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Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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Lights On lands five-year federal grant

by Joe Sovia

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 Curriculum Director Janet Philp and Lights On Afterschool Coordinator Jenny Davis have been notified that the district would receive nearly \$150,000 per year for at least the first three of the five years in the cycle to help fund the kindergarten-through-fourth-grade portion of the Lights On program.

Davis said 28 Wyoming school districts applied for what is called "cohort 8" funding, but only nine will receive "competitive" grant money. According to Philp, who has written the grants for every Lights On Afterschool cohort, said the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC)—a federal program—is the funding source. The grants are handled through the Wyoming Department of Education.

"We're just thrilled. It's great news for Thermopolis," Philp said. "Competition was really steep this year. We're

really relieved."

Philp said she wrote the grant for \$175,000, but the amount was reduced by 15 percent due to federal "sequestration."

"We have to make some modifications to our budget. We have to reduce plans for the program," Philp said. However, the local school district is guaranteed to receive \$148,750 per year for the three-year period—beginning May 1, 2013 and ending April 30, 2016. The amount was a portion of the \$1.375 million in federal grant money that goes to Wyoming school districts in the cohort 8 funding. A yet-to-be-determined lesser amount would be received by the Hot Springs school district during the fourth and fifth years of cohort 8.

Davis, who is now a Lights On national ambassador, spoke briefly about legislation in the U.S. Senate, the After School for America's Children Act. It would amend a section of the Element-



Janet Philp

ary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and could allow for additional funding for Lights On Afterschool programs nationwide. Davis indicated the cohort that provides funding for Ralph Witters Elementary students (grades K-4) runs out in December and there would be an overlap in funding from May 1 until then.

Cohort 6 of federal funding will cover

the Lights On program at Thermopolis Middle School and Hot Springs County High School for another two years.

"People won't see a difference in the (afterschool) program," Philp said.

However, the federal grant will not cover the cost of healthy snacks for students during Lights On time. "We'll have to find those dollars elsewhere," Davis said, and the afterschool program is accepting local donations for that nutrition—a cost of from 75 cents to \$1.25 per day/per student.

Funding for Fridays

According to Philp, the grant for cohort 8 funding was written to cover costs of the Lights On Afterschool program on Fridays, when students have only a half-day of class. It will also mean the district can return to its six-week afterschool program in the summer—going back to five days a week rather than three with just half days. Camp Invention will also be reinstated.

"One of our goals is to have family literacy and math," Davis said.

The district's goal for improvement is to place an emphasis in the math area, and the afterschool program will play an important role in supporting families in math and literacy. Common core state standards in math have been adopted by the district, which has raised the academic expectations of K-12 students.

"Expectations in math are a lot higher," Philp said.

Also written into the grant is the establishment of crisis management for the Lights On program. "That will provide adequate safeguards to be built into our processes," Philp said.

According to Philp and Davis, a vast majority of K-12 students participate in Lights On Afterschool at some time during the school year, and the district is reaching a "plateau" in participation.

See Lights On on page 9

Chamber honors CRC and Museum at annual banquet

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Banquet was a fun, relaxed evening for all involved.

Attendance at the annual chamber function was down from the previous year with 150 tickets sold. The chamber sold 204 tickets during the 2012 banquet, said Chamber President Meri Ann Rush.

"Overall, it was really good," Rush said. "People said they really enjoyed the food."

Not all of the bills are in, and it is too early to report net revenue from the banquet, but the chamber did make \$5,545 on the centerpiece auction.

Prices for the centerpieces ranged from \$125 to \$625. The top selling item was the centerpiece donated by Wyoming Whiskey.

Other contributors to the centerpiece auction included Bank of Thermopolis, Children's Resource Center, Days Inn, Hammer Electronics, Mac's Bar, Pinnacle Bank, RE/MAX All-Star Realtors, Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo, The Cake House, Thermopolis Hardware, White Horse Country Store, Nature's Corner and The Ritz. Various other businesses contributed door prizes for the evening.

The chamber also auctioned four boxes of king crab legs, four prime ribs and two boxes of

shrimp. A white elephant "Mystery Gift" was also auctioned for \$205.

Executive Director Amanda Moeller also said the sponsorship of Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital contributed to the evening's success.

Citizen of the Year

For Citizen of the Year, the chamber board and past presidents chose Shurie Scheel for the title.

Scheel grew up in Thermopolis and graduated from Hot Springs County High School in 2003. She studied education at the University of Wyoming and married Phillip Scheel in 2007.

The Scheels bought T&J Propane in 2009 and moved to Thermopolis to raise their family. They recently changed the business name to Tumbleweed Propane.

Shurie has been involved in Relay for Life as an event chairperson, a site coordinator for Parent Leadership Training Institute, VBS director and preschool Sunday school teacher at St. Paul Lutheran Church, a Rotarian, secretary for Veteran Women's Missionary League and a volunteer for the Recycling Coalition.

Scheel also has volunteered for a number of chamber events, the Tough Enough To Wear Pink

See Chamber on page 9



Shurie Scheel displays her Citizen of the Year award during the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Banquet Saturday night at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. — Cindy Glasson photos

Petition to repeal SF0104 'Hill Bill' to be circulated

Hot Springs County residents will see a petition circulating in early April that seeks to overthrow Senate File 0104, also known as the "Hill Bill." The legislation was passed by both the Wyoming Senate and House, and was signed into law by Gov. Matt Mead after the conclusion of the 62nd Wyoming Legislature.

SF0104 strips most duties, budgets and divisions from the state superintendent of public education, an elected position, and gives them to a director, a position that would be appointed by

the governor. Mead has appointed Dr. James O. Rose to be the interim director of the Wyoming Department of Education.

The Wyoming Constitution Party began spearheading an initiative to repeal the bill that stripped State Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill of the majority of her power.

Enough signatures were secured to begin petitioning for a referendum to repeal the controversial legislation. The referendum would go on the next gen-

eral election ballot in November 2014.

Charles Curley, the new chairman of the Hot Springs County Republican Party, said at the party's March 18 meeting that in order to get the referendum on the ballot, signatures from 15 percent of the Wyoming voters in the last election would be needed. Therefore, a minimum of 37,606 signatures is required. At least two-thirds of the state's counties must be represented on the petition—with the minimum number of signatures.

Curley wrote on the Republic Free

Choice website that because signatures must be valid—from Wyoming voters—the plan is to get more than double the legal minimum number, which would be 80,000 signatures.

The deadline for submission of the petition to the state election division is May 28.

Carrie Galovich is one of the organizers of the Power in the Constitution, an in-depth study of the U.S. Constitution. She said the petition would be available for signatures during today's

(Thursday) 7 p.m. study session in the Big Horn Federal meeting room. The study is held on the fourth Thursday each month at that time of day.

Galovich said there was a 90-day window to complete the petition from the close of the legislative session, which was Feb. 28.

"Our goal is to get it done by the end of April," she said, which would be a month ahead of the May 28 deadline to submit the petition and result in a referendum.

Pinky visits RWE



Kindergartners at Ralph Witters Elementary were surprised when Pinky the Elephant arrived as part of Poison Prevention Week. Students learned how to stay safe around the house where dangerous items such as medicines and cleaning products may be. — Cindy Glasson photo

Egg hunts slated for weekend

Two Easter egg hunts will be featured Easter weekend in Thermopolis. The Thermopolis Lions Club will host one egg hunt and the other event will be at Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center will host its second annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, the day before Easter. The egg hunt will be inside the TRCC building and begins at 10:30 a.m.

The egg hunt is for children ages 8 and under. Ten- to 12-year-olds are welcome to attend and serve as helpers, according to event organizer Meg Randolph.

Children will be searching for toy- and candy-filled eggs with prizes inside during the hunt. Refreshments and desserts will be served.

Randolph invites everyone to visit with the Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center residents during the Easter Egg Hunt.

Lions Club egg hunt

The annual Thermopolis Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt will be held Sunday in Hot Springs State Park. The race for eggs begins at 2 p.m. in the grassy area near Days Inn and Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel.

Age groups will be divided into separate areas of the park. The di-

visions are age 2 and under, 3-4, all age groups, according to Lions Club spokeswoman Trena Moore.

Easter services schedule

The schedule of Holy Week church programs and services includes: **Community Federated Church**, 244 N. Sixth St. Maundy Thursday (today), Holy Week service, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, Easter musical "Jesus is Alive," 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist Church, 310 S. Sixth. Easter Sunday, Easter sunrise breakfast, 9-9:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Easter service, presentation with choir "Day Three," 11 a.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 642 Arapahoe. Maundy Thursday service (today), Holy Eucharist, foot washing, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, noon and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Easter Vigil, Holy Eucharist, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist, egg hunt and brunch, 11 a.m.

Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, 342 Amoretti. Easter Sunday, Sunrise service, 7 a.m. at 215 Ramsey Lane; breakfast at the church, 8 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Easter service, "He is Risen," 10:45 a.m.; no evening service.

River of Life Fellowship, 319 Broadway. Easter Sunday, breakfast and fellowship, 8-10 a.m.; Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Catholic Church, Eighth and Arapahoe. Holy Thursday (today), Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6 p.m.; Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m.-midnight, St. Nicholas chapel; Good Friday, Day of Fast and Abstinence, Good Friday service, 6 p.m.; church; Holy Saturday, no mass at 5 p.m.; Easter vigil service, 8 p.m.; church; Easter Sunday, Mass of the Lord's Resurrection, 9 a.m.; church.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 288 U.S. Highway 20 South. Maundy Thursday (today), Divine service, 7 p.m.; Good Friday Tenebrae service, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Easter vigil, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, sunrise service at state park, 6:30 a.m., breakfast following; Divine service with communion, 9 a.m.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 129 Mountain View. Easter Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m., breakfast following.

Chamber

committee, FFA Alumni and private fundraisers.

Business of the Year

For the second year in a row, the chamber board and its past presidents chose to honor two businesses for Businesses of the Year.

The Children's Resource Center and the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center shared the spotlight during the evening.

In 2012, the chamber chose to honor both CAPTEL and A&W Lanes with the award.

The Children's Resource Center is a not-for-profit business that provides developmental screenings, special instruction and education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech and language pathology, social and emotional development and family service coordination to families with children up to age 5. The business also operates a licensed and accredited developmental preschool.

The business formed in 1972 as Northwest Child Development Center and is currently known

just as the Children's Resource Center. The business is located at 130 Highway 20 South and has nine employees.

The business has supported a number of community events and functions.

Mitch Brauchie is the organization's executive director, Margie Jackson is a board member and Karen Leyba is the speech therapist and site coordinator.

The Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center is in charge of preservation and promotion of Hot Springs County's history. It started as the Pioneer Museum in 1941 on Springview Street until the old building burned down in 1967. It reopened at its present location at 700 Broadway St. in 1980.

The museum provides meeting space for organizations, businesses and private parties as well as a sound system for community events. It is currently working on the Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration scheduled in June.

Ross Rhodes serves as director and the business has three part-

time employees and three volunteers. The museum also has a board of directors.

Volunteer of the Year

Jacky Wright, who was a nominee for Citizen of the Year, was chosen as Volunteer of the Year by the board and past presidents.

Dave Koerwitz accepted the award on Wright's behalf because Wright and her husband, Michael, were unable to attend the banquet.

Jacky was born in England where she worked in a bank and trained to become a computer programmer. She met Michael after moving to Bermuda in 1988 and they moved to the Cayman Islands in 1991. They moved to Thermopolis in 2004 and Jacky became a U.S. citizen in 2010.

Jacky has been a board member on the Hot Springs County Educational Endowment Foundation, a volunteer with the Greater Learning Foundation and is an active participant in community events from the Bluegrass jams to various fundraisers. She is a



Left, Margie Jackson and Karen Leyba accept the Business of the Year Award on behalf of the Children's Resource Center. Right, Ross Rhodes, director of the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center, accepts the second Business of the Year Award from Tawna McQueen.



volunteer in the schools and a parent representative on various committees.

She helped coordinate the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln in 2009, coordinated Thermopolis' participation in the Capi-

tal Christmas Tree tour and she is currently helping with plans for the Centennial Celebration.

Rush said Jacky was a great candidate for the award due to all of the work she has done for Greater Learning Foundation and

the community.

The chamber has presented the award in the past, but chose not to award it in 2012.

Rush said she can see the chamber continue to present the award in the future.

Lights On

The student count for taking part in Lights On went from 106 during the 2003-04 school year to 536 in 2010-11. Davis indicated the Lights On "regular student count" exploded from 36 in the 2005-06 to 220 in 2011-12 - an increase of more than 600 percent.

Lights On "total contacts" with students grew from 1,122 in 2003-04 to 19,672 in 2011-12.

"It keeps getting better," Philp said. "It's proven to be an academic enrichment program." And Philp credits the efforts of Davis as the Lights On coordinator as a big reason for the growth and effectiveness of the afterschool program.

"A goal of ours is to provide all these life experiences," Philp said of Lights On, and out-of-school activities, such as monthly field trips, transition over to the school day.

Goal of 21st CCLC

The goal of 21st CCLC, according to Philp, is make students more proficient in reading and math, and Lights On provides activities that some families cannot afford, such as ski trips.

"We have 300 kids a night (afterschool) who have a safe place to be," Philp said.

According to Davis, such programs have meant a nationwide decrease in crime among school-age children.

Philp said Davis works very hard training the Lights On staff, which includes up to 17 facilitators and assistants, plus activity coaches. Most Lights On assistants work about 16 hours a week while facilitators log about 25 hours a week.

"We want people (in the community) to know we care that they're (Lights On students) here," Philp said. "Lights On is so engaging,

All are welcome. All the students gain from it."

She said there has been a payoff with more preparation by the teachers.

"We're lucky to have high-quality employees," Philp said.

She spoke about the importance of STEM - science, technology, engineering and math - in the local

school district, as there is a national emphasis in education and other areas. "We have a very strong STEM program," Philp said.

In conclusion, Philp expressed

her appreciation, and that of Davis, for the great support from the board and administration.

"It's a great community thing," she said.

Centennial souvenir selection is finalized

Souvenirs, the parade route, state park activities and funding for the Hot Springs County Centennial were topics of discussion during the biweekly meeting of the celebration committee on Monday at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

A Centennial subcommittee presented the ideas for souvenirs for the celebration. They included note cards, vehicle hitch covers, sheriff's badges, a stuffed buffalo toy and business card magnets. Each item will feature the Hot Springs County Centennial logo. An initial order of items will be made and they will be available at nominal prices at three locations in two to three weeks - the museum and cultural center, Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office and Hot Springs State Park Bath House.

The Centennial Celebration will be held in conjunction with the 2013 Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous, which features a pair of PRCA Rodeo performances, the Tumbleweed Propane free pancake breakfast, parade and dance the weekend of June 21-22.

It was announced the committee would pledge \$1,000 to cover

some of the Cowboy Rendezvous expenses, specifically advertising. The Centennial committee will also do some of its own advertising.

Committee member Belinda Moore reported she is working on putting together an Old West gunfight the afternoon of June 22 in the state park. Other entertainment - featured from 1 to 5 p.m. - would include bluegrass music, Ellen Mortimore's community choir, line dancing, cowboy poetry and more.

The committee will return to meetings of the county commissioners, Thermopolis Town Council and Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board in April with its detailed budget request. A number of donations have already been pledged to the celebration. There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser April 13 at the Thermopolis VFW.

A Centennial Facebook page has been launched, with basic information already posted. More details of the celebration, as well as many photos of Hot Springs County over its first 100 years, will be added. The page can be found on Facebook at Hot Springs County Centennial.

Warrants List

The following list of warrants approved March 21, 2013, by HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT is hereby published as required by the Wyoming Education Code of 2005, as amended, Chapter 3, Section 21-3-110 (a)(ii).

AIRGAS USA, LLC	\$505.71
BUFFALO HIGH SCHOOL	\$522.00
TIFFANY MORTIMORE	\$543.81
COMFORT INN - BUFFALO	\$560.00
TRAVIS ANDERSON	\$600.00
RED ROCK FAMILY PRACTICE	\$600.00
KATIE OLSEN	\$606.28
JAMIE MATERI	\$629.13
DANA BJORHUS	\$641.83
JARED MOHR - LEIVA	\$641.85
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$643.62
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS STORES	\$650.26
HIGH PLAINS PIZZA, INC.	\$651.58
POSTAGE BY PHONE/PURCHASE POWER	\$675.66
ANNELISA HEROLD	\$677.38
ADVANCED	\$690.00
BEST WESTERN - COTTONTREE	\$700.00
BUCK INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION	\$713.81
BRITTA BUSHUR	\$747.47
EVERYONA DEVRIES	\$753.83
KELLEY SHEPARD	\$757.76
GREAT NORTHERN BOOK CO	\$803.79
INKHEAD	\$806.72
DHESTINY RANGEL	\$836.85
WEX BANK	\$841.10
COPENHAVER/KATH/KITCHEN & TANNER ABBOTT	\$844.70
MATTHEW TJEKES	\$869.87
KARA JANES	\$870.14
DEMITRA ZAMORA	\$885.00
INDOFF, INCORPORATED	\$915.34
BUSH-WELLS SPORTING GOODS	\$921.43
DELL MARKETING LP	\$1,015.55
KIRA OLIVER	\$1,048.57
	\$1,118.13

OWL CREEK GRAPHICS	\$1,176.76
THERMOPOLIS HARDWARE	\$1,232.65
ELDER EQUIPMENT LEASING OF WY, INC.	\$1,244.19
KILMER'S BG DISTRIBUTING	\$1,488.00
CHRISTINA PORATH	\$1,525.15
EXPLORICA	\$1,590.00
PROJECT ADVENTURE, INC	\$1,600.00
BLAIRS MARKET - THERMOPOLIS	\$1,604.52
BIG HORN BASIN HEARING, INC.	\$1,920.00
HOT SPRINGS GREATER LEARNING	\$2,000.00
MEADOW GOLD DAIRY	\$2,125.93
GRAINGER	\$2,291.19
UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC SERVICE	\$2,317.82
THE OFFICE SHOP	\$2,788.89
ROCKLER	\$2,957.98
NORCO	\$3,085.21
TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS	\$3,230.70
JADECO, INC.	\$3,374.69
RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.	\$3,516.41
JULIA'S RENTAL SALES & SERVICE	\$3,656.00
SIDE-BY-SIDE K-12 CONSULTING	\$4,000.00
COMPASS LEARNING INC.	\$4,100.00
CURRICULUM LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE	\$4,900.00
GOTTSCHKE REHABILITATION CENTER	\$5,430.00
BEST WESTERN - RAMKOTA HOTEL	\$6,306.88
DISCOVERY EDUCATION	\$6,793.00
34TH INSTITUTE	\$10,245.00
STEVE'S PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.	\$10,495.00
LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES INC	\$10,715.44
WYOMING GAS COMPANY	\$13,625.59
FOOD SERVICES OF AMERICA	\$14,045.57
NEWMIND GROUP, INC	\$14,771.49
REGION V BOARD OF COOP. ED.	\$15,067.08
PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS	\$17,117.62
ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER	\$18,435.52
HSC CLERK	\$25,821.11
NORTHWEST WYOMING BOCES	\$41,345.00
Total:	\$293,229.56

Pub. March 28, 2013

No. 6800

We will be closed on Sunday, March 31, So our employees can spend Easter with their families.

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