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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

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Up 39 students in two years School enrollment soars

Enrollment in Hot Springs County schools has soared by 39 students in two years. The enrollment has been set at 661 for schools this year, up 18 students from the total of 643 in October a year ago. The enrollment two years ago in 2006 after the ten-day drop period was 622. At the end of last school year in May, enrollment was 643.

The enrollment by school for the past three years:

School	08	07	06
High	196	191	185
Middle	156	156	142
Elementary	309	296	295
Total	661	643	622

The enrollment by class, with girls listed first and boys second:

Kindergarten,	41	students,
20 girls, 21 boys.		

First grade, 58, 33, 25. Second grade, 56, 26, 30. Third grade, 46, 26, 20. Fourth grade, 59, 31, 28. Fifth grade, 49, 27, 22. Sixth grade, 41, 14, 27. Seventh grade, 60, 26, 34. Eighth grade, 55, 23, 32. Freshmen, 49, 33, 16. Sophomores, 51, 30, 21. Juniors, 47, 27, 20. Seniors, 49, 24, 25.

California defense firm considers relocating to Hot Springs County

VAST Manufacturing is exploring the possibility of relocating its manufacturing operation from California to Thermopolis in early 2009. "We assemble class 3 electronic cables," CEO Alex Kinane said. "Class 1 cables are the kind one would find in toys. "If the cable fails, you expect to throw the whole thing away and get a new one. "Class 2 cables are used in the capital equipment industry and are built to be reliable and long lasting. If it fails, then there is an inconve-

nience but is usually repairable. "Class 3 cables are not allowed to fail; if they do then some one's life is on the line. Class 3 cables are used in all aerospace systems, even unmanned aircraft. "Any vehicle or machine that must be trusted with peoples lives, that is what we make cables for. Working at VAST Manufacturing means making a direct contribution to projects that keep our homeland safe."

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Children enjoy the new facilities on the first day of school at Children's Resource Center. The teacher, Connie Foehrweiser, reads the four year old group a story in the new classroom. The move had been delayed for several months and staff and students were eager to settle into the new location. —Breez Longwell Daniels photo

Children's Resource Center moves into location on south edge of town

by Breez Longwell Daniels

The Children's Resource Center opened at its new location Monday as students arrived for the first day of school. Previously located two blocks north on Shoshoni Street, the school has moved into a newly remodeled building at the original Courtesy Auto site off Highway 20. Serving children, birth to age five, CRC has 33 students enrolled in their on-site developmental preschool program. The three-year-old group has eight students attending morning classes three days a week. The four-year-old group has nine students attending morning sessions four days a week. There are also 16 students in the four and five-year-old class preparing for kindergarten next fall, who attend in the afternoons four days a week. The new preschool has a large foyer with parent waiting area, business office, teacher and therapist offices, a kitchen, open classroom space and

gross motor play area. "I am just so thrilled, our facility is wonderful," lead teacher Connie Foehrweiser said. "We are also looking forward to the arrival of the new classroom furniture and a state of the art FM sound system." Foehrweiser said CRC shares students with the Head Start program. Many of the four and five-year-olds who attend CRC in the afternoon also go to Head Start in the morning. Site director, and speech and language pathologist Karen Leyba said Children's Resource Center also provides services to babies and partners with Kiddie Kollege, home daycares and visits private homes to provide services to preschool children in their natural environment. "We take the child from where he or she is and provide an early intervention, focusing on getting a child developmentally ready for the next step," Leyba said. "Our mission is to enable all children to reach their full potential."

Chair auction benefits center

Over 30 chairs will be looking for new homes during the First Annual Chair-ity Auction Friday at 7 p.m., in the armory recreation center. The chairs created by individuals and businesses have been on display in downtown windows. Proceeds will go toward the new interpretive center project in Hot Springs State Park. The auction will be conducted by Verne Lofink. Chairs will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday and be on display beginning at 5:30 p.m. The chairs range from painted children's potty chairs, folding camp chairs and upholstered dining chairs to shaped, stuffed and quilted creations. They include a fanciful "Tri-chair-atops," a chair-acter-fash-ioned after Maurice Sendak's popular children's book, "Where the Wild Things Are." "Whether it's an elegant chair for your dining room or something funky for your cabin, there's some really creative pieces," said Toddi Darlington. "There's a wine-themed bar stool, a Thermopolis bright red "hot seat" stool, elegant needle-worked peacock chair, several Western-themed chairs and even an Italian villa scene." Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Visitors and participants may vote for the best artwork, funniest chair and people's choice awards. Award certifi-

cates will be given to the oldest and youngest contestants. The Chair-ity Auction project is sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation, with help from a Wyoming Arts Council community arts grant and National Endowment for the Arts funding. Randy Oestman, Wyoming Arts Council community arts program, viewed the chairs last week. "This is a great project," he said. "It's exciting to see the community recognizing the value of the arts and getting involved." According to Oestman, there's a growing awareness throughout the state of the value of the arts. "More small communities are beginning to jump on the bandwagon," he said. "The arts has become the driving force in the economy today. It drives tourism, and it drives economic development. "When corporations look to move, they hunt for places with arts and cultural activities. If they don't see a vibrant and active community, they look elsewhere. "Thermopolis's push to develop an interpretive center and arts facility for the region is to be lauded. It can make a big difference to the community in the future. We support your efforts."

Architectural renderings of the interpretive center will be on display during the Friday event, along with progress reports. To have a chair picked up for the auction, call 864-3391.

Antique and Bottle Show features lots of collectors

The Third Annual Big Horn Basin Antique and Bottle Show is Friday and Saturday in the armory recreation center. The Show and Sale includes antique and collectible dealers from throughout the Big Horn Basin, as well as Casper, Sheridan, Riverton and Utah. It is open Friday 5-9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Several special activities are planned. Warren Borton, Midvale, Utah, a life-long Wyoming bottle collector, will discuss Wyoming bottles Friday at 6 p.m. prior to the Chair-ity auction at 7 p.m.

Saturday from 10-11 a.m., Jackie Wright, Broadway By-gones, Thermopolis, will be available to test gemstones. A Teddy Bear Repair Hospital will be open 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Old bears can also be identified. Collectors will display old coins, pop bottles, Wyoming bottles, china and glassware, textiles, quilts and reproduction mountain man crafts. It is sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation, with support from Hot Springs County Recreation District. For more details, call 921-8120.



Bobcat MJ Wagstaff, 17, watches as teammates Chris Leyba, 22, and Michael Vaser, 1, battle for a pass interception. Moving into position is Oscar Delgado, 51, of Big Piney.

Football losing streak ends at 19

by Pat Schmidt

The losing streak is over. After 19 losses in a row, the Bobcats defeated Big Piney 7-0 in overtime here Saturday. The losses started on Sept. 30, 2005, when Thermopolis lost at Newcastle 25-23. Coach Greg Herold down-played the losing streak, especially in relation to the current Bobcat team, other players and factors were involved. "To win your first game of the season, especially against an opponent like Big Piney, and

end a losing streak is huge," he said. He said the Bobcats are now on a one-game win streak and are focusing on doubling that this Friday when East 3A Conference foe Moorcroft visits here at 6 p.m. Moorcroft defeated Lovell 14-6 last Friday to take the league lead. Interestingly the longest losing streak in the state is now apparently Lander, the school that beat Thermopolis in the state Class 3A semifinals in 2004. Both teams were loaded with talent that season but have suffered since.