

Fundraiser for artist
Glenda Ramsey
featured Saturday

3

Basketball, wrestling
practice underway
for HSCHS teams

6

Town council denies
railroad quiet
zone options

10

Reading Quest marks
81,701 minutes
read in one day

16

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

Christmas decorations up around town



Jay Erk, a member of the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department, attaches a holiday ornament to a light pole on Broadway Street on a beautiful Sunday morning. Erk was in a bucket truck provided free of charge by RT Com-

munications. High Plains Power was also involved in the project in another donation gesture as well as John Zupan and crew from Zupan Electric. Many community members donated food to feed the workers. — Joe Sov

Commissioners, state to meet Dec. 10 about Rainbow Terraces issue

by Cindy Glasson
The condition of the Rainbow Terraces in Hot Springs State Park was discussed at the Nov. 13 meeting of the Natural Resource Planning Commission (NRPC), setting the stage for the possibility of input from outside resources on how to restore their natural beauty.

State Rep. Nathan Winters (HD28) attended the meeting and told the group that while he was new to the process, he realizes there are multiple issues involved and he has been working to see what he can get done from his end as our representative.

"I have spoken at length with Kevin (Skates) and appreciate his cooperation," Winters said. "He is key to this situation."

Winters said he has also talked with several of the State Parks and Cultural Resources people in Cheyenne as well as the state engineer who originally developed the heat exchanger.

"We will be taking funds from two emergency resources to get the pools on the terraces relined in the spring," Winters said.

The thought is to displace some of the area in the terrace pools by partially filling them with sand, lining them, and then refilling them with water – in the hopes it would cause the water to start flowing more readily over the terraces, bringing back the color.

At one time, it was suggested the water from the State Bath House, TePee Pools and Star Plunge could be recycled up onto the terraces. Unfortunately, that idea cannot work as the body oils from swimmers, sunscreen and the like would actually kill the algae that creates the rainbow effect.

Heat exchanger

One of the bones of contention is a heat exchanger that was built several years ago to replace the cooling ponds.

The mineral water comes out of the Big Spring at a temperature near 130 degrees. In order for the swimming pools and bath house to use the water it has to be cooled significantly.

In the past, the water would sit in the ponds to the southwest of the spring to cool naturally.

The Department of Environmental Quality determined that was unsafe and could cause illness from contamination by animal feces.

After other ideas were tossed around and deemed unusable, the state engineer proposed a heat exchanger that would take the hot water through a series of pipes. The pipes are surrounded by water from the Big Horn River to cool the mineral water down some, but the pools have had to install heat exchangers of their own to cool the water even further for use in their facilities.

The cooling ponds are now filled with water from the river as well and over the years the park employees and volunteers have had to work to keep cattails and other weeds under control.

Winters has been in contact with the University of Wyoming in the hopes that another set of eyes on the project might have a better idea for cooling the water.

The NRPC felt the university engineering department might have a different idea than the heat exchanger and encouraged Winters to continue his dialogue with the school.

Lower output

Over the years, the Big Spring has been putting out less and less hot water, putting a strain on the amount that can be given to the bath house and the pools and still have enough to go over the terraces.

The spring currently puts out about 1.8 million gallons of hot water per day. The terraces receive 500 gallons per minute with the remaining water going to the three pools.

It is still unclear why the spring's output has dropped, whether it's just Mother Nature or if other factors are involved such as water wells drilled in the area.

Local geologist Dan Wychgram is exploring the idea that certain hot water wells in the area could be capped, much like oil wells, stemming the flow of hot water. In theory, this could possibly raise the level of the Big Spring, allowing more water to be sent over the terraces.

The county commissioners recently sent a letter to the state requesting help with the terraces.

While the state did not promise any help with the situation, they have agreed to a meeting with the commissioners. It will be held Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. in the commissioners' meeting room in the County Annex. The public will be welcome to attend the meeting.

Land use change to facilitate new live fire training facility approved

by Cindy Glasson
For the Hot Springs Rural Fire District and the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department, the second time was a charm as the county commissioners approved their requested land use change

at Tuesday evening's meeting. Hot Springs County Planner Bo Bowman started the public hearing with some background information on the requested land use change, taking the 12 acres from residential to insti-

tutional. The requested land use change was initially approved by the Land Use Planning Commission and sent to the commissioners with a "dopass" recommendation in October.

The plan for the land is to build a live fire training facility to be used by the fire department four or five times per year.

Residents in the area of the

See Fire training on page 11

Hometown Holiday adds several events

by J.D. Stetson
At the end of the month, Christmas will be in full effect in Thermopolis. The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has been working with its partner businesses to add new events in conjunction with the annual Thermopolis Lighted Christmas Parade and National Shop Small Town Saturday on Nov. 30. In a flyer promoting the festivities, activities have been scheduled throughout the day, including Art Projects for kids from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at Homegrown Girls, which is located in the former Kiddie Kollege building. Santa's Workshop also will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Homegrown Girls. The event will organize packaged photos of kids

with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Starting at 1 p.m., The Ritz will show a matinee of the movie "The Santa Clause." The activities lead into the 2013 Lighted Christmas Parade with the theme "Snowopolis." Parade lineup starts at 5:30 p.m. with the parade to commence at 6 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet children afterward at Homegrown Girls. Nov. 30 also will kick off a December Snowman Contest hosted by the chamber. The contest will run through Dec. 19. Details can be sought at the chamber, 864-3192.

New hours and board members

At its meeting Nov. 14, chamber's board of directors chose to try out new winter hours for the chamber office.

The new hours will start Dec. 2 and will be revisited in early spring. The chamber will be open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 2:30 to 5 p.m. The hours on Friday will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. The new hours will assist in providing outreach to current high school students who work at the chamber and to allow the Chamber Executive Director Meri Ann Rush to make up for meetings and other activities beyond office hours. The board also chose to appoint three new board members to fill vacant seats from resignations. The new board members include Frank Roling, representing Sunlight Mattress and Appliance; Sarah Kimes, Blue Moon Floral; and Mikki Moriarity, TePee Spa.

Community Thanksgiving Service Tuesday at HS Christian Church

Several local churches are sponsoring the annual Community Thanksgiving Service that will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26 at Hot Springs Christian Church, 1102 Broadway St. The theme of the service will be taken from St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:18): "In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." An attitude of gratitude can be helpful in facing the trials and difficulties of every day living. A free-will offering will be taken up for the Transient Fund, which is an emergency fund set up to assist the needy that pass through town.

Through a voucher system that is administered in cooperation between the police department and the Thermopolis Ministerial Association, the needy are given gas, food or lodging. Donations to the Transient Fund are also received from local churches, individuals and businesses. Participating churches at the Community Thanksgiving Service are Community Federated, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Hot Springs Christian, Living Waters Assembly of God, Risen Son Southern Baptist, River of Life Fellowship, Roundtop Baptist and St. Francis Catholic.

Early deadline set for Nov. 28 issue of IR

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, next week's Thermopolis Independent Record will be published a day early. The Nov. 28 issue will go to press on Tuesday rather than Wednesday and will be available around town Tuesday evening, Nov. 26. Most mailed copies will arrive in post of-

fice boxes and on county rural routes Wednesday morning, Nov. 27. Since we'll publish early, the display advertising, classified advertising and public notices deadline for the Nov. 28 issue will be 4 p.m. Friday. The deadline for submission of information for news stories

will be noon Monday rather than Tuesday. Our office will be closed Thanksgiving Day as well as Friday, Nov. 29. We will resume regular business hours Monday, Dec. 2. The Independent Record staff wishes everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Early interest in books



Two-year-old Tristan Galovich points out birds in a book to his mother, Amber, while his sister Summer listens to the conversation during the Friends of the Library Book Sale Saturday at the armory.

— Joe Sov

Fire training from page 1

proposed facility voiced the same concerns Tuesday night as they had previously – worried about chemicals that might be used, the amount of water that would be used which could erode the surrounding soils and the health issues that could be compounded from the smoke created by the live fire exercises.

Fire Chief Dale Andreen showed the commissioners a PowerPoint presentation that answered many of those concerns, including how much smoke would be generated during training and how much water would actually be used.

Andreen also showed the commissioners where the building would be built in relation to the surrounding homes through photographs as well as drawings showing the land surrounding the building, which would look similar to a two-story brick home. It would actually have grass and other aspects of a yard to make the training as similar to real life as possible.

Landowner opposition

Some landowners felt the proposal was being forced on them and questioned the commissioners, “What if it were in your backyard?”

Commission chair Brad Basse explained to the group, “Hot Springs County has a land use plan. It is the law we work with.

“If anything comes before us, if it meets that law, we have to follow that law. If you want something different, then that is a completely different process, a modification of the land use plan.”

Commissioner Mike Baker agreed, saying, “Our job is to know the land use plan and to use it. We want your input, but in the end, we have to go by the land use plan.”

Heath Overfield, chairman of the Land Use Planning Commission, also addressed the commissioners, telling them his board did not see anything negative with the proposal based on the land use plan.

At the close of the public hearing portion of the meeting, the commissioners then worked their way through a checklist that gives a negative or positive score for each of the items within the land use plan.

A negative score indicates there are too many issues with a request and the request is usually denied.

A positive or zero score shows the commissioners the request meets the land use plan and approval is generally given in those instances.

With commissioner John Lumley excused from the meeting, unanimous approval was given by Basse and Baker.

HSCHS alumni in NWC music program



Hot Springs County High School musical alumni performed last week as part of the Northwest College wind band and choir. Pictured at left are flautist Kaylee Groh and saxophonist Katie Lehman. At right is Katie Crosby, singing with the choir. The girls are all attending Northwest College and were participating in a traveling show to encourage students to attend the college after graduation.

– Cindy Glasson photo

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