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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 50, December 13, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Council moves meeting to Jan. 3

The Thermopolis Town Council's first meeting of 2013 will take place Jan. 3 at 5 p.m. instead of its regular time the first Tuesday of the month.

The first Tuesday of January is the New Year's holiday and the town offices will be closed.

The council made the change during its Dec. 4 meeting.

After the meeting, Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby told the Independent Record the town held a public hearing to sponsor the H.O.P.E. Agency in applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the state.

The H.O.P.E. Agency asked for the town's support for the grant in order to construct a new building at the agency's current location.

There were no other applicants for the sponsorship dur-

ing the hearing. Crosby expected the town to draft and vote on a resolution to sponsor the application during the council's Dec. 18 meeting.

In a written report to the council, Town Engineer Heath Overfield reported design and survey work has begun on the Broadway East Water Project. The project starts where the 2010 project left off on Broadway Street and heads east to East Thermopolis.

The town had hoped to bid the project in the spring, but the town continues to work with BNSF Railway on details regarding boring under the railroad on Broadway Street, Crosby said.

The project will also involve boring under the Big Horn River to a connection with East Thermopolis.

Drought conditions expected to continue

Hot Springs County remains in extreme drought condition, according to a release from the National Weather Service in Riverton.

The latest drought update for the state, published and distributed Friday, indicates the county remains in extreme "D3" drought with equal chances of above, below or normal temperatures or precipitation throughout December.

The release states the winter outlook from December to February indicates a greater than equal chance of above normal temperatures across the state, with the exception of the northeast corner of Wyoming. It indicates equal chances for above, normal or below normal precipitation.

From January to November this year, the weather service measured 4.17 inches of precipitation, which is 37 percent of the average amount of precipitation measured during the same time frame during

the past 30 years.

Eastern Washakie County, Johnson County and Sweetwater County remain in extreme drought even though the counties received 150 to 250 percent of normal precipitation in November.

The area remains in extreme drought because the additional precipitation only made a small dent in the annual deficits of 50 to 70 percent.

No river basins were in hydrologic drought conditions, according to a map issued by the U.S. Geological Service.

Boysen Reservoir currently remains at 70 percent full, with the lowest reservoir in the state being Big Sandy Reservoir at 17 percent. Buffalo Bill Reservoir was reported at 66.7 percent, Bull Lake at 50.3 percent and Pathfinder at 40.6 percent.

The next report is expected to be released on Dec. 21 or sooner if necessary in response to significant changes in conditions.

Tour of Homes



Visitors attending the 2012 Holiday Tour of Homes Monday evening admire the decorations and layout of Kerry and Rees Jackman's home on Hanging Horse Road west of Thermopolis. The tour led residents to homes owned by Connie and Larry Dickinson, Suzanna O'Connor, Jennifer Domhoff, Becky and Joe Martinez, and Debbie and Mark Mount.

—J.D. Stetson photo

Hospital maintains quality goals

by J.D. Stetson

Throughout the past year, the nurses and staff at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital have attained nearly 100 percent compliance on data collected under the hospital's Quality Improvement Organization (QIO).

In a report to the Board of Trustees, Quality Director Bryan Evensen and CEO Robin Roling discussed the data, which deals with quality measures with both inpatients and outpatients in the hospital for heart failure, pneumonia, surgery, chest pain or other reasons.

For inpatients, the hospital had 100 percent compliance in all categories for the first three quarters of 2012. For outpatients, the hospital did not have complete data for part of the second quarter and for the third quarter.

The hospital attained 50 percent compliance in one outpatient category for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) but there were

only two total cases and one acceptable case in the time frame. The hospital did not have data for the third quarter.

Evensen said for larger hospitals with high volumes of patients, meeting compliance from its QIO is challenging, but for a small hospital with low volumes, it is a very huge accomplishment for three quarters in a row.

Roling, Evensen and the board commended the nurses and physicians for their work in maintaining the 100 percent compliance numbers.

Roling stated the numbers speak very highly of the hospital's nurse and medical staff.

Big Horn Clinic

In Roling's written report to the board, she informed the board of the Big Horn Clinic's participation in the transformation to a Primary Care Medical Home, which is a new

way of operating based on new changes in healthcare laws and a proponent of the Wyoming Integrated Care Network.

In a later interview, Roling elaborated that it could take between three to five years for the transition to the new model.

The hospital will be working with TransferMed, a consultant hired by the network, to undergo the process, the costs of which are covered by a grant from the network.

The new model calls for more active participation in medical care of clinic patients. Instead of waiting for patients with chronic illness such as diabetes to contact the clinic, the clinic will instead contact the patient to suggest needed preventative care.

Roling reported that Red Rock Family Practice is also moving toward a Primary Care Medical Home model, and is one of between 18 and 19 medical practices in the state working with the network.

Cash Mob purchase



Cash Mobsters wait to pay for their purchase behind Kaden Scheel as he purchases batteries at Owl Lumber Saturday. After shopping, the mobsters headed to Nature's Corner for a snack or coffee.

—J.D. Stetson photo

Area holiday church services

The season for special Christmas church programs and services has arrived. The schedule for Hot Springs County includes:

- Community Federated Church, 244 N. Sixth – Dec. 16, A Blue Christmas Service – for those who have a difficult time at Christmas, 6:32 p.m.; Dec. 24, Candlelight Christmas Eve service with music, light and the traditional Christmas story, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- First Baptist Church, 310 S. Sixth – Dec. 24, Christmas Eve service, 6 p.m.
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 642 Arapahoe – Dec. 16, Children's Christmas program, 9 a.m.; Dec. 24, carols, 9:45 p.m., Holy Eucharist service, 10 p.m.
- River of Life, 319 Broadway, – Dec., 24, Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m.

- Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 129 Mountain View – Dec. 24, Children's Christmas Eve service, 6 p.m.; Dec. 25, Christmas service, 10 a.m.
- St. Francis Catholic Church, Eighth and Arapahoe – Dec. 16, Communal penance service, 7 p.m.; Dec. 24, Christmas Eve mass, 5 p.m.; midnight Christmas mass; Dec. 25, Christmas Day mass, 9 a.m.; Dec. 29, Anticipated Sunday mass, 5 p.m.; Dec. 30, Feast of Holy Family mass, 9 a.m.; Dec. 31, New Year's Eve mass, 5 p.m.; Jan. 1, New Year's Day mass, 9 a.m.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 288 Highway 20 South – Dec. 19, Children's Christmas program, 7 p.m.; Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Divine service, 7 p.m.; Dec. 25, Christmas Divine service, 9 a.m.; Dec. 30, lessons and carols, 9 a.m.; Dec. 31, New Year's Eve Divine service, 7 p.m.

Early deadlines for Dec. 27, Jan. 3 issues

With Christmas Day falling on a Tuesday this year, the Thermopolis Independent Record will have early deadlines for the Dec. 27 issue. Early deadlines also apply for the Jan. 3 issue.

Our deadline for legal and display advertising for the Dec. 27 issue is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20. The deadline for classified advertising

and editorial content is noon Friday, Dec. 21.

The IR deadline for legal and display advertising for the Jan. 3 issue is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. The deadline for classified advertising and editorial content is noon Friday, Dec. 28.

In order for our employees to spend time with their families during this holiday

season, the Independent Record office will be closed Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25 and New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1.

We will have regular office hours on Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Independent Record staff!