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Hayes inducted into NHSACA Hall of Fame

by Joe Sovo

FARGO, N.D. — LeRoy Hayes reached the echelon of his coaching career as the Thermopolis icon was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame during a ceremony Tuesday afternoon at the Holiday Inn.

Hayes took a step toward such national recognition when he was inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Association (WCA) Hall of Fame last July in Casper.

Bill Strannigan, the longtime coach and activities/athletic director at St. Stephens and Riverton, was also inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame during the awards ceremony. They were nominated for the honor by the WCA Board of Directors. Hayes and Strannigan are the only Wyomingites to be inducted this year.

Hayes and Strannigan were among the 27 current or former coaches inducted into the Class of 2012.

Hayes' wife Lily was unable to attend Tuesday's NHSACA luncheon and ceremony due to another commitment. LeRoy and Lily have three children — Ron and Heath Hayes, and Heather Hayes Goffena. The Hayes brothers live in Douglas and Heather resides in Thermopolis.

Heath Hayes, who is a WCA past president, attended the induction luncheon.

"The list of people I'm being inducted with is totally amazing," LeRoy said, and expressed his appreciation for the nomination by his peers. "I never dreamt there were enough people around the state who think this much of me."

"It's very, very humbling when you think of all the doggone experience in this room," he said

just before receiving his Hall of Fame award at the Fargo facility.

Hayes is about to enter his 34th year of coaching, all in Thermopolis, after retiring from teaching physical education for 30 years. He currently coaches indoor and outdoor track, and football. He began his teaching career in 1977 and has coached at the junior high/middle school and high school levels.

Hayes' previous honors

Honors have been plentiful for Hayes, although he has reached the pinnacle of the coaching ranks with his national induction. He was an assistant football coach on the Bobcats' three consecutive state champion teams from 1990-92. Those teams are now in the Bobcat Athletics Hall of Fame.

In WCA honors, Hayes was Wrestling Head Coach of the Year in 1992, Assistant Football Coach of the Year in 1991 and Indoor Track Coach of the Year in 2009.

Last year, he was a finalist for National Assistant Track Coach of the Year. Hayes served as WCA president from 1990-92 after filling the vice president position from 1988-90.

Hayes battled back from a stroke suffered about a decade ago and continued coaching despite limited use of the right side of his body.

"Physical challenges have not kept him from the career he loves," read John Hutchison, co-chair of the Hall of Fame Committee during Hayes' induction. "He maintained a positive attitude..."

After being inducted, Hayes was sure to give credit to a number of influential coaches early in his career. They include Phil Treick, Don Simp-

See Hayes on page 12



LeRoy Hayes of Thermopolis, left, and Bill Strannigan of Riverton are pictured following their induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Tuesday afternoon in Fargo, N.D.

—Joe Sovo photo

School trustees adopt budget

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 trustees unanimously adopted the new fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 budget Wednesday, July 18 after a public hearing to outline the parameters of the budget.

The hearing was held at 8 p.m. after trustees adjourned their monthly meeting and the budget was approved by a 5-0 vote. Board chairwoman Liz Mahoney and other trustees Clay VanAntwerp, Karen Leyba, Dr. Travis Bomengen and Tom Sullivan cast aye votes; Joe Martinez and Hub Whitt were unable to attend the hearing and meeting.

According to new District Business Manager Colleen Anderson, the budgeted expenditures for FY2012-13 are \$14,287,502, which includes the money in all nine district funds. That compares to a \$15,514,130 total budget for the just-completed 2011-12 school year.

The General Fund budget shows \$11,180,638, which is about \$420,000 less than the 2011-12 projected amount.

What is key for the district is that the budget was balanced without going into reserves, which the district had to do last year to overcome a budget deficit.

"We had to do that last year

(go into reserves) to meet the goals of the district," Superintendent Dustin Hunt said after the meeting, and he was pleased that could be avoided for the FY2012-13 budget. "This year we wanted to compensate staff. We felt good we were able to do both."

Decreases in two accounts

The new FY2012-13 budget reflects major changes in two accounts — Special Revenue Fund and Major Maintenance Fund. The budgeted amount of \$625,000 in the Special Revenue

See School on page 13

Farmers/ranchers weigh in on effects of drought in HSC

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County continues to be in moderate drought with little to no precipitation in June and sparse precipitation in May. Precipitation in July has reached .13, according to National Weather Service records.

The dry weather earlier in the spring brought with it several challenges for the area farmers and ranchers.

Ranchers have been moving their cows from pasture to pasture trying to keep their cattle crop fed throughout the summer but are quickly running out of places with enough grass and are having to dip into feed reserves.

Many farmers have been fortunate enough to be able to draw

water from the Big Horn River, but they have had trouble keeping their crops irrigated, leading to a shortfall in production and quality.

While the crop producers are seeing high prices for their crops, the ranchers are anticipating tighter margins as they go into the shipping season early because they are running out of feed.

Ranchers

John Baird has lived and ranched in Hot Springs County all his life and he has never seen a dryer spring than this year.

Baird operates a ranch east of town where he runs cattle and farms a little bit of hay. Baird's hay crop is down about 50 per-

cent from other years, and the grass situation on his summer ranges is sparse because of the dry spring.

For his cattle, the ranch is coasting on the leftover feed from last year.

While water for the cattle is short, his water reserve is still sufficient to get him through the season. The higher concern for the rancher is the feed situation, which may force him to sell the cows earlier than when the ranch traditionally sells.

The problem with selling earlier is the cows will likely be 75 pounds lighter than usual, which means less money per head.

See Drought on page 12

Herding the turtles



State Park worker, Chuck Laver, walks in the cooling pond up to his chest on Sunday to mix up the turtles for the annual Rotary Turtle Trek. Laver uses a leaf blower to herd the turtles from one side of the pond to the other before the winning numbers were drawn. See Turtle Trek results on page 11.

—Cindy Glasson photo

County attorney helps nab suspect in felony car burglary

by J.D. Stetson

Fifth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Harrington bound over Corey Coriddi, who was 24 at the time of his arrest, to Hot Springs County District Court on a felony burglary charge, two misdemeanor charges of unlawful possession of property and one misdemeanor charge of possession of stolen property.

The felony charge is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both fine and imprisonment.

Thermopolis Police Officers and Hot Springs County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Coriddi June 27 after Jerry Williams, who serves as the Hot Springs County Attorney and as a Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department firefighter, witnessed Coriddi walk to a vehicle parked in front of a warehouse in the 300 block of Amoretti Street at about 10 p.m., according to court documents.

Williams stated he saw Coriddi allegedly enter the vehicle through an open driver's side window and rummage around in the vehicle. Williams walked over to Coriddi, who jumped out of the vehicle and

started jogging away, according to court documents.

Williams approached Coriddi and asked him what he was doing. Coriddi allegedly responded he was trying to retrieve some of his belongings from a friend who was inside the warehouse. Williams indicated he wanted to verify Coriddi's story with his friend. As the two approached the warehouse, Coriddi allegedly took slower steps and then took off running. Williams pursued him.

Coriddi allegedly ran for several blocks with Williams in pursuit. While making a turn at the northeast corner of Amoretti and Fourth streets, Coriddi fell down and lost one of his shoes. He continued running with one shoe as Williams closed.

Williams tackled Coriddi, knocking him to the ground, where Williams was able to detain Coriddi and call Thermopolis Dispatch to report the situation.

When officers arrived at the location in the 400 block of Clark Street they observed Coriddi on the ground and Williams on top of him. Officers

See Burglary on page 13

