

# Douglas Budget

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\$1<sup>00</sup>



Kiah Lewis holds a plaque in her hands Sept. 9 commemorating one of two of the bat houses she built to earn her Girl Scouts Gold Award. The plaque is posted along the Douglas bike path alongside the Platte River. One of her bat houses is shown in the background at the top of the yellow storage barn.

Chase Vialpando photos

## Golden Girl Scout batty to benefit community

By Chase Vialpando  
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This time of year, the very mention of mosquitoes ushers thoughts of painfully itchy red bites, annoying swatting and the putrid odor of bug spray.

Wouldn't it be great if someone thought of a way to mitigate these pests?

Well, one girl has.

Kiah Lewis, 16, built two bat houses to help with the communi-

ty's mosquito problem and earned her Girl Scouts Gold Award to boot.

"Me and my dad were playing tennis by the middle school and there were a lot of mosquitoes," she said. "We noticed a truck going by spraying stuff in the air and it just seemed concerning to me. I didn't like something being sprayed in the air and not knowing what it was. So I just thought making bat houses was a more natural way to mitigate mosquitoes."

And, she said, her project could keep bats out of other people's

houses.

The Gold Award – which is focused on a community-beneficial project – is the highest achievement in the Girl Scouts. It's the equivalent of the Eagle Award in Boy Scouts.

One of these bat houses sits high along the side of a storage barn across the river from the North Platte walking trail. The other sits atop a pole at the south end of the Douglas bike path along the river between the city's wastewater treatment plant.

These spots were ideal because

the houses needed to be one: close to water to offer a bountiful banquet of bugs and two: they were high and secluded enough that the bats could avoid predators and people.

Both houses have plaques nearby that offer facts on bats, notably that they can eat 1,000 mosquitoes a day.

Lewis went before Douglas City Council in May asking permission to put up the bat houses, which

Please see **BAT HOUSES**, page A-4

## Needham thought missing, but police say she's alive, well



Courtesy photo

Amy Needham had not been seen or heard from for nearly four months, according to family and friends, who started a search for her across Wyoming and social media. Douglas Police Department Investigator Sean Leman said he spoke with Needham Sunday.

By Gregory R.C. Hasman  
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Up until Monday morning, concerned friends, family members and law enforcement were looking for clues to the alleged disappearance of Amy Frontiero Needham, 41, of Douglas.

Douglas Police Department Investigator Sean Leman said the good news is, Needham is safe and sound.

"I made contact with her and we are removing her from NCIC (National Crime Information Center). She's alive and well. We were able to verify it was Amy," Leman told the Budget Sept. 13.

Needham's disappearance an alleged lack of contact with her family for nearly four months had friends and relatives worried for her safety.

Please see **NEEDHAM**, page A-4

## Digging deep from the heart

\$180k raised for Boys & Girls Club

By Cinthia Stimson  
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The 8th Annual Commit to Kids Sept. 11 brought in just a little bit of money to help the Douglas Boys & Girls Club (DBGC) operate for the next year – to the tune of \$180,000, that is.

"People dug deep. This is one of the first things I noticed when I took over this job March 1, just how truly generous people here are. I am in awe," DBGC Chief Executive Officer Joey Burke said following the big event.

In fact, Burke said the Saturday night shindig brought in 28 percent of the club's annual budget.

Burke, who moved to Douglas from Pinedale, said within minutes of arriving at her new job earlier this year, she opened the club's commercial freezer and was pleasantly surprised to see it stocked to the brim with beef – not something one sees just everyday.

"The amount of support here in the community is tremendous. The fundraiser was a chance to sit and talk with people, to actually get to meet the people who are donating and who are truly behind our mission," she said. Gov. Mark Gordon and First

Lady Jennie Gordon were the event's keynote speakers, alongside DBGC Chairman Jay Butler, and Burke.

After cancelling the event last year due to COVID-19 concerns, then cancelling again in April of this year due to the space being unavailable, Burke said everyone at the club was happy to finally be able to hold the long-awaited fundraiser.



Boys and Girls Club of Douglas President Jay Butler addresses the sizeable crowd during the club's 8th annual Commit to Kids Fundraiser Sept. 11.



Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon draws a raffle ticket from Boys and Girls Club of Douglas board member Bonnie Lane and staff member Ariana Hauglid as Gov. Mark Gordon stands ready to call the winner.

Chase Vialpando photos

## This week's weather

Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.



High 79 78 79 79 83

Low 68 68 68 67 67

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