

Woman uninjured,
hit while trying
to halt traffic

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Wrestling and
basketball
teams do well

6-9

Baseball fields
tobacco free
in Thermopolis

13

Proposed center
generating jobs,
lots of comment

15

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Christmas in Thermopolis

A&W float wins the light parade

A&W Lanes won first place in the Christmas Light Parade on Saturday.

The Bank of Wyoming float was second, and the Rotary Club marching greeting cards placed third. There were 25 entries, according to a Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce official.

Voted queen and king by their high school senior classmates were Celina Stewart and Jake Tonn. Martin Andreen was parade marshal.

The schedule of holiday events in Thermopolis includes:

Thursday

Middle and high school Christmas Concert.

Friday

Entry deadline for Lighting Contest.

Saturday

Hazel-n-Pearl's third annual Holiday Bazaar featuring items from 14 vendors, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., VFW.

Elf Workshop, Kiddie Kollege, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Free holiday movie, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" for children, The Ritz, 1 p.m. Bring a non-perishable food item if possible. The final Christmas movie is Dec. 20.

Sunday

Christmas musical, "The Wise Men Had It Easy," Com-

munity Church, 4 p.m.

Monday

Holiday Tour of Homes at 5:30 p.m., culminating with a reception at the Hot Springs County Museum from 7-9 p.m. Homes include Deb Donahue, Jennifer Graham, Shirley and Charlie Towers, Jacky and Michael Wright, Patsy and John Dorman and Karissa and Ryan Williams.

Dec. 18

Kindergarten through third grade Christmas Concert, auditorium, 2 p.m.

Taste of Holidays tour and treats, Gottsche Rehabilitation Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Meet and Greet Christmas Party, Pinnacle Bank, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 19

Home and business lighting contest judging.

Dec. 21

Christmas Cantata, "The Greatest Gift," First Baptist Church, 10:45 a.m.

Dec. 20-21

Bowling for tots, A&W Lanes.

Dec. 25

Free public Christmas dinner, Episcopal Church, 1 p.m. Reservations only, call 864-3629.

Organizations and individuals should call the chamber, 864-3192, to list their events.



Portraying characters aboard the "A Child Is Born in Whoville" float entered by Northwest BOCES in the Christmas Light Parade on Saturday are, l-r, Matt Ivie (green), Brennen Walker, Summer Kopp, Chelsea Martinez, Heather Vassar, Eddie Schlager, Josh Wade and Rebecca Moore.

—Jonathan Green photo

Top buffalo sells, \$1,725

The high-seller in the sale of 21 state buffalo was a two-year-old bull for \$1,725.

The sale total was \$14,558. Five yearlings brought \$810-\$825 apiece, and the average for 15 calves was \$583. All the animals sold above the starting bid. The money is used to help defer the cost of maintaining the buffalo herds in Hot Springs State Park here and Bear River State Park near Evanston.

Donate food to get into games Tues.

Fans attending the Bobcats and Lady Bobcats basketball games with Worland here Tuesday are asked to bring food items for the needy. Hot Springs County High School has waived the usual admission fee.

The schedule for the games:

4 p.m.: Junior varsity boys at middle school. Junior varsity girls at high school.

5:30 p.m. Varsity girls.

7 p.m. Varsity boys.

Drama team wins state

by Jonathan Green

Thermopolis students won their third consecutive State Sweepstakes Trophy at the 2008 State Drama Competition in Riverton Thursday through Saturday.

This year and last the Bobcats won in the combined 1A-2A division, while they won Class 3A in 2006.

Coach Eric Kay said Thermopolis beat second-place Wright by a single point and praised his young team. Of the 21 participants, only six are seniors.

Such a strong finish bodes well for the future, he said. "There is a lot of potential," with the group.

Kay said the designer entries were the "meat and potatoes" of the group, where Thermopolis collected four first place marks and eight All State designations.

An individual judge can designate a participant as an hon-

orable mention. If more than one judge votes to bestow the honor, that participant is named All State.

Daniel Edwards, David Leonhardt, Chris Prosser and Hilary Welborn earned the four first-place finishes and four of the eight All State honors.

Matt Bird, Bridger Lewis and Kylie Olsen were also named All State, while Edwards picked up an All State win beside his first place finish.

Kay credited technical advisor Ron Philips for much of the team's success. "(He) was a huge help."

The highest performance mark for the Thermopolis students was the arena performance of James Thurber's "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," which finished eighth overall in the open division.

At least 15 students will be eligible to return next year.

Individual place winners from

Thermopolis include:

Cody Abbott: dramatic duet, 13th.

Zach Anderson: second year publicity, Eat Your Heart Out, 15th.

Bird: second year scene design, 12 Angry Men, 9th, All State.

Lorraine Carver: second year costume, Anything Goes, fourth; dramatic duet, 13th; second year publicity, Anything Goes, 15th.

Edwards: second year lighting, Quasimodo, first, All State; second year publicity, Quasimodo, fourth, All State.

Michelle Fields: fourth year realistic makeup, Taming of the Shrew, seventh; second year costume design, 11th.

Kylee Gibbel: third year costume, Lion, Witch and Wardrobe, sixth; monologue, The Truth About Julius Caesar, 15th.

Chris Groh: humorous duet, Job Interview, 15th, honorable mention.

Santana Keener: original monologue, tenth; dramatic duet, Misreadings, 15th; dramatic monologue, You Don't Know Us, 16th, honorable mention.

Natasha Knight: first year scenery design, The Hobbit, fourth; second year fantasy makeup, The Hobbit, 12th.

Megan Kraushaar: original monologue, 15th.

Leonhardt: third year lighting, Midsummer Night's Dream,

first, All State; second year publicity, Midsummer Night's Dream, fifth, honorable mention.

Lewis: first year publicity, Hairspray, third, All State; original monologue, 15th.

Olsen: third year costume design, Frankenstein, second; third year fantasy makeup, Frankenstein, fourth, All State.

Elizabeth Palmer: first year costume design, Alice in Wonderland, 15th.

Prosser: fourth year publicity, Ecstasy, first, All State; original one-act script, 13th.

Jodi Rathbun: dramatic monologue, Responsible Parenthood, 15th, honorable mention; dramatic duet, Misreadings, 15th; original monologue, 15th.

Mandi Reynolds: third year publicity, The Da Vinci Cold, sixth, honorable mention; duet, Spies, 15th; humorous monologue, How I Got My Superpowers, 15th.

Leslie Rosenfeld: duet, Spies, 15th.

Kolton Stoner: humorous duet, Job Interview, honorable mention.

Welborn: fourth year realistic makeup, Phantom of the Opera, first, All State; fourth year costume design, Showtime for Oscar, sixth.

Arena participants (Walter Mitty): Stoner, honorable mention; Abbott; Groh; Kraushaar; Prosser; Bralter Stewart; Welborn.

Donate to baskets until Friday; help requested

Items can be donated to the community "Christmas Basket" program through Friday.

Residents of Hot Springs County stepped up to the call for more food, and donations are coming in steadily, Ellen Galligan said. Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital and Thermopolis Middle School are doing food drives.

Those attending the basketball games between the Thermopolis and Worland girls and boys on Tuesday are being asked to donate nonperishable food instead of paying admission.

Members of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs made donations toward purchasing turkeys and

other needs. Items that can be donated include canned items like vegetables, any nonperishable food. Donations may be left inside the front door of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at Seventh and Arapahoe.

Funds to help purchase turkeys and other needs should be sent to Christmas Baskets, P.O. Box 950, Thermopolis 82443.

Sign up for the baskets at NOWCAP continues through Friday. The baskets will be available Dec. 20.

Volunteers are needed to help pack and move the boxes of food and clean up after delivery. To volunteer, contact Galligan at 864-3629.

Obsidian returned but SUV will stay

by Jonathan Green

Fifth Judicial District judge Steven Cranfill has ordered the National Park Service to return a piece of obsidian to Jamie Lieder.

The obsidian was seized here April 14 on suspicion it had been illegally removed from Yellowstone National Park. A chemical test performed on the rock determined it had not.

The Toyota Sequoia the California woman and David Allen Hull were driving when they

were arrested here in 2006 for drug possession has been recently returned to Thermopolis as the newest cruiser for the police department. Police Sgt. Mike Chimenti said Monday the vehicle will enter service as soon as law enforcement decals arrive.

Over \$13,000 in cash and a considerable amount of marijuana were also seized during the arrest.

Lieder accepted a plea deal in April. Hull is currently scheduled for sentencing in March.



Dozens of cheerily decorated Christmas trees and wreaths provide a colorful background for auctioneer Gary Nash

of Worland during the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Festival on Monday. Proceeds go to the Community Fund.

Tree festival raises \$14,225 for fund

Sales at the 8th Annual Christmas Tree Festival plummeted to \$14,225 on Monday.

Sales in recent years were \$30,600 in 2008, \$21,650 in 2006, \$21,025 in 2005 and \$20,015 in 2004.

The total for all eight sales is \$139,485.

Proceeds go to the Thermopolis Community Fund, which in turn gives money to assorted causes and projects in Hot Springs County. The festival is sponsored by Bank of Wyoming.

The top selling item, the "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" tree and accompanying Grinch, were created by Maralee Hilzender of Nu Vogue. The tree and six-foot tall figure were purchased for \$1,200 by Red Rock Family Practice.