

Winters experiencing opening days in State House **4**

Country Kids Daycare relocates to East River Road **5**

Lady Cats win two of three in East-West Challenge **6**

HSCHS speech team wins title at NWC tourney **12**

Thermopolis Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 114, No. 2, January 10, 2013

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢



Stephanie Amick gave birth to the first baby of 2013 in Hot Springs County the morning of Jan. 2. Stephanie and her husband Terry are pictured with Greyson Edward Amick.

## First baby of 2013 born to Terry and Stephanie Amick

by Joe Sovia

It's not unusual for an expectant mother to wake up in the middle of the night due to discomfort late in her pregnancy. But this was a bit of a different situation.

Stephanie Amick's second child was not due until about Jan. 13, but she and her husband Terry awakened at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2 at the home of her parents, Griff and Natalie Hodson of Thermopolis. They had just moved to the Hodson home from Cody about two weeks earlier.

This was not just discomfort for Stephanie — it was labor pains. She and Terry decided that rather than travel to Cody for the birth of the baby at West Park Hospital, plan B was for her to give birth at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. After all, Cody was where Stephanie's OB-GYN was located.

"The contractions were coming too quickly," Terry said, so Hot Springs County Memorial was the hospital of choice.

About 5 a.m., it was time for the short drive to the Thermopolis hospital. Less than two hours later, at 6:40 a.m., Greyson Edward Amick was delivered by Dr. Jason Weyer, the plan B physician. Greyson was a healthy 6-pound, 4-1/2-ounce boy who was 18-3/4 inches long — born 10 days early and the first baby born in Hot Springs County in 2013.

"Thermop was our backup plan," Stephanie said, and Weyer's services — if needed — were arranged. The Amicks had high praise for the local OB-GYN.

"Greyson came in four hours (of labor). I was very surprised," Stephanie said the afternoon of the baby's birth.

The baby joins 21-month-old Jackson Owen in the Amick family; he was born in Cody. What's ironic is that Jackson was born nine days LATE. So Greyson's early birth was quite unexpected but very welcomed by his parents.

Stephanie is a 1999 graduate of Hot Springs County High School. Terry is a native of Colorado.

### Cancel Friday's checkup

As it turned out, the Amicks cancelled Stephanie's checkup with her Cody doctor who was going to "see how far along I was," said Stephanie.

Despite Greyson being born 10 days early, this pregnancy was more difficult than her first.

"I had more discomfort. I thought it was going to be a girl," she said, but now she and Terry have two sons.

Jackson and Greyson's uncle Nick and aunt Mary Spencer live in Cody. Nick is a former U.S. marine with three tours of duty to his credit. He returned from his last deployment, to Afghanistan, in July of 2011, and was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps. He was part of the birth of nephew Jackson thanks to Skype online while being deployed overseas, but he was in Thermop for Greyson's birth. "He was excited to be here," Stephanie said.

Griff Hodson, Greyson's grandfather, was right at home during his birth. He is the Environmental Services director at the Thermopolis hospital. Greyson's grandmother, Natalie Hodson, is a real estate agent and nail technician.

Greyson and Jackson's paternal grandmother Judy Parker (Terry's mother) lives in Farwell, Mich. She lived in Denver, Colo., when Terry was born. He was raised there.

Terry is employed by Basin Mechanical of Cody. Stephanie was a special education paraprofessional at Sunset Elementary School in Cody until Dec. 21, when the holiday break began. She had planned to be a stay-at-home mom after Greyson's birth.

Greyson and Jackson's maternal great-grandparents are R.O. and Linda Marshall of Casper.

On Jan. 3, the birth of Greyson as the first baby of 2013 was celebrated with baskets filled with \$700 in gifts from 35 local merchants, including gift certificates for the baby and his family. The campaign to gather the gifts was coordinated by the Hot Springs County Hospital Auxiliary.

## VFW employee tied up, unharmed in burglary

At 3:20 p.m. Friday, dispatchers received a report of a 48-year-old woman tied up in the bathroom of the VFW Post 2281.

The woman, who was unharmed, is an employee of the club who had gone to work before the club opened. Another employee found the woman in the bathroom and contacted law enforcement, said Police Chief Mike Chimenti.

Officers collected enough evidence to suspect a burglary occurred at the club. A list, or value, of items taken is not available at this time. Several items from the club have been sent to the state crime

lab for analysis, Chimenti said.

Officers believe the suspect gained entry to the building by following the employee inside. The employee did not see the suspect and a description is not available. There was no indication that the suspect had a weapon and there was no indication of multiple suspects. Officers have a few possible suspects, but the case remains under investigation.

Anyone with information regarding the case or who may have seen someone around the club between 1 and 3 p.m. Friday is encouraged to contact the department at 864-3114.

## Linnan resigns from council

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Councilswore in two new council members, but said goodbye to three more during its first meeting of 2013 on Jan. 3.

Outgoing council members Dick Hall and Allan Braaten were each given accolades for their service to the town.

Town Attorney Mike Messenger then swore in new council members Mark Nelson and LeRoy Hayes to their office.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Bill Malloy informed the council of the resignation of council member Tom Linnan.

In a letter written to the council, Linnan stated his resignation due to business and time he must spend in Arizona.

"I have enjoyed serving the Town of Thermopolis in this capacity and wish the council the very best in the important work to be done," Linnan wrote.

Malloy gave the new council the choice of whether to appoint one of the two candidates who were not elected to the vacant seat, or to advertise for applications and fill the seat in February.

The council chose to seek applications for the seat and directed Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby to advertise for applicants. The deadline for applications will be Jan. 31.

### Appointments

After the swearing in of the new council members, Malloy and the council made two-year appointments for the clerk/trea-

surer, chief of police, municipal judge, town engineer, town attorney, town depositories and town publication.

Under police chief, the council voted to appoint Mike Chimenti to serve officially as the chief. Prior to the meeting, Chimenti acted as interim police chief.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmen Tony Larson and Hayes voted in favor of the appointment, and Nelson cast a nay vote.

All of the remaining appointments passed unanimously.

Malloy asked the council if any of them would like to become the town's voting delegate to the Wyoming Association of Municipalities annual convention. None of the council members said they would be able to attend the meeting, so Malloy said he would fill the role.

### Reports

Chimenti reported to the council some of the results of the winter deer harvest, which included the dispatching of 20 deer on the fringes of town with two testing positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Chimenti said the department has applied for 50 permits for 2013.

After the report in the Independent Record's final December issue, Nelson clarified that while he served as police chief in the winter of 2011 and spring of 2012, the department harvested 50 animals with 10 testing positive for CWD.

Town Engineer Heath Over-

field briefly updated the council on the status of town projects. The first project is the town's waterline replacement project between Third Street and crossing the river to East Thermopolis. He said the firm is working to submit the plans to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The town also plans to replace an aging water line along 14th Street and Canyon Hills Road. The project would start at the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department and end with the Canyon Hills Road intersection with Highway 20 South.

The third project is the installation of a scale at the Town Landfill. Overfield said the design information is coming along, and that it could be sent to the DEQ in February.

### Building permits

Crosby, who also serves as Town Codes Administrator, said the number of building permits for 2012 was similar, but less than the number of permits in 2011.

In a written report, the town issued 84 permits total for 2012, which compares to 114 in 2011.

Thirty-five of the permits were for building, 29 for plumbing, seven for excavation, five for fences, five for demolition, two for mechanical and one for a mobile home.

New building valuation for the town was \$660,723. The total amount in fees assessed for permits was \$11,733.

## Crowley Air Service to cease services as FBO

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners will be looking for a new fixed base operations (FBO) company for the airport with the recent decision by Crowley Air Service to relocate to Alaska.

Brett Crowley and Tara Chesnut have accepted an offer with a company in Alaska, and will be ending their contract with the county around the middle of March.

Although the pair's leaving has been kept fairly quiet in the community, there has already been some interest in the position displayed by two local gentlemen and another from Lander.

Tim Lippincott, who has been a working pilot flying in the area for many years, along with Jerry Fields, spoke to the commissioners regarding their interest in the FBO position.

"I know there are companies in the past that have looked at Thermopolis," Lippincott said. "What kept them from coming here was the lack of an airport. I watched them go to Worland or elsewhere to do

their business. Now we'll have the kind of airport they were looking for."

The two men indicated they were willing to help the commissioners in any way with the airport, no matter who was finally hired for the position, and suggested a three-year contract would be a good starting point.

Gary Loose of Lander suggested a five-year guaranteed contract would be what he would look for, saying his experience as a mechanic would bring more aircraft to Thermopolis for their home base — increasing the revenue from hangar rental and jet fuel sales.

"I think I can put Thermopolis on the map," Loose said. "I've been an aircraft mechanic my whole life, all in Wyoming, so I have all kinds of connections."

The only action the commissioners took regarding the situation at their meeting on Tuesday was to agree the contract would need to be re-bid as soon as possible so another FBO can be in place by the time Crowley and Chesnut depart.



Randy Wahler of Thermopolis pulls an arrow from a 3-D raccoon he hit during the Bighorn Bowhunters New Year's Shoot held Sunday at the fairgrounds. Wahler won the Adult Freestyle Limited class. See page 10 for results of the shoot.