

‘Ancient and Early American Tools’



Reilly Russell and Audrey Philips check out a Bronze-age weapon during the Hot Springs County Historical Society’s presentation of “Ancient and Early American Tools” Saturday afternoon at the museum led by local collector and former County Planner Lee Campbell. Campbell’s expansive collection ranged from stone age and pre-Colombian copper tools to Revolutionary-era items and Viking weapons. – Drew Foster photo

3D printer, quilts, robots and more featured at Second Friday ArtStoll

The Smoking Waters Art Guild (SWAG) invites the public to attend the Second Friday ArtStroll to be held this Friday, March 14. While the date of the ArtStroll remains the same, the hours for the event have changed.

“At our last guild meeting we decided it would work better for everyone if we have the stroll hours run from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.,” said Toddi Darlington of SWAG and the Greater Learning Foundation in a news release. “This will work better for the store owners and leave people time after the stroll to eat at one of our great downtown restaurants.”

People who will take part in the ArtStroll are invited to stop at any of the stores open from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday and pick up a map, which will show you what businesses and artists are participating. Strollers can have their map signed at each store for a chance to win one of several gifts given by ArtStroll participants.

“We are so excited about our lineup this month. We have added some demonstrations to our mix of artists,” Darlington said.

She said this month’s ArtStroll begins at Wesaw’s Gallery, located in the RE/MAX building at the corner of Sixth and Broadway streets. Sally Wesaw’s mix of paintings and pottery will be on display.

Strollers can cross the street to Wyoming Wireless where Gayle Phipps will have her work on display. Two doors down Broadway, Ramsey’s Gallery offers a variety of Glenda Ramsey’s artwork and there will be live music from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at that location. Next is Broadway Bygones, which will be hosting jewelry maker Linda Simpson and Sherri Burrows and her fun signs along with other pieces of work.

Owl Creek Graphics also joins the ArtStroll and will be hosting local artisan Adrian Padilla. One of his specialties, driftwood art, will be available. Needful Things joins the ArtStroll with the featured demonstration of the evening – scarf tying. London Jenks will display the school district’s 3-D (three-dimensional) printer. He will provide demonstrations on the operation of the printer and will have some of the items that can be made with the printer on hand.

Next on the ArtStroll is Hazel-n-Pearl’s, featuring Nellie Corley’s quilts and some vintage quilts. Cross the street and stop by City Rags to see the work on display. Continue to Flying Eagle Gallery. This month’s show is featuring Worland artists Wanda and Cheri Shelp. The Shelps, who are mother and daughter, practice traditional fabric and are much sought after for their period work – particularly among the rendezvous people.

Storyteller is hosting the Thermopolis Middle School and Hot Springs County High School robotic league members. These two teams travel to LEGO tournaments and enter their robots in the competitions. Stop by to visit with your talented youth and see what makes robot building so much fun.

Other artists are being added to this daily, according to Darlington.

Gov. Mead approves \$3.3 billion biennial budget

Winters says Legislature worked hard

Public health, suicide ed. among bills

Investing in the future of Wyoming a focus

by Cindy Glasson

A very busy budget session is now complete and the goal of a flat budget for the State of Wyoming has been reached.

Hot Springs County Rep. Nathan Winters (R-HD28, Thermopolis) said the budget session was twice as intense as his first session.

“You have basically the same number of bills to go through in half the time,” Winters said. “Plus, you have the budget to go through as well. We were easily putting in 10 and 12 hour days.”

But all that hard work paid off.

With a decline in revenue from coal bed methane and Environmental Protection Agency’s war on coal in Wyoming, dollars in the coffers need to be looked at carefully with an eye on the future.

“This year, we worked really hard to maintain a flat budget,” Winters said. “It’s actually slightly lower.”

Money that was saved was put into the legislative stabilization account, generally referred to as the “rainy day fund” and into the permanent mineral trust fund, investing in the future of Wyoming.

Winters said that as the minerals in the state decline, the funding the legislature has set up will increase in value, setting the stage for the long term.

Effect of EPA

“The EPA is really affecting us,” he said. “It’s not a one size fits all solution, but they’re treating all the states the same rather than looking at things on a case-by-case basis. They’re overregulating things and that’s really hurting Wyoming.”

According to Winters, there is a real push for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution for “regulation freedom,” making a congressional vote a requirement if there is any proposed regulation with which at least 25 percent of the House or Senate disagrees.

“Right now, the EPA answers only to itself or the executive branch,” Winters said. “They don’t answer to Congress and they’re walking all over the American people. It’s not fair.”

Winters said, on a state level, they are working on some rule changes for future budget sessions that would give legislators more time to dig into the meat of the proposed budget.

“There isn’t a lot of time to look the budget over,” he said. “There isn’t a lot of time to review the amendments, either.”

For now, the Legislature generally goes with the governor’s recommendations when it comes to the budget.

“The governor and his team did a great job this year,” Winters said.

by Karla Pomeroy
Basin Republican-Rustler

The 2014 Wyoming Legislature adjourned Thursday afternoon and Sen. Gerald Geis (R-SD20, Worland) reported that both bills he personally sponsored went through with ease.

Geis said the “light bulb” bill that changed an old state statute to allow light bulbs and certain other electrical work to be done without a certified electrician received a lot of chuckles.

His other bill on water well fees moved the funds to the state engineer’s office.

Geis said the session overall went well. He said the first two weeks were tough with the Senate seemingly handling many more bills before crossover than after crossover.

In legislation that passed, House Bill 32 increases snowmobile fees/permits from \$5 to \$35 for residents and from \$75 to \$105 for commercial snowmobile. Geis said this is the first increase since the fees were first enacted. He said it would provide more money to groom trails.

Jason Flatt Act

Senate File 78, also called the Jason Flatt Act, is related to suicide prevention. The bill will require each teacher and school administrator to receive at least eight hours of suicide prevention education every four school years. This requirement will begin with the 2014-15 school year.

Any new teacher or administrator shall receive at least two hours of suicide prevention education during the initial school year if they have not received any prior training complying with the statute.

Youth suicide can be prevented, and that is what The Jason Foundation is all about.

130-plus bills die

More than 130 bills died during the Wyoming Legislature’s Budget Session that ended last week.

One bill that failed was legislation to increase the minimum wage in Wyoming from \$5.15 to \$9. The bill failed to get the two-thirds required vote for introduction in the budget session. The bill also would have raised wages for wait staff/ tipped employees from \$2.15 to \$5.

Geis said he would like to see a bill requiring tipped employees be paid at the minimum wage and then tipping just be based on service and not make the tipped employees dependent on tips.

The Legislature was expecting to adjourn by noon Thursday but instead went into recess while conference committees worked on several bills, including Senate File 12 on the state education program.

Geis said, “They’re working on changes the House made but they could open it up and look at the entire bill.” He said the bill leaves the state education program up to local school boards – not the State Board of Education and the federal government.

The bill failed to come out of conference committee.

See Bills on page 10

Bringing the bowling alley ‘back to life’

by Drew Foster

Refurbishing the old A&W Lanes looks about as tricky as converting a 7-10 split. But Tony Nettles, one of its new owners, is poised to knock down the pins.

A dirt pit sits where the old dining room once stood, the old kitchen has been gutted, the lanes are cracked, the springs inside the pinsetters are held together in places by zip ties, the bar looks like a storage closet and loose electrical cords dangle from the ceiling like wisps of moss in a dank swamp.

“It’s all got to go,” Nettles said, surveying the bowling alley. “None of it’s functional.”

He’s hoping to tell a different story come August or September, when the as-of-yet unnamed bowling alley could again be up and running.

Nettles and Julie Lehman finalized the purchase of the old A&W Lanes on Feb. 27.

Nettles declined to say how much he paid.

A&W Lanes was foreclosed upon last summer and sold by the Hot Springs County Sheriff’s Office to Pinnacle Bank on Aug. 27 for \$225,000.

Refurbishing a costly endeavor

Nettles is familiar with remodeling projects: He rebuilt the RE/MAX building in 2008 and also refurbished the Thermopolis Café.

He estimates that replacing the lanes, pinsetters and approach could cost \$125,000 to \$200,000. Throw in the kitchen, outside façade, roof, dining area and sports bar, and Nettles said he’s looking at spending \$300,000 to \$400,000 to bring the bowling alley back to life.

“The big thing is the price,” he said.

Nettles and Lehman want the restaurant and sports bar open by July.

“The plan is to get the restaurant and sports bar open as soon as you can,” Nettles said. “Then you’ve got a cash flow.”

Nettles was in California about two weeks ago visiting manufacturers of pinsetters and other equipment. He said he’ll likely replace the original maple-wood lanes with a synthetic surface.

“The new synthetic lanes don’t dent like these,” he said, standing on the old lanes that were wounded from impact and separating between the strips of wood. “They take a real beating.”

The current pinsetters, hulking machines hidden behind the lanes, will probably be sold for scrap.

Also on the chopping block are the pagoda-like red roof and the hamburger-bearing statues in the parking lot. “Know anybody who wants to buy them?”

Nettles asked jokingly. He’s thinking about redoing the outside façade with 14-foot parapet walls.

Several town permits will be needed

Mayor’s Assistant Fred Crosby said Nettles will likely need plumbing, building and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) permits to perform the remodeling. None of those had been secured as of earlier this week, but Nettles said that’s a step he’s going to take in the near future.

Nettles knew he and Lehman were buying a work-in-progress when he purchased the bowling alley. But the state of disrepair surprised him, such as the 3,000-plus gallons of sitting water beneath the dining room he said he had to pump. “It was a mess,” he said.

See Bowling on page 10

First indoor state champ



Thermopolis senior Leesa Jensen, pictured with indoor track and field head coach Brenna Dooley, became the school’s first indoor state champion Saturday in Gillette. Her winning effort of 41 feet, 11 inches shattered both the school and state records. Read about the feat on Sports, page 6. – Joe Sovia photo

Hot dogs at The Ritz



Cian Kames, Tyson Medina and Clint Kimes chow down on hot dogs during The Ritz's grand reopening Saturday. The event celebrated the theater's installation of a new digital projector, which will allow The Ritz, owned by Bob and Edie Rollings, to show new releases and offer viewers a crisper image. –Drew Foster photo

Broken valves disrupt Owl Creek water supply

by Drew Foster

February's freezing temperatures disrupted water service last month in the Owl Creek area.

Four air-vacuum valves, used to release air from waterlines, froze and broke along the Owl Creek waterline in February. They should be repaired by COP Wyoming this month as warranty work.

Customers lost water service for at least half a day, and some for longer, after one of the air-vac breaks, said Cody Schatz, the project engineer from Cody-based Engineering Associates. He said the other three breaks did not affect service. About 375,000 gallons of water was lost.

The air-vacs froze because suf-

ficient insulation was lacking in the four-foot diameter vaults that house the valves. Schatz said additional insulation would be installed. The leaks were caused after the air-vacs froze and water in and around them expanded. The ice initially acted as a seal, but water loss began after the freeze thawed. Schatz described the leak as "more of a gush" and said it was difficult to discern from the natural snowmelt.

"With all the runoff we're having, it's difficult to tell what's a leak and what's runoff," he said.

Schatz couldn't put a price tag on the repairs of the broken air-vacs. He said these types of breaks are not common, but said the warm and cold winter is prov-

ing harsh for waterlines.

"I can't say we're 100-percent done with leaks," he said.

The Owl Creek waterline went into service in October.

Cold and wet weather also was to blame, Schatz said, for a waterline fitting that dislodged north of the Sage Valley Subdivision. The fitting, a 90-degree bend that connected two 20-foot pipes, dislodged when the ground thawed and shifted. Schatz said residents north of the Sage Valley Subdivision lost water service for most of the afternoon of Feb. 19.

The fitting, which was buried about six feet, was repaired overnight. Schatz said it cost about \$4,000, including parts and labor.

Bowling

Still, it's a project he's looking forward to completing. Nettles worked at the bowling alley as a teenager, peeling potatoes in exchange for time on

the lanes.

He remembers how much he used to enjoy rolling a ball toward the pins, and he wants to make sure this generation of

Thermop youth gets to experience the game.

"There ain't much to do in Thermop," he said, "especially for the kids."

Bills

Compensation for wrongly convicted

Another bill in conference committee last Thursday was SF30 for compensation for persons exonerated based on DNA evidence. The bill prior to conference committee would

have allowed for compensation up to \$500,000 based on \$100 per day a person was wrongly incarcerated.

Geis said the House rewrote a lot of the bill, which is why the Senate did not concur with the changes.

Relay For Life

The annual Relay For Life will be held in Hot Springs State Park on June 27, featuring a Duck Dynasty theme.

Names are currently being gathered for the survivors' and caregivers' dinner held before the start of the relay to acknowledge the special people who have survived their fight with cancer and those who care for them.

Also, donations for Kim's Relay Team Garage Sale are being taken right now.

The garage sale will run two weekends in April – 18 and 19, and 25 and 26.

If you would like to add your name to the survivors' and caregivers' dinner or if you have garage sale items to donate, call Kim at 921-9987.

HSC High School
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	1	2	3	4

March 13 - 15
State Speech at Rock Springs

March 17 - 18
Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Mon., March 17
First Track Practice

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K-8 School Activities

Mon., March 17
TMS First Track Practice

Tues., March 18
RWE Family Night Bingo for Books, 5:30 p.m.

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SCHOOL MENU

What's For Lunch?

MONDAY

Chili Dogs, Lettuce Salad, Carrot Sticks, Apples

TUESDAY

Breakfast For Lunch, French Toast, Sausage Patties, Celery Sticks, Cantaloupe

WEDNESDAY

Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, Green Beans, Pineapple

THURSDAY

Chicken Nuggets, Potato Salad, Apples, Ranch Roasted Beans

FRIDAY

Chef's Salad, Roll, Corn, Mandarin Oranges

Variety of milk served with lunch. (Menu subject to changes.)

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March 17-21

MONDAY

New England Boiled Dinner, Potatoes/Carrots/Cabbage, Corn Muffins, Green Jell-O w/Pears, Sugar Cookies

TUESDAY

Cheeseburgers, Onion/Pickles/Tomato/Lettuce, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Peaches

WEDNESDAY

Baked Ham, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Cauliflower, Tossed Salad, Rice Crispy Treats

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Cinnamon Roll Sale Day!

NY Deli Style Hotdogs On A Bun, Coleslaw, Oranges

Menu subject to change without notice.

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Quips & Health

By Carol Bivens

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36 months:

Uses pronouns correctly. Uses some plurals and past tenses. Knows at least three prepositions. Knows chief body parts. Handles three word sentences easily. Has 900 words. 90% should be intelligible. Understands simple questions dealing with his environment. Should be able to give sex, name, age.

48 months:

Knows names of animals. Can use at least four prepositions. Names common objects in a book. Knows one or more colors. Often indulges in make believe. Understands concepts as longer, larger, when a contrast is presented. Readily follows simple commands.

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