

December 8, 2022

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 136 Week 49

# Cold and flu season is upon us

#### **Alexis Barker NLJ News Editor**

Cold and flu season has officially begun, and although the COVID-19 pandemic is considered over, local health professionals are seeing an increase and on the rise. ... The prein confirmed cases of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (or RSV), as well as COVID-19, in the community.

"So, right now, we are looking at influenza A and B circulating

dominant one is influenza A; we are finding that more. We are also seeing COVID and RSV," public health nurse Sarah Gregory told the News Letter Journal.

provide specific and accurate numbers because of delayed reporting through official channels.

Health lists flu activity in the

She noted that she could not state as moderate, with several counties moving toward local geographic spread, according to the department's Nov. 29 overview report. It notes that The Wyoming Department of both influenza A and B viruses are circulating in various com-

munities, predominately the H3N2 viruses reported across the country.

According to the report, Health care providers in 21

- See **Illness**, Page 6

# For the block



# Not too cold to burn

**Alexis Barker NLJ News Editor** 

Moving into the winter season brings a whole different form of fire season, according to Daniel Tysdal, Weston County's fire warden, who reported that Weston County fire professionals have responded to various fires already this winter season.

"The Weston County Fire Protection District did respond to a coal pile fire last week and also a railroad switch tie fire

- See Fire, Page 2

# Food help for the holidays

Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

CJ Hardy goes up for the block as Zander White drives hard to the rack in the Meet the Dogies scrimmage Saturday. Read more about the Dogie basketball season on Page 10.

#### Hannah Gross NLJ Correspondent

Newcastle's food pantry BREAD Inc., has been serving the needs of the community for many years, but around the holidays, the volunteers at BREAD like to do something extra special to ensure that families can enjoy a full holiday

meal. Christmas is the season for giving, and while a formal decision hasn't been made on this year's gift, office manager Ken Pitlick said they will most likely do what they did last year - put together a variety of food in a box or a bag, along with a gift certificate to one of the

- See **BREAD**, Page 7

# Sheriff's special deputies Award promotes good citizenship

#### **Hannah Gross**

NLJ Correspondent

Every month, students from Newcastle Elementary School are recognized by their teachers for good citizenship, and thanks to the help of Weston County Sheriff Bryan Colvard and the department's community service officer, Becky Swentesky, Newcastle Middle School students are also being recognized by the community every quarter for their good citizenship.

Colvard said Swentesky came to him with the idea of an award recognizing students for good citizenship, and he credits her as the brain power behind the Sheriff and Chief's Club Award.

"I can't thank her (Swentesky) enough," he said.

Colvard jumped on board with the idea because he said middle school is such a "moldable time frame" for the developing students, and he hopes to build a relationship between law enforcement and students while promoting goodwill and

- See Award, Page 6

#### Photo by Alexis Barker/NLJ

Sheriff Bryan Colvard gave out the first round of the Sheriff and Chief's Club Award to Davyn Hoffman, Kyndal Von Eye and Dane Crabtree, three of the six individuals at Newcastle Middle School who received the award. The first award, given to a boy and a girl from each grade, was awarded on Oct. 27 during the school's excellence assembly.











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# Deuces mild: County unemployment stays at 2.2

#### **Alexis Barker NLJ News Editor**

At 2.2% Weston County's unemployment rate for October was the lowest in the state, according to the Nov. 21 report from the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Research and Planning Division.

Weston County has maintained a 2.1% or 2.2% unemployment rate for most of the year, the report says. In October 2021, the county's unemployment rate was slightly higher at 2.5%.

"Weston County reported the lowest unemployment rate at 2.2%, and it was followed by Teton, Niobrara and Crook counties, each at 2.5%," the report says. "The highest unemployment rates were found in Sweetwater County at 3.9%, Natrona County at 3.8%, Sublette County at 3.6% and Fremont County at 3.5%."

To reach these rates, most counties experienced an anticipated seasonal increase to their unemployment rates, according to the report.

"In October, cold weather often brings seasonal job losses in leisure & hospitality, construction, professional & business services and other services," the report says. "The largest unemployment rate increases were seen in Teton (up from 1.9% to 2.5%), Park (up from 2.7% to 3%) and Platte (up from 2.8% to 3.1%) counties."

From September to October, however, Weston County's unemployment rate only increased 0.1%. According to the report, a total of 84 people were unemployed in October, up from 80 in September. There are a total of 3,818 people in the county's labor force.

Statewide, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 3.3% to 3.5%. Wyoming's labor force is reported to be 290,043 people, with 9,256 individuals unemployed.

The seasonal adjustment is a statistical procedure used to remove the impact of normal regularly recurring events — such as weather, holidays and the opening and closing of schools — from the economic time series to better understand

# Fire from Page 1

## Heating safety tips

#### If you are using a portable heater:

- · Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off. · Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet
- from the heater · Plug portable heaters directly into wall outlets. Never use an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

#### If you are using a fireplace:

· Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out and starting a fire.

### **Scam Targets** Unemployed

The Department of Workforce Services has seen an increase in scam text messages, according to a Dec. 5 press release. The texts are regarding Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Compensation benefits designed to seize account and personal information.

"Scammers attempt to obtain personal information in order to file fraudulent claims or compromise existing accounts. Be careful about requests by phone, text or email to share personally identifiable information such as Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, PIN numbers or account passwords," the release says. "DWS will never send text messages with a link to log into an account."

Director Robin Sessions Cooley said in the release that the department will only contact claimants by their preferred method of contact.

"Avoid clicking links in emails and text messages. Anyone who is unsure about any link asking to log into an account should disregard the link and instead access online accounts from the account's official website," the release says.

Anyone who has filed an unemployment or workers' compensation claim should verify their information including — address, phone number, email and payment method - are accurate and have not been altered.

Additional tips for protecting your personal data are available at cybersecurity.wyo.gov.

changes in the economic conditions from month to month.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was reported to be 3.7% in October, up from 3.5% in September. In October of 2021, the national unemployment rate was 4.6% while Wyoming reported a 4% unemployment rate.

> it comes to heating, Christmas decorations and cooking.

> Data from the U.S. Fire Administration supports those assertions, indicating that half of all home-heating fires occur in December, January and February, with one in every seven home fires and one in every five home fire deaths involving heating equipment.

According to the Heating Fire in Residential Buildings (2013-15), a report by the fire administration, an average of 45,900 home-heating fires occurred each year, causing an annual average of roughly 205 deaths, 725 injuries and \$506 million in property loss.





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Do not burn paper in your fireplace

· Before you go to sleep or leave your home, put the fire out completely. · Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Store the container outside at least 3 feet from your home.

#### If you are using a wood stove:

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- · Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the stove.
- · Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Before you go to sleep or leave your home, put the fire out completely.

#### Source: U.S. Fire Administration



the week prior and a house fire told the News Letter Journal.

was also a house fire on Thanksgiving, although the Newcastle Volunteer Fire provided, more fires happen Department was the responding agency.

According to Newcastle Fire Chief James Curren, the fire was caused by a turkey smoker in someone's backyard on Thanksgiving day. He said that it is important to make sure people practice fire safety when cooking and make sure that any outdoor cooking device is away from your home and other flammable material or fuel.

"Our local firefighters have the first week of November," he definitely kept busy, even if what now seems to be a year-Tysdal noted that there around wildland season has slowed down a bit," Tysdal said.

> According to information he in the winter months than any other time of the year and it is important for people to heat their homes safely to avoid house fires.

> "As more time is spent indoors and heating and cooking increases throughout the winter, the threat of structure fire increases drastically," he said.

> Curren echoed those thoughts and encouraged people to practice safety in their homes when

Heating fires are the secondleading cause of home fires, after cooking.

Residents of homes or apartments can do several things to decrease the chance of a heating fire, according to the federal agency. These include keeping anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from any heat source, keeping portable generators outside and away from the home and windows, installing and testing carbon monoxide alarms, only plugging one heat-producing appliance into an electrical outlet at a time, having qualified professionals clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year and storing cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container at least 10 feet from your home or any nearby buildings.

Christmas trees also present a fire risk, according to information provided by Tysdal.

When picking a tree, people should pick a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Once home, trees should be at least 3 feet away from any heat source and water should be added to the tree stand daily.

Lighting your Christmas tree should be done with lights listed by a qualified testing laboratory. String lights should not be worn or broken, and bulb connections should be tight.

"Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed," the information states.

According to the information provided by Tysdal, Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they do happen, they are more likely to be serious.



editor@newslj.com

2021 NNAF Better lewspaper



# Some soul-searching is needed

The November 2022 election may someday be seen as a turning point for the Republican Party. Despite a lagging economy, high inflation, an unpopular Democratic President and conventional wisdom predicting a resounding victory, Republicans underperformed. On the national scale, we barely took

control of the House of Representatives, where the Republican caucus has only a few seats majority and massive internal divisions. We failed to make any gains in the Senate and may have even lost ground. Expected gains in governorships failed to materialize. In fact, there will be fewer Republican governors in 2023 than there were before the November election. Having been limited to only incremental gains in the House and losses elsewhere, the Republican Party needs to undertake some serious soul-searching.

Republicans need to think carefully and clearly about why we lost. Our message failed to convince voters we hoped would be on our side. Perhaps most concerning, the places that Republican candidates fared the worst are states that are widely considered Presidential battleground states. Pennsylvania, Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada are all states that Republicans need to have a shot at to seriously compete for the Presidency and all saw Republicans run behind Democrats on Election Day. If a Republican Presidential candidate cannot win at least a few of those states, it is difficult to imagine a path to victory in 2024.

If nothing else, this election should reinforce the truth that candidates matter. Even in favorable environments, bad candidates snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Mehmet Oz, Blake Masters, Herschel Walker, Kari Lake, and Doug Mastriano were all bad candidates. In each those races, a better candidate would have won. The elephant in the room for all these candidates is their embrace of the election steal claims of former President Trump. All made it a key part of their campaigns, all tied themselves closely to the former President, and all lost (or are polling behind the Democrat in a runoff, as is the case with Walker). Regardless of your thoughts on the former President, the last three elections show that the median voter does not want him to be President and does not look kindly on those who would emulate him or advance his cause. If Republicans want to win in the future, we must remember that it is the median voter who picks the winner. We must nominate candidates that appeal to that voter.

Turning to Wyoming, as expected, the Republican dominance of Wyoming politics continued. In fact,

the Wyoming Democratic Party barely contested the election. Even if every Democratic candidate had won, they still would have been in the minority in statewide elected officials, the state senate, and the state house of representatives. Only 20 of 62 state house races had a Democrat on the ballot. As tempting as it is to blame

Democrats for their collective lack of effort, it is understandable, as the candidates that do run have little success. After this election, there is not a single Democrat in the legislature outside the cities of Jackson and Laramie. Republicans have a 57 to 5 advantage over Democrats in the house and 29-2 advantage in the Senate. Regardless of national trends, the Republican brand remains strong in Wyoming.

However, even with this Republican dominance, Wyoming voters still sent signals to elected officials. Interestingly, alignment with Trump appeared to be a net negative, even in

Wyoming. Wyoming's most Trump-aligned candidate -Representative-elect Harriet Hageman - consistently ran behind Republican legislative candidates in contested races. To illustrate, there were 16 state house races that pitted a Republican against a Democrat without independent, third party, or write-in candidates also running. When you compare the vote totals from the precincts in each of those races, Hageman got fewer votes than the Republican legislative candidate in 14 of the 16 house districts. While she was certainly at no risk of losing her race, the data suggests that Hageman probably lost votes due to her close alignment with former President Trump.

Given these realities, what should the Republican Party's soul-searching entail? If nothing else, Republicans need to come to terms with the reality that former President Trump tends to cost us votes. It would be foolish to disregard the reasons that he appealed to so many in 2016, but his personal style, political and legal history, and continued insistence on a story of the last election that has been rejected by most of the country's voters makes him an electoral liability. Our chances in 2024 and beyond would be better with a different candidate that does not come with former President Trump's preexisting vulnerabilities. A Republican can and should win in 2024, but Trump is the least likely to get it done.

We also must recognize that bad candidates cost us winnable races. Politics is serious business, and we need serious people to take on those roles. Hopefully, my fellow Republicans take this to heart before we let another winnable election slip past.



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News Letter Journal:



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 hat they will carry the weig our 100-plus years of leader ship. 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.



# Buy Wyoming this Christmas — here are some ideas

espite the temptation to buy from Amazon or other places on the internet, there are some so many great reasons to shop local this Christmas season.

After consulting with my network of friends around the state, here are some ideas for Cowboy State products.

But first, let's just give a plug to all the locally-owned stores in your city or town. They range big to small. Spending your money there not only helps them, but that money spreads itself around your community.

To me the two biggest advantages of going downtown and shopping are both seeing the store employees and seeing my fellow townspeople buying locally.

If prices are slightly higher, please still buy. Look around your town. The number of local-owned stores are diminishing. Perhaps your shopping spree will help keep some of them in business.

Across Wyoming, the business, getting the most votes, was from tiny Lovell where Queen Bee Honey Candy is

located. Both Publisher Dave Peck of the Lovell Chronicle and Cowboy State Daily reporter Kevin Killough recommended them.

Another honey producer that deserves a look is the Miller family's Wonderful Wyoming Honey enterprise in Crowheart.

They have a store in Dubois that has an actual honey bee hive buzzing away. Pretty neat. Pat Henderson

of Sheridan touts Legerski Sausage Co. in his town. They make wonderful sausages, cheeses, and hams, he says. "It is a multi-generational

business for a reason," Pat says. "Great products with great ownership."

He also loves the Jackalope Ranch in downtown Sheridan with stylish clothes, accessories, and fine jewelry. Pam Gable is the owner.

Before we leave Sheridan, I am not sure another town in Wyoming has such a vibrant main drag. Folks in that town really support their downtown. Kim Love has spent a lifetime helping businesses there and has spurred an amazing selection of amazing bronze statues up and down the

streets. Even the side streets have original bronze statues. Debbie Disney Pummel

of Casper understands small towns. Her favorite localowned stores in Casper range from big like Lou Taubert (one of my all-time favorites) to smaller places like Ugly Bug Fly Shop. She also lists Donells Candies, Cadillac Cowgirl, Fashion Crossroads, Mustard Seed, Gear Up and Get Out There, Toy Town, Merry Peddler, Grant Street Market, WY Shirt and Gift (another of my favorites), and the Metro Coffee Shop.

Wendy Corr is a Cody booster and touts Wyoming Buffalo Co., which will send out boxes of meats, cheeses, jams, and other goodies.

She also touts Cowtown Candy with an additive treat called Cowtown Crunch. Sounds yummy.

Cowboy State Daily Political Reporter Leo Wolfson likes Legends Bookstore and the Thistle Gift Shop (two of my favorites, too) in Cody. He also likes Cody Craft Brewing.

The Wyoming 307 Store is a great place in Cheyenne for local products. Along with that is the gift shop at the Wyoming State Museum. It is amazing.

Wyoming Whiskey always has some great offerings at

Christmas as does the liqueurs made by Koltiska up in Sheridan.

Various Wyoming Cowboy gear is recommended by my brother Ron in Cheyenne, as our team prepares for a bowl game.

Retired publisher Holly Dabb always promotes Farson honey and Kronski's sausages from Boschetto's European Market in Rock Springs.

Former Wyoming Tourism Director Gene Bryan says "do not forget to mention Chugwater Chili! A true Wyoming institution."

Please buy Wyoming books by the Michael and Kathleen Gear, CJ Box, Craig Johnson, Cat Urbigkit, Candy Moulton, Steve Horn, Mark Spragg, Karen Schutte, Mary Billiter, John Davis, Glenn Woods, and you can even find coffee table books by yours truly. Also check out your favorite local bookstores - they are just great. Some super ones are The Storyteller in Thermopolis, Sheridan Stationery, Whistle Stop in Douglas, Wind City Books in Casper, Messenger Girls in Lander, The Wandering Hermit in Wheatland, and Second Story Books in Laramie.

Andy Gramlich touts Wild Iris and Gannett Peak Sports in Journal.

his home town of Lander. He suggests gift certificates to our locally-owned restaurants and coffee shops, too.

**Friday** 

Jen Sieve-Hicks in Buffalo loves to boost stores in her town. Some of them include Margo's Pottery, Mountain Meadow Wool, Hayburner tack, and Boneheads shop, which does wonders with antlers. Love that name "Boneheads."

In Jackson Dina Mishev promotes Stio Shot 7 Parkas and Give'R gloves. She says both are her winter essentials. She also loves Fat Biking Pants and something she called Grateful Dead-inspired road biking kits.

These are just a few of the wonderful gifts available locally around Wyoming. Happy shopping and remember to also support those charities doing important work this season!

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

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



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**Obituaries** 

**JAMES LOUIS GERKE** Sept. 5, 1946–Dec. 2, 2022 James Louis Gerke was born on Sept. 5, 1946, to Thomasine (Jessee) and John Harding Gerke in Chicago, Ill.

He moved to California as a

the

James tiple tours in Gerke Vietnam. He was highly

decorated and awarded many honors and medals — including several purple hearts — during the course of his service. Perhaps the most rewarding of these medals being in the form of three of his nephews, David, Curtis, and Jonathan, who joined the Army, proudly following in the footsteps of the "Hero" they knew and loved.

When he retired from the Army, Jim moved to Newcastle, Wyo., and worked at the sawmill for many years as a guard for the Pinkertons. He loved the area, was an avid hunter, and was a true native at heart of the great state of Wyoming. He loved his township and the people in it, and could always be seen daily at one of the local diners enjoying a meal or a cup of coffee with someone, be it a friend or a stranger.

He was an honorable man, always quick to speak up against injustice, and generous to a fault, often putting himself in hardship to help someone in need. He loved children, and, notably, they loved him. He enjoyed their inquisitive nature and delighted young boy, in seeing their faces break into and joined smiles and laughter at the tall U.S. Army at the tales he was always telling age of 17. them. He also had a soft spot for dogs — most particularly, He served Sam his beloved pit bull, and more than the two were inseparable until 24 years in the military Sam's death. Anyone who knew and did mul-Jim surely has a Sam story in their catalog of memories. Jim wore many hats in his

lifetime, but one thing stands out as the core of who he was and influenced every other area of his life. He was, first and last, a soldier: Master Sergeant James Louis Gerke, United States Army.

He will be truly missed and always loved.

Considering the loyalty and respect he felt so deeply for his country, for every fallen patriot, and every veteran, he was laid to rest, with Military Honors by the American Legion, appropriately on Dec. 7 (Pearl Harbor Day), in the Andersen family cemetery, Redbird Canyon, S.D.

He is preceded in death by his parents; the love of his life whom he met and married in Vietnam; and his daughter, Xin. He is survived by two brothers, Dan Gerke and Don Nelson; two sisters, Cheryl DiQuisto and Cynthia DiRaimondo; son,

Charles Gerke and numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Condolences can be sent to the Gerke family, c/o David and Tera Stevens, 10258 Valley Road, Edgemont, SD 57735.

#### **ROGER LEWIS** Nov. 18, 1946–Nov. 25, 2022

Roger Lewis, 76, died Nov. 25, 2022. He was born on Nov. 18, 1946, in Rapid City, S.D., to Bill and Dorothy Lewis.

He is survived by brother, Bill Lewis III, Rapid City; sisters, Karen Thompson, Rice Lake, Wisc., Ruth Mattison, Birchwood, Wisc., Gloria Hoover, Newcastle, Wyo.; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jim and Joe; and sister, Margaret.

No services are planned. Behrens-Wilson Funeral Home is in charge of cremation.

#### **BETTY J. SMITH**

Sept. 19, 1952–Nov. 29, 2022 Betty J. Smith, age 70, of North Platte, Neb., passed away Nov. 29, 2022, at her home.

Betty was born Sept. 19, 1952, in Alliance, Neb., to Dale and Rose Mary Sperry Coleman.

Betty graduated from Hemingford High School in 1970 and received her RN license in 1974. She married Gary Smith on Aug. 21, 1978, in Scottsbluff, Neb.

In 1982 she worked as the director of nursing at the hos-







pital in Newcastle, Wyo. The couple moved to O'Nei11, Neb., in 2003 where she was a nursing h o m e inspector.

After moving to North Platte, she continued working for the state as a nursing home inspector until her retirement.

Betty was a strong woman and was an advocate for her nursing home residents.

Survivors include a sister, Bonnie (Bill) Shammel; sisterin-law, Debbie (Gary Wilson) Smith of Newcastle; step-son, Rick (Jennifer) Bane of Heath. Ohio; four grandchildren; nieces, Anna (Aaron) Logan and Jenny Mosley, all of Newcastle; nephews, Adam Shammel of Scottsbluff and Allan Shammel of Chadron, Neb.; three greatnephews; many family members and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents; and her husband, Gary.

Memorials are suggested to the Gift of Hope Cancer Foundation and online condolences may be shared at adamsswanson.com.

Services will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at Adams & Swanson Funeral Home, with Chief Dennis Thompson officiating.

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Photo courtesy Carol Thurman

The annual Christmas Tea was held at Gateway Fellowship church on Dec. 2. Seven churches provided centerpieces, with more than 50 men and women in attendance to enjoy finger sandwiches and cookies, along with tea and coffee. Those who participated engaged in lively conversation with old friends and new ones.



#### **Daily Devotional Reading**

December 9	December 13
Exodus 14:1-18	Exodus 16:1-21
December 10	December 14
Exodus 14:19-31	Exodus 16:22-36
December 11	December 15
Exodus 15:1-18	Exodus 17:1-16
December 12	Scriptures Selected by the
Exodus 15:19-27	American Bible Society

• 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; Undefeated 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

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ~ Colossians 3:1



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#### 25 Years Ago Dec. 11, 1997

Giving is a Christmas tradition dating back to the Three Wise Men who brought gifts to the Christ Child. Over at the BREAD office Monday, Mimi Goode was busy organizing this year's Christmas baskets, which will be given to families in need. The high school FBLA and church groups such as AWANAS and the Council of Catholic Women donate food and other items.

For holiday shoppers who save their Christmas buying and mailing until the last minute, the U.S. Postal Service is prepared to soothe your frazzled holiday nerves. Postal clerk Theresa Ackley rattled off a list of gift items on display at post office in Newcastle.

When Detective Randy Dixon busted 19-year-old James Michael Leonatti for violating parole, he noticed something familiar about the footprints the Upton native was tracking on the floor.

"While he's being booked Dixon notices his tennis shoe prints match the footprints from the break-ins and the property he has in his possession matches the property from an earlier theft," Police Chief Jim Berge said. Leonetti has been charged with seven counts of Felony Theft as well as several misdemeanors.

The Cambria Bowhunters raised \$350 Sunday with their annual "Toys for Tots Shoot" to benefit the Weston County Peace Officers Association Operation Santa. Shooters from all over the state gathered at Gertrude Burns School for the competition.

Friday evening the Anna Miller Museum held their annual



Candlelight Living Christmas to the delight of hundreds.

#### 50 Years Ago Dec. 7, 1972

Mrs. Fred Sweet, a 4-H leader for 20 years, was named 1972 Outstanding Leader at the Weston County Leader's Banquet Saturday evening. In addition to her outstanding leader award, Mrs. Sweet also received a diamond clover-leaf pin in recognition of her 20 years of service.

Tim Chamberlain of Newcastle is one of four freshmen swimmers on the University of Wyoming swim team, which are being counted upon heavily to lift Wyoming's swim fortunes. Chamberlain owns the state high school butterfly crown.

The Newcastle Christmas Center will open Saturday, Dec. 9, and will remain open through Dec. 20. The purpose of the center is to collect donations of money and food which will be used to provide Christmas food

baskets for needy families in the community.

N.S. Updike has submitted his resignation as Weston County Commissioner. Updike has been a commissioner for 18 years and has served as chairman of the board since 1957, with the exception of one and half years when the late T.R. Elliott served as chairman.

Santa Claus will make his annual pre-Christmas visit to Newcastle Saturday morning, Dec. 9. Santa will arrive in Newcastle under escort of the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department about 8:45 a.m.

Mrs. Al Shepperson was honored on her birthday at her home Thursday evening. Calling at the Shepperson home with birthday cake and ice cream were Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Mellor, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Eatherton, Nick and Dan Dowdy, and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Mellor and family.

**100 Years Ago** Dec. 7, 1922 John C. Jones, Edgemont blacksmith, who was charged with killing Harry B. Landmesser, switchman in the Burlington railroad yards at Edgemont, on August 2, was given his liberty last Saturday by a jury in the Fall River County circuit court at Hot Springs. Newcastle people remember the shooting, and many were acquainted with Mr. Landmesser, who for several years was a brake man passing through Newcastle regularly, and living in Sheridan.

The Newcastle Boy Scouts held two meetings and took a long hike last week. The first meeting was a special meeting held Friday night at which time arrangements were made to hike out to the Jones ranch on Oil Creek to look over the campsite donated the troop by Jav Baird and his father J.L. Baird.

Frank Hall, well known in Newcastle and for the past few vears driving a taxi, came to his death in a garage in Crawford, Neb., last Saturday afternoon between 4 and 5 o'clock, when the top of his head was blown off by a 30-30 bullet from a Winchester saddle gun.

Hall was being held at Crawford by the chief of police on request of Sheriff Charles Howell, who wanted him in connection with the disappearance of several hundred pounds of sugar from the warehouse of the Newcastle Mercantile company.

Monday afternoon nine more sacks of the sugar which had been stolen from the warehouse of the Newcastle Mercantile company was recovered. The sugar was found under a culvert on the other side of the bridge near the Will Dixon home on Warren Avenue.



## **Open Seat Available**

The Newcastle Planning Board has an open seat. Please submit letters of interest to City Hall located at 10 W. Warwick. This seat is for a 3 year term. Individuals must be a City resident and a registered voter.

Application forms are also available at City Hall.



Mystery table runner class on Feb. 17. \$35 plus kit.





This photo depicts a barn raising in the early days.

Fri. Dec. 9

Sat. Dec. 10

Dec. 12-16

Courtesy of Weston County Historical Society

# LET US **KNOW** WHAT'S HAPPENING

Is your group or organization hosting an event?

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



# ϢΉΔΤʹЅ Ͷ₽ WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

9AM Caramel Rolls Beltone Hearing Aid Clinic 9AM By Appt. **COVID Booster Clinic** 11AM-3PM FirsTier Bank Open House 1PM Bridge 5:30PM BINGO 9AM-NOON Free Kids Shopping Day Sun. Dec. 11 10AM-4PM Cambria Bowhunters Open House 2PM Community Christmas Cantata Mon. Dec. 12 9AM Exercise Class 1PM Computer Clinic W.C. Fair Board Mtg. 6:30PM 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous 9AM-5:30PN Holiday Open House Tues. Dec. 13 10:30AM Alzheimers/Dementia Support 11AM Story Time NOON Dirt Daubers Christmas Luncheon NOON CowBelles Mtg. 1PM Bridge & Dominoes W.C. Natural Resource District Mtg. 3PM 6PM American Legion Mtg. Wed. Dec. 14 6:30-8:30AM Wellness Wednesday Exercise Class & Toe Nail Clinic 9AM NOON Lions Club Thurs. Dec. 157AM TOPS #218 1PM Crafts 6PM Veteran's Memorial Mtg. 6PM W.C.H.S. Board of Trustees Mtg. 7PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30PM Masons #13

W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Health Services 612 Pine St. Upton, WY W.C. Senior Center V.F.W. Hall First United Methodist Church 214 Main Street, Newcastle Crouch Auditorium W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Event Center W.C. Senior Center W.C. Library

> Zoom W.C. Library Pinnacle Bank Antlers W.C. Senior Center 1225 Washington Blvd. Newc. Lodge & Conv. Ctr.

> > W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center

W.C. Senior Center W.C. Senior Center Four Square Church W.C. Health Services W.C. Senior Center Masonic Hall



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# Most wonderful time



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

For Black Friday, Rancher's Feed and Supply held a Christmas Open House on Friday, Nov. 25. Several tables were set up in the back room for vendors to sell their goods, while coffee was available to all. Here, MacKenzie Jackson looks through clothing for sale at the table for Donner's Hope Shop, run by Janet Donner and Sharon Callander, who are wearing festive hats.

# Award from Page 1.....

personal fortitude.

"Middle school is definitely a formative year," Colvard said. Nominations are sent by teachers and coaches, and then a boy and a girl from each of the three grades is selected to receive the award.

similar yet different from the elementary program, Colvard said, they look for character qualities of integrity, respect and personal fortitude when awarding a student, in addition why it's important to me."

to grades and extracurricular activities.

Instead of looking at GPAs, only a passing grade is required because Colvard wants to emphasize character more than academia.

"That doesn't mean anything Wanting to do something in my book. What means everything to me is just being an overall good person," Colvard said. "They're doing what's right, which is huge to me, even if no one told them to. ... That's

Illness from Page 1.....

Newcastle Middle School principal Tyler Bartlett said the school is excited to get on board with the program.

"We're always striving to recognize our students for their achievements, whether they are academic, athletic, or otherwise. Things like integrity and respect are as important as anything else, and we're happy to help these agencies recognize some of the outstanding students we have at NMS," he said.





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counties have reported influenza-like illness activity with a reported 393 influenza cases confirmed between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19. Transmission in Wyoming is considered moderate.

According to Deborah Hockett, infection preventionist and employee health professional for Weston County Health Services, from Nov. 4 to Dec. 3, WCHS conducted 33 influenza tests and 24 RSV tests. Of those, 10 tests came back positive for influenza A and four tests for RSV came back positive in kids 5 and under.

She noted that RSV tends to affect younger children more than older individuals. Hockett said that influenza cases had been seen in people of all ages.

Treatment for these illnesses vary, according to Hockett. She also noted that she has seen cases of influenza in individuals who have received the flu shot, although the symptoms have been milder.

According to the Health Department, Weston County has had six confirmed COVID-19 cases in the past seven days, with two cases still active. To date, the county has seen 481 cases and six deaths.

"Cold and flu season can impact schools as we are in close quarters; however, if we keep staff and kids home when they are sick, it helps keep everyone around us healthy," said Allison Farella, Weston County School District No. 1 nurse.

So far, Newcastle High School Principal Bryce Hoffman said that the school has not seen a "big swell" of absences thus far. He noted that it typically hits the high school last when it comes to illnesses spreading.

Numbers provided by Hoffman show that there were a total of 79 student absences from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2, as compared to a month earlier, when there were only 73 student absences from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21. The past week also showed a small increase in absences from a year prior, as there were only 72 student absences from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 in 2021.

"It seems to be relatively stable when looking at those numbers," Hoffman reasoned.

"I took the total absences for each of those weeks, and then divided them by five since we have five periods we take attendance for to convert to days," Hoffman said of the manner in which the daily attendance is figured in the high school.

Data was not provided by administrators from other buildings in the district, but Newcastle Elementary School Principal Brandy Holmes did say that the elementary school has not seen a dramatic increase in illness compared with other years, excluding those years spent under COVID-19 and quarantine procedures.

"Of course, there are times during the year when illness is more prevalent, as it is everywhere, like cold and flu season," she said.

Holmes noted that it is also hard to report the actual number of absences due to illness because kids can miss school for a variety of reasons.

Hoffman did note that since the COVID-19 pandemic, he feels individuals are more cautious when they are sick.

Gregory concurred, noting simple precautions are not a bad thing and suggesting several of the common practices encouraged during the pandemic will help to reduce the spread of other illnesses, including influenza and RSV.

These recommendations include avoiding close contact with sick people or with others when you are sick, frequent hand washing, covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and staying home when you are ill.

When asked how long people should be out of commission when they are ill, Gregory agreed with Farella.

"Children need to stay home for 24 hours after they have had a fever without a fever reducing agent (ibuprofen or Tylenol). They also need to stay home 24 hours after the last vomiting occurrence," she said. "We are not doctors, so we look for advice from their medical providers beyond that "

Gregory noted that individuals should practice other healthy habits including cleaning and disinfecting their home and work areas, getting plenty of rest and exercise, drinking plenty of liquid and eating a nutritious diet. She said if you can avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, you can also slow the spread of illness and other germs.

Farella said that she has also noticed a difference in germ awareness following the pandemic.

"People seem to be more cautious and stay home if they are ill. At the school we have hand sanitizer and encourage the kids to wash their hands frequently with sanitizer or soap and water," she said. "Our teachers are amazing at providing time for hand hygiene numerous times a day, and our custodians clean high-impact areas often."

Not only do the teachers and custodians put in extra work during cold and flu season, according to Newcastle Middle School Principal Tyler Bartlett, secretaries and substitutes also put in a tremendous amount of work. Staff members in every department rearrange their schedules to make sure the schools can operate daily, he said.

"This is true for teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, kitchen staff, custodians, you name it," Bartlett said. "Like Brandy (Holmes) said, people may be gone for a variety of reasons, but when it happens, everyone steps up to try and take care of the students that are here to keep things running as smoothly as possible."

# Raising 'dough'



Photos by Kim Dean/NLJ

Weston County Senior Services turned into a rather large makeshift bakery on Nov. 21, with a variety of home-baked goodies to be auctioned off for the United Fund Pie Auction. The auction was brought back to life after a two-year hiatus and raised \$5,677.50, which will benefit several local nonprofit agencies. A beautiful fall basket was one of the auction items, holding a jar of pickles and peach jam. Seth Parsons, In Home Services manager, and Melissa Stubbs, Newcastle Police Department dispatcher, above, collect money and help shoppers with their selections. Goodies filled four long tables and a refrigerator that day.





#### BREAD from Page 1.....

local grocery stores as a special Christmas gift, in addition to the regular baskets families receive.

Each gift certificate amount will depend on the size of the family, and certificates will be distributed Dec. 19-21, just in time for Christmas. BREAD also distributed certificates at Thanksgiving to about 130

the pandemic and inflation.

"It's been a bit difficult for our supplier, Food Bank of the Rockies. ... If it affects them, it affects us too," Pitlick said. "The donations have been really well from the community, and that has been a blessing to us."

Month-to-month costs vary at BREAD, but Pitlick said he is grateful for the community's support. "So far, we've been able to do pretty well," he said. "We always accept donations whether it's monetary or food or stuff like that."

shortage due to the impacts of most of the people who come are honest about their needs. He is also thankful for his "great volunteers.'

> "It's always a pleasure to have someone say a sincere 'thank you," he said.

> The BREAD office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers serve an average of



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people, most of whom were regular clients, Pitlick said.

BREAD receives most of its items from Food Bank of the Rockies, either by donation or through purchase, but according to the Food Bank of the Rockies website, food pantries have experienced a

Pitlick said he enjoys helping people out, and he believes

8-10 families every day. To get on the pickup list, a family must fill out paperwork to determine how much food will be allocated based on the family's income and size.

The BREAD office is located on 627 Pine St. and can be reached at 746-3542.

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# Wine & good cheer





On Friday, Dec. 2, Pinnacle Bank held its annual Festival of Trees at the Weston County Senior Center. Along with a finger food buffet, people could purchase a glass for wine tasting. Entertainment was provided by Al and Brenda Costello and their band, including the singing of Christmas carols. Amy Hoffman, from Pinnacle Bank, said they raised \$32,353, to be split between three non-profit organizations, during the wreath and tree bidding. The three entities receiving the money are Weston County Senior Services, Weston County Sheriff Search and Rescue, and WYO Help. Clockwise from upper left: Bethany Lakes holds up a wreath created by the News Letter Journal up for bid; Danielle Urman sings Christmas carols along with Al Costello and the rest of the band; for \$10 adults could buy a wine glass to participate in a large selection of wine tasting; Gary Clarke indicates bid raises during the auction; Nicole Lorenz displays a wreath up for auction; and a line for the free buffet wraps around the corner back to the entryway of the the senior center.





# O Christmas Tree

ristmas

Trees that remaing green all year have long held symbolic importance to cultures around the world, particularly when winter nights were longest and sunlight was in short supply. Ancient Romans who associated the winter solstice with the pending return of green farmlands decorated their homes and temples with evergreen branches to mark the occasion. Druid priests likewise decorated temples with evergreen boughs to represent eternal life. Christians in 16th-century Germany, however, are credited with bringing decorated Christmas trees into the home, beginning the tradition we know today. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, a fir tree strewn with apples first appeared as the main prop in a popular play about Adam and Eve, prompting some Germans to set up "paradise trees" of their own at home in celebration of the Christmas season. Additional symbolic decorations like wafer cookies and candles were added to represent the Eucharistic host and Christ as "the light of the world."

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# OITS News Letter Journal

#### **SPORTS SCHEDULE**

#### **NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL**

Wrestling				
12/9/22	VJ	Lusk Invitational	Α	NOON
12/15/22	VJ	Buffalo HS	Н	6PM
12/16-17/22	2 VJ	Battle in the Big Horns	Α	NOON

#### Men's Swimming

12/9/22	VJ	Powell HS	А	4PN
12/10/22	VJ	Cody Invite	Α	10AN
12/16/22	VJ	Cheyenne South	Α	5PN
12/17/22	VJ	Cheyenne South	A	10AN
12/22/22	VJ	Newcastle Triangular	Н	4PN
12/29/22	VJ	Buffalo HS	Α	11AN

#### Ladies' Basketball

12/9/22	V9	Burns Invite	А	NOON			
12/10/22	V9	Burns Invite	А	NOON			
12/15/22	V9	Sundance HS	А	4PM			
12/16/22	V9	Stateline Shootout, Lead	Н	NOON			
12/17/22	V9	Stateline Shootout, Lead	Н	NOON			
Men's Basketball							

#### 12/9/22 V9 A NOON Burns Invite 12/10/22 V9 Burns Invite A NOON 12/15/22 V9 Sundance HS 4PN 12/16/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON 12/17/22 V9 Stateline Shootout, Lead H NOON

Ready, set, go

t's almost here!

The 2022-2023 winter sports seasons are just about to get under way as all four teams are heading out to their opening contests this Friday, and I am so ready.

It feels like forever since the fall seasons ended, even though it was just four weeks. Of course, the waiting is always the hardest for me because



Ladies set high goals

#### Sonja Karp NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies basketball team finished last season with a 23-3 record, losing only their second game of the season, the semifinal regional matchup and the quarter-final state contest. Head coach Chad Ostenson lost none of his players to graduation, and the returning crew have their sights set on putting a banner on the wall of the Dogie Dome this year.

"Practice is looking good, in fact, probably the best I've seen at the beginning of the year," Ostenson said. "They know all the drills and the freshmen coming in are able to join right in with them. They aren't quite at the level the older girls are, but it's exciting to see them hard at it."

There are 18 girls suiting up this season, and of those are six seniors, including the five starters from last season's consolation championship team. Three juniors are back, as well as four sophomores and five freshmen.

Mickey Crabtree is filling the position of assistant coach while Bailey Karp has joined the team in a volunteer capacity.

"Mickey just jumped right in and ran with it, and I told Bailey what I wanted to do with the posts, and I haven't had to spend any time with them really," Ostenson reported. "It's nice to have some continuity there, and to have the five seniors who have been with us for all four years."



vear, I'm even more excited than usual because the Newcastle girls' team has a verv real

it's no secret

that basketball

is my favorite

And this

sport.

chance to bring home a state title for the first time since 1979.

I almost hate to put that in writing though, because even though I am not a superstitious person by nature, when it comes to sports I believe in all the things.

For example, when you play really well you make sure that you pay attention to what you wore that game, what you ate before the game, what you did before the game, what music you listened to, and so on so that you can replicate that good juju for the remaining games in the season.

- See **Karpe**, Page 10

The returning senior starters are

- See **Ladies**, Page 12

A double team didn't stop Jaylen Ostenson as she drove to the hoop Saturday in the annual Meet the Dogies scrimmage game. The senior is coming into the season with 1,214 career points, and she and her teammates are determined to finish their careers by hanging a banner on the Dogie Dome wall.

# Grapplers ramp up for competition

#### Sonja Karp NLJ Sports Editor

The Newcastle/Upton wrestling team is back on the mat getting ready for their 2022-2023 season, and head coach Lee McCoy is excited about the potential of his squad.

"We have 23 out this year, and we are pretty balanced regarding grade levels," he

began. "We also have three, possibly four, girls who have joined the squad this year, which is pretty exciting."

Of the 23, six (or possibly seven) of the athletes are from Upton.

Another exciting potentiality for the Dogies/Bobcats is that representation in weight classes should also be more varied than in previous years.

weights we'll have to have people cutting to get down or wrestling up, but other than that, we're pretty spread out and in a lot of weights we may have two," McCoy said. "Team-wise, we'll be tough in our lower weights, so from 106-132 we'll be solid. We'll be competitive in the middle weights and then in our upper

"In the upper-middle weights we have a couple of while East is a sophomore. guys who will be tough."

> The Dogies/Bobcats are returning two state placers in Jacob Prell and Jackson East. Prell finished sixth in the 160-pound weight class, and East was sixth in the 120pound weight class last year at the 3A State Tournament. Prell is in his final season of high school competition,

Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

"Jacob is coming back so much stronger than last season," McCoy said, smiling. "I noticed that the first night at practice when he grabbed onto me, so that is really exciting."

The Dogies are also returning two wrestlers who

- See Wrestling, Page 18



## news letter journal Sports



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Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

JJ Lipp, left, and Quint Perino, right, demonstrate a drill as head coach Allen Von Eye looks on. The Dogies are hard at work getting ready for their first contests this weekend.

## **Dogies prepare for season** Sonja Karp

**NLJ Sports Editor** 

Newcastle High School's head men's basketball coach, Allen Von Eye, is looking at a rebuilding year this season after graduating six seniors, and losing three incoming seniors from his roster last year. Despite the losses, numbers are good so far, and there is potential among the inexperienced players suiting up.

"We have 23 out right now, so we ended up with the numbers I was hoping for," Von Eye reported. "Because of that, we will be able to roster a full three squads, which is great, especially for our younger guys."

Seniors back on the court this year are Quint Perino, Zander White and Yestin Davis, and of those only Perino had time on the varsity floor last season.

"We only have one guy on our whole team who has any meaningful varsity minutes," Von Eye said. "There are a couple more who got minutes here and there, but that's all. When you're stepping into 3A competition, lack of experience makes a big difference."

Due to the lack of experience, Von Eye explained that he is taking a different approach this



Photo by Nicole McFarland/NLJ

Jonathan Anderson is guarded by JJ Lipp, left, and Cole Erb, right, as he tries to score for the white team at the annual Meet the Dogies scrimmage Saturday.







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"Now it's about getting the guys exposure to the game and really trying to hit on the fundamental side, and get good at the little things," he began. "We're planning to slow things down and be a season," said Von Eve. "We're lot more patient, and we plan to be much more cognizant regarding time of possession. You're also going to see a lot more zone defense out of us than you have in the past."

As a smaller school in the 3A East, Von Eye admitted that it has always been difficult to match up athletically with other teams, however, the Dogies have traditionally been a good man-to-man defensive team. This season, though, the squad will not be relying on that completely.

"We plan to use the little bit of length we actually have this year in a zone situation," he Torrington will be improved explained. "I just want to put and will return quite a few

# Karpe from Page 9

Realistically, I know that none of those things matter, but it all comes down to a state of mind.

The Lady Dogies are starting this season with a huge target on their backs.

They are returning every player from last year where the team went 23-3, so it's no secret to the rest of the state that this team has potential.

The Lady Dogies finished last season third in team scoring and team shooting, seventh in team rebounding and first in team defense.

Jaylen Ostenson made the top 10 of the 3A East Conference in all eight stat categories, while Shelby Tidyman was among the top 10 in five, MacKenzie Conzelman in four, Tiernan Stanton in three and Hunter McFarland in one.

Conzelman was first in the conference and second in the state for three-point shooting percentage. The player who took the No. 1 spot in the state averaged only .7 three-point shots per game, while "Mack the Gun" averaged 6.2 shots per game and she hit 48% of the shots she took, which is nothing short of amazing.

When the preseason rankings came out last week, I was not surprised to see the Lady Dogies in the top five. Douglas, understandably given their history, were the nearly unanimous first pick

our guys in the best position possible to be successful."

Despite the lack of experience, the Dogies are hard at work getting better each day as they prepare for the season.

"It'll be a creative year this picking our one thing to work on each day, and hopefully when you add those 'one things' up, we'll get where I think we can be."

Looking around the 3A East Conference, Von Eye identified Douglas as a front runner.

"They return virtually everyone and their sophomore and junior classes are all back and have gotten better," he acknowledged. "Buffalo will be good again, because they reload year after year. They are aggressive and tough, so they will be solid."

He went on to say that

players, while Rawlins will be solid, and are well coached.

"Glenrock moved back up and we haven't seen them since 2016, so they will be a team that's stepping into 3A after not being there for a while," Von Eye continued. "Then, with Moorcroft coming up for the first time, things will also be different. Having those two in our quad might be a good thing for us, but everyone else will be tough as usual."

The Dogies will get on the court Friday and Saturday at the Burns Invitational. Their opening contest on Friday will pit the squad against Pine Bluffs, who are favored to win it all this year in 2A. On Saturday, they are scheduled to play 2A Southeast and 1A Lingle. Von Eye anticipates that both teams will be a challenge as they are talented and have veteran players.

and Lyman was second. Newcastle was third by only six points and they received more first place votes than did Lyman.

The weekly polls are fun, but the superstitious part of me kind of hates them as well. When you come out of the gate with that much attention, the target on your back grows even larger.

But, at the same time, it also gives a team motivation to prove the pollsters right, and any naysayers wrong, so it can be a good thing.

I don't know what this season will bring, but I do know that I am very optimistic about this team's chance to bring some glory to NHS and to leave a pretty cool legacy behind. I am excited, but I am also already a little nervous for the season, because I want this so badly for these girls who have worked so hard for so long.

They deserve to stand on top of that podium, and even though I know that everyone everywhere thinks that about their team, I feel like just this once (for now), maybe little old Newcastle deserves it more.

The journey to the state tournament starts this weekend, and I cannot wait to go along for the ride.



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Head coach Doug Scribner explains technique to Andrew Hicks, right, who is new to swimming this season. Meanwhile, Archer Ohnstad, also new to the Dogie team but not to swimming, takes a quick break from his workout.

**NHS swimmers dive in** 

Sonja Karp NLJ Sports Editor

While the other winter sports got under way the Monday before Thanksgiving, boys swimming had to wait until the 28th to dive into their 2022-23 season. Head coach Doug Scribner is anticipating having eight young men out for the season this year, and he is looking forward to seeing what his team will do in the coming months.

"With eight out we'll be able to man the relays," Scribner reported. "Having that little bit bigger team will mean that everyone won't have to swim all the relays."

The Dogies graduated three seniors from the team last season, but are returning four swimmers, including two who qualified for the state meet last year.

Junior Ramsey Gross is back after qualifying in every event except one last season. At the state meet he swam two personal bests in the 50 Freestyle and the



Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ Junior Ramsey Gross works on his butterfly technique. As one of two returning state qualifiers, Gross is expected to repeat at the state meet this season.

"Logan and Nate put in

Scribner is also pleased to time in the pool during the see that his squad will be pretty off season, and I am confident diversified across the different





100 Backstroke, and advanced that Logan will qualify pretty to the finals in the 50 Freestyle where he finished ninth.

Sophomore Samuel Scribner competed in both the 100 Freestyle and the 100 Breaststroke, where he had good swims but didn't finish in a position to advance to the finals.

"It was great for both of those guys to experience the state meet, and especially for Samuel since he was only a freshman," said Scribner. "They are both looking good qualify again this year."

Junior Nate Strickland and sophomore Logan Olson are also back in the pool this season. Though Olson and Strickland did not quite make the mark for the state meet last year, they each narrowly missed doing so by just a tenth of a second or less.

quickly because he put in a ton of time over the summer and has come in this fall with the club team, so he is starting off really strong," Scribner explained. "Nate also did a lot of work, and was right there in the qualifier last year, and he is looking strong already."

New to the team are juniors Aaron Schantle and Andrew Hicks, as well as freshmen Archer Ohnstad and Harrison Gross.

"Watching Archer practice, already so I expect them to he looks really good, and he fit right in with everything that we've been doing in practice. It's clear he has a background in swimming as he knows how to swim all the strokes," Scribner said. "Aaron and Andrew are brand new to swimming, but they are catching on pretty quickly, so that is pretty exciting."

strokes, which will bode well for the team's success throughout the season.

"Sam and Nate are both strong in the breaststroke, and Archer's breaststroke also looks good," he said. "Logan is strong in the backstroke and freestyle. Samuel is also strong in the freestyle, and Ramsey is strong in all the strokes."

The only weakness may be the butterfly, however Gross has that event covered.

"With the strengths of our guys, I think that the medley relay looks really good," Scribner surmised. "We should also be able to get multiple qualifiers in different strokes so that should help the team score some points."

The Dogies will dive into their season Friday as they head to Powell, then on Saturday they will continue on to Cody to compete.



Ages 7-10



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page by Dec. 15 at:	PHONE:	EMAIL:	
News Letter Journal	ADDRESS:		
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Newcastle WY 82701	STATE:	ZIP:	
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The 4-H program is committed to building outstanding leaders with marketable skills to succeed today and in the future. 4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence; know how to work well with others; can endure through challenges; and will stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born — they're grown.

The 4-H program's handson approach gives young people guidance, tools, and encouragement, and then puts them in the driver's seat to make great things happen. Independent research proves the unparalleled impact of the

# Ladies from Page 9

Jaylen Ostenson, who finished last season with 1,214 career points, Shelby Tidyman, who has racked up 649 career points, MacKenzie Conzelman, who has scored 426 points in her career, Hunter McFarland (246 points) and Tiernan Stanton with 230 points. The sixth senior on the squad is Oakley Checketts, who is rejoining the team after a three-year hiatus.

Juniors who are back include Jayde Harrington, who saw quite a few varsity minutes last season, as well as Emilia Lichtenberger and Kendra Merchen. Sophomores returning are Hailey Beastrom, Julie Morris, Jessica Guisness and Ruth Rose, while freshmen include Sydney Pederson, Brooklyn Benshoof, Preslee Fitzwater, Callie Christiansen and Madison Sterriker.

#### 4-H experience.

Erin Persche

4-H Proud

4-H programs are grounded in the belief that kids learn best by doing. Kids and teens complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engage-

Why get involved in 4-H?

ment, in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. Kids can concentrate on one focus area, or they can try a variety of programs throughout

their 4-H experience. Regardless of the project area. all 4-H programs include mentoring and career readiness as core elements.

Youth involved in 4-H are: • Four times more likely to contribute to their communities.

• Two times more likely to be civically active.

• Two times more likely to make healthier lifestyle choices.

The Wyoming 4-H program offers projects in six core areas: Animal Sciences, Healthy Living, Leadership and Civic Engagement, Science and Technology, Natural Resources and Expressive Arts. Projects include things such as Robotics, Welding, Shooting Sports, Foods and Nutrition, Woodworking, Visual Arts,

Quilting, Photography, Gardening, Dog, Cat and many livestock options. For a complete list of 4-H projects please visit the Weston County 4-H website at wyoextension.org/ westoncounty.

You may still be thinking, but why 4-H?

When many people think of 4-H they think of livestock projects and county fair, and 4-H is still very much that in 2022/2023 but it is so much more than just showing your pig or steer at the County Fair. 4-H is learning how to build and program a robot, traveling to Belize or Ireland, making lifetime friends, developing life skills, and finding that spark that hopefully leads to an education and/or career path. 4-H is a place for youth and adults alike to find a place where they belong, a place to explore new and exciting ideas through projects and experiences and a community that will help them grow throughout their lifetime.

If you are interested in more information about the Weston County 4-H program, please stop by the Weston County Extension Office at 204 W. Main Street, shoot me an email at epersche@uwyo.edu or give me a call at 746-3531. I would love to share my love of 4-H with you.

Erin Persche is the Weston *County 4-H Youth Development* Educator.

will be good, and Buffalo will also be as tough as usual. They lost a few players last year, but they also had a pretty strong younger crew, and they are just so athletic and deep," Ostenson said. "But, I think we're as good as anyone in the state, so I feel like we can hang with the conference."

The preseason rankings came out, and Douglas topped the polls with 273 points. Lyman was ranked second with 207 points, while Newcastle was third with 201 points. Rounding out the top five are Buffalo with 147 points and Mt. View with 87 points.

"Douglas, Buffalo and us are definitely in the running as far as 3A goes," Ostenson declared. "Lyman and Mt. View will be good on the west side and Powell will also be pretty strong I think."

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"The six to eight who have been with us are doing really well," Ostenson said. "And the younger kids are really stepping up and are making our practices better, which is exciting."

Looking around the conference, Douglas and Buffalo are frontrunners along with Newcastle.

The Lady Bearcats are the returning four-time state champs with one of the best players in the state being just a sophomore.

"That sophomore class is pretty solid, so they

The Lady Dogies will tip off their season at the Burns Invite Friday and Saturday. Their first game is against Pine Bluffs in Pine Bluffs on Friday, then they will play Lingle and Southeast in Burns on Saturday.

"It should be a fun season, and I know the girls have some definite goals," Ostenson said. "They are competitive so we just need to keep them healthy, and good things will happen."

# **Letters to Santa** Santa letter-writing secrets

t the tip of the North Pole resides a jolly man who collects letters from children asking him to deliver all of their hearts' desires. Although Santa Claus does a thorough job of making sure children's treats are delivered on the same night, sometimes he needs assistance with reading and responding to the thousands upon thousands of letters sent to him each year. That is why he often relies on an extensive list of helpers to handle much of his holiday correspondence.

According to Smithsonian, the practice of writing to St. Nick dates back more than 150 years. Early depictions of Santa show him as a disciplinarian. The first Christmastime Santa letters were actually sent by Santa, rather than the other way around. Such letters encouraged children to be good boys and girls. Eventually, an illustration by Thomas Nast depicted "Santaclaussville, N.P." as Santa's address, providing children with a place where they could send their correspondences

to the big guy in red.

The Universal Postal Union, an intergovernmental organization that coordinates postal policies across 192 member nations, indicates that 1,350,000 letters to Santa were sent by Canadians, while Americans sent more than one million and Britains mailed roughly 800,000 such letters in 2012, the most recent year from which figures are available. To account for the staggering number of letters sent, various post offices and postal programs were established to help Santa with the task of tackling children's wish lists.

In Canada, children can address letters to Santa and use the postal code H0H, 0H0. In 2016, the USPS instituted a new letter-writing option that enables parents or guardians to include a personalized response letter back to children who address letters to Santa. The package can be postmarked to: North Pole Postmark Postmaster, 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, AK 99530-9998.

Many other letters to Santa end up routing to various post offices where thousands of volunteer "elves" can adopt letters and make children's wishes come true. A "Letters to Santa" program enables children in serious need to get items that can help keep them safe and happy

Parents may also investigate a number of services that will provide letters from Santa, Mrs. Claus or elves for nominal fees. These letters can be personalized with details. Santa has even gone high-tech with personalized videos and pictures as well. A quick web search can yield the instructions on how prospective helpers can get started.

Kids, mail or email your Christmas list to us, so Santa can see it in the newspaper!



A Special Section From News Letter Journal

# Send us your Letters to Santa

Email design@newslj.com or mail your letter to: Letters to Santa/ News Letter Journal, PO Box 40, Newcastle WY 82701

All letters must be received by December 15 for inclusion in our Letters to Santa special section.

**Special Section Prints** Thursday, **December 22!** 



Photos by Alexis Barker, Hannah Gross, and Walter Sprague/NLJ



First State Bank of Newcastle held its annual Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, Dec. 2. As usual, gifts were given out, cookies, punch and coffee were to be had, and a drawing for prizes were available for people as they visited with each other and with bank employees. Top image, FSB employees Randy Lang, Denise Griffis and Jill Zerbst greet customers. Above, Gene Baldwin and Rick Dunford share stories and laughs. Below, Susie Ravenberg serves Bonnie Whitney a cup of punch. At left, Grace Sandrini, employee at the bank, hands a cookie to a David Spillane.





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### Public Notice

#### FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated August 23, 2011, executed and delivered by Randy Lee Hise to Premier Home Mortgage, Inc. and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by Randy Lee Hise, a single man (the "Mortgagors"), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Premier Home Mortgage, Inc, and which Mortgage was recorded on August 23, 2011, as Instrument No. 729397, Book 330, Page 0893 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Weston County, State of Wyoming; and WHEREAS, the mortgage was assigned for

value as follows:

- Assignee: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A Assignment dated: 05/28/2020
- Assignment recorded: 06/01/2020

Assignment recording information: Instrument No. 767813, Book 391, Page 208

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

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

discontinued; and WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$147,942.59 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$136,232.70 plus Interest accrued to the date of the first publication of

## Bid Notice

#### WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Wyoming Department of Transportation will receive sealed bids in the Office of the Procurement Services Manager, 5300 Bishop Blvd., Building No. 6189, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82009-3340, until 11:00 A.M., Mountain Time on December 22, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read for FURNISHING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE MULE CREEK REST AREA CLIVUS MULTRUM COMPOSTING TOILET AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS. A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Inspection will be held at 11:00 A.M., Mountain Time on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the Mule Creek Rest Area located

this notice in the amount of \$8,322.45, plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

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

NOW, THEREFORE Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage fore-closed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Weston County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon on January 17, 2023, at Weston County Courthouse, 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY, 82701, for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 7 of the Duff Gray Third Addition to the Town of Newcastle, Weston County, Wyoming.

With an address of: 1663 Sage St., Newcastle, WY 82701

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

Date: 11/11/2022 Brian G. Sayer

- C. Morgan Lasley Marcello G. Rojas The Sayer Law Group, P.C. 925 E. 4th St. Waterloo, Iowa 50703 319-234-2530
- 319-232-6341

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 11 day of November, 2022 by Brian G. Sayer as attorney of The Sayer Law Group, P.C.

Shannon Saul Notary Public

(Publish November 24 and December 1, 8 and 15, 2022)

at U.S. 85 approximately 34 miles south of Newcastle, Wyoming. Only bids received on Wyoming Department of Transportation bid forms will be considered. Bid forms and further information may be obtained, without charge, by going to http://www.publicpurchase.com, logging in and clicking on Bid No. 23-043AC. You must be registered with Public Purchase to log in and view bids. If you are not registered, click on the "free registration" button and follow the registration instructions. The registration process takes up to 24 hours, so signing up right away is recommended.

BY: NICHOLAS GRONSKI PROCUREMENT SERVICES ASSISTANT

MANAGER

(Publish November 24 and December 1 and 8, 2022)

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#### **Bid Notice**.

#### WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Wyoming Department of Transportation will receive sealed bids in the Office of the Procurement Services Manager, 5300 Bishop Blvd., Building No. 6189, Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82009-3340, until 11:00 A.M., Mountain Time on December 22, 2022, at which time they will be publicly opened and read for FURNISHING MAINTENANCE JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE AT THE MULE CREEK REST AREA. A MANDATORY Pre-Bid Inspection will be held at 10:30 A.M., Mountain Time on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at the Mule Creek Rest Area located at U.S. 85 approximately 34 miles south

of Newcastle, Wyoming. Only bids received on Wyoming Department of Transportation bid forms will be considered. Bid forms and further information may be obtained, without charge, by going to http://www.publicpurchase.com, logging in and clicking on Bid No. 23-044AC. You must be registered with Public Purchase to log in and view bids. If you are not registered, click on the "free registration" button and follow the registration instructions. The registration process takes up to 24 hours, so signing up right away is recommended.

**BY: NICHOLAS GRONSKI** 

PROCUREMENT SERVICES ASSISTANT MANAGER

(Publish November 24 and December 1 and 8, 2022)

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Last week's answers



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GWamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth

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Gwamma said she's

going to give that Grinch

a piece of her mind

**YEAR-IN-REVIEW** 

#### ACROSS

- 1. Use a bayonet 5. \*Late Saget 8. Greek salad staple 12. Meal in a shell 13. Lowest brass 14. Like daytime energy 16. Van Gogh's famous flower 17. Poodle minus d 18. \*Late Queen 20. Volcano off Sicily coast
- 21. Leaves out

- sight, "Merry Christmas..."

- 15. \*2022

- 22. Elf's distinctive body part
- 23. \*Olympic host
- 25. \*Russia's target
- 29. Black sheep sound
- 30. Treat badly
- 33. Reason for Thanksgiving
- 34. Carl Jung's inner self
- 36. "But I heard him exclaim '\_\_\_ he drove out of
- 37. Pick on
- 38. Pro
- 39. Bank, usually
- 41. Driver's aid
- 42. Jalopy
- 44. Back of the neck, pl.
- 46. Finish line

- 47. Fur of the marten 49. Paul Bunyan story, e.g.
- 51. \*Economic woe
- 55. Faultfinder
- 56. Tropical edible root
- 57. Soreness
- 58. Irretrievable loss
- 59. Gator's cousin
- 60. \*Super Bowl winners
- 61. Undertaking
- \_ a jolly good.." 62. "For
- 63. Archaic form of do, second person singular

#### DOWN

- 1. Eyelid affliction
- 2. Asian weight unit
- 3. Smoothie bowl flavor
- 4. Russian hunting sighthound
- 5. Chemistry lab measuring device
- 6. Parting words
- 7. New Year's Eve get-together, e.g.
- 8. Running competition
- 9. \*Twitter's new proprietor
- 10. Western Samoan money
- 11. " \_ you ready?"
- 13. Relating to shinbone
- 14. Asparagus unit
- 19. Amnion, pl.
- 22. Barely obtain
- 23. Erie or Suez
- 24. Port-au-Prince country

#### 25. Like something vintage, usually

- 26. About to explode
- 27. Olfactory organs
- 28. Athos' or Porthos' weapon

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- 29. Throw up
- 31. Lecherous look
- 32. Funereal container
- 35. \*Tom Cruise's callsign
- 37. -la"
- 39. Type of Christmas lights
- 40. All together
- 43. T-shirt style

55. 100 lbs.

- 45. Small bomb
- 47. Rabbit trap
- 48. 1970s big dos
- 49. "Musical" constellation
- 50. Dollar bills
- 51. 7-year affliction
- 52. International Civil Aviation Org.
- 53. Electrical resistance units 54. Egg holder

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NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

#### Legal Notice

#### NOTICE OF CHANGE IN CONTROL OF A BANK HOLDING COMPANY

The FEATAN Trust (Thomas A. Holt, Trustee), and Thomas A. Holt as trustee of the FNB 401(k) Employee Stock Ownership Plan, Heather A. Eklund Living Trust (Heather A. Eklund, Trustee); Raymond Holt Revocable Trust (Raymond Holt, Trustee), all of Buffalo, Wyoming; James H. Holt and Denise Holt Trust (Denise Holt, Trustee) of Ranchester, Wyoming; Robert Holt and Lori Holt, both of Littleton, Colorado, intend to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to retain voting shares; and all to be approved as members of the Holt family group, a group acting in concert, which controls 25 percent or more of First National Buffalo Bankshares, Inc., Buffalo, Wyoming (the "Company"). The Company controls First Northern Bank of Wyoming, Buffalo, Wyoming and First State Bank of Newcastle, Newcastle, Wyoming. The Federal Reserve

considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the notice.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this notice to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, One Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO 64198. The comment period will not end before December 28, 2022, and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262.25. To obtain a copy of the Federal Reserve Board's procedures, or if you need more information about how to submit your comments on the notice, contact Jeffrey Imgarten, Assistant Vice President, at (816) 881-2073. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the notice if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

(Publish December 8, 2022)

## Bid Notice

#### **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 WEST WARWICK STREET** NEWCASTLE, WY 82701

The City of Newcastle will receive bids for the construction of "City of Newcastle, SOUTH SUMMIT AVENUE WATER IMPROVEMENTS, 2022" until 1:00 P.M., local time, 22 December 2022, at the Newcastle City Council Chambers, 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle, WY, at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

The work consists of installing 1552 LF of 6" water line, two fire hydrants, reconnecting water services, culvert replacement, patch and overlay, and various incidental items. The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be

examined at the following locations:

#### <u>Owner:</u>

CITY OF NEWCASTLE 10 WEST WARWICK STREET NEWCASTLE, WY Engineer: Bearlodge Engineering & Surveying 420 Cleveland Street Sundance, Wyoming

Contractors wishing to be placed on the bidders list or to obtain Contract Documents must obtain the documents electronically through the "Projects Out for Bid" link on the Bearlodge Engineering & Surveying website at www.bearlodgeengineering.com, or can download the documents directly from QuestCDN (Quest eBidDoc #8339683). Contractors should contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@guestcdn.com for assistance in downloading and working with this digital project information.

A pre-bid tour will be held on 19 DECEMBER 2022 @ 10:00 AM starting at the Newcastle City Council Chambers, 10 West Warwick Street, Newcastle WY.

Contractors shall be required to submit proof of at least three years of experience in municipal water construction. The proof shall consist of at least three projects completed within the last three years, along with references for each project. Any specialty subcontractors shall be required to submit proof of experience of at least three years for specialty work to be performed. The proof shall be submitted with the bid

(Publish December 8 and 15, 2022)

### WCSD#1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIS FEDERAL FUND WARRANTS OV NOVEMBER 2022	-	BLICK ART MATERIALS VINT K.H. BONNER HAND2MIND HORIZON COMMERCIAL POOL S	\$6,359.94 \$4,257.50 \$6,879.96 SUPPLY
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$570.50		\$1,372.40
DAKOTA POTTERS SUPPLY, LLC	\$695.50	MASTERCARD	\$1,306.97
ELDER EQUIPMENT LEASING OF	\$59,136.80	MASTERCARD	\$1,331.05
BRYCE HOFFMAN	\$740.00	PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC	\$130,328.90
IMAGINE LEARNING LLC	\$7,750.00	QUILL CORPORATION	\$955.44
K-LOG, INC	\$8,050.00	TADPOLE ADAPTIVE, LLC	\$6,565.00
LEGO EDUCATION	\$14,144.60	WCSD#1 GENERAL FUND	\$2,192.23
LITTLE BIT OF GUIDANCE	\$1,368.00	XELLO INC.	\$2,300.00
SUMMIT BODYWORKS	\$82,301.33	Checking Account Total:	\$344,839.44
TURF TANK `	\$1,500.00		
A TO Z RECREATION	\$1,562.00	Grand Total:	\$344,839.44
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$1,493.65		
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$1,677.67	(Publish December 8, 2022)	

# Cowboy State Look-In *Courtesy of the*

Wyoming News Exchange

# Gas prices dropping rapidly

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Average gasoline gallon, while the highest was \$4.19, a difference prices in Wyoming have fallen 16.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.20 per gallon Monday, according to GasBuddy.com's survey of 494 stations in Wyoming.

Prices in Wyoming are 41.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago, and stand 16.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 13.6 cents in the last week, and stands at \$5.06 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the lowest price in the state Sunday was \$2.45 per of \$1.74 per gallon.

Wyoming

NEWS

EXCHANGE

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 15.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.36 per gallon Monday. The national average is down 43 cents per gallon from a month ago, and stands 1.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

The data is compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 U.S. gas stations.

This story was published on Dec. 5, 2022.

# Governor files second lawsuit

CHEYENNE (WNE) — Gov. Mark Gordon announced Thursday that Wyoming has filed a second lawsuit against the Department of Interior related to the Bureau of Land Management's decision to "pause" oil and gas lease sales.

In the first lawsuit, the state challenged the Biden administration's early actions that brought federal oil and gas leasing to a sudden halt and vital to the interests of in Wyoming.

Court for the District of Wyoming found that the resources can help power the Secretary of the Interior's decision to cancel the First the pump. BLM's decision to Quarter 2021 lease sale was cancel lease sales sure seems lawful, but did not consider to be a violation of both the on Dec. 2, 2022.

whether the secretary's other cancellations violated the law.

The case is targeted at the paused sales that should have taken place in the second and third quarters of 2021 and the third quarter of 2022.

The BLM went 18 months without a single oil and gas lease sale, and has yet to resume regularly scheduled quarterly lease sales.

"This litigation is timely Wyoming citizens," Gordon The United States District said in a news release. "Beyond that, Wyoming's energy nation and bring down costs at

letter and the spirit of the law. I firmly believe the pause in lease sales was politically driven and not based in law or fact."

Before pursuing legal action, Gordon asked Attorney General Bridget Hill to examine the earlier federal court decision that allowed the Department of the Interior to skip the first quarter sale of 2021. After careful analysis, it is the State's opinion that the Secretary of Interior does not have the same justification it provided for missing subsequent lease sales, according to the release.

This story was published

# Funding for a bomb-sniffing dog

SHERIDAN (WNE) — Sheridan County Emergency Management has received funding through a grant offered by the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security for a new bomb-sniffing dog.

According to Sheridan County Emergency

dog. It pays for the dog, equipment, training and my salary while I'm training with the dog."

The bomb dog will come to Sheridan upon completing training and certification, according to Ludikhuize, after which the dog will undergo an

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Management Coordinator Jesse Ludikhuize, the dog will be fulfilling a specific need for northern Wyoming. In the past, any time a bomb dog was needed in northern Wyoming, one had to be brought up from Cheyenne, which was expensive and time consuming.

"[The Department of Homeland Security has] been requesting for some time an office that would be willing to take on a bomb dog for the northern side of the state," Ludikhuize said. "We applied for a grant this past year and we were awarded the grant... so that pays for 100% of the

additional three-week long training process with Ludikhuize, who will become the dog's handler. Then, the real work begins — the dog will be ready to serve and will complete yearly recertification to ensure continued efficacy.

"Anytime you have a resource like that available in the community, it's positive," Sheridan County Sheriff Allen Thompson said of the new bomb dog. "Even if you never need it, it's just another cog in the wheel of public safety."

This story was published on Dec. 1, 2022.

## Hospital district his cash flow bottleneck

SUNDANCE (WNE) — Ongoing problems with the electronic medical records system billed, creating a situation where have led to serious issues with cash flow at Crook County Medical Services District.

Though she expects the business office to catch up with the district short of cash on hand. billing soon, CEO Micki Lyons requested a transfer of \$500,000 commented that the trustee concern and explained that from the board of trustees' account last week to cover requested the transfer contains payroll and other costs until the the district's mill levy money, issue is resolved.

request, the board expressed reason, he said, he has no issue concern that the issue is still not resolved.

The problem relates to older items that have not yet been the accounts receivable is sitting at around \$3 million – three times you complain about it – I want higher than is considered normal for the district. This has left the

Chairman Mark Erickson account from which Lyons which is in fact intended for While happy to consider the day-to-day operations. For this granting the request from that account.

"The bigger part of the problem is that we don't have money coming in," he said.

"I really don't want to hear to know what some of the solutions are," said Brent Fowler, incoming board member.

Lyons acknowledged the it's not something that can be fixed overnight. Staff have been working through to identify problems and bottlenecks, but that takes time, she said.

This story was published on Dec. 1, 2022.



## **Statewide News Coverage**

We've lassoed the news from around the great state of Wyoming and are bringing the best stories to you on our News Letter Journal website. From the grizzlies in Yellowstone to the latest from the legislature in Cheyenne-we have the stories you want to know about.

Look for "The Cowboy State Tidbit", a piece of Wyoming history, daily on the News Letter Journal FaceBook page.

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**Business Bulletin** 

16 — December 8, 2022

News Letter Journal





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Food service person needed. Apply in person at Weston County Senior Services.

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#### 1731 S Summit

Dec 9-10 and 16-17, 9-5pm. Betty Jensen is having a downsizing sale! Pottery, knit socks, guilts, buffalo & xmas items, and books.

#### COMMUNITY TOPS

## **Help Wanted**

Weston County Children's Center is now accepting applications for full and part time positions to include administrative assistant, kitchen assistant, classroom aides and subs, and maintenance.

> Please apply in person at 104 Stampede. WCCC is an EOE.



TOPS meets at three Newcastle locations each week: Tuesday at 4pm at First United Methodist Church, call Joyce Brown at 307-629-1033; Thursday at 8am at WC Senior Center, call JoAnn Dunn at 746-2654; and at 9 am Thursdays at First Baptist Church, call Ellen Butts at 746-4251. All are welcome!

#### **Helping Hands** Foundation of Weston County

Are you in need of medical traveling assistance? Contact Glenna at 307-468-2316 or Carol at 746-2298.

#### Hope Dealers

NA meets at Church on the Hill, 6:30-7:30pm, Tuesday. Call every Shawn at 307-575-6641.

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous** AA meets at WC Senior Center family room, 627 Pine St., Mondays and Thursdays, 7-8pm. Contact Stan 746-9199.

Veterans Veterans Outreach and

Advocacy Program (Wyoming Dept Health/BHD) Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iragi Freedom eligible. For assistance, call 307-630-3230.

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HSCSD#1, Thermopolis, WY, accepting applications for Elementary Physical Education Teacher. Apply online at www.hotsprings1. org, Employment. Position will remain open until filled. EOE.

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## news letter journal Sports

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Photo by Sonja Karp/NLJ

Senior Kyah Miller practices escaping against Upton freshman Logan Norman last week, as the Dogies prepare for the Lusk Invitational Tournament on Friday.

# Wrestling from Page 9

lost out in the blood round at the state tournament. Haven Vrana (106) and Cullin Davis (138) both just missed out on the placing rounds and are back as sophomores this season.

McCoy is also excited about returning senior Kyah Miller, as well as welcoming two, potentially three, other girls to the team. This year, there will be an all-class girls' state tournament, meaning his female wrestlers will have more of an equal playing ground when it comes to the culminating event.

"I'm really excited about Kyah and having a girls' state tournament this year," McCoy said. "She'll have her work cut out for her though, as she'll be up against some tough competition."

There may be some girls' tournaments throughout the regular season, but for the most part McCoy explained that those are on the west side of the state, or down by Cheyenne. There are some possibilities in South Dakota, but typically there will be a girls' division at the tournaments they attend.

"I feel like this team will be competitive this year, so that's exciting," McCoy said. "Our sophomores and freshmen are pretty tough, and we have some veterans that will also do well."

Assisting McCoy this year is Sean Crabtree. Brooks Bowthorpe, Merritt Crabtree and Tommy Schlater will also join when the middle school season is done.

The Dogies/Bobcats will get on the mat for the first time Friday at the Lusk Invitational, a one-day tournament.

"It's a nice way to get things started with just the one day, and then we'll really take off after that," McCoy declared.

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