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It's about being alive, she insists. Not just passing through life on the way to some destination, but igniting a few fires along the way.

oming State Fair grandstands. • July 18 you can catch the horse show starting at 8 a.m. in

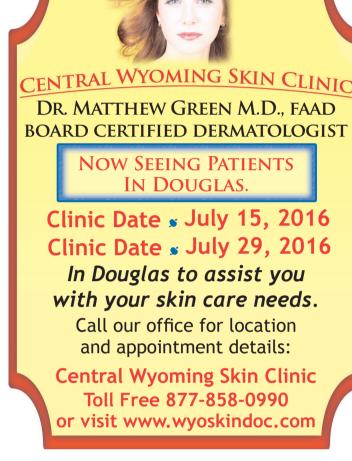
Fair

the silver and yellow arenas. • July 19 includes the pee-wee pet show at 1 p.m. in the Stallion Show Center, followed by root-

beer floats and slip n' slide.

Be sure to checkout the Douglas Budget Facebook page for photos and updates throughout the week, as well as visit www.wyoming4h.org/ converse4h/cc-fair for a complete schedule or clip out the ad below on this page.





Shooting

lowing the release, Undersheriff Justin Scott couldn't provide much information. To each question, Scott Responded, "I don't know."

Without interfering with the investigation into the incident, Scott said the details in the release exhausted what his office could say. He released the information because he wanted to provide more information to the community, however limited, he said

The new information comes after U.S. marshals shot and killed Ramirez, a Colorado resident, at around 3 p.m. on June 30 at his father's funeral.

The shooting occurred while attempting to serve Ramirez a federal warrant, which was signed and dated May 17 in U.S. Wyoming District Court. According to court documents, Ramirez was wanted on drug and gun charges.

Witnesses say he was unarmed and shot while attempting to get into the passenger side of a car, but officials decline to say whether this is true.

Ramirez was killed in front of friends and family. There were about 100 people at the funeral, according to a number of people who were there. His death comes at a time of high tensions and deep divides surrounding law enforcement's use of deadly force, especially in interactions with minorities.

Scott on Thursday cited the volatile atmosphere surrounding officer-involved shootings as part of the reason for wanting to release more information. He said he realizes that people want to know what happened. The fact that marshals are unlikely to provide additional details about the shooting until after the probe into the shooting also factored into sheriff's office decision to reverse course, he said.

Scott said he wanted to issue the release in order to provide the public a little more information and prevent misinformation from spreading. He said there weren't any specific rumors he was at-

tempting to squash.

nal Investigation is leading the inquiry to figure out what happened and if the actions of law enforcement seem justifiable. According to state law, separate agencies, such as DCI, are required to investigate officerinvolved shootings to prevent the appearance of a conflict of interest. The fact that a federal agency was involved in the church shooting doesn't change anything, Scott said.

Scott said the sheriff's office has a very limited role in the investigation. He said it boils down to helping DCI identify potential witnesses whom agents can interview.

Moving forward, Scott said The state's Division of Crimithe U.S. Marshals Service will

from the front page

again serve as the point of contact for information regarding the

The federal agency has said that it won't release further information until after the investigation.



onverse

4-H/FFA Fair

JULY 15 - 23, 2016 FRIDAY, JULY 15th = 8 a.m. Poultry, Rabbit and Pocket Pet Show (Goat Barn) SATURDAY, JULY 16th 8 a.m. Dog Show (Beef Show Ring) 3 p.m. Small Animal Round Robin (Goat Barn) 4:30 p.m. Fashion Review (EWC Campus) SUNDAY, JULY 17th -4 p.m. Ranch Rodeo (WSF Grandstand Arena) MONDAY, JULY 18th -8 a.m. Horse Show (WSF Silver and Yellow Arenas)
2 - 4 p.m. Community Activity - Ice Cream Sundaes
Sponsored by Dry Creek Willing Workers 4-H Club TUESDAY, JULY 19th

1 p.m. Pee Wee Showmanship (Stallion Show Center)

1 - 4 p.m. Community Activity - Slip n'Slide

Sponsored by Magic Chefs and Wild Bunch 4-H Club 2 - 3 p.m. Community Activity - Root Beer Floats Sponsored by LaBonte Homemakers WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th 7 - 8 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by Converse County Bank

8 a.m. Dairy Cattle / Goat Shows (Goat Show Ring)

9 a.m. Beef Show (Beef Show Ring) 1 - 5 p.m..... Community Activity - Mechanical Bull Riding
Sponsored by Cavaliers and Wooly Bully 4-H Clubs 6 p.m. Swine Show (Stallion Show Center) 8 a.m. Market Goat Show (Goat Show Ring) 9:30 a.m. Sheep Show (Sheep Show Ring)

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd 8 a.m. Large Animal Round Robin (Stallion Show Center) 5 - 7 p.m. Buyers Appreciation Dinner

Sponsored by MWI Animal Health and Elanco Animal Health 6 p.m. Jr. Market Livestock Sale (Stallion Show Center)

Promotional Support Provided by the Converse County Tourism Promotion Board

RANCH RODEO During the 2016 Converse County 4-H / FFA Fair in Douglas, WY Gate Fee: \$5 per person to support the

Local 4-H and FFA Programs Open to all teams of 4-5 cowboys/cowgirls. Entry fee of \$250 due Wednesday, July 14, 2016. Cash prizes to top three teams. Ranch Rodeo following Calcutta. For additional information, call Bond Dickau

at 307-351-7122 or bondrr007@hotmail.com

TO THE FAIR! Wednesday, July 20th is a BIG DAY at Converse County 4-H/FFA Fair!

COME DOWN

Come down and join us for a Pancake Breakfast from 7 - 8 a.m. on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Converse County Bank!

DOUGLAS GLENROCK

Night on the Streets of Glenrock! July 14, 2016 • Downtown Glenrock • 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Glenrock is hosting these gatherings every Thursday through July 28 Come enjoy the entertainment, food and vendor booths. Each week there will be a showcased artist. Beautiful Glenrock is a great place to spend the evening!

Converse County Fair kicks off on July 15 in Douglas!

July 15-23 • It's County Fair Time! • Come support local 4-H and FFA youth It's nearly time for the 2016 Converse County Fair and the list of events just keeps growing. Follow Convese County 4-H on Facebook for full details including a pancake breakfast, livestock shows, exhibits and summer fun.

Jenny's Memorial Golf Tournament

July 17 • Hosted by the Converse County Coalition Against Violence Call Curtis Starkey, Douglas Golf Pro, at 307-358-5099 to enter and get your tee time! Enjoy a day at the golf course for a great cause! This is handicapped, best ball, 2-person tournament with TONS OF PRIZES!

Dirt Track Racing at Valentine Speedway!

July 23 • Gates open at 5 p.m. • Races at 7 p.m. The track is located one mile west of Glenrock along Hwy 20/26 Racers and spectators are flocking to this 1/4 mile dirt track. Visit them online at www.ValentineSpeedway.org for a full race schedule. Visit the pit, and see the cars, beginning at 5 p.m. each race day.

Converse County Tourism.com 877-937-4996 307-358-2950

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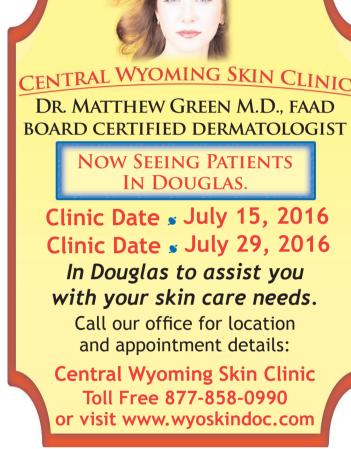
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By NICK BALATSOS nick@douglas-budget.com

The Converse County Sheriff's Office last week broke its silence on the recent officer-involved shooting at St. James Catholic Church, adding that drugs and two guns were recovered from the scene where Jasen Scott Ramirez was shot and

killed following his father's funeral.

The information came in the form of a news release issued late July 6 after sheriff and county officials had previously directed all questions regarding the shooting to the U.S. Marshals Service, the agency whose deputies were involved.

In a press release posted on Facebook at around 5:30 p.m. last Wednesday, the

sheriff's office stated that law enforcement recovered 3.5 ounces of methamphetamine and two handguns from the area around where 44-year-old Ramirez was killed.



SCOTT

The sheriff's office said that the guns and roughly 3.5 ounces of meth were found in the car near where he was shot, and, in addition, the officers recovered about a half-ounce of meth on Ramirez.

It's unclear to whom the guns, car or drugs belonged. It's also unclear if or how the objects are related to the split-second decision to kill Ramirez, including whether he was reaching for them at the time he was shot or if they were located near him or if they presented a threat to law enforcement.

When asked about it last week, fol-

Please see

SHOOTING,

page A-2



On July 21, the sheep show will take place outside of the Stallion Show Center on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

County Fair kicks off Friday

Ranch rodeo set for July 17 in WSF grandstands

> By BETH WOOD beth@douglas-budget.com

It was a much simpler affair at the start.

Now, the clippers are trimming animals, the sewing machines are zig-zagging away and the parents are ready to pull their hair out from telling their kids to get busy.

Pretty soon you'll hear trucks rolling in with trailers, the sounds of livestock on the fairgrounds and youth laughing as they make memories with their friends.

The Converse County 4-H and FFA fair kicks off Friday and runs through July 22 on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

On deck for the coming days includes: • July 15 — Poultry, rabbit and pocket-pet

show at 8 a.m. in the goat barn

• July 16 includes the dog show at 8 a.m. in the beef show ring, small-animal round robin at 3 p.m. in the goat barn and fashion revue at 4:30

p.m. over at the EWC Douglas campus. • July 17 at 4 p.m. is the ranch rodeo in the Wy-

Please see

FAIR, page A-2



Phillip Harnden photo

Standing on the corner of Fourth Street in downtown Douglas on Saturday morning, residents join together for a prayer vigil to pray for peace and the safety and support of law enforcement officers both locally and throughout the nation.

Together in pray

By JEN KOCHER jen@douglas-budget.com

ith heads bowed in prayer, dozens of Douglas residents joined together on a warm, blue Saturday morning in the parking lot of City Hall to show their support for local law enforcement officials and to pray for peace.

Standing shoulder to shoulder in small groups from City Hall to the front of the courthouse and in the parking lots in between, local pastors prayed with bikers, law enforcement officers, parents, grandparents and

children as individuals took turns exchanging prayers.

Some thanked law enforcement for diligently working to protect and serve their communities while others asked God to protect their lives and hearts from adversary and strife. Others prayed for the families and asked God to help keep their hearts lifted in times of stress and tension as emotions run high in the wake of violence both locally and beyond.

"We needed this," one woman told vigil organizer Ryan Andrews as she thanked her for bringing members of the community together in prayer. "Our law enforcement agencies need to know we are standing behind them."

Smiles for Miles



Cody Tucker photo

"That's cold!" Those were the words of Rosalin Panasuk, 4, after the wet paint of Sandra Toolen touched her face Thursday night on Second Street in downtown Douglas. See more photos on A-6

Feeling 55 and alive

By JEN KOCHER jen@douglas-budget.com

When Mark Wollemann trudged across the desolate cold, wind-whipped Oregon beach to dip his back tire into the Pacific Ocean, he wondered who on earth ever thought this was a good idea? Even in mid-June, the temperature was bone chilling, and as the salty, cold air leaked through the seams of his light windbreaker, he groaned at the thought of tromping back across the spongy sand to get to the road where his journey would begin.

The warm car where his wife Melody sat idling beckoned him.

want to be that guy. The one who talks a big game and in the end fails to deliver. At age 55, he'd spent the past several months training and planning for this cross-continental 3,200-mile journey by bicycle, or what he and Melody dubbed Mark's "55 and Alive" tour across America. He'd purposely told a lot of people about the trip, so when he hit this point, he knew he'd have to keep going. So, he got on the bike and started pedaling.

He pushed through the pain and the doubt as he pedaled through the lush-green forests of Oregon and along the sunburnt,

Mark shook his head; he didn't high-country desert roads in Idaho. He steadied himself through 30-mile gusts from passing semis for a 40-plus mile white-knuckling stretch along Interstate 84 and clenched his teeth for the 12-percent thigh-burning ascent up through the Tetons.

Finally, July 7, 25 days and 1,360 miles later, the pair landed in Converse County, where more than anything, they were eager to meet and greet locals and share their personal stories. More than

> Please see 55 ALIVE, page A-2



Phillip Harnden photos Mark Wollemann ascends Highway 95 on his way into Douglas on June 6.



This week's weather Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.

High 86 83 85 89 93 53 <u>Low</u> 51 56





Mark laughs.

It's about feeling alive, he explains, and despite the miles of wear and tear already under his belt, he's feeling great. And he's not just saying that either to be cocky, he explains. He really feels good.

With barely graying hair and a less than compact body, Mark loads up on a carb-heavy spaghetti dinner at the Depot in Douglas after a 60-plus mile day. Although he dresses and eats like a cyclist, he's not a real cyclist he insists, and laughs at how out of shape he'd once been despite his earlier years as an athlete. Having spent his career as a sports journalist and editor for major daily newspapers in Minnesota and other large metropolitan cities, Mark got tired of an exhausting life dictated by deadlines punctuated by the intermittent two-or-so odd weeks of yearly vacation. He'd begun to feel spiritually dead, so five years ago, he quit his job and went with wife Melody, a documentary filmmaker and university professor, to Bulgaria where they taught at a university for four years.

The experience in general, along with the four-month break between semesters, opened up Mark's eyes to a whole new way of life, as cliché as that may sound. Not only did he enjoy teaching — something he had never done — but no longer was he a man tied to a desk and a career he'd grown tired of. What else was he missing?

"It's one of those things we often forget," he says, "to step out of our lives and try something different."

And after four years when the couple grew homesick and returned to the states, Mark was not exactly thrilled at the idea of finding a new job and entering right back into the grind. So he did freelance, cashed out some of his retirement money, and started spending time in the gym again, something he'd let go at some point over the years. He'd always cycled for exercise back home in Chicago, so he started doing longer trips, all of which started and ended in the same place. Though he never considered himself a serious biker, nor had he ever aspired to do a cross-



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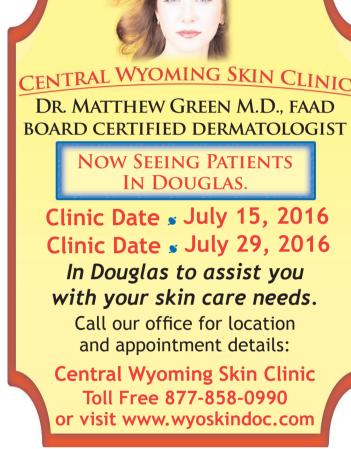
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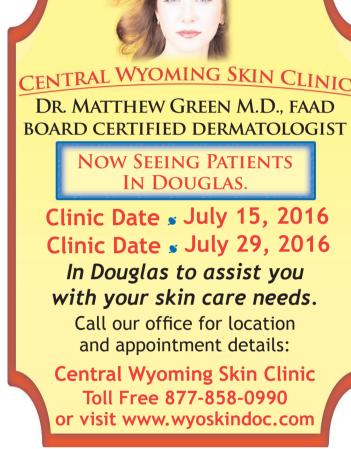
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JULY 15 - 23, 2016

FRIDAY, JULY 15th = 8 a.m. Poultry, Rabbit and Pocket Pet Show (Goat Barn) SATURDAY, JULY 16th 8 a.m. Dog Show (Beef Show Ring) 3 p.m. Small Animal Round Robin (Goat Barn)

4:30 p.m. Fashion Review (EWC Campus) SUNDAY, JULY 17th -4 p.m. Ranch Rodeo (WSF Grandstand Arena)

MONDAY, JULY 18th -8 a.m. Horse Show (WSF Silver and Yellow Arenas)
2 - 4 p.m. Community Activity - Ice Cream Sundaes
Sponsored by Dry Creek Willing Workers 4-H Club

TUESDAY, JULY 19th

1 p.m. Pee Wee Showmanship (Stallion Show Center)

1 - 4 p.m. Community Activity - Slip n'Slide

Sponsored by Magic Chefs and Wild Bunch 4-H Club

2 - 3 p.m. Community Activity - Root Beer Floats Sponsored by LaBonte Homemakers

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20th 7 - 8 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

Sponsored by Converse County Bank

8 a.m. Dairy Cattle / Goat Shows (Goat Show Ring)

9 a.m. Beef Show (Beef Show Ring)

1 - 5 p.m..... Community Activity - Mechanical Bull Riding
Sponsored by Cavaliers and Wooly Bully 4-H Clubs 6 p.m. Swine Show (Stallion Show Center)

8 a.m. Market Goat Show (Goat Show Ring) 9:30 a.m. Sheep Show (Sheep Show Ring)

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd 8 a.m. Large Animal Round Robin (Stallion Show Center)

5 - 7 p.m. Buyers Appreciation Dinner

Promotional Support Provided by the Converse County Tourism Promotion Board

Sponsored by MWI Animal Health and Elanco Animal Health 6 p.m. Jr. Market Livestock Sale (Stallion Show Center) RANCH RODEO **COME DOWN**

During the 2016 Converse County 4-H / FFA Fair in Douglas, WY Gate Fee: \$5 per person to support the Local 4-H and FFA Programs

Open to all teams of 4-5 cowboys/cowgirls. Entry fee of \$250 due Wednesday, July 14, 2016. Cash prizes to top three teams. Ranch Rodeo following Calcutta. For additional information, call Bond Dickau

at 307-351-7122 or bondrr007@hotmail.com

is a BIG DAY at Converse County 4-H/FFA Fair! Come down and join us for a

TO THE FAIR!

Wednesday, July 20th

Pancake Breakfast from 7 - 8 a.m. on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds, sponsored by the Converse County Bank!



DOUGLAS GLENROCK

Night on the Streets of Glenrock!

July 14, 2016 • Downtown Glenrock • 6:30-8:30 p.m. Glenrock is hosting these gatherings every Thursday through July 28 Come enjoy the entertainment, food and vendor booths. Each week there will be a showcased artist. Beautiful Glenrock is a great place to spend the evening!

Converse County Fair kicks off on July 15 in Douglas!

July 15-23 • It's County Fair Time! • Come support local 4-H and FFA youth It's nearly time for the 2016 Converse County Fair and the list of events just keeps growing. Follow Convese County 4-H on Facebook for full details including a pancake breakfast, livestock shows, exhibits and summer fun.

Jenny's Memorial Golf Tournament

July 17 • Hosted by the Converse County Coalition Against Violence Call Curtis Starkey, Douglas Golf Pro, at 307-358-5099 to enter and get your tee time! Enjoy a day at the golf course for a great cause! This is handicapped, best ball, 2-person tournament with TONS OF PRIZES!

Dirt Track Racing at Valentine Speedway!

July 23 • Gates open at 5 p.m. • Races at 7 p.m. The track is located one mile west of Glenrock along Hwy 20/26 Racers and spectators are flocking to this 1/4 mile dirt track. Visit them online at www.ValentineSpeedway.org for a full race schedule. Visit the pit, and see the cars, beginning at 5 p.m. each race day.

Converse County Tourism.com 877-937-4996 307-358-2950