



# Motion filed to dismiss suit against Campbells

by Mark Dykes  
In a recent development in an ongoing case between Joe and Barbara Campbell and the Tri County Telephone Association (TCT), a motion was filed on June 20 by the Campbells, for a disqualification of counsel, and for dismissal of a federal lawsuit against the Campbells.  
The case between the two parties began over 18 months ago, with a lawsuit filed against TCT by the Campbells, representing themselves and similar persons. The suit was filed based on their belief that more than 800 members of the TCT co-operative were robbed by TCT CEO Chris Davidson, CFO

Steve Harper, former board members Dalin Winters, Clifford Alexander, J.O. Sutherland, Daniel Greet and John K. Johnson.  
These defendants, as well as TCT purchaser Neil Schlenker, allegedly robbed owners in the co-operative of the value of their ownership interests after the co-op was sold. Among other allegations in the Campbells' complaint are: voting irregularities, violation of bylaws, breach of fiduciary duty, misrepresentation and civil conspiracy.  
However, in May the case took a different direction after TCT filed its own complaint in U.S. Cheyenne District Court against the Campbells. The complaint alleges Joe, a for-

mer TCT board member, maintained control of a company-issued laptop he was required to return. As he maintained control of the computer, it meant he had access to TCT trade secrets. TCT also claims Joe was the single board member opposed to the sale of the company in 2014.  
The complaint against the Campbells further alleges Joe disclosed and used trade secrets without TCT's consent, and that Barbara and others knew or had reason to know the secrets were from someone who had a duty to maintain secrecy. Further allegations are

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## Fireworks over Thermopolis

The Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department put on an amazing show of patriotism for the Fourth of July by setting off fireworks from T-Hill Tuesday evening. The community pitched in with donations to help pay for the fireworks.

# Hospital board selects construction firms to interview

by Mark Dykes  
During their June 27 meeting, the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees chose to interview construction firms Groathouse, Sletten and Layton, with regard to the forthcoming renovation and expansion to the hospital. Another two firms — Sampson and Erdman — were not selected for interview.  
The three construction firms were chosen after review of all five in areas such as cost and fee proposals, work on comparable projects, availability, pre-construction design and planning.  
Interviews are scheduled for July 13 at the Hot Springs County School

District administration building, with Layton at 8 a.m., Sletten at 9:30 a.m. and Groathouse at 11 a.m.  
Dr. Jason Weyer, providing the medical staff report, noted there was discussion regarding update of policies so they fall within the new guidelines. He further added they are updating standards with regard to how patients are cared for before they arrive at the hospital.  
Weyer also pointed out the hospital has a lower rate of Caesarian sections than the national standard, about 30 percent compared to the national standard of 35 percent.  
CEO Margie Molitor reported with regard to patient satisfaction, noting

the scores for May and June are looking great so far, which she attributed to more consistent rounding on nurses and patients. She's hopeful to continue on an upward trajectory.  
CFO Shelly Larson reported for May, the number of accounts receivable days did increase by about three days to 45. She attributed that to an increase in gross revenue for May, and projected they will finish at the 45-day mark for the fiscal year. Cash in hand days did increase to 60, Larson reported, attributable to the fact that the hospital did receive a lump sum payment from Medicare in May. Larson noted this is an interim settlement for the current

year, and is very well timed.  
Molitor noted May was the first month the hospital saw over \$2 million in gross revenue since August.  
Larson also provided a quick look at the preliminary budget. She explained the budget, as a district, typically goes through a couple stages. The final stage is a budget hearing, which has to happen within a few days of the last Thursday in July. The hearing was scheduled for just before the board's next meeting, at 6 p.m. July 25.  
Larson noted the construction project at the hospital next year will not impact any of the gross revenue or operating expenses to the point where any

space in the hospital is impacted. She further explained they will have to recognize they receive funds through the special purpose tax. Those funds will be restricted funds, and listed as non-operating income.  
Larson said, with regard to the budget, they are expecting a 17.84 percent increase in net revenue. This is primarily attributable, she said, to additional services provided through orthopedic line of services, as well as projected increase in obstetrics revenues. There is also a projected 12 percent increase in expenses, primarily related to supplies.

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# Processing juveniles through court can get complicated

by Mark Dykes  
Of the cases that come through the courtrooms, many involve juveniles. These cases can spend months, even years, in the court system before any resolution is found. Attorneys Jerry Williams and Marcia Bean recently spoke to the process of handling juvenile cases.  
"There's all different kinds of juvenile cases," Williams said. "There's cases where people are abusing juveniles, where juveniles are acting up a little bit or where juveniles are acting up a lot. We call them abuse and neglect, CHINS (Child In Need of Supervision) and delinquency." Williams said there are programs

that are attempted before things go too far and get to the courts.  
The focus is never punishment in juvenile court, Williams said. It is always on rehabilitation, and Department of Family Services (DFS) "basically foots the bill," whether juveniles have to attend counseling, go to a group home or go to high-intensity therapy.  
The more factors that come into play, the more complicated things get, Williams said, noting the court gains jurisdiction over the parents. Bean said the court has jurisdiction over the family, which includes the parents, and Williams said they can't order siblings to do things but they can with the parents.

"When we do that," he said, "parents don't like that." He added parents often give reasons why they can't come to court, but the court feels it is important to be there for something that impacts their children's future.  
The juvenile always gets an attorney, and parents can get one if they request one. Williams said they almost always have them in abuse and neglect cases, and those attorneys are bound by the same rules of those in the county attorney's office or private practices. If they don't do their jobs, they are subject to the same kinds of penalties. Some might think the attorneys from each side are working together,

though Williams said cases involving juveniles are very hard-fought. There's a lot of work to get everyone on the same, agreeable terms.  
Williams said usually there are monthly — or even more frequently — Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings with attorneys, parents, and juveniles if they are old enough, along with people from DFS, the schools and counseling centers if needed. Williams said there is a statute-ordered obligation of reunification, meaning they have to work toward having parents and a child living in a home together. But, sometimes, parents may be ordered to do something they don't

like, such as counseling, parenting classes or drug and alcohol treatment.  
Often, Williams said, parents don't know basic practices of caring for children. Other times, their kids might have mental illnesses or personality disorders. It also might be there was abuse or drug and alcohol use in a home, even though the parents are now trying to clean up their acts. "There's all kinds of things the kids are dealing with that they (parents) have to also deal with."  
One thing people might not like, Williams said, is when the court gets power over the parents they can be forced to do things

they don't want to, but if they don't do them sometimes the court can't reunify the family. "We've had cases where we've worked for years trying to reunify the family." At some point, Williams added, they have to stop trying reunification efforts, but that getting control is part of helping to make things work. The rights of the kids also have to be considered, he said, as they deserve a chance at a healthy life and a home that is a safe place where they can live.  
"We don't want them in institutions if we can help it," Williams said.

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