



DOUGLAS BUDGET

\$1⁰⁰

Wednesday,
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WSF plays musical chairs with schedule

PRCA Rodeo set for opening Sunday night

By BETH WOOD
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Traditionally, the popular demo derby has opened the Wyoming State Fair and the PRCA rodeos have helped close it out. This year, those are being swapped, and that is only one of the many scheduling changes in store Aug. 13-20.



JAMES GOODRICH

"It all started with moving the rodeos," Wyoming State Fair Director James Goodrich said. "We wanted to draw more contestants, so that meant timing our rodeos between other rodeos in the area."

Last year, the PRCA rodeos were Thursday and Friday, but this year they will be Sunday and Monday (Aug. 14-15).

Along with that, the ranch rodeo will move from the final Saturday to the first Saturday and the Douglas Volunteer Fire Department's demo derby jumps from the first Saturday to the final weekend.

"I think it worked out pretty well," Goodrich said. "The arena condition is critical and that's all at the beginning of the week now with the ranch rodeo and the PRCA rodeos. It was always a killer before with the various events every night."

"Things aren't complicated this year, they are just involved."

The ranch rodeo state finals will kick off the fair Aug. 13, followed by the PRCA rodeos Aug. 14-15. Tuesday holds kids spec-

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Want fun this week? You got it

It all starts Wednesday, and the fun just keeps on coming through the weekend.

The Jackpot Team Roping hits the arena at noon Wednesday to kick off the 2016 Wyoming High School State Rodeo Finals at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

On Thursday, be sure to catch more high school rodeo action beginning with the first go at 8:30 a.m.

June 9 also marks Railroad Days at Locomotive Park, beginning with a free hotdog lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a ribeye steak dinner at 6 - 8 p.m. with music by local favorites, the Saggy Bottom Boys.

The fun continues Friday with more rodeo action beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the second go and continuing throughout the day with more events.

That night, run off all that extra food you ate while supporting a good cause at the third annual Jackalope Color Run, which begins at Peak Fitness, 1185 Yuma Drive, at 6 p.m.

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FUN
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'These streets are killing me'

MY FATHER'S FLAG

Homeless traveler carries memories of his own hero from town to town

By JENNIFER KOCHER
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John Callis has a simple dream: a job and a home for his son. Like many others living in the shadows of the economic downturn, John has neither. For now, he is pitching his tent in Riverside Park as he looks for opportunities in Douglas, a city he'd like to call home. After years of living on the streets, this 52-year-old Missouri native is blown away by the kindness of a community which has welcomed him despite the blemishes

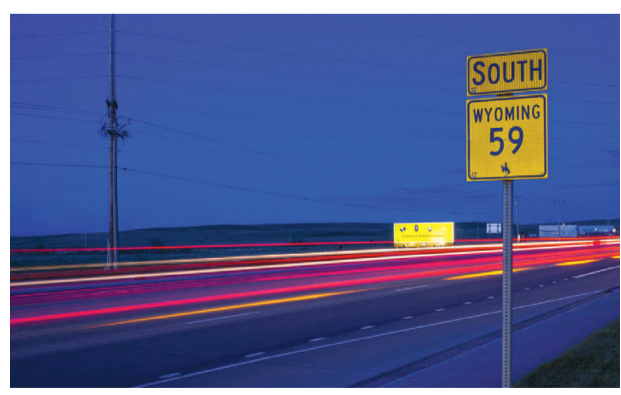
and scars of his past. Sitting in a folded camp chair in Riverside Park, the North Platte River swells behind him after a season of record snow and rain fall, an abundance that stands in direct contrast to the region's economy as increasingly more and more people leave the area in search of work. He found Douglas by accident just over a week ago after a couple picked him up on the side of the highway as he hitched his way from Casper, where he'd spent the past couple of weeks

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John Callis has been homeless for decades and is now calling Riverside Park in Douglas home. Because of the way he has been treated in his newly adopted town, he hopes to call the Jackalope City home for good.

WYO 59 gets seven more passing lanes



Ed Glazar/ Gillette News Record photo
Motorists head south out of Gillette toward Wright Thursday night on Highway 59.

By the GILLETTE NEWS-RECORD

The monthly average traffic on Highway 59 has dropped by more than 22 percent from last year, by far the largest percentage increase or decrease of any highway in the state.

The decrease largely can be attributed to a reduction in the area's workforce because of dramatic declines in the coal, oil and gas industries.

That leads to fewer people needing to commute to coal

mines or oil and gas fields and to being more frugal about taking road trips, said Josh Jundt, resident engineer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation in Gillette.

The average traffic count is documented on the Wyoming Department of Transportation's website.

From the Montana state line south to Gillette, the average monthly traffic dropped by an average of 245 cars last month, or a 14.72 percent decrease.

South from Gillette, the traffic dropped an average of 18.51 percent.

The stretch of highway between Gillette and Wright is down 20.73 percent so far this year.

The average monthly traffic from Wright to Douglas dropped by 35.56 percent as oil field drilling and activity

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HWY 59
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This week's weather

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
High	91	94	95	92	88
Low	57	59	61	59	52

It's time to TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS - JUNE 11TH 2016
A DOWNTOWN DOUGLAS FESTIVAL

CAR SHOW PANCAKE BREAKFAST KIDS FEST.
TOUCH A TRUCK DODGE BALL VENDORS
STREET DANCE HISTORIC WALK...and more!

HOSTED BY
DOWNTOWN DOUGLAS

Check out what is happening this weekend!
See inside for more information.

Monday June 12
BIG SUMMER 2016 BLOCK PARTY

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT INFLATABLES,
KIDS FISH POND, PHOTO BOOTH, GAMES,
BINGEE TRAMPOLINE, FREE FOOD AND
TREATS - ITALIAN SOUS, GOTTEN CANALS,
HOTWINGS, SNOCONES, AND MUCH MORE!

1 PM TO 7 PM



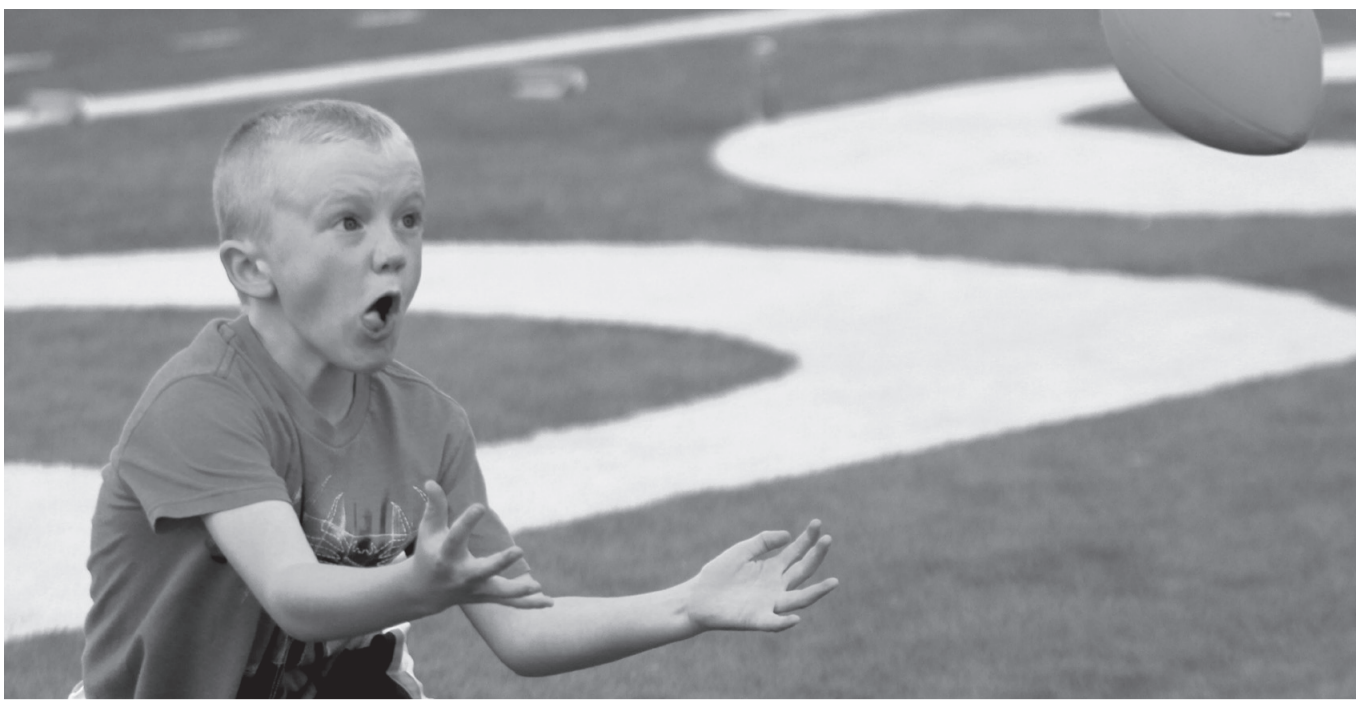
CRADLE CALL

Kayli Crook announces the birth of her son, **Maddox James Gordon**, on May 30, 2016, at Memorial Hospital of Converse County. He weighed 6 lbs.

Maternal grandparents are Kristi Marcus of Douglas and Brad Crook of Casper. Maternal step-grandparents are Sarah Crook of Casper and Ryan Marcus of Douglas. He joins brother Greyson Stotsky, 2, at home.

Victor Caballero, Jr., and Breann Kinney announce the birth of their son, **Jaxon Grey Caballero**, on May 23, 2016, at Memorial Hospital of Converse County. He weighed 5 lbs., 0.9 oz.

Maternal grandparents are Maryanne Kinney of Rainier, Oregon, and Shannon Kinney of Farson. Paternal grandparents are Juana and Victor Caballero of Douglas.



Cody Tucker photos

Tristan Rinn awaits a pass from a classmate during the annual Douglas Primary School field day at Bearcat Stadium. Hundreds of students littered the field, competing in everything from football to field hockey to close out the school year.

TAKING IT OUTSIDE



Savannah Erickson (above) tries her best to keep her balance after taking a big scoop of water, while Gavin Kindle (photo at left) dances as he waits in line.



Andrew Cook (from left) and Darren Aguilar-Caballero smack a ball down the lane on the Cats' baseball field, while Natalie Rodriguez (photo at left) launches a pass during a football drill.

You are invited to join the family of Doris Boyson in celebration of her **90th Birthday** on Saturday, June 11 at the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. *no gifts please*

Converse County 4H/FFA Market Sale

Will accept applications to receive donated meat from non-profit organizations who serve the

Converse County public. The 2016 Converse County 4-H /FFA Fair Market Sale will be held **Friday, July 22, 2016, at 6PM**

Applications will be available at the 4-H Office beginning Thursday, June 8 2016. Completed applications are due to the 4-H Office by 4PM Monday, June 27, 2016.

Applications will be reviewed and approved. Non-profit organizations who are approved will be notified.



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Geoffrey & Tiffany Gorman



Father's flag

from page A-1

working for a lawn company until the work dried up and he moved on.

He liked Casper but it's nothing like Douglas, where, despite being a homeless drifter, the community has welcomed him with open arms. In a town where people host fundraisers to help out families with mounting medical bills, food banks open their doors weekly to provide for families in need and individuals and companies buy pool passes for families who cannot afford them, John notes a kindness that doesn't exist where he comes from.

He points to his new orange tent and a pile of food and plastic bottles of water, all of which have been donated to him in the few days that he's been in town. Prior to this, he'd slept on the cement floor in the public bathroom under a thread-bare cotton blanket. Now, however, thanks to an outpouring of support from a social media post, John sleeps in an oversized, negative -35 degree sleeping bag.

His first day in town, a fellow pulled up in a white pickup truck and gave him \$20 when he spotted John sitting on a picnic table with a triangular glass encased military honor flag on his lap.

The flag—which belonged to his foster father—is the only possession John carries beside a backpack stuffed with clothes and basic necessities. He's burned his father's name and birthdate across the bottom: "William E. Callis 1934."

His father was in Vietnam from start to finish, he tells those who stop to help.

John asserts that he himself was a lieutenant in the Army, having served two tours in Afghanistan in the sniper's division; though no proof of that exists because, he claims, his records were burned or lost. He said he was medically discharged several years ago when doctors diagnosed him with stage IV colon cancer, which, according to John, he's lived with for the past decade. The Army also provided him with culinary training, he said.

"Cooking's in my blood," he says with a slight southern drawl, which he credits to his early life in North Carolina. "My aunts and momma were all good cooks."

In fact, if he had his druthers, he'd like to find a job in Douglas cooking. He plans to put in an application at the Plains, he said to himself out loud. The Plains is filled with history, and he's spent hours already in the upstairs museum taking it all in.

But he'll work anywhere, he said.

"I need work. I am ready for a home, to sleep in a bed, maybe watch some TV," he shrugs, pulling on his long grey ponytail. "These streets are killing me."

He said he mostly wants to reconnect with his teenage boy, who is currently staying with an aunt in Colorado Springs.

His daughter just died. "Elizabeth Faith Rose Callis." He looks down at his feet as he rubs his knees.

Apparently, she was born with Cockayne syndrome (CS), also called Neill-Dingwall syndrome, a rare autosomal recessive neurodegenerative disorder that is characterized by growth failure, impaired development of the nervous system, abnormal sensitivity to sunlight (photosensitivity), eye disorders and leads to premature aging. She died just over two months ago at age 11.

"She looked like an 80-year-old woman." John wipes a tear out of his eye with the back of his hand. "She was two pounds when she was born at 28 weeks. It took the doctors a year and a half to figure it out."

He rattles off weight losses and gains over the course of his daughter's short life, which in the end didn't matter because the disease took her life.

He stares with blue watery eyes at something in the distance and begins talking about how he found his real father last year. To his surprise, John claims, his father is a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, the chief of his tribe, called Chief White Wolf. John is Little Wolf, he said, and when his father dies, John will become chief of his father's tribe in North Carolina.

Following John's life story gets confusing as his words tumble over one another as he excitedly delves into different parts of his past with superlative embellishments, beginning with his early life growing up on a farm where he milked 350 cows in the morning before running 10 miles to school. He was also the best football player on his high school team and had college and professional coaches and scouts looking at him. He's cut down whole trees by himself and graduated at the top of his class.

He's also spent several decades living on the street and in homeless shelters in parts of the country, Missouri in particular, which, according to John, was far less hospitable to the homeless, those with a streak of bad luck who were just trying to keep a job and a leg up in life.

"People spit in my face," he says, choking back tears. "They didn't show kindness or love and they should have. I was a hometown boy, and it just about broke my heart."

The kindness of people in Douglas humbles him beyond words, and he's going to do everything he can to find a job and stay in a place where, for the first time in his life, he feels welcome.

"You people have been a Godsend," he says, smiling as he displays a bottom row of crooked teeth. "The love and kindness people have for me here has blown me away. It's overwhelming the love and respect people have given me."

In the end, landing in Douglas, much like all the other events that have befallen him in his life, both good and bad, he credits to God and His greater plan.

"I put it all in the hands of the Lord," he said, squinting into the first pink traces of early morning sun as the clouds dissipate in the steely gray sky. "Anything is possible through the eyes of God."

'You people have been a Godsend.'

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