



HSCGLF receives Gov. Arts Award

Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation has been awarded a prestigious Wyoming Governor's Arts Award for bringing the arts to Thermopolis. In his acknowledgement letter, Governor Matt Mead commented, "You make it look easy to bring the arts to a rural location -- you have done it and done it well for a long time."

The Foundation was nominated for the Award by Meri Ann Rush, executive director for Thermopolis Chamber of Commerce. "I nominated the Foundation for the Award not only because of their dedication to the arts in Thermopolis but because of their dedication to the youth of Hot Springs County," Rush explained.

Other recipients include Cedric Reverand and Paul Taylor of Laramie, Chris Navarro and Brian Scott Gamroth of Casper and Sarah Rogers of Sundance. They will be honored at the annual Governor's Arts Awards Gala in Cheyenne, February 26, 2016.

"Our goal has always been to listen to people in the community, hear what they would like to do and if it sounds like a good idea, figure out a way to make it happen," said Sue Blakey, who is Foundation director.

One of the first outreach programs was the music jams, which have been going now for over 10 years. "We wanted a regular time to get together and play informally," said Ed Capen,

who still manages the jams. "We started with bluegrass, but we do a lot of different acoustic music. Now members of the jam often play at community activities, like the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings."

The jams were just the beginning. "We wanted to bring in artists and performers, but there was no way to do so without a partner," said Jacky Wright, owner of Broadway Bygones, and the Foundation's education director. She contacted the school administration to forge the Arts in Education partnership. Profits from a House Concert subscription series Wright

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photo by Durward D. Jones

Ice decorates the terraces

A crisp winter morning makes for beautiful scenery throughout Hot Springs State Park. The long awaited 20-year master plan for the park should be released in early 2016.

Hot Springs County 2015 Year in Review

JANUARY
January 1, 2015: Thermopolis received a staggering 18 inches of snow on top of an already eight inch base clogging streets and driveways, creating a mess of stuck vehicles and several fender benders as folks tried to get around.
Wyoming Department of Transportation, Hot Spring County and Town of Thermopolis road crews worked throughout Christmas Day struggling to even keep up with the snow.
January 8, 2015: After being sworn in as Mayor, Mike Mortimore used his power of appointment to shape his administration. Mortimore appointed Steve Shay to be Chief of Police and Ron Jurovich to be municipal court judge.
Shay replaced Mike Chimenti, who Mortimore said resigned his position Dec. 15 but has been working as acting chief since.
Jurovich replaced the current municipal court judge Jill Logan.
January 15, 2015: The Hot Springs State Park Master Plan Steering Committee met for the first time to discuss the purpose of a master plan for the state park, and to discuss issues and opportunities that the park has.
The purpose of the meeting was to start talking about what the fu-

ture for the state park should be.
Approximately 20 local business owners and residents make up the committee.
The master plan for the state park should take around 15 months to complete. Having started work in September 2014, the master plan should be completed by the end of 2015.
January 22, 2015: Hot Springs County joined counties across the state by giving out its first same-sex marriage license to a couple from Natrona County. Maureen Stanton and Denise Dozan applied for their marriage license on their way to visit family.
Following a federal court ruling where the court found that Wyoming's ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional, the state started issuing licenses.
Wyoming is one of 37 states that currently recognize same-sex marriages.
January 29, 2015: Christopher James Erk took his time in coming, but he managed to get the plethora of gifts awarded to the First Baby of 2015 born at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.
Christopher is the son of Becky Mills and Jay Erk. He is Becky's first child.
He was born on January 20 at

2:14 a.m., weighing in at 7 lbs. 10 oz. and 20½ inches long.
FEBRUARY
February 5, 2015: The Hot Springs County Commissioners accepted the resignation of Hot Springs County Fire Warden, Jay DuVall during their meeting.
According to his resignation letter, his job and other circumstances do not allow him to dedicate the time to the position that it deserves.
County attorney and volunteer fireman Jerry Williams said the fire department is aware of the resignation and they are in the process of looking through their ranks to find a replacement they can recommend to the commissioners for appointment.
February 12, 2015: During the Town Council meeting, council members extended the term length of appointed personnel from two to four years.
Mayor Mike Mortimore suggested the change, saying that a two year term is sometimes not long enough to get things accomplished.
The Mayor can still remove appointed personnel from their post at any point.
February 19, 2015: A single vehicle rollover on Feb. 14 resulted in the death of 60-year-old Douglas Hugh Whitt of Kirby.

Whitt's Ford Ranger pickup was headed northbound on US 20 when his truck partially left the roadway on the east side of the highway.
According to the Wyoming Highway Patrol after this, Whitt overcorrected the Ford pickup, sending the vehicle into a counterclockwise spin.
The spin sent him west, across both lanes of traffic on highway 20 North.
The truck continued west as it spun, finally tipping and rolling over twice before coming to a stop at the bottom of a steep embankment.
February 26, 2015: Students sparred with the spelling of words at the annual TMS Spelling Bee.
Three students made it to the final rounds; however, two of those children would not give ground and battled for supremacy.
In the end sixth grader Owen Douglas took home the first place prize, with fifth grader Hayden Mayne coming in a close second after going toe-to-toe with the older

Douglas for four rounds. Seventh grader Darian Macie finished in third place.
MARCH
March 5, 2015: Ryan Bradshaw became the Bobcats' first three-time state wrestling champion as he won a 7-0 decision over

the same opponent he defeated last year. The final score was not indicative of Bradshaw's total domination.
He took down his Sundance opponent, Hunter Angel, in all three periods adding an escape in the second period. Angel was courageous in defeat, but was simply no match for the Bobcat. After hugging his coaches, Bradshaw returned to the mat and celebrated his victory with a back flip. Perhaps that back flip was a celebration of a career that places him at the top of the list of most honored Thermopolis athletes ever.
March 12, 2015: The Thermopolis Bobcat indoor track team spent two days in Gillette for the State Indoor Track and Field meet last weekend, meeting or setting some of their own personal records.



Ryan Bradshaw works to control his opponent as he became the first three time state wrestling champion from Thermopolis.

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