



photo by Lara Love

Fa, la, la, la, la

The Hot Springs County High School and Thermopolis Middle School choir concert was last week under the direction of Drew Brown.

Fraud

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Freund added, “I almost want to think it’s similar to gambling. You know, you give them a little bit of positive reinforcement and they feel good. They feel good about that. They’re going for this and they just focus on what the end result is, what they’re hoping to get. The jackpot is \$500,000. I want that. I’m going to keep spending \$5 on a lottery ticket over and over because I know I’m going to get that. And that’s, I think, just the psychology of the game that they play of, ‘You know, you’re so close. We’ve almost got you there. This happened. It was unexpected. You know, none of this is ever planned. And if you stop now, you’re going to lose everything’ and that’s sort of the psychology that I think on that large-scale one that was played.”

Deputy Freund emphasizes verifying your sources. Check the domains of the website. Contact the Better Business Bureau. Contact Law Enforcement sooner than later.

The FBI at their IC3.gov website provides helpful information on what to look out for. They state, “Perpetrators Use Various Methods to Deceive and Defraud Elderly Victims For Financial Gain.”

“Each year, millions of elderly Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud, racking up more than \$3 billion in losses annually. Criminals use a variety of methods

to deceive these victims, including romance, sweepstakes, charity, technology support, grandparent, lottery, and government impersonation schemes, to name a few. In each case, perpetrators try to gain their targets’ trust and may communicate with victims via computer, through the mail, in person, and by phone, TV, and radio. With the elderly population growing in the United States, it is likely perpetrators will find more and more victims.”

Once successful, perpetrators will likely continue to target vulnerable elderly victims with these schemes because of the prospect of significant financial gain.

On the IC3 website, the FBI also provides advice through Defense and Mitigation. They offer tips regarding recognizing a scam, how to avoid it and what to do if a perpetrator gains access to your information or device.

If you believe you or someone you know may have been a victim of elder fraud, you should contact your local FBI field office. You can also file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

Deputy Freund and the Hot Springs County Sheriff’s office are available to help victims file fraud complaints. If you need to contact them, call 864-2622.

See next week’s Independent Record for part two of this story.

Mandate

from page 1

Obama.

She was joined by Judge Julia Smith Gibbons, a nominee of President George W. Bush.

Critics of the directive say OSHA is not authorized to make the emergency rule, partly because the coronavirus is a general health risk and not exclusive to the workplace.

If the mandate moves ahead, it is set to go into ef-

fect Jan. 4 and is estimated to cover 84 million people. OSHA has announced it will not issue citations for violating the rule until Jan. 10.

At the time the Wyoming Legislature held its special session, the mandate’s rules and regulations had not yet been released, making it difficult to legislate against.

Ultimately, the session ended with a bill that does little more than allocate \$4

million towards fighting the mandate in court.

Wyoming and a litany of other states are also fighting mandates pertaining to federal contractors, certain National Guardsmen and health workers in facilities that take Medicare or Medicaid funding.

Some of these challenges have been successful so far, leading to pauses in certain parts of the nation.

HSCSD

from page 1

Skelton thanked Axtell and echoed her comments by saying he “learned a lot” during his past two years as vice-chair.

Weyer nominated Axtell to serve as the new board vice-chair, while Engelbrecht nominated Martinez, and Van Antwerp nominated Farrell, causing Engelbrecht to joke, “Let’s just split the vote,” drawing laughter from the board.

Axtell and Weyer voted for Axtell as vice-chair, while Martinez and Engelbrecht voted for Martinez, and Van Antwerp, Skelton and Farrell voted for Farrell, making him the winner of a second 3-2-2 split.

Both Van Antwerp and Weyer nominated Martinez to serve as the new board clerk — “You should sign your daughter’s diploma,” Weyer told Martinez — and after no one else was nominated, the board voted unanimously for Martinez.

Likewise, when Axtell nominated Weyer to serve as the new board treasurer, no one else was nominated and the board voted unanimously for Weyer.

When it came time to declare potential conflicts of interest, Hunt reminded the board that his spouse works for the school district, while Martinez noted his spouse works at the middle school as a teacher, and Skelton

reiterated his “temporary employment at RYTE Rehab,” which he added ended that day.

Weyer pointed out her husband works through the hospital, while Van Antwerp,

Engelbrecht and Axtell all reported “no known conflicts” of interest.

And the board again approved purchasing a bond in the amount of \$50,000 for the board treasurer.

SAME-DAY DENTURE SERVICE

DENTURES.....\$395 - \$850 per denture
RELINES.....\$300 per denture
CROWNS.....\$950 per crown
IMPLANTS.....\$700-\$1,400 per unit
NEW PATIENT EXAM.....\$50

Susan J. Baker, D.D.S.

933 Main St., Lander

(307) 332-3434



!!!!!!ATTENTION!!!!!!
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY TAXPAYERS

If you have not made a payment on your 2021 property taxes, you have until
December 30, 2021

to pay the total without interest. You also have the option to pay 1st half including interest. Please call us at 864-3616 to calculate the total.

HSC Treasurer’s office will be CLOSED on Fri., Dec. 31. If you would like your tax payment to post in 2021, please come in before Thurs., Dec. 30.

Public notices

NOTICE

The Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners is asking Hot Springs County Residents to apply to serve on the following Hot Springs County Board:

Fair Board, One Member
(unexpired term
12-31-2022)

Residents of Hot Springs County interested in applying to serve on a Board or position should submit their County Board Questionnaire (available on the County website www.hscounty.com or at the County Clerk’s Office) to the Hot Springs County Clerk’s Office no later than 2:00 p.m. December 29, 2021. Applications will be considered and appointments made at the Hot Springs County Commissioners Meeting January 4, 2022.

Becky Kersten
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. Dec. 16 & 23, 2021 No. 1005

IN THE MATTER OF THE DEBORAH K. BRISTER REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JUNE 20, 2016

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE TRUST ASSETS AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID TRUST:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on August 20, 2021, Deborah K. Brister, died in Hot Springs County, Wyoming. At the date of her death, Deborah K. Brister, was the sole Settlor of the Deborah K. Brister Revocable Trust, dated June 20, 2016 (hereinafter “Trust”). Notice is further given that Timothy James Brister and Michelle Lee Kane, are currently serving as the Co-Successor Trustees of the Trust and intend to distribute the trust property as permitted under the terms of the Trust. All persons indebted to the Settlor, the Settlor’s estate, or the Trust are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned at Yonkee & Toner, LLP, 319 West Dow Street, P.O. Box 6288, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801. Creditors having claims against the Settlor, the Settlor’s estate, or the Trust, are required to file a claim against the assets of the Trust at the office of Yonkee & Toner, LLP, at the above-stated address, or shall commence a judicial proceeding to contest the validity of the Trust within the earlier of: (a) two (2) years after the Settlor’s death; (b) one hundred twenty (120) days after the first date of

publication of this notice; or (c) one hundred twenty (120) days after a known creditor has been mailed notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, which informs such creditor of the Trust’s existence, of the Trustee’s name and address, that the creditor shall make all claims in writing to the Trustee within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date of mailing of the notice, and that the time allowed for commencing a proceeding to contest the validity of the Trust or of the proposed distribution by the Trustee is one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of mailing of the notice. A creditor failing to file a claim or a creditor or any interested party failing to commence a judicial proceeding to contest the validity of the Trust within the times provided in this notice are forever prohibited from making any claim against the assets of the Trust or commencing any judicial proceeding against the Settlor or the assets of the Trust.

DATED this 10th day of December, 2021.

Co-Successor Trustees
of the Deborah K. Brister
Revocable Trust, dated
June 20, 2016

By: /s/ _____
Timothy James Brister

By: /s/ _____
Michelle Lee Kane

Kevin K. Kessner
Yonkee & Toner, LLP, Attys.

Pub. Dec. 23 & 30, 2021 No. 1008

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session December 7, 2021, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Mike Chimenti, Council members Tony Larson, John Dorman Sr., Bill Malloy and Dusty Lewis. Also present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Fred Crosby, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Public Works Director Ernie Slagle, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett, Police Chief Pat Cornwell and Town Attorneys Mike Messenger and Marshall Keller.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the agenda as written.

MINUTES: Malloy made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the Council meeting minutes from November 2 and 16, 2021.

BILLS: Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the General, Enterprise and Special Fund bills for November 2021.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: MICHAEL WRIGHT: 2021 AUDIT RESULTS: Wright presented a brief synopsis of the audit, noting a change in accounting standards resulted in the Revolving Loan Fund being listed with the General Fund. At the Town’s request, the Nicholson Trust fund is not combined as above. Wright noted the financial statements are presented fairly (a clean opinion), with the yearly comment on the lack of segregation of duties. Larson made a motion, seconded by Malloy and carried to accept the 2021 audit. Wright noted he is retiring and the firm will no longer perform audits.

LUKE ANDERSON: TOWN PROPERTY INSURANCE: Anderson, from Hub Insurance reviewed two property insurance policies with the Mayor and Council. Travelers bid \$60,380 and Continental Western bid \$43,850. Following discussion, Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to accept the bid from Continental Western and to ask Anderson to further investigate the cost of flood insurance and the cost of increasing coverage for A/R, Valuable Papers and Ordinance and Law.

TOWN ENGINEER: Barnett reviewed the final pay estimate and reconciliation change order for the chip seal project. Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to allow the Mayor to sign the paperwork. Barnett also reviewed the upcoming water line project on upper Fremont and Peppermint and noted the Public Works Director would like to replace the sewer line, which is also in the street. Following discussion, Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to add the Peppermint Street sewer line replacement to the bid. Barnett was also given verbal approval for electronic bids.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Chief Cornwell presented the November police report. Public Works Director Slagle presented the November reports for Streets and Alleys, Water, Wastewater, Sanitation and Landfill departments.

TOWN ATTORNEY: MIKE MESSENGER: Nothing at this time.

ADMINISTRATION: FRED CROSBY: Nothing at this time.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm and the next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 21, 2021, at 7pm.

BILLS: AFLAC, Insurance, \$226.40; Ambiente H2O, (2) Pumps, \$54,000.00; American Welding, Rental, \$59.32; Basin Mechanical, Filter Beds, \$31,530.00; BCN, Service, \$59.50; Big Horn Water, Service & Rental,

\$114.81; Justin Buckendorf, Muni Court Refund, \$410.00; Carquest, Supplies, \$396.81; Caselle, Maintenance, \$568.00; Cummins Rocky Mtn, Part, \$53.77; Discover Thermopolis, Shipping, \$53.21; DPC, Rental, \$50.00; Dunlap Ent., Service, \$65.00; Energy Labs, Service, \$129.00; Engineering Associates, Service, \$29,332.32; Fastenal, Parts, \$496.97; Ferguson Waterworks, Meters, \$1,445.52; Great West Trust, Retirement, \$1,840.00; Green Turf Landscape, Service \$801.64; HSC Treasurer, Tax Collection, \$377.07; High Plains Power, Service, \$98.65; HSC, Phone, \$45.71; HS Vet Clinic, Contract, \$955.00; HSCSD #1, Fuel, \$3,720.72; Independent Record, Service, \$887.80; Insurance Trust, Premiums, \$23,370.00; ICC, Dues, \$145.00; Jadeco, Service, \$558.62; Ronald Jurovich, Judge, \$900.00; Keller Law Firm, Service, \$1,000.00; Laird Sanitation, Service, \$85.00; Long Building Technologies, Repair, \$4,800.00; Messenger Law Firm, Service, \$4,900.00; Micro Com, Service, \$6,550.00; Mike Mortimore, Service, \$300.00; Motor Power Equip., Parts, \$864.26; Napa, Supplies, \$54.25; NCPERS, Life Ins., \$240.00; One Call, Fees, \$15.00; O’Reilly, Parts, \$109.12; Peterbilt, Part, \$475.11; Pitney Bowes, Lease, \$224.29; Postmaster, Postage, \$551.86; Railroad Mgmt, Fees, \$692.11; Range, Service, \$535.33; Riverton Tire, Tires, \$370.00; Rocky Mt. Power, Service, \$15,916.44; Scrub Board, Service, \$136.00; Star Trims, Window Tint, \$1,174.05; Team Labs, Supplies, \$604.00; Ted Miller, Service, \$375.00; Thermopolis Hardware, Supplies, \$635.56; Thermopolis Police Dept., Postage, \$15.34; TOT General, Acct’g & Collection, \$13,000.00; TOT Office, Supplies & Travel, \$81.34; TOT, Depreciation & Intergov Water, \$68,948.95; Tractor & Equip, Parts, \$476.41; Traveling Computer, Supplies, \$35.98; Tumbleweed Propane, Propane, \$459.06; Unum, Life Insurance, \$114.28; USA Blue Book, Supplies, \$254.34; Verizon, Phone, \$187.49; Visa, Supplies, \$1,764.23; VSP, Insurance, \$371.61; Wild West Construction, Pay Est #2, \$6,858.75; WY Child Support, \$250.00; Workforce Services, Workers Comp., \$2,731.69; WY Gas, Service, \$856.49; WY Retirement, Retirement, \$20,808.01; WY Rural Water, Class & Dues, \$619.00; WY Supreme Court, Fees, \$200.00; WY Com, Service, \$25.00; Payroll, \$96,473.39; Payroll Taxes, \$33,291.41.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule,
Clerk/Treasurer

Mike Chimenti,
Mayor

Pub. Dec. 23, 2021

No. 1007