

Thermop wins  
Class 2A title  
at speech meet

3

Wrestlers sweep  
Greybull Quads,  
here on Tuesday

6

Churches plan  
unity prayer  
service, Jan. 22

8

Commission  
handles lots  
of business

11

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

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Relay for Life fund drive

## Watch out for a purple ‘pottie’ on your porch

by Cindy Glasson

Be on the look-out for a purple toilet in various yards around Thermopolis.

It is all part of the Relay for Life’s attempt to “Flush Out Cancer.” The brightly colored commode could appear in your yard with instructions on how to have it removed.

Basic removal will require a \$5 donation to Relay for Life and the battle against cancer, but if you have a friend in mind who might enjoy having it delivered to their lawn or place of business, it will be delivered there if you pay \$10.

The fund-raising idea and more was revealed at the Relay for Life kickoff Tuesday at Common Ground.

The Relay will be held in the State Park June 26-27. The goal this year is \$27,000, an amount the core committee is sure can be raised here since citizens beat the goal last year by nearly \$5,000.

There are four teams signed up, but the committee would like to see 20 teams enter. Anyone wishing to put together a team should get in touch with recruitment chair Tina McGinty

at 921-0230.

Captain’s meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month at Common Ground. Anyone may attend, including a team, a family, a business or just friends.

Teams consist of seven to 15 members. Sponsors donating \$350 or more will have their names printed on the back of the 2009 Relay t-shirts.

Luminaries may be purchased to remember or honor a loved one who lost their fight with cancer. Cost is \$5 each or three for \$10.

Photos are being requested to go along with the luminaries you purchase, and a slide show presentation will use those photos the night of the Relay.

Proceeds go to the American Cancer Society where it is distributed for research grants on a global basis and locally for education, advocacy and services such as wigs and help with travel for patients. The University of Wyoming currently holds a \$690,000 grant for research from the American Cancer Society.

For more information, contact event chair Heather Herring at 864-4211 or 921-1935.

## BLM seeking local input on recreation, activities

A public meeting on the Big Horn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision Project by the Bureau of Land Management will be held at the Days Inn on Friday from 4-7 p.m.

One of several open houses across the Big Horn Basin, it will be informal and maps will be available to facilitate discussions and written comments.

The BLM will provide a questionnaire that will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Discussions will focus on travel management and recreation, issues which emerged from November’s public meetings as being of great importance.

“I want to hear from the residents of the Big Horn Basin as it relates to their needs for public land access, current impacts to their private lands as a result of past activities and where we should focus our attention on recreational opportunities in the future,” BLM district manager

Eddie Bateson said. “Anyone who would like to help us resolve these types of issues should plan on attending one of these meetings.”

This includes commercial access for grazing, oil and gas development and mining, as well as recreational access for hunting, ATV use, hiking, biking, skiing, etc.

For more information, contact Caleb Hiner at the BLM, 347-5100.



Ironworkers from Eastgate Erectors in Cody guide the final piece of iron onto the distillery building at Wyoming Whiskey in Kirby. One man is operating the crane from inside its cab; another is near the peak of the structure; and two are in lifts rising to help.

—Jonathan Green photo

## Red Lane Watershed group close to draining Cover slough north of town

by Jonathan Green

Members of the Red Lane Watershed Improvement District discussed the drainage program set to begin soon, filled a board vacancy and put out the “help wanted” sign at their Tuesday meeting.

Once some final bonding issues are out of the way construction on the ditch improvements should get underway, Carol Pickett said.

The program calls for draining the Cover slough and lowering the ground water level.

The grant the district won to help pay for the improvement is larger than originally thought. Pickett had first said it would fund 90% of the project and require a 10% match. The correct ratio is 91/9, meaning there is an additional \$4,000 for the work.

Pickett announced the Dec. 31 resignation of ditch rider Glen Crofutt but wasn’t sure how best to advertise the position. The board had employed Crofutt on a salary of

\$200 a month.

In December the board voted to retroactively void his employment and instead reimburse his back pay as an independent contractor, citing tax reasons.

Pickett insisted a comprehensive maintenance schedule be produced before soliciting bids. She said she “(kept) getting blown off” on the idea by the rest of the board but vowed to continue pushing.

She also volunteered the three current board members to walk the ditch for two weeks each, buying the board six weeks to fill the position or come up with another workarround.

Even in the two weeks since Crofutt’s resignation the lack of a ditch rider has caused flooding problems in the Red Lane area, she said.

The board voted to appoint Dennis Stotts as a director. In December, after some confusion, Liz Weed was retained on the board after it was decided Ken Tuffner and Dennis

Leonhardt’s terms had expired.

Sarah Ferrell also resigned in December, leaving the board with three vacancies.

Stotts was the only landowner to provide a letter of interest. None of the six area residents in the audience Tuesday expressed interest when polled.

The fifth position will remain open until filled, Pickett said. Ruth Blackburn noted a new resident in the district might be swayed to join the board.

Pickett announced an anonymous person had requested the district finances be audited. Once an estimate is obtained, the board will weigh whether or not to continue.

She said the board needs to file a budget for fiscal year 2008-09, which she pointed out is already more than half over. She said the board is working up “against the wire.”

The next Red Lane Watershed Improvement district meeting will be Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. or after the conclusion of the Red Lane Water and Sewer meeting at Big Horn Federal.

## Old weed problems greet new town council

by Breez Longwell Daniels

The first Thermopolis town council meeting in January began with Ann Hardesty and Tony Larson stepping down and Al Braaten and Dick Hall taking the oath of office. They join Toni Casciato, Tom Linnan and mayor Bill Malloy to form the new council. Larson had served ten years and Hardesty eight years.

Albert Quenzer addressed the new council, regarding the noxious weeds on the Hill School property. Quenzer is a resident of Warren Street and was adamant that something must be done to prevent another spring and summer season of poor weed

control on the residential subdivision property now know as Buffalo Ridge.

“Hill School is a mess. The weeds from the subdivision blow in our yards,” Quenzer said. “If it was my yard I would be noticed and fined.”

Malloy agreed and asked the council to proceed with legal action to follow nuisance ordinances with the landowner.

Chief of police Mark Nelson announced the department has a new police car from a drug bust. The car was confiscated as part of the legal proceedings.

Assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill announced the submission of a grant application to

WYDOT under safe routes to school. The grant seeks \$200,000 for additional sidewalk work on 14th Street.

Howard Johnson of Inberg-Miller Engineers reviewed a completed analysis of the current landfill that includes costs for the past five years.

The plan and cost analysis is being submitted to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality as required by the state.

It includes an environmental assessment with ground water samples and other tests. The DEQ will make recommendations for future landfill modifications and construction that

may require a lined landfill at increased costs, according to Johnson.

An opening on the lodging tax board was created when member Vince Hayes died in December. Although Hayes’ term would have expired in May, the council agreed to advertise for a representative at-large to fulfill a three-year term.

The Amoretti Street waterline project settlement with contractors Ray and Cindy DeVries was reviewed. A penalty settlement for missing the completion deadline is being negotiated. The settlement may include recovering digesters at the sewer plant in lieu of penalty.



Nose covered with ice from a morning of sweeping snow aside to graze in Hot Springs State Park, a bison peeks around the bed of a pickup. —Jonathan Green photo