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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Powder Puff



Senior Annalisa Herold hurls the ball during the annual Powder Puff football game Monday night. Seniors played the freshmen in the first game while the sophomores took on the juniors in game two. — Cindy Glasson photo

LTCC golf course members to vote on name change

by J.D. Stetson

Several key issues were discussed with the membership of the Legion Town & Country Club during the annual membership meeting with the Golf Board Monday night.

Some of the issues included changing the name of the golf course, the course's financial standing, rate changes and preparations for winter.

A main change from previous years will be that the golf course will not close at the end of September.

Golf Course Manager Donnie Bjorhus explained a plan to continue keeping the course open as long as the weather allows.

"Some of the best golf weather is in October," Bjorhus said.

The locker rooms will continue to be open until Oct. 31 and the pro shop will also be open with discounts on merchandise.

Name change

The members discussed changing the name of the golf course in order to remove a connotation of the course as a private club.

The Golf Board presented the members with a recommendation to change the name of the course to appeal to more out-of-town golfers and clearly designate the facility as a public golf course. The board and members also noted the American Legion is no longer involved with the course.

The membership decided to present three names to the entire LTCC membership through an e-mail vote. The proposed names include: Thermopolis Golf Course, Roundtop Golf Course and Red Rock Golf Course.

Members will have until the end of October to submit their votes.

Financial situation

Board Treasurer Brandon Deromedi informed the membership of the golf course's financial situation.

The golf course currently has two loans it is in the process of paying back.

The first loan, which paid for irrigation pipe, currently stands at \$29,484.59, down from \$56,146 last year. The second loan, which paid for golf cars, stands at \$66,379, down from \$70,329 in 2012.

Deromedi explained that the financial institutions want the loan for the irrigation pipe paid off first and then for the board to focus on the golf car loan.

Proceeds from fundraisers the past two years have been used to pay off the debts.

Deromedi also informed the members that the

golf course had received \$159,435 in revenue for the first six months of 2013. Last year, the course received \$212,733 for the entire year.

Currently, the course has \$116,324 in its bank account, with about \$60,000 earmarked for insurance, leaving \$56,000 in the account for golf course needs. Last year, near the end of September, the course had \$13,724 in the account.

Membership rates

The Golf Board asked the membership to consider a 10 percent increase on rates for membership, golf car storage and other aspects of the course.

Board Chairman Matt Bowman said the reason for the rate increase is to address inflation for materials and equipment. Bowman also noted the course chose not to raise rates in 2012.

The course recently installed a new computer program allowing them to track the number of golf rounds played at the course as well as other statistics that are not available from previous years.

The course membership chose to wait another year before changing rates in order to compare the statistics from 2013 and 2014.

However, the rates for daily fees as well as possible discounts or enticements for first-time members will continue to be discussed by the board and the golf course manager.

Bjorhus had previously presented the membership with a breakdown of the number of rounds played at the course from March to Sept. 22.

The statistics do not include rounds played during tournaments or for the Men's League. The total number of rounds played was 4,169. The number is more than 5,000 rounds, including the rounds from tournaments and the league.

New board members

The membership voted in Jason Ciz and Dan Yetter to replace Parke Price and Bob Uffelman, who both finished their terms on the golf board.

After the membership meeting, the board chose to elect officers. Frank Toth was elected chairman and Matt Bowman was elected vice chairman.

Brandon Deromedi retained his position as treasurer and Travis McDermott retained his position as secretary.

Ciz was appointed to head the Course Committee, which acts as liaison between the golf course manager and the board, and Yetter was appointed to head the House Committee, which acts as liaison with Stones Throw Restaurant.

Thermopolis Town Councilman Tony Larson is also a voting member of the board and liaison between the Golf Board and the town.

Trustees evaluate testing results

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 held its monthly board meeting Sept. 19, going over a variety of things, including PAWS/SAWS testing, ACT testing and a goals update from Superintendent Dustin Hunt.

Test results evaluated

Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students (PAWS) and Student Assessment of Writing Skills (SAWS) scores are up in some areas and down in others, according to principals Deb Brown at Ralph Witters Elementary (RWE) and Breez Daniels at Thermopolis Middle School (TMS).

Scores from the 2013 testing period were received just a few days before the board meeting and show RWE is 9 percent higher than the state average in the third grade SAWS with fourth grade 61 percent higher than the state average.

"These numbers are good," Brown said, "but we still want to improve, especially in the top two tiers."

Brown went on to say Thermopolis third graders are ranked third overall in the state with PAWS and ranked sixth in the state in reading.

Fourth graders, however, are ranked 35th in math, 38th in reading and 45th in science.

"These are the lowest we've seen," Brown said.

In order to combat the lower scores, Brown said they would continue with their workshops and academic AO, focusing on writing and working on parent partnerships. They will also put more time into communication and individual goals of the students.

There will be a lot of work on Power of 3 math and reflex math as well as math journals so students can better understand how math works.

Brown was pleased to announce the Super Hero reading

See Trustees on page 11

Town Council mulls support for Senior Olympics

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council gave initial support to an initiative to bring the Wyoming Senior Olympics to Thermopolis and Worland in 2015 and 2016.

Cowgirl Consulting's Amanda Moeller approached the council at its Sept. 17 meeting to apprise the council on the initiative and seek the town's support.

Moeller is in the process of producing a proposal to the Senior Olympics Committee to bring the event to Thermopolis.

Currently, Thermopolis does not have the capability of providing bowling, swimming or golf events, which

would likely need to take place in Worland. The Legion Town & Country Club does not currently meet specifications of the committee and the local bowling alley has closed. Thermopolis does not currently have a competition swimming pool that meets specifications.

Moeller said she approached the Washakie County Lodging Tax Board for support, but she did not receive a positive response. She is currently working with individual entities, such as the golf course, swimming pool and bowling alley to host the events.

The council discussed the proposal, and Mayor Bill Malloy said he has been involved in discussions on the issue.

"My concern is that if we can do it, and do it right, then we definitely want this," Malloy said.

The council discussed the 18 required events as well as other events that can be added – depending on facilities.

Moeller explained the committee approached Thermopolis during a meeting of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors indicating that no other community sought the event.

"This is ours to lose," Moeller said, adding that bringing the event here is something her company is pursuing on its own, and not as a sole initiative of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County

Lodging Tax Board (LTB). Moeller is the LTB's executive director.

The council approved to conditionally provide support of the town, so long as details can be worked out with entities in Washakie County for the three required events.

Hot Springs State Park

The town, council and staff were given an unexpected pat on the back from Hot Springs State Park Superintendent Kevin Skates during the meeting.

Skates said the park appreciates the work the town does in supporting the park through police protection, public works and town administration.

"The staff are easy to work with," Skates said, adding the hope for continued teamwork in the future.

BIA appeal

Town Attorney Mike Messenger presented the council with a letter of intent to become an interested party in the appeal between Hot Springs County and the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the decision to place the Baird Property into trust.

Messenger stated the correspondence places the town on record that the community is interested in being involved in anything regarding the development of the property in the future.

Community Arts Month celebrated

Community organizations and businesses will celebrate October as Community Arts Month with art shows, workshops, jam sessions, concerts and arts residencies in the schools.

A mini-show of art by students in the schools will be on display in the windows of the Common Ground building, located at 124 N. Fifth St.

Ajuried Community Art Show will open with a reception Oct. 5, 6:30-8 p.m., at Flying Eagle Gallery, 518 Broadway. The show will be on display throughout October.

Paul Taylor, a native of Australia who now lives in Wyoming, will do a school residency Oct. 8-10. Students will create a mural based on the theme, "Caring for the Land." The ongoing project will be mounted at Thermopolis Middle School; by school year end, all middle school students

will have worked on the project.

Spencer Bohren, of New Orleans, will do a school residency Oct. 17-19 as well as public performances. Bohren, who is a master storyteller and blues musician, will give a house concert Oct. 17. He plays numerous stringed instruments, including banjo, guitar and pedal steel guitar.

On Oct. 19, Bohren will hold a guitar workshop for musicians, 9 a.m.-noon at the Common Ground building. Bohren uses simple methods and tricks designed to get the most music from your guitar with minimum effort. It is geared toward vocal accompaniment. The workshop fee is \$50.

Bohren will hold a public concert at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 in the Hot Springs County School Auditorium, 415 Springview St. Tickets at the door are \$10 for

adults, \$8 for seniors, with all students free. Advance tickets are \$1 off, available at Broadway Bygones. Contact Jacky Wright at 864-4070.

Taylor and Bohren are sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation and Hot Springs County School District with support from the Wyoming Arts Council.

Peter Fletcher, a New York City classical guitarist, will perform at 7 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Hot Springs County Library, 344 Arapahoe St. The free program is sponsored by the library.

Informal music jam sessions will be held Oct. 4 and Oct. 18 at Southside Exxon, from 6-8 p.m., and are sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation.

A full list of October events will be in next week's Independent Record.

Scout Jamboree



Scouts from across Wyoming gathered in the state park last weekend for the fourth annual Central Bank & Trust Jamboree, where they learned a variety of skills, including how to do water rescue. Kole Cox, center, directs a group of other scouts, including Dusty Barnes, Christian Kleven and two members of Cub Scout Pack 312, how to accomplish the task before going into the water at the boat dock.

Trustees

challenge this year has 91 percent participation, which should help with the reading scores in the future.

Changes at TMS to improve scores

Daniels pointed out to the board that the scores they have received are six months old, and at the middle school level, some of the necessary changes have already been made to improve their scores.

Of the 48 school districts in the state, TMS fifth graders are ranked 42nd in math on PAWS and 21st in reading.

On the other hand, SAWS shows 58 percent of fifth graders are proficient or advanced in writing, compared to the state average of 49 percent.

Sixth graders are ranked 45th in math and 41st in reading with SAWS – giving the sixth graders a score of 51 percent proficient in writing, compared to a statewide average of 42 percent.

TMS seventh-grade students are ranked 40th in math and 32nd in reading with a SAWS score of 63 percent proficient or advanced in writing, compared to 58 percent statewide.

Eight graders, however, are ranked 23rd in math and 23rd in science as well as second in reading statewide. SAWS shows the eight graders are 70 percent proficient or advanced in writing, compared to the state average of 60 percent.

Testing for 11th graders

At the high school, college readiness is determined through the use of the ACT test.

According to the Wyoming Department of Education, there are 36 points possible on the ACT test taken by every junior in the state. This year's scores

in Wyoming were a full half point below last year's average at 19.8, with the national average being 20.9.

In Thermopolis, 11th graders scored 18.3 in English, 19.9 in math, 19.7 in reading and 19.6 in science for a composite score of 19.5.

High school principal Travis Anderson said he would like to see the scores higher, and to that end, he and four core teachers from the high school will be traveling to Anchorage, Alaska, for a week in November to study the teaching process used by Highland Tech, a charter school chosen by Microsoft as one of the top 99 most innovative schools worldwide.

According to Microsoft's website, Highland Tech Charter School is one of two of this year's mentor school inductees, sharing their best practices with other schools to help them develop a vision and help implement a

plan to transform the way their schools operate.

The other inductee, McGlone Elementary School, is located in Denver, Colo.

The trip to Alaska will be funded through a grant earmarked for staff development.

District goals

During his superintendent's report, Hunt expressed the need for our district to be as competitive as possible when it comes to the education of our children.

The salaries the district is able to pay staff is one of Hunt's concerns.

"We need to be competitive to get the best teachers we can," Hunt said. "We're still improving on our compensation package."

"We're now ranked 33rd out of the 48 districts, so we still have a long way to go."

Hot Springs County currently spends 80 percent of its funding on teacher salaries, but Hunt

believes we're going to have to look at other areas for cuts and ways to increase our efficiency and that it would have to be a multiyear plan.

"It's going to take a lot of evaluation," he said. "We've looked at activities, food service, just about everything."

Hunt also told the board about the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) meetings that were held across the state last month in an effort to update stakeholders in the efforts being taken by the Wyoming Department of Education and the State Board of Education to work out an accountability plan for Wyoming's school districts.

All of the information gathered at the meetings is to be shared with the Wyoming Legislature and a professional judgment panel will convene this fall to create a model accountability system that is slated to go into effect by fall of 2014.

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Bonnie Smith retirement



Circuit Court Clerk Bonnie Smith and Judge Thomas W. Harrington enjoy cake during Smith's retirement celebration Friday.
— J.D. Stetson photo



Sept. 23 – Oct. 1
TMS Book Fair

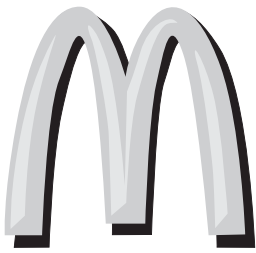
Thurs., Sept. 26
7th/8th Football
vs. Worland, 4:30 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 28
7th Volleyball vs. Powell/Cody,
at TMS, 9:30 a.m.

8th Volleyball vs. Powell/Cody,
at Powell, 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1
TMS Parent Teacher
Conferences

Thurs., Oct. 3
7th Football
at Burlington, 4:30 p.m.



Hot Springs County SENIOR CENTER • LUNCH MENU • Sept. 30-Oct. 4

MONDAY

Hamburger Gravy Over Mashed Potatoes, Tomatoes & Zucchini, Rolls, Peaches & Cream Bars

TUESDAY

Baked Fish, Steamed Rice, Broccoli, Spinach Mandarin Salad, Bran Muffin, Fruity Applesauce

WEDNESDAY

Pigs In A Blanket, Tomato/Onion/Pickles, Hashbrowns, Baked Beans, Oranges

THURSDAY

BBQ Ribs, Baked Potato w/Sour Cream, Corn, Creamy Coleslaw, Bread, Peanut Butter Cookies

FRIDAY

Baked Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans, Marinated Cucumber Salad, Roll, Peach Crisp

Menu subject to change without notice.
864-2151
206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by
High Plains Power,
your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

NEW 2013 CAMRY

35 Estimated MPG⁴

"CLASS LEADING
MPG RATING"⁵



0% APR²

Financing for **60 mos** with
\$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
(Includes Hybrid)

OR **\$1000
CASH BACK³**
(Excludes Hybrid)

Gas Model: APR Finance Savings of \$2,330¹

Hybrid: APR Finance Savings of \$2,509¹

NEW 2013 COROLLA

34 Estimated MPG⁷

"BEST-SELLING
COMPACT CAR IN AMERICA"⁸

**Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$1,483¹**



0.9% APR²

Financing for 60 mos with
\$17.05 per \$1000 borrowed

OR **\$1000
CASH BACK³**

NEW 2013 PRIUS

50 Estimated MPG⁹

"2012 BEST OVERALL
VALUE OF THE YEAR"¹⁰

**Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$1,117¹**



1.9% APR²

Financing for 60 mos with
\$17.48 per \$1000 borrowed

NEW 2013 TUNDRA

"BEST RESALE VALUE:
FULL-SIZE PICKUP TRUCK"⁶

**Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$2,008¹**



1.9% APR²

Financing for **72 mos** with
\$14.71 per \$1000 borrowed

**+ \$500
RETAIL
BONUS CASH[†]**

OR **\$2750 CASH BACK³**
(CrewMax model only)

NEW 2013 HIGHLANDER

25 Estimated MPG¹¹

AVAILABLE
ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

**Average
APR Finance
Savings
\$3,226¹**



0% APR²

Financing for 60 mos with
\$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed
(Excludes Hybrid)

OR **\$1000
CASH BACK³**
(Excludes Hybrid)



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Options shown. Offers end 9/30/13. Does not include College Grad or Military Rebate. 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 2013 Camry, Camry Hybrid, Tundra, Corolla (excludes Matrix), Prius Liftback, Prius v, Sienna and Highlander (excludes Hybrid). ³Cash Back offer provided by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. on new 2013 Camry, (excludes Hybrid), Tundra CrewMax, Corolla (excludes Matrix) and Highlander (excludes Hybrid). ⁴Retail Bonus Cash offer provided by Toyota Financial Services to eligible customers who finance a new, unused or unlicensed 2013 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. Vehicle's projected resale value is specific to the 2013 model year. For more information, visit Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. ⁷2013 EPA-estimated 27 city/34 highway mileage for Corolla with manual transmission. Actual mileage will vary. ⁸MotorIntelligence.com, CY 2011 sales. ⁹Based on 2012 EPA MPG ratings 51 city/48 highway/50 combined mileage for Prius. Actual mileage will vary. ¹⁰2012 IntelliChoice. ¹¹IntelliChoice.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. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a limo/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids.

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