



London Jenks named
HSCSD Teacher
of the Year **3**

Three runners all-state;
football team
faces Burns **6-7**

Health exchange
info meeting
to be scheduled **14**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

INDEPENDENT RECORD

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Haunted House scream



Ashlynn Weber screams for her life after running into a killer clown inside the halls of the Gottsche Haunted House Thursday, Oct. 24. Adults, children and teenagers traversed the haunted basement in darkness as screams, spooks and chainsaws terrorized them. —J.D. Stetson photo

Thermopolis must wait to host Senior Olympics

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County was a potential host for the 2015 and 2016 Wyoming Senior Olympics, but the county will have to wait two years for an opportunity to showcase the area.

Amanda Moeller, the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board Tourism Director, said she met with the Wyoming Senior Olympics Board of Directors on Oct. 24 about Hot Springs County – in conjunction with Washakie County – hosting the 2015 and 2016 state games. After months of work in investigating the possibility of serving as the host, Moeller told the board it would not happen – at least for that two-year period.

“We couldn’t get everybody on the same page,” Moeller said, as she attempted to have Thermopolis and Worland work together as hosts.

She had to submit a proposal to the Senior Olympics board by Oct. 23 and it was not possible to do so by that time – given the factors of some of the events being held outside Hot Springs County.

It was determined early in the project that Thermopolis would need several facilities in Worland to make it happen – for swimming, golfing and bowling.

With Thermopolis currently having no competitive swimming facility or bowling establishment, those sports would have to be held outside the county. It was determined the local golf course does not conform to Senior Olympics criteria – but could be prepared as such for the 2017 and 2018 Wyoming Senior Olympics.

“We went to the entities that we needed,” Moeller said. “I think we just ran out of time.”

“We plan on continuing to put everything together and go back (to the Senior Olympics board) in two years,” she said. “They’re excited about coming to Thermop.”

According to Moeller, all the investigation for the prospect of hosting the state games was “very positive.” The Lodging Tax Board, Thermopolis Town Council, Hot Springs County Recreation District and local school district pledged their support for pursuing the 2015-16 state games.

“We have a couple of years to get our ducks in a row,” Moeller said.

She indicated that Sheridan was the only town to submit a proposal to host the 2015-16 Wyoming Senior Olympics.

Scouts’ food drive begins Saturday

Local scout troops will begin a community food drive on Saturday, Nov. 2 to benefit the Community Food Bank and the Christmas Basket program.

Scouts will distribute bags at your doorstep that Saturday and return to pick them up the following Saturday, Nov. 9.

They are asking for donations of nonperishable food items, which may be left in the bags provided by 8 a.m. so the scouts and other volunteers may pick them up between 8 a.m. and noon.

If your donation is not picked up or if you will be out of town that day, you may leave your

bag in the entry at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 642 Arapahoe, or call 864-3629 to make arrangements for the food to be picked up another day.

Please, no perishable or home canned products. The food collected will be distributed to local families in need.

Meet the candidates for proposed hospital district board

by J.D. Stetson

On Tuesday, voters across the county will go to the ballot box to make their decision regarding the formation of a Hot Springs County Hospital District.

Currently, the hospital receives county funding through a budget appropriation from the Hot Springs County Commissioners. The funding has traditionally been used to pay for capital equipment.

In July, the hospital asked the commissioners to place the issue of a district on the ballot for election in order to stabilize and increase its rev-

enues locally.

Under a district, the hospital would be able to levy a property tax approximately up to 3 mills. The county contribution to the hospital in the fiscal year 2013-14 budget was about 0.839 mills, or \$200,000.

There are several key reasons the hospital has identified for enacting a district including changes in reimbursement from Medicare/Medicaid, recruitment of physicians and the future expansion or building of a new hospital facility.

If the district issue passes, the candidates who

are chosen during the election will serve as the first hospital district board.

Currently, the commissioners appoint seven people to serve as a board of trustees for the hospital. Under a district, the voters will elect five directors to the board, which is comprised of two three-year term seats and three one-year term seats.

All of the candidates who filed for election to the district board currently serve on the existing board of trustees. Voters will also be given the option to write-in a qualified candidate. Here are brief profiles of the five candidates who filed:

Beth Drake

Age: 55

Occupation: Dental hygienist; seamstress at Merlin’s Hide Out

Why do you want to seek the board seat?

Drake was born and raised in Thermopolis and she knows a great deal about Thermopolis and its senior population.

Her husband is a dentist in town who works with the hospital and she sees the current health care

See Candidates on page 11

School district meets AYP requirements for 2012-13

by Cindy Glasson

Numbers were released from the Wyoming Department of Education regarding Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) scores for Hot Springs County School District No. 1 and the individual schools under that banner.

AYP is a federal measure used to determine if schools across the country are successfully educating students under the No Child Left Behind Act, and uses state standardized tests to determine if students are making progress toward meeting state academic standards.

As a whole, the school district met the AYP measures for the last school year, 2012-13.

Those measures include achievement, growth, equity and participation.

Achievement is the percent of students proficient or above on state tests in reading, math, science and writing.

Growth measures how much students improved on the state test in reading and math compared to other students who started at the same level during the school year.

Equity measures the percentage of students with “below proficient” scores from the previous year and how much they have grown from the last testing period. The key is to show growth

toward becoming “proficient” within three years or by the end of eighth grade.

Participation is expected to be 95 percent or higher on all tests used for AYP.

Performance levels are described as “exceeding expectations,” meaning the school demonstrated high achievement; “meeting expectations,” for schools with acceptable or better levels of readiness; “partially meeting expectations,” meaning schools were below the acceptable performance levels; and “not meeting expectations,” for schools with unacceptable performance or low targets and tested readiness.

**Ralph Witters
Elementary**

On the elementary level, grades kindergarten through fourth grade, Ralph Witters Elementary (RWE) did not meet the target goals for achievement.

While the report from the state does not break down the numbers into categories (math, reading,

science and writing), just 73.7 percent of RWE students met the achievement indicator.

They are also not meeting targets for total growth – at just 42 percent.

However, RWE is exceeding target numbers for equity, the number of students with below proficient scores that have grown significantly over the last year.

Inequity, RWE has 65.2 percent of students showing significant improvement.

With 100 percent participation on all grade levels, RWE has met the goals for participation, according to the report.

Thermopolis Middle School
Thermopolis Middle School (TMS) fared a little better with AYP, in grades five through eight.

TMS met goals in achievement with 71.7 percent of students making the grade in math, reading, science and writing.

They are not meeting goals in total growth or equity, however, with just 43 percent in growth

“
We did make it
(AYP) as a district,
but we shouldn’t
be judged strictly
on scores.”

**Superintendent
Dustin Hunt**

Hippies on Broadway



Flower child Rhianna Goffena strikes a pose with her grandmother, Lily Hayes, at the Pinnacle Bank Kiddies’ Costume Contest in Bicentennial Park. Rhianna took first place in the 3-year-old division. Results of the contest are on page 10. —Cindy Glasson photo

See School on page 11