

Local firefighters elect officers for 2012

3

Lady Bobcats remain second in 2A NW basketball

6

School trustees hear report on goals, initiatives

8

Hospital board continues to discuss Hospice

9

Thermopolis Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 5, February 2, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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UW Artmobile a learning tool



Milton Peden learns to use a hand printer while his brother, Deven Blair, waits his turn at Thermopolis Middle School. Beth Remington with the University of Wyoming

Artmobile spent three days in the Hot Springs County schools sharing the "Go Figure" theme with students from all grade levels. — Cindy Glasson photo

Land for new airport

Commissioners, Holden continue negotiations

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners are continuing negotiations with landowner Joe Holden to purchase land for a new airport west of Thermopolis.

After an executive session held Monday, commission chairman Brad Basse said the group agreed to send a letter to Holden outlining certain items discussed during face-to-face meetings between Holden and the commissioners.

"We're hoping this will be the final piece of the puzzle," Basse said. The commissioners had filed eminent domain proceedings in early January, and if the terms of the letter were agreeable to Holden, those proceedings would cease.

"We were finally able to have face-to-face meetings with Mr. Holden," Basse said. "Once we could all sit down, we were able to explain things in terms we could all understand, off the record to the attorneys."

In addition to personal meetings with the commissioners, project head Dusty Spomer with GDA Engineering traveled to Montana to speak with Holden himself.

"We were all able to vent and respond and negotiate in the Wyoming way rather than the attorney way," Basse said.

The commissioners will release the contents of the letter at a later date, after Holden has had time to review it.

Chamber sets public forum date

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has set the date for a public forum to discuss possible chamber events in 2012.

The chamber will host the forum at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

The meeting will feature members of the Greater Learning Foundation, who will discuss its proposal to have a statewide folk festival in the fall. In December, the foundation approached the chamber's board of directors about seeking chamber support to help provide manpower for the event.

The board has agreed to provide support, but it wants to see how its members feel about the direction the chamber is going with regard to events and it wants more members involved with the events.

Besides the folk festival, the board agreed at its January

meeting to open the Feb. 21 forum up to discuss other proposed chamber events. Executive Director Michelle Lue said the board would determine the topics of the forum during its regular board meeting at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Days Inn.

Lue also said the chamber is now taking nominations for Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year, which will be presented at the Chamber Banquet March 24.

Nominations will only be accepted from members of the chamber, including individuals and businesses. The chamber requires the Business of the Year to be a member of the chamber, but the Citizen of the Year is not required to be a chamber member.

Lue said tickets to the banquet are not yet available, but will be coming soon.

For more information about the forum, banquet or awards, call the chamber at 864-3192.

Weather prediction difficult for critters — and humans

by J.D. Stetson

It's no surprise the weather in Wyoming can be hard to predict. Or it can be easy depending on who — or what — you ask and how specific the predictions turn out to be.

Feb. 2 is known as Groundhog Day, namely due to a hefty woodchuck named Punxsutawney Phil, who officially started making weather predictions in Pennsylvania in 1886.

The tradition goes that if the groundhog comes out of his burrow and sees his shadow he will go back inside to take a six-week nap until winter ends. If he doesn't, he will stay outside and enjoy mild temperatures.

But a Pennsylvania groundhog doesn't know much about Wyoming. That's why the official role of rodent weather predictor in the state fell upon a lesser-known prognosticator, Lander Lil.

Lander Lil is a prairie dog that started

predicting whether Wyoming would have six more weeks of winter in 1984 when a prairie dog town existed where the Lander Post Office currently stands. The original Lander Lil is memorialized in a statue south of the post office. Currently, there is no specific animal in captivity to perform the weather prediction, said Lander Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Scott Goetz.

While accuracy statistics are currently unknown for Lander Lil, Goetz said to his memory, Wyoming has always had six more weeks of winter.

Underground accuracy

Goetz said the main reason for the creation of Lander Lil was for people to remember the prairie dog town and to have fun.

While the future is always uncertain, that doesn't stop many different sources from developing their own forecasts based

on groundhogs, prairie dogs, astrology or even science.

According to Stormfax.com, Punxsutawney Phil has an overall accuracy rating of 39 percent based on predictions made each year from 1887 to 2011.

While the long-term accuracy may seem low, it's tough to predict the weather for any six-week period.

Town of Thermopolis Water Plant operator Melody Robinson, Thermopolis' local National Weather Service weather observer, doesn't try to forecast the weather, but she does measure and provide conditions every day for the weather service office in Riverton.

Robinson said she usually watches the weather forecast on her MSN.com homepage, which are forecasts provided by The

See Groundhog on page 11

High-speed chase results from vehicle stolen from Thermopolis

by J.D. Stetson

Kevin Smith had good reason not to be happy Thursday, Jan. 26, after he traveled down to Larimer County in Colorado to retrieve his 2006 Cadillac Escalade.

The previous day, Smith reported the SUV stolen to the Thermopolis Police Department at 3:45 a.m.

Officers contacted OnStar, which provides stolen vehicle tracking, and OnStar contacted the Wyoming Highway Patrol at 5 a.m. to report the company was tracking the vehicle on Interstate 25 near Chugwater, according to a highway patrol news release.

Troopers attempted to stop the vehicle two miles north of Cheyenne, but the driver continued driving. A Cheyenne Police officer set out spikes near an interchange while a second trooper set out spikes south of Cheyenne.

The driver ran over both spikes, popping the two rear tires, but he kept going until he was across the Wyoming/Colorado line. The two troopers followed the suspect into Colorado where the driver was going 75 mph on two flat tires.

Colorado troopers met the Escalade eight miles into Colorado where the driver left the interstate at the Carr Interchange and continued eastbound.

Several miles down the road, the driver stopped the vehicle and the Colorado troopers arrested the driver, 33-year-old Ryan R. Webster of Denver.

Webster faces various misdemeanor charges in Larimer County for trying to elude law enforcement, according to the release.

In Colorado, Webster faces charges of theft by receiving, vehicular eluding creating a substantial risk of injury by operating a vehicle in a reckless manner and drunk driving, said Colorado State Patrol Trooper Gil Villavicencio.

Felony larceny charges

In a later interview, Thermopolis Police Chief Mark Nelson said the vehicle had been left outside Smith's Arapahoe Street home unlocked with the keys in the vehicle. He said the investigation is ongoing and Webster would face felony larceny charges in Hot Springs County.

Smith said he was disappointed with the situation because he believes it could have been prevented. It is Smith's belief officers could have done more to investigate claims of someone entering a vehicle the previous week on Arapahoe Street. The suspect was scared off when the owner turned on a light.

Nelson said there is no evidence or proof to tie the two incidents together.

Smith said the damage to his vehicle included the two popped tires, the rims and the odors of the hoolah and cigarette smoke inside the vehicle.

"Thank God, the local police department got ahold of OnStar," Smith said, adding his appreciation to the highway patrol troopers involved in the chase.



Colorado State Patrol Troopers arrested Ryan R. Webster, 33, with the assistance of two Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers just south of the Wyoming/Colorado border after he stole a 2006 Cadillac Escalade owned by Thermopolis resident Kevin Smith the morning of Jan. 25 in Thermopolis. — Colorado State Patrol photo

The Escalade is usually parked inside Smith's garage, but that night he decided not to bring it inside.

Smith said that in a small community like

Thermopolis you shouldn't have to have your home or vehicle locked at all times because you are supposed to trust people.

"That's why we live here," Smith said.

Groundhog



The statue of Lander Lil memorializes the winter predicting prairie dog that follows in the footsteps of Punxsutawney Phil. — Lander Chamber of Commerce photo

Weather Channel.

Because she collects the weather, Robinson knows anytime the forecast states a 30-percent or more chance of precipitation within the next three days, the forecast is very much accurate. But any longer than that, the forecast gets a little sketchy and is revised constantly.

According to Forecastadvisor.com, the short-term forecasts have varying degrees of accuracy — depending on which source provides the information.

Last year, the website compared all of the major forecasters three-day forecasts for temperatures and precipitation in Worland.

The website lists Intellicast first with the highest overall accuracy rating of 68.26 percent, Custom Weather second with 68.05 percent, The Weather Channel third with 67.94 percent, AccuWeather fourth with 65.60 percent, NWS Digital Forecast fifth with 64.14 percent and the National Weather Service sixth with 60.26 percent.

Old Farmer's Almanac

While Robinson is usually focused on the short-term forecasts, she did say she had heard people around town say they thought the predictions made by the Old Farmer's Almanac have been right so far this winter.

The almanac boasts a traditional accuracy rating of 80 percent for its predictions, which are based on its own secretive formula using solar activity, average temperatures and precipitation averages.

In its most recent 2012 edition, the almanac also included statistics regarding the accuracy of its previous edition and based its accuracy on areas where it deviated from the actual predictions. Overall, the almanac claims it had a winter accuracy prediction of about 90 percent.

In the almanac, half of Wyoming fell within its predictions for Region 12, and the other half falls within Region 13. Ther-

mopolis falls very close to the regional cut and is questionably in Region 13.

In Region 13, the almanac predicted for January temperatures five degrees above average (35 degrees) and below average precipitation (1.5 inches). It broke down the month with periods of rain and snow the first 12 days of the month, and then rain and heavy snow Jan. 13-18. It also predicted rainy conditions Jan. 19-24, then showers and sunny, mild, weather the rest of the month.

According to the National Weather Service for specific conditions in Thermopolis in January, the average temperature was about 30.1 degrees; precipi-

tation fell Jan. 11, Jan. 16, Jan. 21 and Jan. 24 with a total measurable precipitation of .2 inches of moisture.

Regardless of which method you choose to use regarding the weather forecast, whether it's groundhogs, the almanac or even the most knowledgeable meteorologist, nothing is 100 percent accurate.

While knowing what's ahead is important for many people who contend with the conditions on a day-to-day basis, remember what the people in Lander already know — six more weeks of winter is pretty much inevitable. It's Wyoming, after all.

Happy Groundhog Day!

Coalition targets '20-somethings' in underage drinking ad campaign

by J.D. Stetson

The Hot Springs County Community Outreach Coalition is teaming with similar coalitions around the Big Horn Basin to target adults between the ages of 18 to 24 and parents to stop underage drinking.

The coalition has started a radio and newspaper advertising campaign to reach the young adults and parents who facilitate or provide alcohol to minors.

The distinct radio advertisements feature local teenagers Kaden Wood, Tori Anderson and Kaycee Tenboer. Wood is featured in seven of the ads and is the official "spokes-teen" of Hot Springs County. The ads also involve Hot Springs County Sheriff Lou Fal-

goust and Thermopolis Police Chief Mark Nelson.

"Having these kids available and wanting to do the ads, that's huge," Hot Springs County Prevention Specialist Jane Norskog said.

The newspaper features six different ads to run between now and the end of April. The ads focus on specific messages regarding binge drinking, hosting parties, drinking statistics and punishments for supplying alcohol or providing alcohol to an underaged drunk driver.

The campaign follows the "best practices" approach approved by governing agencies responsible for the coalition's CORE grant from the state.

The goal of the campaign is to use

the CORE grant money wisely while it is still available.

Norskog said the continuance of the core grant after June is still undecided at the state level.

As part of the process for best practices, Norskog said the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center would perform a telephone survey after the campaign is finished to measure how many people heard the commercials or saw the ads.

"It is our goal to change the norms," Norskog said.

Networking websites

The coalition has talked about the campaign during its monthly meetings for the past few months. During the

January meeting, some of the coalition members asked about the prevalence of teens on social networking websites and asked if they could incorporate their messages there.

Although there currently is not a presence online, Norskog said she expects more discussion at future meetings involving social networking, particularly in some of their other prevention efforts such as suicide and substance abuse.

Norskog added she is still investigating funding sources to continue the coalition's popular program providing free movies in the park. The coalition is not able to use its CORE grant funding for the movies because it has not been

deemed a "best practice" by the Wyoming Department of Health.

Currently, the coalition owns a movie screen and has received feedback from Hot Springs State Park and projectionist Ron Philips encouraging the coalition to keep the program going, Norskog said.

However, the cost of publicly showing the movie is too much without the funding previously provided by the state. Norskog is still pursuing other options for funding the movies.

The coalition meets monthly at 11:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday at Common Ground, 124 N. Fifth St. For more information about the campaign or the coalition's programs, call Norskog at 864-3851.

Public notices

Notice of Application for Transfer of Retail Liquor License

Notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of January 2012, Clyde R Fisher and Jennifer L Jeffs doing business as Stones Throw Restaurant filed an application for transfer of Retail Liquor License in the office of the Clerk of the County of Hot Springs for the following described place and premises, to wit: Club Building, North of Thermopolis at County Airport and Golf Course and protests, if any there be, against transfer of such license will be heard at the hour of 4:15 p.m. on the 21st day of February 2012 in the meeting room at the Hot Springs County Government Annex Building.

Hans Odde
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. January 19, 26, February 2 and 9, 2012

No. 6439

NOTICE OF SALE

The following vehicles will be sold at Sherriff's public auction on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse, 415 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, Wyoming, on February 7 2012 at 11:00 a.m. This sale is to satisfy abandoned vehicle costs on the listed vehicles by Auto and RV Specialties, Inc. in the amount specified, plus all reasonable costs incurred for the sale of the vehicles.

| Name | Vehicle Description | Amount |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Kimberly Simpson | 1994 Geo Metro VIN# 2C1MR2468R6721430 | \$511.00 |
| Michael or Brittany Miller | 1996 Chev. Blazer VIN# 1GNDDT13W2T2214986 | \$865.00 |
| Daniel Nunes | 1992 Dodge Ram VIN# 1B7KM26Z1NS618745 | \$667.50 |
| Lisa Brown | 1993 Jeep Cherokee VIN# 1J4GZ78Y6PC696180 | \$900.00 |
| Katelyn Edmonds | 1997 Honda 4 Dr. VIN# 1HGCD5604VA164179 | \$695.00 |
| Gregory Figaire | 1991 Chev. 4 Dr. VIN# 1G1BN53E1MW136552 | \$404.00 |
| Charles Anderson | 1986 Dodge Ram VIN# 1B7FD14T0GS046628 | \$665.00 |
| Hailey Earls | 1996 Chev. Astrovan VIN# 1GBDM19WXTB189272 | \$695.00 |
| John Brown | 1997 Dodge Ram VIN# 1B7HF16Y3VJ502734 | \$1,300.50 |
| Ethan Robinson | 1983 Ford F250 VIN# 1FTHF2617DPA77491 | \$1,491.50 |

Pub. January 26 and February 2, 2012

No. 6443

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS, default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a promissory note (the "Note") dated January 25, 2008, executed and delivered by Ronald E. Higgins and Debra L. Higgins ("Mortgagor(s)") to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Countrywide Bank, FSB its successors or assigns, and a real estate mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by said Mortgagor(s), to said Mortgagee, and which Mortgage was recorded on March 19, 2008, at Reception No. 477245 in Book 129 at Page 929 in the records of the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Hot Springs County, State of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP
Assignment dated: December 13, 2011
Assignment recorded: December 22, 2011
Assignment recording information: at Reception No. 497257 in Book 149 at Page 223

All in the records of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Hot Springs County, Wyoming.

WHEREAS, the Mortgage contains a power of sale which by reason of said default, the Mortgagee declares to have become operative, and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued; and

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage on the date of first publication of this notice of sale being the total sum of \$78,087.38 which sum consists of the unpaid principal balance of \$76,039.95 plus interest accrued to the date of the first publication of this

notice in the amount of \$2,047.43, plus attorneys' fees, costs expended, and accruing interest and late charges after the date of first publication of this notice of sale;

WHEREAS, The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale. Any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid;

NOW, THEREFORE Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP, as the Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed as by law provided by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Hot Springs County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon on February 21, 2012 at the front door of the Hot Springs County Courthouse located at 417 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, WY, Hot Springs County, for application on the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows, to-wit:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF HOT SPRINGS, STATE OF WYOMING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 3, CANDY HILLS ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS, HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING.

with an address of 103 Peppermint Ln, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

Together with all improvements thereon situate and all fixtures and appurtenances thereto.

Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP fka Countrywide Home Loans Servicing LP
By: Castle Stawiariski, LLC
330 S. Walsh Drive, Ste. 202
Casper, WY 82609-0000
(307) 333 5379

Pub. January 26, February 2, 9, and 16, 2012

No. 6442

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CHEYENNE, WYOMING NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF AND FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR HIGHWAY WORK

Notice is hereby given that the State Transportation Commission of Wyoming has accepted as completed according to plans, specifications and rules governing the same work performed under that certain contract between the State of Wyoming, acting through said Commission, and **Highway Improvement**, the Contractor, on Highway Project Number **B095014 in Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park & Washakie Counties**, consisting of **Crack Sealing in various locations in District 5**, and the Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore; that the Director of the Department of Transportation will cause said Contractor to be paid the full amount due him under said contract on **March 13, 2012**.

The date of the first publication of this Notice is **February 2, 2012**.

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF WYOMING

By: _____
Kimberly Lamb
Project Resource Coordinator
Budget Program

Pub. February 2, 9 and 16, 2012

No. 6449

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Dale and Sue Jackson, lot owners within Sable Run Subdivision, hereby give notice of their request for approval from Hot Springs County to amend the Sable Run Subdivision Plat to include the following:

- A reconfiguration of the southern portion of the boundary between Tracts 12 and 13 of Sable Run Subdivision;
- A reconfiguration of the southern portion of the right-of-way for Canyon View Drive (aka Canyon View Circle), located between Tracts 12 and 13 of Sable Run Subdivision;
- The addition of a 25 ft. utility easement, to accommodate an existing South Thermopolis Water & Sewer District water line;
- Renaming the road to be located within the right-of-way (this has been proposed by Hot Springs County, not the applicants). "Sable Run Drive" has been suggested, but the County Commissioners may prefer to select a more suitable name.

The subject property consists of Tracts 12 and 13 of Sable Run Subdi-

vision, plus the road right-of-way located between them, situated in the north one-half of the northeast ¼ of Section 23, Township 42 North, Range 95 West. Located approximately 2.5 miles south of Thermopolis, it fronts on the north side of Rimrock Drive, northeast of Canyon View Drive.

A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Board of County Commissioners at 11:00 a.m. on February 7, 2012, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the County Annex Building. Anyone requiring additional information should call the County Planning Office at 864-2961. Those unable to attend are invited to comment in writing to: *County Planning, 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443*, or by e-mail at hscplanner@hscounty.com.

Pub. February 2, 2012

No. 6450

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RETAIL, LIMITED RETAIL AND RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSES 2012-2013

APPLICANT DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES DATE FILED FILED

RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

MAC'S BAR Parcel NE 1/4, Section 2, December 21, 2011
J Bar E LLC Township 42 North Range 95 West, 6th P.M.

THERMOPOLIS Lot 12, Block 7 Original Townsite January 9, 2012
CAFÉ of Thermopolis
OM Inc.

DONS IGA Fraction of Lots & Lots 6-16, December 19, 2011
Dons Inc. Block 7 & 12 McManigals Addition to Thermopolis

LOONIE'S BIN Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 and East 5' of January 9, 2012
Claudia D. Lot 5 in Block 52, Original
Guertzgen Townsite of Thermopolis

GRAND CRU Lot 8, pt Lot 9, Block 1, January 5, 2012
ENTERPRISES McManigals Addition to
Grand Cru Thermopolis
Enterprises LLC

MAVERIK #187 Lot 13-16, Part of Lot 17, Block 18 January 4, 2012
Maverik Inc. Original Townsite

SAFARI CLUB Park Street & Pioneer Drive January 3, 2012
LOUNGE Hot Springs State Park
Carspa, Inc.

THERMOPOLIS Portions of Lot 12-14, all of January 9, 2012
LIQUORS/BEER Lot 15 & 16 Block 1, Brydon's
BARN Addition
Compass Realty Group, Inc.

RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE

PIZZA HUT #241 Portions of Lots 6, 7, & 8 and December 28, 2011
High Plains all of Lots 9, 10, 11, Block 5
Pizza, Inc. Brydon's Addition

LAS FUENTES Lot 17, Block 22, Original January 10, 2012
Jeanne A. Waltz Townsite of Thermopolis

LIMITED RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

FRATERNAL Block 4 Brydon's Addition, January 6, 2012
ORDER OF Original Townsite of Thermopolis
EAGLES
Robert Price, Officer

VETERANS OF Lots 23 & 24, Block 1, McManigals January 4, 2012
FOREIGN WARS Addn.
John Hausauer, Officer

Protest, if there be any, against issuance of any of these licenses, will be heard at the hour of 7:00 p.m., February 21, 2012 at the Thermopolis Town Hall, 420 Broadway Street.

Tracey Van Heule, Thermopolis Town Clerk

Pub. January 26, February 2, 9 and 16, 2012

No. 6448