

Museum gets grant
in dedication to
Ramul Dvarishkis 3

Bobcat Athletics
Hall of Fame
inductees named 6

Drum The One
healing event
well attended 8

Leadership Hot
Springs County
grads honored 16

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW VOLUME 112, No. 16, April 28, 2011 THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443 USPS 627-300 75¢

There's another one!



Oliver Bihr gets some support from his dad John Bihr while hunting for eggs Sunday at Hot Springs State Park. The annual event hosted by the Thermopolis Lions Club brought hundreds of people and children to the park. Anna Lynn Sharp won the 1-year-old grand prize of a “bubble mower.” Sydney Dixon, 3, Noah Anderson, 6, and Katie Burrows, 8, each won a new bicycle. — J.D. Stetson photo

Sheriff stands by former deputy accused of sexual relationship

by J.D. Stetson
Hot Springs County Sheriff Lou Falgoust stands by his belief that a former female sheriff's deputy jailer did not have a sexual relationship with a former inmate in the Hot Springs County Detention Center – despite the accusation.

Daniel Bresach, 21, a convicted felon, alleges he had a sexual relationship with the deputy while serving time in the center in November.

Falgoust said he placed the deputy on administrative leave after the allegation surfaced in March and the deputy resigned a week later.

Falgoust said it is his personal belief the deputy was not up for handling the rigors of the investigation, so he accepted the resignation.

It is the Independent Record's policy not to identify subjects of an investigation of this nature until the person is either arrested or charged with a crime. Calls made to the deputy's attorney were not returned.

Falgoust vehemently believes the allegation is untrue and the deputy never had sex with Bresach while he was in custody in the detention center. Falgoust did believe there may have been internal protocols broken, such as allowing Bresach to smoke in a non-smoking facility and contacting him via a social network website after he left incarceration.

“This (the deputy) is a good person,” Falgoust said. “Some people feel they need to mother people, and some people feel they need to be a social worker. That's not what we do.”

DCI investigation

Following standard procedure, Falgoust turned the allegation over to the state Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) to conduct an investigation, the results of which are still pending. Falgoust transferred Bresach to the Fremont County jail in Lander to resume his incarceration while the out-

side agency investigates the matter.

At the time, Bresach still had proceedings in Hot Springs County and his court-appointed public defender, Curtis Cheney, filed a motion asking the state to show cause for the transfer, which he was not immediately notified about.

Falgoust said he regretted not contacting Bresach's attorney to inform him of the move and said it was an unintentional oversight.

Falgoust added Bresach also made similar accusations when he made his statement to Hot Springs County deputies toward personnel in the Washakie County jail and the Wyoming Department of Corrections Field Services Office in Worland, but he did not believe Bresach made any formal complaints to either of the agencies.

Washakie County Sheriff Steve Rakness said any accusation made by Bresach about personnel in Washakie County is baseless and is fiction concocted by Bresach to bring attention to himself.

Bresach sentencing

On April 18, Hot Springs County District Court Judge Robert E. Skar sentenced Bresach to three to five years in the state penitentiary for a charge of accessory to burglary after he broke his probation for the second time in the past year.

According to court documents, Bresach had originally been a party to a string of burglaries in 2008 at Las Fuentes and GameTime Athletics. The case resulted in a plea agreement with dismissal of the charges after Bresach served five years of probation and paid restitution.

In 2010, authorities revoked Bresach's probation because authorities found alcohol and marijuana at his residence, he had an assault charge in Washakie County and he tested positive for cocaine. In August, the court sentenced Bresach to

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May 3-on-3 hoop tourney registration continuing

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce reported 30 teams have pre-registered so far for the 2011 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament May 14-15 during the agency's board of directors meeting Thursday, April 14.

The chamber has been ramping up for the tournament over the past few months and has worked to lower the costs of the event while increasing the revenue.

Interim executive director Michelle Lue reported to the chamber board local hotels have called expressing concern about the number of people in attendance this year.

Lue said contractor and event organizer World Events wasn't surprised by the low number of registered teams so far, and it expected the numbers would rise as the event gets closer and people wait un-

til a week away from the event or until the last minute to register.

Last-minute registration for the event and team check-in will take place at 4 p.m. Friday, May 13 at the armory.

Radio ads and other ads in print, posters, television and the Internet also will start to pop up as it gets closer to the event, Lue added.

The chamber also will be able to man one of two trailers Pepsi Co. will bring down to the event. In the past, a restaurant from Worland has manned one of the trailers while a non-profit has operated the other. Lue reported the restaurant would be unable to man a trailer during for the 2011 tournament and the H.O.P.E. Agency has taken the non-profit trailer. The chamber had hoped to man the vacant trailer in order to raise money for the chamber's operating budget.

The chamber has been operating under a funding shortfall due to a decrease in money from government agencies and less revenue

from the chamber's former dues structure.

Board treasurer Nancy Blaich reported the chamber had an ending monthly balance for March of \$7,198.20 for operations.

The chamber also has \$985 in its account specifically earmarked for 3-on-3. It hopes to make enough money during the tournament to pay the second \$6,250 payment to World Events the day after the event. It also can draw upon a \$10,000 to \$15,000 account set up for special events in order to pay for the set-up, but with the condition the chamber returns what it took out from the profits. The account was previously the old tourism committee account, which reverted to the chamber when the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board took over the responsibilities of the committee.

For more information or to volunteer for the tournament, contact the chamber at 864-3192.

New HS principal hired

Jason McArthur comes to district from Idaho Falls

by Joe Sovia

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 trustees approved the hiring of Jason McArthur as the new high school principal during last Thursday's regular monthly board meeting.

McArthur replaces current principal Dustin Hunt, who will assume his duties as district superintendent July 1. Hunt takes over for superintendent Marty

Kobza, who will assume similar duties with Sheridan County School District No. 1 (Big Horn/Tongue River) when his current contract ends June 30.

McArthur, 36, is serving his sixth year as vice principal at Idaho Falls High School in Idaho.

Previously, he taught music at Madison Middle School in Rexburg, Idaho, for five years. While at the school, McArthur said he started a beginning band program with just more than 100 students and the program grew to about 400 students. At Idaho Falls High School, McArthur and another vice principal have handled the coordination of activities (similar to an activities director).

During his last two years in Rexburg, he commuted to Idaho State University in Pocatello in the evening in order to achieve a master's degree in education with an administration endorsement. McArthur received a bachelor's degree in education at ISU.

“I wanted a different challenge, a bigger picture of education,” McArthur said in a Mondayphone interview, speaking of his administration endorsement and qualifications to serve as a vice principal or principal. “I had

Whoa, donkey!



Luke Casciato has trouble getting back on his steed while playing Donkey Basketball Monday night at Hot Springs County High School. His team, made up of players on the two-time 2A state champion football team, won the four-team competition. The tournament is annual fundraiser for the 4-H Council. – J.D. Stetson photo

Lodging Tax Board plans for changes in marketing

by J.D. Stetson

The Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board hopes to make a few changes for the better to tourism marketing and advertising in the next fiscal year.

The board has worked the past month to put together a proposed \$172,600 budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The board has not approved or finished the final figures for the budget, which will be due to the county May 20.

Board chairwoman Angie Guyon explained the most drastic change in the next year would be Casper-firm Adbay taking over tourism marketing and advertising for the area.

The board has budgeted \$100,000 to bring Adbay on board for the next fiscal year. Adbay already has entered into a contract with the board, which started Jan. 1, and the entity has been busy pulling together materials to present to the board at a meeting at 11 a.m. May 3 at Days Inn.

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Jason McArthur

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Start Smart soccer a hit



Nolan Collins and Ellis Webber are concentrating hard as they dribble the ball up the field during Start Smart soccer, a Parks and Rec program.

Principal

some great ideas. Administration just really appealed to me.”

McArthur said he loves teaching, but part of the decision to go into administration filled a family financial need – given the low teacher salaries in Idaho. He and his wife Joy have four children – Macey, 10; Carsen, 8; Michael, 6; and Sydni, 4. Joy is a stay-at-home mom.

“I really do miss teaching. I really love being in the classroom,” McArthur said.

McArthur was born in Bakersfield, Calif., and his father was an educator. The family moved to Idaho in Jason’s younger years. Eventually, the family moved to Wyoming and they lived in Cowley and Torrington for three years each, and in Kemmerer for one year.

After high school, McArthur received an associate’s degree at Western Wyoming College in Rock Springs. He then served a two-year mission for his church (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) before continu-

ing his education at ISU.

Memories of Hot Springs County

While living in Wyoming, McArthur recalls his fondness for Hot Springs County.

“I have fond memories of that area as a kid,” McArthur said. “I loved being a student in Wyoming. I’m a small-town guy and my family is the same.”

McArthur was called to Thermopolis for an interview and left the area with a good feeling about bringing his family here.

“I’m thoroughly impressed with the school and the community as a whole,” he said, mentioning the friendliness of the local people. “I’m looking for the same type of situation for my kids. I’m just thrilled to be able to come.”

McArthur conveyed the high level of standards in the school district. “The Hot Springs district wants to be the best district in Wyoming. It’s very evident the community supports the school. It’s about building

Bresach

serve 90 days in jail with 35 days credit for time served and to be placed on “intensive probation” for five years.

Bresach alleges the incidents with the deputy took place during his sentence for the first probation revocation.

Revoking probation

After serving his time for the first probation revocation, Hot Springs County again filed a war-

rant for Bresach’s arrest in February. The state filed a petition to revoke his probation when he tested positive for hydrocodone in a urine test and failed to follow the conditions of his probation, which included deviating from his approved schedule, not being willing to participate in his controlled substance treatment and not getting approval for a change of residence. The court later dismissed the urine test

Lodging

The goal of bringing Adbay on board is to bring continuity and “branding” to the various forms of Thermopolis advertising, which includes billboards, print ads, TV, radio and the Internet.

“We used to be ‘Wyoming’s Hot Spot,’ but now we want to get our name out there and let people know we are a place to stay,” Guyon said.

Guyon also wants tourists and others passing through to stop thinking Thermopolis is a suffering community, as has been implied in news stories around the region.

“We want to get away from the line of thinking that we are suffering,” Guyon said. “We don’t want to market ourselves as a suffering community and we want to get the point

across that we are just as much a part of the Yellowstone community as Cody.”

Guyon is particularly interested in getting to the tourists online as they plan their trips to Yellowstone and Wyoming.

If Thermopolis isn’t present during the planning process, some people will pass through without stopping because it wasn’t part of their plan, Guyon said.

Local events

Sofar, the board has no plans to cut funding for advertising for local non-profit events. The board has budgeted its traditional amounts for events such as the Demolition Derby, Hot Spot Car Rally, PRCA Rodeo, Kiwanis Craft Fair, Gift of the Waters Pageant, 3-on-3 Basketball

Tournament and Fourth of July fireworks.

The board also has budgeted \$10,000 for other event requests throughout the year as new events pop up.

The board requires non-profit entities to fill out a form available at the chamber in order to make a funding request. Particularly, the board wants to know who the entities are, why they are approaching the board, an explanation of the event, where the money would be spent and a list of all other sources of funding for the event.

The board wants to have plenty of events in order to draw up support for the community and to bring people to town.

“We really would want to make it a community event,” Guyon said.

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relationships,” he said. “The district has an administration that really believes in involving the community and building those relationships.”

When asked about the district facilities, McArthur termed them “fantastic,” and he said the community is fortunate to have them.

“I left the interview going, “Wow, you can do things that we don’t even dream of here,” McArthur said. “You have the right people that you need.”

He’s looking forward to working with Hunt as he gets his feet on the ground as the new high school principal in Thermopolis.

“I feel very comfortable working with Dustin. His heart and mind are in the right place,” McArthur said. “He wanted to help make that system (school

district) successful. It’s a great opportunity for me. They (district administrators) were a good strong team.”

Since he has extensive knowledge of school activities in general, McArthur will be helpful to Jim Lash, who will replace Bob Uffelman as district ac-

tivities director for the 2011-12 school year.

McArthur had praise for Uffelman. “He’s a very well connected person and he does a great job,” he said.

The McArthur family will be moving to Thermopolis around the middle of June.