

Council approves resolution for loan

by Mark Dykes

During the Town Council meeting Tuesday evening, Resolution No. 531 was approved, authorizing submission of a pre-application from to the State Loan and Investment Board for a loan through the State Revolving Fund on behalf of the governing body for the Town of Thermopolis. The application is for \$1.3 million, for the pipeline replacement project.

Prior to approval of the resolution, a public meeting was held with no comment.

Also during the meeting, William Malloy and Dusty Lewis took the oath of office, administered by Town Attorney Mike Messenger. During the general election, the two were voted to serve four-year terms with the council.

Malloy will attend the Wyoming Association of Municipalities winter workshop, Jan. 11-13 in Cheyenne. The workshop covers topics including advocating for the community, government operations, budget cutback strategies, finding grants, social media and liquor laws.

Pay estimates three and four were approved for the million gallon tank painting project. The third payment is for \$8,796.60 and the fourth is for \$22,571.77. Though the fourth and final payment will not be released until after a statutory 41-day advertising period, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett noted approving the payment now helps get the paperwork in order.

A reconciliation order for the project was also approved, which Barnett explained accounts for

some of the time delay when the first contractor did not come through, and about \$7,000 in heating expense because the project was pushed back. Even with the reconciliation order, the project came in well under the \$300,000 budget at \$225,717.65.

Outside of the action agenda, council had discussion regarding snow removal in the town limits. Public Works Director Ernie Slagle received appreciation from council members for the work crews have done clearing the streets.

Concern was expressed as to whether all the streets or only the main highways should be plowed regularly—especially when it takes crew

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courtesy photo by Stephanie Amick

Picturesque park

Stephanie Amick captured this beautiful shot in Hot Springs State Park on Friday when the high temperature in Thermopolis was recorded as 50 degrees. A bitter cold front moved in Monday and will last throughout the week with slightly warmer temperatures arriving for the weekend.

2016

Hot Springs County year in review

The Thermopolis Independent Record publishes each week of the year to bring local news and information to our readers.

Here is a look back of some of the memorable stories from 2016.

January

January 7: Joe and Barbara Campbell, on behalf of themselves and as representatives of a class of similarly situated persons, filed a class action lawsuit against Chris Davidson, Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc. in Park County District Court.

The suit stems from Campbell's belief that 800 members of the Tri-County Telephone (TCT) co-op were victims of fraud. Campbells live in the Hamilton Dome TCT prefix in Hot Springs County.

The claim alleges the fraud was perpetrated by Chris Davidson the CEO of TCT and several former board members, Clifford Alexander, J.O. Sutherland, Daniel Greet and John K. Johnson. It is alleged that these members had cooperated with Neil Schlenker a resident of Park County.

January 14: The Thermopolis Police Department retired one of its most respected

officers at midnight on Dec. 31. Maris, unlike other TPD members, was unique for her sense of smell and sight. She also had four legs.

to help the department acquire and train a dog. "It's a beneficial tool," Wilson said. One that would use its unique sense abilities to enforce laws.



In January, Wind River Canyon was closed on and off while a wrecked semi, trailer and pup was retrieved from the bank of the river.

The departments only canine unit spent just over four years on the force serving and protecting Hot Springs County residents with her nose, ears and wagging tail.

Maris's arrival to Thermopolis began five years ago when Mandy Wilson, a patrol officer at that time, sought a program

side his semi, with the trailer and pup still attached, clinging to the bank of the river in Wind River Canyon. Cannon was hauling bulk sugar, as he rounded a corner known as Big Windy inside the canyon. Cannon's trail-

January 21: Crews from Specialty Towing worked to recover a wrecked semi from Wind river Canyon. Owner Dennis Leonhardt hoped to have the canyon shut down during the recovery due to the lengthy time it would take. State officials recommended that they close one lane of traffic if possible or only keep the traffic closed off an hour at a time.

John Cannon, 43, of Clearfield, Utah, was driving a semi-truck on U.S. 20/Wyoming 789. The semi began to slid on the slick roadway and Cannon found himself in-

Update on water damage at counseling center

by Cindy Glasson

After swearing in new county commissioner Phil Scheel on Tuesday morning, the commissioners got right down to work, starting out the new year.

John Lumley was elected to continue as commission chairman, backed up by Tom Ryan as vice chairman.

As part of organizing for the year, the commissioners selected the same dates for their 2017 meetings, the first and third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July, when the meeting will be held on Wednesday the fifth due to the 4th of July holiday falling on a Tuesday.

The commissioners also set the calendar for 2017, the days the county offices will be closed for holidays.

In February, they will close for President's Day on Monday the 20. Offices will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 29 and July 3-4, Monday and Tuesday, for 4th of July.

For Labor Day, the county will be closed Monday, Sept. 4; Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 9 and Veteran's Day, Friday, Nov. 10.

For Thanksgiving, the offices will be closed the 23rd and 24th, and will be closed Christmas on Monday, Dec. 25.

The commissioners also act as liaison between many groups and organizations in the county, attending the various meetings throughout each month. Those duties are divided between the three commissioners.

Chairman Lumley will be the liaison for Town Properties, the Senior Center, Town of Thermopolis, BLM Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision, Tribal Liaison with the Wind River Indian Reservation, Shoshone Forest Proposal and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association Board of Directors.

Vice chair Ryan will cover Town Properties, Town of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County Library, Road and Bridge, BLM Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan Revision, Tribal Liaison with the Wind River Indian Reservation, Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital, Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center and the Hot Springs County Airport.

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