

\$50,000 cash stolen from residence

by Durward D. Jones
Rosalee Dawn Johnson, 19, of Aurora, Colo., was arraigned earlier this month in Fifth Judicial District Court after allegedly steeling \$50,000 in cash from a Thermopolis residence.
According to a sworn affidavit, a Thermopolis resident reported that several of her medications and \$50,000 in cash was stolen from her residence in June.
Johnson and the victim both left the victim's house to eat at a local restaurant. The victim reported that Johnson left halfway through their meal.
It was days later when the victim realized the money was stolen and informed the police. The victim reported that Johnson was the only

person in her home since the last time she had seen the money.
Attempts were made to contact Johnson by law enforcement. It was discovered Johnson had left town. She later returned to Thermopolis in a new vehicle. Law enforcement officer's investigated the purchase of the new vehicle and allegedly were able to trace the victim's money back to Johnson through testimony of several witnesses.
According to the affidavit of probable cause, authorities allege Johnson admitted to entering the victim's home through a doggie door. Johnson allegedly found the victim's unlocked safe and took the \$50,000. The affidavit also alleges Johnson stole prescription medication from the victim.
Johnson allegedly purchased a 2011 Chevro-

let Camaro once she returned to Colorado. The affidavit states Johnson opened an account with Wells Fargo Bank by depositing \$25,000 cash. Johnson then obtained a cashier's check in the amount of \$21,500 payable to Autonation.
Johnson is charged with one count of theft, a felony, punishable by 10 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000. Johnson is also charged with two counts of wrongful receiving, concealing or disposing of property, both also punishable by 10 years in prison and a fine of \$10,000.
Johnson is being held in the Hot Spring County Detention Center. District Court Judge Robert Skar set Johnson's bond at \$100,000 cash. A plea hearing is scheduled for January 25, 2016. A trial date has been set for February 16.



photo by Chandler Smith

Running with zombies

Participants in the Zombie Color Run throw powdered chalk in the air to mark the start of the mile-long race through Hot Springs State Park Saturday.

Over \$17,000 raised toward purchase of fetal heart monitor for HSCMH

by Chandler Smith
The Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital has ordered a new fetal heart monitor, a critical piece of equipment to help save the lives of babies in Hot Springs County.
The process of acquiring a new fetal heart monitor started about a year ago in Oct. 2014, when the Hospital Foundation Board challenged the Thermopolis community to raise half of the \$30,000 price tag. A year later, over \$17,000 had been raised, exceeding the \$15,000 goal.
Over the last year, there have been

a number of events organized in support of the fundraising effort. From the first annual Oktoberfest in 2014 to a mystery theater dinner party at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center, local businesses and individuals have stepped up to raise \$17,744.
“Beyond my involvement with the Hospital Foundation Board, I’m excited to help out the hospital,” said Phil Scheel when asked about his role in the project. “I don’t think it’s a big secret that our community hospital is an important part of what makes Thermopo-

lis Thermopolis,” he continued.
The monitor has been ordered and was shipped on Oct. 22. The hospital, which is hosting the next Chamber Meet and Greet, will present the monitor to the public during a special meeting entitled “Celebrating the future, and thanking Thermopolis”.
“We’re going to have a little snapshot of some of the things that we did this last year, community events mostly, and then have the new fetal heart monitor at the Meet and Greet so people can see that,” Scheel said of

the Nov. 19 event.
In Scheel’s words, it is important to have the monitor at the event so the community “can come and see what the community has done to help the hospital.”
“It’s just about people with a common goal getting together and making a difference,” he concluded.
Make sure to stop by the hospital on Nov. 19 during the Chamber Meet and Greet at 5:30 p.m. to see the new monitor and celebrate the end of a year of hard work.

Appreciation dinner Sunday

by Chandler Smith
An appreciation dinner for police officers, firemen and first responders will be held Sunday, Nov. 1 at 5 p.m. at the VFW on Broadway Street. Organizers ask that first responders, police, sheriffs deputies, firemen and their spouses arrive for dinner.
Community members are invited to join the festivities at 6 p.m. and are encouraged to reach out to Jessica Slagle at 921-9765 with stories of how brave first responders, police officers, or firemen have impacted their lives.
“With everything going on in our country, we needed to remember to thank first responders,” Stefanie Gilbert said, noting that first responders have a job that is often both thankless and dangerous.
Gilbert is collecting cash donations at Bank of Thermopolis to pay for meat and some of the more expensive items needed for the picnic, and encourages those who wish to give to the event to stop by.

Main Street Thermopolis making plans for the future

by Chandler Smith
A number of exciting moves toward the future were made during a busy Main Street Thermopolis meeting on Oct. 22.
The meeting opened with discussion about the Main Street Thermopolis ornaments, which depict the Klink Building and are the first of the group’s yearly ornament series, which will feature local historical treasures. A total of 75 ornaments were ordered. About 35 of them have sold so far, and Main Street members will approach local businesses in the hopes that they will purchase and sell the remainder of the ornaments. The ornaments will also be sold at the upcoming Thermopolis Middle School craft fair, the Christmas Tree Festival on Dec. 3, and the Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 ArtStrolls.
The group discussed their Small Business Saturday campaign, for which 26

local businesses have already signed up. These businesses include everything from auto parts stores, hardware stores, all downtown storefronts and general merchandise stores. Stores will be giving out puzzle pieces with the name of the store from which the piece originated. Once ten puzzle pieces are collected, they can be turned in to the Chamber office, which will enter the recipient into a raffle. The grand prize of the raffle is \$100 in Chamber Bucks, and second place will receive the puzzle itself, which will be designed by Lights On Afterschool program members. Small Business Saturday will be held on Saturday, Nov. 28. The raffle will take place during the annual tree lighting ceremony which will take place that Saturday.
Following discussion about the campaign was a recap of members’ trips to

Laramie and Rawlins to see what other communities taking part in the Main Street program have accomplished. The Rawlins downtown recently won a national award for the rehabilitation that has taken place under the Main Street program, which provided Thermopolis members a unique experience to ask local government and Rawlins community members about steps taken to turn Rawlins into a nationally recognized destination. Members who took the trip gave their impressions of Rawlins and Laramie and suggested ways the Thermopolis group could focus their energy in order to see similar results here in Hot Springs County.
The group, which is less than a year old, has already taken great strides toward their goal. Main Street Thermopolis has recently acquired an office space,

located in the Central Bank and Trust and a post office box. Members voted Thursday to use a donated cell phone as the office phone, which will allow volunteers to receive calls whether in the office or not. Office hours are Thursdays from 9-12 and 1-5.
Following the meeting, Linda Klinck, manager of Wyoming Main Street, led the group to help prioritize Main Street Thermopolis’s future tasks. Klinck helped the group decide which of the previously organized committees within Main Street Thermopolis should undertake each task as well as devising an appropriate timeline for each of the tasks. Twenty-one tasks were listed by the group. Among the tasks are Oktoberfest, encouraging downtown living, a bike share program, the group’s yearly ornaments and an ordinance enforcement officer.