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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 111, No. 41, October 14, 2010

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

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Lovell man drowns in private pool Friday

by Cindy Glasson

A Lovell man was the victim of a drowning at a private residence in Thermopolis Friday night.

Dan Bowles, 50, was participating in a company-sponsored getaway for Wyo-Ben staff when he was discovered around midnight in a mineral pool at 211 E. River Road.

According to Sheriff Lou Falgoust, the group had gone out for dinner earlier in the evening before returning to the rented home for beverages and swimming in a private mineral pool.

When the rest of the staff went back inside the home, witnesses said Bowles remained outside.

Witnesses later found Bowles, face down in four to five feet of water, pulled him from the pool and began CPR.

Bowles, who was a non-swimmer, was later declared dead at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. An autopsy will be performed.

According to the corporate office in Billings, Mont., Bowles was the plant manager for the Wyo-Ben facility in Lovell.

BNSF builds towers to improve communications

by J.D. Stetson

BNSF Railway has requested a variance to build a 180-foot communications tower, which is above the Town of Thermopolis' structure height requirements.

Town codes have a maximum height requirement of structures within town of 60 feet, with is one-third the size the tower will need to be.

The town's Board of Variance recently met and approved the request for a variance on the tower, which will be located on BNSF property south of its town depot, said Fred Crosby, town codes administrator, in a

monthly report to the Thermopolis Town Council.

BNSF plans to build two more towers through the Wind River Canyon. One will be another 180-foot tower at Boysen Reservoir Dam and the other will be a 60-foot tower halfway between the two taller towers, Crosby said.

The railroads will install fiber optic lines between the towers and it plans to install seismic sensors to detect rockslides, which should help to prevent another train wreck within the canyon, Crosby said.

Fiber optic installation within

See BNSF on page 10

Taking aim with fire hose



Kindergarten student Micheal Bond takes control of the fire hose under the supervision of firefighter Justin Her-ring while his classmates wait in line behind him at the

Hot Springs County Fire Station during National Fire Prevention Week.

— J.D. Stetson photo



Bev Koerwitz of Fremont County BOCES gives details of a Certified Nurses Aid class.

Career and Tech Ed a distinct value to students

by Joe Sovia

Career and Technical Education is an important part of the education process in Hot Springs County School District No. 1 and the program was discussed during a lunch meeting last Thursday in the administration boardroom in Thermopolis.

CTE in the district is funded through Fremont County Board of Cooperative Educa-

tional Services (BOCES).

According to district teacher Britton Van Heule, an advisory panel has been organized, consisting of parents, administrators, teachers, business people and other community members.

The Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE), administers the Carl D. Per-

kins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins). OVAE is responsible for helping all students acquire challenging academic and technical skills and be prepared for high-skill, high-wage or high-demand occupations in the 21st century global economy.

The Perkins Collaborative Resource Network (PCRN), the face of DATE, is a resource

and information-sharing forum for state CTE professionals. It provides a peer-to-peer forum for states to improve their capacity to promote quality CTE programs and collect quality data as it relates to the Perkins accountability requirements. The purpose of this site is to foster communication and encourage the exchange of innovative ideas and ap-

proaches among states.

Wyoming has adopted the 16 career clusters identified by the U.S. Department of Education as the basis for CTE programs. The majority of students enrolled in career and technical education in the state are focusing their studies in just five of the clusters.

Those five clusters:

See Students on page 10

Capitol Christmas Tree to visit Thermopolis in November

Many families will head into the forest or up the mountain to pick out a Christmas tree to harvest. They're looking for that perfectly shaped tree, maybe six to eight feet tall.

The lawn in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., has its own Christmas tree planted every November. This year, the Capitol Christmas Tree will come from the Bridger-Teton National Forest – in western Wyoming. It is a 67-foot Engelmann spruce.

The theme of Wyoming's tree is "Wyoming-

Forever West" and marks the 40th anniversary of the tradition.

Two years ago, the national tree – a 70-foot Subalpine Fir – came from Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. Last year's tree had its roots in Arizona, coming from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Alpine District.

This year's Capitol Christmas Tree will make stops in 20 Wyoming communities. One stop will be in Thermopolis on Sunday, Nov. 14. It's one of only two Big Horn Basin towns to be paid a visit. The other is Cody.

Thermopolis is being considered the Capitol Tree town for Wyoming.

Sen. John Barrasso – during his first year in the U.S. Senate – played a major role in Wyoming being selected to provide this year's national tree. He began working with Bridger-Teton National Forest officials in 2007 to make it happen in 2010.

"I thought it would be a great thing for Wyoming," Barrasso said while attending the Dining with Dinosaurs Gala on Saturday at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. "It helps us highlight the Cowboy State and to see ornaments made by Wyoming people."

There were three years of planning and more than \$300,000 in donated time and money – not to mention 50,000-plus volunteer hours involved.

"Wyoming is doing Christmas for the nation this year," said Kathy Wallingford, ex-

ecutive director of the Thermopolis Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, which is sponsoring the Capitol Christmas Tree's visit. "This is the first time Wyoming will provide the national tree."

Transporting the tree

The tree will be transported to the nation's capital on a 114-foot tractor-trailer unit.

There are nine vehicles in the entourage, which begins on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, at the harvest site, in the Star Valley. First-day stops are in Afton, Kemmerer and Big Piney. On the second day, the tree makes stops in Pinedale, Rock Springs and Rawlins, and in Lander, Dubois and Riverton on Nov. 13.

On Nov. 14, the nation's holiday tree arrives in Thermopolis about 10:30 a.m. The tree is transported to Fifth Street from Shoshoni Street; the truck stops between Warren and Broadway streets, next to Bicentennial Park. The tree will remain there until it departs at 1 p.m.

Community members are encouraged to come see the tree, and a number of community events are being planned. Santa Claus will make an early visit and be available for photos with children.

A choir is being organized to provide entertainment while the tree is in Thermop. Anyone can sign up for the choir, directed by Ellen Mortimore, by calling the chamber office at 864-3192. Rehearsals are scheduled for Nov. 6 and Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Community Federated Church.

Wyoming singer-songwriter Bryan Ragsdale is scheduled to attend the Nov. 14 event. He has been working with the state's students in

writing a song commemorating the tree and its Wyoming roots.

Ornament-making project

Wyoming people, including school children across the state, are making about 5,000 ornaments to decorate the national tree. An additional 1,000 ornaments are being made for the 75 companion trees – also from the Wyoming forest – displayed throughout buildings at the Capitol.

According to Wallingford, the name of one participating student will be drawn. That student will travel to Washington, D.C., in early December, along with their parents or teacher to "flip the switch" – turning on the lights of the national tree. It will showcase Wyoming's historical, cultural and natural beauty.

Through the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk and will be enjoyed by people from around the world.

The U.S. Forest Service has issued a request for Wyoming people to help decorate the na-

tional tree by providing handmade ornaments. The deadline is Oct. 22. For information about submission, go to website www.capitolchristmastree2010.org or call Capitol Christmas Tree coordinator Mary Cernicek at (307) 739-5564.

"We're looking forward to everyone coming down," Wallingford said of seeing the Capitol Christmas Tree while it stops in Thermopolis. She pointed out no state or federal funds were used for the Capitol Christmas Tree project, which is financed by private donations.

Wallingford said other events held in conjunction with the Nov. 14 event would be announced later this month.



Owen McCumber looks at Brandon Rice making the 'squeeze the glue' face while creating ornaments for the Capitol Christmas Tree.

—Cindy Glasson photo

