Thermopolis Independent Record

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School roof bid covered

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County School District's Board of Trustees awarded the bid for roofing at Ralph Witters Elementary School, accepted staff recommendations and were made aware of some discrepancies in the financial statements during its Dec. 17 meeting.

Superintendent Marty Kobza said nine bids were received for the roofing project at the elementary school, ranging from a low of \$85,400 from All Weather WaterpRoofing from Salt Lake City, Utah, to a high of \$152,885 from Dave Loden Construction of Buffalo.

The bid was awarded to Briggs Roofing Company from Briggs, Idaho, for \$127,031.

Although Briggs was not the low bidder, it offered the Hypalon roofing material that had been specified in the bid package request. In addition, a representative from the Burke Company that manufactures the Hypalon roofing product will be on site to ensure proper installation.

Kobza said other products were entertained as an addendum to the original bid package. However, the Hypalon still was considered the best choice.

A 15-year warranty is included with the bid.

Audit

Michael Wright, representing the Koerwitz, Michel and Wright accounting firm, presented the audit of the district's financial statements to the board, and with few exceptions, indicated the financial audit for the district is in good shape.

Wright said the exceptions mostly are internal controls that easily can be fixed by the

In several instances, grant monies were used for items not allowable through the specific grant. As an example, a computer was purchased through a Reading First Grant, which does not allow equipment pur-

Accounting firm representatives suggested a review process be put in place to identify unallowable expenses through

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Despite sitting securely on Mrs. Claus' lap, 1-year-old Trae Miller seems a bit uncertain about the situation while visiting the jolly couple at

Thermopolis Hardware on Saturday. He is the son of Bailey Miller of - Keith E. Domke photo

Santa gets 'all-clear' forecast

by Keith E. Domke

Santa Claus may get a little chilled, but the jolly, old elf should have little problem with his journey through Hot Springs County Thursday night.

According to the National Weather Service Riverton office, skies are forecasted to clear as Christmas Eve gives way to Christmas Day. But as those skies clear, temperatures may plummet with early morning lows on Christmas Day Friday reaching minus-5 degrees. On Christmas, under mostly sunny skies, the mercury should reach the teens with light northwest winds.

But the key forecast centers on Thursday night as Santa and his eight (or nine) reindeer trek around the world, including through Hot Springs

"Santa should be fine in this neck of

'Tis the season ... and edition ... for letters

Dear Santa Claus:

May I please have a Nintendo DS game called star wars battle front the elite force. A Star war the clone wars DS game, and destroyer. I would also like droyt kit a holl clekshin of clone troopers. Some more are drawn to life on ds, dragons on ds, lego star wars the complete saga. The dreckshins to my house is the vent down the hall. Whatch out for my big dog in my room. Put the presents down and get out of there, before my dog wakes up!

Sincerely, Rylce

For all of the letters the Independent Record received and forwarded to the North Pole, please turn to this week's special section.

the woods, but he'll have to keep himself bundled up," NWS Riverton meteorologist Brett McDonald said this week. "Of course, the weather always does its own thing so we never know, but that's how it's looking."

McDonald said there is a chance of

some light snow Wednesday night into Thursday that could produce an inch or less, and with a storm system and cold front invading Wyoming from Canada, colder temperatures will invade the area. Any accumulating snow that falls

through midday Thursday should end

by the time the man from the North Pole begins his deliveries.

"Any snow that falls should stick, and with the colder temperatures we have a good chance of having a white Christmas," the meteorologist said "The short-term weather pattern will keep us in a northerly cold flow, so temperatures will be colder.'

The system McDonald referred to should be the second one to travel through Wyoming this week. The first storm should lower temperatures and possibly bring a couple of inches of snow to the area by Wednesday night.

High temperatures through the weekend are predicted to be in the mid- to upper-teens on Thursday and Friday, warming into the 20s on Saturday and Sunday. Lows during the period should be in the single digits below zero.

Almost a golden occasion

With nearly 50 years of service between them, dynamic duo of longtime local employees retire

by Keith E. Domke

Even though one works for the city and the other for the county, Barb Moeller and Linda Harris forever will be linked in local lore – and

for more than one reason. First, both officially are retiring at the end of the year after a combined 49 years on the job. Second, the long-time friends were born only four days apart. Their birthdays are in September, but the year was not revealed.

"Barb's four days older than me," Harris said. "She probably won't like it that I said that."

"I may be four days older, but I'm also four days wiser," Moeller said in response.

Moeller has been the Town of Thermopolis codes administrative assistant for 26 years while Harris has served as the Hot Springs County clerk of the district court for 23 years. Both successfully have dealt with the public during their tenures

Barb Moeller

Moeller originally came to Thermopolis in 1969 and eventually went to work for the town in 1984. Basically, she has held the same position during that tenure, although the job has evolved over time.

"I've worked for seven mayors," she said. "And in reality, I've had the same job, but it's been added and subtracted to over the years."

When she started, her job title included being the town and county planner as well as being in charge of downtown revitalization. But during the early stages of the 1990s, the planner duties split so she was given planning and building department responsibilities. Eventually, fire prevention was added to her tasks, but was removed years later.

When who she called "the building official" left earlier this decade, she received the current title of codes administrative assistant.

We administer all building, plumbing, mechanical and zoning - all building-related and zoning codes within the city," Moeller said. "All building permits come through the office as do all conditional uses and variances.'

And her favorite part of the job?

"The people I've worked with have been great," she said. "It's been a real pleasure working here. Working with the public, working with the peo-

ple, that's been the most enjoyable. Outside of her job, Moeller said working on the Thermopolis Centennial celebration was a

'That was very memorable," she said. But, so was her job.

"I've loved my time working for this town," she said. "There have been lots of changes, but I've enjoyed being a part of it."

Moeller said she will enjoy retirement, too.



Linda Harris, left, and Barb Moeller share a light moment during Moeller's retirement party at Thermopolis Town Hall Tuesday afternoon. Moeller and Harris are retiring from the city and county after 26 and 23 years, respectively. -- Keith E. Domke photo

I just decided it was time (to retire)," she said. "I plan to do whatever I want to do whenever I want to do it ... if my husband will let me."

Linda Harris

Harris began her stint as court clerk in 1986, but her experience goes back farther than

"Actually, I've been in the legal profession for

38 years," said Harris, who got her start as a legal secretary for 15 years before becoming the court clerk. "When the prior clerk retired, it was suggested I run for the position, so I did. And I've been here ever since.'

Harris said she enjoys the job because "I get to work with a lot of good people.

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