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Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL ONLINE PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## Park Street work postponed

by Breez Longwell Daniels

The Thermopolis Town Council decided Tuesday to delay the Park Street rehabilitation project, moving the completion date from last Monday to June 15, 2009.

Heath Overfield, town engineer, recommended approval of the change order after meeting with Cindy DeVries of Canyon Concrete. The project is estimated to take two to three weeks, but he said the concern is plants quit producing asphalt when cold weather hits, normally around mid-October.

"If Park Street was torn up and we had a cold snap, we could have a dirt street for seven months," Overfield said. "DeVries requested a move of substantial completion date to June 15 with the same contract price."

He said DeVries also requested the town council consider waiving all liquidated damages for missing completion deadlines on the 14th Street sidewalk improvement project and the Ninth Street treated water line replacement project.

Overfield recommended in lieu of assessing the \$300 liquidated penalty that the town exchange services with Canyon Concrete. He said the firm has agreed to complete necessary remediation work on the digesters at the abandoned wastewater treatment plant.

The town council approved the request with the stipulation that both of the latter projects be completed before Oct. 30.

Completion must include placing asphalt pavement on Amoretti and Ninth streets before winter occurs, Overfield said.

## Visitation up 30% in state park in June and 4% for all summer

by Breez Longwell Daniels

June visitation rebounded in Hot Springs State Park in 2008 with 232,899 users, 30% more than recorded the year before.

In 2007 June visitation was down 27% with 178,742 users. The numbers this year are more consistent, May-August averaging 230,459 users each month.

July was the busiest month with 248,890 users.

Park superintendent Kevin Skates said visitation was up 4% total May through August

over the previous year.

Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources defines the visitor season as May 1 to Oct. 31.

Visitor counts are acquired through electronic loop vehicle counters placed at strategic locations in parks.

In Hot Springs State Park the counters are located on Park Street, Buffalo Street and East River Road.

A counter was also placed at the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site

this year, according to Skates.

"Everybody gets counted in the park," said Skates. "We look at users, not visitors."

"This year we spent about \$1 million on roads and improvements. We fix up the park for locals and tourists."

Skates said he is trying to change the traffic counts from six months to year around. The other state parks around Wyoming are more seasonal and don't require year around counts.



Tony Larson helps direct the extraction of a tree in front of town hall Sept. 10. Two trees were moved to Candy Jack Park. —Jonathan Green photo

## Youngster drowns at swim pool

by Jonathan Green

Carlos Goodman, 6, of Riverton was pronounced dead Saturday of drowning after being pulled out of the outdoor pool at the Star Plunge by an off duty Wyoming Highway Patrol trooper.

Goodman was part of a group of over 200 swimmers from St. Stephens and Arapahoe schools visiting the pool on a grant, Hot Springs County sheriff's deputy Kim Black said. Undersheriff Dave Larson said between 100-200 persons were believed to be in the outdoor pool when Goodman drowned.

Pool operator Roland Luehne said besides the two pool lifeguards on duty, there were between ten and 20 adult supervisors at the pool when the incident occurred. One of the supervisors was Goodman's great aunt and legal guardian, Larson said.

Black said the off duty trooper saw Goodman floating face down in the water but initially thought the boy was playing. After about 30 seconds, Black said, the trooper decided the boy was in trouble and moved to pull him from the water.

Goodman was not breathing, and CPR began. Efforts by Star Plunge staff, supervisors

with the swim trip, sheriff's deputies, ambulance EMT's and finally physicians and nurses at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital were unable to revive the boy.

Hot Springs County coroner Clark Mortimore said Goodman's death has been classified as an accidental drowning, and no autopsy will be performed. "There's no need for it," he said.

Larson was unable to provide additional information about the boy's family and referred inquiries about the identity of the trooper to the Wyoming Highway Patrol, citing the trooper's privacy.

Wednesday morning, Capt. William Price of the Patrol referred the question of the trooper's name back to the sheriff's office.

According to Larson, Goodman's death is the first drowning in Hot Springs State park since a drowning at the Tepee Spa in 2001.

Luehne said the death is the first at the Star Plunge in his family's 33 years of ownership. He has received many calls of support from the public, as well as from Dan Moriarity of the Tepee.

"It's really horrible what happened, he said, and he and his staff are handling the situation, and anticipate using a grief counselor."

## Leadership Hot Springs County starts; 19 in first ever class here

Members of the first Leadership Hot Springs County Class have been selected and start eight months of training on Thursday.

They include:

- Angie Guyon and Gregory Willson of the Wyoming Dinosaur Center
- Tracey Kinnaman of the county library
- Connie Krueger of R&S Well Service
- Dusty Lewis of Gottsche Wellness Center
- Lara Love of the Independent Record
- Gayla Mead, administrative assistant for the special master on the Big Horn River water rights case
- Police chief Mark Nelson
- Attorney Bobbi Overfield of Messenger and Jurovich
- Karissa Williams of Gottsche Rehabilitation Center
- Cindy Wallingford, food service director for the school district
- Miranda Wagner, medical technologist for Banner Health in Worland
- Town engineer Heath Overfield of Engineering Associates
- Donna Litsey, a VISTA match specialist for Big Brothers, Big Sisters here
- Carol Pickett
- Kimberly Schierkolk of Red Rock Family Practice
- Wyoming Pioneer Home administrator Sharon Skiver
- John Gibbel of Bank of Wyoming
- Thermopolis town clerk-treasurer Tracey Van Heule.

The goal is to advance the diversity, quality and quantity of leadership in the county.

The \$250 fee includes instruction, materials and meals. Some scholarships were available.

College credit is available at the undergraduate and graduate levels through the University of Wyoming or Central Wyoming College. The program is divided into eight sessions from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on the third Thursdays from September through April.

Participants must attend six of eight sessions and some meetings of local boards to graduate. The class will also complete a group project.

**OBJECTIVES** include:

- Build a broad range of talented leaders able to use progressive, dynamic and innovative ideas to develop and promote the county.
- Inspire creative thinking.
- Build communication skills.
- Learn to work together and take advantage of local, state and national resources.
- Recognize the issues and challenges arising from different sectors and age groups within our community.
- Develop leadership capabilities to meet the demands of an ever-changing community.
- Cultivate civic involvement and networking.
- Increase understanding of different styles of leadership.

**THE TENTATIVE** course schedule:

- Sept. 18, Team Building;

Learn the value of cooperation and collaboration! This day captures the long term impacts of teamwork, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. A tour of the Kirby Creek CRM project is included.

- Oct. 16, Communication: Understanding different personality styles influences how we communicate and helps class members work together as they begin the group project process.

- Nov. 20, Planning: Strategic, tactical or operational. Learn a variety of planning tools helpful in personal and professional life.

- Dec. 18, Conflict management: Processes create shared understanding and increase opportunities for acceptable solutions. Learn how public officials manage conflict and difficult people.

- Jan. 15, Critical Thinking: There are numerous factors involved in effective problem solving.

Consider how diversity influences decision-making.

- Feb. 19, Leadership: Learn about diverse leadership styles and using community resources. Explore the challenges of diversity and how it relates to effectively leading diverse teams.

- March 19, Fish Bowl Day: Participants complete four simulations designed to assess strengths in sense making, visioning, relating and inventing.
- April 16, Class graduates.



Sami Clinger and Levi Gitlitz examine a moose mount at the Wyoming Game and Fish Expo in Casper Sept. 12, while Ellen Henke watches. The animals in this section of the exhibition were all taken illegally. —Karla Gitlitz photo

## Senior housing project delayed

by Breez Longwell Daniels

Developer Willard Wilson, an investor in the Canyon Springs Senior Living Community, said the project is going to be held up a little with the current domino effect in the financial markets.

"We were supposed to get started last spring," Wilson said. "We got slowed down on the water and sewer, but really it is the financial slowdown."

The future site of Canyon Springs just south of St. Paul Lutheran Church has been promoted as a senior living community for mature adults to include retirement, assisted living and memory care services.

"There is a tremendous amount of interest in

it," he said. "It is going to be a real attraction for the community."

Wilson described a Sunwest Management senior community he visited in Arizona.

"It was a two story complex with the sun shining in and people setting out on decks," Wilson said. "At dinner time you saw ladies walking to dinner all dressed up for an evening out."

"The tables had linen cloths and people sat in social groups; it was a pleasant atmosphere," he said.

Wilson described the importance of quality management and said Sunwest, "absolutely had the best."