

Open Gym at the Community Building

The Community Building offers Open Gym and Adult Open Gym hours throughout the month for volleyball and basketball. For times, please see our Your Town Today page at www.theprowersjournal.com or call 336-2774.

LPD Notice

The Lamar Police Department receives found property on a continual basis that includes bicycles, cell phones, keys, driver's licenses and numerous other items. These items are kept for 6 months in an attempt to locate the owners. We encourage persons with lost property to contact the police department Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3 pm at 336-4341.

NOTICE OF MEETING

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROWERS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT AND TO ALL OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM IT MAY BE OF CONCERN:

NOTICE is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Prowers County Hospital District d/b/a Prowers Medical Center will be held at Prowers Medical Center, 401 Kendall Drive, in Lamar, Prowers County, Colorado, in said District, on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of said District this 14th day of January 2013.

Candy Ruedeman, Board Chairwoman
PMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Prowers Journal CLASSIFIED ADS

For Rent

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE

Excellent Location - 313 South 5th, Lamar - 400 Sq feet, Utilities Included. All Newly Remodeled - Your Own Private Entry - Call Lori Peterson 336-7000

Vehicle For Sale

Year: 2008, Make: Ford Explorer, Color: Maroon, Mileage: 95, 393 - \$11,000 Sold As Is! Contact Lamar Civic Federal Credit Union, 311 South 5th, Lamar, CO 81052 Call 719-336-4387

Electronics for Sale

Subwoofer For Sale

Polk Audio PSW250 subwoofer - 100 Watt dynamic power output. Frequency response of 30Hz - 180Hz produces tight and dynamic bass, built-in amplifier that gives out 50-Watt continuous average output. \$99 OBO - Call 688-7720

GOCO Funding McClave Park Additions

McClave residents will enjoy some new additions to the McClave Park beginning this spring. Great Outdoors Colorado, GOCO, recently awarded Bent County \$161,377.27 to bring some new amenities to the park. Interested parties from GOCO, architectural and construction firms, Bent County Commissioners and McClave school board representatives as well as the grant writer, Kathryn Finau of KSF Strategic Services, attended a brief outdoors meeting at the site this past Monday morning, January 14, when the temperatures were far from spring or summer-like.

Matching funds from Bent County and the Bent County Recreation District will be applied to the improvements which includes 30 by 60 foot covered pavilion with restrooms. Other improvements include new picnic tables, exterior lighting, trash cans and grills and additional playground equipment.

Many of the contractors are locally based in southeast Colorado. The actual ground-breaking and construction work will be contingent on the weather. *By Russ Baldwin*

NWS December Precipitation Summary for Southeast Colorado

December saw some needed snowfall to portions of south central and southeast Colorado. Mountain snowfall for December measured 112% of average, but the statewide snowpack as of January First was still only 70% of average. Precipitation over the southeast plains was spotty and came in near to slightly below normal for December.

The dry weather has extended the Exceptional Drought (D4) conditions for most of Bent and Prowers Counties as well as Otero and Kiowa Counties and northeast portions of Las Animas County. Extreme Drought (D3) conditions remain in extreme southeastern Bent County, extreme southern Prowers County and north and eastern portions of Baca County. Severe Drought (D2) conditions persist in the rest of southeast Colorado.

CPC and VIC Soil moisture calculations continue to indicate drier to much drier than normal conditions across most of southeast and south central Colorado with the worst conditions persisting across the southeast Colorado Plains.

Pueblo received 4.0 inches of snow and 0.30 inches of precipitation for December, both below the monthly average. The average temperature in Pueblo for the year was 54.9 degrees, 2.9 degrees above average. The city received only 5 inches of precipitation for 2012, 7.57 inches below normal and made 2012 the second driest year on record.

At the end of December, streamflow across the Arkansas and Upper Rio Grande Basins were generally below average with the first seasonal streamflow forecast for the April to September period expecting below normal conditions. As a result of last year's well-below average runoff, Colorado's statewide reservoir storage has been tracking below average since the end of May, 2012. Overall storage across the Arkansas and Upper Rio Grande Basins also reflect this trend of below average levels.

Wanted!

Volunteer Drivers for the Meals on Wheels Program for Sage Services in Prowers County. For more information, call 336-7115.

The Prowers Journal Classified Ads

...are a great way to advertise
...bring attention to your retail business

...are a low-cost, effective way to reach your clientele, old and new

...we can accept scripted ads up to Tuesday afternoon for Wednesday print

...we can accept online ads anytime

...The Prowers Journal newsletter is free

...we publish 1,400 newsletters each week for Lamar, Wiley, Granada and Holly

...our reach and readership continues to grow

...our online readership continues to grow weekly.

...our numbers are great, so your business earns a better return on your investment

Selling a house or car?

Seeking an employee? Posting an official notice? Running a seasonal sale?

The Prowers Journal is less than two years old and making an impact in the county. Make a business impact with your Classified Ad this week in The Prowers Journal.

Call 719-336-9095 today.



Orange old-time Bronco Phone (functional) and Orange Bronco Waste Can, 20" tall - Best offer over \$500 - Call 336-5840 anytime

Classified Ads - Published by Robinson Printing, Inc. - January 16, 2013

2012 in Review – November and December**November 2012 in Review**

The national election and the local election were on everyone's mind as the final weeks and months before November 6 inched along during the late summer and early fall. A number of political forums were conducted for the Prowers County Commissioner's race, mostly in October, affording an opportunity for interest residents to either attend or tune in to help determine for whom they would vote, and not just for candidates, but also for Amendment 64, a proposal to legalize recreational use of marijuana was put before state voters. Holly residents would also face a choice whether to raise their city sales tax by an additional 2% to help maintain the general and utility fund. As the voting was tallied the night of November 6, it became apparent that there would be a new face on the commissioner's board as had been expected with one open race for District 3. Wendy Buxton-Andrade defeated Jillane Hixson by a vote of 3,190 to 1,519. Henry Schnabel, in a considerably closer race, out-voted challenger Don Suefer, 2,408 to 2,326 in the initial count. The marijuana measure also passed, but not by the voters in Prowers County and Holly residents approved the sales tax increase. Oaths of office for the new and returning commissioner would be administered on January 8, 2013.

As promised, the light pole painting project began on Main Street in Lamar, with 28 poles getting their first coating. Crews set up fabric guards around the poles so the painting project wouldn't become wind born, coating some of the downtown businesses in the process. The flower pots, benches and trash containers would be removed from their locations, fixed up a bit where needed and replaced with their new matching coat of paint.

Community members turned out for a synopsis of a historic building overview for downtown Lamar. An architectural firm had been hired to conduct an in-depth study of 72 buildings of which, 20, could achieve some level of historic designation or listing at the local, state or federal level. Shawna Hodge, Lamar Main Street Coordinator, hosted the gathering which included photos and some general history of some of the downtown buildings, some of which dated back to the early 1900s. Historic designations could help develop local heritage tourism sites and funding for signage of points of interest for local residents or tourists passing through the area, or those who visit with the intent to view such landmarks.

December 2012 in Review

Personnel developments at Prowers Medical Center maintained a community-wide interest. In late October, the PMC Board of Directors voted not to renew Dr. Barry Portner's employment contract with the hospital and Dr. John Abbott was appointed the new medical Chief of Staff during the November 27 monthly board meeting. This marked the second occasion in which Abbott served in that capacity. The board's actions regarding Portner's future relationship with the hospital were brought up during the December 20 board meeting when the vote was made official. Portner's employee contract would not be renewed, but he would retain all medical privileges for the length of that agreement. The meeting, set for that purpose only, became briefly heated when Portner's attorney, Mark Davis, introduced additional elements regarding the way Portner's case had been treated. Davis told the board there would be legal action taken in the future. As the reasons for the board's actions were taken in executive session, they could not legally be brought before the public.

The Lamar Utility Board voted to approve a reclassification of General Service Large Class power users, impacting the seven top power customers of the power plant. This offered some relief to the size of payments made to the Light Plant, and at the same time, general customers would see a 7% decrease, on average, of the cost of power they paid, per kilowatt hour of usage. The Light Plant and ARPA would see their legal battles with WildEarth Guardians continue into 2013 regarding overages in emissions at the Repowering Project. Modifications to the coal plant's boilers will be put into effect next spring, in hopes of running at full capacity which staying on the safe side of emissions as outlined in the Clean Air Permit. Even if the plant was running in permissible levels, the higher cost of energy produced by coal, as opposed to natural gas would mean that ARPA would continue to pursue long term power purchase agreements, keeping the plant offline.

Prowers County Development Incorporated board members reviewed their 2012 and 2013 budgets and decided some overhead costs could be reduced with a move away from their Main Street location in Lamar. The Rodeway Cow Palace Inn had office space available at a lower monthly rate than was currently being paid, plus insurance and utilities would be eliminated and phone line charges would be reduced. There was the added benefit of ample parking for staff, board members and clientele and visitors. With the help of board members, some Prowers County equipment and volunteers from Lamar Community College, the office furniture was loaded and moved to the new headquarters by the second

weekend of December.

The Prowers County Lodging Tax Panel made the move with PCDI as Panel board members used their Main Street office space for their monthly meetings. Along with the new address came the idea for a representative logo for the organization which had been in existence for six years. An at-large contest for the community was held with \$400 awarded as prize money for the logo which best represented Prowers County. The board members decided to award the prize to two area students for their artwork. One winner was selected for developing the concept of using a puzzle as the logo, and the other student for their concept of a rural setting. The logo will be put into use early in January of next year.

Some retirements came to light as the year drew to a close. Chana Reed, Lamar Chamber of Commerce office manager announced she would retire in December after 21 years service to the chamber. Through almost two decades, Reed maintained her office hours at the chamber while serving on several board and committees. She helped organize the first Cal Ripkin World Series ballgames to Lamar several years ago, was nominated by the governor to serve on the board for GOCO, representing southeast Colorado interests and helped coordinate parades, Lamar Days events, rodeos and special events around the community.

Despite the passage of Amendment 64, legalizing Colorado citizen's possession of one ounce of marijuana for recreational purposes, the new law and criminal activities had not yet matched each other's pace. In mid December, Lamar police arrested a Greyhound bus passenger while he was transporting eleven pounds of marijuana in a pillow case. One of the department's K9 dogs was called in to sniff out the drug, an event which was conducted in fairly regular fashion for the latter part of the year, often with pretty good results. The poundage however, was considerable and the Denver resident was charged and arrested following the search. Amendment 64 would not go into effect in the state until the new year, but Lamar and Prowers County officials were adamant in following federal regulations regarding the use of drug and the negative vote the amendment received from Prowers County in the November General Election. The Commissioners directed County Attorney John Lefferdink to draw up an ordinance prohibiting retail sales of marijuana and grow sites in the community. State regulations on amendment 64 are expected next July and communities have until October of next year to act on their own community interests.

2012 was going into the record books at one of the hottest and driest years on record. Summer temperatures in southeast Colorado exceeded 100 degrees on numerous occasions and by comparison, temperatures in the upper 90s at times could feel cool. It remained dry with rainfall and precipitation lagging behind levels from earlier years. The snowpack which helped feed ditches and streams in the region dried up sooner than had been expected. The effects of the dry spell were not lost on local residents as a televised documentary on the Dust Bowl of the 1930s focused on the High Plains area. It detailed the economic and ecological hardships that would impact the people of the land for years to come before more educated means of using the land were accepted. Present day residents got a literal taste of that time. Because of blowing dust, a portion of Highway 287/385 between Lamar and Springfield was temporarily closed on November 10, but not before the limited visibility had contributed to a motor vehicle accident, injuring a local resident. A National Weather Service satellite view of that area on that day showed waves of wind-blown dust between Lamar and Garden City, Kansas, appearing to be brown waves of water, approaching the shore. Despite the dryness local residents were treated to their first white Christmas in years. The evening of the 24th, a storm system moved over the area bringing light snow to southeast Colorado, giving about a two inch blanket to enjoy for Christmas morning in Prowers County, along with single digit temperatures in the evening.

The events of a passing year always play a role in how the New Year will be determined. There are now some new faces mixed with the current ones in some key positions in the community which will help guide us through 2013. As downtown Lamar is basing a portion of its future economic growth by relating to the history of the buildings lining Main Street, our community can improve by combining our experiences of the past with some of the new ideas that will be offered us in the year to come. May we make the best of the time we're given for 2013. *By Russ Baldwin*

Willow Creek Park Drug Bust

Media Release from Lamar Police Department - On Thursday, 01/10/2013, Lamar Police Officers were called to Willow Creek Park near the swimming pool on the report of a drug transaction taking place. One of the vehicles which was reportedly involved with the transaction was still on scene when officers arrived.

Officers contacted the driver of that vehicle and identified him as Aaron Westhoff, age 20, of Lamar. Officers detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The subsequent search of the car revealed marijuana and other items associated with the sale of illegal drugs.

Westhoff was arrested on scene and transported to the Prowers County Jail where he was booked for distribution of marijuana and held on an \$8,000 bond.