Four wrestlers capture crowns, lead Cats to second at invite **School board OKs** calendars for 2014-15, 2015-16

Smoking Waters Art Guild and GLF elect officers

Thermopolis Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

Owl Creek Water District questions chlorine count

by Drew Foster

Owl Creek Water District representatives questioned the area's chlorine residual count in the district's water supply during the Jan. 21 Thermopolis Town Council meeting, saying the district's water is not "significantly similar" to what flows through Thermopolis town limits.

Town officials agreed last week to flush Owl Creek waterlines with additional water in an attempt to boost chlorine residual counts and continue joint monitoring at the Owl Creek connection vault west of town.

Harry Hughes, an engineer retained by the Owl Creek Water District (OCWD), said chlorine residuals in water streaming from the Owl Creek connection vault were "drastically lower" than chlorine residuals found elsewhere in Thermop. The Owl Creek waterline has been functional since October. Hughes pointed to data collected west of the Owl Creek connection on Jan. 13 that showed chlorine residual levels of 0.11 milligrams per liter. He added that chlorine residuals collected throughout Thermop over the past two years showed an average of .75 milligrams per liter.

"We do think there's a deficiency," Hughes told the town council. "You've been notified, and we'd like a remedy.'

Town officials disagreed.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby called the town's chlorine levels a "dynamic system" that "changes all the time." He said it wasn't fair to apply a single day's reading to long-term chlorine residual levels. He also said the two-year average was not reflective of actual chlorine residuals, which are constantly in flux.

The two-year data showed chlorine residual levels fluctuating from a low of .01 milligrams per liter on Dec. 4, 2012, to a high of 1.59 milligrams per liter on Dec. 10, 2013. Chlorine residual levels in Thermop dropped below .1 seven times since January 2012 and showed a propensity to shift up to 1 percent during a single day's samplings.

Chlorine acts as a disinfectant in the town's water supply.

Environmental Protection Agency rules

Water plant operator Don Rood pointed to United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that stipulate chlorine residual counts should not exceed 4 milligrams per liter and should not be lower than .02 milligrams per liter for more than four hours, explaining that both the Owl Creek and Thermop counts fall within the EPA guidelines.

Hughes referenced a line in the town's water agreement with the Owl Creek Water District that stated the provided water should "be of a quality substantially similar to that provided within the

A letter presented by Hughes to the town council stated that the Owl Creek Water District operator has been "frequently checking free chlorine residuals at the OCWD pump station" and that "those data have consistently been either extremely low or no free chlorine residual." The letter continued: "Consequently OCWD has every reason to believe that they have not received the stipulated water quality from the Town as set forth in the contract since OCWD went into water service operation in October 2013.

Crosby pointed out that both town and Owl Creek water originated from the same source – the 12th Street vault just below the Roundtop tanks.

"I don't know how substantially similar you can get when the town's own people are drinking from the same system," Crosby said during last week's town council meeting.

See Chlorine page 10

Relay For Life Kickoff



Six-year-old Zerrian Stone, a cancer survivor, got messy during the Jan. 21 Relay for Life Kickoff Party at the VFW. Event coordinator Jessica Slagle hopes this year's Relay for Life walk on June 27 raises \$40,000. Last year's event raised Drew Foster photo

Wyoming Main Street meeting draws lots of attention

Participation could be as a certified member or affiliate

by Joe Sova

More than 30 local people attended a Wyoming Main Street meeting at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center on Tuesday evening to learn more about the statewide program.

Britta Mireley, the state program manager, shared information about nine-year-old Wyoming Main Street and answered questions about how Thermopolis could become either a certified member or affiliate of the growing program.

under the auspices of the Wyoming Business Council – is the state-level coordinating entity that promotes and manages the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program within the state of Wyoming. Its purpose is to assist Wyoming communities of various sizes and resource-levels with their downtown revitalization efforts. The key function is the coordination and delivery of technical services and volunteer training to participating

Mireley indicated there was a growing number of communities that have Wyoming Main Street – which runs engaged Wyoming Main Street during their revitalization projects. Powell is the only town in the Big Horn Basin that is affiliated with the program. The Park County community officially came on board just last Friday. Sheridan, Buffalo, Gillette, Glenrock, Douglas, Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins, Green River and Evanston are either certified members or affiliates. Platte County (Wheatland) has also joined the Wyoming Main Street ranks.

"Rawlins is kind of our 'shining star," Mireley said, indicating the Carbon County community is focused on its

According to Mireley, being a Wyoming Main Street affiliate rather than a certified member would be the best fit. Being certified would mean that the member would have to have a paid manager-either full-time or part-time.

'We want to help as many communities as we can," she said. "We're very much into preservation. Wyoming Main Street has strong organization and a good marketing program."

Communities that are accepted as

certified members receive \$20,000 from the program while affiliates are each given \$7,000. The money is not directly downtown area through revitalization. used for revitalization; it can be used to put a plan together or for such things as training, banners and lighting projects

> Amanda Moeller, director of tourism for the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board and executive director of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Economic Development Co. (EDC), arranged the Wyoming Main Street meeting with assistance from Meri Ann Rush, executive director of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs

> > See Downtown page 8

Saxophobia in school



Saxophonist extraordinaire Rob Verdi practiced with the high school band on Tuesday in preparation for that evening's Saxophobia concert at the school auditorium. This was Verdi's second concert appearance in Thermopolis. Verdi plays a range of saxophones, from miniatures to instruments standing more than 6 feet - Drew Foster photo tall.

Shoshone National Forest management plan objection period ending March 26

by Cindy Glasson

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), along with the National Forest Service, has released the final land management plan documents for the Shoshone National Forest.

There is now a 60-day objection filing period that ends March 26 for the public to file any concerns they have with the final plan. The USDA and Forest Service will then have 90 days to resolve those objections or issue a written response to them.

While very little of the forest is included in Hot Springs County, the county was included in the draft plan meetings that resulted in a new preferred alternative (Alternative

The main differences in the preferred alternative are an inclusion of additional acreage for winter motorized recreation outside crucial winter range, changes to summer motorized recreation, changes to suitability for oil and gas surface development, and modifications to special area boundaries.

Under the preferred plan, all existing open roads and motorized trails for public use in the summer and winter are maintained, and additional lands are added for future expansion. Total acres unavailable for motorized

use are 1,909,010 acres for summer use and 1,845,600 acres for winter use.

Special areas

Eight new research natural areas are identified in the plan, totaling 69,000 acres for research, monitoring and education.

Three new special interest areas are also identified that include two geological areas and one historical area.

The plan identifies and maintains eligibility for 16 river segments into the Wild and Scenic River System.

Management direction for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail have also been

established.

See Shoshone page 10

Hospital Board approves software purchases

by Drew Foster

Two software programs approved Tuesday evening by the Hot Springs County Hospital Board are aimed at improving patient care and reducing staff

The board approved the purchase of Dragon software produced by Nuance as well as Safety Zone software produced by Clarity by separate 7-0 votes during its Tuesday night meeting at the hospital. The Dragon software allows care providers to dictate patient notes into handheld microphones that transcribe the words

onto computer documents stored in the hospital's database. Hospital CEO Robin Roling described the software as being similar to a cell phone's text message transcription capability.

"It will improve efficiencies in our provider staff," Roling said.

The hospital board approved a one-time payment of \$21,520 for the Dragon software, seven microphones and initial training, as well as an annual maintenance fee of \$3,144.

Seven of the hospital's nine care providers have agreed to use the new Dragon software.

"This is a significant investment, so we need to make sure we get our bang for our buck, so to speak," Roling said.

Care providers not using the Dragon software will continue to use the hospital's current tran-

scription service, Roling said. The Safety Zone software will create a database of "unusual occurrence reports," which would include anything from patients

receiving incorrect meals or med-

ication to tracking patient com-

plaints and hospital-acquired

conditions, such as falls or in-

fections. Roling said the Safety

"It's a consistent, more effective way of reporting issues," Hospital Board Chairman Bill Williams said during the meeting.

Zone software should alert hos-

pital staff to problematic trends

in patient care.

The Safety Zone software will cost \$7,500 annually to use and maintain. The hospital currently tracks such incidents with Excel spreadsheets generated

in-house. The software programs should be implemented in the next 60 days, hospital staff said Wednes-

from page 1

Shoshone

Vegetation management is also considered in the plan that addresses bark beetle epidemics and larger wildfires as well as identifying 126,000 acres of land suitable for timber production.

The plan identifies 397,000 acres suitable for livestock grazing and maintains term permitted commercial livestock grazing at the current level.

There is no change in the total amount of area available for oil and gas leasing from the 1995 plan, approximately 1 million acres, but does reduce the acreage for oil and gas surface development to 130,000 acres to protect big game winter range and to address issues brought up through public comment.

Wildlife management

The revised plan establishes four management indicator species that are used to indicate the effects of management activities on their suitable habitats.

Those four species are the ruffed grouse as an indicator for aspen communities, Brewer's sparrow in sagebrush communities, red-breasted nuthatch for mature conifer forest and stream trout as an indicator for streams and riparian habitats.

Species of local concern, due to their important social values or because of their limited distribution or rarity, will include elk, mule deer, moose, the Yellowstone checkers pot butterfly, Clark's nutcracker and various rare plant species.

"The Shoshone Forest is already 85 percent wilderness area," said Hot Springs County Planner Bo Bowman, "so new proposed regulations affecting the remaining 15 percent are more focused on controlling motorized access, roads and roadless areas, and controlling access into areas considered sensitive to wildlife.

"Prohibitions on oil and gas drilling are tightened, but these are primarily in areas considered to have very low probability for such resources. That will be a bigger fight when the BLM plan is released for public comment."

Bowman's advice to the public is to access the document as soon as possible, read through it carefully and submit their comments.

"My heroes in this effort are the various county commissioners and conservation district board members who have been serving as cooperators during this entire planning process," Bowman said. "They have been tirelessly bird-dogging the planning effort, and fighting for their constituencies. My hat is off to them.

"I also appreciate the Governor's Office staying in touch with this process, as they realize its importance and the inevitability of the state being involved in its outcome. The local forest and BLM planning staffs have also been very cooperative and helpful. They are nice folks, but there is a huge cultural divide between us and them. And ultimately, Washington is calling the shots."

Public meeting set Feb. 27

A local public meeting is set for Thursday, Feb. 27 at Big Horn Federal.

The plan may be viewed online at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/shoshone/ home/?cid=stelprdb5379153 and copies are available at the county library.

Chlorine

Mayor Bill Malloy suggested a chlorine injector be installed at the Owl Creek connection vault if chlorine residual numbers remain low.

"Without a chlorine injector out there, there's always going to be a difference," councilman Dusty

Lewis said.

The Owl Creek Water District Board, which met Jan. 23, agreed to consider the addition of a chlorine injector. Also at the Jan. 23 meeting, town and water district officials agreed to continue joint

testing of chlorine residuals at the Owl Creek point of purchase. An additional system of flushing of between 30,000 and 50,000 gallons will also be used to help boost Owl

ties have agreed to collect more data and do more flushing of the

The Owl Creek line served 22

Creek taps by summer. The project to install roughly nine miles of pipe from the 12th Street Meter Vault out toward Owl Creek Highway cost roughly \$3.5 million, paid mostly in grants and

could be installed if further fund-

better mirror those in Thermop when more Owl Creek customers are added to the system.

McCumber on hospital board

The Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Board of Directors has a new member.

Two people expressed interest in the vacancy created by Beth Drake's resignation - Kati McCumber and Harry Hughes. McCumber was unanimously appointed by the commissioners at their Jan. 21 meeting. She began her duties on the board Tuesday, Jan. 28.

McCumber's appointment will run through June 30, 2017.

Hot Springs County • LUNCH MENU • February 3-7

MONDAY

Baked Pork Chops, Stuffing, Gravy, Green Beans, Carrot & Raisin Salad, Applesauce Cake w/Frosting

TUESDAY

Chicken Strips, BBQ Sauce/ Sweet & Sour Sauce/Ranch Dressing, Potato Slices, Brussels Sprouts, Apricots

WEDNESDAY

Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Deli Salad, Ice

Cream w/Toppings, Bananas **THURSDAY** Hot Beef Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Peas, Apple

Cabbage Slaw, Pear Crisp

FRIDAY Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Italian Vegetables, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, Angel Food Cake

w/Strawberries & Topping

864-2151 206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by **High Plains Power**,

your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

HSC High School CALENDAR OF EVENUS

Thurs., Jan. 30 Freshman Girls Basketball at Cody, 5 p.m. Freshman Boys Basketball

> at Cody, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31- Feb. 1 Speech at Natrona

<u>Fri., Jan. 31</u> Girls JV/V Basketball

at Burlington, 4/5:30 p.m. Boys JV/V Basketball at Burlington, 4/7 p.m. <u>Sat., Feb. 1</u> Indoor Track at Chadron

Wrestling at Greybull Girls JV/V Basketball at Riverside, 12/3 p.m. Boys JV/V Basketball

at Riverside, 1:30/4:30 p.m. Tues., Feb. 4 Freshman Girls Basketball at Greybull, 5 p.m. Freshman Boys Basketball

at Greybull, 6:30 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 6 Wrestling vs. Worland/Douglas, 5 p.m.



www.bankofthermopolis.com

Creek's chlorine residual numbers.

"I'm encouraged the two par-

lines," Hughes said.

customers as of mid-January. Hughes projected between 33 and 37 customers could be using Owl

loans. Another five miles of line

ing is approved. Crosby believes chlorine re-

sidual levels in Owl Creek will



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Includes \$1,500 Subvention Bonus Cash from Toyota Financial Services on qualified TFS 24-month lease contracts only. Must be applied to the transaction. No cash payment will be made to consumer, cannot be combined with other offers. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2532. Total MSRP including freight \$24,155. Monthly payments of \$279 total \$6,417. Capitalized cost of \$23,709 based on down payment and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2532. Total MSRP including freight \$24,155. Monthly payments of \$279 total \$6,417. Capitalized cost of \$23,709 based on down payment and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2532. Total MSRP including freight \$24,155. Monthly payments of \$279 total \$6,417. Capitalized cost of \$23,709 based on down payment and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2532. Total MSRP including freight \$24,155. 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"APR financing with approved credit from Toyota Financial Services on new 2014 Tundra. "Lease a new 2014 Tundra Dble. Cab SR5 FFV, Large V8 for \$479 a month for 24 months with \$0 due at signing, which includes \$0 first month's payment, \$0 security deposit, \$650 acquisition fee (capitalized over lease term) which totals \$0 down. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #8331. Total MSRP including freight \$35,205. Monthly payments of \$479 total \$11,017. Capitalized cost of \$35,461 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$24,491. "2014 EPA-estimated 28 city/37 highway/31 combined mpg for Corolla L with manual transmission. Actual mileage will vary. "Lease a new 2014 Corolla LE (excludes Matrix) for \$259 a month for 24 months with \$0 due at signing, which includes \$0 first month's payment, \$0 security deposit, \$650 acquisition fee (capitalized over lease term) which totals \$0 down. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #1852. Total MSRP including freight \$19,110. Monthly payments of \$259 total \$5,957. Capitalized cost of \$19,425 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$13,542. "2014 EPA-estimated 22 city/29 highway/25 combined mileage for RAV4 AWD. Actual mileage will vary. "Lease a new 2013 RAV4 LE AWD (excludes EV) for \$339 a month for 24 months with \$0 due at signing, which includes \$0 first month's payment, \$0 security deposit, \$650 acquisition fee (capitalized over lease term) which totals \$0 down. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #4432. Total MSRP including freight \$26,160. Monthly payments of \$339 total \$7,797. Capitalized cost of \$25,910 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$17,884. "2014 EPA-estimated 51 city/ 48 highway/50 combined mpg for Prius. Actual mileage will vary. "Lease a new 2013 Prius Two (excludes

Prius c and v) for \$339 a month for 24 months with \$0 due at signing, which includes \$0 first month's payment, \$0 security deposit, \$650 acquisition fee (capitalized over lease term) which totals \$0 down. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #1223. Total MSRP including freight \$25,235. Monthly payments of \$339 total \$7,797. Capitalized cost of \$25,612 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$16,940. *Customer responsible for maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year. Camry and Camry Hybrid leases TOYOTA.COM to qualified first Lustomers through Toyota Financial Services. Subscition fee due at lease end unless customer purchases vehicle or decides to re-finance through Toyota Financial Services. Offers good in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.