

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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## Truck tips on curve



A large crowd gathered at the curve of Park and Sixth Streets last Thursday when a semi truck loaded with bentonite tipped over as the driver tried to maneuver the corner. The 24-year-old driver, Blazoz Kocer, was uninjured; however, he was cited for driving too fast for con-

ditions and hauling an unsafe load. The truck was a 2005 Freightliner owned by ABS Freight out of Chicago, Ill. A minimal amount of diesel fuel can be seen in the photo above, but not enough spilled to warrant a call for hazmat.  
—Cindy Glasson photo

## Fireworks celebrate the Fourth

Plan to stay up late Monday night in Thermopolis because the Hot Springs County Volunteer Fire Department plans to put on the annual Fourth of July fireworks show.

The display, which is built around the amount of donations received from the community, will start at dark Monday from the top of T-Hill.

As of Tuesday, the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce had collected \$5,126 for the display, which includes donations from the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board and the Town of Thermopolis, said interim Chamber Director Michelle Lue.

The amount of donations is down from 2010, which had \$5,716 in donations, but remains higher than the 2009 display, which brought in \$4,531.

Last year, firefighters shot off 327 shells of the 3-inch, 4-inch and 6-inch varieties.

Fire chief Mark Collins said the shells would be ordered Tuesday, and the number of fireworks ordered will depend on the final amount of donations.

## Council moves forward to allowing bars to stay open later on Sundays

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council voted June 21 to approve an ordinance allowing bars and restaurants to serve beer and liquor on Sunday until midnight in the summer months and an ordinance to create a \$10 court automation fee for municipal court offenses.

The council passed second reading of the ordinance to expand Sunday bar hours and first reading of the ordinance to

create the court technology fee.

Jim Mills, owner of the Days Inn, approached the council in May to expand alcohol serving hours for the Safari Club. Mills wanted an exemption from the current closing time of 10 p.m. in order to accommodate guests of the hotel and patrons at the restaurant who come in late on Sunday nights during the tourist season.

Instead of an individual exemption, the council chose to

change the code for all restaurants and bars. The new hours start on Memorial Day weekend and will run until the last weekend of October.

Chief of Police Mark Nelson said he didn't expect the expansion of bar hours on Sunday to be a problem for law enforcement.

Messenger reiterated several bar owners' comments from a previous meeting indicating they would likely not expand

their hours to midnight despite the closing hour change.

Third reading of the ordinance will take place during the next regular council meeting at 7 p.m. July 5 at town hall.

### Court technology fee

Town Attorney Mike Messenger presented the council with an ordinance allowing Municipal Court Judge Jill Jacobson and the Clerk of Municipal Court to impose a \$10

court automation fee for people found guilty of violating town ordinances.

Messenger said the state allows towns to impose the fee to account for automation costs. The amount of the fee is set by state statute and cannot be raised or lowered if imposed.

The automation fee is imposed in both Circuit Court and District Court.

The fee would be automatically tacked on to the fines for

municipal court offenses, raising each fine \$10, including speeding tickets.

The second reading of the ordinance will take place at the next regular council meeting.

### Other topics

The council also discussed the possibility of raising the fee for catering permits, which allow a caterer to serve alcohol at

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## Register now for HSCHS reunion

It's almost that time again. Time when alumni from Hot Springs County schools converge on their alma mater for the annual All-Class Reunion.

This year's featured classes for the event end in one or six.

Registration for the reunion will be held at the VFW on Saturday, July 16 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Attendees will pick up their tickets at that time for the all-class picnic on Sunday afternoon.

Most classes will be having their own get-togethers Friday evening, July 15.

Saturday will feature class dinners followed by a free dance at the VFW. The band for the event will be Rewinders from Lovell, starting at 9 p.m.

Registration forms are due to the reunion committee by July 8.

There will be one more meeting of the reunion committee on July 12 at 7 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office.

One representative from each class year is asked to attend.

A listing of each class' Friday get together and dinner venue will be posted in next week's Independent Record along with contact information for each class organizer.

## Riding in the parade



Mesa Allen rides a stick horse in the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo Parade Saturday as part of Sheriff Lou's Stick Horse Posse.

— J.D. Stetson photo

## Commissioners accept bids

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners opened bid packages for the courthouse cabling project, approved a sign management plan and discussed an addendum proposed by Spirit Master regarding the Lane 3 project at their meeting June 21.

Only two bids were received for the cabling project, one from ISC Corp. of Casper and the other from Jadeco Electric of Thermopolis.

With his company participating in the bid process, commissioner Brad Basse recused himself from voting and left the commissioners' room during discussion regarding whom to award the bid.

The bid package was separated into seven different phases so the project could be divided between different bidders to save money on the project.

ISC Corp. bid on the first three phases only of the project for \$39,879.

Jadeco bid on all seven phases for \$100,019. Jadeco's bid on just the first three phases was \$43,597.

Commission chairman John Lumley and commissioner Mike Baker voted to award the first three phases of the project to ISC, with the remaining four phases to go to Jadeco.

Total cost would then be \$98,376 for the entire project, saving approximately \$1,700 on the final total.

### Sign Management program

Road and bridge supervisor Ray Shaffer presented the commissioners with a Hot Springs County Sign Management program for their review.

According to Shaffer, federal mandate now requires the county to have a sign management program in place and this program would show the county has an active program in place.

"If we have a plan in place," Shaffer said, "we then become grandfathered so we can do it a little at a time rather than being required to do it all at once."

This program does not include the rural addressing or fire number system.

The commissioners approved the management program.

As far as the rural addressing and fire num-

ber issue, the commissioners requested Shaffer send out individual letters to the owners of rural property that will be affected by a change in the fire numbering system.

The letter would include a time, date and other information for a public meeting to address the coming changes with rural residents. The meeting will be held some time in July.

### Lane 3 project

There has been something of a stumbling block with gaining easements for the Lane 3 project from Spirit Master, the company that owns the property on which Pamida sits.

Spirit Master placed an addendum on the easement request from the county, stipulating the county must carry liability insurance on the easement forever.

According to engineer Heath Overfield, "We don't do those things after construction," he said. Insurance is normally carried only during the construction phase of a project and taken over by the property owner after construction is completed.

Overfield indicated to the commissioners they could simply change the plans slightly to eliminate the need for an easement on the Pamida side of the lane, go outside the easement to do curb and gutter work, and leave the sidewalk on that side of the road out of the equation.

In addition, that would eliminate the entrance to the parking lot and loading dock for the store. Baker felt it might be time to let Spirit Master know the commissioners are to the point where that's exactly what they'll do.

"This is really a no-brainer," Lumley said. "It would benefit their business considerably."

"All it would take is just one icy moment on their highway entrance and someone slides out into the highway. What a liability."

Overfield said he was under the impression WYDOT had never officially agreed to Pamida's current highway access.

The commissioners agreed it was time to put a letter together to be sent to Spirit Master outlining the commissioners' stand on the easement issue.

The next meeting of the county commissioners will be July 5 at 9 a.m. in the county annex.

# Council

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specific sites away from a bar or restaurant that serves alcohol. Mayor's assistant Fred Crosby said the current fee of \$10 needs to be raised because the amount of work and cost to the town to prepare the permits is more than the current fee.

Messenger stated the council could likely raise the cost without creating an ordinance by passing a resolution.

The council also briefly discussed changing the fee for impounding pets that are picked up by law enforcement. Nelson

briefly explained the fine to impound the animal is less than the charge for placing the pet into a kennel. He said there is more incentive to let officers impound the dogs than for the people to place them in the kennel themselves.

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