



Knowledge Splice
Services opens
downtown

3

Thermop hoop teams
roll past
Worland

6, 7

Wyoming sees growth
of 1.6 percent
over 12 months

12

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

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District contributes to Sandy Hook Elementary aftermath

by Cindy Glasson
The Hot Springs County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees elected its officers at the Dec. 20 regular meeting, heard a presentation on advancements in math, reading and writing, and adopted an official mission/vision statement.

Continuing their duties as officers for the board are Liz Mahoney, chairman; Joe Martinez, vice chairman; Clay VanAntwerp, clerk; and Hub Whitt, treasurer.

The board will continue to have its monthly meetings each third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m., in the board room of the administration building.

Sandy Hook Elementary
Each of the schools in the district is planning some type of activity to help with the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy in Connecticut.

At the high school, teachers and staff are making personal donations that will be sent to a memorial fund for Sandy Hook. Principal Travis Anderson said they had raised \$225 for the fund by Thursday night.

Ralph Witters Elementary Principal Deb Brown said she and her staff had been kicking around some ideas, but as yet had not come up with anything concrete.

Students at the middle school are planning on making paper snowflakes to send to the school so they can decorate the building with them before students return to classes in January.

As for the board itself, the plan is to donate funds to the Sandy Hook memorial fund so the school can use the funds as they need. Each of the board members and the administrative team will give their donations to executive secretary Kelly Andreen to be mailed out as soon as possible.

Speaking of the recent Connecticut school shooting, district superintendent Dustin Hunt assured the board a meeting had already been held with

emergency management director Bill Gordon to assess security measures in all the buildings.

Hunt said the crisis management plan had been reviewed with Gordon and a review of teacher and staff training would start in January.

Core subject advances
Using a series of graphics, Hunt showed the board a comparison of math, writing and reading scores on several grade levels.

Going back to 2006, third and fourth grades made huge jumps in those core subjects. In fact, up to the seventh grade, scores improved significantly from 2006 to 2012.

Seventh- through 10th-grade scores leveled off, not showing the large improvements the younger students had. However, by the 11th grade, those big improvements showed up again.

According to Hunt, the data has shown the administration where the holes are in the curriculum, and through changes in the curriculum over the past couple of years, those holes are being eliminated.

Legislative update
Superintendents from around the state met with legislators recently to discuss school funding issues in Wyoming.

Hunt indicated he and other superintendents had been told by various legislators not to ask for any kind of outside funding adjustment from the state as it would not be granted this year.

According to Hunt, the legislature brought in an out-of-state firm to look over school funding in Wyoming and it was that firm's belief the state puts out entirely too much money toward schools.

According to Gov. Matt Mead's supplemental budget, "Both the Joint Education Committee (JEC) and the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) recommended no external cost adjustment

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High school holiday concert



OverTones show choir members Taylor Matkin and Zoe Tyler perform to "Baby, It's Cold Outside" during the Hot Springs County High School's production of The Gift of Christmas on Dec. 18 at the school auditorium. The HSCHS concert band, choir and jazz ensemble also performed.

— Joe Sovo photo

Town Council passes CDBG resolution

The Thermopolis Town Council unanimously passed a resolution to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Wyoming Business Council at its meeting Dec. 18.

The application seeks \$500,000 for construction of a new H.O.P.E. Agency building in the same location as the current building at the northwest corner of Springview and Big Horn streets.

The town's part in the application will be to support the application and administer the grant.

The resolution stipulates the town will not provide any matching funds for the project.

The H.O.P.E. Agency will need to submit the application in January in order to be considered for the first round of funding for 2013.

Other business
The council approved a budget amendment to cover overages in the cost of a new phone system for the Law Enforcement Center.

The council had budgeted \$10,000 for the project, but after the project was completed, the total town contribution came out to be \$15,042.

The council agreed to adjust the bud-

get to reflect the \$5,042 increase in the budget. The additional funds came from the town's 1 percent sales tax cash reserve.

The town also approved a retail liquor license transfer for Mac's Bar.

The action transferred the liquor license from J Bar E LLC to DMP Enterprises.

For the final action of the evening,

Mayor Bill Malloy asked the council to allocate \$5,550 to be distributed on a varied basis to permanent town employees for a holiday bonus. The council approved the action.

Malloy also reminded the council the next council meeting would take place at 5 p.m. Jan. 3 instead of its regularly scheduled time and date due to a conflict with New Year's Day.

What's open on Monday

Most government or nonprofit agencies will be closed Tuesday for New Year's Day. Here are the offices expected to be open Monday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Eve:

- Thermopolis Post Office, open until noon.
- Hot Springs County
- Town of Thermopolis, open until 1 p.m.
- Town of Kirby
- Hot Springs State Park Bathhouse
- Department of Family Services
- The H.O.P.E. Agency office will be open until noon. Its 24-hour hotline at 864-4673 will also be available.
- Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, open until 2 p.m.
- Hot Springs County Senior Citizen Center
- Hot Springs County Economic Development Co.
- Hot Springs County Counseling Center
- Hot Springs State Park Headquarters
- Thermopolis Independent Record

The following offices and agencies will be closed Monday: Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center, Hot Springs Conservation District, USDA NRCS offices and Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Hot Springs County Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 29 through Jan. 1.

Firemen prepare for Santa's arrival



Firefighters Rod McQueen and Cory Gilbert get a helping hand from McQueen's granddaughter, Kailee Allen, on Friday night as the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department members made popcorn balls for their annual family Christmas party. Santa surprised the children at the fire hall Saturday night when he flew into town to see them at the party.

— Cindy Glasson photo

Looking up Local real estate sales see big growth in 2012

Input from the most productive real estate agents in Hot Springs County indicate 2012 has been a good year for property sales in Hot Springs County and 2013 could be another good year for the local market.

The Year-to-Year Comparison Report from the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), as of Dec. 17, supports that input—showing the total sales—for all classes—were 85 properties, which is a 60-percent increase from the 53 sales recorded in 2011. The sales do not include the properties listed exclusively with a local real estate agency.

The average sale on property closings was nearly identical in both years--\$129,985 in 2011 and \$130,749 in 2012 (as of Dec. 17).

There has been a 54-percent increase in sales of residential properties in 2012 over 2011, according to the MLS report, with 63 sales through mid-December compared to just 41 last year. The average residential sale in 2012 was about \$148,000, up from about \$130,000 in 2011.

Peaks and valleys is a proper description for residential sales over the last three years since there were 54 properties sold in 2010 before the big drop in 2011 and the rebound in 2012.

The most significant increase, in terms of percentage, was in

MLS Year-to-Year Comparison Report

(Number of properties on
MLS sold all of 2011 and
through Dec. 17, 2012)

	2011	2012
Residential	41	63
Lots & land	6	16
Commercial	3	4
Multi-family	2	1
Farm & ranch	1	1
Rental	0	0
All classes	53	85

the lots and land class. There were just six sales in 2011 and the number was 16 through mid-December. However, the report shows the average sale in 2012 was about \$28,000, down significantly from \$53,000 in 2011.

Sales of commercial/business properties rebounded in 2011, going from just one sale the previous year to three sales. Through mid-December this year, there were four sales of such properties on MLS.

There has been no change in the number of sales over the last two years in the farm and ranch class with just one sale in 2011

See Real estate on page 10

School board

— from page 1

(ECA) increase for K-12.

“These recommendations are based on the studies and reports of recognized experts who have studied Wyoming’s ECA and the K-12 funding model. According to these studies, the block grant funding model more than adequately addresses salary issues.”

The governor went on to concur with the recommendation for no ECA increase for 2013.

Also included in the governor’s supplemental budget is a recommendation for \$11 million in compensation, with \$2.5 million as a one-time, merit-based bonus, distributed to those executive branch state employees whose overall performance evaluation ratings were competent or higher.

A distribution of \$8.5 million will also be distributed to University of Wyoming, community colleges, judiciary non-judge employees and executive branch employees for ongoing compensation increases.

Needless to say, Hunt and the other superintendents are not happy with state employees receiving pay increases while schools and educators will be receiving no increase.

Mission/vision statement

The board also adopted, on third and final reading, a mission/vision statement for Hot Springs County Schools.

“Hot Springs County School District No. 1 will inspire students, staff and community to be the top performing school district in the state of Wyoming.

“We believe in learning as our fundamental purpose, collaborating for continuous improvement, focusing on results, partnering with parents and community and preparing all students for their future.”

The next meeting of the school board will be Jan. 17, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the district board room.

Christmas Baskets



Linda and Bob Wyss volunteer to help pull together 119 Christmas Baskets for the Community Christmas Fund Program. Volunteers met at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Dec. 20 to organize the baskets, which were distributed Saturday.

— J.D. Stetson photo

Vicklund PHARMACY
QUALITY • SERVICE • SAVINGS

Quips & Health
By Tony Deromedi



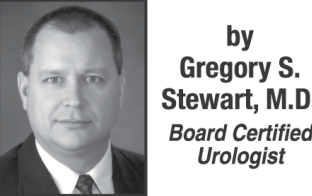
The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

In the past, it was recommended keeping syrup of ipecac or activated charcoal on hand to induce vomiting in case of poisoning. The American Academy of Pediatrics now warns not to administer either one.



Your neighborhood pharmacy that Thermopolis has trusted for over 25 years.
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(made for a Super Market)
GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY
Mon.-Fri., 9-6
Sat., 9-2

UROLOGY Update



INFECTIONS OF THE URINARY TRACT

Infections of the urinary tract (which includes two kidneys, two ureters, the bladder, and the urethra) are largely caused by bacteria (E. coli) that live in the bowel. Women are about four times more likely to get urinary tract infections (UTIs) than men because the opening of a woman’s urethra is relatively close to the anus, where the bacteria live. Women also have a shorter urethra than men, which means the bacteria have a shorter distance to travel. Both men and women have several systems that prevent infection, but they can be overwhelmed. Although most UTIs are not serious, they could lead to serious problems if not treated. A urine sample is needed to make a diagnosis.

Urinary tract infections are the second most common infection in the body. If you’re having any discomfort or problems with your urinary system please contact a urologist.

New patients are gladly accepted.

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



TOYOTATHON IS ON!

NEW 2012 CAMRY
35 Estimated MPG⁴
“CLASS LEADING MPG RATING”⁵



Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$2,323¹

0% APR²
Financing for 60 mos
with \$16.67 per \$1000
borrowed

NEW 2012 TUNDRA
“MOST DEPENDABLE LARGE PICKUP,
SEVEN YEARS IN A ROW”⁶



Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$3,674¹

0% APR² PLUS GET **\$1750** OR **\$4500**
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
BONUS CASH[†] OR **CASH BACK³**
(CrewMax model only)

NEW 2013 COROLLA
34 Estimated MPG⁷
“BEST-SELLING COMPACT CAR IN AMERICA”⁸



Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$1,966¹

0% APR² OR **\$1000**
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
CASH BACK³

NEW 2012 RAV4
28 Estimated MPG⁹
NAMED “2011 BEST BET” BY CARS.COM¹⁰



Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$2,502¹

0% APR² OR **\$1500**
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
CASH BACK³


NEW 2013 HIGHLANDER
25 Estimated MPG¹¹
AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE



Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$3,396¹

0% APR² OR **\$1000**
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
CASH BACK³

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Options shown. Offers end 1/7/13. ¹Average Finance Savings reflects the interest savings based on an average 3.42% finance rate offered by Toyota Financial Services to qualified customers in the Denver Region. (Average finance rate of 3.74% for Tundra). Offers cannot be combined and may vary by region. See participating dealer for details. ²APR financing with approved credit from Toyota Financial Services on new 2012 Camry, Tundra, RAV4 and 2013 Corolla and Highlander. ³Cash Back offer provided by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. on new 2012 Tundra, RAV4, Highlander and 2013 Corolla. ⁴Retail Bonus Cash offer provided by Toyota Financial Services to eligible customers who finance a new, unused or unlicensed 2012 Tundra. ⁵2012 EPA-estimated 25 city/35 highway/28 combined mileage for Camry 4-cyl. Actual mileage will vary. ⁶Based on 2012 EPA class Midsize Car V6 non-luxury vehicle combined ratings. Camry V6 rated 21 city/ 30 highway/25 combined. Actual mileage will vary. ⁷The Toyota Tundra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among large pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2006-2012 Vehicle Dependability Studies. ⁸2012 study based on 31,325 consumer responses measuring problems consumers experience in the past 12 months with three-year-old vehicles (2009 model-year cars and trucks). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed October-December 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ⁹2013 EPA-estimated 27 city/34 highway mileage for Corolla with manual transmission. Actual mileage will vary. ¹⁰MotorIntelligence.com, CY 2011 sales. ¹¹2012 EPA-estimated 22 city/28 highway/24 combined mileage for RAV4 4-cylinder 2WD. Actual mileage will vary. ¹²Based on independent testing by Cars.com. ¹³2012 EPA-estimated 20 city/ 25 highway/ 22 combined mileage for Highlander 4-cyl. Actual mileage will vary. ¹⁴Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet. See participating Toyota dealer for complete plan details. Valid only in the continental United States and Alaska.

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