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75¢

Wednesday,
 November 10, 2010

Vol. 124 No. 45

DOUGLAS BUDGET

PAWS

Local scores lag in early grades, surge later

By SCOTT BORKGREN
 Reporter

PAWS results are in, but the conclusions to be drawn are muddled.

The general trend for Douglas students is young children lag behind the rest of the state in every subject, but they eventually catch and surpass Wyoming averages. Fourth grade students' results were 10 percent lower than state averages in math, 5 percent in reading, 16.7 percent in writing and 11 percent in science. Douglas juniors were 3 percent better than the state average in math, 9 percent in reading and 7 percent in writing. Juniors trailed 11 percent in science, but Douglas eighth graders, the next oldest grade level tested, were 10 percent above the state average.

'It is nice to see that we are producing high quality results in middle and high school.'

Curriculum Director
 John Weigel

Third graders trailed the state by 1 percent in math and 2 percent in reading, but tested 1 percent ahead in writing. Fifth graders were 1 percent behind in math, 5 percent in reading and 12 percent in writing. Sixth graders tested 2 percent behind in math and 13 percent behind in writing but were 4 percent ahead in reading. Seventh graders tested 4 percent behind in math, 3 percent ahead in reading and 5 percent behind in writing. Eighth graders were 6 percent ahead in math, 15 percent ahead in reading, 9 percent ahead in writing and 10 percent ahead in science.

"It is nice to see that we are producing high quality results in the middle and high school, but it would be nice to see some better scores at the elementary levels," Curriculum Director John Weigel said. "It seems traditionally, for whatever reason, we do start out a little below (state averages) and then as kids progress through our district, their scores get more competitive and by the time they get into middle school and high school, their scores are above state averages in most areas."

This year's testing was famously plagued with errors across the state. On occasion, a student would log on and complete the required tutorial before he or she could complete the test. However, the program failed to acknowledge the completion of the tutorial and the tutorial couldn't be retaken, sending the student into a loop of logging out and back in to start over until the glitch didn't happen. The problem led to 30 districts from around the state to apply for an Annual Yearly Progress waiver, citing the scores as unreliable. The state will not use this year's scores toward the determination and will use last year's results

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The Douglas Bearcat football team celebrates its 23-2 semifinal win over Riverton at Bearcat Stadium Nov. 5. Douglas won its third straight semifinal game and is looking for its third consecutive state football championship Nov. 11.

Bearcats head to Laramie for third straight title game

With a deceptively quiet 23-2 win over Riverton in the semifinals of the 3A State Football Playoffs, Douglas set up a showdown that many were predicting since sweltering summer practices in August.

Bearcats vs. Bison.
 For all the marbles.

Two years after meeting in the 2008 3A title game, Buffalo and Douglas will play for the state title at 3 p.m. Nov. 12 in War Memorial Stadium in Laramie.

The Bearcats are two-time defending state champions, having beat Cody 44-14 in 2009 and Buffalo 34-21 in 2008, and are in the title game for the fourth time in five years.

The Bearcats beat Buffalo 22-7 at home in week four of this season behind two touchdown passes from Hayden Barker to Mitch Espeland and 112 yards rushing from Dylan Klava.

Douglas is riding a 29-game winning streak that dates back to week four of the 2008 season and are hoping to become 3A's (formerly 4A) first three-time champion since Worland in 2001-03.

For full coverage see page B-1



Local author crashes Amazon.com

By SCOTT BORKGREN
 Reporter

It was fall 2008. Rancher Reid Rosenthal was on horseback with a six-point bull elk about 200 yards away. Instead of reaching for his rifle, he reached for his pen and notebook.

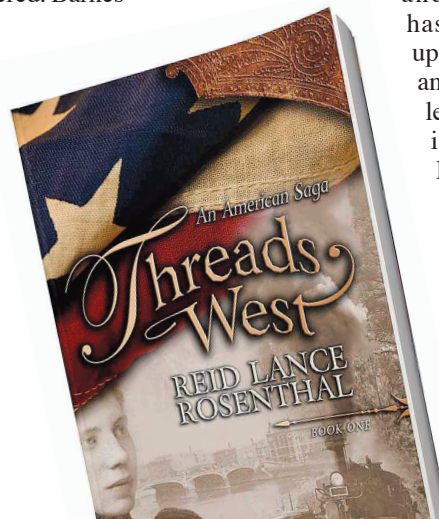
"There was a particularly incredible scene with crimson tendrils of sunset sinking over a mirror image of a pond up on one of the ranches," Rosenthal said.

It was then, he decided that it was time to put the book that had been dancing through his head for more than 40 years down on paper.

In October, that book crashed Amazon.com. "I was astounded," he said. "Sales were so rapid, at 9:07 a.m. on the 12th of October, it melted down the Amazon button. From what we've been told - we don't have the records yet - but it was something like 50 books a minute. The sells button shut down, and for the day of our launch, we didn't sell a book from

9:07 a.m. until 5:18 p.m."

The suspicion is that the first printing, all 5,000 copies, were sold out by 9:07 a.m. Despite the problems, *Threads West* was an overnight best selling paperback in five genres and was Amazon.com's most active book in the world for two days. A second printing of 20,000 copies dered. Barnes



a Western historical saga, the title was *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry; it won a Pulitzer in 1986," wrote Eve Paludan, a two-time No. 1 bestselling author, in her review. "Reid L. Rosenthal, cowboy and rancher, has written a novel that spirited me away to the 1850s-1860s era and provided me with gripping hours of authentic Western history, action, drama, heartfelt romance and something extra special and seldom seen in literature of this caliber: well-written, sizzling sensuality."

The book begins in 1855 and tells the story of a land and people on the cusp of history. It was several years after the revolver was invented, but a few years before the repeating rifle. Gold was discovered in 1848. The Singer sewing machine was invented in 1851. European immigration was on the rise. The country was teetering on civil war.

Threads West takes place entirely in 1855 and in-

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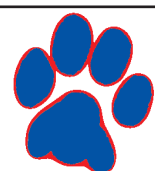
Local rancher Reid Rosenthal's new book *Threads West* is garnering national attention since its Oct. 12 release.

WEATHER

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|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| High | 40 | 38 | 45 | 41 | 42 |
| Low | 18 | 12 | 16 | 17 | 16 |
| | | | | | |
| | Wed. | Thur. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |

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