

Lady Bobcats start basketball work at midnight event **6**

Bjorklund retiring after 72 years in retail business **8**

County approves reverse 911 phone system **11**

Kindergartners recipes for cooking turkeys **15**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 109, No. 48, November 27, 2008

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Just one third of last year so far

More food, money urgently needed for holiday baskets

The community "Christmas Basket" program has raised about two-thirds less than in past years after the Scouting for Food drive.

"It was pretty bleak at the Christmas Baskets center," said Ellen Galligan. "More food has been steadily trickling in, and I'm hoping the middle school will be collecting food. The hospital is doing a food drive, so that should help."

Items that can be donated include canned items like vegetables, stews, soups, fruits, boxes of dried potatoes or any other non-perishable food items. Donations can be left inside the front door of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at Seventh and Arapa-

hoe through Dec. 12.

Funds to help purchase turkeys and other needs should be sent to Christmas Baskets, P.O. Box 950, Thermopolis 82443.

Sign up for the baskets at NOWCAP continues through Dec. 12. They will be available Dec. 20.

Last year volunteers packed almost 100 baskets for families of one to 11 members.

Volunteers are also needed to help pack and move the boxes of food and clean up after delivery.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Ellen Galligan at 864-3629.

People for People offering dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Episcopal Church

A community Thanksgiving lunch will be served by People for People on Thursday at 1 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.

Anyone interested in helping can contact Susan Lankford. To make a reservation, call 864-2009 and leave a message.

Rides are offered to those who need transportation, according to Janine Kelso.

People for People will also offer a Christmas Dinner at the Episcopal Parish Hall. Nancy Madrigal and Kelso are organizing that holiday meal.

Related story on page 10.

Vehicles kill 375 deer, antelope on highways in county in 2007

Hundreds of big game animals were killed in vehicle collisions on Big Horn Basin highways in 2007, according to carcass pickup records of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

"In Hot Springs County alone, nearly 342 mule deer, 29 white-tailed deer and four pronghorn were killed in an 18-mile stretch of Highway 20 between Wind River Canyon and Kirby," said Cody Beers, WYDOT public involvement specialist.

Other "hot spots" identified include a two-mile stretch of US 16-20 between the South Big Horn County Hospital and Basin.

In Park County, a five-mile stretch of US 14A between West Cooper Lane in Cody and the Shoshone River bridge has accounted for at least 64 mule deer and three white-tailed deer.

"There is typically a spike in the number of vehicle-related deer crashes during the fall and winter months," said Dennie Hammer, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Cody region information specialist.

As big game animals migrate out of the mountains to lower elevation winter ranges, the frequency of deer, antelope, and elk increases on highways.

"People who commute daily should be aware that wildlife related crashes are always possible," Hammer said.

"Speed is often the problem," Beers said. "Clear-

ly, the slower a vehicle is traveling, the easier it is to stop it and avoid road hazards. Allowing a few extra minutes for travel and slowing down during early morning, dusk and nighttime hours is recommended."

"Unfortunately, the signs we put up seem to work for a limited amount of time. Local travelers become habituated to the signs and seem to forget about them and the deer," Beers said. "Please be alert when traveling through areas where yellow wildlife warning signs are in place along roads."

Hammer said it would be impossible for WYDOT to erect a sign at every location where the chance of colliding with wildlife might occur, so it is important for drivers to be observant while driving.

If you observe wildlife on the road, stop as safely as possible without veering. Swerving could cause the driver to lose control, leave the road or head into oncoming traffic.

If one animal is crossing, there may be others. A sudden flash of brake lights ahead of you may signal that wildlife is present.

If you observe animals along the roadway at night, use your hazard lights to warn oncoming traffic. Use high beams at night where possible and watch for the glowing eyes of animals.

If you collide with or see a large dead animal in the road, call the police and report it.



Colorful new Christmas decorations now adorn light poles in Hot Springs State Park. Erecting one of the banners from a bucket truck is John Fish.

—Jonathan Green photo

Man jailed for assault

by Jonathan Green

Thermopolis police officers arrested Edward Passamonte in the 700 block of Washakie at 3:06 a.m. Saturday and charged him with sexual battery and with criminal entry.

Due to the sensitive nature of the alleged crime, Bill Gordon of the police department referred further inquiries to Hot Springs County attorney Jerry Williams.

Williams said his understanding is Passamonte entered a residence and inappropriately touched a woman there. Police were contacted and arrested him outside the house.

Sexual battery is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine and is described in statute as "unlawfully (subjecting) another person to any sexual contact."

Criminal entry is also a misdemeanor carrying a possible six-month jail term and \$750 fine.

Time to mail Santa letters

Kids! Now is the time to get your Christmas letters to Santa Claus into the Independent Record.

Mail them to PO Box 31, Thermopolis 82443, have your parents drop them by our office at 431 Broadway or e-mail them to news@thermopolis.com. Your letters will be printed in our Christmas greetings edition for Santa and everyone else to read.

You may include drawings, as several will be used.

Early shopping Friday, free kids' movie open the holiday season

Early shopping on Friday and a free movie for children open the Christmas season

Some stores will open as early as 5:30 a.m., with others opening at 7 a.m. on Friday. Their ads are featured in this edition.

The holiday lights and decorations around Thermopolis, declared Wyoming's Christmas City by Gov. Dave Freudenthal, will be turned on Friday night.

The tentative schedule of events:

Saturday: Free holiday movie, "Frosty the Snowman" for children, The Ritz, 1 p.m. Bring a non-perishable food item if possible. Other movies will be shown on Dec. 6, 13 and 20.

Tuesday: Bluegrass concert by Special Consensus, auditorium, 7 p.m.

Dec. 5: Bar J Wranglers Cowboy Christmas Concert, auditorium, 7 p.m.

Dec. 6: Lighted Christmas Parade, 6:30 p.m. Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus and children's choir performing at Bicentennial Park. Chili feed with cocoa and coffee by Hot Springs County Search and Rescue. Some businesses open late.

Dec. 8: Festival of Trees, Bank of Wyoming.

Dec. 9: Fourth and fifth grade Christmas Concert.

Dec. 11: Middle and high school Christmas Concert.

Dec. 12: Entry deadline for Lighting Contest.

Dec. 13: Elf Workshop, Kiddie Kollege, 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Dec. 14: Christmas musical, "The Wise Men Had It Easy," Community Church, 4 p.m.

Dec. 15: Holiday Tour of Homes at 5:30 p.m. ending with reception at the Hot Springs County Historical Museum from 7-9 p.m.

Homes include Deb Donahue,

Jennifer Graham, Shirley and Charlie Towers, Jacky and Michael Wright, Patsy and John Dorman, and Karissa and Ryan Williams.

Dec. 18: Kindergarten through third grade Christmas Concert.

Dec. 18: Taste of holidays tour and treats, Gottsche 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dec. 18: Meet and Greet Christmas Party, Pinnacle

Bank, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 19: Home and business lighting contest judging.

Dec. 20-21: Bowling for tots, A&W.

Dec. 25: Free public Christmas dinner, Episcopal Church, 1 p.m.

Organizations and individuals should call the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, 864-3192, to list their events.



Rebecca Ball and Clemens Abbott eye the pumpkin pie served by elementary school principal Matt Spring on Thursday as part of a traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by the cafeteria workers.

—Jonathan Green photo



Santana Keener agonizes about the difficulty of helping adults accurately understand the challenges facing youngsters in a modern world. Her monologue was presented during the Hot Springs County High School Drama Showcase on Thursday. More on page 9.

—Pat Schmidt photo