

Kelsey Redland captures Wilford Mower Award!

6

FFA installs six new honorary members

11

Meet the members of the Class of 2009 1a-12a

Thermopolis
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Owl Creek water pact anticipated

Town to continue charging other entities, county for construction inspection fees

by Jonathan Green
The Thermopolis Town Council denied a request from the Hot Springs County Commission to waive inspection fees for the planned county health and government annex building at a meeting Tuesday.
Assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill told the council members the commission had requested a fee waiver, which would save the county between \$5,000-\$10,000.
In 1983 the council passed a resolution that automatically waived inspection fees for other political divisions within the county. The council subsequently voided that resolution in 2005, after construction of the new high school.
Stansill told the council between \$65,000-\$70,000 in fees would have been collected during the high school inspection.
He warned while the county has been cooperative and accommodating to the town, allowing such a waiver would set a financially dangerous precedent. Other agencies might demand similar concessions, and some groups that had already constructed buildings might ask for fee refunds.
He mentioned the elementary school, fire

hall and Wyoming Pioneer Home building projects. The projects came after the 2005 fee waiver revocation.
Stansill provided a second reason to deny any waiver request.
“The reason we have fees is because we provide a service,” he said.
The town also assumes a liability when issuing building inspections, for which insurance must be paid.
He said Thermopolis was the only town in the state to have had such a waiver policy.
Councilman Dick Hall moved to deny the waiver request but town lawyer Ron Jurovich said no motion was necessary.
Councilwoman Toni Casciato then moved to grant a waiver.
Both motions died for lack of a second.
Owl Creek district
Council members also expressed continued support for providing water to the Owl Creek Water District once the system begins to come online. Stansill recommended the town engineer and lawyer should negotiate a contract now with the district.
Harry Hughes of Owl Creek Engineering

presented the council with an example of a contract provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but Stansill expressed concern over some of the terms.
Complications prevent the town from copying current water supply contracts with Lucerne, East Thermopolis or South Thermopolis, Stansill said. The contracts are in need of updating, and the Lucerne contract includes water rights assignments from the Big Horn River that are not applicable in the Owl Creek area.
The council will continue working with the Owl Creek group to ensure progress proceeds quickly enough for the district to receive federal stimulus funds, council members assured the district representatives.
Joint powers board
Council members also continued weighing their obligation to joining a joint powers board to facilitate construction of a discovery and interpretive center in Hot Springs State Park. Stansill said he will set up a joint meeting with the county commission, state representative Lorraine Quarberg and Greater Learning Foundation members to iron out what needs to be done.

County tables pit, sets project costs

by Cindy Glasson
A decision on a proposed land use change to allow a gravel pit on land owned by Terry and Jill Tonn was tabled until June by the Hot Springs County commissioners Tuesday to allow time to meet with county attorney Jerry Williams.
The Tonns requested a land use change from agricultural to light industrial.
Nearby landowners expressed concerns over water, noise and dust pollution at a hearing before the county planning commission on April 23. No such concerns were expressed at the meeting Tuesday.
A draft of a conditional land use change permit was presented to the commissioners by county planner Lee Campbell with requirements, including water studies, water permits and air

quality permits.
“The commission only has to say yes or no to whether I can have a change to light industrial or not,” Terry Tonn said. “I don’t feel it’s incumbent on the board to do all these things. It should be up to the DEQ.”
Harry Hughes of Owl Creek Engineering presented a study done in the area in 2003 by Western Water Consultants indicating the proposed pit would have no impact on the surrounding landowners as it is at least 100 feet downgrade from them.
“This is not anecdotal evidence but scientific evidence,” he said. “Professional water consultants said ‘negligible impact’ on down-gradient wells. The wells in question are up-gradient.”
Commission chairman Brad Basse said, “I’m not comfortable putting this burden (the condi-

tions) on the landowner when we’ve never done it to anyone before.”
GROATHOUSE Construction presented the company’s guaranteed maximum price of \$1,608,137 on the Hot Springs County Government Annex building project.
If construction costs rise above the guaranteed price, Groathouse will pay the difference. Any costs below the guarantee will be refunded to the county.
FINAL numbers for the county cold mix project were \$1,955,842. Hughes said the cold mix has been delivered and the three large mounds of product are visible along Cottonwood Creek Road.
THREE OUT of four of the active Red Lane Water and Sewer District Board members have

resigned, and dissolution of the board may be imminent, the commissioners were told. Jim Vandorn, a USDA contractor with the Wyoming Rural Water Commission, addressed the possibility, saying the agency could still continue with the Level 1 study without a board in place.
Carol Pickett, the remaining board member, indicated state engineers from Cheyenne are concerned about the system. The engineers worry about water safety issues in the area and have been notified there is only one fire hydrant in Red Lane.
After some research it was found it is a flushing hydrant, not a fire hydrant.
The commissioners asked county attorney Williams, who is also a fireman, if the fire district is aware of this and he indicated the firemen are.



Chase Herring exuberantly races through the long jump pit after leaping during the Kiddie Kollege Track and Field Day on Tuesday. – Pat Schmidt photo

Hall of Fame, awards ceremony open to all

Friends and family are invited to the public installation of the Class of 2009 into the Bobcat Athletic Hall of Fame on Tuesday in the school auditorium.
The event is part of the high school spring athletic awards night, which begins at 7 p.m. Those to be honored include athletes from track, spring golf and two who played soccer for Worland.
“We will also recognize the four-year, three-sport athletes, as well as the male and female athletes of the year who receive the \$500 Booster Club scholarships,” said Donnie Bjorhus
The Hall of Fame class members are Shannon Jones Shaffer, Marta Raicevich Hartman, Joe McKethen, Don Bracken, members of the 1954 boys basketball team, the late E.J. Joe Bush and the late Earl Myers
THE 1954 Bobcat basketball team won the state championship in Class AA-A, the large school division. Terry and Raymond Bunch, Lee Bumford, Everett (Ray) DiFelici, Albert McCormick, Jim Tschiffely, Vince Hanson, Burke and J.B. McCarthy, Virgil Harris, Larry Talovich, John Black, Don Nelson, LeRoy Sanders and Don Campbell were coached by George Collins. During the three years that culminated in the state title, his teams won 19 of 21 tournament games.
SHAFFER of Thermopolis and Marta Raicevich Hartman of Cheyenne were teammates on the first Thermopolis team to win a state girls basketball championship in 1978. They excelled in both athletics and academics.
The two male honorees were outstanding in several high school sports.
BRACKEN, a 1980 graduate, lives in Goodyear, Ariz. He

starred in football as a punter for the University of Michigan and the Green Bay Packers and the Los Angeles Rams.
McKETHEN lives in Riverton and graduated from HSCHS in 1945. He graduated from Montana State University after a stellar career in basketball and continued playing after college.
BUSH coached basketball, football and track at HSCHS. His teams won regional basketball championships in 1929 and 1933, state football championships in 1928 and 1932 (tied with Cheyenne in 1929), and state track championships in 1926, 1927, 1929 and 1932. The track team won the Colorado Relays in 1926.
Bush later became school superintendent in Thermopolis, and the gymnasium at the former high school was named after him in 1978.
MYERS, a 1938 graduate of Hot Springs County High School, began his radio career at KRTR in the early 1950s and first broadcast a game in 1955.
For 30 years he broadcast Bobcat football and basketball games, even driving the team bus for several years.
Among those who are expected to attend from the 1954 team are Hanson, Nelson, DiFelici, Sanders, Harris, Talovich, Lee Bumford’s widow, Kay, and Ray Bunch’s brother, Chuck. Coach Collins informed Booster Club officials while he wanted to attend, he has a prior engagement.
Others who have announced plans to travel here include Bracken, Hartman, Dan Bush (eldest grandson of E.J. Bush). Shaffer lives here.
A reception in the lobby with refreshments will complete the evening.

Commencement here this Sunday for Class of 2009

by Jonathan Green
Wednesday was the final day of school for Hot Springs County School District seniors, who graduate Sunday, while just over a week remains for other students.
On Thursday, kindergarten screening wraps up and the elementary school family night is at 5:30 p.m. The elementary school field day is at 1:30 p.m. Friday.
Thursday, Friday and Saturday is the state track meet in Casper. (See separate story.)
Saturday is the baccalaureate celebration in the auditorium, sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, at 8 p.m.
Graduation Sunday begins at 2 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Lyle Grossman, a booster of Bobcat athletics, is the speaker.
Memorial Day closes schools (and many businesses) Monday.
The high school athletic awards gala, including Hall of Fame inductions, is Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The third grade Native American museum day is Wednesday.
Final events include:
May 28: Fifth grade D.A.R.E. celebration, auditorium, 1 p.m.
May 29: Eighth grade celebration assembly, TMS commons, 1 p.m.
June 1: Last day of school, 1:30 p.m. dismissal
Six head were purchased via phone bids. One



Heeler Reid O'Rourke waits as header Todd Fike's loop settles over a steer during the WYO Quarter Horse Ranch Sale preview on Saturday morning. –Pat Schmidt photo

Top gelding price hits \$27,500

by Cindy Glasson
The largest crowd in years attended the WYO Quarter Horse Ranch sale weekend. “It was standing room only,” said Carole Smith.
The top price came from a seven-year-old buckskin gelding, TNT Heza Tivio, who went to a repeat buyer from Utah for \$27,500. The average price of 118 head sold was \$6,883, down a little over other years, but still a good price, according to Smith. Eighty-two geldings sold at an average of \$9,368. Two-year-olds averaged \$1,731. Yearlings averaged \$699.
Six head were purchased via phone bids. One

volume buyer from Tennessee purchased four head. The buyer visited earlier to view the horses.
Smith said 146 people viewed the sale via the Internet, and the reports she received indicated people were very pleased with the clarity and the sound. “They felt like they were actually there,” she said.
An RFD-TV crew did interviews on Thursday and filmed the sale and all the connected events Friday and Saturday. The half-hour program should be aired some time in August.
There will be another sale in September.