



**Cowgirl  
takes reins  
of program**

**Dr. Monica Teichert  
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**Focusing on  
Education**

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# LANCER

Eastern Wyoming College October-November 2022

# Lancers CHARGING into Their Future



Liberty Zavorka

## Liberty Zavorka

Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Liberty** Zavorka started her college career this fall in the Social Science program at Eastern Wyoming College.

She is not the first Zavorka to attend EWC. Liberty's dad, retired Lt. Col. John Zavorka is a Lancer alumnus.

"Dad came her to school with his cousin (Ron)," Liberty said. "Now I'm coming here with my cousin (Kayle Hughes)."

She also has grandparents (Charlie and Dorothy Zavorka) who live in Torrington, Wyoming.

"I chose EWC because my dad said it gave him a great start," she said. "I'll also be close

to my grandparents and will get to spend time with them."

Liberty also said Torrington has always been "a place I've loved and this is where I want to be and start my life."

After finishing at EWC she is planning on continuing her education in International Studies at the University of Wyoming.

"I'd like to become a foreign affairs officer, that would be my dream job," she said.

Liberty is also helping out as the student manager for the Lancer volleyball team.

Charge forward with Liberty at EWC in Torrington, Wyoming, by scheduling a tour today.

## Victor Abrams

Fort Collins, Colorado

**Victor** Abram is charging into his college career in gunsmithing on Eastern Wyoming College Douglas Campus.

"I've always been interested in guns since I was little," Victor said. "What better way to learn about them than to learn how to make them."

The first year gunsmithing student from Fort Collins, Colorado was impressed with EWC's personal contacts as he was searching for a college to pursue his education. The Douglas Campus was a good fit.

"Most of my family are active in hunting and fishing," he said. "My whole family also spends a lot of time on the gun range."

He likes the sounds on the gun range when the bullet hits the target. It was those sounds that drew him into gunsmithing.

"Hearing those bullets hit the target, I fell in love with it. The way it felt as you fired the gun, it felt and sounded like a cannon going off," he said. "We always wore ear plugs, but it still had that feel and sound."

Starting in September the classes have offered "a lot of new stuff, but I'm enjoying them," he said. The bulk of the class is spent doing what they learned during lectures. The lectures are short, the hands on learning takes up the majority of class time.

"So far, I think it's amazing," Victor said of the gunsmithing program. The people, my classmates, and the teachers are amazing. I'm looking forward to working with them for the next two years."

After graduating Victor would like to work with law enforcement.



Victor Abram



Jacklyn Stephenson

## Jacklyn Stephenson

Mead, Colorado

**Jacklyn** Stephenson had no experience in welding, but it "looked interesting," so she entered the welding program at Eastern Wyoming College.

"I'm not a big school girl," Jacklyn said. "I didn't want to sit in a classroom and take all the math, science, and history."

She grew up playing sports, hunting, and fishing, welding "suits me," Jacklyn said.

The Mead, Colorado freshman made her first weld on Monday, Aug. 22 and she liked it.

"You get to create something and its hands on," she said.

Jacklyn is also on the Lancer basketball team.

"It's truly a blessing to come here (EWC) to play basketball and get my education," Jacklyn said. "EWC is a good fit for me, it's a small school in a small town only about two hours

from home."

Jacklyn has been playing basketball since about third or fourth grade, she said. Though she played a lot of others sports, basketball "is my thing."

"My dream as a kid was always to play college basketball," she added.

Basketball, she said, kept her going in a straight line and if not for the sport "I don't think I'd have stayed in school."

At EWC she is making her dream come true "playing basketball and studying welding."

"A lot of girls don't do it (welding) but that doesn't bother me at all," Jacklyn said. "I'll play basketball, get my education done, go out and get a job and make some money."

Charge into your future with Jacklyn at EWC in Torrington, Wyoming, enroll today.



**CHARGE** into your future today,  
visit [ewc.wy.edu](http://ewc.wy.edu) or call 1-307-532-8230.

Lancer Rodeo

# Peterson is EWC's new Head Rodeo Coach

**W**hit Peterson was named Eastern Wyoming College's new head rodeo coach over the summer to replace retiring coach Jake Clark.

"I'm excited to lead the Lancer rodeo team and build upon a great legacy," Peterson said. "I want to have a well-rounded program which I think we have right now."

Peterson has a Bachelor of Science in Education from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma. He attended college on a rodeo scholarship and completed in both rough stock and timed events.

"After graduating college, I made the decision to work on a ranch in southeast Wyoming with my dad," Peterson said. "Ranching allowed me to continue my love for rodeo. I competed in several associations across the United States qualifying for numerous finals over the years."

Peterson will have about 15 returning cowboys and cowgirls, he said. There is also a strong group of new recruits and he is continuing to recruit for the upcoming season.

Before taking the EWC coaching



**Whit Peterson**  
EWC Head Rodeo Coach

job Peterson taught Agriculture Education at Lingle-Ft. Laramie and Torrington schools. He also served as the assistant FFA advisor.

Teaching, he said, has given him the opportunity to develop positive relationship with students and help mentor them to deeper levels of understanding and knowledge in the world of agriculture.

"It's been a great opportuni-

ty to work for Lingle-Ft. Laramie and Torrington schools," Peterson said. "I really enjoyed it and everyone there was great to work with."

Taking the position at EWC is somewhat of a coming home for Peterson.

"I grew up in the hall of EWC," he said.

His mother, Patti Sue Peterson, was a Vet Tech instructor at EWC for over 30 years.

"She instilled the importance of education in me throughout my life, it is one I carry into my professional career," he said.

At a young age, Peterson developed a "strong appreciation and love for rodeo," he said. "With the support of my parents and mentors, rodeo taught me that hard work and dedication will lead to success."

Success he looks forward to experiencing with the members of the Lancer rodeo team.

To meet the team and video this year's team video visit [ewc.wy.edu](http://ewc.wy.edu) and follow this year's action on the team's Facebook page.

## Changes coming Website Redesign to Begin

**W**ork will begin soon on a major redesign of Eastern Wyoming College's website.

The EWC board of trustees approved money for a redesign at the June 2022 board meeting. Six different companies submitted proposals for the redesign of the site.

A committee was put together to evaluate the proposals and a final recommendation will go before the EWC Board of Trustees during the October meeting.

Work will begin shortly afterwards to plan, map out and come up with a new exciting EWC website.

The redesigned site will be mobile friendly, updated, and offer an easy to navigate site for future and present students, faculty, staff, community leaders, and anyone interested in the college.

The goal is to have the site finished and launched by April 2023.

## Sagebrush & Roses Plan to Party for EWC

**C**lear the calendar and make sure to attend the Annual Sagebrush & Roses fundraiser for Eastern Wyoming College.

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of EWC with great food and entertainment.

The fun will be on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023. Mark your calendar and save the date.

To purchase tickets and/or get more information about the Sagebrush and Roses event call 308-532-8000.

Watch for more detailed information on this fun event on EWC's social media pages.



## Meet the New Lancer Student Media Team



College Relations has enrolled the help of five students to help craft and deliver the message of Eastern Wyoming College to the world. The students are Katharine Kessler-Davis (l to r), Alexia Mahaffy, Emily Hatch, Darija Erakovic, and Viktoria Sarbakova. These students will help with livestreaming, creation of TikTok and YouTube videos (the college now has both), social media posts and much more. If you see them with cameras or if they stop you for a picture or video; smile, give them the Lancer L and "CHARGE ON!"

## Dr. Monica Teichert, DNP, FNP-C



Kristen Schurr Photography

Dr. Monica Teichert and her horse, Bella, competes at the World's Greatest Horsewoman competition held in January 2022 in Queen City, Arizona.

# Cowgirl Takes Reins of EWC's Nursing Program

**T**raining and teaching is nothing new for Eastern Wyoming College's Director of Nursing. Dr. Monica Teichert has been training people and/or horses since sixth grade.

"I'm a cowgirl," Teichert said. "Working with horses has a huge place in my heart."

She started riding lessons in sixth grade and from there her love for horses "started to snowball." She got a job cleaning stalls for a race horse trainer. Teichert then began showing horses.

At the age of 15 she began working for a cutting and cow horse trainer. She was learning "day in and day out" how to train horses.

"I trained horses until I went to nursing school in 2008," Teichert said.

Though she loved training horses Teichert also wanted to pursue a career in nursing.

"My family is very medically oriented," she said. "My mom is a nurse, my uncle was an internal medicine physician, my grandpa was a family medicine physician and my grandma was a nurse. And I wanted a career that was stable."

So she headed to Boise State to study nursing. After graduating in 2012 she started her nursing career in Denver, Colorado as an ICU nurse.

Her love for horses never left and she began traveling from Denver north to Torrington, Wyoming. She kept her horse in eastern Wyoming and began competing in cutting and cow horse competitions.

While competing she met her husband, Jay Teichert, and she moved to Torrington in 2013. She began working at Regional West Medical Center as a clinical nurse educator. From there



Melissa Church Photography

Monica and her husband, Jay Teichert.

she started working at Banner Health in the surgical department.

In 2015 Teichert decided to expand her education by enrolling in the Nurse Practitioner program at the University of Wyoming. She graduated with her DMP in 2018 and started working at Banner Medical Center in Family Medicine.

“The nursing program at the University of Wyoming was one of the best experiences I have had, however, it was also one of the hardest,” she said. “I wouldn’t trade it for the world but it certainly was a very rigorous program that required undying devotion. I feel it was quality education though and I was a strong doctoral level nursing program upon graduation.”

In her last year of school Teichert was chosen by faculty to represent the University of Wyoming as a Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar in Washington D.C.

“This was an absolute honor,” she said. “Additionally, I was also chosen as the recipient of the Alpha Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Award recipient for exemplary clinical excellence in a rural context through research and clinical practice.”

While working and studying Teichert continued working and competing with her horses. She competed and still competes, in cutting and cow horse competitions.

“Between the two of us (she and her husband) we have nine horses,” she said.

She and her husband as compete in team roping.

“I’m the header,” she said.

Together, the two have started a team roping business.

In January of 2022 Teichert and her horse, Bella, competed in the World’s Greatest Horsewoman competition in Queen Creek, Arizona.

The World’s Greatest Horsewoman competition focuses on one horse and one rider testing their skills and versatility with the same bit in four phases of competition—herd work, rein work, steer stopping and cow work.

“I placed in the middle of the pack,” she said. “But that didn’t matter. It was a lifelong dream to compete.”

In 2021 Teichert began teaching in the nursing program at Eastern Wyoming College (EWC). She was named the Director of the Nursing program in the summer of 2022.

“I have always seemed to have one foot in education,” Teichert said. “There is something about having an impact on the next generation of nurses. It is exciting and fun to see young students grow and continue on in the medical profession.”

Taking the reins of EWC’s nursing program will be cutting back on her teaching, but said the program “is so important to me. I want this program to be successful,” Teichert said. “I really want this nursing program to be one of the best among community colleges.”

The program started on EWC’s Douglas campus in the fall of 2016. The first cohort had 14 students. There is now a day and night cohort on the Douglas campus and a night cohort on the



Dr. Monica Teichert with her horse, Bella.

Melissa Church Photography

## Nursing Program Interested in Nursing?

**The** nursing program at Eastern Wyoming College provides a high quality education for people looking toward a future in nursing.

Eastern Wyoming College received approval from the Wyoming State Board of Nursing in January 2016, for the new nursing program at the campus in Douglas. The new nursing program was the first new nursing program created in the state of Wyoming in 30 years.

It allow us to offer more options for students, increase enrollment, strengthen our partnerships with local medical providers, and do our part to help address the nursing shortage in our region,” then college president Dr. Patterson said in a press release announcing the approval. “We are very excited to see this program advance.”

Since its beginning in 2016 the program has advanced to offer a day and night cohort on EWC’s Douglas campus and a night cohort on the Torrington campus. A day cohort is planned to be added soon on the Torrington campus.

“I love the nursing program,” second year EWC nursing student Chelsea Fabela said. “The size of our cohort is small, but that is the best part. There are eight of us and we are like a family, and all want to see each other succeed. Unlike

**SEE NURSING on Page 12**



EWC Communications

See COWGIRL on Page 12

Dr. Monica Teichert works with the medical equipment used by students in the EWC classrooms.

## Paris Hendry



Paris Hendry talks to her students in Freshman Composition class Thursday, Sept. 8, at Eastern Wyoming College about Hans Christian Andersen's "The Emperor's New Clothes." Hendry is the new Assistant Professor of English at EWC.

# Victorianist Joins EWC as Assistant Professor of English

**Paris** Hendry left Houston, Texas, population of about 2.3 million, on Aug. 6 and headed northwest 1,183 miles to Torrington, Wyoming, population 6,062.

"I'd never heard of Torrington, Wyoming before" applying for the Assistant Professor of English position at Eastern Wyoming College, she said.

Hendry grew up in Houston, just 10 minutes from NASA. Though she lived in the big city, she attended a small private high school, Family Christian Academy.

"I was part of a graduating class of nine people," she said. "I'm use to small class sizes."

It was in her senior year in high school she was reading "Beowulf." The class was to read the book and do a character sketch. She liked the book so much Hendry decided to study English in college.

One of the things that fascinated her with the book was one side the text was in modern English and on the other side the text was in old English.

"I always thought English was fantastic," she said.

People often refer to William Shakespeare's writing as old English, however, Hendry points out, it is actually middle English. "Old English does not bear much resemblance to our English today."

As for the book that drew her into her pursuit of a career in English, she said, "I've reread "Beowulf" since and I don't even really like it."

After high school Hendry studied English at Texas A&M where she received her Bachelor's degree in English. She followed it up with a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

She then returned to Houston and began teaching middle school English at a Sacred Heart Catholic School. At the same time, she was studying for a second Master's degree in English at the University of Houston.

Upon graduating from the University of Houston Hendry worked as an adjunct professor teaching English for two different community colleges; San Jacinto Community College and Lone Star Community College, both in Houston.

"I started looking for a full-time teaching position and applied at Eastern Wyoming College," she said.

When she heard back from EWC she looked up Torrington, Wyoming on the internet.

"I visited the main city website, and it seemed like a cute little town," she said. "I thought, may be fun to try out small town life."

She accented the job, packed up her bags and "my dog, Bayley" and headed out of Houston.

"I came in (to Torrington) from Denver and it was really pretty," Hendry said.

Hendry and Bayley arrived in Torrington on Aug. 8, increasing the population by one person and one Corgi. She started work two days later.

Moving from the big city to Torrington has been a good move.

"No one knows anyone in Houston, you are a stranger everywhere you go, but not here," she said. "Everyone (in Torrington) is really nice and very welcoming."

Bayley has also made herself well known and "everyone has been very friendly" to her as the two take walks around town.

"She makes her presents well known," Hendry said. "Most of the people in town already know her name."

Hendry is teaching Freshman Composition and Technical Writing this semester. But the class she would love to teach is Victorian Literature.

"I'm a Victorianist," she said. A Victorianist is defined as an expert in the Victorian period. "Nineteenth century literature as a whole."

The Victorian Era was the period in the United Kingdom during Queen Victoria's reign from June 20, 1837 until her death on Jan. 20, 1901. It was a time of rapid social, political and scientific changes in Great Britain.

"The Victorian Era was a fascinating time period," Hendry said. "The Victorian novels were the first real modern literature. It is a fun era to study, because of all the changes going on."

She taught a course on Victorian literature over the summer for a private tutoring company.

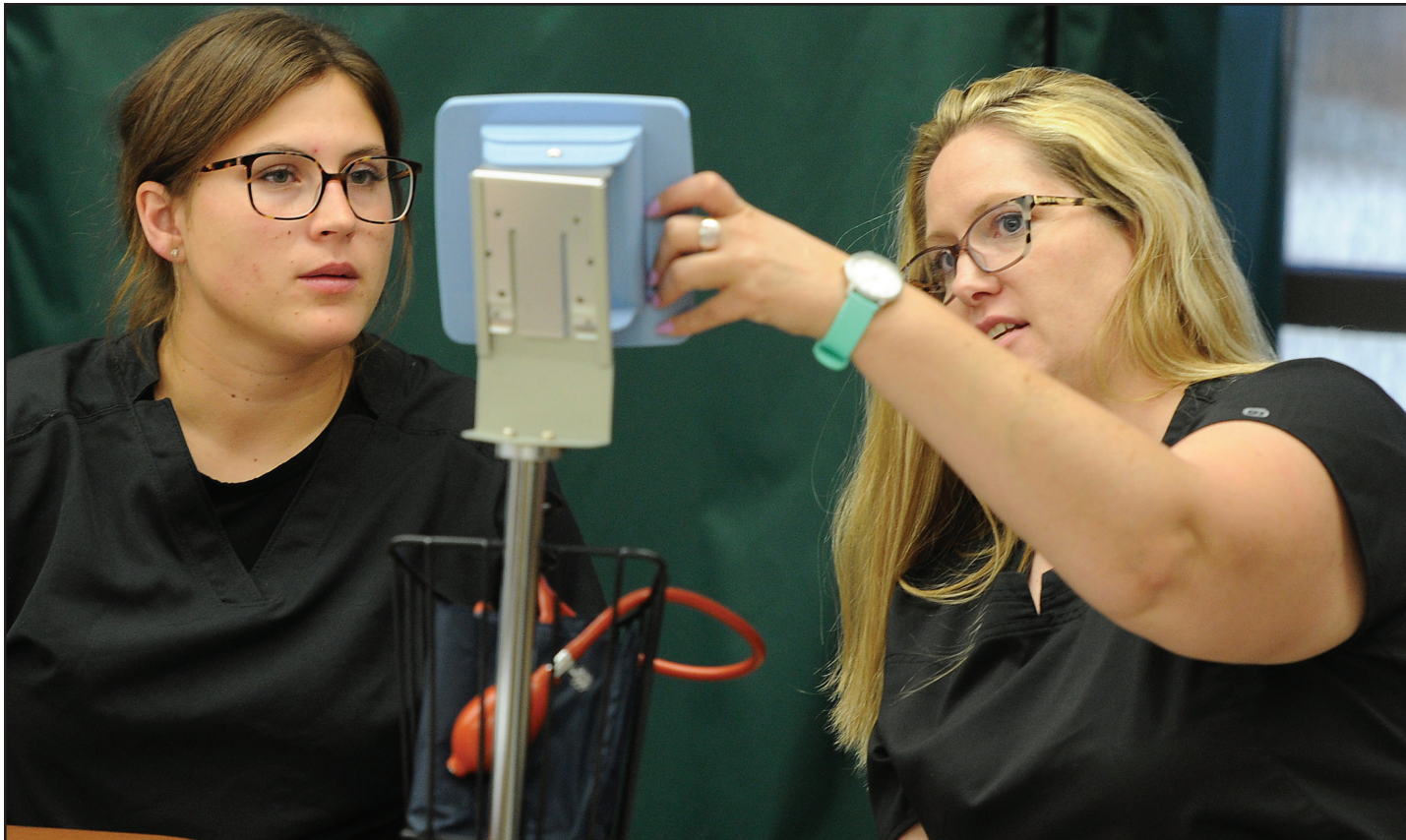
"Paris brings a coherence in teaching philosophy and practice to the English program," EWC Associate Professor of English Kelly Strampe said. "She is enthusiastic and has experience teaching at multiple educational levels, which benefits our diverse community college student population."

"She is a delight to work with; she is clearly a team player," Strampe added. "I've enjoyed getting to know her on a personal level because she is easy to talk to and fun to be around."

One of the biggest adjustments in moving from Houston to Torrington, she said was Sundays in a small town.

"I was shocked my first Sunday here," she said. "Everything was closed. In Houston the stores closed were Chick-fil-A and Hobby Lobby. In Torrington, the only place open is the grocery store. That's been my biggest adjustment."

# Campus Life in Pictures



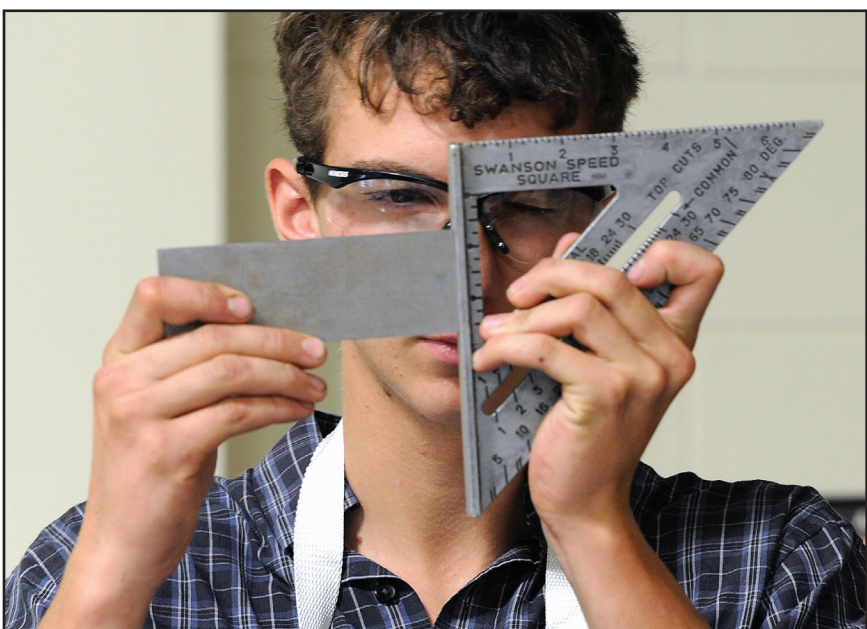
Eastern Wyoming College Nursing students Lacey Maddox (left) and Ann Logan (right) practice taking blood pressures.



Ellie VerBeek works with a mannequin in cosmetology class.



Chance Morgan works on a project in his gunsmithing class.



Weston Cronk gets the correct measurements for a project he is working on in EWC's General Machine Shop class.



Amanda Sene de Cruz works on a project in the EWC Library on the Torrington Campus.

## Oct. 19, 1987 Blast From the Past

The following announcements come from the Oct. 19, 1987 EWC school newspaper.

>>>

**Our Student Of The Week** this week is Sarah Reichert. Sarah is an Education Major from Torrington, Wyoming and also tutors Math and English. The numerous students who nominated her say she is very helpful as a tutor and works hard in helping people.

>>>

**Computer Services** will be upgrading all copies of WordPerfect from version 4.1 to version 4.2 over midterm recess. Those packages setup for running on two floppy disk systems will be recalled by Computer Services.

>>>

**“Once Upon A Time”** in the cornucopia (land of plenty), there was a room called the Commons - a place where students and faculty could go to relax, study, eat, drink and be merry. Well that room still exists. It moved from downstairs to upstairs three years ago and now seats approximately 150 people, rather than 50.

>>>

**ATTENTION EWC PHOTOGRAPHERS** (students & staff): Please contribute to the all-photo issue of the LANCE, a student-produced magazine. We want to make record of student population. Photo subjects: EWC students, formal & informal groups and events.

>>>

### WHY TORRINGTON?

Out of state students are often asked how they heard of EWC and why they came.

Kellie Jo Hubbard, a sophomore from Colstrip, Montana, tells how she heard of the Vet. Tech. program: “I have always enjoyed working with animals, and really wanted to further my education in a veterinarian career. I heard of EWC’s Vet. Tech. program by postcards distributed to my school. I was interested so I sent it in and received material on classes, advisors, etc... I could have attended a national college but I came here because you receive more of an individual and direct contact with your instructor; whereas, in a large school you wouldn’t.”

Lancer Basketball

# Lady Lancers Ready for Season to Begin



Neylan Vila Delicado #10



Monika Brcina #12



Darija Erakovic #14



Vanessa Marinova #22



Ines Gnahre #24



Avery West #30



Amanda Sene da Cruz #32



Jacklyn Stephenson #34



Andrea Guttierrez Ciordia #44



Sierra Allen #50



Tamar Kopilevich #52



Tatyana Yarrell #54

## Bailee Fisher



Bailee Fisher

# Showing is Part of Life

**B**ailee Fisher will start her college career this fall in the Veterinary Technology program at Eastern Wyoming College. She is attending on a scholarship to be on the EWC show team.

"I'm going to be showing goats and maybe lambs," Bailee said.

Growing up near the small town of Stanton, Texas, she started raising goats, but her experience in the show ring started long before.

"I started showing as soon as I could walk," Bailee said. "I've been in the show ring my whole life."

The first animal she showed was a lamb and the first belt buckle she won was for a rabbit.

"I was about nine-years-old," she said. "We got this rabbit, I don't remember where we got it from, I showed it and won. I liked it a lot more than I thought I would."

She has also shown lambs, pigs and goats.

Bailee said she enjoys the responsibility that comes with caring for livestock and preparing them to show. "I can say, 'I did it,' and it's something I accomplished myself."

To prepare for show "you have to feed them (the livestock) show quality feed . . . teach them to halter, lead" and much more.

"You spend a lot of time with your livestock before you go into the show ring," she said.

In high school she was involved in 4-H and FFA. She has done livestock judging, cotton judging, horse judging and basketball.

During the summers Bailee would come up to Evanston, Wyoming to spend time with her grandparents.

Wyoming, she said, has a better showing schedule. In Texas, most of the shows take place while school is taking place. In Wyoming, it is all summer long.

At EWC Fisher joins a team ready to compete at the highest level.



## EWC Foundation

# Tourney is Record Breaker

The Eastern Wyoming College Foundation held their annual fundraising golf tournament recently at the Cottonwood Golf Course in Torrington, Wyoming. The tournament raised over \$25,000.

"The 2022 Golf Tournament was the highest grossing in our 25-year history," EWC Director of Institutional Development John Hansen said.

Money raised helps fund the athletic programs at the college and supports needed campus enhancements.

"I want to thank all the sponsors and golfers for coming out and supporting Calcutta and the tournament," EWC Foundation President Todd Peterson said. "We raised a record amount which goes to support our student athletes and the College."

A total of 132 golfers made up 33 teams that competed in the tournament.

"The Foundation was extremely pleased with the tournament this year," Peterson added. "There was a full field of teams and it was great to see the interaction between the teams and the EWC golfers."

As a lead up to the tournament finale the EWC Lancer golf team in conjunction with the EWC Foundation sponsored the \$20,000 putting contest and Zach Serda came within a couple of feet of draining the putt.

The team of Gary Schwindt, Brett Guth, Gaylene Guth and Joe Guth took first place.

A live auction was held along with the tournament. Donated items included a Devils Tower Package, a Shannon Sharp autographed football, and much more.

There was also a record setting Calcutta that accompanied the tournament with Mike McNamee as the Calcutta Auctioneer.

"The success of the tournament is due to the diligent work of our Foundation Directors, community partners, businesses, College, and an unwavering belief in the future of Lancer Golf," EWC Foundation's and tournament chairperson Joe Guth said. "I would like to extend a special thank you to Janice Atkins-Neva who travels annually from Boise, Idaho to run the logistics of the entire tournament. It's that level of investment and belief in our students and Foundation that creates a winning event."



One-hundred-and-thirty-two golfers took part in the annual Eastern Wyoming College Foundation Golf Tournament held at the Cottonwood Golf Course in Torrington, Wyoming. This year's tournament "raised a record amount which goes to support our student athletes and the College," according to EWC Foundation President Todd Peterson. The team of Gary Schwindt, Brett Guth, Gaylene Guth and Joe Guth took first place among the 33 teams that took part in this year's tournament.



## Calling ALL LANCERS!!

Plan to return to the EWC campus in April 2023 to **CELEBRATE** your college's 75th Anniversary.

## Dr. LeAnn Smith



Dr. LeAnn Smith works with Lexi Wells (right) on creating a standards based choice board about the impact of supply and demand for high school seniors.

# Impacting Tomorrow's Teachers

As a senior in high school Dr. LeAnn Smith worked as a student aid for a kindergarten class. Her experiences there lead her into a career as an educator and ultimately to being Eastern Wyoming College's new Associate Professor of Education.

"There was a boy in the (kindergarten) class who was so wild. He would run all over the classroom and he'd stand on the table and sing," Smith said. "The teacher put me in charge of him."

Instead of disliking the experience and the boy, Smith "thought he was a great kid, just needed some special attention."

The experience made her want to go into education.

"I also had some extraordinary teachers when I was a student and I am inspired to be like them," she said.

Growing up on a ranch outside Grover, Colorado, Smith learned the value of hard work from her parents, Andy and Marian Sierman. She was involved in sports, FFA and rodeo.

"Rodeo has always been a part of my life," Smith said. She is involved in barrel racing, team roping and breakaway roping. She

has a WPRA card in barrel racing.

After graduating in a class of "seven" she attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colorado. While a NJC she competed on the rodeo team. She finished her degree in Special Education and Elementary Education at Eastern New Mexico College.

"While attending college I worked at an alternative high school," Smith said. "I taught in a GED program, most of my students were older than I was. It was a high poverty area."

Smith did her student teaching in Grand Junction, Colorado before moving to Cody, Wyoming for her first fulltime teaching position. As a December graduate she was hired to finish the school year teaching special education at an elementary school.

Wanting to be closer to home, where her sister, Lisa Johnson who had recently had a baby, Smith accepted a position at Prairie School. The k-12 school is located between

Stoneham and New Raymer, Colorado.

"I did a lot of things at Prairie School," she said. "I taught K-12 in math and English, coached junior varsity basketball, volleyball and track."

While at Prairie School she worked and completed a Masters in Special Education from the University

of Northern Colorado.

"I had a lot of students who had special needs and academic needs, so I wanted to get my masters to better help them," she said.

After receiving her Masters there was a change in leadership and Smith was named the interim principal. She was also the school counselor.

"If I was going to be the principal I was going to do the best I possibly could," Smith said. So she began working on a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Northern Colorado.

**"Our rural students deserve to have the same high quality education our big city schools get."**

Dr. LeAnn Smith

As a principal "I wanted to help other teachers as they worked to achieve student and teacher success," Smith said.

Everything was going well at the school. However, her sister had married a rancher from LaGrange, Wyoming where they were living.

"We've (Smith and her sister) have always been very close," Smith said. So when a ranch came up for sale 12 miles from her sister, Smith and her husband purchased it and moved to eastern Wyoming.

With a Doctorate degree in hand Smith began substitute teaching in Albin, Wyoming at Albin Elementary School.

"I substituted for a year then was hired on," she said. "I taught a combined first and second grade class for a couple years."

Some asked why, with a Doctorate, she would go from small rural school to rural school?

"Our rural students deserve to have the same high quality education our big city schools get," she said. Also, "you bloom where you are planted."

At Albin she later became the school's principal. She served as

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct. 11** -EWC Board of Turstees meeting 5:45 p.m. in the Dolores Kaufman Board Room

**Oct. 14** - Lancer Rodeo competes at Laramie Community College.

**Oct. 14** - Lancer Volleyball takes on Northwest College for a home match starting at 6 p.m.






**Oct. 15** - Lancer Volleyball takes on Central Wyoming College in Torrington at 2 p.m.

**Nov. 1** - Lancer's men's basketball team takes on Air Force Prep in an away game for their first game of the season.

**Nov. 4**-Lancer basketball teams' home openers against North Platte Community College. Tip Off for the ladies is at 5 p.m.

**Nov. 8** -EWC Board of Turstees meeting 5:45 p.m. in the Dolores Kaufman Board Room

**Nov. 14** - PTK Blood Drive contact Jennifer Minks, jminks@ewc.wy.edu to set up an appointment

-  @easternwyomingcollege
-  @EasternWyoming
-  EasternWyoming
-  @eastern\_wy\_college
-  ewcadmissions@ewc.wy.edu

ewc.wy.edu  
307-532-8230

## Stormy Potter

# First to Take on College

**S**tormy Potter started her college career this fall in the Elementary Education program at Eastern Wyoming College.

At the age of 14 Stormy found herself behind the wheel of her older sister's car. Her sister, who was three-years older, didn't make it back to Evanston, Wyoming, in time, from a swim meet, to compete. As a result, dad, asked Stormy if she wanted to drive.

Stormy's answer was, "yes."

She climbed behind the wheel and took part in her first, but not last, demolition derby.

"I was scared to go in, until I got hit the first time," Stormy said. "I took first place. My oldest sister was in the arena with me, so I beat her."

Her dad started in demolition derbies when he was 15-years-old,

so Stormy grew up around them. Until that first-time in the arena, "I didn't really like it, until I tired it."

This fall she took the wheel heading toward her future career in elementary education. It is career choice inspired by the influence a teacher, Mejah Cobb, had on her life.

While going through a tough time in middle school, Stormy said, Mrs. Cobb, "took me on as her own. She worried more about the kids than she did what she was teaching."

"I want to help kids the same way she helped me," Stormy said.

Besides elementary education, Stormy is also on the EWC Livestock Judging Team.

Her family owns a ranch across



Stormy Potter

the border in Utah.

Stormy is the first in her family to go to college.

## EDUCATION

Continued from page 10

principal for 12 years until she accepted the position at Eastern Wyoming College in May 2022.

"I worked with an amazing staff," Smith said. "It was also a very supportive and hardworking community."

The school had a long history of success that Smith was able to keep going.

"We hired the right people and empowered them to do their job," she said. "Get out of their way and let them grow. I have a strong belief in a growth mind set. No matter how much we learn we can still learn more. I also believe in servant leadership. As a principal it was my job to help others succeed."

Under Smith's leadership the school received recognition three times at the national level. Twice the school was honored with the National Distinguish Title 1 award and once with the Blue Ribbon Award.

"LeAnn was a great mentor and a great leader for our school," Albin Elementary School head teacher Chris Nusbaum said. "She had high expectations for students and staff alike."

Nusbaum worked with Smith for "more than 15 years" and said Smith "is very much missed, but we understand her desire to step out and put her mark on education in another avenue."

"I am very confident she will be as successful with this endeavor as she was when she was at the helm at Albin Elementary School," Nusbaum said.

In the spring of 2022 she worked as an adjunct professor at Eastern Wyoming College, besides being the principal and teaching special education at Albin.

"They were long days," she said. "But something I learned growing up on the ranch is that hard work pays off."



Brenlee Logan looks on as Dr. LeAnn Smith helps Cody Pierce in creating standards based choice boards to use in physical education classes for grades K-12. Pierce's topic was positive communication and team dynamics. Logan's topic was personal and social behavior.

Leaving her job at Albin was hard, but Smith wanted to "cast a wider net."

"All along (in her career) one of my missions has been to have a meaningful impact on people," Smith said. "As an instructor at EWC I can impact not just one or two schools but all my college students can go out and have that positive impact on their students."

In her first semester as the Associate Professor of Education she said, "I love my job here. The students are amazing and eager to learn."

The education program at EWC offers degrees in Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Secondary Agricultural Education and Secondary Physical Education both in-person and virtual. For more information on the programs call 307-532-8200.

**COWGIRL**  
Continued from page 5

Torrington campus was added in 2020. There are plans to add a day cohort in Torrington.

“Dr. Teichert is the perfect person to be the director of EWC’s nursing program,” second year ADN student at EWC Melissa Church said. Though she hated to see her leave the classroom, “I feel she will raise the bar and do what it takes to make it a successful program. She is a strong advocate for the things she believes in and nursing is at the top of that list, and that is what is going to make her just as good at the director position just like she was as our instructor.”

Both campuses have a nurse simulated lab which gives the students real life scenario. The high-tech patient manikins simulate all kinds of different medical scenarios, including giving birth.

“With these labs the students can make mistakes and learn from them, so when they get in a real life situation they don’t make the mistakes,” Teichert said.

In the classroom Teichert can “be tough in regards to the material she wants us to know,” Church said, “but she does it out of love and because she wants us to be amazing nurses when we graduate.”

“Because we have a smaller program the students in our program at EWC get a more personalized education with more one-on-one time with their instructors,” Teichert said. “We have a close relationship with the students and in turn that gives them a better educational experience.”

As she takes the reins of EWC’s nursing program the goal is to have the best possible nursing program, on both the Douglas and Torrington campuses, producing high quality nurses.

**NURSING**  
Continued from page 5

large programs, we really get to know our faculty and they know us. It’s a great program and I would suggest to anyone interested in nursing to come to EWC.”

Students can earn an associate degree in nursing which prepares the graduate to function as a Registered Nurse in providing care to clients with complex health care needs. Upon successful completion of this program, students are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in any state. This program may require travel to surrounding communities.

Students must complete all program requirements, including approved prerequisites with a “C” or better and meet the minimum GPA of 2.50. Admission into the EWC Traditional Day classes occurs every two years on the even years. Admission into the EWC Night School occurs every two years on the odd years.

Today the program is under the direction of Dr. Monica Teichert and it is continuing to advance. Graduates are helping address the shortage of nurses in eastern Wyoming.

**Morgan Douglass**  
**Charging into a Future as an Air Force Nurse**

Morgan Douglass is charging into a future in nursing on Eastern Wyoming College’s Douglas Campus.

“I like helping people,” Morgan said. “I also like being the one people go to when decisions need to be made.”



Morgan Douglass

The first year nursing is very happy with her decision to enroll in the EWC’s nursing program.

“I really like the atmosphere here,” she said. “The small class size is great. You get to know everyone.”

After finishing her prerequisites, she enrolled and was accepted into EWC’s day cohort in Douglas. The college also offers a night cohort on the Douglas Campus and a second night cohort in nursing on the EWC Torrington Campus.

While she was working on her prerequisites Morgan did clinicals at Wyoming Behavioral Institute during her sophomore year.

“I like the patients,” she said. She also “loved being in the ER (Emergency Room). I like the chaos.”

The love of the chaos will come in handy after finishing the nursing program.

“I plan on going into the Air Force after graduating,” Morgan said. “I really like the craziness. You never know what’s going to be next.”

Military, she said, is a family thing on her dad’s side. Morgan is the youngest of four siblings and the only one in nursing.

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