

\$100 Wednesday, May 4, 2016

B-1

Vol. 130 No. 18





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Rare historic artifacts from WWII era find a new home

'It's very hard to find a West Point uniform in that good of condition'

> By JENNIFER KOCHER jen@douglas-budget.com

When Jenne Twiford contacted Wyoming Pioneer Museum Superintendent Mel Glover with an old West Point uniform and a pile of letters and cards sent from a young soldier during WW II, little did she know that she'd landed upon an historic gold mine.

"It's very hard to find a West Point uniform in that good of condition," Glover said, "and the letters gives us a rare context that are absolutely unique."

The soldier, Lt. Colonel Ralph Nisely Woods, who was Jenne Twiford's great uncle, was from Gering, Nebraska, and had wrtten extensively to his mother about his experiences at both West Point as well as his during the War.

However, because Woods was a Nebraska native, Glover felt the artifacts

> Please see PRINCESS, page A-3



Calvin Larsen courtesy photo

Authorities take down the suspect on I-25 during the manhunt following a bank robbery.

Suspect ID'ed in Monday's bank robbery

Mathis arrested on I-25

By SPIKE JORDAN spike@douglas-budget.com

The suspect in Monday's bank robbery and ensuing manhunt in Douglas was identified as Charles Mathis, 52, of Laramie County Tuesday afternoon. Authorities said they are continuing their investigation and are awaiting the filing of charges by the Converse County Attorney's Office in conjunction with the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office.

It was unknown Tuesday whether charges would be filed in state or federal court. A booking mug shot was not available this week as authorities are withholding it pending witnesses' identification in a line up.

Mathis was taken into custody Monday afternoon after he allegedly robbed Points West Community Bank on East Richards Street at 2:36 p.m. and fled, first on foot and later in a vehicle spotted attempting to enter the south Douglas on-ramp to I-25. Mathis was arrested a short time later without further incident.



HAYES

Witnesses inside the bank were asked not to comment about the situation, several said. Sketchy information that was made available indicated the man entered

the bank lobby and approached the three tellers on duty when he demanded money. Some sources indicated he claimed to have a gun but it was unclear if he displayed it. The amount of money he took was not being released by police.

Points West Vice President in Douglas Ron Hayes said his staff was shaken up by the ordeal but is doing well. The bank's lobby remained closed Tuesday but the drive-up was open and the bank is expected to resume normal operations Wednesday.

"Our staff acted professionally and acted as they've been trained, which is what we hope to have happen in a stressful situation, to keep things from escalating further than they already were," Hayes said Tuesday. He referred all further comments to the bank's main office in Nebraska but officials there did not return phone calls by presstime.

A description of the suspect, a dark-skinned male in all black clothing and a black beanie, kicked off the manhunt following the robbery. Douglas police, Converse County sheriff's deputies, Wyoming Highway Patrol and FBI agents responded, as nearby schools and businesses were locked down. Once Mathis was arrested, Douglas schools were notified of the arrest and the lock down was lifted shortly afterward. School buses, which were not allowed to operate during the manhunt, resumed their routes later Monday afternoon.

According to a search of court records in Laramie County, Mathis has a history of run-ins with law enforcement. Among the court filings with his name attached are two burglary charges in 2004, one theft conviction in 2015, a violation of a protection order in 2003 and a charge of escape from official detention in 1993.

Candy Larson, owner of To Buy Us Vapors on East Richards Street, said a man matching the description of the suspect had been in her store at other times and he returned earlier Monday but had only stopped briefly in the parking lot around 1 p.m. and did not go inside.

"He pulled up kind of funky, and then reversed and drove forward a couple of times," Larson said. "I just kind of thought that he must be smoking something that I don't have.'

Larson said the man parked the car parallel to the building, got out, went to his trunk and opened it, then got back in his car and left. "I had a slew full of people in here, and he never came

in, so I didn't think anything about it," Lason said. When she'd heard about the robbery, she put the two together and locked her door.

"I was letting customers in that I knew, but I kind of just locked everyone in after that."

Douglas Police Lt. Todd Matthews said police had received reports of another robbery in Evansville Tuesday morning. New reports said a suspect in that incident was arrested before noon Tuesday.



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

<u>High</u> 75 76 81 59 63 <u>Low</u> 40 45 46 39 38







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from the front page

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Meanwhile, Tabby Wisser sips sparkling cider out of a plastic champagne glass as her stylist curls her hair in ringlets on the top of her head.

With all the pampering, it's a bit like stepping behind the scenes at the Oscars.

That's the goal, according to Michelle Collins, Baylee Kerkvliet and Sabrina Raney and their team of volunteers, who this year launched their program—the Princess Prom Project—as a way to offer every girl who might not be able to afford it the opportunity to go to prom. Along with loaning the girls dresses and all the essentials for the evening, the project team also wants to give the girls a day (and night) they'll remember, which yes, includes being spoiled. Terribly so.

For today, Michelle's catacomb of adjoining classrooms has been turned into a three-room spa, complete with stations for manicures, pedicures, facials and make up and hair. There's even a buffet of sandwiches and treats spread on a red-clothed table adorned with a miniature Eifel Tower to set the mood for Saturday night's Parisian prom theme.

Having spent the day under an arsenal of curling irons, hot rollers and eye lash curlers, the girls are learning a bit about what it takes to be a princesses-in-training.

"It's a lot of work for prom, isn't it?" Sabrina asks Ally.

"Yes," Ally said, smiling underneath her bent head full of hot curlers. "It definitely is."

Best friends Emily and Ally give each other a big thumbs up from across the room. Ally went to prom last year as a senior but has returned this year to be Emily's date because that's just what you do for your best friend.

"It's best friend prom," Ally says, squinching her eyes as Jodi moves on to applying eye shadow.

The girls discuss the night ahead. They can't wait to dance. Ally loves Michael Jackson. Her favorite song is Thriller. She can even do the moves.

Meanwhile. Emily hums to Bad Blood by Taylor Swift. She gives Ally a double thumbs up. This night is going to be a lot

The dresses the girls picked out last week from the array of choices are pressed and waiting for them. The dresses were donated courtesy members of the community and will remain in wait for next year when the crew will launch the program for a second year. This year, five girls took advantage of the prom project and next year the crew hopes to see it grow even larger.



Ally Jenkins (left) and Emily Willis enjoy the day of pampering as part of the Princess **Prom Project on Saturday.**





Ally is not a fan of having makeup applied (above) but is pleasantly surprised (left) by the end result

Picking out a dress last week was easy for Emily, who selected the beautiful black chiffon gown on only her second try. As she swirled in front of the mirror, Emily's mother Crystal choked up a bit. "Oh my gosh," she said, wiping away tears.

Ally, however, was a bit more particular. Not only did the dress need to be purple, her favorite color, but it also needed to have a good swish for spinning and dancing. It took a team, including her mother, Sharon, to find her dream dress. After trying on a floor-length white sequined gown that made her feel like a bride, followed by a purple and black "mermaid" dress, she locked onto the first dress she tried, a purple gown with a sequined bodice that fit her perfectly. And, even better, had a good twirl for dancing. Like Cinderella's slipper. It seemed made for her.

"You look pretty," Ally tells Emily now, as stylist Maggie Miller fastens a blingy headband , pulling back Emily's cascade

What about glitter?" Maggie asks as Emily gives a vehement nod. "Good, we'll put on plenty," Maggie smiles.

The project team appear to be having as much fun as the girls.

Jessika Crawford, a volunteer who is here to do make up, agrees. She saw Michelle's post on Facebook and volunteered immediately, even though she didn't know anyone involved in the project.

"It's my favorite thing to do," she says, as she applies mascara to Tabby Wisser's long eyelashes.

"This is a blast." Finally, after nearly five hours

of primping and a dinner of pizza,

the girls are all dressed and ready to head to the Grand March, where their family and friends will see them for the first time in all their regalia.

Emily and Ally stand in front of the mirror together holding

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Soon they will swept up in the crowd of poofy glittery dresses and black tuxes and colorful ties, waiting with their classmates for their introduction at Grand March, where they'll walk out together and pose underneath the silvery legs of the Eifel Tower in front of a crowd of hundreds where they'll no doubt make their mothers cry, before being whisked off in their 'carriage' to the Bearcat Den for their magical evening in Paris.

CRADLE CALL

Shawn and Christine Johnson announce the birth of their son. Parker Oran Johnson, on April 28, 2016, at Memorial Hospital of Converse County.

He weighed 5 lbs., 12.4 oz.

Maternal grandmother is Karen Owens of Douglas. Paternal grandparents are Linda Hoving of Douglas and Darrell Johnson of Casper.

Paternal step-grandmother is Cathi Johnson of Casper. He joins sisters Skyeleene, 10, Acelyne, 8, and Kylah-Ann, 3,

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL GRANT INFORMATION/MEETING PLANNING

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The purpose of this committee is to coordinate goals,

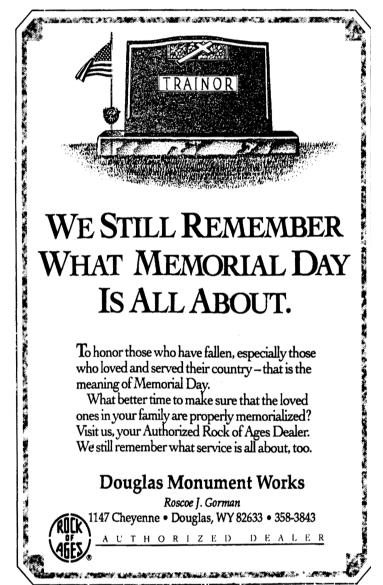
objectives and activities for the FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS including Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title II, Part D, Title III, Title IV, Part A, Perkins, **IDEA VIB-VIB 619**

These programs assist in activities that support school improvement & Student achievement.

THURSDAY, May 19, 2016 **Board Room at** CCSD#1 Administration Building **615** Hamilton Street 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelley Hamel at 358-6187

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!



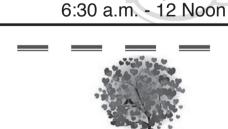
DR. WAYNE M. HUDSON 124 North 4th • 307-358-9008

SUMMER HOURS Starting May 1st, 2016

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday 6:30 a.m. - 12 Noon 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday



PLEASE JOIN THE CITY OF DOUGLAS IN CELEBRATING

ARBOR DAY

ON FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016, AT 2:00 P.M. AT THE DOUGLAS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

901 WEST YELLOWSTONE, DOUGLAS, WY.

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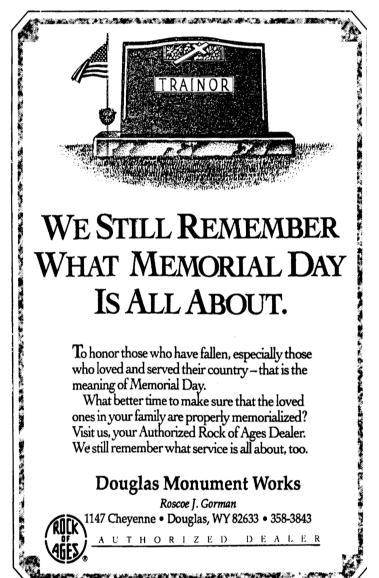
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