

Friends of 4-H honored at annual banquet **3**

Another Thermop vs. Kemmerer shootout Friday **6**

State study cites role of airports in state economy **8**

Woman to serve 3-5 years for biting deputy **11**

Thermopolis Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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## County corrects mistake, sets land buy, delays a subdivision

by Cindy Glasson

During their meeting Tuesday, the Hot Springs County Commissioners took steps to correct an encroachment issue at the Hot Springs County Airport that was first identified in 1995.

A portion of fence at the northeast end of the airport runway runs diagonally across 1.177 acres of land owned by Leo Metz of Washington state. The county commission began the process of rectifying the situation in 1995, but somehow it was never completed.

In a conference call with Metz, the commissioners, along with county attorney Jerry Williams, county planner Lee Campbell and the attorney for Metz, Steve Brown, reached a compromise wherein the county will purchase the land from Metz for \$4,974.

"On behalf of the former commissioners, I'd like to apologize for the trouble," commission chairman Brad Basse said. "The county has obviously encroached by placing a fence on land that wasn't ours."

### Closed session

Commissioners Basse, John Lumley and Frank Manning went into executive session around noon. Afterward they authorized chairman Basse to accept an offer on a proposed real estate purchase, contingent on appraisal.

### Maintenance questions

Chuck Carver, maintenance supervisor for the county told the board the surplus sale usually held in the fall will be postponed until spring to allow more time to gather items.

He also indicated a complaint had been made by one of the judges regarding privacy in the circuit courtroom. Apparently the judge is concerned about soundproofing between the courtroom and

the jury room.

Sounds could be heard through the wall between the two rooms, causing privacy issues.

Carver is checking soundproofing solutions but is not certain anything can be found as the space between the walls needs to be left open for proper airflow within the building.

There are also privacy issues involving the window coverings in the jury room. The current coverings do not close completely, leaving the jury vulnerable to being seen from outside.

### Water wells

The commissioners approved an application by Weldon Althoff to drill three water wells in the Sage Valley area, numbers 27, 35 and 46.

According to Gretchen Hurley with Hurley Geological Consulting in Cody, the proposed wells will supply three houses in the Sage Valley Subdivision west of Thermopolis. Up to 25 gallons of water per minute are proposed under each well permit.

While the proposed wells will not affect the hot spring aquifer, Hurley did want the commissioners to be aware that continued use of large amounts of groundwater from the aquifer that underlies the Sage Valley Subdivision could eventually stress the aquifer to the detriment of the well owners.

### Proposed subdivision

No action was taken by the commissioners at the final public hearing for the Soaring Eagle Subdivision proposed by Tim and Nancy Blaich.

They plan to apply for a variance to create a 40-foot easement to the subdivision rather than a 60-foot and for a variance that will allow them to use a well rather than tap into the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District lines.

The commissioners will address the issue of the subdivision at their Dec. 5 meeting.

## Costume winners honored

About 150 youngsters dressed for the 2009 Moonlight Madness Kiddie Parade costume contest Thursday.

Winners in each age division received a cash award from Pinnacle Bank.

Winners ranged from a headless horseman to Charlie Brown.

The results in order of finish:

Ages 0-2 years: Cadyne Sneile, scarecrow; Dean Bihl, Oscar the grouch; William Bapst, garden gnome.

3-4: Spencer Calhoun, headless horseman; Josie Newby, Princess Laya; Chase Herring, whitetail deer.

5-6: C.J. Kalivas, zombie; Logan Patty, knight; Abby Voss, fairy.

7-9: Hunter Bartholomew, Elvis; Mckenzie Kannapel, pumpkin fairy; True Thorne, balloon basket passenger.

10 and up: Brett Nicodemus, Charlie Brown; Hailey McDermott, boxer; Ryan Johnson, pumpkin.

## Scouts to drop off food bags

Thermopolis Scouts will start the "scouting for food" drive Saturday by placing food bags on doorsteps of Thermopolis homes.

The bags will be picked up the following Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 8 a.m. No perishable items or home canned items. Donations are distributed to the community food bank and the Thermopolis Christmas Baskets program.

Food may be left in the entryway of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, marked "Community Christmas Food Drive." For more information, call 864-3629 and leave a message.



Headless Horseman Spencer Calhoun peeks out from behind his cape. He and his miniature mount won the ages 3-4 division of the Moonlight Madness costume contest.



Colorful balloons work to get True Thorne airborne before the Moonlight Madness Kids Parade on Thursday.

## Precipitation at 10 inches

Precipitation for the first ten months of 2009 remains behind 2008 and 2007.

A total of 10.07 inches was recorded at the official National Weather Service recording site at the Thermopolis wastewater pumping station, down from 10.86 last year and 10.35 in 2007.

However, those ten-month totals are well above 2006, 2002 and 2001 when they were below eight inches.

The monthly precipitation in October was 1.55 inches, down from approximately a half inch from the year before and over an inch from 2007.

The high temperature in October was 77 degrees on Oct. 18.

The low was 16 degrees on Oct. 10.

The precipitation totals in inches for recent Octobers and the first ten months of each year include:

Year	October	Total
2009	1.55	10.07
2008	2.01	10.86
2007	2.79	10.35
2006	1.51	7.65
2005	2.25	14.90
2004	.64	11.50
2003	.45	11.66
2002	.96	7.24
2001	.29	6.45

## Veterans Day activities slated at VFW, school, memory tree

Several events are planned Wednesday in commemoration of Veterans Day in Thermopolis.

Veterans Day services will be at the VFW Post at 11 a.m. Anyone may attend.

Other events include:

• 9:30-10:30 a.m. A one-hour long student assembly to honor veterans at the school auditorium will be sponsored by the FFA Chapter. All those who served in branches of the military are invited to attend.

• 5:30 p.m. The fourth annual Veteran's Memory Tree candlelight ceremony will be held at Bicentennial Park at 5:30 p.m.

The names of veterans, living or deceased, as

well as currently deployed, will be placed on stars by VFW Post 2281 Ladies Auxiliary then hung on the pine tree in the park.

The stars will remain on the tree along with lights until January.

"City hall has said we can use the tree for this ceremony forever," project coordinator Nancy Madrigal said. "They will put the lights on the tree and then we borrow a bucket truck to put the stars on."

If you have a name you would like included on the Memory Tree, call Madrigal at 349-2573.

• 6:30 p.m. There will be a dinner at the Thermopolis VFW Post for veterans and families.

## Awnings ordinance, building, landfill discussed by council

by Jonathan Green

The Thermopolis Town Council unanimously approved the first reading of an ordinance Tuesday to allow businesses to construct awnings, canopies and marquees.

The ordinance, which town attorney Mike Messenger described as a work in progress, allows for businesses in the downtown and highway corridors to construct overhanging items under particular circumstances.

Nature's Corner owner Sarah Ferrell has been working on a plan to add a veranda to her business, but current ordinances prohibit the type of construction she envisions.

Preliminary plans, which Ferrell has offered to adjust to the council's approval, include a structure to be built out about ten feet from the front of her building. It will shade the sidewalk and her business.

The ordinance, which must pass three readings, requires

such structures be at least nine feet above the sidewalk. Supporting posts, if used, need to be two feet back from the curb.

The council instructed assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill to continue his coordinating efforts to wind down the Old West Wax Museum, which closed Friday.

Sue Blakey had expressed some concern about the disposition of certain collections, but Stansill and Blakey agreed those worries had been largely settled by the meeting.

Stansill said Ed Capen, who previously worked at the museum, will check daily to make sure the building remains in serviceable condition. Power and climate control systems will need to be maintained until the wax figurines are transferred elsewhere.

Stansill said he would appeal to the Smith family of Jackson, who donated the figures, to authorize transfer of the figurines

to the Wind River Heritage Center in Riverton. Otherwise, the City of Riverton has agreed to accept the collection, which gives the Thermopolis council a fallback option.

The council also voted to approve a new landfill agreement, already accepted by the Hot Springs County commissioners and the Kirby and East Thermopolis town councils. The agreement, backdated to the start of the current fiscal year on July 1, is not materially different from previous agreements, Stansill said.

Michael Wright from Koerwitz, Michel, Wright & Associates accounting, told the council the town passed its annual financial audit with no issues. The audit turned up one item that needs to be tweaked, regarding how grant funds shared by the town and county are carried.

Councilman Dick Hall was not present.

## Sullivan awaiting sentencing after jury conviction, first degree sexual assault

by Jonathan Green

A Thermopolis man is facing up to 100 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of two counts of first degree sexual assault.

Monte Sullivan, 37, remains free on bond, pending sentencing, after his closed jury trial in the Fifth Judicial District court of judge Robert Skar Oct. 28-29.

Hot Springs County attorney Jerry Williams said no sentencing date has been set. Each count is punishable by a prison term of up to 50 years and carries fines of up to \$10,000.

Williams is bound by law from discussing all but the broadest outlines of the case. However, he said it was a very difficult trial and he thinks several jurors may seek counseling.