

Courthouse, community mourn court reporter

Diane Kae DeBoer dies at 43

By **TOM MORTON**
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Thirteen new U.S. citizens and their families may not have learned her name, but they will remember the words Diane Kae DeBoer said at the opening of the naturalization ceremony in Casper on Jan. 14

"Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye ...
"God save the United States and this honorable court."

DeBoer, 43, a deputy court reporter at the Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building, died suddenly while cross-country skiing with her boyfriend west of Lander on Saturday, Chief U.S. District Court Judge William Downes said Monday.

A celebration of her life is scheduled for 5 p.m. Thursday at Highland Park Community Church.

The public servant, soldier, athlete and friend of animals will be remembered fondly by many, Downes said.

"The whole court family is grief-stricken at her untimely passing," Downes said.

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DeBoer joined the Wyoming Army National Guard in 1997 and was honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in July 2005.

She served with the Casper-based 4th Infantry Division, Rear Operations Center (ROC) "Ironhorse Cowboys." She and her unit were deployed from early 2003 to April 7, 2004, when she led her unit from the gray C-130 after its arrival at the Natrona County International Airport.

Before the ROC soldiers landed, DeBoer's mother and stepfather, Sally and Gary Kingsbury, said they were very anxious for her to get back, according to a story in the Casper Star-Tribune.

Sally Kingsbury added that they were planning on celebrating DeBoer's return with a special meal once they left the airport.

"We are going to go and have pizza and beer. She wants pizza and Corona beer," she said.

Shortly after her arrival DeBoer said she and her family probably were going to do just that.

"It's a relief, it's wonderful," DeBoer said of her homecoming.