



Man charged with attempted murder

by Mark Dykes
A preliminary hearing on April 25 in Hot Springs Circuit Court is scheduled for Hugo A. Luna, who faces felony charges of first-degree attempted murder and kidnapping.
According to court documents, on Friday, April 13, just after 8:30 a.m. the Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office was notified that a passerby had located an injured female subject near mile marker 15 on Highway 120. The driver transported the subject to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.

Investigators learned the subject was assaulted, noting injuries to her face and neck. The subject said she was assaulted by a Hispanic male she knew as Hugo Michael, but who was later identified as Hugo Armando Luna Aguero. She also provided a description of Luna and his vehicle, which was a yellow tractor trailer pulling a white cargo box trailer.
At 11:15 a.m., an agent with DCI interviewed the woman, during which he observed a laceration of about 10 centimeters to the middle of her fore-

head, and swelling and lacerations to the right side of her forehead that appeared to be due to blunt force trauma and/or a sharp cutting instrument. She also had a laceration about 12 centimeters in length to the left side of her neck that appeared to be from a sharp cutting tool.
The agent also observed ligature marks on the right side of the woman's neck and hemorrhaging and blood spots in her right eye indicative of



Hugo Luna

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photo by Cindy Glasson

Super hot lunch

Performers with Butte Magic showed off a little fire eating during lunch time at the Senior Center last week. In addition to the flaming performance, they swallowed swords and performed a number of other magic tricks to entertain the diners.

Not much scratch for chickens

by Mark Dykes
During Tuesday night's meeting of the Thermopolis Town Council, not much was presented on a topic that's ruffled a few feathers this past month — whether chickens should be allowed in town.

At their March 22 meeting, council heard from Darren Butcher, who argued an ordinance should be put in place for people to have the animals within the town limits. Butcher was extensive in addressing various concerns people have brought up in past years, including noise, smell, responsible ownership and enforcement for those who had "chickens at large."



Butcher further suggested the council allow for a small test area for the chickens — between Arapahoe and Amoretti from the railroad tracks to the river. Though some formal action was expected Tuesday night regarding a possible ordinance, councilmembers stated the public opinion for allowing chickens in town was generally negative.

Council also received information about ordinances in towns that do allow chickens, such as Lander, Worland and Douglas, which they were able to review. Animal Control Officer Ame Longwell also presented written recommendations to council that applications for chickens would identify items such as adequate housing, number of chickens per home, removal or disbursement of waste, health requirements and application and inspection fees.

Longwell further recommended an application date be identified for beginning a six-month trial period with outlined ordinances.

Councilmember Tony Larson said he's spoken to people in town and most people are not in favor or open to the idea of allowing chickens in town. He noted if a test area were to be set up it might be near the town shop. However, Director of Public Works Ernie Slagle pointed out the open area near the shop is for contractors to store equipment and materials when they're doing a job.

Councilmember Bill Malloy said he was a greeter at the recent health fair, and the question he was asked by at least 50 people was "You're not going

to allow chickens, are you?" Malloy also pointed out the towns that allow them do have very stiff ordinances.

Larson said Butcher's idea is noble, but enforcement would be difficult and it seems the public opinion is to not allow the animals.

With regard to other animals, Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby suggested the council have Longwell present about feral cat issues, as she believes there could be thousands of the wild animals in the Thermopolis area.

In action at the meeting, council approved catering permit requests from Shorty's for: The Gottsche summer kickoff from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 19, a wedding and Republican Party meeting on June 2, the PRCA rodeo June 22 and 23, and the rodeo dance June 23.

Council also approved signing a contract with Koerwitz, Michel, Wright and Associates for the annual audit.

Town Engineer Anthony Barnett reported on the water line improvement project, noting the upcoming schedule includes pulling the pipe through the river bore. The first milestone of the project, going from the water plant to Eighth Street and down to Sixth, is expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Councilmember John Dorman, Sr. noted there were some light posts that were missing the small signs that have animals and other figures, and asked if they were considering replacing. Crosby said they'd identify how many they need, but also pointed out all of the streetlights except one now have LED bulbs.

Coaching positions filled

School board accepts resignations

by Cindy Glasson
Hot Springs County School District's Board of Trustees met on Tuesday evening for their April meeting, addressing several items of interest.

One of those items was staffing recommendations for the coming year.

The board accepted a resignation notice from Jill Strenger as a special education teacher at the end of this year and the resignation of Holly Mickelson as an elementary teacher.

Jerry Bowman has tendered his resignation as Transportation Director, effective June 30.

Justin Smith and Ashley Cleare will both be offered initial teaching contracts as elementary teachers for the coming year.

Parents and residents alike have been voicing concerns over the coaching positions that are changing for the 2018-19 school year and the board made a decision Tuesday night on who will be filling which slots.

Matt McPhie will be both the head football coach and the head girls basketball coach. CJ Scholl and Todd Weber will assist McPhie on the football field and Katie Despain will be the assistant girls basketball coach.

Shannon Hill will continue as the head volleyball coach, assisted once again by Cortney O'Connor.

Stephanie Metz will remain the cross country coach.

Joey Johnson will be coming on as the head golf coach.

Shane Corpening has been named the new head boys basketball coach and will be assisted by Paul Collamer.

The board named Travis McDermott head wrestling coach and will be assisted by Trey Ottley.

There were several staffing changes as well, moving some teachers from one grade to another and even some from one building to another.

Trey Ottley will be moving to the middle school to teach seventh grade English and Social Studies while Eric Kay will be moving back to the high school for English 1010/1020 and Communications.

Shane Corpening is coming from the middle school to the high school for American History/Government.

Lacy Shaffer will move from kindergarten to second grade teacher, Brock Merrill will go from kindergarten to first grade teacher. Rayann Casciato is moving from third grade to first grade and Vivian Sannes will be teaching fourth grade rather than second this year.

Dawn Peterson is moving from second grade teacher to Title I Interventionist.

The board heard a report on co-teaching in the classroom and how effective it is for student learning.

In a co-teaching environment there are two teachers in the same classroom and different models may be used to teach different concepts.

Language arts and reading have been the co-teaching focus at both RWE and

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