

Parents hear about 4 1/2-day week option

by Joe Sovo

Parents of Hot Springs County School District No. 1 heard about options for a calendar for the 2011-12 school year during a public meeting Tuesday night at the Thermopolis Middle School commons.

Superintendent Marty Kobza shared information about where the district stands in exploring a four-and-a-half day school week, compared to the current five-day week.

According to Kobza, the focus of the exploration is to maximize contact time between students and teachers in the classroom.

Kobza told those attending the meeting, which included several school board trustees, a SWOT analysis determined four focus areas when the district looked at the four-and-a-half day week option in the spring of 2008. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

The study showed the strengths of the current five-day week are five days of instruction, familiarity for community and staff, day-care issues are minimized and students can receive five meals/breakfasts a week.

Weaknesses are the amount of time lost from regular teachers

and all students due to activities and not enough substitute teachers. One of the threats is inconsistency of the schedule for students and learning.

With the four-and-a-half day week, the strengths, according to the study, are parents/childcare are manageable, education core is taught Monday-Thursday, non-core doesn't impact elementary students when missing for sibling activities, limited activities travel during school time, all staff is involved with district initiatives for professional development and with Friday collaboration, students have a regular week.

The only weakness listed is that Friday attendance may be an issue. There are opportunities for enrichment/remediation on the half-day off Fridays and there are incentives for attendance (Friday off).

Kobza said studies show no significant change in either a positive or negative manner by going to the four-and-a-half day school week.

School hours would be 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Fridays for high school; 8:05 a.m.-3:40

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Players on the Thermopolis football team sing a chant to acknowledge support of their fans after the Bobcats rolled

past Lovell 39-15 last Saturday to earn a berth in the Class 2A state championship game against Big Horn.

Cats play for state title

Thermopolis returns to the football field to defend its Class 2A state championship when the second-ranked Bobcats tangle with No. 1 Big Horn on Saturday at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie. Kickoff is set for 10 a.m.

Fan support for the Cats at the state semifinal game at Lovell last Saturday and many supporters will be making the trip to Albany County for the title contest.

Those traveling to Laramie are encouraged to take the special two-page booster section (pages 11 and 12) in this issue of

the Independent Record with them to the stadium. Printed on one side of the page is "GO CATS!" with names of supporting businesses. On the other side is printed "TAKE STATE."

During the title game, support the Cats by holding up the page and cheering them on to back-to-back championships.

A recap of Thermopolis' 39-15 semifinal win over Lovell and photos from the game are on page 6 of this issue, plus a preview of the championship game.

Go Cats!

Big snag develops in airport land purchase

by Cindy Glasson

GDA Engineering met with the Hot Springs County Commissioners on Nov. 2 with an update on the proposed new airport west of Thermopolis.

According to Dusty Spomer with GDA, his company and all subcontractors have been asked to remove themselves from the property owned by Joe Holden.

A letter from Holden's attorney, John Davis, written Oct. 26, states, "To make a long story short, Joe no longer agrees to the proposed airport arrangements. If Hot Springs County insists on going forward with the current plan, it will have to condemn Joe's property."

The letter cites Holden's con-

cern about the increased size of the project, which has gone from 120 acres at the start of talks, to a proposed 481 acres.

Davis' correspondence states the only reason Holden has been continuing the process is because of the "threat of legal action."

It goes on to say that Holden is now confused and has decided not to proceed any further until the commissioners formally declare their position regarding condemnation of his property.

As the issue involves acquisition of property on behalf of the county, no further discussion on the matter can occur unless it is in executive session. No date has yet been set for an executive session.

Gottsche buys clinic in Cody, Powell

by Cindy Glasson

Gottsche Rehabilitation, Therapy and Wellness Center recently acquired Big Horn Basin Orthopedic Therapy Clinic in Cody and Powell.

The purchase makes Gottsche the largest therapy center in Wyoming as well as the North West Region, featuring services in Thermopolis, Basin, Worland, Cody and Powell.

Three physicians have run the clinic, Drs. Jimmie Biles, Frank Schmidt and Stephen Emery, and with the addition of the doctors and their staff, the resources for Gottsche have now doubled to 50 staff and therapists.

"We are very excited about this," Gottsche administrator Cheryl Shero said. "This is a very well-established therapy office with

great care and great service."

As a non-profit entity, Shero said Gottsche has a great donor base and this expansion will make that base even better.

"They have state-of-the-art equipment and a new facility," she said. "They have some of the best equipment around."

Shero feels the young, energetic staff at the Cody clinic is a perfect match with Gottsche, one that will lead well into the future.

"People know the staff here," she said. "We're gaining good, similar, friendly people with the same ideals about the community as well as their patients."

"We like to give back to the community, and they have a history of giving back to their communities, too. This is really a win-win situation for everyone."

Services in Cody

Dusty Lewis with the Wellness Center said the Cody clinic has some amazing things available for therapy patients, including an indoor pool area with underwater treadmills and the ability to swim against the current for therapy purposes.

He said the Cody facility has classes available and their Wellness Center ideas are similar to those at Gottsche.

With the Cody facility just 90 minutes away, staff from both towns will travel back and forth with ease, and patients will benefit as well according to Shero.

"We're in this for the long haul for our patients," she said. "We are constantly growing and expanding. We're definitely the leader and center of excellence in therapy and wellness in the region."

Mom, I've got 'em



Three-year-old Sophie Conrad insists on pushing a cart full of pies during middle school/elementary pie delivery night Thursday without any help from her mother, Stephanie. Sophie and siblings Clayton McKie and Mya Conrad delivered 40 frozen items.

Capitol Tree arrives Sunday

by Joe Sovo

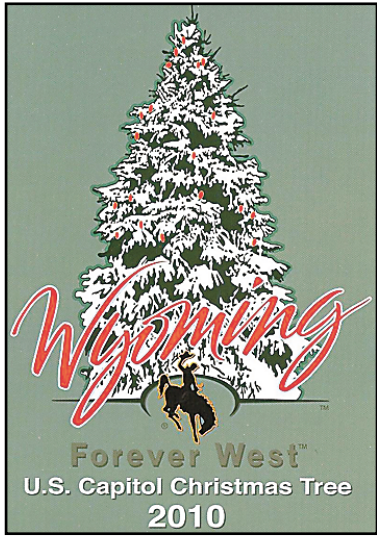
Only a handful of Wyoming communities have the honor of hosting a visit by the 2010 Capitol Christmas Tree on its way to Washington, D.C., and Thermopolis is one of them.

The 67-foot Englemann spruce harvested last month from the Bridger-Teton National Forest near Jackson is scheduled to arrive in town at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Escorted by eight vehicles, the truck and 114-foot-long trailer comes in on U.S. Highway 20 South led by a police escort.

Wyoming's "Forever West" tree will pass between the Eagles Club and Pizza Hut and turn north on Fifth Street. The unit will be parked on Fifth at Bicentennial Park. "Forever West" is the Wyoming Travel and Tourism branding.

This is the first-ever U.S. Capitol Christmas tree to be gifted by Wyoming and everyone is invited to sign the big banners on the trailer hauling the tree between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Those autographing the banners will be a part of the tree that represents Wyoming at our nation's capital.



While the tree is in Thermopolis, the south side of Broadway Street will be closed to traffic, from Sixth to Fourth streets. Fifth Street is closed from Warren to Broadway.

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has organized events in conjunction with the display of the tree.

"It's quite an honor," chamber executive director Kathy Wallingford said Monday. "It's special for us."

Wyoming singer-songwriter Bryan Ragsdale will perform from 11:15 to 11:30 a.m., singing "Cowboy Christmas Tree,"

Wyoming dates of arrival

Nov. 10 – Afton/Evanston
Nov. 11 – Kemmerer/Big Piney/Pinedale
Nov. 12 – Rock Springs/Wamsutter/Rawlins
Nov. 13 – Lander/Dubois/Riverton
Nov. 14 – Thermopolis/Cody
Nov. 15 – Sheridan/Bufalo
Nov. 16 – Casper/Laramie
Nov. 17 – Cheyenne
Nov. 18 – Wheatland/Douglas/Gillette
Nov. 19 – Sundance

the song he wrote to be performed during the lighting ceremony at the U.S. Capitol on Dec. 7. Ragsdale worked with Wyoming students to write the song commemorating the big tree and its Wyoming "roots."

A Charity Fashion Show is featured from 11:30 a.m. to noon on the north side of Broadway between Fifth and Sixth, sponsored by Hazel-n-Pearl's.

There will be clothing

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