Thermopolis **Hot Springs**

Independent Record

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Thermopolis Elks Lodge reinstituted during ceremony

Members from charters around the state attended the reinstitution of Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746 on Saturday at the VFW Club. The charter was reinstated after a hiatus of more than 12 years, having surrendered its charter in 2000 after a substantial drop in membership and financial issues pertaining to the maintenance of its building, which formerly hosted the Old West Wax Museum.

The Elks, officially known as Benevolent Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), 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.

Richard Oberosler, a past state president and Exalted Leader of Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746. led a core group of people that has worked over the past year to get the lodge reinstated. He said another reason to seek reinstatement is to rebuild the charter membership and resume its dedicated charitable work with the community.

"You're always a little skeptical when you start something like this," Oberosler said Tuesday. "It's kind of a mystery until it actually happens.

For the time being, Elks Lodge #1746 will have its headquarters at the Thermopolis VFW and will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. If there is a fifth Tuesday in a month, a special meeting will he held on that day for program planning.

The Elks Lodge's goal is to rebuild its membership from that location. Oberosler said about twothirds of the Elks transferred their memberships to other area charters, such as Worland, Cody and Riverton. Some of those members are now deceased, according to Oberosler, but many of the remaining memberships will be moved back to Thermopolis.

Oberosler said that when an Elk has been a charter member for 30 consecutive years and reaches age 65, they received a lifetime membership and would not have to pay annual dues. Therefore, Elks who dropped their membership would have to start that process all over again.

"We're trying to get some youth in here," Oberosler said.

See Elks on page 9



Wyoming Elks State President Fran Case presents a Bible to Richard Oberosler to be used by Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746 during its meetings and other events. Oberosler has spearheaded the reinstitution of the Thermopolis charter.

State Park Commission sets nine-month timeline

by Cindy Glasson

A nine-month timeline has been placed on a study and master plan for the Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails statewide concessions in an attempt to garner input from the public regarding what they would like to see in the 11 state parks throughout Wyoming.

A public meeting was held Tuesday night at Big Horn Federal to present the basis of the study by CHM, the company hired by the state to gather the information and create the master plan.

Domenic Bravo, administrator with the Department of State Parks and Cul-

tural Resources Division, said the public input is critical to the master plan.

Few states have had the opportunity to look at their concessionaires statewide," Bravo said. "Having the concessionaires provides the public with things the state could not otherwise provide in our state parks."

In addition to several public meetings that will be held over the next two weeks, public input can be added to the project via an online website.

We wanted to do this study using online access to expand the public's engagement in the process," Margaret Bailey with CHM said. "It will create transparency for the entire project."

The final plan will encompass all of the state parks and what services or concessionaires people would like to see within those parks. Concessionaires are private businesses with short- or longterm contracts with the state, such as the hotels and swimming pools in Hot Springs State Park.

Public should 'dream big'

Folks at the meeting were asked to dream big when it comes to things they would like to see added to the parks.

The 25 people in attendance at the meeting wrote down the things they would like to have included in the plan, things like bike paths and walking paths at Boysen, an improved restaurant at the marina, boat rentals and fishing boat tours on the lake.

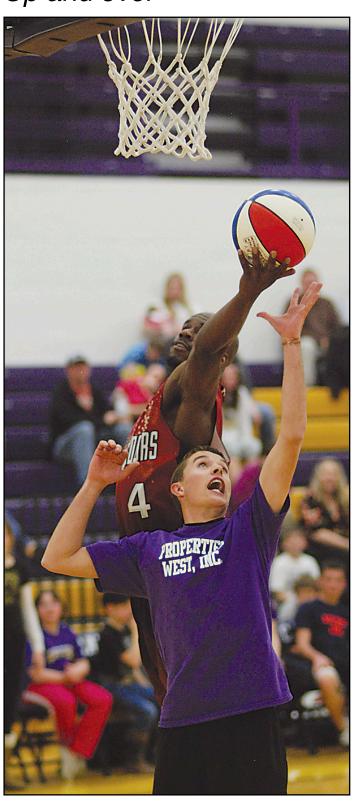
For Hot Springs State Park, residents would like to see the park remain free, to have a larger buffalo herd, repairs and preservation of the terraces and family things like an ice skating rink in the winter.

One of the hot topics of the evening was repairing the main entrance to the park, something that has been an eyesore for many people for the past 20

According to the state workers in attendance, the problem lies primarilv with Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad and its reluctance to sit down and negotiate renovating the entrance that runs under its railroad tracks.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and would like to have your ideas heard, log onto www.wvoparks.org/ideas and follow the instructions. You may also view the ideas of others and vote for those ideas while on the website.

Up and over



Steth Daniels attempts to grab the ball during a Harlem Ambassador's shot at the exhibition game Monday night. J.D. Stetson photo

Bobcats capture state speech title

Thermopolis dominates field of 1A/2A teams

The Hot Springs County High School speech and debate team topped off a winning season by bringing home the Class 1A/2A championship trophy from Rock Springs Saturday night.

Three full days of competition challenged the speechsters, who stepped up and walked away with nearly all the top rankings in their division.

During tournaments, the teams are not split into class divisions like 1A/2A, 3A or 4A. All of the speakers are pitted against each other, so in any particular round a competitor may be up against a 3A or 4A speaker.

That makes the win by junior Tori Anderson special.

Anderson came home with third place overall in humor for the state tournament as well as first-place honors in humor in 1A/2A.

"It's official," Anderson said. "A panel of judges has voted me third funniest person in Wyo-

And she's not alone. Senior Spencer Hu garnered

first place in Lincoln-Douglas debate for 1A/2A, a terrific way to end his high school career.

Charlie Patterson, another senior on the team, took home second place in extemporaneous speaking as well as first place in public forum debate with his partner, junior Kaden Wood.

Wood also took first place in

Sophomore Dani Yarrington

had her first taste of victory for the season, winning first place in 1A/2A for dramatic interpre-

Another sophomore on the team, Logan Kay, brought home a third place with his original oratory.

Darren Leonhardt, the only freshman on the team to qualify for state, showed extreme potential with his third place win for 1A/2A in Lincoln-Douglas

A total of 33 schools attended the state meet with nine of those being 1A/2A. Each team is allowed just 18 entries for the tournament, bringing about 350

See Speech on page 10

Chamber presses need for improvement

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met Thursday during its monthly meeting to discuss attendance at business events, make final preparations for the Chamber Banquet and discuss the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

The chamber first received a report from Thermopolis Ambassadors Chairman Joe Sova concerning activities of the Ambassadors during the past few months. Sova reported the Ambassadors meet

the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon. The place of the meetings varies from month to month. He requested a board member or cham-

ber representative attend the meetings because the Ambassadors are considered an arm of the chamber.

The Ambassadors' function is to provide public relations, visiting and supporting new businesses or existing business expansions and to represent and support the chamber at major functions.

Business events

The Ambassadors report came before the main discussion of the meeting, which concerned a lack of an official chamber presence at the grand opening of Merlin's Hide Out expansion.

Vice President Phil Scheel explained the circumstances, which he said resulted in owners Merlin and Barbara Heinze being

very upset with the chamber for the lack of an official presence.

Scheel said the chamber needs to improve and open its lines of communica-

tion, and for chamber board members to be present at chamber member functions. Some of the board members said they were present at Merlin's Grand Opening,

but were not there specifically in the capacity as chamber representatives. The board agreed it is a responsibility for the members to be at the events in their of-

ficial capacity as chamber representatives as well as the chamber director. Executive Director Amanda Moeller said she hopes to have the opportunity in the next few months to make the situation

Chamber banquet

right with the owners.

Final preparations are being made for the Chamber Banquet Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fair Building.

The board was still in the process of collecting door prizes and sought helpers to transport decorations and chairs to the fair building on Friday.

Tickets are still available for the event \$50 for an individual or \$325 for a table of six.

The meal includes king crab, beer-boiled shrimp, prime rib, baked potato and des-

The chamber will present the 2012 Busi-

ness of the Year and 2012 Citizen of the Year, auction off center pieces donated by chamber businesses and sell raffle tickets.

Contact the chamber at 864-3192 for tickets or more information.

3-on-3

The chamber continues to seek sponsors for the annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, which will take place May 4-5 downtown.

The chamber lost some major sponsors from the previous year and is working to address the issue, said Moeller.

The board briefly discussed the history of the tournament and the previous discussions of prior years' concerns and the changes enacted to improve the tournament logistics.

The chamber changed the layout of the tournament for this year and intends to place courts along Fifth Street from Arapahoe to Warren Streets. Vendors will be located on Broadway Street between Fifth and Fourth Streets.

Registration for the tournament has already started and can be attained online at www.HoopWorldBasketball.com, or registration forms are available at the chamber office.

The deadline for registration is 6 p.m. April 29. A \$20 late fee will be assessed to late registrants. Registration is \$130 per team of three to five players.

At Saturday's reinstitution, 19 men and women became new members during an installation ceremony, conducted by Casper Elks Lodge #1453. They included June Garro, Kalli Oberosler, Doris Oberosler, Beth Price, Bobbi Zupan, Matt Ryan, James Byrd, Ken Ivie, Jay Durtsche, Jay Erk, Jim Cramer, Dave Schlager, Clifford Wise, Paul Jensen, Troy Dorman, John Dorman Jr., Calvin Turnbaugh, Bill Flynn and Joan Maser.

Current Elks Lodge members from Thermopolis also attended the ceremony.

Fran Case of Riverton, the Elks state president, presided over the meeting and ceremony.

"In Thermopolis, you're never alone here," said Case, who is the first woman to serve as Elks state president in Wyoming. "I hope it will become another viable lodge in Wyoming." She declared Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746 reinstituted.

Once with a membership of 560, the Thermopolis Elks Lodge saw the number decline to 332 before the charter was dissolved in 2000. According to Oberosler, member recruitment continues. Anyone age 21 or over and who does not have a criminal record can join the lodge. Call Oberosler at 864-3165 if you are interested in joining the Elks Lodge.

The lodge sponsors youth events such as the Elks Hoop Shoot and Elks Soccer Shoot for children ages 8-14 and fishing derbies. The Elks also provides academic scholarships for graduating high school students and has provided funding to children in need. The charter has also provided dictionaries to elementary school students for a number of

Officers of Thermopolis Elks Lodge#1746 will be installed during an April 6 ceremony in at the Powell Elks Lodge.



New members inducted in Thermopolis Elks Lodge #1746 during a Saturday ceremony at the VFW Club are, front row from left, June Garro, Kalli Oberosler, Doris Oberosler, Beth Price, Bobbi Zupan and Matt Ryan; back row, James Byrd, Ken Ivie, Jay Durtsche, Jay Erk, Jim Cramer, Dave Schlager and Clifford Wise. New members not pictured are Paul Jensen, John Dorman Jr., Calvin Turnbaugh, Bill Flynn, Troy Dorman and Joan Maser. Joe Sova photo

Ambassadors elect officers

The Thermopolis Ambassadors group held its monthly meeting Feb. 27, electing its new officers and discussing the visitation of several new and/or relocated local businesses.

Joe Sova was elected chairman, succeeding Shyla Buckner, who was elected vice chairwoman. Barbara Moeller was reelected as secretary/treasurer.

Old business indicated that the Thermopolis Ambassadors visited several new businesses. They included Knowledge Splice Services, Sisters Accounting and BlueGrace Logistics. The ambassadors discussed the visitation of new businesses Market Place and Dynaflo as well as Merlin's Hide Out, which has recently relocated in town. A visit will be planned to Ava's Rock Shop, which has a new building at the same business location. The group will also be greeting several new business people in Thermopolis.

The purpose of the Thermopolis Ambassadors is to function as a public relations branch to Thermopolis; welcome new businesses and managers; attend grand openings; visit and congratulate firms having made major improvements and/or having opened new locations; represent the Chamber of Commerce at functions as an official group; and assist the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Economic Development Co. in promoting and/or improving the business community.

The ambassadors' next meeting is at noon Wednesday, March 27 at Blimpie Sub Shop.

UROLOGY

Update

HIGHLY **FUNCTIONING MEN** AND STD RISK As increasing numbers of middle-aged and older men have

been able to overcome erectile-

dysfunction (ED) problems with the use of Viagra and other drugs, their revitalized sex lives have led

to another problem. According

to a recent study involving more

than 1.4 million men, those taking

the medications have a higher

risk of having sexually transmitted diseases. Researchers found that men who had been prescribed an ED drug were two to three times

more likely than non-users to have sexually transmitted diseases. This finding held true both in the year before and after the first prescription was filled. Their higher risk of contracting STDs does not rest with the drugs, but with the

men's behavior. Far greater caution

If you think you may have been exposed to a sexually transmitted

disease, visit your doctor promptly.

Proper treatment may prevent

is urged.

Gregory S. Stewart, M.D.

Board Certified

Urologist



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OF THE YEAR" 10





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2012 IntelliChoice, www.IntelliChoice.com; Passenger car. Based on 2012 model year study. 2012 EPA-estimated 20 city/ 25 highway/22 combined mileage for Highlander 4-cyl. Actual mileage will vary. *Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 year 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.



Speech

competitors to the event.

"This tournament is really a meat grinder," head coach Ron Philips said.

An example of the intense competition at state can really be seen with the larger schools. Schools like Green River, with 40-50 students on their team, bring more than one bus full of competitors during the regular season and generally rack up 60 or 70 points for a tournament.

While Green River did take first in 4A, they only scored 43 points, showing how strong the competition is by the time teams reach state.

The Bobcats earned seven of the eight points won by 1A/2A schools, with Saratoga receiving a single point. The other seven teams in the division were scoreless against the larger schools.



Philips said he cannot re-

Tori Anderson

member when Thermopolis last won a state championship in speech.

"It probably dates back to the late '80s," he said. "The team was heavily into cross-x debate at that time."

The team has been winning steadily the last few years, however, taking third place at state in 2011, second in 2012 and now first in 2013.

"We were just working our way up," Philips laughed. "I am really proud of this team and all their hard work.'

"I really wish everyone could understand how talented and resilient these kids are," said assistant coach Cindy Glasson. "Back-to-back three-day tournaments are exhausting for them, yet they get up with smiles on their faces and an enormous amount of enthusiasm and rock the competition."

Look to next year

And what about next year? We're losing some exception-

al kids at graduation," Philips said. "Spencer (Hu) and Charlie (Patterson) have done very well in extemp and debate. Laurel (Leonhardt) has been strong in poetry, drama and even some debate all four years.

"While this was Shannon's (Lorenz) first year, even though she's a senior, I wish we could have had her longer. She did great in humor.

"But, we also have a strong set of juniors who will be stepping up next year and freshmen who now have had their feet wet and will be ready to pick things up next fall."

from page 1

There was some question whether the Bobcats would remain in 1A/2A for another season or be required to make the jump to 3A with teams like Jackson, Worland, Star Valley and Cody, who tend to dominate their division.

Philips said the team will get to stay where they are for another year but it's up in the air regarding the 2014-15 season.

Teams like Jackson are heavy hitters along with Worland," Philips said. "But you know, there have been tournaments where we've scored enough points to place third or fourth in the bigger divisions."

Glasson was a member of the HSCHS speech team from 1978-1981 before going on to compete in college.

"You know, I've been in plenty of tournaments and won my share of trophies," she said, "but I've never been more proud of a trophy than the championship these kids brought home this weekend.

"Never in my life did I ever expect I'd be a part of a championship team, but never underestimate a Bobcat. They've worked hard for this and I couldn't be more proud of them."



of bridge during the annual Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Cards and Games fundraiser.

Hospital Auxiliary Cards and Games raises funds

The annual Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Cards and Games fundraiser was held Saturday at the hospital.

Proceeds will be used for scholarships and hospital requests.

Kathy Belding was the winner of a quilt raffle. The quilt was handmade and donated by Marge

Marial Eckhardt was the winner in bridge play with Marty Connolly finishing second.

High scorers in the games competition were Marilyn Braaten and Helen Thamm.

The hospital auxiliary offers thanks to the community for support of the fundraiser.

MDA fundraiser



Brenda Flinn, left, and Cheryl Howmiller cut the Tea and Cookies for the Cure cake Saturday at Days Inn. Howmiller did the baking and decorating and it was made entirely of cake and frosting. The event featured a silent auction which raised \$645 for the MDA Muscle Walk coming March 30 in Thermopolis.

Lodging Tax Board handles fund request

by Cindy Glasson

Several items were discussed at Tuesday's meeting of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board, including a funding request from the Gift of the Waters Pageant committee, a new design for a billboard south of Thermopolis and advertising opportunities coming in the near future.

The Gift of the Waters Pageant committee asked the board for \$2,500 to be spent on advertising for this year's pageant the first weekend in August, an amount they have requested and received in the past.

The board indicated they would probably be able to fulfill the request again this year; however, they asked that the committee compile a detailed listing of what advertising they were going to be doing for the event.

There are no funds available immediately for the committee, but the board puts together its 2013-14 budget at the end of May and saw no problem at this time in setting aside the requested funds for disbursement later.

A new design for the Hessenthaler billboard south of town was presented to the board, featuring three photos of things to do in Thermopolis.

Two of the photos were approved, one of them and offer photos of the area to go along tion.

the pools and one of a whitewater rafting trip, while the third, a photo of a dig site with the Dinosaur Center, was rejected.

The board asked Angie Guyon to find a different photo to replace it, preferably one with children that would attract visitors with families to the center.

Amanda Moeller, chamber director, was asked to get bids on having the design printed on vinyl for the billboard and approved an amount up to \$2,500 for the project.

With summer fast approaching, the board went over various advertising opportunities in an attempt to decide which ones would give the community the most "bang for their buck."

One newspaper, the Northern Rockies Rider, caters specifically to motorcyclists, and with the Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) planning a rally in Thermopolis this summer, the board decided it would be a good venue.

As the board has not advertised with them before, information will be gathered regarding costs for one-third page and half-page advertisements

In addition, the newspaper plans to print an article on the upcoming rally and the board thought it would be a good idea to contact

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The board also approved advertising in the Thermopolis Visitors Guide put out by the Independent Record. An amount had already been set aside in the budget for the advertising, with the cost coming in slightly below what had been budgeted.

Advertising with the Wyoming Travel Network, Channel 13 TV out of Casper, and Wyoming Travel and Recreation magazine were declined.

The board also decided not to renew its membership with the ABA and tabled any advertising with the Montana Senior News until the off-season. In an attempt to keep advertising closer

to home, the board discussed advertising opportunities for the upcoming 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament as well. Elimination of advertising in the Denver

area and concentrating on Fremont County, WYCAN ads and television advertising was thought to be a better way to go.

Moeller also indicated the chamber was considering selling advertising to local merchants that would appear on the backboards of the basketball hoops during the competi-

Health Fair Blood Draw

Kiwanis Health Fair

Blood Draw

No Appointments

For blood draws come to the Hot Springs County Memorial

Hospital Lobby on these dates:

Sat., March 23 • 7-10 a.m.

Mon. - Sat., March 25 - 30 • 7-10 a.m.

AVAILABLE TESTS:

HSC Education Endowment offers scholarships

The Hot Springs County Education Endowment announces scholarships available to graduates of Hot Springs County High School or citizens of Hot Springs County for 2013-14.

A student studying at the University of Wyoming who has not previously received an Endowment Scholarship could be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Students studying at any Wyoming community college who have not received an Endowment Scholarship in the past could also be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship.

If you are thinking of a career in nursing, the Annabel "Cookie" Miley Nursing Scholarship for \$1,000 could be available to you – if you are accepted and enrolled in any nursing program.

A \$1,000 scholarship is available to any graduate student from any college in the name

Offering a wide range of

of John and Christine Bolich.

If a technical school is in your future, the Trade and Technical Scholarship for \$1,000 is available for a student for any vocational program, school, specialized training or apprenticeship.

for graduating seniors will also continue this year and seniors should apply with high school counselor Cortney Thoren. To apply, you must submit a

All Endowment scholarships

letter of interest stating your career goals and financial need along with a current transcript or educational history.

Nursing school or trade/technical school applicants must show evidence of acceptance into the program.

The above information should be submitted to the **Hot Springs County Education** Endowment, Attention: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1297, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

Applications are due April tact Margaret Stansill at 864-22. For more information con-

3336 or 921-0000.



Coming to Thermopolis





Thursday, April 4 • 7 PM FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME!

Community Federated Church, Sixth and Big Horn

Ferritin (high iron) - \$22 You may pick up your results at the **Kiwanis Health Fair** Middle School Gym

Chemistry Panel - \$33 (Requires 12 hour fasting, unless diabetic. Drink water and take medications as usual.)

Hemogram (CBC) - \$18

PSA (for men) - \$30

Blood Type - \$25

April 13, 2013 (Doctors and physician assistants will be available to discuss your results)

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