

Father Joe Galligan
changes roles in
Episcopal Church **3**

Teams win in
basketball
and wrestling **6,7**

Commission packs
projects into
morning meet **11**

Legislators Geis
and Quarberg
report on bills **13**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 110, No. 4, January 22, 2009

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Town eyes a new plan, settles on old projects

by Breez Longwell Daniels

A resolution adopted by the Thermopolis Town Council states the only document that can serve as a formal master plan for development of Thermopolis was created in 1978.

On Tuesday the town council approved a grant application seeking \$25,000 from the Wyoming Business Council for the purpose of developing a new master plan to manage community development, growth and change. If approved, the town will be required to match the grant with \$8,333.

The plan will address issues raised through the recent community assessment. Identified areas of need include infrastructure, transportation, communication and rezoning for controlled growth of town land. Coordination of economic development plans and the new industrial park, as well as the Big Horn Basin Interpretive Center were also key issues.

Direct public benefits of a new master plan may include improved transportation, updated infrastructure, increased jobs and affordable housing. Councilman Tom Linnan said one of the requirements for various grants

and other state and federal partnerships is having an up-to-date master plan. The goal of the grant is to hire a consultant to create the master plan.

MAYOR BILL Malloy and the council reached a settlement with contractors Ray and Cindy DeVries of Big Horn Redi-Mix for damages resulting from a 51-day delay in completion of the Amoretti Street water line project. According to the contract, the resulting damages are \$15,300.

The town agreed to exchange payment of the liquidated damages for the construction of a new digester cap at the site of the old sewer plant. The value of the work at the sewer plant site is estimated at \$14,200. Two digesters need to be repaired.

"The caps have settled, cracked and broken," assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill said. "The digesters are not in use anymore, but they are directly connected to the basement of the old sewer plant and any moisture that leaks through the caps runs into the basement."

The council agreed to contract with the DeVries to complete repairs on the second digester while they are working on the other one.



Three Thermopolis volunteer firemen keep a haystack fire from spreading at 983 Skelton Rd. on Sunday night. Chief

Mark Collins said Dan Caldwell owned the hay and a Ford pickup pulled from the inferno. —Jonathan Green photo

Three arrested for drugs discovered during searches

by Jonathan Green

Two residents are facing felony drug charges while a third has pled guilty to misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

The three were arrested Jan. 9-11 in Thermopolis and at a county residence. Hot Springs County undersheriff Dave Larson said the case "developed from citizens taking a stand against drugs."

According to court filings, a tip led Larson to the apartment complex at 407 North Eighth, where Rose Jones, 28, resides.

Former Hot Springs County sheriff's deputy Al Nelson, now a Washakie County deputy, and his drug dog assisted the sheriff's office and police department. After a search warrant was granted, Jones' apartment was searched Jan. 9.

She was taken into custody and charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

The next evening deputies were assisted by Thermopolis police officers during the execution of a second search warrant at 2671 Pack Saddle Road, where Casey Nicole Andreen, 28, lives.

Not first brush with law

In late December 2002, a deputy went to Andreen's residence after a neighbor said animals there were being neglected.

The deputy found three dogs there, according to court filings from the case. Two of the dogs looked thin while the third, chained to a doghouse, ap-

peared to have died from starvation.

The deputy noticed methamphetamine precursor chemicals. A search turned up some meth, according to the court file.

Andreen was convicted of unlawful clandestine laboratory operation, a felony, and sentenced to 4-6 years at the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk. The penitentiary term was suspended, and she was ordered to serve four years of supervised probation.

Her probation was revoked in May 2007 after the State of Texas, where she had moved, reported she had failed three drug tests over an 18-month period.

Returning here, her probation was extended, and she was sentenced to one year in jail but only required to serve 60 days. Judge Gary Hartman refused her request for a furlough to help her father brand cattle.

Circumstances elevate charges

Andreen's previous felony conviction revoked her gun rights, according to Larson. When the search warrant was executed at her house, four rifles, two shotguns and a pistol were seized.

Word of the seizure has been forwarded to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the U.S. Attorney's office in Lander, Larson said.

According to federal law, Andreen could face a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for up to

15 years. There is apparently no possibility of a suspended sentence or probation in such a case.

Andreen was released from jail Saturday after paying a \$20,000 bond.

Apartment close to school

Larson said the first two arrests led to the arrest of Braundon Reinhold, 27, on Jan. 11, when a third search warrant was executed.

Reinhold, who remained in jail Tuesday morning in lieu of a \$25,000 cash bond, is charged with felony counts of delivery of marijuana and conspiracy to deliver marijuana, as well as a misdemeanor charge of possession.

Reinhold's apartment in the 200 block of Springfield is close to Ralph Witters Elementary School,

Larson pointed out. Being convicted of a drug offense within 1,000 feet of a school is a separate crime, Larson said.

Thursday he displayed the items seized during the three searches. Included were small quantities of methamphetamine and marijuana, paraphernalia, cash and the weapons.

Jones pled guilty to the possession charge and was released from jail last week. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail and given credit for three with the 57 remaining suspended. If she successfully completes a year of unsupervised probation, a \$500 fine will be forgiven.

She must also pay a \$150 crime victims fund assessment and \$30 court technology fee.

Independent Record named best small weekly in Wyoming, again!

For the fourth time in five years, the Thermopolis Hot Springs Independent Record has been named the best newspaper in the small weekly division of the Wyoming Press Association.

Thermopolis also won the runner-up plaque for Photographic Excellence. The awards were presented during the annual convention in Cheyenne last weekend.

The Jackson Hole News & Guide won the large weekly division and the Casper Star Tribune was judged the top daily.

Members of the New Mexico Press Association judged most of the contest.

"Each year, we ask our colleagues in other states to help us pick the newspapers that represent the best of our craft," said WPA president Tom Dewell, coeditor of the Jackson Hole News & Guide. "We know it's not an easy job, given the fact many of Wyoming's newspapers do very well in national competitions."

Thermopolis also won several pacemaker awards in individual categories, including:

First places

Merchandise Ad, "Early Bird Special," by Sheri Bury. A Holiday Inn dining ad. Judges' comments: "Birds promoting early bird special was great. Quote from bird even better. Nice listing of menu items and prices. Business info available and not too small or too big."

Use of Color in Ad, "Thurgood for School Board," by Donna Pennoyer. Judges' comments: Ad looked really nice with just the picture and 'vote for' in color. Kid photos always catch a reader's eye. Great choice to use black for text."

Spot News Photograph, "Wary Rescuers," by Jonathan Green. Two Thermopolis firemen were assisting a woman across the highway after a wreck.

Second places

Front Page Design, Jan. 3, 2008, issue featuring a picture of two boys sledding down Warren hill by Pat Schmidt and a picture of sunlight penetrating icicles hanging from the Rainbow Terraces. Judges' comment: "I like the layout."

Sports Feature Story, "Lisa Bomengen Wins Greybull Triathlon," by Breez Longwell Daniels.

Judges' comments: "Hard work and hours made this feature a good one. Your writing personifies Bomengen as all biz. Overall good product."

Scenic Pictorial Photograph, "Night Lights," by Pat Schmidt. A picture of fireworks exploding above T Hill with the pools in the Rainbow Terraces lit by an eerie green light from the light poles.

Spot News Photograph, "Propaned Van," by Pat Cornwell. A picture of firemen working to extinguish a fire in a van next to a home in Thermopolis.

Honorable mentions

Small Ad, "Stay Balanced," by Lara Love. A picture of Glenn Bishop balancing on one arm in an ad welcoming others to the Wyoming Chiropractic Association annual meeting. Judges' comments: "Nice layout utilizing space available and placing info where it stands out. Very eye-catching photo."

Best Designed Ad, "No Doggie Bag," by Bury for Holiday Inn dining. Judges' comments: "Headline and photo were good. All necessary info available with minimal clutter."

Best Institutional Ad, "Food, Fossils and Fun," by Love for Wyoming Dinosaur Center gala. Judges' comments: "Very eye-catching pic of dinosaur. All reference info noticeable."

Feature Story, "No Retainer This Winter for Squirrel," by Green about police locating the squirrel that had stolen a dental retainer. Judges' comments: "Love the way you played it straight throughout."

Sports News Story: "Lady Bobcats Win One of Three at State Volleyball," by Jeffrey Hunter. Judges' comments: "One of the best layouts in Wyoming sports, large or small weekly or daily."

Specialty Reporting, "Big Spring Production," by Green about speculation that the drought was causing a drop in production from the Big Spring. Judges' comments: "Liked it. Only two stories."

For more than 100 years, the Wyoming Press Association has served as the primary trade group for Wyoming's legal newspapers. It now represents Wyoming's 45 newspapers in matters including public relations, education and lobbying.



Teacher Kathy Hammond and fourth graders Ashlynn Weber and Trey Davis watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama on television on Tuesday. —Pat Schmidt photo

Prayer service at park Tuesday

A public Prayer Service for Christian Unity is set Thursday in Bicentennial Park from 12:15-12:30 p.m.

The service is in connection with the national Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25.

Participating are Pastor Daryl Lottman of Hot

Springs Christian, Pastor Charles Cooper of Community Federated, Pastor Carolyn Thomas of Living Waters Assembly of God, Pastor Mark Eaton of Red Bluffs Evangelical Free, Pastor John Herrington of Risen Son Baptist, and Father Hugo L. Blotsky of St. Francis Catholic.