

# Subdivision gets 'do pass' approval

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission met Wed., Sept. 3 at the Government Annex building for a public meeting on a request for a land use change and subdivision request.

Dee Hillberry is requesting the changes to establish a single residential lot, just over six acres in size that sits on the intersection of Black Mountain Road and East River Road.

The land use change would take the area from agricultural to residential. With other residences

in the immediate area, the request is not unusual, and the land has not been used for growing crops or as a grazing area as it is something of an "orphaned" piece of a larger parcel.

A suitable building site is available on the proposed subdivided lot, sitting on high ground amounting to a little less than an acre and a half. The remainder of the property is creek bottom and susceptible to flooding in wet years.

No building will be allowed in the creek bottom area as it includes sheer drop-offs unsuitable for

any kind of buildings, including out buildings.

A preliminary plat of the subdivision was approved by the commission along with the land use change, with few conditions.

The request now moves on to the county commissioners with a "do pass" recommendation. It will appear on the agenda for the Sept. 16 meeting of the commissioners at 5 p.m.

Area landowners will be allowed time to speak at that meeting if they have any issues with the proposed change.

## Drugs in HSC hit head on

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Community Prevention Coalition gathered stakeholders for a special meeting on drug and alcohol issues in the community in the County Annex on Sept. 5.

Divided into four groups that included law enforcement, attorneys, judges, the mayor and councilmen, public health and representatives from the school district, questions were asked with each group given time to provide their perspective.

**In regards to alcohol and drugs in Hot Springs County, what issues do you deal with on a daily basis?**

"We deal with users and addicts on a regular basis," said Judge Tom Harrington. "I see meth, pills, snorting, smoking, however they can ingest them. It's out there and no one is immune."

Harrington said there has been a resurgence in pills and he sees another wave of methamphetamine coming in.

Branden Vilos, an attorney with Messenger and Overfield, said statistically, there have been more arrests for drugs.

"I will say I saw an up-tic in the spring," Vilos said. "It's not necessarily an up-tic in use, but part of the reason is the police have been doing a heck of a job in catching them."

"Once they're addicted, it's a disease. That leads to repeated use, repeated arrests and they're getting more and more added to their sentences. It ruins their lives."

County Attorney Jerry Williams says meth is one of the worst problems we have in Hot Springs County.

"It takes a lot of work to break into their cliques," he said. "What we're catching are the users not the dealers. We know who several of the dealers are, but they go underground."

**What sentencing options are available?**

Along with jail time, supervised and unsupervised probation are options when it comes to being arrested for drugs or alcohol.

Many who attended the meeting would like to see the creation of a family treatment court, an intensive, supervised probation operated through the Wyoming Department of Health.

Harrington said he is a firm believer in family court and would back a move in that direction.

Vilos and Williams agreed pointing out that many times, during the waiting period between arrest and sentencing, offenders get in trouble again, adding to their charges.

"We need to keep them in jail so they do their detox in a controlled environment," Harrington said. "It makes them more amenable to treatment and we don't waste resources."

Todd McCaffery, probation officer supervisor, said there are currently 70 people on the probation list in Hot Springs County. Of those, 25 are felons. More than 30 are drug related and 15 are

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### Savoring the sweetness from grandpa's farm

James and Keldon Linton try a sample of Kent Hessenthaler's corn right off the stalk Tuesday evening. Hessenthaler also grows watermelon, pumpkins, cantaloupe, hay and more at his farm south of Thermopolis. -Lara Love photo

## Friends of the NRA banquet Saturday

by Lara Love

At least 18 firearms and a number of other items will be on the auction block during the seventh annual Hot Springs County Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Hot Springs County Fair Building.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for games and a social hour. A catered dinner will be served beginning at 7 p.m. This year's banquet features prime rib provided by Lil' Wrangler.

Members of NRA and non-members are welcome to attend.

Activities during the evening will include games, raffles, and live and silent auctions. According to chairwoman Cynthia Garbin, this is the 200th anniversary of the Star Spangled Banner and a number of items offered this year celebrate that event.

Raffles, games and the silent auction will include firearms, merchandise and framed décor. Some of the firearms will be a Daniel Defense M4 AR15, Ruger rifles, a Diamond Back DB15 and many more items from makers like Savage, Glock and Smith & Wesson. The

ferring to keep it under his hat.

Items to be auctioned during the live auction include a signed Charlie Daniels guitar, Fort McHenry Commemorative Flag set, engraved Henry Golden Boy .22 mag, AR15 lower and complete parts kit, Gunny R. Lee Ermey signed Eight Point Cover, art work, knife, NRA memorabilia and more. The live auction begins as the dinner is concluding.

When you buy a rose for a special lady at the banquet, you'll have a chance to win multiple prizes—including a Smith & Wesson Body Guard with laser grips in a 38 special.

Admission is \$40 per person or \$75 for a couple, which includes the dinner. Advance tickets are available at Canyon Sporting Goods, Storyteller, Thermopolis Hardware & Mercantile and White Horse Country Store or from Hot Springs County Friends of NRA members, including chairwoman Cynthia Garbin (921-8304) or treasurer Paul Garbin (921-8303).

Last year, a little over \$41,000 was raised through the live and silent auctions, raffles and games.

Donations through the live and silent auctions are tax deductible since Friends of NRA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

### Net proceeds benefit Wyoming youth

Net proceeds from the annual local banquet go into a pool of funds raised statewide. Fifty percent of the money goes to the NRA Foundation to support the national Eddie Eagle program, safety courses, etc. The other 50 percent stays in Wyoming and is available for grants.

Friends of NRA is the educational safety arm of the NRA and provides financial support for youth shooting sports. Paul Garbin said the local grants to 4-H shooting sports and the Thermopolis Gun Club has been well over \$30,000 since Hot Springs County Friends of NRA was reestablished seven years ago.

Most of the money goes to youth programs and the remainder to training and education, range development, women's programs, conservation, special grants and endowments. Last year the Friends in Wyoming distributed \$486,000 in grants to groups and programs in the state.

"We won't continue to have Second Amendment rights unless young people understand their freedoms," Paul Garbin said.

### FRIENDS OF



popular Wall of Guns will also be available.

According to Paul Garbin, a rare item will be available at the banquet that he hopes will create excitement throughout the crowd. Garbin is keeping quiet about the item, pre-

# Drugs

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DUI related.

## Are the schools dealing with drugs and alcohol on a daily basis?

Hot Springs County School District #1 Superintendent, Dustin Hunt, said he's not sure the schools are dealing with the issues on a daily basis, but they do see the trends and the district's role has changed a little bit in regards to drugs and alcohol.

"We're looking toward more parent education on the problem," Hunt said. "It's heartbreaking to hear about parent-child issues when it involves alcohol or drugs."

Hunt said if staff has suspicion that drugs or alcohol are involved they pass that information on to law enforcement.

"We support the kids and give parents as much knowledge as we can," he said. "We work pretty hard on the education aspects through our health and wellness curriculum."

High school counselor Courtney Thoren said she isn't dealing with the drugs and alcohol themselves on a daily basis, but their use is leading to suicidal thoughts from students on a daily basis.

In the middle school, drugs and alcohol are not necessarily being used on a regular basis by students, but use by parents or caregivers in the home environment is creating behavioral problems according to principal Breeze Daniels.

"We have issues with some students not having a lot of structure at home," Daniels said. "There are unsupervised kids running around town, they come to school and they haven't slept or the parents have no idea where they've spent the night."

"We have to re-socialize and work on those pieces."

Hunt says part of the problem is funding, a loss in the ability to hire an adequate number of counselors.

"We have just two counselors for 700 students," he said. "That's a heavy load."

The shortage of counselors has also created an issue where children no longer have an advocate from the district to appear in court with them should the need arise.

School psychologist David Duncan said they used to be able to go to all the hearings and court cases for students, but now they can't get away from the classes or the school to do it. Hunt says that is frustrating as it limits representation not only for the school but for the children as well.

**Do you feel there is a need for a drug court in Hot Springs County?**

McCaffery said he loves the idea of a drug court in Hot Springs County.

"We've talked about it for years," he said. "I would love to see it done. I know it treats a small percentage of people and some think it's too much to spend on a small number of people, but I would encourage it."

According to Harrington, drug court would be a family system based on treatment.

"These folks are not like us," he said. "We're normal, rationally thinking people. No one has taught them to be an adult yet. It's a complicated problem."

Harrington added that he is pleased to hear the schools are willing to teach students how to be civilized, something that is lacking at home for many young people.

The discussion between all the agencies is something Hunt is glad to be part of, adding he and the rest of the administration is thankful to get all the information they can from the other agencies, ideas on educating the parents and all the support that is available to the school district.

"The drug problem isn't just a cops problem or courts problem," said police chief Mike Chementi. "It's the entire community's problem. This affects the whole community, financially and economically."

"We need to get the word out to people, encourage them to help. I have six officers, but we cannot be everywhere. The people have to get involved with this problem."

*As a whole, the stakeholders who attended the meeting agree education is the key. To that end, the Independent Record will begin a series of stories over the next few weeks that will delve deeper into what happens from the time someone is arrested until they appear in court for sentencing.*



## Work continues on the dog park

The Ward brothers, James and Will watch their mother, Ginger, as she starts screws in a brace board. 4-H members Jessie Pennoyer, left, and Jeremy Gibbel, right, sink the screws in the support braces on one of the jump elements for the community dog park. The 4-H'ers have a few more elements to build before they can set the elements in the dog park which is located along the river on East Park Street.

— Donna Pennoyer photo

# National Suicide Prevention Week Is September 8-14

**In 2013, Wyoming had 128 suicides statewide.**

We encourage you to take action if someone you know may be suicidal. Use these **AID LIFE** tips and show that Hot Springs County cares.

## AID LIFE

**Ask** - Don't be afraid to ask, "Are you thinking of hurting or killing yourself?"

**Intervene Immediately** - Take action. Tell the person he or she is not all alone in dealing with the problem.

**Don't keep it a secret!**

**Locate help** - The suicidal person needs professional help. Try to contact a mental health professional, a doctor, the law enforcement center or another party qualified to intervene.

**Inform Someone** - Do not try to deal with the situation alone. If you cannot reach a qualified party, call a friend, a family member, a minister or anyone you can reach.

**Find someone to stay with the person.**

**Expedite** - Get help immediately. An at-risk person needs immediate attention.

## DON'T LEAVE THE PERSON ALONE!

## SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS

- Loss of or change in an important relationships.
- Change in sleep and/or appetite.
- Expresses a specific plan for killing self.
- Legal problems/financial problems.
- Minimal social support.
- Under investigation by law enforcement or other authorities.
- Alcohol/substance abuse.
- Expresses hopelessness, depression and guilt.
- Makes an attempt to harm self.
- Talks about death or wanting to die.



## EMERGENCY RESOURCES

911

**Police Department:** (307) 864-3114

**Sheriff's Office:** (307) 864-2622



## NON-EMERGENCY RESOURCES

**Hot Springs County Counseling Services:** (307) 864-3138

**National Crisis Lines:** (800) 273-TALK (800-273-8255)

(800) SUICIDE (800-784-2433)

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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**507 WASHAKIE** - Vicklund Car Clinic - Well established business includes furniture, fixtures, equipment, building & land. **Reduced to \$310,000.** Building & Land can be purchased separately for **\$190,000.**

**119 SOUTH 6TH** - 22,500 s.f. building with highway frontage, located in downtown Thermopolis. Corner location, parking lot, 5 city lots. **\$697,500.**

**11405 HWY 20, SHOSHONI, WY.** - 1.38 Acres m/l of Your Own Private Slice of Heaven. 4 bdrm., 2 ba., large kitchen, living room/dining room, wood burning fireplace, sun porch, bonus area. Located at the South end of Wind River Canyon. **\$225,000.**

**703 ARAPAHOE** - Beautiful Log Home, 4 bdrm., 1 1/4 ba., 2,184 s.f. of living space consisting of main level, loft & bsmt. 2,000 s.f. heated shop, 1-car garage att. to shop with mechanic pit. Corner lot. **Reduced to \$168,000.**

**1091 MUD CREEK** - 1,664 s.f., 3 bdrm., 1 1/4 ba., located on 120 acres m/l. Pretty views of the mountains! **\$280,000.**

**545 MAIDEN** - 2,272 s.f. living area, 4 bdrm., 2 ba., beautiful kitchen with breakfast nook, formal dining area, family room, large enclosed front porch, deck, 2-car insulated garage w/large heated shop, covered patio off garage, sprinkler system, lots of parking. **Reduced to \$250,000.**

**458 LINDSEY LANE** - 7 bdrm., 3 1/2 ba., 4,744 s.f. of living area. Large living room, large kitchen with lots of cabinets & countertops. Full finished bsmt. Family/Rec room in bsmt. w/wet bar. Sauna. 2-car att. garage. 2.37 m/l Acres. Kirby ditch irrigation. 2 shops. Property offers many amenities. **\$299,000.**

**845 SHOSHONI - LOG HOME ON THE RIVER** - 3 bdrm., 2 ba., detached garage/shop, carport, shed. Beautiful Property. 1 Acre m/l. **Reduced to \$269,500.**

**SEVEN VACANT LOTS ON MAIN ST., KIRBY, WY** - Lots 13-19, Block 13. **\$31,500.**

**40.016 ACRES M/L** - West of Thermopolis off of Jones Road. Electric available. Surveyed. **Reduced to \$55,000.**

**LOT 12, BLOCK 1, CEDAR RIDGE SUBDIVISION** - 13,438 s.f. vacant lot. Ideal for new construction. Beautiful Views. **\$37,000.**

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## Hot Springs County SENIOR CENTER LUNCH MENU September 15-19

### MONDAY

Breaded Fish, Roasted Red Potatoes, Cauliflower, Bread, Chocolate Mousse

### TUESDAY

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Garden Blend Vegetables, Lettuce Salad, Peach Crisp

### WEDNESDAY

Pork Roast, Mashed Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn Bread, Vegetable Salad, Applesauce

### THURSDAY

Turkey & Swiss Cros, Lettuce/Tomato/Onion/Pickles, Cottage Cheese, Fruit Cocktail, Peanut Butter Cookies

### FRIDAY

Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Pacific Blend Vegetables, Rolls, Peas, Gingerbread Cookies

Menu subject to change without notice.

864-2151

206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by

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