

Thermopolis man found guilty of wasting elk

In Park County Circuit Court October 24, Douglas Edwards, 43, of Thermopolis was found guilty by a six member jury for failure to tag a big game animal, waste of edible portions of meat and interference with lawful duties of a peace officer. Edwards received a 60 day suspended jail sentence and six months probation, was fined \$1450 and will lose his hunting privileges for two years.

Meeteetse Game Warden Jim Olson said that Edwards left a cow elk in the field for nine days before retrieving it and failed to tag the big

game animal.

"The law states that no person shall take, leave, abandon or allow any game bird, game fish or game animal (except trophy game animals) or edible portion, to intentionally or needlessly go to waste," Olson said. "The law further states that failure of any person to properly dress and care for any big game animal killed by that person, and if the carcass is reasonably accessible, within 48 hours to transport the carcass to the camp of that person, and properly care for the carcass."

During an investigation Dec. 28, 2013, Olson said he found the elk near a road in Hunt Area 61. The elk had been field dressed with the front quarters and hind quarters separated and the head and lower legs removed. Olson was unable to find a carcass coupon (tag) on the elk.

After receiving a tip the hunters were back in the area Dec. 31, Olson contacted Edwards in the field. Olson confirmed with Edwards that the elk was harvested Dec. 22 and had been laying at the kill site for nine days without a carcass coupon. Olson also

determined that Edwards' duplicate license was not purchased and validated until two days after the harvest.

"The law requires a hunter to validate a carcass coupon by signing and completely removing the day and month wedges before leaving the site of a kill and to leave the carcass coupon attached to the animal," Olson said.

Edwards also failed to comply with several lawful orders on Dec. 31, 2013 and was charged and convicted of interference with a peace officer.

Olson said that wasting meat is not only illegal, but unethical.

Emergency sewer project planned

by Zachary White

An Emergency Sewer Project will start in early January, following approval from the Town Council during their meeting Tuesday.

The project needs to be completed during winter months when the ground is frozen so to avoid flooding the sewer with river water.

The sewer line currently runs from the south end of 1st Street north to Park Street along the Big Horn river.

The project had an estimated construction cost of \$1,077,319.50.

Following the bidding process, the sewer project will be completed by Wilson Brothers Construction, Inc. who said the construction cost would be \$888,305 if completed by them.

Construction should be completed by no later than April 20, town engineer Anthony Barnett said.

The project will be paid for in part by a \$500,000 Wyoming State Loan and Investment Board matching grant, and from \$300,000 worth of County Concerns funding. The rest of the cost will come from the town coffers.

During the meeting, the council also approved a 3-inch water tap for the South Thermopolis fire department training facility.

The facility would be limited to one training activity per month, and no more than 2,000 gallons of water to be used in a training activity.

Along with this tap being used for the training facility, there would also be an expansion of homes connected to the water line.

Heath Overfield of Engineering Associates, said that there should be no cause for people to be concerned about losing water flow in their homes.

Overfield said that even if every person was running their water at peak usage, the town would still be able to pump more than twice the water into their tanks then would be drawn out.

Only a severe circumstance would cause more water to be used than can be replaced.

"We're talking the whole downtown is on fire and every fire hydrant is pumping water," Overfield said.

The council also approved repayment of \$4,615 in costs to the fire district for snow removal from 2013 snowfall. According to a contract between the town and the fire district, the town was supposed to be removing snow for the fire district, but has not so far.

The town is currently in the process of bidding out snow removal for the fire district.

Also, the council approved pay raises for city council members and the mayor.

Starting Jan. 1, council members will be paid \$25 per meeting, and the Mayor will be paid \$4,800 per year, at a rate of \$400 per month.



You're not a traditional ornament

The Risen Son Christian School presented their Christmas program to a packed crowd Thursday. The play was a story about acceptance. The Hula Girl was a non-traditional ornament wanting to be a part of a huge Christmas celebration. As the play goes on they realize that it was Jesus' coming to Earth that was the greatest gift of all. Pictured are Daiyton Deleon, Hannah Andreen, Madison Shaffer, Mesa Longwell and Skylar Lippincott.

HSCHS graduate helps with NASA project

by Cindy Glasson

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."

— John F. Kennedy

On December 5, the United States launched the first new spacecraft in 42 years built to carry humans from Earth into deep space.

Thermopolis and Hot Springs County High School had a hand in the NASA flight in the form of alumnus Allen Bucher, who, along with his company Advanced Solutions, Inc., made sure all six NASA control rooms and the spacecraft, were able to communicate with each other.

Bucher graduated from HSCHS in 1980 and went on to graduate from the University of Wyoming in 1984. He received his Masters Degree at Colorado University Boulder in 1989 and holds a Bachelors Degree, also from the University of Wyoming.

His computer savvy got him on board the Magellan space program in 1985 and he has worked on 11 other space programs since then.

The relationships he built through that work got him a call from the Orion project.

"I was originally going to do a couple of months," Bucher said. "Now, its three and a half years later."

Orion orbited the Earth twice during its four and a half hour flight, covering more than 60,000 miles, reaching an altitude of 3,600 miles above the earth. To put that into perspective, the International Space Station orbits at an altitude of approximately 260 miles aloft.

The flight was a success and provided critical data that will enable engineers to improve Orion's design and reduce the risk for astronauts as NASA continues moving forward on its human journey to Mars.

Bucher's company specializes in guidance, navigation and control systems as well as flight software, spacecraft command and telemetry systems, aerospace ground data systems and dynamic space simulation.

Not bad for a kid from Thermopolis who didn't consider going to college in the first place, much less majoring in computer technology.

"I was going to go into the oil patch," he said. "When I graduated, there really wasn't anything like computer technology."

Bucher has pioneered many of the concepts used to bring the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Advanced Multi-mission Operations Systems (AMMOS) Ground System into Integration and Test, producing a true test-like-you-fly environment.

He has held key ground systems positions with Lockheed Martin in Denver, as well as

its predecessor Martin Marietta Astronautics, and US West Communications.

Bucher's accolades are long and distinguished, including the NASA Public Service Medal and the Space Shuttle Silver Snoopy Award, among the highest honors that a non-astronaut can receive from NASA.

Bucher and his team were in charge of the command and telemetry systems for the Orion flight, spending most of the last year in Florida at Kennedy Space Center and time in Houston, TX at Johnson Space Center.

"I've done well in my career," he said. "It's a definite combination of common sense and education."

He's not only proud to say he graduated from HSCHS, he's proud of having graduated from the University of Wyoming.

"The University of Wyoming has good programs," Bucher said. "There are smaller classes so students get more personal attention. Wyoming is starting to catch up with some of the larger schools when it comes to technology."

He started his company with just three employees and it has grown to more than 40. When it comes to finding the right people to work for him, Bucher looks to the smaller schools and kids that come from small towns like himself.

"I look for kids with a rural background," he said. "They know how to work. They usually have a good balance of education and work ethic. They aren't afraid to do different things."



HSCHS alumnus Allen Bucher sits at Mission Control at Kennedy Space Center for the Orion launch.