



Thermop athletes
pre-qualify for
state track meet **6**

Town council talks
about trash
ordinance **11**

March record month
for heat in Hot
Springs County **16**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 14, April 5, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Commissioners: Airport, county roads, fuel system, Nakamura Lane issue discussed

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners held a lengthy meeting Tuesday, going over a variety of items, including an update on the new airport, name changes for roads in the county and a request by the town to be added to the county's fueling system. They also discussed issues with Nakamura Lane and signed a proclamation for the Month of the Military Child.

Airport update

The commissioners signed requests for reimbursement from the state and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the amount of \$17,146 to cover expenses incurred to date on the new county airport.

GDA Engineers informed the commissioners the new airport has been given a temporary identifier number of +09F, which will be used until the actual opening of the finished airport.

The identifier used by the current airport will not transfer over once the new airport is built, as it could cause problems with old mapping systems. GDA indicated they would be requesting HSC as a new identifier. The letter K will be added at the beginning by the FAA to indicate it is an airport within the United States.

The commissioners also discussed putting up a perimeter fence on the property to delineate the property's boundaries.

GDA believes they can have a cost estimate to the commissioners in the next 10 to 14 days so the project can be finished this summer.

County roads

Road and Bridge Supervisor Ray Shaffer said his department has placed about 50 new signs around the county, taken care of some rutting on others and now have all the bridges in the county properly marked.

In addition, a new road is being proposed south of Thermopolis, branching off Coyote Run. The road would not be a county road; however, the residents in the area will have the opportunity to give it a new name.

A second road, currently called Grass Creek Road, which goes over Bird's Eye Pass, may get a new name, too.

Shaffer suggested the road be renamed to Bird's Eye Pass Road as that is what it is called once it crosses over into Fremont County. Residents along that road will also have the chance to rename it, but Shaffer would like to see the Bird's Eye Pass name to keep continuity along its entire length.

Shaffer also said the upper part of Lane 3 is almost complete. Signage still needs to be placed and seeding will be done in the next few days.

Once that is finished, the road must be formally made a county road and opened up for

See Commissioners on page 12

Lions, TRCC Easter egg hunts scheduled

Two Easter egg hunts are on the schedule for this weekend in Thermopolis.

The annual Thermopolis Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday in Hot Springs State Park. Prizes will be available for all age groups up to 9 years old. Age groups will be divided up in separate areas of the park.

The fun begins with a whistle

blow at 2 p.m.

An Easter egg hunt is being planned Saturday at Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center (TRCC).

Children ages 1-10 are welcome to come hunt eggs on the TRCC grounds, weather permitting, starting at 10:30 a.m. Older children are encouraged to come as helpers for the smaller children.

\$50,000 raised at auction



Ashle McLean holds high a decorative goose cookie jar during the cookie jar auction for Peggy Shaffer on Saturday. The event, held at the Hot Springs County Fair Building, raised \$50,000 to help defray medical expenses for Shaffer. More than 350 people attended the festivities.

—Cindy Glasson photo

Hospital offers 30 percent discount plan

by J.D. Stetson

While change has already come to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital in the form of new people filling various leadership roles, the hospital has several other changes in the works.

The hospital's board of trustees was presented during its March 27 meeting with several plans and action items concerning improvement in key areas, which include quality, customer service, finance, people and growth.

The hospital describes each of the key areas as its "five pillars," the goal of which is for each area to be monitored, maintained and improved upon in order to fulfill the hospital's vision and mission statement.

During the course of the meeting, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Robin Roling and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Shelley Larson presented a plan to improve the quality and customer service with the hospital's self-pay customers, a plan for electronic medical records and a plan to provide radiology services to the hospital.

Self-pay discount

During the meeting, trustees chose to allow hospital staff to pursue a contract with First Party Receivables, a Greeley, Colo.-based company to create an extended busi-

ness office in order to handle bills for patients that owe the hospital after insurance is paid or denied.

The new service will serve as an extension to the hospital's current business office and will present itself as the hospital when it communicates with customers while providing hospital-approved avenues for bill paying and financial assistance.

In order to prepare for the move to an extended business office model, the hospital presented the board with a letter intended for current patients with outstanding account balances. The letter announces a one-time special offer of a 30-percent discount on the amount they owe if the patient pays off the debt within 30 days of the date of the letter.

The letter also states that customers who do not wish to take advantage of the offer, but wish to continue to make payments under a hospital payment plan, must contact the hospital within 60 days of the date of the letter in order to arrange a new payment agreement.

The goal of the discount offer is to give people an incentive to pay off their debt before the extended business office goes into effect and to reduce the amount of accounts that will be transferred.

The hospital plans to cancel all current payment agreements before the accounts

go to the extended business office. Once the accounts are under the extended business office, it will be up to the patient to contact the hospital to arrange payment options or to seek financial assistance.

The letter states any customer who does not pay off the debt or contact the hospital regarding their account will have 90 days as of the date of the letter before it will "result in additional collection action."

The offer does not apply to patients in which insurance has not been billed or adjudicated by the insurance carrier. The letter also indicates that if the payment method is cancelled, voided, is over the limit or if there is insufficient funds, the offer will be rescinded and the patient will be responsible for the full amount plus any added expense to the hospital.

Electronic medical records

Another issue affecting multiple pillars is the hospital's transition to electronic medical records.

The issue affects the hospital's quality, customer service, financial and growth pillars, and it has been a hot topic issue over the past couple of years because of federal grant money associated with the issue.

See Hospital on page 12

Major injuries in two-truck collision



EMTs and firefighters responded to a rear-end crash at about 8:30 a.m. Tuesday near Nakamura Lane on Highway 20 North. Both occupants of the first vehicle

were taken to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. One was later Life Flighted. A full report on the crash was unavailable at press time. — J.D. Stetson photo

Graduation rate now above state average

by Joe Sovia

While the overall high school graduation rate in Wyoming public schools has gone down slightly, the percentage in Hot Springs County School District No. 1 is well above the state average.

Using the established United States Department of Education methodology, the Wyoming Department of Education's (WDE) Federal Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, or "on-time" graduation rate, is 79.74 percent for the class of 2011. That is down from the 80.42 percent graduation rate noted for the 2009-10 school year. In the spring of 2011, Wyoming graduated 52 more students than in 2010.

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 had a mark of 86.54 percent for all students pertaining to the Federal Four-Year Adjusted Graduation Rates for the

2010-11 Cohort. That was broken down to 89.47 percent for females and 84.85 percent for males.

High school principal Jason McArthur said Tuesday the district's graduation rate last year, for the class of 2011, was 93 percent — the second highest in Wyoming.

"I applaud our board and the administrative team effort," he said of the district's focus to achieve a 100-percent graduation rate, and he's excited to be part of a community that supports the emphasis on graduating from high school. "We're approaching it as an entire community and it being important."

McArthur also points to the value and success of the district's Learning Center in preparing local students for graduation.

"It's helped tremendously," he said.

See Graduation on page 12

Commissioners

traffic before construction on the remainder of the lane can begin.

County fuel system
Thermopolis Mayor Bill Malloy and Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby approached the commissioners with a request to be added to the county's fueling system. The Town of Thermopolis has used the same company for its fueling needs for a couple of decades, but of late have been having problems acquiring gas and diesel from time to time. The town uses approximately 600 gallons of gasoline and 1,100 gallons of diesel fuel each month. Crosby indicated the town would be more than willing to help with maintenance and upkeep of

the county fueling station should they be allowed to join. The fueling station, located near the bus barn on Springview Street, provides fuel for the school district, road and bridge, weed and pest and the cemetery district as well as the sheriff's office. Having so many entities involved in the system lowers the fuel cost for all of them. The commissioners approved the addition of the town to the system, but said it would have to get final permission from the school district.

Nakamura Lane
A conference call was held between Mike Barton and the commissioners regarding a public

hearing that will be held April 19. Barton had been hired by the county to act as a mediator during the public hearing and the commissioners had several questions for him regarding how the meeting should be run. A motion to dismiss has been filed by one of the parties, and Barton suggested the commissioners first hold a brief motion hearing before continuing with the remainder of the meeting. Barton will be giving legal advice throughout the public hearing, allowing County Attorney Jerry Williams to participate. The public hearing will be in the commissioners' chambers in the county annex starting at 9 a.m.

from page 1

Hospital

The hospital is currently looking into joining with the Billings Clinic Information System, which is provided by Cerner. Roling reported in her report the hospital has received revised contracts from the Billings, Mont., hospital and from Cerner Corp. Roling sought the board's approval to move forward with the contract without delay in order to get the process started within timeframes established by other grant monies from the state, the federal government and other funding sources. While Roling said the system is not perfect, she also said there currently is no perfect system available to meet all of the hos-

pital's needs. She said recent discussions and education about the system have shown improvements upon the system from earlier presentations. "I came away feeling comfortable," Roling said, referring to a recent meeting in Billings and what she had learned about the system during the presentation.

Radiology recruitment
Roling also informed the board she had received notice from Fremont Radiology that the business will no longer provide services to the hospital, starting April 27. The hospital is currently utilizing a physician recruiter

with HealthTech Management Services to advertise for a radiologist. The hospital also is actively examining the possibility of contracting with a service to provide round-the-clock teleradiology services at the hospital. Because of the impending deadline, Roling stated she is in the process of working out a collaboration with Washakie Medical Center for their radiologist to work two half days at the hospital each week, and provide teleradiology services throughout the remainder of the week. Roling asked for board approval in order to get started with the privileging and credentialing process for the radiologist.

from page 1

Graduation

It's a bit early to tell, but McArthur anticipates a high graduation rate for this school year. The graduation ceremony is May 20. "We really have a neat community. One-hundred percent (graduation rate) is a very difficult goal to achieve," he said. The U.S. Department of Education numbers place Hot Springs County School District No. 1 in the upper one-third of district in Wyoming for graduation rates for the four-year period. Sixteen districts had a higher rate and 31 had a rate that was lower.

cent for 2013 and beyond. Calculating graduation rates is a complex process. The cohort graduation rate is based on a group of students who begin as first-time ninth graders in a particular school year and then graduate with a regular high school diploma in four or fewer years. The WDE understands many successful students take more than four years to graduate and applauds their commitment. Because of this, the WDE has also calculated five-year graduation

rates to provide a more complete picture of student outcomes. For the 2009-10 cohort, the five-year graduation rate was 82.8 percent. The 2010-11 five-year graduation rate will not be known until 2013 and will be reported in that year. The current and past graduation rates, plus explanatory material, is available on the WDE website at <http://edu.wyoming.gov/Data/InformationAndReporting/GraduateData.aspx>.

from page 1

PLTI group graduates



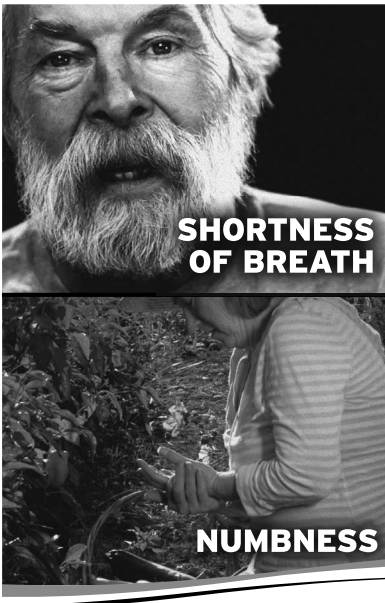
Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) had a graduation Saturday for 13 people who participated in the 20-week program. The graduates include: Lisa A. Blakesley, Candice K. Correa, Kani Correa, Amber Galovich, Nancy Jensen, Ana Moser, Cassie Norskog, Jan Olheiser, Raven Padilla, Phil Scheel, Karen Wedor, Call Whitaker and Jody White. Hot Springs County Commissioner Mike Baker and PLTI Facilitators Carol Pickett and Bobbi Overfield also attended the event.

— Cindy Glasson photo

Leonhardt suffers minor injuries

Eacel Leonhardt is fortunate to have only suffered a few bumps and bruises after being involved in a traffic collision while riding her tricycle on Highway 20 North near Red Lane. Leonhardt's husband, Dennis, said the two had taken their tricycles out in the early afternoon of March 27 and were riding near the Fountain of Youth RV park. Eacel had crossed the highway when suddenly she hit a vehicle as it was turning. The driver of the vehicle tried to avoid the tricycle and hit a delineator post.

There was damage to both sides of the vehicle, Dennis said. Eacel suffered only minor injuries and was happy the accident wasn't much worse. The tricycle had some damage, but it would be very easy to fix, Dennis said. A report from the Wyoming Highway Patrol was unavailable Tuesday afternoon.

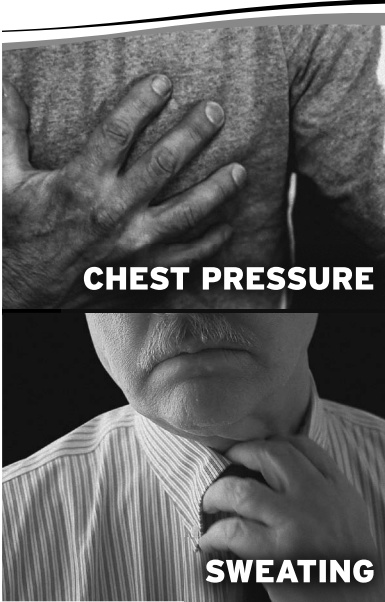


Because when minutes matter, You don't want to miss a beat.

When heart attack signs present, the last thing you want to do is second guess. Know the signs, and don't wait to get help. Because when minutes matter, you don't want to miss a beat.



Wyoming Medical Center
WyomingMedicalCenter.org
Casper, Wyoming



SCHOOL MENU
Week of April 9-13
(Menu subject to changes)

MONDAY - Chicken Sandwich; 2nd choice: Fish Wedge; Mayonnaise, Pasta Salad, Brownies, Milk, HB: Cauliflower, Peaches
TUESDAY - Egg Roll, Rice; 2nd choice: Chicken Sandwich; Lime Jell-O, Milk, HB: Peas, Banana
WEDNESDAY - Sloppy Joe On A Bun; 2nd choice: Egg Roll, Rice; Potato Chips, Chocolate Chip Cookies, Milk, HB: Broccoli, Mandarin Oranges
THURSDAY - Pizza; 2nd choice: Sloppy Joe On A Bun, Potato Chips; Bread Sticks, Ranch Dressing, Milk, HB: Lettuce Salad, Fruit Cocktail
FRIDAY - Corn Dogs; 2nd choice: Pizza; Baked Beans, Ranch Dressing, Ketchup, Milk, HB: Broccoli, Pears

Big Horn Federal
Greybull, Powell, Thermopolis, Cody, Worland, Lovell
643 Broadway • 864-2156

M-Th 3:45-5:30
F 12:30-3:35

APRIL 9-13
Monday
RWE: Eggastic/Egg in a Bottle
TMS: What about Water Pollution
Tuesday
RWE: Snack Attack
TMS: Media Chalk
Wednesday
RWE: Birdfeeder Cookies/Space School Musical Production
TMS: American Revolution Video
Thursday
RWE: Club Day/Chess
TMS: Club Day/Rugby
Friday
RWE: Art Hour
TMS: Art Hour

Sponsored by:
Bartholomew Well Service
P.O. Box 1081 • Thermopolis, WY
307-864-5245

Hot Springs County SENIOR CENTER • LUNCH MENU •

April 9-13
MONDAY
Baked Fish w/Dill Sauce, Roasted Red Potatoes, Three Bean Salad, Yellow Cake w/Frosting, Pears, Roll
TUESDAY
French Dip Sandwich w/Au Jus, Tricolored Potatoes, Broccoli Craisin Salad, Peaches
WEDNESDAY
Chicken & Noodles, Seasoned Zucchini, Cabbage & Pineapple Salad, Bran Muffin, Fresh Fruit
THURSDAY
Beef Fajita, Shredded Cheese, Salsa, Onions, Sour Cream, Spanish Rice, Tossed Salad, Chocolate Ice Cream, Banana
FRIDAY
Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans w/Bacon & Onion, Carrot & Raisin Salad, Roll, Sugar Cookies, Cooked Apple Slices

Menu subject to change without notice.
864-2151
206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by
WYOMING GAS
Serving the communities of Greybull, Basin, Burlington, Byron, Manderson, Thermopolis & Worland

Urology Update
by **Gregory S. Stewart, M.D.**
Board Certified Urologist

GOOD DIET CONTRIBUTES TO SPERM HEALTH

As the saying goes, "you are what you eat." When researchers analyzed the diets of men undergoing in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatments with their spouses, they found that what the men ate and drank had direct bearing on the outcome of the treatment. Researchers asked the men how often they ate a range of foods, including fruits, vegetables, grains, meat, and fish, as well as how much they smoked or drank alcohol. The men's sperm was checked for health and concentration in addition to how well the IVF was going. It was found that eating more grains and fruit improved sperm concentration and motility, and smoking, drinking, and eating lots of red meat lowered fertility success. UROLOGICAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN WYOMING is dedicated to providing you with the highest quality of medical and urologic surgical care. Your good health is our highest priority and we want you to be satisfied with your care and our recommendations. New patients are gladly accepted.

Urological Services
of Northern Wyoming
307-587-5131
225 W. Yellowstone Ave • Ste. 9
Cody

Prime Commercial real estate at 230 W. Main in Riverton.

Property includes the following:

- 8,768 sq/ft main office building housing 13 offices, board room, reception area, vault, break room, 4 restrooms, air conditioning and an attached shop with 3,628 sq/ft and 5 bays.
- 3,150 sq/ft 6 bay shop with roll up doors
- 2,800 sq/ft storage/warehouse building
- 2.33 acre site, includes asphalt parking lot, concrete walkways, secure fence, water, sewer, electric, gas and phone
- Offered at \$950,000
- Photos and additional information at www.sitesacrossamerica.com use **1026266** as the building ID number

Contact Mark White at 307-856-2207

