





**SPORTS Lady Cats roll** through Newcastle, Wheatland

# OUGLAS BUDGET

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Vol. 130 No. 06



Mae and George Smith stand outside of their downtown bakery Monday morning. The couple has run the Home Bakery on Third Street for 51 years.



**Bv JEN KOCHER** jen@douglas-budget.com

'I told that little doll (at the hospital) that I'm 82 years old and up until then I thought my health was pretty damn good.' George Smith admitting he was eating six or seven donuts a day



eorge Smith looks forward to Saturdays. Tit's a day for visiting and catching up with locals. Not too many people rushing in just to grab a dozen donuts before zipping off to work.

This morning has been a bit more hectic than usual. It's the first Saturday he's been open in nearly four months.

It's clear his customers have missed him.

"What can I get for you, young lady?" George asks, leaning against the glass counter in his trademark

A young girl leans against her father's leg, biting her bottom lip as she scans the rows of donuts, inhaling the sweet sugary air. This is a crucial decision, and she wants to get it right.

The rectangle one. With the stuff on top.

Coconut sprinkles.

"Good choice," George tells her, handing her the white bag with her donut.

Her rosy cheeks widen into a

The bell on the door jingles as more customers walk in. A burst of sugary air greets them. It's not even 8 a.m., and already the case is starting to look a bit sparse.

Technically, he's not even supposed to be open yet, but George isn't strict with the schedule. If he's there, it's open. His wife Mae worries about that a bit, but George waves off any concern.

He knows his customers. He's been at this for 51 years.

Not all his customers are cute kids and ravenous, sugar-crazed adults.

In the back room, a tire-size mound of floury dough slowly expands toward the edges of a large wooden table. Round two of the morning begins. Round one started at 3 a.m. George has no idea how many dozens of sweet rolls he makes a day,

> Please see BAKERY, page A-2

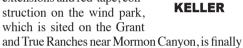
## sPower racing clock to start on Pioneer Wind Park

By SPIKE JORDAN spike@douglas-budget.com

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WIND PARK, page A-9

## Proposed K-12 cuts bring uncertainty to county schools

By Nick Balatsos nick@douglas-budget.com

Douglas Superintendent Dan Espeland is playing the waiting game this month.

About a hundred miles away in Cheyenne, lawmakers are debating whether to cut \$45 million from school

Espeland, meanwhile, is waiting for the legislative dust to settle to see how his district will fare financially.

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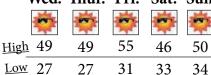


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Emry Igo, 5, celebrates a Denver touchdown in Super Bowl **50 Sunday afternoon.** See A-8



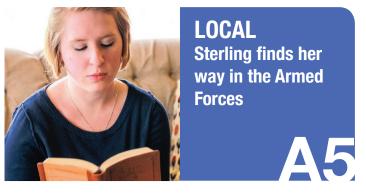














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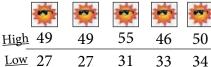


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### Bakery

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The peacocks, of course, aren't the only ones who've missed George's confections. A staple in downtown Douglas for decades, Home Bakery is the last original business of its era. George is determined to keep it running.

"The community needs it," he says in his trademark booming voice - an oddity coming out of a man barely topping 5 foot and change with a slight frame.

His baking area is expansive and, like George himself, refreshingly corporate-free. There are no signs on the walls reminding you to wash your hands. No time clocks or lists of rules. It feels more like grandma's kitchen. Clean and homey. A pair of recliners flank a coffee table covered with coffee mugs and an open newspaper. A barely audible television set on top of a cabinet is tuned to

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Out front, their 17-year-old great-granddaughter Kylee runs the front counter as she does on Saturdays while George fidgets with various chores around the kitchen.

"He can't sit still," Mae laughs. "He's always got to be moving."

Last Saturday morning, he was getting ready to install a couple of new sinks that are on their way here from Nevada, paid for by Mae's earnings from a recent trip to Vegas where she'd gotten lucky on the slots.

"This was a big win for me," Mae said, describing several hours at a slot machine. "I'm cheap so I stick to the quarters."

"I didn't ask her how much it cost her to win," George smiles, shaking his head.

Mae's happy to see her money go toward the sinks. It is, after all, a family operation and everyone has to do their part – even friends who happen by at the wrong moment.

A woman pokes her head around the corner into the kitchen and tells George and Mae that they better not be taking any more

'We've sure missed you," she says, walking over to give them both hugs.

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The cardiologist sure didn't like the sound of George's diet, which at the time had consisted of six or seven donuts in the morning with a cup of coffee.

"I thought that she was going to fall over when she heard that," George laughs, "but I told that little doll that I'm 82 years old and up until then I thought my health was pretty damn good."

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from the front page

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You do what you have to do to get through the busts in this oil and coal town, he says. He's seen a number of the booms and busts here during the last 51 years. The current one is just another one to him.

After all of these years of working, he hasn't really given retirement much thought, though he does enjoy fishing.

For now, he's just tickled to get up in the morning and watch the dough rise.

#### Popping for Prizes



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American Legion Post #8 Commander, Kandy Gorsuch, is poised to pop the last balloon in this year's Super Bowl fundraiser. For \$1, patrons bought balloons for a chance to win prizes with all proceeds going to Wyoming Cares, a statebased agency that provides assistance to Wyoming residents in need.

#### CALLING ALL INCOMING 2016/2017 **KINDERGARTNERS** (Parents/Legal Guardians) Kindergarten Roundup Douglas Primary School Library

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MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

of Converse County

Advanced Medicine. Hometown Care.

Thursday, February 25, 2016 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Primary School Library Last name beginning A - M 5:30 - 6:30

Last name beginning **N - Z** 6:30 - 7:30

Your child must be 5 on or before Sept. 15, 2016.
Bring the originals of your child's Birth Certificate, Immunizations, & Social Security Card. (We request that you do not bring non-kindergarten children)

# Rolling Hills house burglarized

By PHILLIP HARNDEN phillip@glenrockind.com

It was a shocking Sunday for one Rolling Hills resident who came home to find intruders had invaded his home.

Glenrock Police Department was notified of the burglary on Rimrock Road on

Sunday afternoon when the homeowner returned to find his home had been broken into.



JULIE **WICKETT** ing withheld while the investigation is underway. The victim had been gone for several days, making it difficult to narrow down the precise

day and time the theft occurred. "It appears to be a crime of opportunity," Police Chief Julie Wickett said. "I don't believe we have a serial burglar in town."

Investigators believe that at least

two people were involved. A large locked gun safe was moved, but the thieves were unable to get it out of the home. Some damage to walls occurred in the attempt.

Investigators also assume the thieves knew the victim was gone during the time the robbery took

Wickett doesn't anticipate more burglaries, but offered some tips to help protect against these types

Glenrock offers a vacation house watch list for those whose homes are going to remain empty for longer periods of time. Longer term vacationers or snowbirds may sign up, getting extra attention on their empty home, as well.

"For those who are going to be gone for a few days, we encourage them to request extra patrols," Wickett said. "We are happy to make those checks in Glenrock or Rolling Hills."

To request extra patrols, call dispatch and inform them of the dates you will be away, she added.

Wickett said some of these types of crime may be averted if patrolling officers know the house is supposed to be vacant.

"It gives them more information to investigate if when they see something that may otherwise seem normal," Wickett said.

GPD also advises alerting trustworthy friends and neighbors to your absence. They may notice suspicious activity before an officer is able to check during a routine stop.

More information on this crime will be released as it is available.

If you know anything about the burglary in Rolling Hills, please contact the Glenrock Police Department at 307-436-2777.

Dinner Salad

Dinner Roll

Cheesecake





### Bakery

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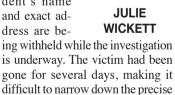
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