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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 110, No. 2, January 8, 2009

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Measure on May ballot

Voters to decide on new .25% sales tax for EDC

by Breez Longwell Daniels

Thermopolis-Hot Springs Economic Development Company has the support of local government in calling for a special election to adopt a special purpose sales tax.

In separate meetings Tuesday the Hot Springs County commission and town councils from Thermopolis and East Thermopolis voted unanimously to support a resolution calling for a one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) sales tax for the EDC.

Citizens will vote for or against the proposed tax in a special election May 5.

At least one other question will be on the ballot, whether to renew the lodging tax paid by visitors staying at motels and campgrounds.

Harry Hughes represented the EDC at the Thermopolis town council meeting and said, "EDC has struggled for many years to secure funding.

"The town has been very generous, as well as the county and other entities, but the EDC has struggled to fund a full-time office."

Hughes discussed the success of the EDC with CAPTEL and Pamida and most recently VAST Manufacturing. The recent completion of the Red Rock Commercial Center was also mentioned.

"Thermopolis and Hot Springs County have participated in a community assessment and the top priority identified was sustainable jobs," Hughes said. "With the sale of the CAPTEL building EDC has a six-figure account balance that can be used for projects, but those funds cannot be used for administration and efficient management of those funds.

"We need to look at more sustainable funding. We are asking for the smallest increment (sales tax) that you can have. These funds would also be a source of matching funds for grant opportunities in the town and county."

In the resolution the EDC states revenue from the special purpose tax would be used to promote business retention, business expansion, business attraction, office operations, marketing, matching funds for grants, a revolving loan fund for businesses and special economic development projects.

Also attending the meetings on behalf of EDC were chairman Dee Hillberry, Cheryl Shero and Louis Walrath.

If approved by a majority of voters the tax would take effect on July 1 and remain in effect until June 30, 2011.



Brooklynn Marie August is surrounded by her mother, Amy; brother, Bryce; father, Danny; and Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary member Betty Hawkins, who presented the family with over \$800 in gifts from Thermopolis businesses.

Lincoln program funded

Thermopolis Hot Springs is one of nine communities selected to win \$1,000 for special projects relating to the 16th president of the United States.

Rick Ewig, Laramie, chairman, Wyoming Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, made the announcement.

The commission's Community Activities Grant Program provides financial assistance to organizations developing activities relating to the celebration. Other funding comes from the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. Applicants were required to develop the programming with other partners and demonstrate benefit to the general public and sponsoring entities.

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The Hot Springs County Pioneer Association will utilize the funds in February to produce "Lincoln the Man: Lincoln the Legacy," a week-long celebration of his life, the legacy he left and how it applies to Hot Springs County and Wyoming. Among the activities will be an art competition, an essay contest and a cake decorating competition encouraging participants to create a replica of one of Lincoln's log cabin homes or the 1860 White House.

Ewig said the commissioners were impressed with the range of ideas that came forth. "We were very pleased with the response and feel all the projects are in

perfect step with the mission of the (committee) and will emphasize the contribution of Lincoln's thoughts and ideas to America, the world and Wyoming."

Other commissioners, appointed last year by Gov. Freudenthal include Dave Kathka, Rock Springs; Linda Fabian, Wheatland; Tom Collins, Laramie; Kara Hahn, Cheyenne; Melvin Hamilton, Casper; Michael Howard, Cheyenne; Mark Junge, Cheyenne; Sen. Mike Massie, Laramie; Marirose Morris, Cheyenne; Ann Redman, Cheyenne; Kenneth Roberts, Kemmerer; Kathleen Urban, Cheyenne and Supreme Court Justice Barton Voigt, Cheyenne.



A magpie rests on the back of one of two bighorn sheep grazing in Wind River Canyon. Watch for the animals in the campground just south of the tunnels or on the steep slopes east of Boysen Dam.

—Cindy Glasson photo

Relay for Life meeting Tuesday to start 2009 anti-cancer effort

by Breez Longwell Daniels

The Relay for Life season kickoff is Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at Common Ground.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering in any form with the American Cancer Society is welcome to attend, according to organizer Heather Herring.

The Relay for Life organization supports the cancer bus, a cancer resource center, provides a support system for survivors and families, provides funds to assist cancer patients in traveling to appointments and The Look Good, Feel Better program.

Herring said there is a misconception the money raised through local Relay for Life fundraisers goes to the national branch of the American Cancer Society.

"A lot of money stays in our state," she said.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Relay for Life, a signature event for the American

Cancer Society.

"The kick-off event will get the season started," Herring said. "We will talk about goals for the year, fund-raising ideas and monthly events.

"We do this for the survivors and to work for a cure. Cancer affects everybody; we all know someone affected by cancer.

"Last year we exceeded our goal by \$4,000. That is a reflection of the willingness of our community to support the Relay for Life organization; everybody is getting involved.

"The high school raised about \$500 with their dodge ball tournament. We would love to have more high school involvement."

Individuals interested in forming teams or businesses interested in becoming corporate sponsors are invited to attend the kick-off.

The 2009 Relay for Life is planned for the evening of June 26 and the early morning hours of June 27.

First baby of 2009 arrives before midnight on Jan. 5

Brooklynn Marie August is the first baby of 2009 at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.

She was born at 11:24 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5. Her parents are Amy and Danny August of Worland.

She weighed 5.63 pounds and was 18 inches long. The doctor was Kevin Mahoney.

Her brother, Bryce, was born in an adjacent

room at the hospital 3 1/2 years ago. Her father works for King's Carpet One.

Grandparents are Kathy and Mark Naasz and Lory and Dan August of Worland.

Over \$800 worth of merchandise and gifts from Thermopolis businesses was presented to the August family by the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Weather cooler and wetter in Thermopolis during last year

by Pat Schmidt

Global warming advocates won't find much in the 2008 weather picture here to advance their beliefs.

The average high here was almost 2.5 degrees lower than any other year this century, and the average low was almost a degree cooler.

The average high temperature at the official National Weather Service reporting station in Thermopolis in 2008 was 60.93 degrees. That compares to 63.99 in 2007, 66.03 degrees in 2006, 64.8 in 2005, 63.38 in 2004 and 64 the previous two years.

The average low in 2008 was 32.18 degrees. The average was 34.67 in 2007, 35.96 in 2006, 34.23 in 2005, 34.38 in 2004, 34 in 2003 and 33 in 2002.

Three days over 100

The high temperature for 2008 was 101 degrees on July 22 and Aug. 1. That compares to 103 in 2007, 105 in 2006, 106 in 2005, 100 in 2004, 103 in 2003 and 105 in 2002.

The temperature reached 100 degrees or higher on just three days last year. That compares to 11 days in 2007, eight in 2006, 12 in 2005, just one day in 2004 and 13 in 2003.

The lowest temperature last year was minus 22 on Jan. 22. The low in 2007 was minus 19, in 2006 minus 26, in 2005 minus 18, in 2004 minus 22 and in 2003 minus 23.

Below zero on 16 days

The temperature was below zero on 16 days last year. There were below zero temperatures on 18 days in 2007, seven in 2006, 11 in 2005, 15 in 2004 and seven days in 2003.

The last day of freezing temperatures before the start of summer was May 3, which bottomed out at 32 degrees. That compares to April 20 in 2007, May 10 in 2006, May 3 in 2005, April 30 in 2004 and April 21 in 2003.

The first frost in the fall was Oct. 10 last year at 30 degrees. In 2007, the first frost was on Oct. 19, in 2006 on Oct. 12, in 2005 on Oct. 5, in 2004 on Oct. 11 and in 2003 on Sept. 18.

Precipitation up

Precipitation climbed to 11.5 inches in Thermopolis during 2008, about average.

The total was 10.83 inches in 2007. The precipitation totals for the six previous years varied: 10.83 inches in 2007, 8.25 in 2006, 16.08 in 2005, 11.64 in 2004, 13.08 in 2003, 7.74 in 2002 and 8.14 in 2001.

The lowest total in over half a century came in 1988, 7.51 inches.

Last May matched May 2005 as the wettest months this century. Both had 5.01 inches.

Snowfall rises

Total snowfall was at least 48.4 inches, compared to 19 in 2007, 17 inches in 2006, 22 in 2005, 41 in 2004 and 43 in 2003.

The total snowfall figures October through December are minimums, since Town of Thermopolis personnel have not worked on weekends at the pumping station the last three years. The remaining snow is manually measured at 4 p.m. on work days.

For instance, on Jan. 22 snowfall was measured at 1 inch; however, the Independent Record used the 2.5 inch total that was measured at Bicentennial Park the day of the storm.

The heaviest snowfall came on Oct. 12-13, with 24 inches measured at another official Weather Bureau measuring site in Thermopolis. That was also included in the annual snowfall total.

The measuring site at the Thermopolis Wastewater Pumping Station is across the Big Horn River from the hospital.

Eight-year precipitation totals

Inches of precipitation by month for the past eight years:											
Month	08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01			
Jan.	.11	.48	.14	.28	.27	.60	.24	.38			
Feb.	.07	.10	.36	.07	1.87	1.14	.31	.29			
March	.51	.87	.45	.83	.09	1.78	1.31	.31			
April	.61	.84	1.62	2.78	2.87	.68	1.21	.77			
May	5.01	1.56	.81	5.01	.83	2.42	.95	.45			
June	.50	1.33	.17	.88	.93	2.31	.50	1.70			
July	.42	1.38	.33	.21	1.72	.10	.87	1.50			
Aug.	.07	.50	.42	.95	.40	.87	.19	.13			
Sept.	1.55	.50	1.84	1.64	1.85	1.31	.70	.63			
Oct.	2.01	2.79	1.51	2.25	.64	.45	.95	.29			
Nov.	.30	.00	.12	.89	.07	.20	.36	1.23			
Dec.	.34	.48?	.48	.29	.10	1.22	.15	.46			
Total	11.50	10.83	8.25	16.08	11.64	13.08	7.74	8.14			