



Fake 100s found in Thermopolis

by Mark Dykes
The Thermopolis Police Department recently received a report from a local bank regarding fake \$100 bills circulating in the area. The bills have been found in other locations in Wyoming as well. The bills are easily identified through Chinese characters located on the front and back sides of the bills, as well as pattern of black double lines in the corner. There may also be previous counterfeiting check marks on the bills. The fake money is actually used

by Chinese banks to train their tellers on using American bills, but they are, unfortunately, widely available. It isn't the first time the Thermopolis Police Department has dealt with phony money this year. In February, the department was notified of a business that was presented a fake large bill, which was actually movie prop money and read "motion picture use only." Those bills are printed on regular paper, which has a different feel and weight than mint paper;

they are also missing the security features legal tender has. At this busy time of the year, with all of the holiday shopping going on, it's recommended tellers and businesses keep an eye out for any suspicious bills, and to keep up with regular counterfeiting checks such as using special pens on larger bills to determine if they are fake.



photo by Cindy Glasson

Flowers for Algernon

The Hot Springs County High School Fall Drama production featured individual pieces and duets by members of the club as well as Daniel Keyes' "Flowers for Algernon." Here, Charlie (Tyler Kay) a developmentally challenged man in his 30s is examined by a doctor (Breez Petty) to determine if he's the right person for an experimental formula that will increase his intelligence the same way it did for Algernon, the mouse.

Republicans meet in Thermopolis

by Mark Dykes

Last Friday and Saturday, the Wyoming Republican Party's State Central Committee met in Thermopolis.

Precinct 2 Committeeman and State Committeeman Charles Curley, and Hot Springs County GOP Chair Jim Collins said one of the items of note during the meeting was the election of the new vice chair. He further added it was interesting because there were three candidates and two ballots, both of which were very close. In the end, Jared Olsen won the position.

Curley said Olsen is an attorney as well as a state representative, and he looks forward to working with him. This meeting was the first chaired by the new chairman, Frank Eathorne, Curley said.

Collins noted they took up discussion on several resolutions. Though there were no definitive answers from the discussion, they will be further discussed at an upcoming meeting.

The main business of the meeting, Curley said, was passing a new political plan and budget, but that information is proprietary and "we don't want the opposition to know what we're

up to." At a previous Central Committee meeting, Curley noted they did pass resolution that is very strongly against any tax increases.

tract 20 Representative Wyatt Agar.

The meeting was well attended, Curley said, and deliberately set for Thermopolis so people wouldn't have to worry about travelling in the weather.

Generally, Curley said, they're gearing up for the 2018 election.

"It will be an interesting one," he said, as there are five statewide seats and two of the three federal delegation seats up for election. Collins said they went over strategy for the upcoming election and are generally feeling good about it.

The next meeting of the Central Committee will be Feb. 24 in Cheyenne. The Wyoming Party State Convention will be April 21 at Laramie, with a theme of Women of Wyoming. Curley noted we are coming up on the 150th anniversary of the territorial legislation that gave women full political equality.

Curley noted precinct caucuses are also forthcoming, in which any registered Republican can vote. Collins said there has been discussion as to whether there should be an open primary in which people can switch party right before the primaries or whether people have to be registered members of a party for a certain time be able to vote that party.

Collins said, "I think we're feeling pretty confident. The Republican Legislature is pretty top heavy and I think we'll keep it that way. We sure are planning on working very hard for the people of the state of Wyoming to make sure they're happy with us and we continue to fill the state's needs."



photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Senator John Barrasso visits with Ellen Galyan during the Wyoming Republican Central Committee meeting last weekend.

Senator John Barrasso spoke about what's happening in Washington, D.C., primarily with regard to the tax bill. Collins said there were speeches or letters from members of the Congressional delegation, as well as House District Representative Nathan Winters and Senate Dis-

STWSD water clarification

by Cindy Glasson

Due to incorrect information provided to the Independent Record regarding water quality through the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District, the article that appeared in the November 16 edition of the Independent Record titled "South Thermop water questionable" indicates the water quality is much worse than it actually is.

Original information given to the IR shows milligrams per liter rather than micrograms per liter, making the numbers 81.025 milligrams per liter when it should have been listed as .081 micrograms per liter.

With the proper conversion, the district's water is just .001 micrograms out of compliance. At this time there is no reason for concern over the water's quality or need for an alternative water source.

The water does exceed the standards, or maximum contamination level, for total trihalomethenes (TTHM) set at .080.

In the notice distributed by South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District, the numbers causing confusion are at the end of the paragraph beginning with, "We are required to monitor your drinking water..." A copy of that document can be found on the Thermopolis Independent Record website at thermopolis.com

Information on water quality locally and throughout the United States is publicly available online at Drinking Water Watch at <https://www.epa.gov/region8-waterops/drinking-water-watch>