

News Letter Journal

Weston County

May 11, 2023

Newcastle, Wyoming

Year 137 Week 19

FOCUS fading into Crook County

Changes taking place at local advocacy organization

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

FOCUS, the local domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy organization, will be operated by Sandra Stevens of

Crook County Family Violence & Sexual Assault Services in Sundance for the foreseeable future. The former director, Stacie Hoxie, is no longer an employee as of April 3, according to FOCUS board

Chair Bethany Lakes. Lakes reported to the News Letter Journal that Stevens will act as the interim executive director for FOCUS in Weston County and will be working with the local board. She noted

that the board stands by its decision to make the change and that Hoxie's exit from the agency will be permanent. No reason for Hoxie's departure was provided. "The local FOCUS office has

been and will remain open to help victims who are in need of service. (The) FOCUS Board of Directors is committed to serving the citizens of Weston County. — See FOCUS, Page 2

A buckin' good time



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Col Smith, a high school senior from Burns, shows his style and ability during the saddle bronc riding competition of Wyoming High School Rodeo Saturday, at the Weston County Fairgrounds in Newcastle. Participants competed for three days over the weekend. The next competition will be this weekend in Gillette, starting on Thursday. See more photos on Page 6.

An unhealthy bottom line

Hospital sees YTD loss of \$3.1 million

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

When a new CEO is hired to take the reins at Weston County Health Services, one of the most pressing challenges he or she will face is the need to address the poor financial health of the local healthcare facility.

As a result of an increase in supply costs, the use of contract staff and what Weston County Health Services Board of Trustees Treasurer Kari Drost called a fundamental flaw in the health care system as a whole, Weston County Health Services has this year experienced an operating loss of \$3.1 million as of March 31, 2023.

According to reports provided by interim CEO Piper Allard, WCHS has logged \$19,535,556 in total patient revenue during the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. After contractual obligations for Medicare and Medicaid totaling \$3,482,723 and write-offs for bad debt totaling \$6,870,842, however, the net patient revenue drops to \$12,664,714.

When the cost of wages, benefits and taxes totaling \$11,088,625 and \$8,447,943 for other expenses are factored in, Weston County Health Service facilities have seen a year-to-date operating loss of \$3,110,134. When nonoperating revenue of \$1,370,234 is added, the net loss becomes a little less alarming at \$1,739,899 as of March 31.

According to Drost, Allard and board Chair LeAnn Kenagy, several factors con-

I have been harping on it. I want a plan in place to increase the census, but when it costs three times as much to staff the unit, fundamentally you can't do it. . . . We can't bring in patients without people to take care of them."

— Kari Drost, Treasurer, WCHS Board of Directors

tributed to the loss. These include everything from Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements not keeping pace with inflation to costs associated with the need to employ significant numbers of contract staff members because of employee shortages.

"There is a fundamental flaw in the health care system as a whole," Drost said.

She explained that Medicaid is designed to reimburse hospitals at 80% of the cost, and the other 20% was supposed to be made up by private insurance. As private insurance has decreased and the number of Medicaid and self-pay patients has increased, Drost said, the facility is not able to make up the loss.

"That is all catching up with the system. You can see that here in Weston County, as well

— See Hospital, Page 7

Upton hotel is back on track

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

The group that has undertaken plans to build a hotel in Upton have announced that they are again moving forward, and a timeline for completion of the new business has been set at six to eight months, according to John Marshall, the manager of Upton Wyoming Hotel LLC.

The limited liability corporation was created to develop the hotel in March 2021 by the Upton Economic Development Board, along with local business and community leaders, and Marshall explained that the sole purpose of Upton Wyoming Hotel is to develop a hotel to benefit the community.

But plans to build the hotel were stalled last year after Upton Wyoming Hotel initi-

ated a lawsuit against BriMark Builders Construction LLC, the company originally hired to build the Cobblestone Hotel, as previously reported by the News Letter Journal.

The lawsuit was the result of the failed resolution of issues after Upton Wyoming Hotel attempted to engage in dialogue with BriMark. The dispute, according to an Aug. 3, 2022, press release that

announced suspension of the plan to construct a hotel, was about nearly \$500,000 in unexpected cost overages tallied by BriMark due to soil issues.

According to information provided by Marshall, a confidential settlement was reached by both parties in December 2022, and that allowed Upton Wyoming Hotel to move

— See Hotel, Page 8

Here, then gone

Alexis Barker
NLJ News Editor

An above average snowpack all around Newcastle has disappeared under warming spring temperatures, and a lack of recent moisture could prolong the spring season and deepen the effects of a long-term drought in Weston County.

Both Little Bear Run and Mallo, the two closest areas to Newcastle

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows these portions of Wyoming are currently experiencing drought at various levels.

included in the Black Hills Snow Course Reading completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Sundance, have no snow as of May 1, despite having well-above-average snow reported in the April 1 report.

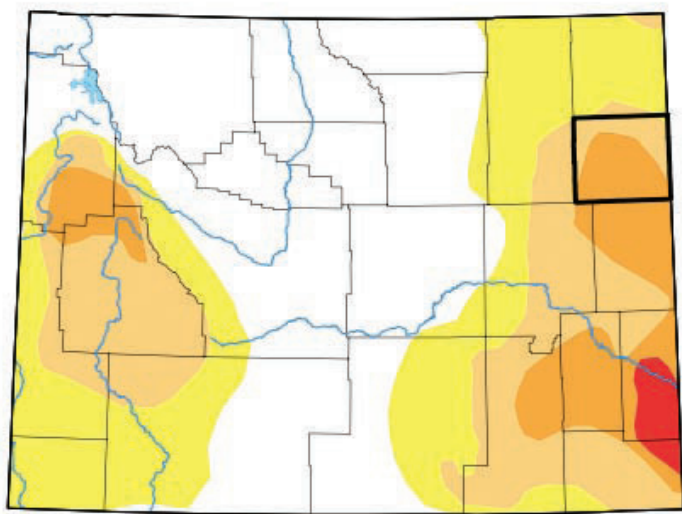
According to the April 1 report, both Little Bear Run and Mallo were sitting well above the 30-year median for snow water equivalent. Snow water equivalent, or SWE, is a common snowpack measurement for the amount of water contained in the snowpack.

Mallo's SWE was sitting at 9.5 inches, which amounts to 35.3 inches of snowpack. With a median of 5.9

— See Drought, Page 6

Map released: Thurs. May 4, 2023

Data valid: May 2, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity
None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)
D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday
Thunderstorms
Hi 63, Lo 48



Friday
Showers/Wind
Hi 52, Lo 45



Saturday
Showers
Hi 56, Lo 41



Sunday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 65 Lo 40



Monday
Sunny
Hi 71, Lo 46



Tuesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 73, Lo 45



Wednesday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 74, Lo 47



INSIDE

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The Muley Fanatic Foundation, Northeast Wyoming Chapter, is soliciting project proposals from organizations in the area that are in need of additional funding for 2023.

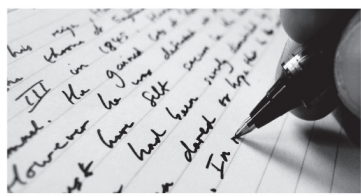
The Muley Fanatic Foundation is committed to engaging local stakeholders to keep the efforts of mule deer conservation, the furthering of the sport of hunting, and sound wildlife management as a staple of discussion and action. The NE WY Chapter has been assisting to fund projects in the areas of wildlife management, hunter education, youth shooting clubs, and outdoor education. Project proposal forms can be found at muleyfanatic.org by selecting the "Submit a project" tab. Deadline for proposals is May 15, 2023 by midnight. Completed applications can be emailed to newymff@gmail.com, or mailed to MFF, PO Box 455, Sundance, WY 82729. Applicants will be contacted about the review date and time if they wish to attend.

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Source: 2022 Wyoming Market Study; conducted by Coda Ventures.



Going to the dogs



Photo by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Tierny Parrish helps customers as they purchase the treasures they find on Saturday, April 29, at the Weston County Humane Society garage sale, held at the Weston County Event Center.

FOCUS

from Page 1

County in the best way possible," Lakes said in an email.

She noted that the remaining salary funds for the FOCUS director will revert to the Wyoming Attorney General's Office.

According to Lakes, Stevens works with the attorney general's office to assist programs while they are without a director. Stevens confirmed this information during a discussion with the Weston County commissioners during their regular meeting on May 2.

"I am sure all of you have heard that FOCUS is going through a transition. I was contracted by the Attorney General's Office to assist during this time," Stevens told the commissioners.

Part of this change, she said, is the potential dissolution of the FOCUS board and the full takeover of domestic violence and sexual assault services by the Crook County organization. Stevens noted that this change would be up to the FOCUS board.

According to Stevens, the Division of Victim Services in the office of the attorney general is considering regionalizing programs because fewer funds are available to operate the 23 domestic violence programs in the state.

With the position FOCUS is currently in, she said, the state thought it was a good time to diversify and regionalize the services in Northeast Wyoming.

"Meaning, my program will be doing the FOCUS program and making it into one (with the Crook County services)," she said.

She noted that the attorney general's office had given her permission to report that the Division of Victim Services will no longer fund FOCUS in the upcoming fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023.

"Those funds will be coming to Crook County for us to be serving the victims in Weston County," Stevens said, adding that her advocate, Kayleigh Gould, would be acting as the advocate for Weston County.

Cara Boyle Chambers, director of the Division of Victim Services, confirmed that the contract with FOCUS expires on June 30 of this year. She noted that they have been told that the FOCUS board intends to dissolve; therefore, there will no longer be a FOCUS contract moving into fiscal year 2024.

"Yes, we must have victim services in Weston County, so we have approached Crook County Family Violence's Board of Directors regarding a 'regionalization' approach whereby Crook County FV takes over

"I don't believe the victim witness and domestic violence and sexual assault programs should be a dual program. There is just too much for a conflict of interest there."

— Sandra Stevens, Crook County Family Violence & Sexual Assault Services

duties in Weston County under a new name," Chambers said in an email. "The new entity will service both Crook and Weston counties and have offices in both counties."

Stevens, who has been the director in Crook County for 18 years, said she would be mirroring the local program to the one she operates.

With the change in directors, she said, other changes will be happening.

"We want to rebrand FOCUS. ... To give the victims of Weston County a fresh new approach. We are going to get it done right this time," Stevens said.

Part of these changes include changing the layout of the FOCUS office at the Weston County Annex and moving the county's victim witness coordinator to the Weston County Attorney's office.

"This is something that my program did with the victim witness coordinator 18 years ago. ... I don't believe the victim witness and domestic violence and sexual assault programs should be a dual program. There is just too much for a conflict of interest there," Stevens said.

To facilitate this change, she said, the funds from the state for the victim witness coordinator will be funneled to the county attorney's office. She noted that her office and the attorney's office have worked well together to this point.

As for the layout of the FOCUS office, Stevens requested permission to remove the partitions that were placed in the annex. The partitions were originally installed to provide confidentiality to victims, but she said that the partitions were unprofessional and did not provide the anonymity that was proposed when they were installed.

Weston County Attorney Michael Stulken agreed with Stevens, stating that he did not "know how the wall helped anything."

The county commission also

approved a decrease in rent, from \$600 for three offices to \$400 for two offices, at Stevens' request.

As the changes continue and Stevens and her staff learn the ropes in Weston County, she requested that people be patient when the office is short-staffed during the initial transition. She noted that the goal is to come in and provide the best services possible while revamping and rebranding.

This is the second time in less than a year that the local victim services organization has experienced upheaval. Hoxie had reported to both the Weston County commissioners and News Letter Journal in July 2022 that FOCUS was struggling to address victim needs because of cuts in state funding. Those reports came on the heels of a revelation that former Newcastle Police Chief Sam Keller had been serving on the FOCUS board when he was arrested for domestic violence on May 30 of that year.

According to a board roster provided to the News Letter Journal by the Division of Victim's Services after Keller's arrest, the former police chief was listed as the board's treasurer, but Denice Piscioti — who was serving as the FOCUS board president at that time — said he was serving as "a member at large" at the time of the incident. It is unclear when Lakes became the board's president, but she was not even listed as a board member of the agency at this time.

Concerns were also expressed last July that Keller had benefited from rental assistance provided by FOCUS for the home he shared with his female victim. The FOCUS board cited confidentiality concerns when they refused to confirm or deny that their former fellow board member was living in a home where rental assistance was being provided by the agency.

Lakes and Stevens reported that services will be available to victims Monday through Friday. Anyone in need of services can stop by the FOCUS office at the Weston County Annex or by calling 307-746-2748.

Current FOCUS board members include Lakes; Taunya Offdenkamp, vice president; Paige Liggett, treasurer; Beth Newcomer, secretary; and board members Denise Piscioti, Mark Henry and Michelle Hepker.

Editor's Note: The full presentation by Sandra Stevens can be viewed on the News Letter Journal's YouTube channel during the May 2, 2023, Weston County commissioners' meeting.



nlj IDEAS

Our View

Thankful for all mothers

Whether the lessons were good or bad, harsh or loving, the influence from a mother is something a child will carry with them forever. Mothers come in all shapes and sizes, biological or surrogate, step-parents or a close family friend, and all of them deserve thanks for the difference they make.

As they say, without mothers none of us would be here, for we could not exist without them, and for that they deserve thanks.

Life is a gift given by mothers, and no matter the role they played in your life, for that we should

be thankful.

As we think about the mothers in our lives, the News Letter Journal would like to encourage all moms to support each other instead of judge, to encourage instead of undermine, and to recognize that most mothers are doing the best they can.

Everyone has come from a different journey, and there is no right way to raise a child. Whether you are all organic or feed your kids processed foods, whether you are a sports mom or a video game mom, and whether you are a gentle mom or a rough

and tumble mom, all journeys are valid.

On Mother's Day — and every day for that matter — moms are not only battling the crazy world we live in, but are often fighting an internal battle to do what they feel is right for their families. Instead of bringing others down, we must support and encourage.

Thanks to all the moms out there that have gone above and beyond, to those who sacrificed and loved unconditionally. To you, we owe it all.

Happy Mother's Day from the News Letter Journal.



QUESTION:
Should Wyoming expand Medicaid?

- Yes
- No

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

RESULTS:
What is Weston County's best selling point to tourists?

- Open Spaces..... 33% (4 votes)
- History and Heritage..... 25% (3 votes)
- Walking/Biking Trails 17% (2 votes)
- Fishing/Hunting..... 17% (2 votes)
- Other..... 8% (1 votes)

News Letter Journal:
WPA and NNA
Award Winner

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WHAT

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WHERE

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WHEN

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WHY

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



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Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Friday

Voters need more engagement in political parties

Americans are getting more and more dissatisfied with their political parties. Recent surveys show that both parties are viewed unfavorably by a majority of Americans. President Biden is underwater in his approval ratings, as is former President Trump. It is becoming common that those at the highest levels of government consistently have approval ratings below 50%. As polarization increases and the parties become more extreme, those in the middle feel that they are left out of the political conversation.



Khale D. Lenhart
Attorney
Guest Column

Political parties certainly are becoming more extreme. Part of the reason for this is the speed and ease by which we spread information. With news channels and social media allowing political leaders to nearly instantly distribute their message to a national audience, almost all

politics becomes nationalized. School board races are now viewed through the same lens that people view Presidential candidates. Local issues are ignored in favor of whatever the national political issue of the day is.

As a result, political parties have become more homogeneous. Gone are the days of conservative Southern Democrats and liberal New England Republicans. Rather than building complex coalitions that allowed each party to talk to a wide variety of voters, the new American

political party is based on allegiance to one of two political sides: left or right. You are one or the other, or you are not welcome in either group.

For those in the center-right or center-left, this creates an uncomfortable situation. The party that they identify with feels less like home, but the other party is even more unrecognizable and unappealing. Median voters are left voting for "the lesser of

two evils" rather than for a party that they feel speaks for them.

We see this play out firsthand here in Wyoming. Our Republican Party apparatus routinely makes headlines based around the conflict between those who would push voters out and those who would bring voters in. The primary divide in our legislature is not between the two political parties, but is between the extreme and mainstream members of the Republican Party.

Anecdotally, many of those I talk to about the state of politics in Wyoming end up lamenting the way our state is headed and the way they do not feel at home in their own party anymore, whether that be Democratic or Republican.

The problem this causes is disengagement, which itself turns into a self-perpetuating cycle. As the parties move more to the extremes, fewer of the voters in the middle feel at home in that party. Those voters disengage, either through dropping their party registration or failing

to meaningfully participate in the process within the political parties. As a result, their voices are not heard in the process and the party is left with only the voices encouraging further moves away from the middle. We see this in national political statistics, as independents now far outnumber the members of either political party. Of registered voters nationwide, in 2022, both Republicans and Democrats had only 28% of registered voters, 41% were registered independents.

Disengagement is understandable, but it also results in a system wherein the parties are only going to get more extreme as voters in the middle of the political spectrum drop away. Even though it is counterintuitive, the solution to dissatisfaction with political parties is more engagement, not less. Leaving the parties to the zealots will only result in the parties continuing to run to the extremes, likely to their own detriment. The parties depend on the votes of the median voter to obtain and maintain power.

Why should that voter not have a voice in the political party system?

Political parties should welcome this engagement, although ideological extremists are unlikely to. The goal of a political party should be to garner the support of enough voters to win and further your policy proposals. A party that is ideologically rigid but consistently gets 40% of the vote is as powerless as a party that gets 0%. Voices that speak to the mass of voters in the middle are key to ensuring that political parties can actually do what they are intended to do: govern.

For those dissatisfied with the direction of politics in this country, it is clear you are not alone. However, there is a solution and that is for you to participate in the process, especially within our political parties. Politics cannot be left solely to those on the extremes. Political views fall on a spectrum, and whether you are on the edges or in the middle, it is important for you to make your voice heard and for those in power to listen.

Grass-cast: Add this forage forecast to your toolbox

It is a busy time with lambing and calving in full swing, and the grass is finally entering spring green-up. Even with the long list of spring chores, it is never too early to start thinking about summer grazing plans.

Of the many questions that come to mind when planning how to best use available pastures during a growing season, one of the most important is, "How much forage will there be?" Grass productivity is limited by precipitation, so watching a meteorologist make predictions on the nightly news or checking a smartphone weather app are a couple ways ranchers can begin to think ahead to future conditions and their impact of pasture.

Most weather reports are limited in scope to a week, some up to 10 days, because of the way their models work, and the probabilities become less certain farther out than that. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a place to look that built on historical weather data, forage production data and current weather outlooks? Enter Grass-Cast, a tool constructed through a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska Drought Mitigation Center, Colorado State University and the University of Arizona.

Grass-Cast is available for several counties in Wyoming, including most of Johnson, Converse, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, Sheridan, Washakie and Weston counties. It is limited to areas where historical records of forage production are present and where grass species are predominant in the landscape. It does not work well to estimate forage production in tree- or shrub-dominated places, which rules out parts of Wyoming with extensive forest or sagebrush vegetation.

Grass-Cast generates a series of maps starting in April and continuing through the end of August. Beginning with the average historical forage productivity for a specific site, the tool predicts whether ranchers should anticipate near normal, above normal or below normal forage growth. Maps are updated every two weeks to reflect changing conditions. For example, this winter much of Wyoming had above average precipitation, which has replenished the soil moisture profile in many parts of Johnson County. The first maps generated this spring will likely indicate forage production above average if wet conditions persist.

After the tool was first constructed, feedback from ranchers led to the

development of three separate outlooks for potential above normal, at normal and below normal precipitation. This added a level of nuance and improved the efficacy of Grass-Cast as a decision-making tool.

Now, when Grass-Cast is accessed, it appears as a three-part map that displays expected grass production given each of these scenarios. As a grass productivity forecast, these values are obviously subject to change with short notice in response to local weather patterns. However, anticipating pasture conditions based on both historical and real-time data provides a level of predictive power not possible with meteorological models alone.

Where to find Grass-Cast
Grass-Cast is available online at bit.ly/GrassCast. The homepage features a static map, and zoomable maps can be accessed using the menu on the left of the page. Each unit of area makes up a pixel of color on the map and represents an area of 6 miles by 6 miles. New forecast maps for the 2023 growing season are available now. Recorded webinars and instructions for use are available through other tabs in the menu on the left of the page. Please call me, Micah Most, at the Johnson County Extension Office if you have questions or would like assistance navigating the website.

Locate the Grass-Cast website and bookmark it or save the link for later

(bit.ly/GrassCast). Mother Nature has a way of changing her mind, and Grass-Cast might have some useful information when the question, "How much forage will there be?" pops up again.

Reporting local weather conditions makes a difference

Other tools are available for reporting weather and climate impacts on agricultural and recreational activities. The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) allows independent observers to report daily precipitation as well as submit condition monitoring reports. These community reports are utilized by the Wyoming state climate team when they construct drought monitor maps, which in turn inform drought relief funding decisions.

Most ranchers religiously track their local precipitation already, and this is a simple step to make that data publicly available. By submitting a monthly or twice monthly conditions report, drought map accuracy is improved. Micah at the Extension office is happy to share more information on CoCoRaHS with anyone who is interested.

Micah Most is the agriculture and natural resources educator with University of Wyoming Extension serving Johnson County. He can be reached at mmost@uwyo.edu or 307-684-7522.




Micah Most
Trail Notes

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Happy MOTHER'S DAY



BOMBING WYOMING: OPERATION FU-GO


Presented by Dave Marcum, retired political science instructor from Laramie County Community College, as well as from the U.S. Air Force.

May 16 • Weston County Senior Services Center, Michael's Room

Presentation starts at 12:30 p.m. Lunch may be purchased at the senior center for \$4 at noon.

Come learn how Japan "World War II Balloon Attacks on the United States" hit close to home on a ranch near Newcastle.

Please call 746-4188 if attending.




What's Up Calendar

Send your events to design@newsli.com

Celebration of Life

Freida Lincoln



Sat, May 20 • 10am
WC Senior Center Luncheon to follow

Obituaries

REGINA FALL
June 3, 1954–May 7, 2023
Regina Fall, 68, of Newcastle, Wyoming, peacefully passed away on May 7, 2023, surrounded by loved ones after her long journey of diabetes.

Regina was born on June 3, 1954, to Lawrence and Imelda Drees in Gregory, South Dakota. After Regina graduated from Gregory High School, she pursued a degree as a laboratory technician at Dakota Wesleyan University. After graduation, she moved to Newcastle where she worked for over 30 years at Weston County Hospital. Regina was passionate about helping others, especially those with diabetes as she had the disease from childhood.

She met and married Jim Fall in 1976. Regina and Jim have a daughter, Melissa Moore. Regina was a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church and enjoyed attending there and traveling to see her daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved spending time going to drag races with her husband, Jim.



Regina Fall

Regina was predeceased by her parents, Lawrence and Imelda (Nillis) Drees; along with numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She is survived by her husband, Jim Fall of Newcastle; daughter, Melissa (James) Moore of Kalispell, Montana; sister, Maureen (Roger) Regynski of Mesa, Arizona; brother, Joe (Mary Kay) Drees of Gregory; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Visitation was from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Newcastle, with Vigil beginning at 7. Mass of Christian Burial was to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, at the church, with visitation continuing one hour prior to the service. Private family rite of committal will take place in Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis, South Dakota.

Arrangements are under the care of Fidler-Roberts & Isburg Funeral Chapel of Sundance. Online condolences may be written at fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com.

SHEILA ANN (MORGAN) JOHNSON
Dec. 28, 1941–Jan. 16, 2023

Sheila Ann Johnson (Morgan), 81, of Newcastle, Wyoming, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, in Topock, Arizona.

She is the oldest of three daughters, born to Howard "Dick" Stanley and Lenora Marie Morgan (Gardner) of Newcastle, on Dec. 28, 1941.



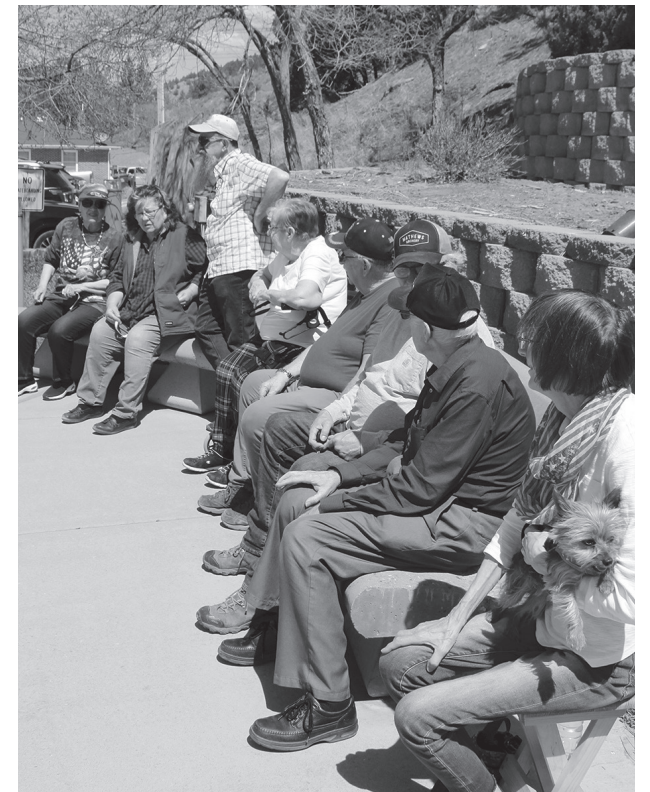
Sheila Johnson

She was preceded in death by her sister, Cheryl Marie Morgan; father and mother; son, Gregory Lee Johnson; and many beloved dogs.

She is survived by her life companion of over 30 years, Jim Parks of Newcastle; her daughters, Jodi Smith of Rawlins, Wyoming, and Tina Johnson of Newcastle; granddaughters, Morgan Bass (Alex) of Woodbridge, Virginia, Montana Johnson (Josh Russell) of League City, Texas, and Payton Ellingford of Cheyenne, Wyoming; great-grandchildren, Nevaeh, Tatum, Logan, Hudson and Sawyer; her sister, Kathy Allen of Newcastle; and several close friends, including Sandra Bock (Larry) of Newcastle.

A celebration of life memorial service is planned for Saturday, June 3, at 1 p.m. in the breakfast room at Newcastle Lodge and Convention Center in Newcastle. Memorial contributions to benefit dogs in lieu of flowers is preferred.

Day of Prayer



A couple dozen people came out on Thursday, May 4, to participate in an event at the top of Main Street in Newcastle for National Day of Prayer. Pastor Mick Bohn, of Newcastle Four Square Church, passes out Bible verses and prayers, most of them with patriotic themes, to people to read the scriptures and pray. Left, Bohn reads scripture and expounds upon it.

Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

faith & values

Daily Devotional Reading

<p>May 12 2 Chronicles 17-20</p> <p>May 13 2 Chronicles 21-24</p> <p>May 14 2 Chronicles 25-28</p> <p>May 15 2 Chronicles 29-31</p>	<p>May 16 2 Chronicles 32-34</p> <p>May 17 2 Chronicles 35-36</p> <p>May 18 Ezra 1-4</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: right;"><i>Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society</i></p>
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- **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. Kenti Barling, S. Summit & Winthrop Streets, 746-9684. christchurchnewcastle@gmail.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; Undeafened 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. Calvin Hill, 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

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ~ Romans 12:3



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25 Years Ago
May 14, 1998

Not all the land that Dakotah Cement, Inc., purchased is in South Dakota. The South Dakota state-owned cement plant also picked up 1,141 acres of Wyoming property along with first rights to an 800-acre Wyoming State Land lease, a 920-acre Bureau of Land Management lease, and a U.S. Forest Service grazing lease.

Two Upton area residents bitten by a rabid dog must undergo rabies shots, said a family spokesperson. Tanya Gall said her father, Bill Phillips, and brother, Mark Phillips, were bitten by the dog, an apparent stray, while shearing goats on the Art Oliver place east of Upton.

They may not be angels but the high school and middle school choirs under the direction of Mrs. Kathy Daum gave listeners a treat at Crouch Auditorium as Jami Emmert lead the Newcastle High School Chorus during the final concert of the year. Emmert was Newcastle's representative this year at the Wyoming State Chorus.

The Newcastle High School Rodeo Club hosted the 5th annual high school rodeo here last weekend. Over 220 contestants from Wyoming, Colorado, and South Dakota competed in twelve events.

Learning to sail, testing ocean waters for salinity and water balance, studying the fauna and flora native in the local waters, navigating the research ship Argo, monitoring sonar while searching for a plane that had crashed the night before during a severe storm were but a few wonderful life experiences that Randi Pzinski had.

50 Years Ago
May 10, 1973

"Plans for a rural fire truck for persons living outside of Newcastle are progressing right on schedule," according to Roy Borgialli, chairman of the Weston County rural fire fighters. Borgialli said Andy Oliver of Sheridan was in Newcastle Monday to take the measurements for a 1,000-gallon galvanized water tank, and the tank should be received in about two weeks.

The building formerly known as the M-Bar Service east of Osage was destroyed by fire last Wednesday evening following



Weston County's History Through the Archives of the News Letter Journal

an explosion of the gas tank on a dump truck.

Michele Smith and Stacia Thorpe have earned the top scholastic honors at Newcastle high school for the 1973 senior class. The girls are co-valedictorians with a grade point average of 3.97 for four years.

The Cambria RAMS rock club will meet Friday evening, May 11. The meeting will start at 7:30 in the Anna Miller museum meeting room and Joe Gibbs will show movies following the meeting.

The Joint Legislative Appropriations Committee made the first of a series of planned tours of state institutions this past week. The three-day inspection tour visited facilities in the Northwest part of the state. ...Representative Walt Oslund of Newcastle serves on this committee and participated in the tour.

100 Years Ago
May 10, 1923

Yesterday afternoon we were informed by Jack Sedgwick that the work of organizing the Newcastle Motor Club was well under way and that the membership lists would be in circulation the latter part of the week.

Public Health and Better Babies, in all progressive and aggressive communities is, of necessity, receiving much careful consideration, throughout the civilized world. In this connection a matter of first importance is the milk supply. Among our leading physicians, who devote themselves to the diseases of childhood, it is a conceded fact that tuberculosis in infancy is acquired from the cow, through

of new subscriptions during the month of April, lost out by less than twenty subscriptions.

General Sinclair, commanding officer of the 148th Field Artillery (Wyoming's own) during the World War, will be in Newcastle, Friday, the 18th, the guest of the Lions Club at their banquet.

James Benson is so busy farming these days that Mrs. Benson rides a horse after the mail.

At the auditorium last Friday evening was given the Cambria high school play. The two plays, "Her Son's Sweetheart" and "Jack Trust" were both well staged and acted out in exceptionally good style. Both plays were laugh provoking, but perhaps more merriment was caused by the two specialties, "Sunny Him" and "The Little Red School House," songs by two couple of little folks from the lower grades.

the ingestion of infected milk.

Charlotte Howell, who was a contestant for the Casper Tribune special prize, a \$2,000 Hupmobile given to the one turning in the largest number

From the vault ...



Photo courtesy of WC Historical Society
This is a picture of rancher Emil Driskill.

FREE HEARING TESTS

FRIDAY, MAY 12

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FREE HEARING TESTS are from 9-11 a.m. by Annette Frerichs, Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences. Anyone who has trouble hearing is welcome to come in for a hearing test using modern electronic equipment to find out if a tiny modern hearing aid may help. Diagrams showing how the ear works and some of the causes of hearing loss will be available.

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The Cavalry Barn and Wyoming National Guard

In recognition of May being National Historic Preservation Month, Weston County Historic Preservation Board would like to recognize the Cavalry Barn and Wyoming National Guard from 1935-1997.

Please join us at Weston County Senior Services Center, Michael's Room, May 17. Lunch may be purchased at senior center at noon, and presentation will begin at 12:30.

Please call 746-4188 if attending.



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WESTON COUNTY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR

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Thu. May 11	7AM 9AM 1PM 5:30-8PM 6PM 6PM 7PM	T.O.P.S. #218 T.O.P.S. #218 Bridge/Crafts WCSD No. 1 Art Show VFW Auxiliary Mtg NES Talent Show Alcoholics Anonymous	WC Senior Center First Baptist Church WC Senior Center WCSD Dogie Dome VFW Hall Crouch Auditorium WC Senior Center
Fri. May 12	9AM 9AM 1PM 4-8PM 6PM	Caramel Rolls Beltone Hearing Aid Clinic Bridge WCSD #1 Art Show BINGO	WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WCSD Dogie Dome VFW Hall
Mon. May 15	9AM 1PM 5:30PM 6PM 7PM 7PM	Exercise Class Computer Clinic Friends of WC Fair WC Children's Center Directors Mtg Newcastle City Council Alcoholics Anonymous	WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Fairgrounds Event Center WC Children's Center City Council Chambers WC Senior Center
Tues. May 16	9AM 11AM NOON NOON 1PM 4PM 4-6PM 6PM	WC Commissioners Story Time WC Cowbells Bombing Wyoming: Operation "Fu-Go" Bridge/Dominoes T.O.P.S. #218 BLM Resource Mgmt Plans Helping Hands Board Mtg	WC Courthouse WC Library Antlers WC Senior Center WC Senior Center First United Methodist Church WC Senior Center WC Senior Center
Wed. May 17	6:30-8:30AM 7-9AM 9AM 9AM 9AM 10AM NOON NOON	Wellness Wednesday Wellness Wednesday WCSS Board Mtg Exercise Class Toe Nail Clinic Cribbage Lions Club "The Cavalry Barn" History Program	WC Health Services Upton Medical Clinic WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Senior Center WC Senior Center

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Crowd pleasers



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ and courtesy of Marissa Sweet and Jan Farella
Crowds flocked to the arena at the Weston County Fairgrounds over the weekend, where high-schoolers from throughout Wyoming and beyond participated in three days of rodeo action. It was the only home event for Newcastle participants, with most of the high school rodeo events this year taking place elsewhere.



Top left, announcer Dalton Beasley, from Buffalo, keeps the crowd updated. Above, Roedy Farrell, a senior from Thermopolis, in the saddle bronc riding event. At right, Newcastle High School seniors Tiernan Stanton, far left, and Tell Tavegie, far right, pose for a photo with Stacey Jones and Marissa Sweet during the event. At left, Connor Stolhammer and Teddy Troftgruben work together in team roping. Middle left, Cody Montgomery of Pine Bluffs, a senior, leans into it during the steer wrestling competition. The next event of the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association will be starting Thursday in Gillette. Find out more at wyhsra.com.



Drought from Page 1.....

inches of SWE, Mallo was sitting at 161% of the average last month.

Little Bear Run showed 5.2 inches of SWE, for 25.8 inches of snowpack on April 1, and with a median of 2.5 inches, the SWE was sitting at a whopping 208% of the average.

This year's report presented a drastic contrast to the one released at the same time last year. On April 1, 2022, no snowpack remained at Little Bear Run and it therefore boasted no snow water equivalent, while Mallo reported a paltry 0.6 inches of SWE.

While the snow from the elevations around Newcastle has

only recently disappeared, there never was a lot of white stuff on the ground in town this winter.

According to Susan Sanders, warning coordination meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Rapid City, the Newcastle area received 28.1 inches of snow this season. In comparison, Gillette received 76 inches, Rochelle received 56.4 inches, Upton received 58 inches, Edgemont received 50.6 inches, Custer received 59.2 inches and Hill City received 67.8 inches.

She noted that the figure represents the least amount of snow Newcastle has received in recent years. Sanders reported that in

2021-22 the area received 41 inches of snow, 49.5 inches in 2020-21, 38.2 inches in 2019-20, 63.5 inches in 2018-19 and 53.2 inches in 2017-18.

"The snow cover we had (especially in the northern portion of the county) did indeed disappear in a hurry. ... The good news with that is that it did not seem to run off, though — instead, the ground was thawed, and it soaked it up immediately, so that had to do some good putting at least a bit of moisture back in the soil," said Daniel Tysdal, Weston County's fire warden.

Unfortunately, the moisture that did make its way into the ground is likely to do little to

overcome the effects of a long-term drought.

"However, despite the snow cover we did have and it not running off but instead soaking straight in, it seems that, overall, the county is still quite dry for this time of year," Tysdal said, noting that the area hasn't received any beneficial spring rains since the snow has melted and the temperature warm-up has started.

"What moisture we did manage to get in the ground from our snow cover will quickly be, or possibly already has been, depleted," he said. "We are in desperate need of some moisture in the very near

future to allow the green-up to continue and consequently delay fire season for us."

Tysdal's report seems to be supported by the U.S. Drought Monitor. According to the monitor, as of May 4, 100% of Weston County is currently in a drought, with 98.5% of the county in moderate drought or D1 and 62.51% of the county in severe drought or D2.

D2 drought is described as severe drought and has possible impacts of crop or pasture losses, water shortages and imposed water restrictions. D1 is described as moderate drought with possible impacts of some crop damage, some water

shortages and potential voluntary water use restrictions.

As for fire season, Tysdal said it is non unusual for Weston County to have a spring fire season after the snowpack leaves and prior to the green-up, although he said it does seem like that season is hitting the area later this year.

"We continue to experience it now, as we had our latest fire just last week from an escaped brush pile from quite some time ago," he said. "So, folks are still encouraged to use extra caution with their outdoor activities, especially as more and more people get out to enjoy the warmer days."



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Spreading May Day cheer

On Monday, May 1, Cindy Sandoval, Vicki Kierleiber, and Tonya DaFoe of the American Legion Auxiliary visited Mondell Heights Retirement Home to give May Day baskets to the residents. Here, Helen Weyrich joyfully receives the company and the basket.



Photos by Walter Sprague/NLJ

Hospital

from Page 1.....

as all rural hospitals," she said.

Drost further explained how inflation has had an effect.

"A majority of the rates are set by contracts with insurance companies. If the rates never increase, but the costs always do, you can't keep up. Insurance companies are still reimbursing at rates they did 10 years ago," she said.

Allard said that this issue is further compounded at Weston County Health Services because a majority of the population in Weston County is either on Medicare or Medicaid. She revealed that there are also a large number of uninsured individuals who fall under the category of "self-pay," and that is also a problem.

Drost explained that approximately one-third of the services provided by Weston County Health Services is self-pay and, in the end, only a small number of those services will actually be paid for. She noted that the facilities do have an uncompensated care fund, but with the volume of self-pay accounts, that money goes fast.

This disparity in reimbursement results in the contractual obligations

and bad debt write-offs.

On top of these issues with the pay system, Allard reported that the facilities have seen an increase in costs for everything from food and supplies to pharmaceuticals.

In March 2023 alone, WCHS spent \$647,453 on supplies and pharmaceuticals compared with \$569,963 in March 2022. Year to date, the facilities have spent \$4,159,149 for supplies and pharmaceuticals.

Drost maintained that the teams at the various facilities do a good job of watching costs and do the best they can to operate at the lowest cost possible.

"But with staffing, contract labor and other things that are out of our control ... First and foremost we are here to give good quality care. That means making sure we have radiologists, lab techs and doctors in our ER," Drost said.

And making sure these areas in the hospital are staffed costs significantly more money when contract staff is used rather than hiring their own employees.

According to Allard, the hospital currently has nine contract staff – two

nurses in long-term care, four certified nursing assistants and three individuals in the lab. In March alone, WCHS spent \$233,473 on contract staff. For comparison, the facility spent \$1,165,660 for the 216 personnel employed by WCHS.

According to information provided by Allard, there are currently 19 open positions at WCHS including eight CNAs, one information technology tech and one lab tech.

With staffing issues, Drost said that the Manor has not been able to use a wing at the facility.

"I have been harping on it. I want a plan in place to increase the census, but when it costs three times as much to staff the unit, fundamentally you can't do it," Drost said. "We can't bring in patients without people to take care of them."

Despite these staffing issues, she said that she has suggested to the board that the Manor increase its census by at least one patient per month.

She said that the board is also trying to think of new and different strategies to recruit and retain staff.

"Clearly what we are doing is not

working. We need to try something new," Drost said, noting that they are even looking at ways to recruit staff from outside of Wyoming.

When it comes to new staff, Allard said, there has been very little interest in the current open positions at the facility. Kenagy noted that health care staff shortages are nationwide.

"It is not acceptable to say everyone else is not getting them. We can't just say that. We have to get creative," Drost said, noting that health care workers do it for the love of helping people and they have to find a way to foster that love in younger generations.

Kenagy said that the hospital district is also doing what it can to make health care more affordable with tools such as Wellness Wednesdays and urgent care.

"Urgent care is a really cool thing that is taking off at the clinic. Instead of coming to the ER where the costs are higher, people in the community can go to the clinic and don't have to schedule an appointment," Drost said.

When it comes to combating supply costs, the trio said there is little that can be done, although WCHS does

partner with Monument Health to purchase supplies in larger amounts at a cheaper cost.

One thing that has never been discussed for reducing costs, according to Kenagy, is laying off staff. She noted that WCHS will decrease expenses as much as possible in areas that they can, and staffing will not be one of those.

"When you look at personnel, we run as lean as we can," Drost added.

Drost also said that a change to the fundamental flaw in health care will be necessary to address the continued financial issues.

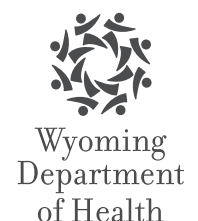
"Part of what has to happen with the rest of the United States is [that] people, the legislature and the citizens have to decide if health care is a priority," Drost said. "Medicaid expansion is not the answer, that is going in the wrong direction. We are relying on a system that is fundamentally flawed instead of reforming the system so that we can cover costs. No one expects to make a million dollars to run a hospital, but you have to be able to cover the costs so we can provide the services. We can't lose money forever."

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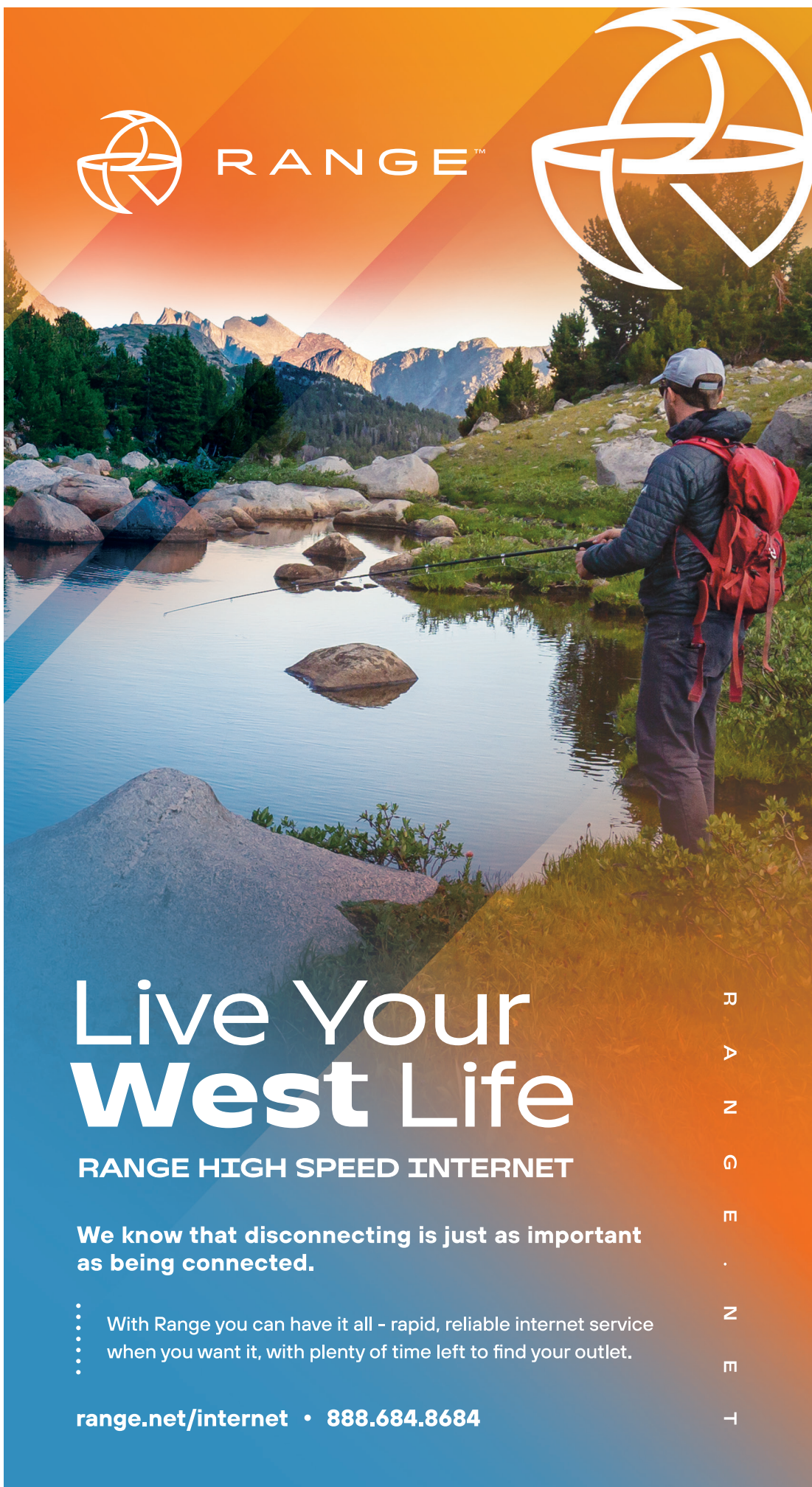
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Photos by Alexis Barker and Kim Dean/NLJ
Two consecutive days of spring concerts were held by Newcastle Elementary School at Crouch Auditorium last month. The third through fifth grade concert was April 24, followed by kindergarten through second grades the day after. Both concerts were directed by Sara Whipple, NES music instructor. Top, first-graders Henry Haynes, Chloe Hanson and Kit Stanton concentrate and keep the beat. Above, fifth-graders Tanner Lenardson and Braxton VonEye play ukuleles. Below, third-grader Jacob Steber plays the xylophone during the song "Miss Mary Mack."



Hotel

from Page 1

forward with the construction of the hotel this year.

The company has now signed a contract with Hunsaker Motel Group LLC, a contractor based in Hermosa, South Dakota, to resume the hotel construction in Upton, according to the information from Marshall.

Construction and concrete work resumed in early April. Framing of the hotel is anticipated to start next week, according to Marshall.

"We have a group of investors involved in the development of the hotel, and we are obligated to give them the best deal in building the hotel," Marshall said in an email.

He noted that, prior to selecting Hunsaker Motel Group to construct the hotel, two bids were received. Marshall added that the bid from Hunsaker was in the best interest of the investors and that the company had specific expertise in building hotels.

Happy Mother's Day

Please thank your mom for CHOOSING LIFE!



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Sports

News Letter Journal

SPORTS SCHEDULE

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Track

5/12-13/23	3A East Regional @Rawlins	A	TBA
5/18-20/23	State Track @Casper	A	TBA

Ladies' Soccer

5/11/23	Douglas HS	H	4PM
5/18-20/23	State Soccer @Rock Springs/Green River	A	TBA

Men's Soccer

5/11/23	Douglas HS	H	4PM
5/18-20/23	State Soccer @Rock Springs/Green River	A	NOON

High School Rodeo

All dates tentative/subject to change

5/11-12/23	JH State Finals @ Gillette, Thurs. 4PM (1st go RS, BA & PB) Fri. May 12, 9AM, (Rem. 1 & Round 2) & HS Cutting	A	
5/13-14/23	HS Rodeo @ Gillette, Cutting TBD - RCH TBD - Shooting	A	
5/19-20/23	Casper: Cutting/RCH TBD Times	A	
5/27/23	Sheridan IN BUFFALO: Cutting/ RCH	A	
5/28-29/23	Buffalo: Cutting/RCH	A	
6/5-10/23	WY HS State Finals @Rock Springs	A	
6/18-24/23	NJHFR @ Perry, GA	A	
7/16-22/23	NHSFR @ Gillette	A	

Dogies get first conference win

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Editor

It was a big week for the Dogie soccer team last week, as they picked up their first conference point with a tie against Torrington on Thursday, then three more points as they grabbed their first conference win of the season against Rawlins on Saturday.

Head coach Sally Hoover's squad went into the contest on Thursday with a good game plan, prepared to mitigate the Trailblazers' biggest threat. The plan worked as the Dogies held Torrington scoreless in the first half.

On the other side of the field, the Dogies were able to get on the board 13 minutes into the first half as Sam Cunningham capitalized on a lazy pass by the 'Blazer goalie, by intercepting it and knocking it into the back of the net.

"Often when the goalie gets the ball, we expect them to punt it out, so we get back," Hoover began. "But this time Sam waited and was in the right place at the right time, and it paid off."

The Dogies took the 1-0 lead into the half, but 12 minutes into the second half, Torrington's top player got away from the defense to tie things up, 1-1.

Unfortunately, the 'Blazers

— See **Men**, Page 10



Photo courtesy of Piper Allard

Foreign exchange student Finn Gerlag has been a welcome addition to the Dogies this season. Gerlag scored two of the Dogies' three goals in the final four minutes of the contest against Torrington on Thursday — the last one in the final six seconds of the match — to tie it up to send it to overtime.

It sure feels good

It's Teacher Appreciation Week!

In 2020, teachers were martyred as we stumbled through a new world of virtual education and parents got to see first-hand what it is like to be in the education trenches.

There was nothing but good vibes being sent teachers' way and I won't lie when I say, it felt pretty darned good.

However, the love didn't last, because since 2021, we've been vilified by the very same group who just the previous year adored us.

Since then it's been a real struggle to fight the good fight. It's one

of several reasons why teachers are leaving the profession in droves and why we are suffering a shortage of people working in education, which is bordering on crisis.

But this week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and the public doesn't even understand how meaningful it is for teachers to get any kind of recognition, but to have students actually hand

— See **Karpe**, Page 10



Sonja Karp
 Karpe Dogie

Tracksters wrap up regular season

Sonja Karp
 NLJ Sports Editor

For the second time in three weeks, the Dogie track team made up for lost competitions as they competed in Custer on Tuesday, then in Sundance on Friday. Head coach Chad Ostenson's crew continued to show improvement and performed well at both meets.

Although there were no new qualifiers in either meet, there were plenty of personal records to go around, and several athletes finished in the top

10 in their events in both Custer and Sundance.

"It was a beautiful day in Custer, we had some good competition, and the kids did really well," Ostenson began. "It's been a crazy couple of weeks with back-to-back meets, and we started dabbling with relays on the boys' side, but it was good."

In Custer on Tuesday, Savannah Carr ran a PR in the 100 Meter race with a time of 14.49, Taylor Conklin jumped her personal best of 12-05.5 in the Long Jump, Julie Morris finished just out of the top 10 with a PR

throw of 29-04 in the Shot Put, while Veronica Ayers also threw a personal best of 16-09 in that event.

Jaylen Ostenson finished second in the 100 Meter Hurdles, third in the 300 Meter Hurdles, and fifth in the Discus Throw. Morris took first in Long Jump, Elizabeth Rushton won the Javelin Throw, and the 4x100 Meter relay team of Morris, Rushton, Ostenson and Conklin finished fourth.

For the men, Aiden Butler ran a PR in both the 100 and 200 meter races and threw personal bests in both Shot Put and Discus Throw. Jayden Corley

also had a good day marking PRs in the 100 Meter race, the Triple Jump and Shot Put, Nate Strickland threw personal bests in Shot Put and Discus, where he placed third with a 119-09 toss, Tayshaun Bynum PR'd in the shot and disc as did Josiah Martinez, while Thomas Prell and CJ Hardy posted personal best times in the 100 and 200 Meter races, respectively, and finished third in the high jump.

Jacob Prell finished second in Shot Put with a personal best toss of 45-08.5

— See **Track**, Page 16

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Ladies split big conference games

Sonja Karp
NLJ Sports Editor

The Lady Dogies stumbled last week in their quest to secure a state berth to the 3A State Soccer Tournament. Two wins against Torrington and Rawlins would have punched their ticket, and they kicked off their week with a 4-0 shutout win over Torrington on Thursday.

However, head coach Cami Willyard's crew struggled for about 12 minutes in their contest against Rawlins on Saturday, and the Lady Outlaws took advantage of that opportunity to score four goals, going on to take the 4-3 win.

"Unfortunately, if Rawlins beats Torrington on Thursday, they have the advantage over us," sighed Willyard. "We're not out of it yet, but it puts a lot of pressure on us for this week, and that loss was a heartbreaker."

It took a minute for the Lady Dogies to find the back of the net against the Lady Trailblazers on Thursday. According to Willyard, it was not for lack of trying, it was just that shots weren't quite where they needed to be.

Finally, Torrington committed a handball violation in the box in the 34th minute of play, giving Gabby McVay an open shot on the penalty kick. The senior casually hit it perfectly into the left-side bottom corner.

A minute later, McVay was taken out in the box, so lined up for another PK and she made the Lady 'Blazers pay for the aggressive action against her, taking her team into the halftime break up, 2-0.

"We were playing okay, but little things needed to be better," Willyard said. "We were getting shots, but they weren't finding the back of the net."

One minute after play resumed, McVay picked up her third goal, earning a hat trick, as she dribbled the



Photo courtesy of Piper Allard

Mia Peterson gets off a pass before a Torrington defender can get to the ball. The Lady Dogies shut out the Lady Trailblazers with a 4-0 win Thursday.

ball down the pitch and past the keeper.

Then, with two minutes remaining in the contest, McVay stole the ball from a defender and shot one over the top of the goalie from 30 yards out to lead her team to the 4-0 victory.

On Saturday, the Rawlins Lady Outlaws came to town seeking revenge for their 0-2 loss to Newcastle three weeks ago.

"It was a very frustrating game, but a positive from it is that all three

of our goals were assisted, which is good," Willyard began. "We were better soccer players, but they are athletic and fast, and are catching on very quickly."

Things started off well when, within the first five minutes, the Lady Dogies earned a corner kick. McVay played the ball over the defense to find MacKenzie Conzelman on the backside, who shot a perfectly aimed header into the back of the net.

"It was awesome! She kept her head down and got a header off of a corner," Willyard said. "It was our first score off a corner kick all year, and it was cool that two of our seniors worked together on senior night to make that happen."

Working with momentum they'd created, in the 19th minute fans got to see some great combination play from their Lady Dogies. Hailey Beastrom received the ball out of the air, passed it to McKenzie Rose on the wing who one-touched it to McVay, who then one-touched it into the back of the net from just outside the 18.

"Man, we were playing well!" said Willyard. "We were making connections, we were finding feet, and we finished off the first half really strong."

Newcastle took the 2-0 lead into the half, just as they had in Rawlins previously. However, in the second half the squad suffered about a 12-minute breakdown where the Lady Outlaws scored four goals — two in the first three minutes, then two more 10 minutes later. Suddenly, Newcastle was down 2-4.

"I don't know what happened, except that it wasn't meant to be I guess," Willyard said, with a sigh. "We weren't communicating, and the little things came back to haunt us."

Without the possibility of a timeout, all coaches could do was hope their team could pull themselves together and battle.

Men from Page 9

used their momentum to get another one in soon after to go up 2-1. With nine minutes to go, the Dogies fouled a 'Blazer player in the box, and they finished on the PK to go up 3-1.

"It was a little frustrating, because they weren't a better team than us, we were just making little mistakes," Hoover said. "We weren't collecting well and we weren't talking."

With four minutes to play, Finn Gerlag took the ball down the middle of the field, past the defenders, to score his first goal of the game to close the gap to 2-3.

Then, with six seconds to play, the Dogies were fouled in the box and Gerlag capitalized on the PK to tie the contest at 3-3. From there a shootout ensued. Gerlag scored on his kick and a 'Blazer answered back by getting one in as well. Zach Orsborn was the next shooter for Newcastle and he missed, but Will Beastrom saved the next shot by the 'Blazers, so the shootout remained at a 1-1 tie. Unfortunately, Newcastle was not able to get another one in while Torrington scored twice more to take the 3-1 shootout victory.

"I think the boys panicked a little after they came back and tied the game," Hoover chuckled. "We just didn't shoot on frame, which is frustrating."

Although the loss was disappointing, Hoover insisted that to tie with them was huge for her team. The 'Blazers are No. 2 in the East Conference and they tied with Worland, who is No. 1 in the state. In addition, Newcastle got a point for the tie, and that seemed to be motivation for the squad in their contest on Saturday.

"Against Rawlins, a big focus for us was not to give up back-to-back goals," Hoover began. "They came out within the first two minutes and scored a goal against us, but then we settled in and didn't let them score again in the first half, so that was great."

Once again, the Dogies were prepared for the Outlaws, knowing that what they lack in size, they more than make up for with speed, and their preparation paid off.

Gerlag got a breakthrough in the 22nd minute and he beat the last couple defenders to score easily.

Six minutes later, Dylan McFarlin did a throw-in to Gerlag on the Outlaws' back line and he knocked that one in as well.

Finally, with one and a half minutes remaining in the half, Caden Esposito had a run down the left side, and took a nice shot. The keeper stopped it, but it bounced off him and Colter Christensen was there with the rebound to put it into the back of the net.

The Dogies took the 3-1 lead into the locker room, and in the second half the Dogies dominated the Outlaws in possessing the ball.

"The boys were just really confident and they played really well," Hoover said. "We got the advantage and we played better, while Rawlins kind of fell apart."

The Dogies controlled the second half of the contest, limiting Rawlins' opportunities on offense. Even though Newcastle wouldn't put another one in the back of the net, they were able to hold the Outlaws from scoring.

NHS Ladies' Soccer

Newcastle v. Torrington 5/04/23 4-0
Gabby McVay: 4-11 shots on goal
MacKenzie Conzelman: 0-2 shots on goal
McKenzie Rose: 0-1 shot on goal
Kyah Miller: 0-1 shot on goal
Hailey Beastrom: 0-3 shots on goal
Kathryn Huber: 3 saves, 1 shutout

Newcastle v. Rawlins 5/06/23 3-4
Gabby McVay: 1-5 shots on goal, 1 assist
MacKenzie Conzelman: 1-4 shots on goal, 1 assist, 1 save
McKenzie Rose: 1 assist
Leti Ayers: 1-1 shot on goal
Hailey Beastrom: 0-1 shot on goal
Kathryn Huber: 6 saves

"Gabby really stepped up to lead her team," Willyard said. "I was really proud of her to take that on as our captain and our leader."

Rawlins continued to dominate for the next 10 minutes of play, but McVay breathed a little life back into her team when she came very close to scoring on a free kick.

Then, with 16 minutes remaining, Conzelman made a run and passed it off to Leti Ayers who scored the first varsity goal of her career to pull her team to within one of Rawlins.

"Leti was just very composed. She received it across her body, and shot it past the keeper with her left foot," Willyard described.

Conzelman got the assist for that goal, and overall was the Swiss army knife for her team in the contest. She scored a goal, had an assist and also chalked up a save on the defensive end of the pitch.

"Mack definitely left it all out on the field," said Willyard. "It was probably the best game of her career."

Although the Lady Dogies had a few opportunities in the last five minutes, they were unable to find the back of the net, so they lost the contest, 3-4.

Even though Newcastle didn't clinch that state tournament berth, they aren't out of the running yet. This week they rematch Buffalo on Tuesday and Douglas on Thursday, both at home, and they need to pull out a win against one of them to punch their ticket.

NHS Men's Soccer

Newcastle v. Torrington 5/4/23 3-3; 1-3 shootout
Finn Gerlag: 2-3 shots on goal
Sam Cunningham: 1-1 shot on goal
Will Beastrom: 9 saves

Newcastle v. Rawlins 5/5/23 3-2
Finn Gerlag: 2-3 shots on goal
Dylan McFarlin: 0-4 shots on goal
Colter Christensen: 1-1 shot on goal
Caden Esposito: 0-3 shots on goal, 1 assist
Zach Orsborn: 0-1 shot on goal
Will Beastrom: 7 saves

With 13 minutes to play, the Dogies fouled Rawlins in the box, and they were able to score on the PK to close the gap to one, but Newcastle held on for the 3-2 win.

"We learned our lesson in Gering, and we successfully killed the clock this time," Hoover said. "We were making sure that we were clearing the ball all the way down the field, and we didn't give them opportunities to score."

The success of the week leaves the door open for the Dogies to secure a state berth. They need to win against Buffalo and Douglas this week in order to do so, and they need a little help from other teams, but Hoover is hopeful her team can continue to play well to punch their ticket to the state tournament.

Buffalo comes to town on Tuesday, and Douglas will be here on Thursday to close out the regular season.



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Karpe from Page 9

you a card with an appreciation note written by them for what you do for them means more than you can possibly imagine.

On Monday, two of my students brought me cards in which they thanked me for what I do. A lot of students don't like school all that much and they also don't care a lot about history, which is what I teach. So, to get a thank you from even one student warms my heart.

This time of year is always tough. The sun comes out, and spring teases us with promises of summer weather, so the kids want to be anywhere but in school.

Culminating events are taking place, pulling kids from school more often than other times of year. But with the end drawing near, there's no wiggle room for teachers to put off due dates. Therefore, kids who miss class must double down and get work done early or

quickly make up what they miss — and that puts a lot of pressure on them.

At the same time, teachers also feel the pressure of getting through the curriculum, finishing up assessments, getting all their end of the year paperwork in order, and fighting to keep their students interested — or at least a bit engaged — in what we are teaching.

It's exhausting. So, to have Teacher Appreciation Week fall in May is just what we need to help us power through the next few weeks.

Thank you to Weston County School District No. 1, Sean Crabtree and Hurricane Services, Woody's and others for providing special treats for educators this week, and thank you to the students for letting teachers know you appreciate what we do each day. As I said before, it means more than you can possibly know.



Newcastle Calves

Middle School

Track and Field

2022-23



Boys

Front Row: Braylon Gregory, Nolan Gregory, Teegon Martinez, Cayson Phillips, Colten Hatheway, Lucas Sandness, Lukas Benshoof, Adryan Wolfe, Bridger Hill, Scott Rayburn, Lane Carter, Owen Evenson, Gustavo Munoz-Galvan, Troy Christensen, Lukas Kitch. Back row: Coach Scott Beehler, Lucas Scribner, TJ Harrington, Dustin McCarthy, Adam Butler, Dane Crabtree, Landon Hatheway, Dagan Thompson, Kyan Allen, Landen Hill, Connor Kitch, Vincent Stanton, Head Coach Allen Von Eye, Coach Caleb Carter.

Girls

Front Row: Taylor Lovejoy, Brianna Schofield, Netanya Prell, Zadyn Allen, Chevelle Bryan, Aurora Hunter, Heidi Sanford. Back row: Coach Robyn Stanton, Laine Lewis, Madalyn Francis, Delainey Dresen, Olivia Watt, Kyndal Von Eye, Lillie Morrill, Adalyn Olson, Hollie Swentesky, Kirra Bonnema, Kaia Pederson, Ashlynn Shroyer, Allie Lunstra, Abby Tacy, Coach Candi Stanton.

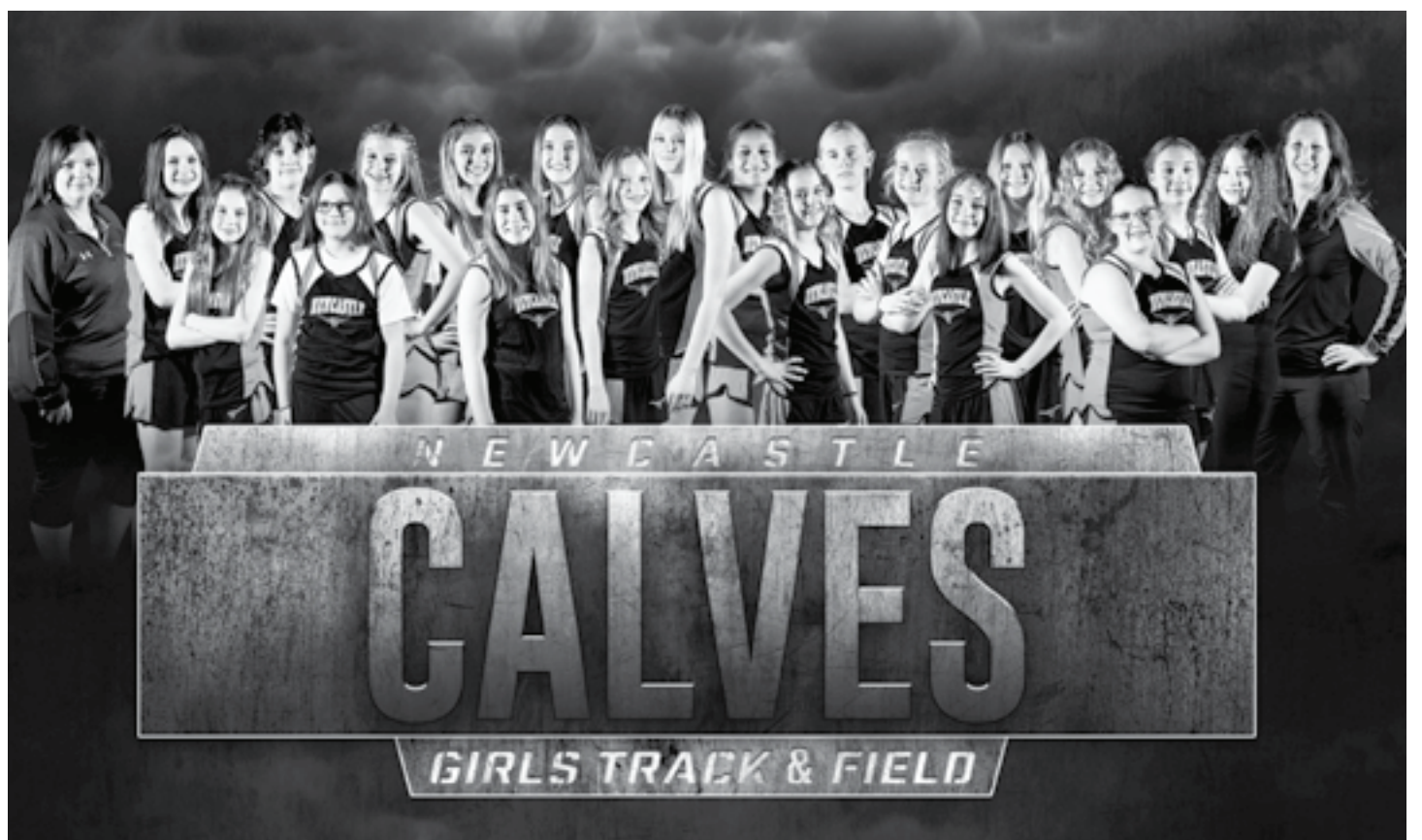


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#TrackandField

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Legal Notice

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

IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
Kaiden James Patik
(Minor Child's Current Full Name)
Minor Child, By Next Friend
Alicia Jo Patik
(Petitioner's Full Name)
Civil Action Case No. CV-2218

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In accordance with Wyoming Statutes 1-25-103, notice is hereby given that a Petition for Name Change of a Minor Child, Civil Action No. CS-2218 has been filed in the Wyoming District Court for the 6th Judicial District, whose address is 1 W. Main St. Newcastle, WY 82701, seeking to change the name of the minor child Kaiden James Patik to Kaiden James Grimm.

Unless an Answer or Response to the Petition referenced above is filed within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered granting the requested name change.

Dated April 24, 2023

By Clerk of Court
Tina Cote by Riki Kaiser
Clerk of District Court/ Deputy

(Publish April 27 and May 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

Legal Notice

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

IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
Kobi Dean Patik
(Minor Child's Current Full Name)
Minor Child, By Next Friend
Alicia Jo Patik
(Petitioner's Full Name)
Civil Action Case No. CV-2219

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In accordance with Wyoming Statutes 1-25-103, notice is hereby given that a Petition for Name Change of a Minor Child, Civil Action No. CS-2219 has been filed in the Wyoming District Court for the 6th Judicial District, whose address is 1 W. Main St. Newcastle, WY 82701, seeking to change the name of the minor child Kobi Dean Patik to Kobi Dean Grimm.

Unless an Answer or Response to the Petition referenced above is filed within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, an order may be entered granting the requested name change.

Dated April 24, 2023

By Clerk of Court
Tina Cote by Riki Kaiser
Clerk of District Court/ Deputy

(Publish April 27 and May 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

Bid Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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Sealed BIDS for a KM T-2 Asphalt Recycler or approved equal will be received at the Newcastle City Office until 5:00 PM, local time on May 15, 2023. Bids will then be opened by the Newcastle City Council at 7:10 PM, local time, May 15, 2023, during the regular council meeting, and read aloud. Specifications may be obtained from or examined at the Office of the

City Engineer, who can be contacted at (307) 746-3535. Pursuant to W.S. 16-6-106 "preference is hereby given to materials, supplies, agricultural products, equipment, machinery and provisions produced, manufactured or grown in Wyoming, or supplied by a resident of the state, quality being equal to articles offered by the competitors outside of the state".
Owner: City of Newcastle, Wyoming
Dated: 4/26/23

Publish May 4 and 11, 2023)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cambria Improvement & Service District is seeking applications for licensed operator and licensed backup operator for a two year contract. Applications must be submitted to

C.I.&S. District at P.O Box 91, Newcastle, WY 82701.
All Applications must be received by June 01, 2023.

(Publish May 11, 2023)

Legal Notice

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

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: CHRISTOPHER DEAN GARHART
VS.
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: JESSICA ELISABETH ROY
CIVIL ACTION CASE NO DR-22

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO JESSICA ELISABETH ROY, DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT'S CURRENT ADDRESS: UNKONWN

You are notified that a Complaint for Divorce, Civil Action No. DR-22, has been filed in the Wyoming District Court for the 6th Judicial District whose address is 1 West Main Street, seeking dissolution of your marriage to Christopher Dean Garhart, in his/her favor.

Unless you file an Answer or Response or otherwise respond to the Complaint or Petition referenced above within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, a default judgement will be taken against you and a Decree of Divorce will be granted.

Dated this 26 day of April 2023,

By Clerk of Court:
Tina Cote by Rikki Kaiser
Clerk of District Court/Deputy

(Publish April 20, 27 and May 4 and 11, 2023)

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Last week's answers

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- AT THE AIRPORT**
- ACROSS**
- Foundation
 - Dashboard acronym
 - Bonny one
 - Pleasant smell
 - Metal-bearing mineral
 - Salk's nemesis
 - Kidney-related
 - Christopher Lloyd's _____ Brown
 - Investigative report
 - *Something to claim
 - *Declaration station
 - Argonaut's propeller
 - C in TLC
 - Scot's woolen cap
 - Sushi restaurant soup
 - *Exclusive accommodation
 - Was in the hole
 - Highest volcano in Europe
 - Angry growl
 - Dry riverbed
 - "_____ gol"
 - Adored one
 - *Jong of "Fear of Flying" fame
 - Lowly laborer
 - Cone-shaped quarters
 - Time between classes
 - Dirty air
 - Hi-_____

- Skiers' ride
 - Scheduled to arrive
 - **_____ for takeoff
 - *Frost removal
 - Luxurious sheet fabric
 - It would
 - Synagogue scroll
 - Barely sufficient
 - General Services Administration
 - Movie "Home _____"
 - Reason to cram
 - Negative vote
 - Washer setting
- DOWN**
- Prickle on a fence
 - Equal to pi times r squared
 - Cheap form of payment?
 - Insect in adult stage
 - Dar es _____, Tanzania
 - Traveled on a horse
 - Not amateur
 - Hajj destination
 - Like kittens' mittens
 - "The Sun _____ Rises" by Hemingway
 - Thailand, once
 - Tofu bean, pl.
 - Walkways
 - "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard _____
 - Dot-com address
 - Wrestling match, e.g.

- *Air traffic control feature
- Fully informed
- Army doctor
- Traffic sign
- _____ of measurement
- Rock bottom
- Search blindly
- Island off Manhattan
- Vegas cube
- H or O in H₂O, e.g.
- Opposite of cathode
- Obliquely
- Knightly title
- Slash's instrument
- Make believe
- Cause for food recall
- Attention-getting sound
- Gym class test?
- *Captain's announcement, plural acronym
- Porter order
- June 6, 1944
- Type of #14 Cross
- Grannies, in UK
- Clarified butter
- *PreCheck org.

FIND THE SOLUTIONS IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Gwamma by JaNel M. Farnsworth



Newcastle City Council Minutes

NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS MINUTES MONDAY MAY 1, 2023

Mayor Gualtieri called this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Those present were Council members Don Steveson, Ann McColley, Daren Downs, Tyrel Owens, John Butts and Tom Voss. Also present were, City Attorney Dublin Hughes, Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff, City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty and Police Chief Charles Bowles via phone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Tom Voss to approve the agenda. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Don Steveson moved, seconded Ann McColley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and executive session of Monday, April 17, 2023 and public meeting of April 26, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION: Frida's House, opening of new business. Bent Sprockets for their work on trails and promoting Newcastle.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION: None CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—IN WRITING:

Weston County Children's Center requested seasonal sewer forgiveness. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

The Church on the Hill requested the release of utility easement on an undeveloped street formerly known as Lee Street. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Ann McColley to release the utility easement. MOTION CARRIED.

CITIZEN'S BUSINESS—VERBAL: None MAYOR/COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor Gualtieri read a proclamation proclaiming May 2023 as Historic Preservation Month.

Mayor Gualtieri referenced a resignation letter from Travis Peterson. Mr. Peterson stated in his letter, that due to potential conflict with his position as the City's arborist and his position on the Tree Board, he had decided to resign from the Tree Board. Tyrel moved, seconded Ann McColley to accept this resignation. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Gualtieri reported that forming an Ambulance District had been mentioned at the meeting held on April 26, 2023. She asked the Council if the formation of such a district should be brought to the County Commissioners. Tom Voss moved, seconded Tyrel Owens to move forward with the possibility of forming such a district. MOTION CARRIED.

Council Woman Ann McColley stated that she would like the City to implement some type of community clean-up. Ann McColley moved, seconded Don Steveson to allow residents one free dump at the City landfill for each of the months of June and September with proof of a City utility bill. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Gualtieri referenced a retirement resignation letter from Dispatcher, Melissa Stubbs. Ms. Stubbs letter stated that her last working day would be May 27, 2023 using vacation through July 1, 2023. Don Steveson moved, seconded Tom Voss to accept this resignation. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor Gualtieri read Ordinance No. 1, Series 2023 which heading reads AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TERRITORY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION DATED JANUARY 18, 2023. Tyrel Owens moved, seconded Don Steveson to pass Ordinance No. 1, Series 2023 on third and final reading. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Attorney Dublin Hughes reported on a dispatch meeting held with County Attorney's, Sheriff Colvard, Chief Bridge and Chief Bowles referencing the rough draft of a proposal from the County. He stated that he believed the County was still leaning towards a Joint Powers

Board and requested the Council's approval to discuss the Joint Powers Board during negotiations. Tom Voss moved, seconded Don Steveson to approve this request. MOTION CARRIED.

City Clerk/Treasurer Stacy Haggerty reported that she had made contact with Jen Womack and Scott Thompson regarding website design. They will be submitting proposals and Ms. Haggerty will report back to the Council at the next meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Haggerty then referenced an email from Bob Bonnar regarding the 50 plus campaign. Mayor Gualtieri stated that two applications had been received for the City Planner position.

Public Works Supervisor Greg Stumpff reported that cyber security requirements and some of the lead and copper rule revisions are not being done until next year, current lead and copper sample site will be used this year. Cell B lagoon cleaning should be done by the end of June. Mr. Stumpff stated that it had been brought to his attention that the cemetery expansion was a foot short on one side, they are working with the engineer to resolve the issue. He then referenced provided reports. Mayor Gualtieri asked about the Senior High School Banners, they should be in next week.

Police Chief Charles Bowles reported on calls of service for the month of April 2023: WC Sheriff 286, Newcastle PD 428, Upton PD 111, Newcastle Ambulance 69, Upton Ambulance 11, Newcastle VFD 11, Upton FD 0 and WC Fire 44.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Councilman Owens thanked the Public Works Department for removing the box or statue from the new Police Department location. Councilwoman McColley asked if the Community Service Officer was still issuing citations. Clerk/Treasurer stated that she believed some citations were brought into City Hall earlier in the day.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY: Don Steveson moved, seconded Tom Voss to pay the claims against the City dated May 1, 2023. MOTION CARRIED. Tyrel moved, seconded Daren Downs to adjourn this regular meeting of the Newcastle City Council. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Claims: Advanced Communications, phone case, \$25.00; Advanced Drug Testing, random testing, \$78.00; AT&T Mobility, PD cell phones, \$361.81; Bomgaars, supplies, \$4,959.67; Campbell County EMS, ambulance services, \$8,333.33; Century Link, E911, \$954.84; Chuck Bowles, supplies/mileage, \$363.53; City of Newcastle, sw/wa/ga, \$630.38; Civic Plus, updates/support, \$555.49; CRM Architecture, PW building, \$4,750.00; Display Sales, decorations, \$4,864.12; Douglas Dumbrill, municipal judge/mileage, \$1,078.40; Energy Laboratories, analysis, \$256.00; Farnsworth Services, contracted drainage, \$36,050.00; Fisher Sand and Gravel, gravel/concrete rock, \$5,763.12; Hughes Law, attorney fees, \$3,500.00; Mastercard, supplies/fuel/training, \$5,758.82; Tonia Mills, training, \$286.21; Newcastle Ace Hardware, supplies, \$221.11; NVFD, supplies, \$1,994.50; Lisa Oakley, deposit refund, \$157.78; Powerphone, training, \$329.00; Projex, email hosting, \$207.36; Rick's Electric, repairs, \$2,345.00; Genell Rothleutner, PD cleaning services, \$200.00; Salt Creek Water District, sewer services, \$555.00; Michael Staiger, mileage, \$342.50; Bryand Streeter, May distribution, \$1,333.33; Lucky Teigen-Grummons, FD cleaning services, \$300.00; Torgerson's, parts, \$1,553.16; Amy Vanhorn, deposit refund, \$26.69; Verizon, PW cell phones, \$380.72; Becky Vodopich, cleaning services, \$300.00; Volunteers of America, service provider distribution, \$4,875.00; Western Water Service, potable drinking water, \$70.00; WC Treasurer, PD energy/phone services/handling charge, \$1,115.41; WC Weed & Pest, supplies, \$3,468.00.

Pam Gualtieri, Mayor ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy Haggerty

(Publish May 11, 2023)

Newcastle City Council Minutes

ORDINANCE NO. 1, SERIES 2023

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING TERRITORY DESCRIBED IN THE PETITION FOR ANNEXATION, DATED JANUARY 18, 2023.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING:

SECTION 1: ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY The City Council of the City of Newcastle does hereby annex the following described real property and improvements pursuant to the Petition for Annexation originally dated January 18th, 2023 and filed with the City Clerk:

A tract of land located in the SE 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 19, Township 45 North, Range 61 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Weston County, Wyoming, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 1 1/2" aluminum cap marking the intersection of the east right-of-way line of Christensen Drive and the north line of the City Limits of the City of Newcastle, which lies S 88°33'36" W, along the said north city limits line, 208.7 feet from an axle hub, the basis of bearing for this description;

Thence N 01°15'06" W, 389.09 feet to a 1 1/2" aluminum cap;

Thence N 88°37'34" E, 774.46 feet a 1 1/2" aluminum cap;

Thence N 88°33'19" E, 143.10 feet to a "Cap"; Thence S 01°26'41" E, 137.15 feet to a "Cap"; Thence S 88°33'19" W, 143.10 feet to a "Cap"; Thence S01°26'41" E, 284.90 feet to a 1" pipe on said City limits line;

Thence 89°15'32" W, along said City Limits Line, 417.76 feet to a "Cap";

Thence S 88°44'06" W along said City Limits Line, 149.43 feet to a "Cap";

Thence N 01°16'27" W along said City Limits Line, 28.30 feet to an axle hub;

Thence S 88°33'36" W along said North City Limits Line, 208.70 feet to the point of beginning. Said tract of land encompasses 7.76 acres.

SECTION 2: COMPLIANCE WITH WYOMING STATUTE §15-1-403

The Petition for Annexation filed with the City Clerk is signed and dated by all landowners owning the area sought to be annexed and contains a legal description of the area sought to be annexed, a request for the described property be annexed, a statement each signer is an owner of land and description of her land within the area proposed to be annexed and contained a map of

the area all in compliance with Wyoming Statute §15-1-403.

SECTION 3: COMPLIANCE WITH WYOMING STATUTE §15-1-403(c)(d)

The Newcastle City Clerk within ten (10) days from the date the Petition for Annexation was filed determined the Petition substantially complied with the requirements of Wyoming Statute §15-1-403 and certified compliance of the Petition pursuant to the provisions of Wyoming Statute §15-1-403(d).

SECTION 4: PUBLIC HEARING

The governing body of the City of Newcastle established a date, time and place for a public hearing to determine if the proposed annexation complies with the provisions of Wyoming Statute §15-1-402 and at the public hearing determined the following:

1. Annexation of the area proposed would enhance the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the persons residing in the area and in the city or town;

2. The urban development of the area sought to be annexed would constitute a natural geographical, economical and social part of the City of Newcastle;

3. The area sought to be annexed is a logical and feasible addition to the City of Newcastle and the extension of basic and other services customarily available to residents of the City of Newcastle can reasonably be furnished to the area proposed to be annexed.

4. The area sought to be annexed is contiguous with or adjacent to the City of Newcastle; and

5. The City of Newcastle is prepared and does hereby designate Charter Communications, Black Hills Energy, and Range Communications Wyoming utility cooperatives and corporations serving Weston County, Wyoming, to serve the annexed area pursuant to Wyoming Statute §15-1-410.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 1st day of May, 2023.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE Pam Gualtieri, Mayor ATTEST: City Clerk/Treasurer, Stacy Haggerty

(Publish May 11, 2023)

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please note that Goshen HELP DBA WYO HELP a 501(c)3 is providing public notice regarding the FFY 2024 Community Services Block Grant Application for the following counties: Carbon, Crook, Goshen, Niobrara, Washakie, and Weston.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) will provide funds to assist low-income individuals and/or families through FFY 2024 (October 1st 2023 – September 30th 2024) with an expected grant total of \$278,369. The totals by county are Carbon - \$81,348, Crook - \$22,580, Goshen - \$83,192, Niobrara - \$118,509,

Washakie - \$41,103, and Weston - \$31,637. A meeting will be held May 24th, 2023 at 6pm via Zoom. You may register to attend at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0rf-GsTKiGtVmyi981VKb9QOPFmVwZhV

A link will also be available at www.wyohelp.com.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information for the suggested services, programs, and staffing for the CSBG grant awarded to the forementioned counties under the direction of WYO HELP.

(Publish May 11 and 18, 2023)

WCSD#1 Warrants

WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1 GENERAL FUND WARRANTS OVER \$500 APRIL 2023

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name and Amount. Includes items like AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, CITY OF NEWCASTLE, CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE, ELDER EQUIPMENT LEASING OF WYO, JUDGE ROTENBERG CENTER, INC., LUBNAU LAW, MARCO TECHNOLOGIES LLC, MASTERCARD, NEWCASTLE LODGE & CONVENTION, NEWS LETTER JOURNAL, NORCO LLC, OETC STORE, PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC, POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORP, REALITYWORKS, SCHOOL NURSE SUPPLY, INC, SYSCO MONTANA INC, UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC, VERIZON WIRELESS, ANN WEHRI, WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, WYDOT - FINANCIAL SERVICES, WYOMING REFINING COMPANY, BLACK HILLS ENERGY, BLACK HILLS ENERGY, COMFORT INN - EVANSVILLE, DECKER'S MARKET, EASTERN WYOMING EQUIPMENT COMPANY, FRONTIER HOME RANCH AND HARDWARE, EMILY HISER, LAND SURVEYING INCORPORATED, MARCO, MASTERCARD, MASTERCARD, MIDWEST VACUUMS, NORCO LLC, NORTHEAST WYOMING, POWERSCHOOL GROUP LLC, SLEEP INN SUITES.

Table with 2 columns: Vendor Name and Amount. Includes items like SUMMIT BODYWORKS, WCSD - FOOD SERVICE, WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, WESTON COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES, WOODY'S, WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ED, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, MASTERCARD, NEWS LETTER JOURNAL, SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR - 30, MASTERCARD, MASTERCARD, WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, FRIENDS OF THE WESTON COUNTY FAIR, BLACK HILLS ENERGY, BLACK HILLS ENERGY, WESTON COUNT SCHOOL DISTRICT, WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, SYSCO MONTANA INC, SYSCO MONTANA INC, PRAIRIE FARMS, SYSCO MONTANA INC, WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, BLACK HILLS PLUMBING & HEATING, LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC, LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, INC, BRANDON WILSON, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, WESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CHECKING ACCOUNT TOTAL, GRAND TOTAL.

(Publish May 11, 2023)

Advertisement for News Letter Journal with 'ARCHIVE' and 'NOTICES' tabs. Text: 'No Subscription? NO PROBLEM! View all of Our Public Notices for FREE at newsfj.com Just click on the 'NOTICES' tab at the top of our Home Page and Scroll Away! (or search by keyword if you're so inclined 😊)'

Advertisement for 'SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM'. Text: 'The newspaper ties a region together, helps make sense of itself, fosters a sense of community, serves as a village square whose boundaries transcend Facebook's filter bubble.' - Margaret Sullivan, 'Ghosting The News'. Includes 'Relevance Project' logo and contact info: (307) 746-2777 • 14 W. Main St., Newcastle, WY 82701

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 Multi family yard sale every Fri & Sat starting May 12 through May 27th. Every Wed, starting May 17-May 31, 8-4pm. Fabric, sewing stuff, tools, office supplies, furniture, kitchen stuff, home decor, etc!

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Hope Dealers

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

Veterans

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

COMMUNITY Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

TOPS

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

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Weston County Job Opening

The Weston County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for **MAINTENANCE MANAGER**. Performs work necessary to maintain all county facilities. Inspects and monitors building systems to determine cost-effective repairs and/or replacements. Will repair various items, systems, and components to ensure that all items are available and in safe working condition. Must evaluate preventative maintenance schedules to include fire protection, alarm systems, and other systems. Maintain outside grounds year round. Monitors work performed by independent contractors. Must respond to emergency situations and resolve any safety concerns. Occasional light cleaning. A detailed job description is available at westongov.com or the Weston County Clerk's Office. Starting pay between \$3,200-\$3,680 DOE with full county benefits.

Please submit a cover letter and resumé to the Clerk's Office at 1 West Main, Newcastle, WY 82701. Position will be open until filled. For questions, please call (307) 746-4744

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Custodial Positions

Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for evening custodians. 8 hrs./day, 40 hrs./week starting immediately. The hours are 2:00 pm- 10:30pm during the school year and daytime hours in the summer. Starting wage is \$17.08/hr. with benefits. Applications are available on the school website at wcsd1.org or at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Ave., Newcastle, WY., during normal office hours. Positions will be open until filled. EOE



CITY OF NEWCASTLE — NOW HIRING RECORDS CLERK



Records Clerk, Newcastle Police Department. Application may be obtained online at newcastlewyoing.org or at City Hall, 10 W. Warwick, Newcastle, WY 82701. (307) 746-3535

Accounts Payable Position

Weston County School District #1 is accepting applications for an accounts payable assistant. Applications are available on the school website at wcsd1.org or at the Administration Office, 116 Casper Avenue, Newcastle, WY. WCSD 1 is an E.O.E.



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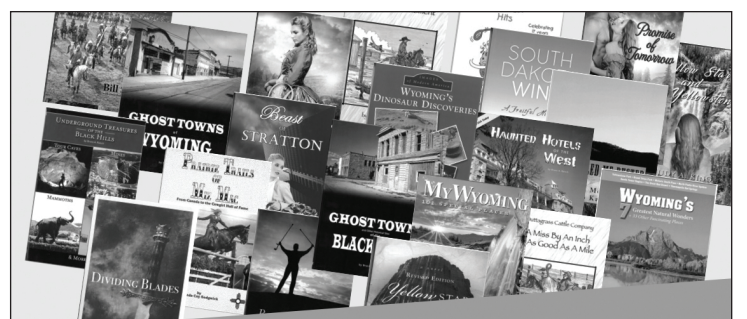
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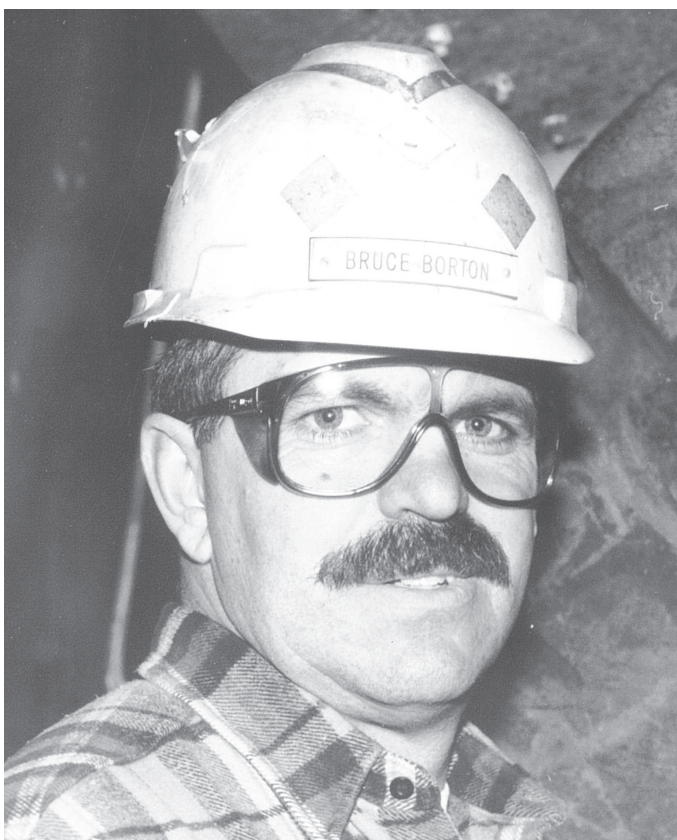
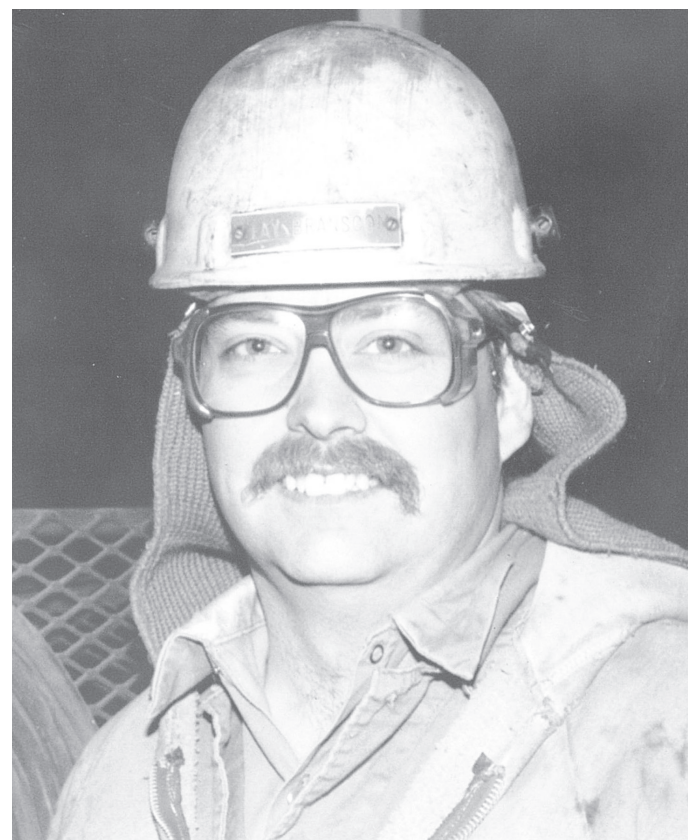
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BLAST FROM THE PAST



Here are photos from the News Letter Journal's archives. Subjects unknown. Email staff@newsnj.com to share any information about these photos or events.

CITY OF NEWCASTLE — NOW HIRING CITY PLANNER

This position is responsible for assisting in managing the day-to-day operations of the City of Newcastle, Wyoming.

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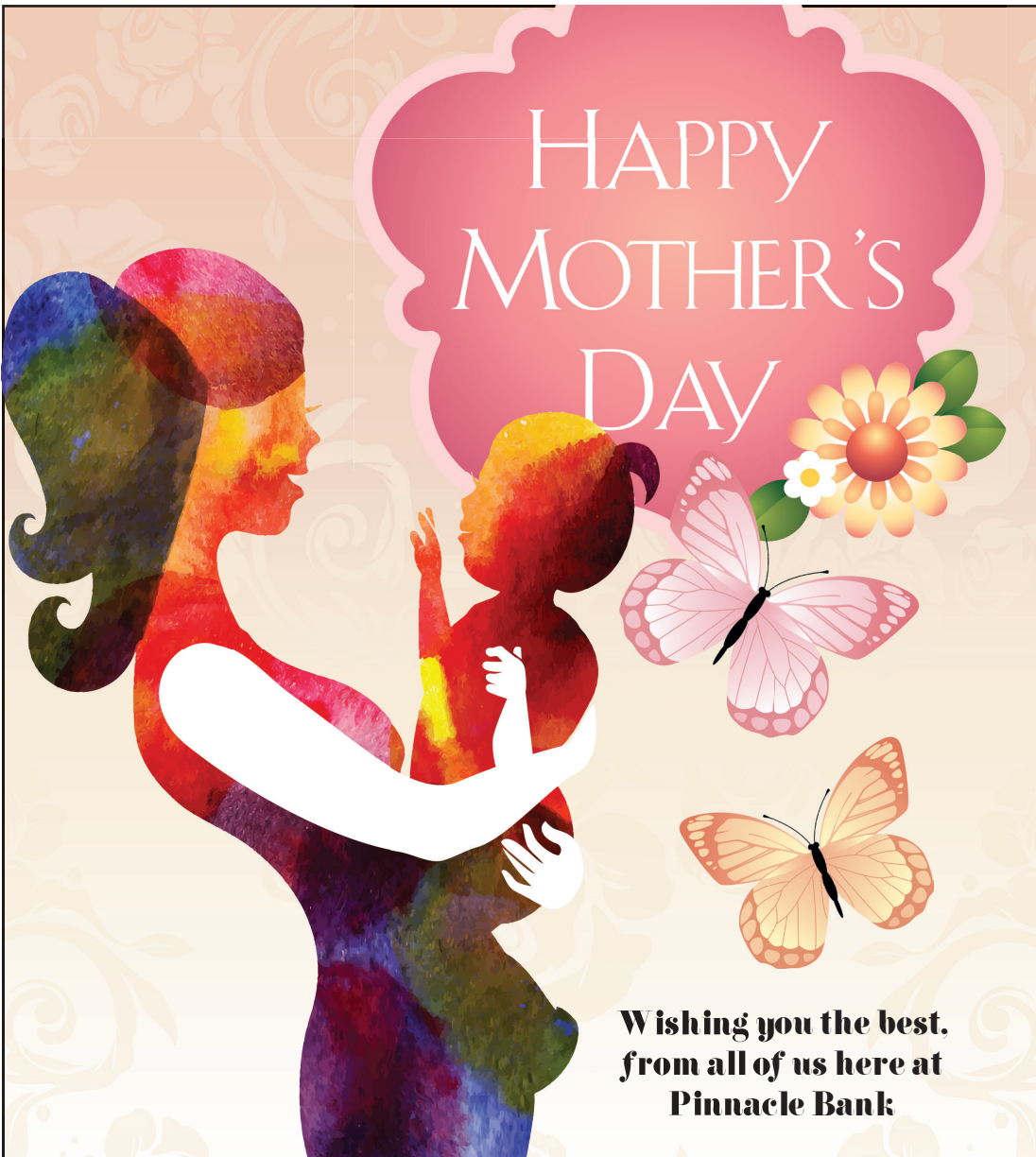
- Implement City Council policies, procedures, directives, and decisions
 - Create and submit grants on behalf of the City of Newcastle
 - Work with other city department heads on essential projects and work through grants and fundings available
 - Work with state and federal agencies
 - Perform related duties
- Knowledge Required by Position:**
- Public administration principles and practices
 - Relevant federal and state laws, local ordinances, and city rules and regulations
 - Functions and operations of city departments
 - Economic forecasting principles
 - Public relations principles
 - Skilled in project management and strategic planning
 - Skill in interpersonal relations and in dealing with the public
 - Skill in oral and written communication



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NHS Track & Field			
Newcastle @ Custer 5/2/23 Women's Individual Results:			
100M:	17. Savannah Carr 14.49 PR	19. Julie Morris 14.50	33. Taylor Conklin 15.26
200M:	39. Sara Huey 15.66	39. Taylor Conklin 34.50	100M Hurdles:
300M Hurdles:	2. Jaylen Ostenson 16.70	3. Jaylen Ostenson 50.82	4x100 Relay: 56.39
4x100 Relay:	4. Julie Morris, Elizabeth Rushton, Jaylen Ostenson, Taylor Conklin	Long Jump:	1. Julie Morris 14-03.5
Shot Put:	11. Julie Morris 29-04 PR	50. Veronica Ayers 16-09 PR	Discus:
5. Jaylen Ostenson 97-05	15. Elizabeth Rushton 79-02	Javelin:	1. Elizabeth Rushton 97-01
Men's Individual Results:	100M:	2. Holden McConkey 11.64 3AQ	4. Colton Vanderpool Mobley 11.78
10. Collin McConkey 12.17	22. Aiden Butler 12.51 PR	46. Jayden Corley 13.08 PR	50. Thomas Prell 13.17 PR
84. Drew Conzelman 14.17	200M:	2. Holden McConkey 24.04	5. Colton Vanderpool Mobley 24.80
8. Collin McConkey 25.17	19. Aiden Butler 26.17 PR	21. CJ Hardy 26.38 PR	61. Drew Conzelman 29.51
800M:	12. Logan Olson 2:28.84	1600M:	13. Logan Olson 5:33.31
110M Hurdles:	6. Elijah Morrill 18.84 PR	4x100M Relay: 45.41 3AQ	2. Colton Vanderpool Mobley, Collin McConkey, Casey Matthews, Holden McConkey 4x400M Relay: 3:51.17
2. Casey Matthews, Collin McConkey, CJ Hardy, Colton Vanderpool Mobley	High Jump:	3. CJ Hardy 5-09	Long Jump:
11. Jayden Corley 16-08	21. Elijah Morrill 15-05	34. Drew Conzelman 13-05	43. Aiden Green 7-03
Triple Jump:	4. Elijah Morrill 35-08.5	8. Jayden Corley 34-08 PR	15. Drew Conzelman 31-07.5
Pole Vault:	8. Casey Matthews 10-04 PR	12. Thomas Prell 8-04	Shot Put:
2. Jacob Prell 45-08.5 PR	13T. Nate Strickland 34-10 PR	13T. Holden McConkey 34-10	27. Dayne Evenson 33-04.5
32. Aiden Butler 32-06.5 PR	38. Ryan Fladstol 31-09.5	40. Jayden Corley 31-06 PR	53. Tayshaun Bynum 25-07 PR
56. Josiah Martinez 23-09 PR	Discus:	3. Nate Strickland 119-09 PR	10. Aiden Butler 100-09 PR
14. Jacob Prell 99-11 PR	32. Dayne Evenson 84-03	41. Douglas Pritchard 78-05 PR	56. Tayshaun Bynum 63-09
58. Josiah Martinez 55-00 PR	Newcastle @ Sundance 5/5/23 Women's Individual Results:	100M:	5. Julie Morris 14.79
9. Savannah Carr 15.06	15. Taylor Conklin 15.58	16. Sara Huey 15.64	200M:
14. Taylor Conklin 33.46 PR	3200M:	1. Aspen Bloom 13:21.02 PR	4x100M Relay: 58.05
3. Taylor Conklin, Savannah Carr, Julie Morris, Sara Huey	Long Jump:	6. Taylor Conklin 14-1	8. Savannah Carr 13-2
9. Sara Huey 12-9	Shot Put:	4. Julie Morris 27-11	19. Veronica Ayers 16-3
Men's Individual Results:	100M:	1. Holden McConkey 11.88	2. Colton Vanderpool Mobley 11.97
4. Collin McConkey 12.26	200M:	1. Holden McConkey 24.04	3. Colton Vanderpool Mobley 24.73
4. Collin McConkey 24.84	400M:	1. Colton Vanderpool Mobley 53.62	8. Jayden Corley 59.12
14. Drew Conzelman 1:05.32	1600M:	5. Logan Olson 5:28.99	110M Hurdles:
3. Elijah Morrill 18.57 PR	1. Colton Vanderpool Mobley, Collin McConkey, Casey Matthews, Holden McConkey 4x400M Relay: 3:59.08	4. Aiden Butler, Collin McConkey, CJ Hardy, Casey Matthews Sprint Medley Relay 4:24.96	6. Aiden Butler, CJ Hardy, Casey Matthews, Thomas Prell
High Jump:	1. CJ Hardy 6-00 3AQ	Long Jump:	1. Jayden Corley 17-04.5
9. Elijah Morrill 15-10 PR	13. Drew Conzelman 14-07.5	Triple Jump:	5. Elijah Morrill 37-09
7. Jayden Corley 36-10.5	13. Drew Conzelman 33-00	Pole Vault:	1. Casey Matthews 10-10 PR
8. Thomas Prell 9-4	Shot Put:	1. Jacob Prell 42-07.5	5. Holden McConkey 36-05
11. Ryan Fladstol 32-05.5	14. Dayne Evenson 31-05.5	Discus:	5. Nate Strickland 188-11
9. Jacob Prell 106-10 PR	22. Aiden Butler 81-01	25. Dayne Evenson 79-09	

Track from Page 9

and also had a PR in the shot. Casey Matthews was eighth in Pole Vault, soaring over the bar at 10-04, which is a PR for the junior, while Eli Morrill was sixth with a personal best time of 18.84 seconds in the 110 Meter Hurdles and fourth in Triple Jump.

Holden McConkey, Colton Vanderpool Mobley and Collin McConkey finished in the top 10 in both the 100 and 200 Meter races, with Holden finishing second place in both, while the 4x100 and 4x400 Relay teams also finished second place in their respective events.

"Lizzie only gets to compete in the javelin in South Dakota, so it was awesome that she won it," Ostenson said. "Jacob Prell threw his best in the Shot Put by almost three feet and he had a good day, and Holden is just getting stronger and stronger every day."

In Sundance on Friday, the weather threw a bit of a monkey wrench into the mix as there were five lightning delays, so a lot of starting and stopping throughout the day.

"It also rained hard for a while, so that was all a little frustrating," Ostenson said. "But then the sun came out and we did some good stuff, but we just had to be patient all day. The kids did a good job handling that."

Though there were fewer personal bests posted in Sundance, more athletes finished in the top 10.

Morris and Carr were fifth and ninth, respectively, in the 100 Meter, Conklin ran a PR in the 200 Meter race, while Aspen Bloom won the two-mile race in a personal best time of 13:21.02.

Conklin, Carr and Sarah Huey finished sixth, eighth and ninth, respectively, in Long Jump, while Morris placed fourth in Shot Put.

Once again, Holden McConkey, Vanderpool Mobley and Collin McConkey were top finishers in the 100 Meter, crossing the line in first, second and fourth, and in the 200 they finished in the same order but this time in first, third and fourth.

"The story in Sundance was the sprinters' finishes in the 100 and 200," Ostenson said. "Colton picked up another event running the 400 where he finished first, and I think he's going to be pretty solid in that event."

Vanderpool Mobley won the 400 Meter Dash, while Corley was eighth, and Logan Olson took fifth in the mile run. Morrill improved his time in the 110 Meter Hurdles once again as he finished third with a time of 18:57, and he also PR'd in the Long Jump where he finished ninth with a leap of 15-10. Morrill continued his success with a fifth-place finish in Triple Jump.

Hardy won the High Jump event, matching his previous personal best leap of six feet. Corley also leaped well, taking fourth in Long Jump and seventh in the Triple Jump, while Thomas Prell flew over the bar in the Pole Vault, clearing 9-4.

"Taylor improved in the Long Jump by nearly two feet," Ostenson said. "It was also really great that CJ hit six feet again in the High Jump as we are getting closer to state [tournament]."

Casey Matthews improved his personal best from the Custer meet on Tuesday by soaring over the bar in the Pole Vault at 10-10, which also earned him first place. Jacob Prell won the Shot Put, and threw a PR in Discus with a 106-10 toss, Nate Strickland finished fifth in the Discus, and Holden McConkey was also fifth in Shot Put.

This week the squad will head to Rawlins for the 3A East Regional meet on Friday and Saturday.

If athletes haven't pre-qualified for state they have to finish in the top eight in their event at regionals, and they must be entered in the event to go if they have pre-qualified.

Calling photographers

**Did you attend an event and take photographs?
Would you like to share them with the community?
Send your high resolution photos to design@newsli.com for an opportunity to see them in print!**

(Must include name of photographer; who, what, where the event took place; and names of people in photos. No watermarks, please. Credit will be given to photographer; photographer retains all rights to images. Publishing of submissions are based on space available; submission does not guarantee placement.)



Thank you, for your service.

Farnsworth Services would like to invite all veterans and their families to an **Appreciation Dinner** on **May 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at their shop building on 58 Fairgrounds Rd.

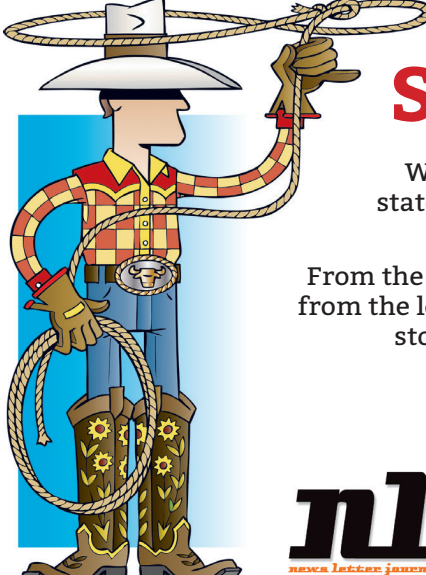


WCSD #1 art show

Thursday, May 11, 5:30-8PM
Friday, May 12, 4-8PM

PLUS: Silent Auction of artwork with proceeds to Art Department's Activity Fund + Raffle to support Woodshop's Lumber Activity Fund.

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