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Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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Flying down Warren Hill



Trenton Vargas rides on the back of Mike Maksin while Maksin's puppy Max chases after them while sledding on the Warren Street hill with various other families Monday morning. — J.D. Stetson photo

Thermop woman dies in one-vehicle rollover

A 48-year-old Thermopolis woman was killed in a one-vehicle rollover just after 11 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 north of Shoshoni, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Alice M. Prosser died at the scene of the crash. She was driving a 1991 Toyota 4Runner south on Highway 20 and lost control of her vehicle about 5.6 miles north of Shoshoni.

The vehicle went into a broadside slide on the icy road-

way and crossed the centerline.

It went off the roadway and then rolled. Prosser, the only occupant, was ejected from the vehicle.

She was not wearing a seat-belt, according to the WHP release.

Prosser worked as a delivery person for the Casper Star-Tribune.

Her obituary appears on page 5 of this issue of the Independent Record.

Independent Record office closed Monday

The Thermopolis Independent Record office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2.

Our deadline for legal advertising for the Jan. 5 issue is 5 p.m. Friday. The deadlines for classified and display advertising as well as news content will not change over this period.

Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

Happy New Year from the Independent Record staff!

Commissioners adopt resolutions to standardize roads

During their Dec. 20 meeting, the Hot Springs County Commissioners approved adoption of a proposed road resolution and received an update on delivery of a snowplow for the airport.

Postmistress Susan Linko spoke with the commissioners at the meeting regarding the proposed road Resolution 2011-04, standardizing Hot Springs County road names and numbers within the state road inventory system, stating that the post office had no issues with the proposal.

"The changes are the same things post offices in other counties have seen," Linko said. "We just have to make sure the changes get to the post office."

Linko said address changes can take up to 12 weeks to get listed on the national postal database as it is only updated on a national level every three months.

"If addresses can be brought in as quickly as possible, the faster they can get into our lo-

cal database," Linko said.

There has been push-back from rural residents regarding the changes in road names for the past few months due in part to the worry that address changes could cause a delay in mail delivery and package delivery from both FedEx and UPS.

Linko said if an address has never had street delivery, then that address would not be in the national database. In other words, if mail has always been to a post office box, then the physical address is not in the database. Residents can request to have more than one delivery address on file if they wish.

"FedEx and UPS use the national database," Linko said. "If the address isn't in the database then they can't find the physical address."

Commissioner Brad Basse said that sounded like a problem with UPS and FedEx in the way they get their addresses, not a problem with street names.

The commissioners unanimously approved adoption of

the proposed road resolution.

Snowplow update

A snowplow on order for use at the airport is currently more than 60 days overdue for delivery.

GDA representative Jeremy Gilb told the commissioners the plow was scheduled for delivery on Dec. 28, which would be 74 days past the contracted delivery date.

According to the contract, approximately \$3,700 in liquidated damages would be owed for the late delivery.

Since the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) is included in the contract for 98 percent of the cost of the snowplow, Gilb said he would be contacting them to discuss whether or not the liquidated damages clause would be activated.

The commissioners would like to wait until the equipment is delivered and inspected before making a decision on activating the clause.

Hot Springs County road name, number changes

East River Road; County Road #8 - Upper East River Road (Co. Road #8) and Lower East River Road (Co. Road #4) will begin at the cattle guard leaving Hot Springs State Park at its northern entrance and will proceed 7.96 miles going north along the east side of the Big Horn River, ending at the intersection with Wyoming State Secondary 172, also known as Black Mountain Secondary. County Road #4 would be eliminated from the inventory and incorporated into County Road #8.

West Cottonwood Road; County Road #10 - Known as Upper Cottonwood Road, it would now be referred to as West Cottonwood Road. The road begins at the intersection of State Highway 120 West and runs westerly 23.95 miles.

East Cottonwood Road; County Road #3 - Known as Lower Cottonwood Road, it would now be called East Cottonwood Road. The road begins at the intersection with West Sand Draw Road and runs easterly down Cottonwood Creek, ending at the county line, 5.80 miles.

West Sand Draw Road; County Road 18W - Road #18 runs east and west along Sand Draw between State Highway 120 West and U.S. Highway 20 North. This road will now divide at the Little Sand Draw Road junction and be the westerly end, beginning at its intersection with State Highway 120 West, running easterly and ending 9.7 miles later at Little Sand Draw junction.

East Sand Draw Road; County Road 18E - This portion of Road #18 runs east and west along Sand Draw between State Highway 120 West and U.S. Highway 20 North. The road will now divide at the Little Sand Draw Road junction and be the westerly end, beginning at its intersection with State Highway 120 West, running easterly for 9.7 miles, ending at Little Sand Draw junction.

East Sunnyside Lane; County Road #27E - Included with West Sunnyside Lane (County Road #27), it will now be

separated and called East Sunnyside Lane, County Road #27E, beginning with its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 North, running easterly 1.44 miles, ending at the Longwell farmstead.

West Sunnyside Lane; County Road #27W - Included with East Sunnyside Lane (County Road #27), it will also be separated out and called West Sunnyside Lane, County Road #27W, beginning at the intersection with U.S. Highway 20 North and running westerly 3.4 miles, ending at the Lucerne Pumping Plant lift pumps.

Lane 7; County Road #32 - Lane 7 (County Road #32), including Bobcat Road (County Road #33) will merge to be called Lane 7, County Road #32, beginning at its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 South, running westerly 1.38 miles, ending at the intersection with Lane 12, County Road #34. County Road #33 would be eliminated from inventory names.

Lane 12; County Road #34 - Lane 12 (County Road #34), including a portion of Lane 12 to Rimrock Drive (County Road #35E), will be referred to as Lane 12, County Road #34, beginning at its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 South and running westerly 2.0 miles to its junction with Rimrock Drive, County Road #35. County Road #35E would be eliminated from inventory names.

Rimrock Drive; County Road #35 - Rimrock Drive aka Sable Run (County Road #35), combined with a portion of County Road #35E (Lane 12 to Rimrock Drive) would be known as Rimrock Drive (County Road #35), beginning at its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 South and running westerly 1.52 miles to its junction with Lane 12, County Road #34. County Road #35E would be eliminated from inventory names.

South Kirby Creek Road; County Road #19 - This road will begin with its intersection with East River Road, County Road #8 and run easterly 5.30 miles.

Year in Review - Hot Springs County

The year 2011 was an eventful one in Hot Springs County. The local news year began with Gov. Dave Freudenthal, a county native, leaving office, and the acquisition of land for a new airport was newsworthy as the year came to a close.

Stories that made the news in the county in 2011 were sorted out by the Independent Record news department and a "Top 10" was formulated based on a survey of IR staff members.

There were a number of stories vying for Top 10 consideration, including the purchase of Joe Holden's property on Owl Creek for the airport, the Department of Criminal Investigation's look into alleged wrongdoing by the sheriff's office, a new Resource Management Plan proposed by the Bureau of Land Management, concern that the Northern Arapaho Tribe would build a casino at Red Cut, and a new alternative calendar for the school district. Among the other stories considered for the Top 10 were a Lodging Tax Board advertising contract with Adbay, a change in the chamber's dues structure, upcoming legislative redistricting, the possible creation of a hospital district and eventual construction of a new hospital, and the county's assessed valuation.

Following are many of the stories that made the news in the Independent Record in 2011:

JANUARY

Outgoing Gov. Dave Freudenthal is Hot Springs County's "native son," and one of his final official functions as governor was to make a presentation to the local museum.

He and Wyoming First Lady Nancy Freudenthal flew into the Worland airport on New Year's Eve to present Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center director Ross Rhodes and board members with a striking bronze entitled, "Open Range."

Five members of the Hot Springs County High School

band performed in the Rose Bowl Parade as part of the Wyoming All-State Marching Band on New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif.

Junior Maranda Matkin, and freshmen Tiffany Mortimore, Annelisa Herold, Megan Mortimore and Taylor Matkin marched in the 225-member band.

The 4-H program in Hot Springs County has a new extension agent, but it's a familiar face for both leaders and kids.

Jennifer Cheney started her new position Jan. 3, moving up from administrative assistant to extension agent.

The Hot Springs County Commissioners drafted a letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs expressing several issues with a proposed land status change to property south of Thermopolis.

The letter to BIA states attempts were made to acquire information and were told they could view the information if they visited in person; however, they were unable to make an appointment until the last day of the comment period.

Hot Springs Hospice is well on its way to getting off the ground with additional donations of both money and office space.

At its Jan. 18 meeting, the group received notification of an additional \$500 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Thermopolis, given in memory of long-time member Guy Bjorklund. The new memorial brought the donation amount from the Kiwanis Club to \$1,000. Another donation was received from Pinnacle Bank for \$1,000.

The submarine sandwich shop on Sixth Street will be officially open as a Blimpie Sub Shop this Thursday.

See Review on page 8



From left, Sascha Mobbs, Stocktaw Evenston and Russell Gibbel watch their cars cross the finish line during the Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby in April at the LDS Church. Kyle Mosser's car finished first in the competition, with Ben Manning second and Mobbs third. Ryan Miller received the Best Workmanship Award and Logan Petty took honors for Most Unique with his Delorean. — Cindy Glasson photo