weston. A total of 3,431 votes were cast in House District 2, and the secretary of state's website reports that 504 of those ballots were cast for write-in candidates, repre-

senting 13% of the total votes cast. Weston County's other representative, Chip Neiman, R-Hulett, and senator, Cheri Steinmetz, R-Lingle, easily secured their seats with 3,875 votes for Neiman and 6,352 for Steinmetz in their respective districts.

In addition to several county, city and school district races, Weston County voters were also asked whether or not two different judges should be retained.

Sixth Judicial District Judge Stuart S. Healy III will continue to serve the community with 1,845 votes for retention and 634 against. Sixth Judicial District Circuit Court Judge

Paul S. Phillips also received enough votes to continue his work, with 1,825 votes for retention and 629 against.

Two constitutional amendments were voted on by electors across the state. Amendment A, allowing local governments to invest in equities, passed with 103,366 votes, with 1,373 of those votes coming from Weston County. Voting against the amendment were 1,263 locals and 79,697 residents across the state.

Amendment B, increasing the retirement age of state supreme court justices and district judges, went down to defeat with 115,812 Wyomingites voting against the

amendment, 1,676 of those from Weston County. Statewide, 74,633 voters wanted to increase the retirement age, and 1,037 of those votes were from Weston County.

Most newly elected officials in Weston County and across the state will take their seats in January.

For a full list of local election results — including school board and city council results from both Newcastle and Upton — read "New members to join school board" on page 1 of the Nov. 10 edition of the News Letter Journal. You can also check out the story for free online at newslj.com.

To make an appointment, go to [WHF.Health/Appointments](https://www.westoncountyhealth.com/Health/Appointments) or call WHF at 800-979-3711

Community

Friday, Nov. 18, 6–10 a.m.

Weston County Senior Center, Michael's Room, 627 Pine St., Newcastle

Wyoming Health Fairs / Wellness Health Fairs
A Path to a Healthier You...

Weston County Health Services

Screenings Recommended Yearly

- ❑ **\$45 Blood Chemistry Panel:** Includes heart, kidney and liver functions, w/lipid panel, total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and triglycerides. Also electrolyte levels, protein, iron, fasting glucose and TSH, uric acid and carbon dioxide. *Recommended 12 hour fasting, unless diabetic.*
- ❑ **\$35 Hemogram (CBC) with Differential:** A complete blood count of red and white blood cells, platelet levels, hemoglobin and hematocrit. Checks for anemia, infections & other blood disorders.
- ❑ **\$40 Hemoglobin A1C:** - Reflects average blood sugar levels for past 2-3 months. Recommended for diabetics or those with family history of high blood sugar.
- ❑ **\$45 PSA for Men:** Screening for Prostate Cancer in men over age 50. However, if there is a family history of Prostate Cancer, it is recommended at age 40.

Vitamin Screenings

- ❑ **\$55 Vitamin D, 25 Hydroxy** - Provides an assessment of overall Vitamin D status

for the screening of deficiency or toxicity. Measures both D2 and D3 together & reports a total 25-hydroxy Vitamin D. Vitamin D is important for mineral absorption, immune system, strong bones & overall health.

- ❑ **\$50 Vitamin B12 with Folate:** Detects B12 & folate nutrient levels for normal red blood cell and white blood cell formation & repair of tissues & cells. Biotin consumption should be discontinued for at least 72 hours prior to testing. *Recommend fasting, unless diabetic.*

Thyroid Screenings

- ❑ **\$35 Thyroid Panel 1:** Includes three levels for the T3 uptake (THBR), T4 (Thyroxine), and free Thyroxine index/calculation.
- ❑ **\$60 Thyroid Panel 2:** Enhance thyroid profile; screens for level of Free T4 and Free T3 hormones.
- ❑ **\$85 T3, Reverse:** The Reverse T3 (RT3) measures the inactive form of the hormone.
- ❑ **\$50 Thyroid Antibodies:** Checks for antibodies that can injure thyroid, affecting thyroid function; includes thyroid peroxidase and thyroglobulin antibody.

Additional Screenings

- ❑ **\$87 SAR-CoV-2 Antibody Screening:** SAR-CoV-2 is the disease that causes COVID-19. Testing through one vial of blood sent to lab to identify exposure to virus; authorized only for detecting presence of antibodies.
- ❑ **\$40 Blood Type:** Determination of ABO blood group type and Rh factor.
- ❑ **\$55 Men's Testosterone, Total:** Screening used to evaluate testosterone hormone levels.
- ❑ **\$60 Women's Testosterone, Total:** Provides sensitivity and specificity required for assessment of low testosterone levels in women and hypogonadal men.
- ❑ **\$85 Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Expanded Panel:** Helps identify RA and arthritis associated with autoimmune disorders. Includes CRP quantitative test, cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, rheumatoid arthritis factor & antinuclear antibodies screening.
- ❑ **\$40 C-Reactive Protein (CRP) High Sensitivity CRP:** An elevated CRP is a marker of inflammation; can help evaluate risk of cardiovascular disease, inflammatory

disorders or infection.

- ❑ **\$40 Ferritin:** Indicates levels of iron protein stored in the body.
- ❑ **\$60 Hepatitis C Antibody:** Checks for antibodies to Hep. C indicating previous infection. CDC recommends once for adults w/no risks born between 1945 and 1965, or those who have injected drugs or were recipients of transfusions or transplants prior to 1992..
- ❑ **\$65 Celiac Screening:** Screening of antibodies to aid in diagnosis of gluten sensitivity. Must be on gluten-containing diet to be accurate.

WHF recommends 12 hours of fasting prior to blood draw. Drink plenty of water and take medications as usual.
Blood Pressure and Body Fat Analysis/ BMI Screenings are available at no charge!

Questions?
Contact Denice Piscioti at 307-746-3755

Mills from Page 1

“I am aware that phone calls have been made between board members today a lot. I was informed of them. I was excluded from the phone calls. I think that is inappropriate. I just think if you want to cause a rift in the board, this is the way to do it.”

— Dana Mann-Tavegia, Weston County School Board No. 1 Trustee

Trustee of Weston County School District No. 1, effective immediately,” Mills said in the letter. “For health reasons, I have decided to retire now with the hope that the board can fill the remaining two years of my term with someone who will carry on my legacy of service to the educational needs of our community.”

The board accepted Mills’ resignation during its regular Nov. 9 meeting and then discussed how to replace Mills, who had retired after a long career as director of transportation for the district prior to beginning his board service. Mills also held the office of secretary on the school board.

Trustee Dana Mann-Tavegia suggested that the board move

its December Dec. 14 meeting up to Dec. 7 at 5 p.m., so that it could consider applications for the position before the 30-day replacement deadline.

Trustee John Riesland suggested using the just completed election to choose a replacement for Mills and fill the vacancy sooner.

“We just had an election yesterday,” Riesland said. He then suggested that the board appoint the fifth-highest vote-getter from the Nov. 8 election.

“I think, at this point, Marcia (Lambert) was fifth in the election. ... I don’t know (that) we need to go for applications,” he said, adding that the voters had already voiced their opinion.

Going into the election, voters were to choose four from the

list of candidates for the four seats open. The top four vote-getters were Sean Crabtree, 1,121; Dana Gordon, 1,009; Joe Prell, 941; and Jason Jenkins, 684. Of the four, Gordon and Jenkins are incumbents who were re-elected. Lambert, also an incumbent, had 682 votes, putting her in fifth place. Chick noted that even if Mills had resigned before the election, his seat would not have been on the ballot. Trustees Billy Fitzwater and Jason Jenkins agreed with Mann-Tavegia, stating that the last time an appointment was made, the board requested applications before replacing former trustee Dean Johnson with Tom Wright.

“We went through the interview process,” Jenkins said.

Wright argued that the community just had a 90-day interview process for 11 individuals who had expressed interest in serving on the board.

“People said who they wanted in that order. There was a two-vote difference between Jason (Jenkins) and Marcia (Lambert),” Wright said.

He noted that the vote had taken place just 24 hours before the meeting, and that he believed appointing Lambert that night was the appropriate thing to do. He then moved to appoint Lambert for the two remaining years of Mills’ term, and Lambert told the board that she would be interested in filling the term.

The motion failed, but Mann-Tavegia and Jenkins indicated

that they were unhappy with the way the decision was made to fill Mills’ seat.

“I am aware that phone calls have been made between board members today a lot. I was informed of them. I was excluded from the phone calls,” Mann-Tavegia said. “I think that is inappropriate. I just think if you want to cause a rift in the board, this is the way to do it.”

It was ultimately decided that the board will interview candidates before their now rescheduled official meeting which begins at 7 p.m on Dec. 7. Interested parties are asked to submit letters of interest to the board by Dec. 2.

To see the entire discussion, view the Nov. 9 meeting on the NLJ’s Youtube channel.

Sewer from Page 1

contractor to bid on the project. Midwest has previously completed work at the lagoon for the city.

The need for the lagoon project was first brought to the council’s attention in 2020, according to the NLJ’s Dec. 16, 2020, story, “Sewer lagoon cleanup needed.” At that time, former city engineer Mike Moore told the council that sludge removal was needed, with original estimates for removal totaling only \$500,000.

The sewer was upgraded in 1987 after a 1981 Environmental Protection Agency 201 study, a requirement of the Federal Sewage Works Grant under the Clean Water Act, addressed more stringent regulatory requirements for discharging effluent into Little Oil Creek.

With operation beginning in 1988, the “facultative lagoon” treats wastewater through a biological process — without mechanical processes — according to Moore’s information.

Before the expansion and upgrades, Newcastle’s treatment facility had only one cell, cell B, currently the largest of its now four cells. According to Stumpff, the city believes that biosolids have been accumulating in cell B since the 1940s.

The four cells provide not only addi-

tional capacity but also the ability to treat the wastewater more effectively. The excess sewer effluent is managed by a combination of evaporation and irrigation.

The primary cell, A, has a surface area of 16 acres, cell A flows into cell B, which covers 28 acres, then into cell C’s 16 acres and, finally, into cell D’s 20 acres.

In 2017 and 2018, Moore said, sludge surveys were performed by the U.S. Rural Utilities Service and the estimated amount of sludge was 1 foot in cell A and 7 inches in cell B. Each cell has an operating depth of 5 feet.

Before preparing to work on cell B, the city had cell A cleaned last year. This is the first time biosolids have been removed from the treatment facility since construction, according to Stumpff.

“This project has been a long time coming and is a much-needed project. We drained cell B after we filled cell A. Since cell B has been out of service and cell A biosolids were removed, we have seen a drastic change in our discharge-water quality,” Stumpff said. “The sample numbers are back to meeting discharge limits, if we had a discharge permit.”

Definitions



EFFLUENT
Liquid waste or sewage discharged into a river or the sea.

BIOSOLIDS
Organic matter recycled from sewage, especially for use in agriculture.

FACULTATIVE LAGOON
A type of waste stabilization pond used for biological treatment of industrial and domestic wastewater.

Background information provided by Stumpff states that biosolid removal is suggested when the cell accumulates more than 10% of its total capacity with biosolids. Over time, organic and inorganic material build up in the cells and begin to cause poor discharge-water quality and will decrease cell capacity. “We have noticed for the last few years that our water quality was deteriorating. Since discharge water is land

applied, we do not have to meet discharge limits, but we do work towards meeting the same requirements as a discharge permit would require,” Stumpff said.

Cell B has an average of 20 inches of biosolid depth that needs to be removed, he said. “It is estimated that we have 64,900 cubic yards of biosolids and an estimated 17,000 tons of biosolids,” Stumpff said. “The contractor (Midwest Injection) will be stockpiling the biosolids at the treatment facility, then they will halt and land apply the biosolids at a later date.”

Midwest’s total awarded bid is \$1,376,000, according to information provided by Stumpff.

Since the 1980s upgrades, Stumpff said, the city has been putting a portion of the sewer bills into a special account earmarked for wastewater treatment facility maintenance and biosolid removal.

The earmarked account now holds \$595,000, according to Stumpff. The city will also use \$74,792 from coronavirus relief funds received by the city and \$670,750 from a mineral royalties grant for the balance of the cost.

“The bid came in higher than esti-

“

This project has been a long time coming and is a much-needed project. We drained cell B after we filled cell A. Since cell B has been out of service and cell A biosolids were removed, we have seen a drastic change in our discharge-water quality. The sample numbers are back to meeting discharge limits, if we had a discharge permit.”

— Greg Stumpff, Public Works Supervisor

ated by \$65,000. We were planning to use ARPA funds or use some reserve money to pay for the difference in the estimate versus the actual bid,” Stumpff said.

The removal of the biosolids is to be completed by Nov. 24, he said. The biosolids will then be hauled and stored until land application can happen at a later date, up to a year after the removal.

INSURANCE

MARKETPLACE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is Live for the Individual Marketplace

ACA Marketplace Open Enrollment (OE) runs November 1, 2022 and through January 15, 2023 for health insurance plans during plan year 2023. Avoid any break in coverage by enrolling today.

Subsidized health insurance coverage is available for those who qualify. Recent changes in the law have increased the availability for Wyomingites to purchase a qualified health plan for relatively low cost. As a result of recent federal legislation, additional funds and changes in subsidies have been added, including for those above the traditional cutoff threshold of 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The Health Insurance Marketplace for Wyoming is at: www.HealthCare.gov. Contact the DOI if you have any questions. Remember to always look for official government seals, logos, and websites to confirm the site, and remember that government officials will never contact you in attempt to sell you a health plan.

Talk with your insurance agent or go to the HealthCare.gov website to become familiar with offered plans. Compare Marketplace insurance plans, rates, and availability of financial assistance. Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) and Cost Sharing Reductions (CSR) are only available for plans purchased on the Marketplace. Plans sold on the Marketplace are always Qualified Health Plans (QHP), cover all of the ACA’s Essential Health Benefits and they must have appropriate provider networks.

In addition to insurance agents, the federal government also has trained navigators and certified assisters in Wyoming to help you at no cost. To find help, visit: www.HealthCare.gov or contact Enroll Wyoming to reach a Wyoming Navigator or Certified Assistance Counselor for in-person assistance. Enroll Wyoming can be reached by calling Wyoming 2-1-1 or on the internet at: www.EnrollWyo.org.

If you decide to purchase insurance



off the Marketplace or Exchange, be a wise consumer and understand what you are purchasing. Be especially cautious of Off-Exchange plans that seem too good to be true. Ask about exclusions, provider networks, and hidden costs in Off-Exchange plans.

Family Glitch Fix

In previous years, the “family glitch” often prevented family members of an employee who had access to an affordable employer-sponsored health plan under the ACA from receiving subsidies to buy their own insurance coverage. This was due to the fact that the affordability question was based solely on the cost of health insurance for the covered employee, and didn’t include the cost of adding additional family members, which is more expensive.

This year, the “family glitch” has been fixed through new federal rules allowing the family members of the employee to

base the affordability of the employer’s plan on the total cost of covering both the employee and the additional family members under the plan, and not only the employee. If the plan is then not affordable based on this calculation, the family members will be eligible for premium subsidies on the ACA Marketplace that they were not previously. The new federal rules will take place on December 12, but Marketplace applications will be already completing this calculation during Open Enrollment.

What to Do Now If You Get Health Insurance through Your Employer

If you receive health insurance through an employer, consider the following:

- Look closely for changes: Check with your HR Department about Open Enrollment for your employer health plan and any changes that may have been made since the last OE.
- Take advantage of wellness incen-

tives: Your employer may offer wellness programs or money-saving incentives for healthy behaviors such as exercising regularly or not smoking.

- Check out tax-free savings: You may be eligible to open a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) or a health savings account (HSA). Note that to do this, you may need to change coverage to a High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP).

Okay, but I’m Self-employed!

If you are self-employed or if your employer doesn’t offer coverage, you may face challenges in finding and keeping health insurance, but you still have choices. Note that being self-employed may have previously made you ineligible due to income requirements, but since the tax credits have been expanded to those above 400% of FPL, you may now be eligible.

- Group plans: if you are self-employed and have employees, consider purchasing a Small Group Health Plan for your business. Talk to your insurance agent about these options. As ever, be a smart consumer and ask questions about exclusions, provider networks, and anything that seems too good to be true.

- Individual insurance: Consider purchasing individual health insurance customized to your lifestyle, health, and budget. If you have employees, consider offering incentives to have employees purchase their own health plans instead of offering health insurance directly through your company.

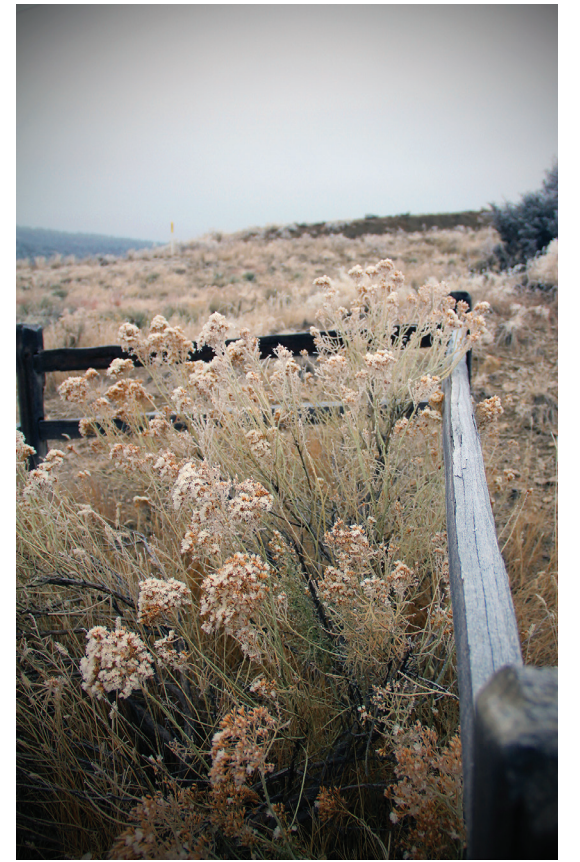
And if I am Unemployed?

If you are unemployed, you likely had to determine how to continue your health insurance. Now is a good time to review your decision. You can also check whether you or your family is eligible for Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Assistance for Medicaid and CHIP can be found by calling Wyoming 2-1-1 (Dial 2-1-1 or 888-425-7138) or calling Wyoming Medicaid directly at 1-855-294-2127.



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Jack Frost arrives

Last week a cold front moved through the area bringing widespread frost, fog and ice. Jack Frost arrived earlier this week and decorated everything from roads to plant life in sparkling, beautiful, slippery envelopes of rigid cold. Temperatures are projected to drop even further to close out this week. Next week, temperatures are predicted to reach the low- to mid-40s, just in time for Thanksgiving travel.

Photos by Amy Menerey and Alexis Barker/NLJ



Stroh from Page 1

again, Stroh joined an international Christian writers' group, where she met someone who helped her change and develop her story.

She joined the Jerry Jenkins Writers Guild in 2016, which led her to the Serious Writer Book Club and eventually connected her with Olivia Kimbrell Press Inc. around 2018. However, Kimbrell Press only publishes rapid release series, and Stroh needed four books before she could be published.

By this time, she already had two books completed and was told that she could have the contract if she could complete the other two by 2020.

"I had never heard of rapid release before that," Stroh said. "So, I plowed into that third novel."

For the fourth book, she was asked to write a prequel novella, which Stroh found ironic because she had started one in 2008 until she reached

a standstill.

"It sat collecting digital dust on my computer," Stroh said.

But she decided to bring it off the shelf, and that allowed her to have all four books completed and ready by 2021.

"God takes you on some pretty crazy journeys," Stroh said.

The biggest challenge she faced while writing the series was feeling alone and isolated, suffering under the "imposter syndrome," which is common for most writers.

"Am I on the right track? ... Does my work minister to people," she would ask herself. "Is this where God would have me? Are my books doing what they're supposed to do?"

Whenever she faced writer's block, she said she would "go to the sources that inspire me for work." As a musically inclined person, she often took a mental break by listening to praise music or Irish Celtic music.

Hope, hurt and help for others

Melissa Stroh hopes this will help readers connect with the characters and be encouraged. She explained that many Christians are living on the edge of a faith crisis, believing they are too damaged to return to the Lord.

"We understand that life isn't pretty and isn't all rosy, but (God) is willing to reach you where you're at," she said, adding that God saves us and uses us for a specific purpose.

Stroh designed her characters to deal with their problems "in a way that is real" but also minister to her readers so they "come away encouraged that they're not alone."

"I want this to be an adventure-laden escape to bring them back to God, who is their first love," Stroh said. "Even in fiction, they can see God and

relate to them (the characters) – past, present and future."

A lot of her own life experiences influenced the situations in the books. Stroh said she has been through several church splits and family hurts, but she recognizes that the Lord was with her through it all.

"As a Christian, I've been through a lot of hard times, even hurts from other Christians," Stroh said. "You wonder where God is in all of that, but He is faithful to bring us through those moments."

That was even something God revealed to her again and again through the compilation of "Tale of Clans," she said. Some of the hardest challenges she faced while writing her book also brought the most rewarding moments.

Stroh is also grateful for the feedback and encouragement from friends along the way. She had a friend from a Christian reader's group who said "Tale of Clans" reminded her of J.R.R. Tolkien and had "nothing but

good things to say."

"It was encouraging because, at that point, I was really doubting myself whether I was creating characters that people could relate to," Stroh said.

Even her sister, Christin Brubaker, who doesn't enjoy

reading, was taken captive by the plot line and characters. She was given a copy of the rough draft several years ago but never read it. After the books were officially published, she decided to give it a try but was still skeptical.

She began reading the first page and was immediately drawn in. Only on book one, Brubaker regrets not reading the rough draft because she didn't realize how good it was.

"She's a very good writer," Brubaker said. "The first one is really good so far."

The first three books are already available on Amazon, eBooks.com and at the News Letter Journal office. The fourth book is scheduled to be released on Dec. 6, with a virtual release party with book giveaways at 6 p.m. on Zoom and Facebook Live. Stroh has a tentatively scheduled book signing at the Weston County Library sometime around Dec. 16.

Stroh said she hopes to double the series in the future, and more information on her books and future projects can be found at the author's website: mnstroh.com. To follow Stroh's newsletter, visit mnstroh.com/clannewsletter.

Happy Turkey Day!

The News Letter Journal will be closed on Nov. 24 and Nov. 25, to celebrate Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you on Nov. 28. Please schedule your advertising early.

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November 17, 2022 — 9

Lifestyles

News Letter Journal

Underrated but ready to answer the call

One of the greatest things about watching sports is seeing the player who is underrated step up and do amazing things.

If you're a Pokes fan, you saw that very thing play out last weekend at the annual border war.

The Cowboys brought home the Bronze Boot after snatching the victory right out from underneath the Rams nose in the final minutes of the game.



Sonja Karp
Karpe Dogie

And the player who gets to carry the glory from the bottom-of-the-lineup quarterback, Jayden Clemons.

A walk-on from Utah, Clemons was fourth on

the roster as QB and was shifted to safety. But after an injury to Andrew Peasley last weekend, he got the nod.

Once under center, he put together a 69-yard drive, culminating in the sophomore running in the first touchdown from 14 yards out shortly before half, and then he connected on his first touchdown pass of his career early in the fourth quarter to secure the 14-13 win over CSU.

He was overlooked and underrated. He transferred from a school where he stood no chance. He walked on without a scholarship.

He understood where he stood in the hierarchy of the quarterbacks who were in front of him.

He was the quarterback of the scout team whose job was to prep the team for their next opponent.

But coaches had their eyes on him.

Why?

Because he worked hard every single day. He played the role they needed him to play. And when the moment arose, they were willing to give him a chance.

Clemons rose to the challenge

— See **Karpe**, Page 10

Newcastle's Ostenson commits to BHSU

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

From gym rat to NCAA Division II recruit, Jaylen Ostenson has committed herself to her dream of playing collegiate basketball.

Next season, Ostenson will be wearing the green and gold of Black Hills State University and playing for head coach Mark Nore as a Yellow Jacket.

Ostenson was proactive in securing a post secondary spot on the hardwood for quite some time. She and Chad Ostenson, her high school coach — and also her dad — had been reaching out to schools from Division I to NAIA trying to find just the right fit.

"My dad was really helpful in the process. I'd tell him

where I was interested, and he sent out emails to them," Ostenson explained. "We sent emails everywhere because what's the worst that can happen?"

Playing AAU through the years gave Jaylen the opportunity to be in contact with a variety of places that she wouldn't ordinarily have been able to through

— See **Ostenson**, Page 10

Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Chad Ostenson, Jaylen Ostenson and Marti Ostenson are all smiles as the senior signed on the dotted line and committed to Black Hills State University to play basketball next year.



Schools complete improvement plans

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

Both Newcastle Elementary School and Newcastle High School administrations have completed their mandated Wyoming Department of Education (DOE) School Improvement Plans after the two schools were designated as "partially meeting expectations" as a result of performance on last year's statewide assessments.

"School performance is evaluated on a combination of student performance indicators, including academic achievement, equity and growth based on the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP), the state assessment," a Sept. 14 press release from the DOE says. "Additional indicators for high school include post-secondary readiness and graduation rates."

According to the release, 38 of Wyoming's schools, or 13%, are exceeding expectations, 106 schools, or 36%, are meeting expectations, 85 schools, or 29%, are partially meeting expectations and 63 schools, or 22%, are not meeting expectations for the 2021-22 school year.

As previously reported in the Oct. 27 story "Two schools 'partially meeting expectations,'" Newcastle Elementary School Principal Brandy

ESSA School Performance Goals

	Current Performance Score (insert a numeric goal)	1 Year Performance Goal (insert a numeric goal)
ESSA Average Indicator Score (0.0-3.0)	1.8	≥ 2.0
Achievement (Numeric value)	52.5	≥ 53
Growth (Numeric value)	45.6	≥ 47.1
Equity (Numeric value)	45.9	≥ 47.5
EL Progress (Numeric value)	63.6	≥ 50
For High Schools Only		
Four year on-time graduation rate (Numeric value)		
Post-Secondary Readiness (Numeric value)		

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) performance goals for Newcastle Elementary School

Holmes reported to the News Letter Journal that the district is ranked on four performance levels, in addition to the participation rate set by the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act — achievement, English learning progress, growth and equity.

The elementary school met expectations for achievement and English learning progress but missed the mark in growth and equity, Holmes said.

According to the annual report, Newcastle High School performed below target in growth, equity, achievement and ninth grade credits.

The school met targets in extended graduation, four-year on-time graduation and post-secondary readiness.

Newcastle High School Principal Bryce Hoffman said that the equity group is made up of students who scored in the bottom 25% of the school's students on the prior year's test.

"Within our school improvement plan, we will write goals that guide us to plan interventions strategically for these students in both areas," Hoffman said.

To address the concerns, both

schools had to complete and submit school improvement plans to the Wyoming Department of Education.

Newcastle High School

According to Hoffman, the staff at Newcastle High School decided to focus on the equity group of students, or the students who scored the lowest in math and English language arts. He noted that the staff plans to focus on the math aspect, giving equity group students additional help during enrichment and recovery (ER) time.

— See **Schools**, Page 16

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Chicken ordinance passes on first reading

Hannah Gross
NLJ Correspondent

Newcastle is one step closer to adopting a backyard chicken ordinance — a proposal that has been months in the making — when the City Council approved the ordinance on first reading at its Nov. 7 meeting.

Before the meeting, the Newcastle Planning Commission board reviewed the ordinance and made revisions to the original regulations. City Attorney Dublin Hughes presented these recommendations, which included lowering the \$100 fine per violation per day to \$20 per

violation, accompanied by an additional \$3 fee for each day that a chicken is impounded. The Planning Commission also suggested removing the word "privacy" from the stipulation for a 6-foot fence but recommended that the ordinance require signatures of approval from adjacent property owners before chickens would be allowed to take up residence.

Councilman Ty Owens said a number of constituents told him they were against the signature requirements, so he suggested striking that language from the ordinance. However, Councilman Don Steveson argued that signatures

were required in the past when city residents were allowed to have chickens.

After some discussion, Owens moved that the council accept the ordinance without the signature requirement, and the motion to approve the amended draft was seconded by Councilman Lance Miles. The motion carried.

Before the ordinance goes into effect, it must pass two more readings. The council meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the council's chambers.

To see the entire discussion, view the Nov. 7 meeting on the NLJ's Youtube channel.

Christmas tree permits now available from Forest Service

This is the time of year to celebrate old and new traditions with family and friends, like venturing into your favorite national forest to harvest your own Christmas tree.

Black Hills National Forest Christmas tree permits are now available for purchase either online at Recreation.gov, from your local Forest Service office or from private vendors throughout the Black Hills.

To purchase a permit online, visit Recreation.gov and search for Black Hills National Forest Christmas Tree Permit. It is important to carefully read the overview and need-to-know information prior to purchasing the permit. Visitors will need to set up or login to a Recreation.gov account to complete the transaction. Each permit is \$10 for any tree, plus a \$2.50 processing fee. Users can purchase up to five permits per account. Online permits are ready to print immediately after purchasing and must be visible as you remove your tree(s) from the Forest.

"As an added convenience, the Forest Service is selling permits through Recreation.gov as an alternative to in-person transactions," said Scott Jacobson, Black Hills National Forest Public Affairs officer. "Whether purchased online, at Forest Service offices, or through an approved vendor, we want to make sure that everyone has

convenient access to purchasing Christmas tree permits."

The Forest Service's Christmas tree cutting program helps improve



forest health by thinning densely populated stands of small-diameter trees, according to a release from the Forest Service. Removing these trees from the designated areas helps other trees grow larger and can improve wildlife habitat by creating open areas that provide food.

Many Forest roads are subject to seasonal closures. Free Motor Vehicle Use maps are available online at fs.usda.gov/detail/blackhills/maps-pubs/?cid=FSEPRD533421 or by downloading the Avenza App.

Additionally, all fourth-graders throughout the United States receive a free Christmas tree permit, as part of the Every Kid Outdoors Program. If utilizing the online system at Recreation.gov, enter the voucher or pass number when prompted. Call your local Forest Service office for more information on the Every Kid Outdoors Program.

For more information on Christmas Tree permits, contact the Black Hills National Forest supervisor's office at 605-673-9200 or visit online at fs.usda.gov/goto/blackhills/christmastreepermit. For more information on the Black Hills National Forest, visit fs.usda.gov/blackhills.

Ostenson from Page 9.....

just playing high school ball. The connections she made and the experiences she had through her participation in AAU expanded the scope of her search.

"We went to some camps and did some college visits, and she had offers from several places," began Chad Ostenson. "It was a pretty cool process, and she got to meet some pretty neat people like Becky Hammond."

In considering all her options, Jaylen made her decision official as she signed with BHSU last Wednesday, Nov. 9.

"I had previously committed verbally back on Aug. 1," she began. "I had talked to quite a few schools, but the process wasn't really stressful, because I trusted that God would help me end up where I was supposed to end up. I really believe that Spearfish is where I am meant to be."

A big part of her decision rested in the fact that she was able to meet coaches as well as the team.

"I love Coach Nore and the rest of the coaching staff, and I really liked the girls as well," she nodded. "Spearfish feels like home, and I really felt like it was the right decision."

As far as the role she will be playing, Jaylen is not yet sure. At 5 feet, 10 inches tall, she is a versatile player who has played every position as a Lady Dogie.

"You have to earn everything and we haven't talked a lot about my role next season, but I'm tall enough that I can probably play 1-4," she mused. "I'm not big enough to be a post and I'm probably not a point guard either, so I'm thinking I'll probably play the two or three."

Signing early and officially guaranteeing a spot at BHSU

has the added bonus of taking the onus of securing collegiate play off Jaylen's plate as the 2022-2023 basketball season approaches.

"It's nice to be signed and to know where I'm going before the season gets underway," she admitted. "These last three years, I've had to have college in the back of my mind because the process starts early. So now this year, it's done and I'm excited, but I can simply focus on playing my last year of high school ball and enjoy it."

As her coach and her father, Chad was also pleased with Jaylen's decision.

"She's known Coach Nore since she was in second grade, so Spearfish is a great fit for her," he nodded. "We're proud of her, and it's great to see her dreams come true. We're excited to watch her play next year."

Karpe from Page 9.....

and after the game he was emotional and gave props to his team for trusting him.

In an interview with Cody Tucker of 7220 Sports, Clemons simply explained that he had changed his mind-set and embraced his role and determined that if he was to get where he wanted to be, he had to put in the work.

"I definitely started at the bottom and I knew where I was," Clemons stated. "I knew what my goals were and I knew that the only way to obtain them and achieve them was to go through it."

I'm reminded of Michael Jordan who didn't

make the cut for his high school basketball team his sophomore year, but then dedicated himself to improving his skill, and became the GOAT.


What I love about this story is the lesson it throws out there for every single athlete who decides to play.

If your position on the team is not what you had in mind for yourself, put your head down and work. Help the team in any way you have the opportunity to do so. Know your role and play it to the best of your ability.

Or, be the best bench player you can be. Cheer on your team, and be ready if you get the call.

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High School Football

2022-23



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T-10	21	12
F-11	27	10
S-12	36	07

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of Powder River Energy Corporation's (PRECorp or the Cooperative) Application for authority to decrease its Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) by \$1,151,836 per annum, effective January 1, 2023, to reflect a change in average wholesale power costs.

1. PRECorp is a non-profit cooperative public utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. (Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112).

2. On November 1, 2022, PRECorp submitted its Application seeking Commission approval to adjust its total COPA factors, which will result in a net decrease in the Cooperative's revenues of \$1,151,836 per annum, effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 26, and in accordance with the COPA procedures set forth in the Cooperative's Billing Adjustments Tariff. The COPA is a mechanism by which the Cooperative recovers and/or returns changes in its' wholesale power cost relative to the amount of power cost embedded in base retail rates. The Cooperative's Application outlines the proposed COPA factors, which reflect the projected cost of power for January through December 2023 using projected billing units for the period and the applicable wholesale rates from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), the Cooperative's wholesale power supplier. Basin's rates are subject to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval but are not proposed to change by January 1, 2023. In the event FERC makes any adjustments to Basin's filed rates, PRECorp proposes to address these alterations by reflecting the changes in its balancing account. Additionally, the proposed COPA factors reflect the reconciliation of the COPA revenue for the months of October 2021 through September 2022, and the accrual of interest on any over-recovered balances during the true-up period.

3. The COPA factors proposed in this Application and the resulting change in revenue are listed below:

	Existing COPA Factor	Proposed COPA Factor	Change in Revenue
All Rate Classes except LP-TOU Transmission, LPT and LPT-CBM	\$0.000791	\$0.001821	\$1,029,241
LPT-CM	\$0.000022	\$(0.002181)	\$(1,977,718)
LPT-CBM	\$0.000041	\$(0.002410)	\$(120,717)
LP-TOU Transmission	\$0.000634	\$(0.001203)	\$(82,642)

4. This is not a complete description of PRECorp's Application. You may review the Application at PRECorp's business office located in Sundance, Wyoming and at the Commission's office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17190).

5. Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so, in writing, on or before December 7, 2022. Petitions shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 10014-226-CP-22 in your communications.

6. If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711.

Dated: November 7, 2022

(Publish November 10 and 17, 2022)

Public Notice

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING NOTICE

The Weston County Board of Trustees December 14, 2022 board meeting has been moved to Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

(Publish November 17 and 24, 2022)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) approved the Application of Black Hills Power, Inc., d/b/a Black Hills Energy (BHE or the Company), for authority to decrease the Standard Rate for Purchasing Power from Qualifying Small Power Production or Cogeneration Facilities (QFs) greater than 25 kW by \$0.00228 per kWh, from \$0.02369 to \$0.02141 per kWh. (Avoided Cost Rate) This Avoided Cost Rate is also the rate paid for purchases of excess energy by BHE from net metering customers pursuant to the Company's Net Metering Service tariff. The Application proposes the reduced Avoided Cost Rate be effective for use on and after December 1, 2021, subject to notice, protest, intervention, refund, change, further investigation, opportunity for hearing and further order of the Commission. BHE must pay this rate for energy and capacity from QFs with a design capacity greater than 25 kW up to 1 MW, and energy generated by net metering customers in excess of the amount consumed.

The Application is available at Black Hills Power's Wyoming offices and at the

Commission in Cheyenne, Wyoming, or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (Enter Record No. 15845).

Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must file in writing with the Commission on or before November 25, 2022. A proposed intervention or request for hearing must set forth the grounds and the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to intervene in this matter or request a public hearing that you will attend, or want to make a statement, a protest or a public comment, and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 or 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications-impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 20002-121-ET-21.

Dated: October 31, 2022.

(Publish November 10 and 17, 2022)

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Last week's answers

- HOLIDAY MOVIES**
- ACROSS**
- Concert units
 - *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
 - Emphatic no
 - Phyllo, alt. sp.
 - Chicken of the sea?
 - a.k.a. papaya
 - Biblical firstborn
 - Aquarium show star
 - Type of squash
 - *Like George Bailey's life
 - Struggle for air
 - Aggregate
 - Gangster's gun
 - *Mount Crumpit's misanthrope
 - They refuse to believe
 - *Howard, directed a movie about #23
- Across**
- High regard
 - Like dental exam
 - Bullying, e.g.
 - Popular deciduous tree
 - Kaa of "The Jungle Book"
 - Cleopatra's necklace
 - *Like characters in Will Ferrell's famous Christmas movie
 - Use a Singer
 - Continuing forever
 - Wonder Woman's ability to fly, e.g.

- Galley propeller
 - Type of consonant
 - Corner chess piece
 - *Nicolas Cage's character gets a glimpse of a different life (2 words)
 - Like famous Moulin
 - Computer image
 - French money
 - Alleviated
 - Target of a joke
 - Iditarod ride
 - *Nick Claus' brother, a repossession agent
 - *Famous frat house
 - Black and green brews
- DOWN**
- Not many (2 words)
 - Japanese soup
 - Architectural drawing
 - Sudan, in French
 - Rides the wave
 - Ear bone, a.k.a. anvil
 - Jezebel's idol
 - *Griswold family's pastime
 - Epic poem
 - Waterproof canvas
 - Part of B.Y.O.
 - Synagogue scrolls
 - Like a Druid
 - Master of ceremonies
 - Engagement symbol

- Prepare carrots, sometimes
- R2-D2, e.g.
- Accustom
- Bruce Willis' ex
- Use the blunt pencil tip
- Autumn laborer
- Lots and lots
- Regale with a tale, e.g.
- *Human from North Pole comes to NYC
- *Bill Murray movie, inspired by Charles Dickens
- Water-covered sandbank
- Corncob
- Orthopedic device
- In the buff
- Dryest, as in humor
- Vacuum, pl.
- Be theatrical
- Katy Perry's 2013 hit
- Yorkshire river
- Trivial lies
- Drug smuggler
- Pi times square of radius
- Show of agreement, pl.
- Game official, for short

FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth

Legal Notice

LEGAL FOR CURLEY QUE'S LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that on the 14th day of November, 2022 the following: Thomas and Rebecca Curley dba Curley Que's, LLC, located at 207 West Main in Newcastle, Wyoming filed a Restaurant Liquor License -Restaurant License #5.

Protests if there be any against the issuance of this license will be heard at the hour of 7:45 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2022 in the Newcastle City Council Chambers, City Hall, 10 W. Warwick Street, Newcastle Wyoming.

(Publish November 17 and 24, 2022)

Public Notice

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEE OPEN SEAT

ANNOUNCEMENT

Weston County School District #1 has an opening for a School Board Member. Position runs from December 2022 to November 30, 2024. Deadline is December 2, 2022 at 4 p.m. Please send a letter of interest to:

Weston County School District #1
c/o Board Vacancy
116 Casper Avenue
Newcastle, WY 82701

(Publish November 17 and 24, 2022)

Cowboy State Look-In

Courtesy of the Wyoming News Exchange



WHP to study speed data

JACKSON (WNE) — The Wyoming Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash in Grand Teton National Park that killed a visitor.

An Australian couple was driving north in the park to visit Oxbow Bend around 11 a.m. Tuesday when they changed plans.

"They determined that the roads were too treacherous and didn't want to continue," said state Trooper Adam Johnson, who responded to the collision.

The Toyota Highlander had stopped in the highway to turn left into Teton Point Turnout so the couple could turn around and head back to Jackson. A semi truck driver also traveling north saw the SUV stopped from about a quarter mile away, but as he tried to slow down on the icy road, the truck couldn't stop, and it rear-ended the SUV, Johnson said.

"Frankly, it's a semi truck and it takes significantly more time and space to slow down," Johnson said. "In this case, they couldn't even stop because the roads were

so slick." Both SUV occupants were injured and taken by ambulance to St. John's Health. Pamela Paltridge, of Australia, died as a result of her injuries, Grand Teton said in a Wednesday news release. Her husband, who was driving the SUV, was treated and released.

The semi driver was cited for driving too fast for conditions, Johnson said.

In any commercial trucking investigation, Highway Patrol investigates whether impairment or fatigue were factors. Neither was in this case, he said.

The South Dakota-based Zubke Trucking log books for the driver showed complete compliance with regulations meant to prevent driver fatigue, he said.

The WHP will be downloading electronic data from both vehicles Friday to further detect vehicle speeds involved in the crash, he said.

This story was published on Nov. 11, 2022.

EV chargers coming to gateways

JACKSON (WNE) — Eastern Idaho's Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative will install five strategically placed Level 3 electric car charging stations along two significant scenic byways, with construction starting in the spring of 2023.

The fast chargers will be placed in Ashton and Island Park, Idaho — two cities along the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway — with another station in Driggs, Idaho, along the Teton Scenic Byway.

Both areas are considered gateways to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.

With Level 3 charging — also known as DC fast charging — motorists can charge an electric vehicle

battery to 80% in as few as 20 minutes, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The project is being funded with \$900,000 in grants from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

The effort is part of the launch of ChargeWest, an intermountain collaborative committed to improving electric corridors across the western United States. The West Electric Highway interstate partnership, as part of the ChargeWest collaborative, will run through eight western states including Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah in an effort to build infrastructure

for rural gateway communities, state and national parks, monuments, recreation areas and scenic byways through public-private partnerships.

"We see a lot of vacation travelers coming to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and they come through our service territory to get there," said Clint Washburn, the Fall River co-op's human resources manager who applied for the grants on behalf of Fall River. "We just see there's a huge need for it. I think there are a lot of travelers who don't bring their EVs now because of the lack of chargers."

This story was published on Nov. 14, 2022.

Gov. Gordon's chief of staff retiring

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon announced a change to his leadership team Thursday, as current Chief of Staff Buck McVeigh will retire at the end of the year. To take his place, Gordon has named Sen. Drew Perkins, R-Casper, his new chief of staff.

McVeigh served as the governor's policy director before becoming chief of staff in June 2019. His 36-year career with the state of Wyoming began in 1980 with the Department of Agriculture, and included positions in the Department of Administration & Information, the State Auditor's Office and the Public Service Commission, along with the Governor's Office.

McVeigh was a longtime member and 14-year executive branch co-chairman of the state's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG). He also served as executive director of the Wyoming Taxpayers Association for five years.

"Having been given the opportunity to serve

as Governor Gordon's chief was truly the honor of a lifetime for me," McVeigh said in a news release.

McVeigh will finish the year as chief of staff and then be replaced by Drew Perkins, who was a state senator from Natrona County until announcing his resignation Thursday.

Perkins has represented District 29 in the Wyoming Senate since 2007, serving as Senate president, vice president and chair of the Joint Appropriations Committee.

He comes to the Governor's Office after working as an attorney in private practice for more than 30 years.

He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming School of Law and earned an M.S. in Taxation from Southeastern University (Washington, D.C.) and a B.S. in Accounting from Brigham Young University.

This story was published on Nov. 11, 2022.

Texas man arrested for bank robbery

GILLETTE (WNE) — A 33-year-old Texas man was arrested after robbing a Gillette bank Wednesday morning.

At 9:07 a.m., a robbery was reported at the south branch of First National Bank, in the 2400 block of South Douglas Highway.

As officers were responding to the bank, someone else called to report that he followed the suspect, who was in a silver Ford Mustang.

The Mustang had just gotten onto Interstate 90 off of Highway 59 and was headed east, said Police Deputy Chief Brent Wasson.

Campbell County Sheriff's deputies and Wyoming Highway Patrol responded and stopped the Mustang at 9:28 a.m.

They spoke to the driver, Preston Selph, who was the only person in the car. He was found to have \$2,000 in cash and a note that was passed to a

bank teller during the robbery, Wasson said.

The note implied that Selph was armed, but he did not display a gun during the robbery and no gun was found in the car, Wasson said.

Wasson said Selph did not lead law enforcement on a chase. He stopped when he was told to stop and was arrested for robbery.

This story was published on Nov. 10, 2022.

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EVENTS

Bake sale
 BAKE SALE for the United Fund of Weston County on Nov. 21st at the Senior Center (Michael's room). Lots of goodies being sold to support 10 agencies. Items go on sale at 8am, KASL goes on air at 9:30 so tune in and get in on the bidding! If you would like to donate baked items you may drop them off at 7:00am. Call 746-4213 with any questions.

Holiday Bazaar
 Your holiday shopping begins at the annual "Christmas in Wyoming" Bazaar, Sat, Nov 19, 9am to 1pm at Newcastle Methodist Church. Crafts, Christmas decor, baked goods, silent auction items, and drawings. Also, New-2-You items and more. Soup and

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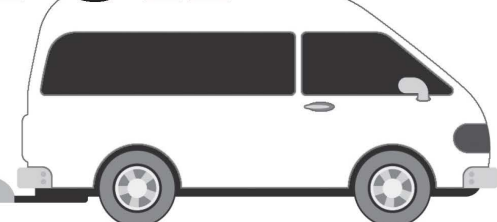


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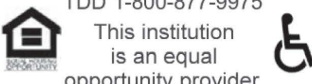


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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES!
 Weston County Health Services is currently accepting applications for the following positions.

Please see our website at wchs-wy.org for details.

Position	Status
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Home Health RN	FT
CNA, In-Home Services	PT
Radiology Technician (\$15,000 Sign-On Bonus)	FT
RN – Long-term Care	FT/PT/PRN
CNA – LTC (\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus)	FT&PT
Acute Care CNA	FT
Acute Care RN	PT/PRN
Nutrition Support Aide	PT
CNA	FT/PT/PRN
Dietary Aide	PRN
Environmental Services Aide	FT, PT, PRN

Employment Applications can be found on our website or picked up at the hospital front desk. Fax completed applications/resume packets to 307-746-3726, or email C.Turner@wchs-wy.org. WCHS performs post offer, pre-employment drug screening. EOE.



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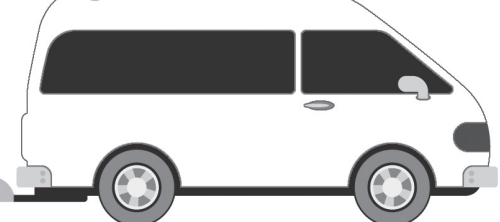


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Our new executive will be responsible for making customers aware of the NLJ's wide variety of media and marketing tools, and facilitating their use of those tools. We will train the chosen applicant in the use of a comprehensive marketing and messaging production system, and hope to employ a talented individual who will be excited to adapt and expand the system to meet the needs of our customers and community.

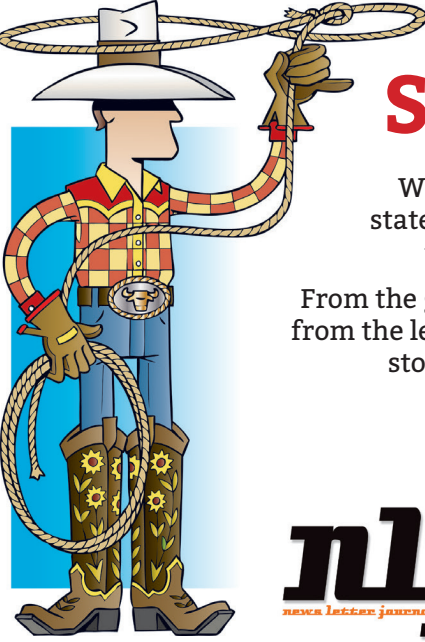
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Making a play



Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ


Sixth-grader Serenity Kline takes off with the ball during the sixth grade team's game on Monday against Edgemont. This is the inaugural year for sixth grade sports at Newcastle Middle School.

Schools from Page 9.....


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Women in Wyoming who do not have medical insurance and are in need of a screening mammogram may qualify for a voucher program. Weston County Health Services has teamed up with the Wyoming Breast Cancer Initiative to provide these vouchers. Contact Piper Allard at 307-746-3712 for eligibility and voucher.



1124 Washington Blvd., Newcastle WY 82701
 www.wchs-wy.org | Hospital 746-4491
 Manor 746-2793 | Therapy Services 746-3720
 Home Health 746-3553 | Pharmacy 746-2425



ESSA School Performance Goals

	Current Performance Score (insert a numeric goal)	1 Year Performance Goal (insert a numeric goal)
ESSA Average Indicator Score (0.0-3.0)	1.8	1.8
Achievement (Numeric value)	42.9	47.7
Growth (Numeric value)	45	47.1
Equity (Numeric value)	N/A	N/A
EL Progress (Numeric value)	N/A	N/A
For High Schools Only		
Four year on-time graduation rate (Numeric value)	90.2	90
Post-Secondary Readiness (Numeric value)	70.2	73

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) performance goals for Newcastle High School.

"I have never been a fan of teaching to the test, but if we are going to be judged on that, we have to play the game," Hoffman told the Weston County School District No. 1 board of trustees on Nov. 9.

Priority 1

In the plan, the first priority at the high school will be "data-informed" planning with an overall goal of impacting performance goals by providing targeted instructional support to meet students' academic needs. It will require data to be routinely analyzed in multiple ways and discussed among the staff.

The rationale behind this practice, according to the plan, involves moving the equity group in a positive direction to improve the schools' academic performance indicator. Strategies to improve include the discussion of state-level student data in professional learning communities and assigning interventions and support on a rotational basis based on current data and performance.

During ER time, equity group students will be prioritized with intervention and support at mid-term and quarter breaks, according to the plan.

"Students in the equity group in ELA (English Language Arts) will be assigned to the linguistics course for no less than the first semester of their 9th grade year," the plan says. "Students in the math equity group will be assigned to math instruction in the weeks preceding the WY-TOPP exam for intervention."

Priority 2

Newcastle High School staff listed priority 2 in the plan as professional development that will require an ongoing professional development structure and practices — e.g., professional learning communities, collaborative meeting time, coach supports, peer-to-peer observation or collaboration — for instructional improvement.

"The team felt a profes-

sional development structure that provides opportunities for instructional improvement specific to their content area as well as opportunities across content areas would be appropriate to impact student performance," the plan says. "This was a practice that had been utilized but with staff turnover some new staff do not have the training and professional development for consistency of practice schoolwide."

Using the professional learning communities, teachers will be retrained in applying the reading and writing process schoolwide. By applying consistent practices, the plan says that students will become familiar with standard procedures and have repetition of these skills in various content areas.

Peer-to-peer observation will also be used to hopefully improve instructional practice.

To achieve these goals, the school will hold workshops in relation to the reading process, writing process and math curriculum.

"This will impact performance goals by allowing for cross-curriculum practice of skills necessary to be successful academically," the plan says. "It will also improve teacher performance in carrying out these teaching methods."

Newcastle Elementary School

According to Holmes, Newcastle Elementary School staff also decided to focus on math while drafting the school's improvement plan. She noted that they hope to "firm up some stuff" and hopefully see improvement in student scores.

Identified in the improvement plan are two different domains, or priorities, staff at the school will focus on to improve school performance.

Domain 1

The first domain is listed as "learning support."

"The systematic approach for prevention and intervention includes student placements that are reviewed by a relevant team who use consistent rules and procedures to deliver effective interventions and support for student growth," the plan says.

The rationale for this focus lies in the school's math performance on the WY-TOPP test. To improve, the school will use Bridges in Mathematics and Bridges Intervention, a research-based program that provides scaffolded learning opportunities for students.

"As a K-5 building, NES will formalize a system that utilizes math data that targets specific math performance standards and/or mathematical concepts," the plan says.

The end goal, according to the plan, is to increase the number of students experiencing adequate achievement and growth on the WY-TOPP test with the math performance standards and/or mathematical concepts.

Domain 2

In the plan, domain 2 is listed as "instruction."

It states that "leaders and staff will work together to design and implement a high-quality, standards-aligned instructional program that results in high levels of achievement for all students."

The rationale behind this domain is related to student performance in math, specifically growth.

Staff at the school will use Bridges Number Corner, a research-based program that incorporates research-based strategies that allow students to interweave new skills with previously acquired skills. The school plans to establish expectations related to Number Corner that are aligned to the math performance standard.

The overall goal is to increase the number of students experiencing growth on the WY-TOPP test due to the focus on aligning with the school's math performance standards.

The complete school improvement plans can be read at newslj.com.



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