

WDE releases HSCSD rankings

by Cindy Glasson

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) released the results produced from federal and state accountability systems last Friday, Nov. 7, indicating how Hot Springs County School District No. 1 schools are doing.

There are four classifications for schools: not meeting expectations, partially meeting expectations, meeting expectations and exceeding expectations.

Of the 353 schools measured by the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA), over

17% are exceeding expectations with 13% not meeting expectations, leaving the rest of the Wyoming schools somewhere in the middle.

Smaller schools in the state are not required to participate.

In Hot Springs County, Ralph Witters Elementary was rated as meeting expectations, Thermopolis Middle School is exceeding expectations and Hot Springs County High School is rated as partially meeting expectations.

The federal accountability system, referred to as No Child Left Behind, and the state's

system, known as the School Performance Reports, are used in tandem to determine a school's ranking.

The WDE is leading an effort to ensure that all Wyoming students receive the quality education they deserve, and identifying weaknesses within a school is just one step in that process.

Please see page A4 for an in-depth explanation of the rankings for Hot Springs County Schools by superintendent Dustin Hunt.

Bigger not better for training tap

by Cindy Glasson

The Thermopolis Town Council took no action on a request from the Fire District regarding a large water tap for the proposed new training center south of Thermopolis.

The District is requesting a six-inch tap for the facility, which would draw water from the tanks on the hill.

The tap would be part of the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District (STWSD) expansion project.

Neil Miller indicated the size of the tap being requested would be "over kill" and considered hazardous, requiring extensive monitoring.

Costs for the larger tap would be in the neighborhood of \$70,000 while a smaller tap would be more like \$8,000 - \$10,000.

Council member and volunteer firefighter Mark Nelson agreed with Miller, saying the facility would only be used once a month and a minimal amount of water would be used during training.

Nelson suggested a better solution would be a smaller tap and draw water from a pit as they do at the fire hall on 14th Street.

With the ability to draw water at 200 psi, it would literally drain the tanks in a matter of minutes, which could cause all kinds of issues for homeowners and businesses along the line.

Town engineer Heath Overfield said he did not believe the six-inch tap was necessary either, saying perhaps a two-inch line would be more appropriate.

The council decided to table the issue until a later date and would like to have a representative from the District attend the next meeting in order to discuss the issue further.

Landfill

The council also discussed the future of the landfill with Overfield, finding out we now sit 23rd on the list for grant monies to create a transfer station.

Overfield said a couple of other communities higher on the list turned the money down as they had already made other arrangements. This moved us higher up the line.

The concern is the legislation may change soon regarding grant funding, putting some additional pressure on the town to make a decision about the landfill soon.

The legislature will be looking for communities that want to get their transfer stations started the soonest for funding distribution.

Overfield said he would put together a letter to send to the state outlining our intent to move forward with a transfer station and bring it to the council for approval at their next meeting.



Everyone loves puppies

Mary Margaret Nutter, Bobbi Zupan and Mel Kress work to convince Terry Tonn that he needs one of the adorable puppies up for bid during the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Hunter's Ball Saturday. Michael Byrd looks on in the background. The event raised \$4,800 for RMEF.

-Lara Love photo

Sneak peek of The Supper Club Saturday

by Zachary White

A lifelong entrepreneur, Linda Hughes moved to Thermopolis with enough goals to fill a lifetime.

But her first goal is close to completion with the sneak peak opening of her new business, The Supper Club.

Starting at 5 p.m. Saturday participants will be able to tour the new business and socialize. Then, around 6 p.m., Hughes will explain how membership to The Supper Club works and her dream of eventually starting a hospice house in Thermopolis.

Hughes said starting a hospice house is important because people deserve peace when they're dying.

"Dying with dignity, comfort, and care is important," she said.

Following her introduction, food will be served.

Hughes' daughter-in-law Lynda Hughes, a former cook, will be preparing a prix fixe menu that includes a Yampa Valley Soup, bistro salad, barbecue tri-tip steak and carrot cake.

And following dinner, Hughes has a special guest performance for at-

tendees.

The Yampa Valley Boys will be performing at 7 p.m. and coffee and desserts will be served during a break in their performance.

Located at The Barn, 352 Bar None Drive, Saturday's event will go until 10 p.m. and costs \$25, with half the money going towards the hospice house fund Hughes has set up.

Hughes' dream

Hughes had a plan to start a business, and eventually a hospice, for years. But when the property The

Barn is on became available, she had to hurry up her plans.

"The realtor had this one in there (with the other properties) and I thought he was nuts," she said.

However, she said with beautiful scenic view of rolling hills and red rocks she and her husband, Matthew, fell in love with the location.

Hughes plan for the barn is to make it a rentable location for people to do weddings, honeymoons, homecoming pictures and any other event that may need space for.

Throughout the past two weeks

Hughes has traveled back and fourth from California, where she was living before, to move all her stuff into the new place.

Following her move, Hughes son Diedrich and his wife Lynda moved into town from Montana with their daughter Nova Jeane.

With the help of her family, Hughes hopes to expand the business to the point where it can sustain a hospice house.

"But I'm gonna need help and that's gonna take a community," she said.

