

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

RFD-TV expected to film events

Smiths expect solid turnout at 26th annual quarter horse sale

by Cindy Glasson
The WYO Quarter Horse Ranch is gearing up for its 26th annual May horse sale Saturday. Carole Smith said there has been a lot of interest from all over the United States and Canada. One horse went to England last year after selling for \$50,000 on a phone bid. Smith doesn't feel the current economy is going to affect the sale much. She has already had several phone calls from people who cannot find a motel room here. "We've found that good geldings are still selling very well," she said. The Smiths did something a little different this year by advertising on RFD-TV, a station dedicated to rural programming. "We've been running an ad during the show 'Equestrian Nation' for the last eight weeks and we've had amazing response from it," she said. Equestrian Nation will be sending a producer

and film crew to the sale, reportedly to film a segment on the sale for airing at a later date. Host of the show is Larry Mahan, six-time PRCA World All-Around Champion. Four members of the Smiths' extended ranch family have died from cancer, so Friday is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night in their honor. The 100 geldings up for auction will be paraded through the ring while a video on them is shown. The parade will be broadcast on the Internet. Smith said they will not be taking Internet bids. "I'm still setting up people for phone bids," she said Monday. There will be a roping preview on Saturday at 9 a.m. The public sale of the 100 geldings and 37 one and two-year-olds will start at noon at the fairgrounds. "These folks really love Thermop," Smith said. "The merchants and the people are so friendly, and they have a good time."

New school teachers named

by Jonathan Green
The Hot Springs County School Board filled a number of staff positions during a special meeting Monday and accepted two resignations and a retirement. The meeting lasted less than three minutes as chairman Liz Mahoney opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance before a single vote was taken to approve the administration staffing recommendations. All board members were present, and the vote passed unanimously. Sara Spring has accepted an elementary teaching position. She is elementary principal Matt Spring's wife and worked as a teacher in Worland this year. (Matt Spring will be middle school principal in the fall.) Jennifer Chamberlain, a University of Northern Iowa graduate, will teach sixth grade, as will Bret Hoover, who is now teaching in Sheridan. Aaron White will teach fifth grade after graduating from Simpson College in south-central Iowa. Angela Brice, currently working in Corvallis, Ore., will teach high school science. Charles "Chuck" Syverson, a 20-year teaching and coaching

veteran currently in Spearfish, S.D., will teach physical education in the middle and high schools and coach high school football. (See separate story.) Amy Mason resigned as junior varsity girl's basketball coach and John McFall as a middle school custodian. Karen McLean, a special education paraprofessional, is retiring. Superintendent Marty Kobza said three certified positions remain open, foreign language teacher, special services director and reading coach. He expects hires to be made for the positions at the board meeting May 21.



Breeze Petty yawns after having a spell cast on her during The Princess Song at the kindergarten and first grades program on Thursday. —Lara Love photo

Concert features students

The annual, free Pops concert on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the auditorium is put on by the Hot Springs County High School music department. Groups ranging from the elementary school through high school will perform. Music from Phantom of the Opera, Rodeo, John Williams and others will be featured, according to high school choir and middle and high schools bands director Dustin Olsen. The schedule: 6 p.m.--Ralph Witters Elementary School Cloggers, directed by Joan Stetler. 6:30--Middle School Choir, directed by Leah Schoenewald. 7--High School Choir 7:30--Hot Springs County Jazz Ensemble 8--Fifth Grade Band 8:30--Middle School Band 9--High School Band

EDC to consider funding at retreat

by Jonathan Green
Board members of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Economic Development Company will have a retreat in early June to weigh how best to proceed after voters turned down a 1/4-cent sales tax on May 5. Chairman Dee Hillberry said he was disappointed the measure did not pass and board members would consider whether to put the issue on a future ballot. He said EDC will continue to "do the best we can" with resources available. The town of Thermopolis contributed \$18,625 in fiscal year 2008-

09 to the company and Hot Springs County provided \$35,000. According to the preliminary Town of Thermopolis budget for FY 2009-10, EDC will receive about 10% less. County clerk Hans Odde said the county commission has not yet made a decision. Hillberry said any money raised by lot sales in Red Rock Commercial Park would be used to pay down debt and held for future projects. Any profit could not be used to cover operational expenses such as salaries and office supplies. More details will be released after the board retreat, Hillberry said.



Wyoming Gas employees work to replace natural gas lines near Round Top Mountain that drop down over the edge of Airport Hill to Park and Seventh streets in Thermopolis. The crew will be removing the decades old lines for the next few weeks. —Cindy Glasson photo

Risen Son in building

by Cindy Glasson
Four years of work and dedication have finally come to a fruitful end for the members of the Risen Son Baptist Church. Housed in the former Empire Oil Company office building on Amoretti since 1999, the congregation assessed their needs and priorities. The need for a bigger church was on top of that list. Pastor John Herrington said the 8,100-square foot addition to the existing building, was actually stalled for about two and a half years while they tried to meet state fire codes. Then help arrived from the "Builders for Christ" out of North Carolina. The group of 22 volunteers completed all the framing in four days, sleeping at the church and eating meals prepared by the parishioners. A second group, from Mississippi, arrived shortly after, finishing the sheet rock within a week. Decker Construction from Worland finished the interior work. Along with the sanctuary which seats 300, a gym for the youth group is close to being finished. Harrington said there is still a 20-foot steeple to add. A formal dedication of the new sanctuary is scheduled for June.

BHB landfill management plan subject of meeting Monday

The draft of a mandatory solid waste (garbage) management plan will be discussed at a meeting Monday in Thermopolis Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. Landfill operators in Hot Springs, Washakie and Big Horn counties prepared the plan as a result of a 2006 state law that required each operating landfill to submit a 20-year integrated

solid waste management plan to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by this July 1. By planning together to develop regional solutions for solid waste issues, landfill operators could be reimbursed for up to 90% (three or more entities planning together) of their costs.

In 2007 the three counties agreed to cooperate, and Big Horn County was selected to serve as the lead entity for the planning process. The other Big Horn Basin county, Park, elected to develop its own plan. The three-county plan has gone through the economic analysis and development phases, and the

draft plan for the landfill here was discussed at a Thermopolis town council meeting last month. The final phase requires the Monday public hearing before submitting the plan to the DEQ by July 1. Other meetings are scheduled in Greybull, Worland and Lovell. No deadline for public comment was announced.