



Downtown wifi project moves forward

by Mark Dykes

Tuesday night, the Thermopolis Town Council approved the placement of devices that will provide free wireless Internet (wifi) through RT Communications in downtown Broadway.

Tobi Johansen with RT explained the company was approached by Main Street Thermopolis and Rotary about the project. The two organizations will split the cost of equipment, with RT paying for the service. There will be five or six access points along the downtown, with the main one fed from the RT building and the remainder on downtown light posts, and each device weighs

about a pound.

In other action, the board approved substantial completion on the water line project so it can be advertised. The date of acceptance will be Jan. 23, according to Town Engineer Anthony Barnett. A hot water agreement with Hot Springs State Park was also approved, to allow use of the water to melt out some storm drains and gutters.

Three high pressure sodium lights were approved for south of town, to be placed on cobra arms on already existing poles. Concern about the lack of lights in the area had been raised at previous meetings, and the total cost is estimated at \$14,100, which

will come out of the one-cent cash reserve. Other options were: \$16,500 for LED lights on the cobra arms of existing poles, \$18,600 for sodium lights on new poles and \$21,300 for LED lights on new poles.

Also during the meeting, council heard from Marty Smith with regard to snow removal issues. Smith explained he has a building on North Fifth and an empty lot on Arapahoe to get access into the back of his building. After clearing areas on his property, Smith said those that have four-wheelers with plow blades push snow from the neigh-

See Town on page 8

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

O Christmas Tree

Jessica and Joshua Blair admire one of the Christmas trees during the 18th Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Festival held at the Wyoming dinosaur Center Tuesday night. The festival raised \$12,635. Proceeds go to the Thermopolis Community Fund.

Drama team takes state

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County High School Drama Team took first place in 2A at the State Drama Festival this past weekend in Rock Springs. Twenty-four students traveled and competed against students from around the state of Wyoming.

In addition to the first place award, they also had six students receive All-State Medals and 19 students receive Honorable Mention awards.

The six students that received All-State Medals and a Superior rating are: Ben Manning (Stage Management), Breeze Petty (Stage Management), Savana Meier (Original Script - Monologue), Hannah Hu (Fantasy Makeup 3), Karissa McGarvie-Balstad (Costume 2), and Kaylee Shook (Costume 1).

The 19 students receiving Honorable Mention awards and an Excellent rating are: Hannah Hu (Publicity 3), Krynne McGinty (Original Script - One Act), Kyle Mosser (Musical Solo), Katie Burrows (Musical Solo), Aime Robinson (Musical Solo), Ashley Brawley (Musical Solo), Katie Burrows and

Kyle Mosser (Musical Duet), Jack Ream (Set Design 1), Emily Anderson (Real Makeup 3), Kaylee Shook (Short Film), Karissa McGarvie-Balstad (Varsity Monologue), Ashley Brawley (Varsity Monologue), Cole Christiansen (Novice Monologue), Jean-Luc Willson (Novice Monologue), Aaron Hanson and Tyler Kay (Varsity Duet), Cole Christiansen and Jack Ream (Novice Duet), Jacob Randall and Jean-Luc Willson (Novice Duet), Ryan Miller and Michael Slagle (Novice Duet), and Elizabeth Wagstaff (Costume 2).

The one-act play, "The Lottery", took fifth place in arena.

The students that traveled and competed at State Drama Festival were: Emily Anderson, Ashley Brawley, Katie Burrows, Josiah Butler, Cole Christiansen, Sarina Guyon, Aaron Hanson, Hannah Hu, Tyler Kay, Taydee Landrum, Benjamin Manning, Karissa McGarvie-Balstad, Krynne McGinty, Ryan Miller, Kyle Mosser, Breeze Petty, Jacob Randall, Lane Randall, Jack Ream, Aime Robinson, Kaylee Shook, Michael Slagle, Elizabeth Wagstaff, and Jean-Luc Willson.



The Hot Springs County High School Drama Team came home on Saturday with a first place win at the State Competition in 2A.

Rush honored by national weather service

by Cindy Glasson

The National Weather Service presented Chamber of Commerce Director, MeriAnn Rush, with a special award at Tuesday's county commissioner's meeting.

During his portion of the meeting, Emergency Management Coordinator, Bill Gordon, read portions of the report he sent to the National Weather Service in Riverton after the strong storm that passed through the county the night of the Demolition Derby at the fairgrounds.

Gordon recalled receiving a message from Tim Trautman with the weather service at about 3:45 that afternoon, letting him know two storms had merged and would be hitting Hot Springs County at 4:30.

Gordon and Rush had worked out a communications arrangement where he would let her know of any impending weather that might make things difficult for the derby, slated to start at 6 p.m., so he messaged her immediately to let her know what was going on.

Rush was able to get everyone out of the arena, about 500 people, before the storm hit, urging them to return home, wait in their cars, or use the fair building for shelter.

The storm hit at precisely 4:30. Because she had 25 minutes notice before the storm hit, Rush was able to prevent any injuries to attendees that evening.

Gordon sent his report to the

weather service who in turn sent it to their national office.

For her proactive collaboration and courage during the storm event, she was recognized by Trautman with a certificate during the commissioners meeting.

The commissioners also heard a report from maintenance supervisor Anthony Fruciano regarding the sewer situation at the court house.

A couple of months ago, issues started popping up with the sewer and a plumbing contractor was called in to assess the situation. At that time, Steve's Plumbing jackhammered out a section of the floor in the basement, discovering a section of the cast iron pipe had actually collapsed.

Since that time, they have found more than 75 feet of the original pipe is decayed to the point where, when touched, it simply flakes apart, corroded from years and years of use.

They briefly discussed a couple of options for replacing the pipe, including using a special lining that is sent down the original piping and then inflated to create something like a liner inside. Heat is then used to fuse the pipe and liner together, narrowing the pipe by around a half-inch.

No formal action was taken as to what they're going to do, but will go

See Commissioners on page 8

See Drama on page 8