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# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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## S. Baker files suit against Odde, Basse and Lumley

by Cindy Glasson

A complaint has been filed and an emergency restraining order asked for against the county commissioners and county clerk on behalf of Sandra Baker.

The complaint, filed in district court April 27, names commissioners Brad Basse and John Lumley as well as county clerk Hans Odde as defendants.

Baker is claiming "immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result to the Petitioner (Baker) and other licensed attorneys in the State of Wyoming, as well as other residents of Hot Springs County, Wyoming, before the adverse party or that party's attorney can be heard in opposition."

The suit claims the defendants erred, acting outside their scope of authority when they took no action on the issue of whether or not the county attorney's position should remain part-time at their April 20 meeting.

The resolution making the county attorney's position part-time was enacted in 2006. The resolution indicates it would be in effect until December 30, 2010.

Having a limit on the timeframe, Baker claims this as a "sunset clause," making it temporary.

The suit continues "that without specific legislation, to wit, a resolution, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, extending the terms of Resolution 2006-4, or creating a new Resolution,

as required by law, the elected position of County Attorney automatically defaults back to its full-time position, as it was on the date that said resolution was enacted to the contrary."

A state statute declares that counties with fewer than 9,000 population may designate the office as a full-time position. It goes on to say the designation of full-time or part-time will be made by resolution at the time salaries are set.

The commissioners left the position as part-time at the April 20 meeting, setting the salary at \$76,500.

Baker claims because no resolution was made at that meeting the designation is in violation of state statutes.

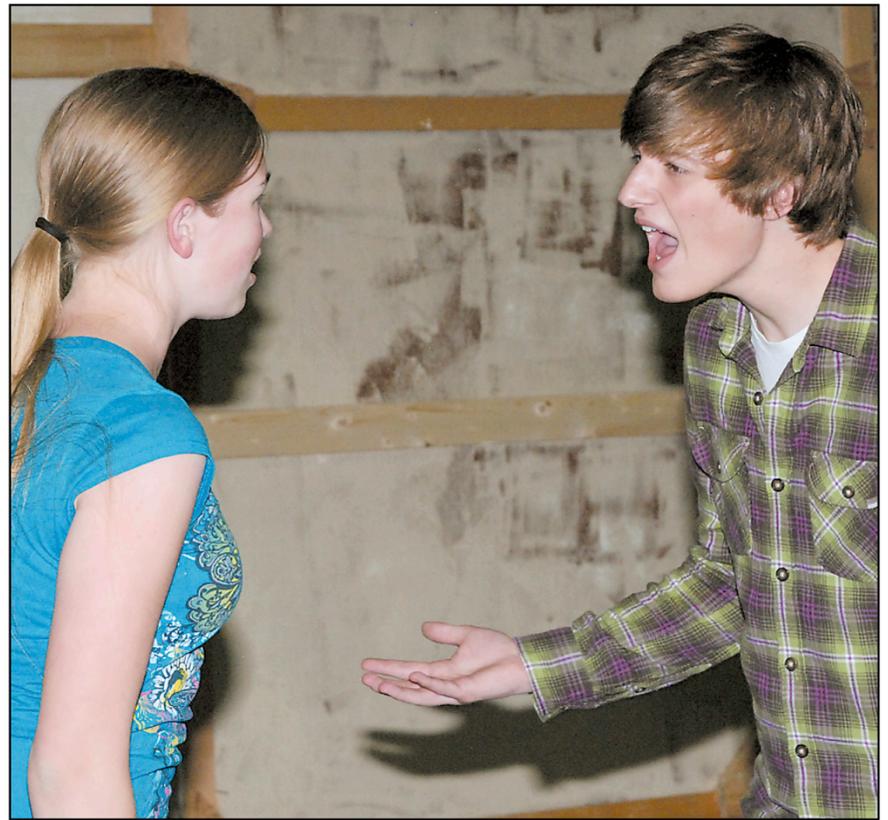
Because the issue was not left open for further discussion or revision at that time, Baker's suit says it should be reviewed in district court.

Copies of the suit were sent to county attorney Jerry Williams, Wyoming Attorney General Bruce Salzburg and Wyoming State Election Director Peggy Nighswonger.

A copy of the suit obtained from the district court by the Independent Record shows a notation by district court judge Robert Skar on the requested restraining order stating, "Won't sign, 4-30-10, R.E.S."

Judge Skar declined comment on the case. Following an executive session by the commissioners at their meeting Tuesday, they too declined any comment on the advice of their attorney.

### Ghostly spring comedy



Duff O'Hara (Cody Abbott) argues with wife Joan O'Hara (Laurel) in the play "The Hunt for Children" because of Agatha," the spring production at the high school. Curtain starts 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the auditorium. The hunt is for children that be prizes for all ages.

## Frank Manning resigns

by Cindy Glasson

With much regret, the Hot Springs County Commissioners accepted the resignation of commissioner Frank Manning at their meeting Tuesday.

Elected to the commission in 2006, Manning began his service in January 2007. He has served on several committees for the county, including the hospital committee and Discovery Center Joint Pow-

ers Board.

Although commission chairman John Lumley spoke to Manning asking him to reconsider, Manning said he thought the county needed to get on with business.

"I need to concentrate on my physical therapy and getting well," he said.

"He is a good middle man," Lumley said. "He has our extreme

gratefulness and appreciation for his service."

With Manning's resignation, the commissioners have drafted a letter informing the Republican Party of the opening.

The Party then has 20 days to inform the commissioners of three names for their preferred replacement, leaving the commissioners with another 20 days in which to make the replacement official.

## Solar lights located at party site

After a rash of solar light thefts recently, Thermopolis Police Department received four complaints from victims.

The lights typically illuminate driveways during the night while charging their self-contained batteries in daylight hours. When

Hot Springs County Sheriff's Deputy Jerimie Kraushaar approached a bonfire last weekend he found the lights being used to light the gathering of juveniles. The juveniles denied any knowledge of the stolen items and an investigation is ongoing.

The lights were taken to the Joint Law Enforcement Center and contact was made with victims. However, more than 20 remain unaccounted for and 21 that were recovered remain unclaimed. Anyone missing lights should contact the police.

## Hot Spot 3-on-3 tourney blessed with good weather, impressive turnout

by Tom Burkindine

The annual Hot Spot 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament descended on Thermopolis last weekend and event organizers said they were impressed with the turnout and participation.

Moderate snowfall Friday caused concerns as crews began to set up the basketball hoops and turn the downtown streets into 32 courts to facilitate the tournament. However, by Saturday morning, the skies were clear, the sun was out and the snow had melted.

The intersection of Broadway and Arapahoe was center stage as visitors and teams from sur-

rounding communities and states filled the area with players and spectators. In all, the event drew 241 teams.

The event is organized by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Hoops World, a Sacramento, CA company that organizes tournaments throughout the country.

"It was a great weekend," Chamber director Kathy Wallingford said. "We love 3-on-3."

Friday's snowfall caused many of those traveling to the event to contact the chamber to inquire about road conditions. By the time the kick-off party was held at the Armory Rec Center, the weather

had improved. On Saturday, the sun came out and temperatures hovered in the 50-degree range through Sunday despite strong winds.

"Mother nature could have been a little kinder," Chamber vice-president Rick Ridenour said. "But we wouldn't ask for more than what we got."

Along with a superior effort from Hoops World, who organized the event for the second year, chamber members and volunteers turned out in droves to make the tournament a success.

"It's nice to see locals out participating more than in past years," Ridenour said. "We especially need to thank all those who volunteered and gave

their time, it wouldn't be possible the support."

Everyone can agree that the most important aspect is the fun and enthusiasm experienced by those who participated. The kids and it was great to see everyone coming to Thermopolis," Wallingford said.

As far as outdoor basketball tournaments go, the Hot Spot Tournament is one of the largest in the country.

"It was better than we'd anticipated," Ridenour said. "It's always a good thing for the community and the chamber."

### And then the sun came out



Above, volunteers from Hot Springs County High School help with the set up for the 3-on-3 tournament in the midst of a snowstorm on Friday morning. Weather forecasts had some folks worrying the weekend would be a total loss with predictions of rain and snow for the event. But the

weather cleared up and the sun came out in time for the event to begin Saturday morning. Right, Riley Sikes puts up a jumper during a first round match-up. Temperatures stayed mild and organizers were pleased with the number of teams and spectators during a very successful tournament.

