

# Chamber forum platform for community support

by J.D. Stetson

Various event organizers and community members attended the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Public Forum Tuesday night at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

Executive Director Michelle Lue opened the forum with an introduction of the chamber's board of directors and a brief synopsis of the chamber's annual activities and statistics.

The goal behind the forum was to drum up support for various chamber and community events. The chamber discussed briefly some of its major events, which include the Chamber Banquet March 24, the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in May and the Demolition Derby in August, and the significance the events play in running the chamber.

Other presenters included Toddi Darlington and Jacky Wright of the Greater Learning Foundation, Barb Vietti for the Gift of the Waters Pageant, Jane Norskog for the Hot Springs County Community Outreach Coalition, Cassie Norskog for the Thermopolis Recycling Coalition, Tawna McQueen for the Hot Spot Car Rally, Ed Capen for the monthly Acoustic Jam Sessions and Barb Rice regarding volunteerism.

After the presentations, the chamber opened up for questions, which mainly focused on the chamber's dues structure with regard to financial institutions.

Currently, financial institutions have flat dues of \$750 while many other businesses' dues are based on the number of employees and are less than \$750.

Lue said after the forum that the chamber board would discuss the dues structure further during its annual retreat and March board meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday.

**Greater Learning Foundation**

Darlington gave a brief overview on the initiative of the foundation to build the Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center at Hot Springs State Park.

The center currently has the support of the Wyoming Office of Tourism, the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Gov. Matt Mead and former Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Darlington said.

The foundation also is in the process of collecting community support to bring a statewide folk life festival to Thermopolis. It is currently collecting support for various needs for the festival from other groups and organizations in the community, Darlington said.

Wright gave a brief presentation on the programs and cultural residencies the foundation has sponsored in the past year, which have included musical programs and classroom workshops performed by various artists such as Bryan Ragsdale, Buffalo Bill Boycott and most recently Men of Worth.

She encouraged those in attendance to continue to show support for the program by attending the various public performances, which help pay the artists' and musicians' fees for their residency.

**Gift of the Waters Pageant**

Vietti's presentation discussed the work and need for community support with regard to the fundraising, publicity and production of the Gift of the Waters Pageant.

The committee is currently working toward maintaining and garnering community support in the form of volunteers, financial donations and involvement in order to keep the tradition alive in Thermopolis.

Vietti stressed the importance of the tradition, which has been unique to Thermopolis since 1950 or longer.

The yearlong process of planning for the pageant starts with fundraising in order to account for the cost of the performers, stage, costumes and publicity expenses having to do with the pageant, which does not include the chamber's pageant parade and the Kiwanis Craft Fair.

"We need people to support it financially and also people with knowledge of the pageant," Vietti said. "It is part of Thermopolis!"

**Movies in the park**

Jane Norskog gave a brief presentation informing the audience

*See Chamber on page 10*

## Dr. Seuss' 108th birthday



Students at Ralph Witters Elementary School celebrated the 108th birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Wearing their Cat in the Hat hats are left to right, Bethany Duncan, Samantha O'Brien and Zane Digiovanni. —Cindy Glasson photo

# Budget bill includes AML funds for UW buildings

by Joe Sovo

As the 61st Wyoming Legislature Budget Session heads down the home stretch, the House and Senate have worked out their differences in the budget bill in conference committee and it was bound for Gov. Matt Mead's desk for his signature.

The budget session is expected to conclude either today (Thursday) or Friday at the state capitol in Cheyenne, according to Rep. Lorraine Quarberg (R-Thermopolis, HD28).

Neither the House nor the Senate included money for overall state employee pay raises in their budget bills, but there were still separate bills that would limit retirement benefits for future state employees and prohibit cost of living increases for current retirees.

A stumbling block between the House and Senate concerning funding of capital construction on the University of Wyoming campus was overcome. The funding pertains to the College of Engineering and Performing Arts buildings. The 100-year-old engineering building renovation is approximately a \$100 million project and the legislature has set aside \$30 million from abandoned mine land (AML) funds to get it started.

*See House on page 10*

**Quarberg to not seek re-election**

Rep. Lorraine Quarberg (R-Thermopolis) announced Tuesday she will not be running for re-election to House District 28.

"My decision not to seek re-election was made well over a year ago. I want to spend more time with family and friends," Quarberg said.

Quarberg's service in the Wyoming State Legislature began in 2005. During the past eight years, she has served on various committees including Education; Minerals, Business and Economic Development; Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions; Judiciary; and Select Water.

Currently, she serves as House Chairman of Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs and continues to serve on Select Water, an appointment she has held since 2005.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Hot Springs County and south Big Horn County," Quarberg said.

# Student threats force HS lockdown

Hot Springs County High School went into lockdown at about 1:44 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the request of the Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office.

The lockdown was in regard to a disruptive 16-year-old boy who allegedly made threats against faculty and deputies, said Sheriff Lou Falgoust during a Friday interview.

Deputies and Thermopolis Police officers were able to get the situation under control within a

short amount of time, Falgoust said.

Superintendent Dustin Hunt said the lockdown was ordered by high school principal Jason McArthur "for student safety purposes."

The student did not have the capacity to carry out any of the threats at the time of the arrest, Falgoust said.

The 16-year-old is currently under the care of the Wyoming Boys School in Worland, Falgoust said.

# Two HSCHS male students expelled

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 trustees voted unanimously to expel two male high school students during Tuesday evening's special meeting and work session.

Just after the meeting began, trustees went into executive session to discuss student matters. After the end of the 45-minute session, trustees carried a motion to expel one of the students for 176 school days, which is equivalent to one full

year of school. Another vote to expel the other student for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year was also carried.

Superintendent Dustin Hunt had no comment on details of the expulsions but did have a general explanation for their duration.

"Each individual case is different," Hunt said Wednesday morning. "Law states what the options of the district are."

## Lady Cats earn second at state tournament



Thermopolis' varsity girls' basketball team brought home the second-place trophy in Class 2A from the state tournament last weekend in Casper. Members of the team, from left, are Delanie Price, Bailey Fisher, Anja Abbott, Taylor Schwalbe, Jordan Leyba, Sierra Schmidt, Kylie Fisher, Desi Rangel, Demitra Zamora, Dana Bjorhus, Haylee Hoffman, Christina Poirath, Katie Olsen, Jenn Cramer and trainer Taylor Cornwell.

# Agreement reached on airport land

After months of negotiations, the Hot Springs County Commissioners have apparently reached an agreement with landowner Joe Holden for the purchase of his property west of Thermopolis for the future home of a new county airport.

The commissioners came out of executive session at their meeting Tuesday afternoon and voted to accept a counter offer developed by Holden and his attorney.

While none of the details of the counter offer were available, a caveat with the commissioners' vote states Holden must sign the contract for the purchase by Friday, March 9 or the commissioners will seek further legal action.

At this time the contract signing is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the commissioners' chambers in the Hot Springs County Annex Building.



# Chamber

from page 1

of the coalition’s intent to provide at least four movies in the park this summer, provided through community grants.

The coalition had previously hosted movies in the park, but was no longer able to receive state assistance to pay for the cost of the movie because the state did not feel it was a “best practices” approach to addressing prevention of underage drinking, substance abuse or suicide.

The coalition had already bought a projector screen and sought out a community grant through Central Bank and Trust to cover the cost of the movie.

Norskog gave four dates for the movies, but also said the dates were subject to change. They include June 16, July 6, Aug. 14 and Aug. 17.

## Recycling Coalition/ Acoustic Jam Sessions

Cassie Norskog gave a brief overview of the coalition’s plan to address bottle, plastic and aluminum can recycling during the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament May 5-6.

The coalition is currently discussing options and is seeking donations for bags and volunteers for picking up used plastic bottles during the tournament. They also are examining a way to provide refillable water for the tournament to decrease the volume of trash going into the town landfill.

Capen also gave an impromptu presentation on the number of people brought into the community during the Acoustic Jam Sessions, which take place the third Friday of every month at various locations. Capen said the latest session took place at The Front Porch and would likely remain there for a while.

The sessions have had “tremendous” turnouts and have brought people to Thermopolis from all across the region to help teach and support the acoustic art, Capen said.

## Hot Spot Car Rally/ Chamber Banquet

McQueen presented some of the plans being made for the 20th Hot Spot Car Rally, which includes a poker run, the annu-



Donnie MacDonald with Men of Worth explains the basics of the concertina to a group of students at Thermopolis Middle School. —Cindy Glasson photo

al parade and birthday cake and ice cream in honor of the rally’s “20th birthday.”

The rally plans to feature The Rewinders as entertainment as well as three personalized pedal cars as raffle items.

McQueen also reminded the audience of the annual Cham-

ber Banquet and what people can expect during the annual gathering.

She was joined by vice president Gene Boehmke, who elaborated on the various auction items and dinner items for the event, which includes all-you-can-eat king crab legs.

# Senate’s ‘whiskey bill’ signed by Mead

by Karla Pomeroy  
Basin Republican Rustler

The 2012 Wyoming Legislative Budget Session appears to be heading for adjournment on time, sometime tomorrow (Friday).

Sen. Gerald Geis (R-Worland, SD20) said things have been going through quickly and smoothly. The redistricting bill went through three quick readings on the Senate side as they accepted the work that was done on the House side. The bill was signed by Gov. Matt Mead on Monday.

Also signed by the governor was the “whiskey bill,” Senate File 45 that Geis sponsored,

that would allow distilleries such as Wyoming Whiskey in Kirby to distribute samples of the distilled spirits.

Senate File 105 on School Capital Construction was approved and signed by the governor.

In other action, the Senate:

- Approved on second reading is HB 21, allowing drivers to go 10 mph over the speed limit when safely passing a vehicle that is going less than the maximum speed limit allowed. Geis said he does not favor the bill, nor did he favor the 80 mph speed limit proposed on some Wyoming highways, mainly due to safety issues. HB48 on the 80 mph

limit died in committee.

- Approved HB87 on second reading Monday regarding establishing regulations for mixed martial arts.

- Approved HB92 on second reading Monday that would add joint powers boards as another entity that can participate in the emergency telephone services program.

- Did not consider House Resolution 10 on rural long distance phone service. Geis said the resolution was asking for Congressional help on third party “least cost routers,” such as Magic Jack, whose quality is not good in rural areas.

# Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING	
David and Cindy Denton have proposed a Replat of Tracts 2 and 3 of the Denton Subdivision. The requested action would adjust the boundary between the two tracts, transferring approximately 7.0 acres from Tract 2 to Tract 3. No new tracts, lots, or building sites would result from this proposal.	
The subject property consists of Tracts 2 and 3 of the Denton Subdivision, fronting on the southwest side of Buffalo Creek Road, approximately 3.5 miles south of the Town of Thermopolis. It also fronts on the north-west side of the Big Horn River, and contains two residences addressed as 378A and 378B Buffalo Creek Rd.	
A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, 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: <i>County Planning, 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443</i> , or by e-mail at <i>hscplanner@hscounty.com</i> .	
Pub. March 8 and 15, 2012	No. 6475

## LEGAL NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to build a 155-foot self-support telecommunications tower on Highway 20 North approx. 2.3 miles north of Kirby, WY 82430. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Kathy Bellrichard, Tetra Tech, 2001 Killebrew Drive, Suite 141, Bloomington, MN 55425, [kathy.bellrichard@tetrattech.com](mailto:kathy.bellrichard@tetrattech.com), 612-643-2233.

Pub. March 8, 2012 No. 6476

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on February 14, 2012, Cynthia L. Ellison, dba Miss Kitty's LLC, filed application for renewal of the Retail Liquor License for the following described place and premises, dba Shorty's Liquor Store, to wit: Lots 34, 35 and 36, Block 3, East Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, a 24' x 22' room on the north end of the building located at 103 East Broadway. Protests, if any there be, against the issuance of such license shall be heard at 7:00 P.M. on April 3, 2012 at the East Thermopolis Town Hall.	
/s/ Linda K. Free, Town clerk	
Pub. February 23, March 1, 8 and 15, 2012	No. 6468

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Energy Systems Retrofit	
Hot Springs County School District #1 is seeking a licensed contractor to provide mechanical and electrical services for a district wide energy systems retrofit as specified.	
Contact: Complete specifications will be available upon request. To request project specifications contact Phil Miller, Maintenance Supervisor, 415 Springview, Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443; e-mail <a href="mailto:pmiller@hot-springs1.org">pmiller@hot-springs1.org</a> ; phone 307-864-6600.	
Completed proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 415 Springview, Thermopolis, WY 82443. Proposal package must be clearly marked "Proposals: Energy Retrofit". Bid opening will be 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 20, 2012 in the HSCSD#1 Board Room, 415 Springview, Thermopolis, WY. Official awarding of bid will occur at the regular meeting of the board of trustees on March 22nd, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.	
Anyone able to provide the services is eligible to bid. Hot Springs County School District #1 reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.	
/ Ss/ Liz Mahoney Chairman Board of Trustees Hot Springs County School District #1	

# House

from page 1

“They’re two to three years (away) from being able to construct anyway,” Quarberg said.

Funding will also be available for renovation of the 40-year-old Performing Arts building.

Quarberg said the House held its position for approving \$30 million to go to Wyoming highways, using AML funds.

“Energy resource development takes a toll on our roads,” she said.

Also pertaining to the new budget, state agencies must prepare for 3 percent budget cuts when the legislature convenes in 2013 due to falling natural gas prices.

As of Tuesday, there were 54 “enrolled” bills to be sent to Mead’s desk for his endorsement. Wednesday was the last day for third reading on bills in the second house and the deadline for concurrence on amendments and Joint Conference Committee reports was today (Thursday).

## Sampling at distilleries

Mead signed SF45, alcoholic beverages-manufacturers, on Wednesday afternoon. That bill allows sampling at distilleries such as Wyoming Whiskey of Kirby.

“It will help make Hot Springs County a destination point,” Quarberg said. “It will be a lot of interest to people across the United States and in other countries, too.”

Steve and Donna Nally of Wyoming Whiskey were on hand for the signing of the legislation and Quarberg calls them “good business people and wonderful ambassadors.”

SF105, school capital construction, became an enrolled bill. It will benefit a number of large and small school districts in Wyoming, including schools in Fremont County, according to Quarberg.

HB88, pertaining to DUI penalties, was also bound for the governor’s desk after support from Quarberg. The bill allows a judge to levy a higher maximum sentence to offenders who have at least four DUI (driving under the influence) convictions on his or her record.

Quarberg expected HB21, exceeding speed limit while passing, to become law. Drivers would be allowed to exceed the speed limit by up to 10 mph on an open highway in order to pass a vehicle traveling under the posted speed limit.

HB90, baseline scientific assessments, was also expected to go to the governor. It would put the State of Wyoming “in the driver’s seat” when dealing with the Federal government on such issues as resource management plans (RMPs).

Two pieces of legislation pertaining to the media that originated in the Senate should also go to Mead for his signature – SF25, public records, and SF27, public meetings. Quarberg said SF27 would clarify executive committee meetings. “Public meetings are very important. It’s something everyone needs to know,” she said.

SF41, wolf management, went to Mead’s desk. Quarberg did not support the bill. “It’s like dealing with a moving target,” she said. “It seems like we’re consistently giving up more and more control in trying to get them (wolves) de-listed. I’m tired of them (the Federal government) not keeping their word.”

Status of legislation during the budget session can be found on website [legisweb.state.wy.us/](http://legisweb.state.wy.us/).

Pub. March 8 and 15, 2012 No. 6478

## High Plains Power, Inc. Notice of Annual Meeting

The 14th Annual Meeting of the members of High Plains Power, Inc. will be held at the **High Plains Power, Inc. Headquarters Building, Riverton, Wyoming** starting at **1:00 PM** on Saturday, **March 17, 2012** to take action upon the following matters.

1. The report of Officers, Directors and Committees.
2. The election of four (4) Directors.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting or adjournment thereof.

In connection with the election of four (4) Directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for Directors by the Committee of Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors of High Plains Power pursuant to the By-Laws.

(One to be elected from each district)

District 2- Lee Shaffer

District 8 - Hearley Dockham  
Dan Taylor

District 11- Mark Park

District 12- Bob Cardwell

Additional nominations for Directors may be made at the meeting.

Dated March 2, 2012  
Hearley Dockham, Secretary

Pub. March 8, 2012 No. 6479

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