

Taking aim



Tyler Kay draws a bead on a target during the 2013 State Indoor Archery Shoot Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. Kay took first place in the boys' cub shoot, and Big Horn Bowhunters teammate Katie Burrows took first place in the girls' cub shoot.

— J.D. Stetson photo

Town approves loan to EDC, tables other request

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council approved a \$10,000 loan agreement from its Revolving Loan Fund to the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Economic Development Co. (EDC).

The Revolving Loan Fund is money originally provided by the state for the purpose of loans to businesses and agencies to stimulate economic development.

In 2012, the EDC approached the council for a \$10,000 funding request. The council chose not to address the issue at the time because of questions regarding the legality of providing taxpayer funding to a non-governmental agency.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby presented the loan agreement as a way for the town to help the EDC within the confines of the Revolving Loan Fund.

Under the agreement, the loan does not carry any interest and will be payable upon closing of the sale of any commercial lot in the Red Rock Commercial Center or after 10 years from the date of the loan.

The loan also allows the company to pay back any portion of the loan without penalty at any time.

After the meeting, Town Clerk Tracey Van Heule said the Revolving Loan Fund had \$16,269.18 in cash and \$68,662.59 in money markets as of the end of January.

The town currently has one other loan from the account that is still being repaid, Crosby said.

The town approved the loan and also heard from EDC Executive Director Kendi Heinze regarding new developments.

Heinze reported the company is in the process

of procuring a grant for a new business to come to town, although she could not disclose the name or nature of the business.

The EDC also is working with a few other businesses with the possibility of locating in the Commercial Center, she said.

Centennial request

The town heard from Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration representative Tracy Linko with regard to funding advertising for the upcoming event.

Linko said the committee is discussing advertising in various markets such as Denver, Nebraska, Montana, Rapid City, S.D., Idaho and throughout Wyoming via the Wyoming Press Association.

Linko said that if they advertise in all of the markets, the cost could be up to \$12,000. If they limit to Montana and Wyoming, the costs are lower.

The committee has already received some individual donations as well as advertising donations from the Independent Record.

Linko reported the Hot Springs County Commissioners decided against providing any funding, and the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Lodging Tax Board may provide funding if the town and/or county provide money for the committee.

The committee plans to start advertising by the end of April, with ads continuing into May.

Mayor Bill Malloy asked the council to table the request until the town could confer with members of the Lodging Tax Board and the commissioners. The council tabled the request for the time being.

Elks Lodge #1746 to be reinstituted in Thermopolis

by J.D. Stetson

After a 13-year hiatus, Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746 is being reinstituted as a lodge this week.

The charitable social organization surrendered its charter in 2000 after a drastic drop in membership and monetary struggles pertaining to the maintenance of its building, which once housed the Old West Wax Museum.

Now, the fraternal order has chosen to move ahead with reinstatement in order to rebuild its membership and undergo its dedicated charitable work with the community.

Richard Oberosler, past statewide president of the Elks, said a core group formed in the past year to get the ball rolling on the reinstatement. Another reason for the reinstatement is for the lodge to retain its funds for a new building and scholarships, which would have been lost if the lodge was not reinstated.

In 2000, the membership of the lodge had declined to 332 from 560 during the time Oberosler had previously served as Exalted Leader.

Currently, the lodge is appreciative of the courtesy provided by the VFW

to base its operations there while the lodge searches for a new property in town.

The group will host a reinstatement ceremony and recruitment drive together Saturday at the VFW, which will start at 3 p.m. with opening remarks and introductions.

The lodge will be instituted at 3:15 p.m. and an initiation of new members will take place at 4 p.m. Social hour will commence at 5:15 p.m. with dinner served at 6:15 p.m.

There is no fee for attendance; however, donations are welcome.

Recruitment continues

Oberosler said there are currently no plans to halt recruitment after the ceremony, and that new members are welcome. Anyone can join the lodge so long as they are age 21 or over and do not have a criminal record.

The Elks are a fraternal order dedicated to patriotism, charity and love for their fellow man. The organization does its part to help veterans and in visiting VA hospitals in the state, and has strong ties to the veteran community.

The lodge sponsors youth events such as the Elks Hoop Shoot and Elks

Soccer Shoot for children ages 8-14, academic scholarships for graduating high school students and has provided funding to children in need.

The Elks also host various events such as fishing derbies and park picnics. The main goal is to help the community and have a good time doing it, Oberosler said.

"We love to see the children have a good time," Oberosler said, referring to the hoop and soccer shoots.

The Elks have also provided dictionaries to elementary school students for a number of years.

Hathaway Scholarship changes give students options

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 administrators—as well as Career and Work Experience Coordinators—are related with the passage of House Bill 177 by the Wyoming Legislature during the

recently concluded session. The bill, which was enrolled as Act No. 118 from the Wyoming House of Representatives assigned by Gov. Matt Mead, pertains to the Hathaway Scholarship program and Success Curriculum—an integral

factor in public school education in the state.

HB177 was sponsored by Reps. Samuel Krone, Donald Burkhardt Jr., Matthias Greene, David Northrup, Ruth Petroff and Mary Throne, and Sens. Hank Coe and

Chris Rothfuss.

The new bill takes effect for the 2015-16 school year.

For Honors and Performance-level scholarships, the original requirements for students were: four years each of math, science and

language arts; three years of social studies; and two years of sequenced foreign language—one of which could be taken in eighth grade. Those requirements stand, and this bill adds two more years, which may be taken in any one of

the following three content areas:

- Fine and Performing Arts
- Career Technical Education
- and
- Foreign Language.

See Hathaway on page 10

Head-on crash claims life of Cody woman

by J.D. Stetson

Thermopolis Volunteer firefighters, Mortimore Ambulance Service, Hot Springs County Sheriff's deputies and Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers responded to a fatal head-on collision in Wind River Canyon Sunday evening.

Jill M. Riel, 26, of Cody, died after sustaining injuries resulting from being partially ejected from a 2003 Chevrolet Silverado and pinned underneath the truck. Riel was extricated from the wreck and died at Washakie Medical Center in Worland at about 1 a.m. Monday.

Shane A. Riel, 40, was the driver of the truck, and 4-year-old Brianna Riel was also a passenger in the vehicle, according to a Highway Patrol press release.

Shane Riel was treated and released at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital and Brianna was transferred to Washakie Medical Center. It is unknown if the driver was wearing a seat belt, but the other two occupants were not wearing seat belts, according to the release.

The Riels were traveling north-

bound near mile marker 120 on Highway 20 South when a 2012 Ford Mustang convertible, driven by Leanne M. Dozier, 29, of Denver, Colo., crossed the centerline for an unknown reason while heading south and collided head-on with the pickup.

The Mustang and the truck collided, causing both to spin around 180 degrees. The Riel vehicle flipped and landed on the west guardrail while the Mustang spun and came to rest in the northbound lane.

Dozier was extricated from the Mustang and taken to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. She was later Life Flighted to St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Mont. It is unknown if Dozier was wearing a seat belt.

Troopers are investigating possible alcohol and drug use by Dozier and are awaiting toxicology results. The results of the investigation will be turned over to the Hot Springs County Attorney's Office, which will determine if any criminal charges are filed as a result of the crash.

A photo from the fatal crash is printed on page 2 of this issue.

Disco fever



Joy of Dance students Taylor Matkin, instructor Joy McArthur, Torrie Coulter, Alex Russell and Macey McArthur perform a disco dance as entertainment during the Relay

for Life Mexican Dinner Saturday at the VFW. The club also performed a second skit utilizing choreographed newspaper "crackling."

— J.D. Stetson photo



# Hathaway

from page 1

However, it does not have to be the same foreign language as the original two years, nor does it have to be sequenced; it would be simply four years total.

Additionally, the bill instituted a wavier that stated that the Wyoming Department of Education “shall waive any requirement for ... fine and performing arts or career-vocational education for honor or performance scholarship eligibility, upon written certification by the superintendent of a district that these courses are

not available in the district to the student...”

For the Opportunity and Provisional level scholarships, the original requirements were: four years each of math, science and language arts; three years of social studies; and demonstration of proficiency in foreign language. The requirements for math, science, language arts and social studies stand, and the bill makes the following change and addition:

- Removes the proficiency requirement in foreign language

- Requires two years in *one* of the following three content areas: Fine and Performing Arts, Career Technical Education, Foreign Language

“This has been a long journey getting this passed, a huge learning curve for the arts education community, and I am so very proud of the educators and the advocates in Wyoming for coming together to make this happen,” said Camellia El-Antably, Deputy Manager/Arts Education Specialist for the Wyoming Arts

Council. “You made your voice heard, and you were a force that legislators noticed.”

**Local educators applaud**

Hot Springs County High School Principal Travis Anderson, in his first year in the district, is in total agreement with El-Antably. “It’s great that House Bill 177 passed. It certainly will help enrollment numbers in our CTE (Career and Technical Education) and Fine Arts,” he said. “It adds components of the CTE and Fine Arts

to the Hathaway requirements.”

Anderson indicated CTE and Fine Arts had not previously been part of the Hathaway Scholarship program.

“Sometimes they (students) chose other course work in order to qualify. Now they have that option,” he said.

Britton Van Heule, the district FFA advisor and a Career and Work Experience Coordinator, believes the changes will benefit the agriculture program.

“Along with the core require-

ments for the Hathaway bill, it currently requires students to take two years of Spanish. This has taken kids away from programs such as mine, and Mr. (Jim) Cramer’s. The drama department, and the band department have also seen a reduction in numbers.

“The major change in the requirements for the Hathaway involve adding two years of CTE or two years of Fine Arts or two years of Spanish. The old bill really limited what kids could do,” Van Heule said.

# Bobcat speechsters narrowly miss qualifying for nationals

Several members of the Bobcat speech team narrowly missed qualifying for the national speech championship tournament. The national qualifying tournament for the Wind River District of the National Forensic League was held last Friday and Saturday in Riverton.

“The competition was as tough as it gets,” said coach Ron Philips. “It’s

a double-elimination tournament so you can be out in eight rounds or have to pound it out for eight or nine rounds before just the qualifiers are left standing.”

Freshman Darren Leonhardt fought through seven elimination rounds of Lincoln-Douglas debate to miss qualifying by a single rank.

Should any of the three qualifiers

in the event not be able to attend the national tournament, Leonhardt may move up to fill the slot.

Junior Tori Anderson was only two places out of qualifying in humorous interpretation. Fellow junior Jared Mohr-Leiva was just six positions behind Anderson in the event.

Another junior, Kaden Wood, was six places from the nod in extempo-

aneous speaking.

Anderson and Mohr-Leiva, along with senior Laurel Leonhardt and sophomore Danielle Yarrington, also competed in drama.

“We also had senior Spencer Hu and Darren in extemp,” said Philips. “Kaden (Wood) and Charlie Patterson, another senior, were in public forum debate. Logan Kay was in original or-

atory, and he and his partner, Cody Bleak, did their duet.”

The qualifiers will compete at the NFL national championships held this year in Birmingham, Ala., in June.

The Bobcat speechsters’ season isn’t over yet. Today (Thursday) through Saturday they will compete at the state championships in Rock Springs.

# Chamber of Commerce announces award nominees

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has announced the nominations for 2012 Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year.

In January, the chamber solicited nominations for the annual awards from chamber members. The results for Citizen of the Year

yielded nominations for Jacqueline Michel, Shurie Scheel, Barbara Rice, John Gerrells and Jacky Wright.

For Business of the Year, the nominees include CAPTEL, Children’s Resource Center, Owl Creek Veterinary Service, Hot Springs County Museum

and Cultural Center, Thermopolis Hardware and Mercantile, Blair’s Super Market and Wyoming Whiskey.

In February, the chamber’s board of directors and past presidents voted on the winners of the prestigious awards. The winners will be announced during the

2013 Chamber Banquet March 23 at the Hot Springs County Fair Building.

The banquet begins with social hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. The menu for the evening will include an appetizer table, king crab, beer-boiled shrimp, prime rib, baked potato

and dessert.

Tickets cost \$50 for each person or \$325 for a reserved table of six. The reserved tables include seating in the front, and being first in line for dinner.

For tickets or more information, visit the chamber office at 220 Park St., or call 864-3192.

## Archery tournament winner



Randy Wahler aims at the target during the 2013 State Indoor Archery Shoot. Wahler took the trophy for the freestyle limited category. — J.D. Stetson photo

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**Quips & Health**  
By Carol Bivens



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## HSC High School CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 14-16**  
State Speech at Rock Springs

**March 21**  
Jazz Festival at NWC College



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