

Valuation forecast: \$210 million

County pulls one grant request, Lane 3 project

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners are withdrawing a grant application for upgrades to Lane 3 on the advice of the Wyoming Business Council.

A telephone conference with business council representatives on Tuesday indicated the project would not qualify for a community development block grant, since stipulations require an accounting of how many jobs the project would create as well as financial information from the businesses served by the upgraded road.

One of the business owners on Lane 3 has refused to provide financial information and indicated they could not guarantee any number of new jobs, according to the commissioners. The business owner said he is uncomfortable with the economy at this time and couldn't make any guarantees on the future of the business.

The commissioners discussed continuing with the grant application and appealing to the SLIB board on Dec. 3.

Harry Hughes of Owl Creek Engineering told the commissioners he was not sure a job-based grant is going to work for this project.

The county has been awarded an Industrial Roads Agreement grant for the project from the Wyoming Department of Transportation. The commissioners agreed to sign the agreement, saying the funds could be used to start the project while searching for alternative funding sources.

Valuation estimate

Tom Sullivan, Sr. made his annual prediction to the commissioners regarding valuation for next

fiscal year.

Sullivan looked back through county valuations from 2006-08 and estimated the county's valuation for the 2010-11 fiscal year will be \$210 million.

The county valuation for 2009-10 was \$282,528,534.

Public health grant

Bree Gerber, county public health nurse, advised the commissioners that her office recently received an award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Wyoming Department of Health for \$72,669.

The funding is to be used for purchasing supplies, staffing and unforeseen expenses associated with the distribution of H1N1 vaccines here. The vaccine is provided at no cost to the health care centers.

The funds may be used through next Sept. 30.

Airport presentation

The commissioners listened to a presentation by JUB Engineers from Idaho regarding their services and suitability to build the proposed new airport.

Commission chairman Brad Basse told the engineering firm a request for proposal would probably be going out in January.

Retirement, IRS

The commissioners signed an agreement with the Wyoming Retirement System to bring the county into compliance with Internal Revenue Service code.

Local officials said several counties in Wyoming have been found to be out of compliance.



Kyle Larson brings down Glenrock quarterback Kyle Farley just ahead of the arrival of Bobcat teammates Tanner Cornwell, 61, Colin Herold and Dylan Balstad, 51. Thermopolis won the state championship over the defending state champions 22-20 Friday on the snow-packed field at the University of Wyoming.

—Pat Schmidt photo

Thermop topples Glenrock in state football showdown

by Pat Schmidt

Make that five. The 2009 Bobcats joined the elite company of Thermopolis teams from 1932, 1990, 1991 and 1992 in winning state football championships.

The biggest difference this time had nothing to do with the players or team. It was the location.

Instead of playing on the home field of one of the teams, the Bobcats battled Glenrock at War Memorial Stadium on the University of Wyoming campus in Laramie. Touchdowns were signalled with booms from the same cannon that fires each time the Cowboys score, and replays, as well as player profiles, were visible on the giant screen above the field.

The Bobcats won 22-20 despite a snowstorm and snow-packed field that neutralized much of their passing game and favored a rushing team like Glenrock, which averaged around 400 yards a game during the regular season. It was the first loss for Glenrock in 21 games.

UW personnel were usually able to clear the yard lines one shovel wide during the first half, and, when the storm stopped just before halftime, equipment was used to clear the two end zones of snow. The grueling game lasted 2 1/2 hours, ending around 4:30 p.m.

A crowd estimated at 400 people included those who made the trip from Thermopolis and graduates and fans who live in and around Laramie. Two buses of students and fans made the hazardous trip over the Medicine Bow cutoff, arriving in time to dine at the Bobcat Tailgate Park set up just southeast of the stadium by the Mercil and Walsh families and their Laramie businesses.

Fans coming from Cheyenne were lucky if they left early; those who left late found Interstate 80 was closed from before the game started until just afterward. I-80 from Rawlins to Laramie remained open but treacherous.

Thermopolis scored first and was leading 20-8 after three quarters. Glenrock scored twice in the fourth quarter but failed to convert either point after touchdown play, giving the Bobcats their

two-point margin.

The trophy presentation ceremony was held in the outdoor plaza at the north end of the stadium, with fans, families and photographers packed inside the fence around the Bobcats. Coach Chuck Syverson, who was delayed by television interviews, made his way through the crowd to join in the celebration. The Bobcats who had been holding the trophy high in celebration, handed it to him.

It is the first state championship trophy Syverson has won as a player or a coach. Even better, his two sons, star quarterback Mitch, a junior, and tight end Christian, a freshman, were celebrating their first state championship.

The Bobcats finished with a 10-1 record, the same as Glenrock, by winning the game that mattered. (The one loss for Thermopolis came early in the season when Thermopolis was driving for the winning touchdown only to have a pass intercepted and Glenrock score the winning touchdown with three seconds remaining.)

Thermopolis actually made the playoffs last season but lost in the first round to eventual state champion Glenrock, making winning the 2009 state title even sweeter.

The Bobcats didn't get to celebrate much on Friday evening. After being fed burritos on their bus, they watched the UW Cowboy basketball team lose to South Dakota State.

The team stayed overnight and on Saturday watched the 3A state championship game and part of the 1A 6-man battle before leaving for Thermopolis. Their bus was met at the mouth of Wind River Canyon by a caravan, with the players eventually getting on top the Thermopolis Fire Department trucks for the traditional parade around Thermopolis.

The evening closed with an informal welcome back party and celebration in the high school gym.

On Monday night, the team and coaches were honored during the school board meeting and were presented WHSAA sportsmanship awards.

Semi flips, spills beets on corner

by Cindy Glasson

The driver of a semi truck pulling tandem trailers escaped with minor injuries after losing control on the corner of Sixth and Shoshoni near the Eagles Aerie Saturday morning.

According to Thermopolis police officer Mandy McDonald, Antonio Monroy of Riverton was cited for careless driving after the semi and one of the trailers loaded with sugar beets tipped over, spilling the contents on the roadway. The second trailer remained upright.

McDonald said the driver was not breaking the recommended speed of 25 mph on the corner but was driving too fast for the weight of the load.

It was the first time Monroy had driven that particular truck, though he had been driving for TranSystems for some time.

The driver was cleared of any alcohol or drugs through blood tests at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.

He was treated for abrasions to his arm, leg and head, then released.



With its beets scattered into the Eagles parking lot, the cab and fuel tanks of a truck are inspected by volunteer fireman

Cheb Vialpando. The driver escaped serious injuries in the wreck at Sixth and Shoshoni.

—Cindy Glasson photo