



Town approves WYOLink funding

by Zachary White

The Thermopolis Town Council approved spending an additional \$9,123.50 on an updated WYOLink dispatch console for the Law Enforcement Center.

WYOLink is a statewide digital network that connects police, fire, other agencies and emergency agencies.

The current system is being replaced because it is out of date compared to most of the rest of the state, but the new system should last the town 15 to 20 years according to information from Motorola, who maintains the equipment.

The board also approved the renewal of

the IT contract with Mike Mortimore for the towns computer network. That contract is \$300 a month. The council extended the contract until December 31, 2016.

Mortimore was not present at the meeting to vote.

Emergency management coordinator Bill Gordon also explained the river flow levels during the meeting.

"The river is running right now at 5,500 cubic feet per second," Gordon said. "This weekend we could see it go to 6,500."

The usual speed of the river is less than 1,000 cfs during the year, but Gordon said residents shouldn't have cause for concern.

"We have seen 7,000 and houses didn't go away," he said.

The council also approved Angie Guyon as the replacement for a seat that came open on the Hot Springs Travel and Tourism Board.

Guyon finished a term and was replaced by Carl Leyba before being appointed to the new open position.

The town also approved their 2015 to 2016 budget on second reading.

The proposed budget has to pass a third reading at the council meeting June 16 before it is accepted as the budget. The full text of the budget as it was during first reading is available online at thermopolis.com.

Airport road named after F. Manning

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners signed a proclamation on Tuesday afternoon naming the road into the new airport "Manning Road," after late commissioner Frank Manning.

Commission chair Brad Basse said one of the last things Manning did as a commissioner was review the submittals by the various engineering companies interested in constructing the new airport, recommending GDA Engineering as the contractor.

The board agreed naming the road after Manning was a good way to honor his work on the project.

Weather has wreaked havoc on the final days of Phase III and IV at the airport, but Dusty Spomer with GDA said there is just a few days of seeding and mulching left to do and those two phases will be complete.

A pre-construction meeting on Phase V will be held on June 11 at the jobsite.

Construction is underway on the terminal building for the airport with footings for the floor being finished up this week.

A Grand Opening for the facility will be scheduled some time at the end of October or the first part of November. A fly-in for the ceremony is being considered.

Mark Whitt and Tobi Johansen, representing the Recreation District, approached the commissioners for permission to seek their own lease with the state for the land that encompasses the armory building and the baseball fields.

Johansen said there had been conflicts with the fair board which currently holds the state lease. Those conflicts have been settled to the satisfaction of both sides, however, the rec district would like control over the lands and building that they use.

According to Whitt and Johansen, the rec district takes care of all the maintenance of the areas in question, yet they cannot do anything, including apply for grants because they do not have control or ownership of the area.

The Joint Powers Board appears to be the sticking point on some of the issues as well.

The commissioners suggested the entities sit down and discuss the issues and attempt to come to some type of resolution as far as the lands are concerned before moving forward with trying to get their own lease.

A liquor license has recently become available in Hot Springs County.

According to county clerk Nina Webber, the liquor license which was held by the Flying Dutchman south of town has come back into the county's possession.

Webber said there has been one party interested in the license and information was given to them, however, she has not heard back from them.

Interested parties may contact the clerk's office for more information and an application.



Rafael Chavira (left) and Jason Clouse represented Eagle RV Park during the 3-on-3 Tournament over the weekend. -Cindy Glasson photo

3-on-3 tourney numbers up slightly

by Cindy Glasson

The smell of tacos, burgers and kettle corn filled the air. The sun was shining and the music bounced off buildings downtown while the sound of shouts, cheers and basketballs bouncing off the pavement marked yet another successful 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Thermopolis.

After the rock and mud slides in the canyon

last week, there was some concern whether or not the canyon would re-open in time for teams from the south side of the state to get here.

Fortunately, crews got the road open and Chamber Director Meri Ann Rush said the final count was 186 teams, 10 more than participated in last year's event.

Thermopolis teams did well with one team, "Make it Rain", came out winners in the boys

17 and under bracket.

Team members included Tyler Cornwell and Eric Herold of Thermopolis and Chandler Ramos, Hoyt Nicholas and Mauricio Caballero of Worland.

Other winners came from Laramie, Kemmerer, Gillette, Casper, Ft. Washakie, Worland, Pinedale, Lander, Rawlins, Riverton and one team from Montana.

Main Street talks planters

by Zachary White

Howard Samelson and Deb Tudor were named board members to serve on the Main Street Thermopolis board during their meeting May 28.

Both were unanimously voted into the positions following recent board resignations.

The board also discussed planting flowers in pots downtown.

Currently, flowerpots located in the downtown district are almost all empty except for those being filled by local businesses.

The Main Street board is trying to coordinate filling those pots.

Chamber Director Meri Ann Rush said she has talked to Britton Van Heule about getting leftover flowers from the FFA Students, but she is still in the process of working that out.

Also, Shurie Scheel said she plans to reach out to Jeff Dittmer at the state park about possibly getting some of the parks leftover flowers.

The board also discussed moving the date of this year's Oktobrewfest.

Currently, the event is scheduled for September 26.

When the date was set, no one on the board re-

alized that date is the same chosen by the Great American Beer Festival in Denver, which some members pointed out is the largest brew fest in the United States.

Despite the overwhelming competition in Colorado, board members decided it would be unwise to move the event now.

"We're already doing advertising; we've already done advertising," Rush said.

Additionally three microbreweries have already signed up to do the event in downtown Thermopolis. Moving the date of the event could cause strategic problems when bringing in those businesses.

The Main Street group also celebrated winning an award from the Wyoming Main Street organization. According to members, the award was recognition for the group's hard work, as well as their ability to immediately hit the ground running as a group even before they were accepted as an affiliate community group.

The board also held a strategic planning session after the meeting where they discussed plans for what they want to achieve in the next year, the next five years and 10 to 20 years from now.

The next Main Street Thermopolis meeting will be June 25.

Hicks to serve 21 to 25 years for assault, abuse

by Zachary White

David Hicks, 45, was given 21 to 25 years in prison following his guilty plea to felony third-degree sexual assault without inflicting sexual intrusion or bodily injury, and felony abuse of a vulnerable adult.

County Attorney Jerry Williams asked the judge for the max sentence for both crimes; thirteen to 15 years for felony third-degree sexual assault and eight to 10 years for felony abuse of a vulnerable adult, to run consecutively.

"It's one of the most disgusting things I've ever seen on a tape," Williams said.

The main point of evidence during sentencing Monday was a video from a "nanny cam" the woman's husband had placed in her room at a care facility.

He placed the camera because of bruising he found on her body.

Williams shared the video and audio of the sexual assault with Judge Robert Skar.

Skar commended the husband for going to the police rather than taking matters into

his own hands.

The woman's son pointed out that although his mother had Alzheimer's disease, she was still perfectly aware of what was happening to her.

He said she has since been moved to another facility, but for six months following the assault she would tremble and cry whenever a male nurse so much as spoke in the vicinity of her room.

Hicks explained although what he did was wrong, he does hope the family can one day forgive him.

"I cannot change what was done," Hicks said. "I wish I could, but I cant."

Hicks also stated he was under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the assault.

"You're not who you are when you're on (methamphetamine)," Hicks said.

But the judge was not swayed by the comment, and he gave Hicks the max sentence.

"What you did here is sick, just sick," Skar said.

A previous felony first-degree sexual assault charge was dropped by the state as part of a plea agreement.



David Hicks

