



Water line rehab projects moves forward

by Mark Dykes

Over the next couple years, people in Thermopolis can expect to see some heavy work with the water lines during a rehabilitation project.

Town Engineer Anthony Barnett explained the lines included in the project are all transmission lines, and those are the lines the Wyoming Water Development Commission will provide funding for. "They won't fund services or distribution lines."

At the Thermopolis Town Council Dec. 20 meeting, Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby noted he and Barnett travelled to Cheyenne to meet with the Wyoming Water Development

Commission. He pointed out the commission had, at that time, only approved Phase 1 of the water line project. "We've been kind of persistent, wanting them to fund Phase 2 also," Crosby said.

Phase 1 goes from the water treatment plant along south Fifth and Seventh streets; Phase 2 involves Hot Springs State Park and Phase 3 involves Valley View Drive from the Cedar Ridge pump station.

Crosby said he and Barnett met with a couple representatives, and the commission later recommended they go into reserves for an additional \$345,000 for the project, to fund Phases 2 and 3. The trip, Crosby said, was well

worth it and they might not have received the funding if they weren't so persistent.

Barnett said the current State Park lines were installed in 1962, and those on 5th and 7th are that age or older, based on the type of material used. He further added much of the lines are asbestos cement and cast iron that the Town has had to dig up and fix leaks on. Through the rehabilitation project, the lines would be replaced with PVC pipe.

There was a river bore by the lagoons this year, Barnett said, and this rehab project would provide for another. "Right now," he

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photo by Lara Love

The sledding must go on

A young sledder enjoyed himself Monday on Warren Hill. Even though the snow was deep and an occasional pull was necessary, he was all smiles.

School board names new officers

by Cindy Glasson

New officers were chosen for the Hot Springs County School District Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting just before Christmas.

The board president for the coming year is Nichole Weyer, who will be backed up by new vice-chairman, Jennifer Axtell.

Tobi Johansen will be clerk for the year, and rounding out the officers is Joe Martinez, treasurer.

The board determined they would keep their meeting times the same, the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the administration building.

Elisa Daniels spoke to the board about the LightsOn program in the district.

LightsOn continues to be a safe, positive and effective learning environment for the students from elementary school through high school, offering a wide variety of enhanced learning activities that support their classroom work.

Daniels said they are

looking into having a fire science class this summer for high school students as well as babysitting and childcare classes for both the middle school and high school.

She indicated they have eliminated the every Friday fieldtrips, but they still intend to take trips periodically.

One of the big things they've done this year is move all of the Ralph Winters Elementary students over to the vocational building for LightsOn. In the past, some were doing their thing at the elementary school while others were at the vocational building. Having everyone under one roof has made things run much more smoothly and efficiently.

Middle School principal, Breez Daniels, has been nominated for Principal of the Year by the district.

A video was created, which was sent in with her nomination, which included staff and student insights into the work Daniels has done as principal. Winners will be announced after the first of the year.

Hospital district elects officers

by Mark Dykes

During the Dec. 20 meeting of the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, there was some discussion regarding the transformation of the hospital and the hospital district. In the general election, the majority of residents voted to pass an initiative to form the district.

The District Board had a short meeting Dec. 14 to elect officers and appoint members to committee roles. Chairman Dr. Bill Williams, Vice Chair Heath Overfield, Secretary/Treasurer Dan Herdt, Dave Koerwitz and Breez Daniels were appointed to the finance committee and Heath Overfield and Dan Herdt were appointed to the Quality Committee.

Another initiative passed in the general election provides for a special one percent

tax that would be used to collect funding for a multimillion expansion for the hospital.

The Request For Proposal for financial consultation/management for the building project was sent out Dec. 7 with interested parties needing to have their applications in by Jan. 5. The top two or three will be invited to present to the Board at a special meeting Feb. 1 at 12 p.m.

A formal retreat is not scheduled at this time. The board will have many different meetings over the next few months to discuss the building project and transition.

In board action, the Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) agreement through Health-Tech was approved, allowing reduced prices for supplies and equipment. A contract with Stericycle was also approved, for disposal of

medical waste.

Also during the meeting, it was reported the Quality and Patient Care Service Committees have restructured allowing more streamlined reporting, accountability and Medical Staff committee work. Kits for rapid treatment of emergency conditions are being revised and created such as a ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) kit, for those who come in experiencing a likely heart attack, and Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) Kit with medicines to help relax those who need to be intubated quickly.

County Commissioner Brad Basse was shown appreciation for his years as the Board liaison. The commissioners will reorganize in January and will designate a liaison for the board at that time.

Council extends tech support contract

by Mark Dykes

At the Town Council meeting Dec. 20, a two-year extension of the computer maintenance agreement/contract was approved. The document provides for computer service and labor from Mike Mortimore, dba CompuDoc, with the Town of Thermopolis, represented by the Thermopolis Town Council. Mortimore was absent from the meeting.

CompuDoc is the primary provider of the contract, with advanced support provided by In-

novative Solutions. The contract states Mortimore is a Microsoft Certified Professional with 24 years experience and knowledge of multiple PC operating systems. He also has a bachelor's in telecommunications and extensive experience in a variety of computer hardware and software.

As for services, the agreement states Mortimore will provide regular maintenance, repairs and services, emergency response to troubleshoot problems, technical support, initial update/

upgrade consultation and email addresses as needed. The contract amount is \$3,600 per year, and the agreement can be cancelled with 60 days notice from either CompuDoc or Thermopolis Town Council.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby noted the contract is \$300 per month, split equally between the Enterprise and General funds.

Technical support, under the contract, includes items such as administrative support for operating systems and assistance with hardware and/or software

purchases, where maintenance includes machine inspections, disk management, system monitoring and reporting of any problems, upgrade needs or technological needs for the Council Packet when requested.

Repairs encompass both emergency and non-emergency situations, though emergency repairs and/or troubleshooting that effects production time will be given top priority. Any major repairs or configurations will be scheduled after hours, such as evenings or during weekends.