

City P&Z gives first nod to new assisted living facility

Neighbor: 'Douglas needs to roll ahead and get these types of facilities in place' By SANDRA MUDD sandra@douglas-budget.com

After years of planning and revising designs, the owners of Douglas Care Center have finally met the requirements of a conditional use permit to build an assisted living facility located at 1110 Birch Street next to the care center.

On Monday, the Douglas Planning & Zoning Commission unanimously approved the plan, which now be on the Douglas City Council's agenda Oct. 24 for consideration. The council has the final say whether to approved the permit and construction.

The Douglas Care Center and the new assisted living facility will be separate but owned by the same parent, company President Joe Rude said. The long-term care center has been at its current location for dozens of years, operating under a conditional use permit because it is in a residential neighborhood.

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Please see CARE CENTER, page A-7

Preparations for 2017 Solar Eclipse are underway

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The first question they are asking is this: Is your business ready for an event of this magnitude? The Wyoming Eclipse Festival team (which already includes Casper, Glenrock, Douglas and Esterbrook and is sure to include more communities) is working to get the ball rolling and to make sure the answer is "yes."

Their first planning meeting, called "Success On The Center Line," was held earlier this month in Casper. Participants talked about all the things businesses can do to make sure they are initiating best practices and offering ideas on how to prepare for and accommodate the influx of people. They



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Please see ECLIPSE, page A-5

Douglas woman charged with aggravated assault

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A Douglas woman will stand trial for aggravated assault after she allegedly threat-

ened to cut the throat of a man she lives with and bit him during an argument that turned physical.

Officers responded to a call in early September about a female who had been assaulted. Upon questioning, it was determined the two parties were arguing when Pamela S. Iverson, 51, allegedly threatened to cut



PAMELA IVERSON

the man's throat, according to records filed in Converse County Circuit Court. She then pulled out a knife and began to approach

> Please see ASSAULT, page A-2

Phillip Harnden photos

Tom Witten (left) kneels next to his bride, Willa Green, as they are married in their living room surrounded by Willa's family, including daughter Devlyn Green (top center) and son Brandon Green (right).

A dying wish Couple makes most of final moments, memories together

By JEN KOCHER jen@douglas-budgeet.com

month ago, this wedding would never have happened. Tom had been clear on that. At age 56 with five failed marriages under his belt, there was no way he was ever going to put a ring on his finger again.

He used to say that wives needed to be traded in every five years like cars. He rubs his bare elbow and smiles shyly at his own joke.

From underneath a thin fuzzy pink blanket, Willa's hand attempts a limp-wristed swat at Tom's arm, a swat that falls inches from the spot where he sits on the corner of her mattress, his body wedged between a handrail near the foot of her bed.

He inches closer to grab her hand, smiling solemnly in return.

A month ago this joke might have been funnier. Back then time was still cooperating, acting as the utilitarian ticker of seconds leading up to a new day. In the last two months, time's become pretty stingy, now only allotting Willa a set number of days.

The doctors say she'll be lucky to live three more months. Her cancer has progressed to the stage where the tentacles have spiderwebbed around her diseased



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That this wish came true is a twisted fairy tale ending that 59-year-old Willa is struggling to digest.

Her dream came true last Saturday afternoon as she and Tom stood before a crowd of more than a

Please see WISH, page A-8



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