

Bobcats, Lady Cats  
head for state  
track in Casper

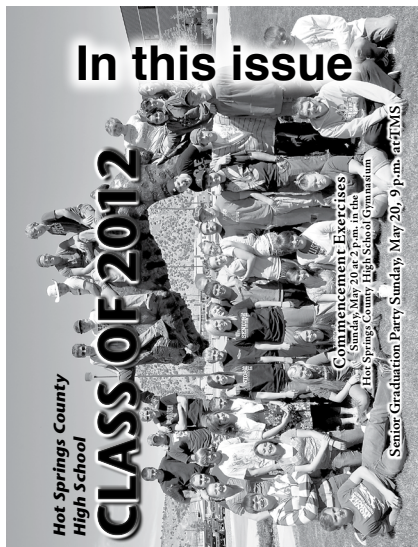
6

Staff shuffling in  
Thermopolis  
school district

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High temperatures,  
drought could  
lead to wildfires

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Thermopolis Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW VOLUME 113, No. 20, May 17, 2012 THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443 USPS 627-300 75¢

## Council discusses budget, utility rates, regional water

*New water line could connect with S. Thermop system*

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council took its first look at the 2012-13 budget on Tuesday night, passed an ordinance allowing an easier way to pass small utility rate increases and discussed a proposal from the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) concerning regional water.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby and Town Treasurer Tracey Van Heule discussed an overall summary of the new budget.

Crosby indicated the budget was kept in line with the previous year's budget, but that the town would need to dip into reserves more than in the previous year.

The current draft of the budget indicates the town would need \$865,109 from reserves to balance the budget.

Most increases are in line with increases in maintenance and utility costs. Crosby also noted the town's intent to create a capital replacement fund for the town's 60-year-old water plant funded through a \$5 existing charge on utilities for capital improvement.

Crosby also noted the work done by various town departments such as public works, police and administration to submit conservative budget requests.

Mayor Bill Malloy asked the council to look over the budget in order to ask any questions it may have during the second reading of the ordinance

at the council's June 5 meeting.

- **Utility rate ordinance:** The council passed third and final reading on an ordinance to allow the council to pass utility rate increases up to 5 percent by resolution rather than by ordinance. The ordinance does not raise utility rates, but allows the council a shorter way to make small increases on a needed basis.

Prior readings of the ordinance allowed the rate increases to be up to 4 percent. The council voted to amend the ordinance to 5 percent in order to even out future increments.

Crosby noted during the budget discussion the need in the near future to enact a small rate increase due to increased costs of electricity in the next budget year.

Malloy set the date for the ordinance to go into effect for June 11.

- **WWDC proposal:** The WWDC proposed during a recent meeting with town officials to allow the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District to tie into a new waterline being built by the Owl Creek Water District west of town.

Owl Creek is currently working to build a water line tapping into a new town water line – stemming from the new water tanks west of Roundtop Mountain.

The proposal would build a new water line south to the Coyote Run Subdivision where the line would connect with the South Thermopolis system.

After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to go along with the plan for the time being, but the town wants ownership of the two new lines up to where they connect with the other systems. The council also is concerned about future development and annexation west and south of town with regard to the water systems.

For more information about the proposal, see next week's Independent Record.

### Prairie Eagle Exercise



EMT Russ Pearce examines Megan Kraushaar for symptoms of anthrax poisoning during the Prairie Eagle Exercise, a mock disaster training Tuesday at the County Fairgrounds. Kraushaar and several students in the HSCHS Drama Club donned makeup in order act out their part in the exercise. – J.D. Stetson photo

## Man arrested after alleged stabbing

by J.D. Stetson

Thermopolis Police officers were called to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital at 2:20 a.m. Saturday after a 26-year-old man had driven to the emergency room with stab wounds to his neck and back.

Doctors told officers the man was minutes away from bleeding out and was fortunate to have arrived at the hospital when he did, according to court documents.

The man told officers Tyrel Morningstar, 25, allegedly stabbed him earlier at a home in the 1100 block of Warren Street. Officers later located Morningstar at an Arapahoe Street home and arrested him on suspicion of aggravated assault, according to court documents.

Before the arrest, Morningstar admitted he had stabbed the 26-year-old with a knife but claimed he acted in self-defense, according to court documents.

The 26-year-old suffered four stab wounds to his neck, one stab wound to his back and a cut on his neck. He has since been released from the hospital after receiving treatment for his injuries, said Police Chief Mark Nelson.

Morningstar and another person had allegedly been in an altercation earlier in the evening while at a bar. Before the stabbing, the other man and the 26-year-old went to the Warren Street home to confront Morningstar, according to court documents.

The 26-year-old held back the other man to prevent another altercation while the man and

Morningstar exchanged words. Morningstar was asked to leave the home by the occupants, but Morningstar did not leave and he exchanged words with the 26-year-old.

The 26-year-old allegedly grabbed Morningstar and the two went down to the ground fighting. Once the fight stopped, witnesses stated both were covered in blood, according to court documents.

Aggravated assault is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine or both fine and imprisonment.

Morningstar will have a preliminary hearing in Hot Springs County Circuit Court to determine if there is enough evidence for him to be bound over to District Court.

## Class of 2012 to graduate during Sunday ceremony

Fifty-one seniors will be in cap and gown when the Hot Springs County High School Class of 2012 celebrates graduation with commencement exercises Sunday at 2 p.m. in the high school gym.

Co-valedictorians Anja Abbott and Maggie Paris will each provide a brief address, as will salutatorian Zach Anderson.

Long-time librarian Cindy Toth, who is retiring at the end of the school year, will be the guest speaker. She will address the graduates attending the ceremony and other commencement attendees.

See the special 2012 Graduation Edition in this issue of the Independent Record for photos of the graduates and salutes by businesses and other members of the community.

Anderson and Paris were named recipients of Most Outstanding Boy and Girl awards during Senior Awards Night on Tuesday at the school auditorium. Three seniors also received special senior honors: John Cramer, service; Rayann Lofink, citizenship; and Anderson, citizenship.

In addition to Anderson and Paris, honor students from the Class of 2012 – with GPAs of 3.5 or above – are Abbott, Josh Bohleen, Colter Brown, Cramer, Lofink, Jacob Moore, Chris Ryan and Kelsie Tillack.

National Honor Society seniors are Anderson, Bohleen, Paris and Tillack.

A list of the scholarship recipients will be published in next week's Independent Record.

### Honoring retiring school personnel



Five Hot Springs County School District No. 1 employees who are retiring at the end of the school year were honored during Thursday's banquet at the middle school. They are, from left, transportation/maintenance supervisor Phil Miller; teachers Kathy Taylor and Dr. Jeb Schenck; librarian Cindy Toth; and groundskeeper Dick Howe. Read about their years of service to the school district in next week's Independent Record. – Joe Sovia photo

## Winters, Leyba, Renner to run for HD28 seat

As the 16-day filing period opens today (Thursday), three candidates have announced their intention to run for the House District 28 seat to be vacated by Rep. Lorraine Quarberg. She has chosen not to run for re-election; her term ends Jan. 6.

Thermopolis resident and chairman of the Hot Springs County Republican Party Nathan Winters, businessman and Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board member Carl Leyba and rural Meeteetse resident Echo Renner indicated they would file for the seat.

Winters and Renner will file as Republicans and Leyba as a Democrat. They will be on the primary ballot on Aug. 21, along with any other candidates who file by the June 1 deadline. Applications are available at the county clerk's office.

The top vote getter from each political party advances to the 2012 General Election on Nov. 6. The winner in the General Election would have a two-year term as the HD28 representative, assuming the seat Jan. 7.

### Basse to file for commission seat

Hot Springs County Commission Chairman Brad Basse announced today (Thursday) he would be running for another term on the commission in this year's election.

Basse, who has spent 10 years as a commissioner, said he made his decision because he has some commitments he wants to fulfill with the board.

"There are things I want to follow through on," Basse said. "The airport and all that entails is just one of those commitments."

Today is the first day for candidates' filing for office at the Hot Springs County Courthouse.

### Nathan Winters

"I am running for state representative, because our basic

See HD28 on page 10



HD28

from page 1

values as Americans and Wyomingites are under assault. I can and will represent our district with a consistent, strong, clear, conservative voice,” Winters said during a Monday interview.

Winters attended high school in Cheyenne and has a Bachelor’s degree in Theology and a Master’s degree in Religious Education.

He moved to Thermopolis six years ago and works as a speaker and teacher. Winters serves as an associate pastor with First Baptist Church of Thermopolis and also has served as state parliamentarian with the Wyoming Republican Party.

Winters’ wife, Christie, is an elementary school teacher.

It is Winters’ goal to represent all of House District 28, which includes communities in Otto, Ly-site, Shoshoni, Meeteetse and all of Hot Springs County.

He believes his “good conservative principles” will not only be an asset to the communities he represents, but also serve as a guide for the entire state.

Some of the key issues Winters will address include the encroachment of big government in Wyoming, supporting small business and capitalism, multiple use of public lands and education.

“We need a representative who understands that an individual with a strong education provides the best hope for preserving our freedoms,” Winters said. “I will support a strong educational system within our district, which includes our public schools, charter schools, private schools and home schools.”

Winters also plans to be vigilant in participating in the state’s budget process because he is concerned about the state government’s continued growth in contrast to national trends involving natural gas prices, federal regulation of coal and the national debt.

“This is a critical year for our state and nation,” Winters said. “I have the values and determination to make a difference for our district.”

– J.D. Stetson

Carl Leyba

Leyba, who has held a seat on the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital board, the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board and the Wyoming Transportation Commission says he sees state government as a business as well.

“It should be run like a business,” he said. “Businesses set goals and work to achieve those goals.”

Leyba said Wyoming has done a good job keeping the money where it needs to be, and he



Nathan Winters



Carl Leyba



Echo Renner

wants to make sure the money is there for all the various state agencies.

“I don’t want to see us cut ourselves short,” he said. “We have a good quality of life in Wyoming and I don’t want to see that change.

“Let’s make sure the funds are there. Problems arise at times and we don’t want those problems to hurt us financially. Let’s maintain what we have,

not lose it.”

One issue Leyba is most concerned with is proper funding for our schools.

“We have declining enrollments,” he said, “but we still need certain things. The government has set forth certain standards, pre-requisites, and I don’t want to see us losing funding, teachers or student opportunities.”

Along with Hot Springs State Park, the concessionaires and

the Wyoming Pioneer Home, Leyba said he wants folks in Hot Springs County and the rest of the district to know they have a voice on a state level.

“I want them to know they have representation,” he said. “I don’t want them to lose that voice.”

Leyba and his wife, Karen, own the Super 8 in Thermopolis as well as Taco John’s. Karen is the director at the Children’s Resource Center.

– Cindy Glasson

Echo Renner

Renner, 41, and her husband Morgan live in the Wood River area, southwest of Meeteetse. The Renner family homesteaded on Gooseberry Creek between Thermopolis and Meeteetse in 1897, and have been ranching in the area since.

“I am running for House District 28 because I am committed

to representing and working for the people in this area, and the people of Wyoming,” Renner said. “Rural people, and our way of life, are under attack on many fronts. We need conservative legislators to stand up for state’s rights and private property rights, help control government spending and keep taxes low, and reduce government regulations to clear the way for the private sector to create and preserve jobs. We need to protect Wyoming’s legacy of open spaces, and help strengthen families.”

Renner attended grade school at a country school, and graduated from Hay Springs High School in Nebraska. In 1995, she graduated from Chadron State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree with double majors in Journalism and Family and Consumer Sciences, with an emphasis in Agriculture Journalism. She also studied Family and Consumer

Sciences graduate courses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Montana State University-Bozeman.

She is a writer, historian and political buff. In 2002, she started her own business, Wood River Writing Company, LLC, doing freelance and grant writing, research, photography, genealogy, event planning and social media. She also works as a field editor for the Wyoming Livestock Round-up, writing primarily about ranch histories. She owns a vintage and antique furniture business, Vintage Gypsy Moon Studio, with her sister, Kodi Olson. In 2006, she compiled and edited the book "Meeteetse, Wyoming Ranches & Cowboys: A Legacy. Since 2006," she has produced a monthly newsletter and written for Guardians of the Range, an organization that endeavors to protect livestock grazing on public land.



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\$1000 CASH BACK <sup>3</sup>

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UROLOGY Update



by Gregory S. Stewart, M.D. Board Certified Urologist

RECONNECTING

Vasectomy, the most reliable method of contraception, involves cutting/blocking the ducts (vasa deferentia) that carry sperm from the testicles to the seminal vesicles. Because the simple procedure is permanent, men may assume that there is no going back once the procedure is successfully performed. However, it is possible to reverse a vasectomy. "Vasovasostomy" involves reopening the separated ends of each vas deferens and reconnecting them so that the sperm may enter the semen before ejaculation. After that, pregnancy success is linked with how much time has elapsed since the vasectomy was performed. If a vasovasostomy is performed within three years of a vasectomy, the rate of sperm return is 97 percent (88 percent three to eight years after vasectomy).

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