



## \$400,000 grant approved for Green House Living project

### *From staff reports*

Doug Osborn, president of Green House Living for Sheridan, announced in a press release Monday that the Joe and Arlene Watt Foundation on Dec. 10 approved a \$400,000 grant to Alternative Elder Living Inc. for the Green House Living for Sheridan project.

Robert Eberhart, president of the Watt Foundation, said the board agreed to commit the \$400,000 in addition to its initial \$100,000 in 2008 for a total commitment of \$500,000 payable in minimum installments of \$100,000 over five years.

Cost of the project is now \$7.6 million, according to Green House Development Director Kay Wallick.

Osborn announced earlier this month that the estimated cost of building and opening four Green House cottages has been reduced from \$9.7 million to \$7.6 million due to lower construction costs and a lower long-term financing rate than originally planned.

The new fundraising goal is now \$960,000. All fundraising and financing must be in place by March 31 to receive a \$891,217 grant from the Wyoming Business Council for the infrastructure. If fundraising succeeds, project plans are to break ground next summer and open by 2011 at Cloud Peak Ranch west of Sheridan Memorial Hospital, according to Wallick.

Please see **Grant, Page 2**

## Grant

(Continued from Page 1)

“The Watt Foundation shows great courage and leadership in awarding this grant,” said Barbara Walter, co-chair of the fundraising committee. “We know that this pilot project, intended to enhance the quality of life for elders, is going to create meaningful change across Wyoming. We couldn’t be more grateful for their partnership.”

Dr. Sy Thickman, fundraising committee co-chair, said fundraising volunteers are ready for the challenge. Additional committee members are Kathy Bosworth, Joan Connolly, Guy Fowler, Liz Howell, Jerry Iekel, Everett McGlothlin, Carmen Rideout, and Elizabeth Shelton.

The board has contracted with Mike Follet, developer and recent administrator for St. John’s Lutheran Ministries Green House project, to consult with the board and task force about all aspects of the project and the campaign,

according to the press release.

The release adds:

Green House cottages elder care alternatives are based on a concept developed by Harvard graduate and gerontologist Dr. Bill Thomas.

In the Green House cottages, 12 elders will live in a home where the centerpiece is a hearth and open kitchen. A small self-managed staff will provide personal care and meals, joining the elders at the table. Nurses and other professionals will provide clinical care.

Family, friends, pets and plants are a part of daily living, as elders would expect in their own homes. These are licensed nursing homes, accepting private payments, private insurance, as well as Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements. The cost is similar to or less than a traditional nursing home.

For more information, contact Wallick at 674-1607.