



# Shoop resigns as high school principal

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County School District's Board of Directors met last Wednesday evening and accepted the resignation of high school principal, Scott Shoop.

"I regretfully inform you that I have decided to resign as Principal at Hot Springs County High School, effective June 30, 2017," Shoop said in an email to students and staff. "I have accepted a job in Laramie for 2017-2018. This decision was extremely difficult, because I believe we are building something special here. I hope that I have demonstrated my core value of "family coming first," by my actions and support the last three years, and you will understand and support this decision."

Superintendent Dustin Hunt said, "I want to thank Mr. Shoop for his work with the students and staff of HSCSD#1, and I with him the very best in his new adventure. He brought many things to the district and I appreciate all the work he has done."

Shoop went on to say, "I am proud of your accomplishments and the culture we have established here. I am also pleased with the parent and community support as I was able to implement my vision and get positive results. Thank you for this opportunity; it was truly a privilege to serve you."

Following the acceptance of his resignation, the board appointed middle school principal Breez Daniels, as the grade 5-12 principal.

Caitlin Deromedi was also named as the 5-12 Dean of Students.

Both contracts were issued for two years.

"I am excited to welcome Mrs. Deromedi into her role where her focus will primarily be students, growth mindset and discipline," Hunt said. "She is nearing completion of her administrative degree and will have a great mentorship with Mrs. Daniels."

"I am also excited for Mrs. Daniels to work with our great high school staff, where we have excellent veterans, who will be joined by some great incoming staff."

# Schwan sentenced to six to eight years

by Mark Dykes

After more than two hours of testimony, victim impact statements and attorney arguments Monday afternoon, Matthew Schwan was sentenced to six to eight years at the Wyoming State Penitentiary and fined \$5,000 on a charge of aggravated vehicular homicide.

Following a three-day trial, on March 15, 2017 Schwan was found guilty of the charge, which stems from a May 14, 2016 incident during which Reilly Schwan was struck by a vehicle driven by Matthew following a night of drinking with others and an argument between them. Reilly was hospitalized, but taken off life support June 4, 2016.

Prior to sentencing, Schwan spoke to he and Reilly's meeting, their relationship and the three children that comprised their family. He said the pastor of their wedding had never seen them so happy.

On May 14, 2016, Schwan said their lives changed when Reilly wound up pinned under the vehicle, and it was a true nightmare for him. He further added that he was wondering if it was all real and he'd lost his best friend and soul mate. He offered apologies to Reilly, as she would not be able to see her kids grow up, to the kids because they wouldn't have their mother, and to Reilly's family and all those close to her.

He asked the court for mercy, and for a sentence that would allow for healing and to care for his children. Likewise, Schwan's attorney Richard Hopkinson had requested a term of supervised probation. Schwan stated there are others who could care for the children, but they've said nothing compares to their dad. He said he provides them with food, shelter, clothing and, most importantly, love.

However, Judge Robert E. Skar noted Schwan's four convictions of driving under the influence, and said he should've taken those to heart and sought help. Instead, he again

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

## Zombies invade the park

Jonathan Freeman chases Zane Stam in a game of "HvZ", or "humans vs. zombies", a last man standing game put on by Nick and Jessica Flores who invited kids of all ages to join them at Candy Jack Park on Saturday for a Nerf war event consisting of several fun games.

# Council approves annual budget

by Mark Dykes

Tuesday evening, the Thermopolis Town Council approved the budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Individual funds within the General Fund are: \$105,250 for Legislative/Executive, \$184,500 for Clerk/Treasurer, \$14,400 for Judge, \$58,200 for Law, \$80,900 for Town Hall, \$682,550 for Police, \$298,925 for Dispatch Department, \$65,500 for Corrections, \$32,750 for Codes Administration, \$89,800 for Fire Department, \$642,000 for One Percent Sales Tax Projects, \$610,150 for Streets and Alleys, \$37,950 for Parks, \$28,925 for Animal Control, \$208, 700 for Other General Accounts.

In other action, the board approved the waiver of interest fees with regard to a lien for sidewalks, on the vacant property at 518 Arapahoe. Amanda Moeller noted a recent meeting between herself, Meri Ann Rush, Tracy Van Heule, Fred Crosby, Julie Mortimore and Kendi Heinze with regard to the property, as there is an interested buyer.

Moeller made an official request to the council to waive the interest and fees, if not all, of the lien on the property. There are an additional four liens on the property, including one from Hot Springs County, though discussion regarding possibly waiving those liens, or the fees and interest associated with them, is forthcoming.

The council's motion to waive the sidewalk lien interest and fees is pending the other lien holders taking similar action. Moeller noted it would still be a couple years before the interested party could acquire the property and do anything with it.

A road closure was approved for the Gift of the Waters Pageant Parade on Saturday, Aug. 5. The parade will line up at Senior Avenue, travel west on Arapahoe until

Fifth, go south to the flag pole, then west on Broadway until turning around at Sixth and heading back east.

Also during the meeting, council approved the third and final reading for an ordinance which repeals town code sections 3-105 and 3-106 and makes operating hours and days uniform for all liquor licenses.

Amended code section 3-106(a) reads any licensees may open a dispensing room no earlier than 6 a.m. and close the room and cease sale of alcoholic beverages no later than 2 a.m. the next day. Licensees shall clear the dispensing room and permitted premises of all persons other than employees no later than 2:30 a.m.

The new ordinance will go into effect on July 1.

Robert Spain was approved to fill the Town of Thermopolis position on the Travel and Tourism Board. The position is a tourism position and must be held by someone representative of the tourism industry. Another, "at large," position on the board is still vacant.

A right-of-way agreement was approved for Lisa Johnson, to allow for a four-foot tall chain link fence on her property.

Also during the meeting, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett noted the second part of the State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan application has been turned in. The money will go to the water line replacement project.

Director of Public Works Ernie Slagle reported he purchased and picked up a 2005 Sterling dump truck with about 90,000 miles. The truck cost about \$33,000, though Slagle said he searched all over the country for a dump truck, and found some that had three times the mileage and cost over \$80,000. Mayor Mike Mortimore commended Slagle on his work in finding the truck.

# TCT files lawsuit against Campbells

by Mark Dykes

In response to an ongoing lawsuit against members of the Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc. (TCT), the corporation filed a complaint in U.S. Cheyenne District Court on May 26 against Joe Campbell and Barbara Campbell, as well as John and Jane Does 1-10.

The complaint filed by TCT alleges Joe, who was a member of the board of directors of TCT from Feb. 24, 2003 until the board was dissolved on Jan. 1, 2015, maintained control of a company-issued laptop he was required to return. His keeping the laptop means he had access to TCT's trade secrets, including those spanning his entire time as a board member. TCT claims Joe was the single board member opposed to the sale of the company in late 2014.

The company has take measures to keep such information secret by using special employee and data protocols, including the requirement each terminated board member return his or her laptop for removal of trade secrets.

The complaint from TCT further alleges Joe had access to the secrets, and disclosed and used them without TCT's consent, and at the time of that disclosure and use Barbara and the John and Jane Does knew or had reason to know that knowledge

of the secrets was derived from someone who owed a duty to maintain secrecy. Also alleged is the pecuniary loss to TCT and possible substantial pecuniary gain by the Campbells.

Further allegations contained in the complaint are that the Campbells and John and Jane Does cause damaged to TCT's contract with a bank, caused irreparable damage with regard to a planned data center in Cody, interfered with customer agreements, violated the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and breached non-disclosure agreement and corporate policies.

Joe and Barbara filed a lawsuit on Dec. 28, 2015. The Campbells represented themselves and similar persons. That suit stems from the Campbells' belief that more than 800 members of the Tri-County Telephone (TCT) co-op were victims of fraud.

Among the defendants were TCT CEO Chris Davidson, CFO Steve Harper, and former board members Dalin Winters, Clifford Alexander, J.O. Sutherland, Daniel Greet and John K. Johnson, along with Neil Schlenker, who was the purchaser of the member-owned cooperative TCT, and attorney Michael Rosenthal.

According to the suit, Davidson and several former board

members allegedly robbed owners in the co-op of the value of their ownership interests after the co-op was sold.

The complaint alleges, among other violations: voting irregularities and violation of bylaws, fraud and breach of fiduciary duty by all defendants; fraud and misrepresentation by Davidson, Harper, Winter, Alexander, Greet, Johnson and Rosenthal; and civil conspiracy to defraud and deceive by Davidson, Winters, Schlenker, Big Horn Telecom, BHT Holdings, BHT Investmerns, BHT Merger, Alexander, Sutherland, Greet, Harper Johnson and Rosenthal.

Though the members of the TCT co-op whose interests were sold voted on the transaction — 79 percent in favor, with five percent opposed and the remaining 16 percent not voting — there is alleged misrepresentation, and concern co-op members were entitled to more than capital credits when the sale happened and should have had more information than provided.

No specific damages were set forth in the suit, though it alleges TCT was sold for \$51 million, subtracting \$12 million to settle debts and \$10 for possible liabilities. It further alleges TCT held assets of over \$90 million.