

# Hot vehicles expected for Hot Spot Car Rally

Inquiries about the 17th Annual Hot Spot Car Rally on Saturday and Sunday have come from as far away as California and Oregon, according to spokeswoman Tawna McQueen.

As of Tuesday, 31 cars were pre-registered for the event in Hot Springs State Park, but most vehicles are registered at the event.

Saturday activities include early bird registration at 9 a.m. at the Washakie Shelter, the Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run at 10 a.m. and the parade of cars through Thermopolis at 4:30 p.m.

Anyone may participate in the poker run, according to Tawna McQueen, rally organizer. There is a fee.

The no-host barbecue at 5:30 p.m. will be followed by entertainment at the state park pavilion. It includes a breaking demonstration by the Karate Academy, the Ralph Witters Cloggers at 6 p.m., the Bluegrass Academy at 6:15 and the Absaroka Mountain Thunder Cloggers from Powell at 7 p.m.

Entertainment ends with the Prairie Grass band performing at 7:30.

On Sunday, early registration for the main car show and shine begins at 7 a.m. The show starts at 9 a.m.

There will be door prizes all day, with the main awards ceremony at 3 p.m.

A beer garden and food vendors will be in the park as well.

Artist Scot Kohler will offer freehand pin-stripping.

# Commission acts on Lane 3, gravel pit, computers, wells

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County commissioners began the process of seeking additional funding for the Lane 3 project, approved a land use change application and adopted a new acceptable use policy for county computers at a meeting Wednesday.

Harry Hughes of Owl Creek Engineering investigated possible funding opportunities for Lane 3 at the request of the commissioners. His report included the Wyoming Department of Transportation Industrial Road Program, with \$1 million available per biennium per applicant.

The commissioners approved a draft letter of application to the WYDOT district engineer. The project will be reviewed by a panel to determine if it qualifies for funding.

Additional funding may be available through a Community Development Block Grant administered by the Wyoming Business Council.

A member of the business council told Hughes no applications or funding inquiries are pending for the program which makes Hot Springs County's possible application more likely to be accepted. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000.

The commissioners voted to allow Hughes to proceed with the CDBG grant application.

**AFTER SEVERAL** months of waiting, Terry Tonn Sr. received approval from the commissioners for a land use change on his property west of Thermopolis near Owl Creek. Tonn plans to open a gravel pit but needed the land use changed from agriculture to light industrial.

Several public hearings were held with neighbors expressing concern over water issues, air quality and noise.

Before granting the change the commissioners expressed concerns over their authority in this situation. While the county has the right to attach conditions to a land use change, the state holds final authority as to whether or not Tonn may open a gravel pit.

**TROY BATH**, information technology specialist for the Town of Thermopolis and the county, proposed an acceptable use policy.

He said a policy has not been in place for the use of servers or the internet, opening the town and county up to possible attacks from viruses, adware and spyware.



Karina Lea looks for help during the watermelon eating contest at the Welcome to Summer celebration on Friday.

# Building needs a variance

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County Search and Rescue will seek a variance in order to build on land adjacent to the fire hall.

The property in question is currently designated low density residential. The fire department was required to seek a variance of the same type in order to build next door.

According to Thermopolis codes administration officials the variance falls under a business type variance.

The Thermopolis Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the matter Wednesday at 5 p.m. at town hall.

# Fireworks donations needed

Funds are needed for a traditional fireworks display in Thermopolis on the Fourth of July.

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce took over the fund-raising from the Thermopolis volunteer firemen last year to allow the fire department to concentrate on handling the display itself. The fund drive raised around \$10,000 last year, according to chamber executive director Kathy Wallingford.

The Town of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, recreation district and others have already provided \$3,150 for the fireworks this July 4th, a Saturday, but some sources will not be able to help this year.

One of those is the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board, which has a shortage of funds due to the tax not being collected this summer. (In May, voters approved restarting the tax this fall.)

As part of the fund-raising effort, Rick Ride-nour of KTHE Radio will broadcast live from Bicentennial Park Tuesday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Cotton candy and snow cones will be among the items for sale.

Partially due to state funding cuts, Hot Springs State Park is not planning any special activities in the park on the Fourth of July at this time. However, superintendent Kevin Skates said individuals or groups who have ideas for activities such as music or other suggestions may call him at 921-2057.

# 'New' event added to Thermop rodeo and Clarke Jackman named marshal

A new event with a long Wyoming history and a parade have been added to the PRCA rodeo in Thermopolis that is just over a week away, and the grand marshal has been announced.

Single steer roping has been added to the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo on June 26-27. The event is similar to tie-down calf roping, except the cowboy must rope and tie a grown steer. According to a rodeo committee news release, the first recorded rodeo held in Deer Trail, Colo., in 1869 featured single steer roping as one of the events.

The event was part of the Thermopolis rodeos in the 1940s and 1950s.

The 2009 rodeo grand marshal, Clarke Jackman, has competed in the event and once annually sponsored a single roping contest at his arena just north of Thermopolis.

Citizens and those working in local businesses are being asked to dress western on June 26 and tell people, "See you at the rodeo."

# Town trims FY 2009-10 budget before adoption

by Jonathan Green

The Thermopolis Town Council unanimously passed the fiscal year 2009-10 budget at a special 15-minute session Monday.

Council members Toni Casciato and Dick Hall and mayor Bill Malloy attended the meeting, which was scheduled to meet a state deadline and achieve a quorum. Tom Linnan and Allen Braaten were out of town.

No one addressed the council during the public hearing.

The budget is nearly identical to previous drafts. An additional \$2,500 has been approved for the armory, \$15,000 has been set aside for landfill permitting costs and \$35,100 for purchasing a new loader.

The armory expense was absorbed in an updated cash carry over estimate transferred into the one-cent fund. Recreation district director Donnie Bjorhus said the additional money will be set aside for major maintenance expenses as agreed earlier this year.

The landfill and sanitation expenditures are set aside in the enterprise fund, which is separate from the general fund.

Total general fund expenditures in FY 2009-10 are estimated at \$3.9 million, about 5% lower than in FY 2008-09 and 10% less than what departments had requested. Town receipts are projected to fall even further, from \$3.3 million to \$2.9 million.

Cash on hand will plug the hole, along with rigorous belt-tightening already underway. Of the \$4.4 million budgeted for expenditure in FY 2008-09, only \$2.9 million had been spent by May 31, with one month left in the fiscal year.

Enterprise depreciation fund expenditures are budgeted to \$5.1 million, which will leave about \$314,000 in the cash reserve. The largest project is a \$2.7 million water tank project near Roundtop Mountain, of which nearly \$2 million is being paid by a state grant.

The council also:

- Adopted a resolution encouraging reestablishing passenger rail service in the state
- Approved Mac's Barco-owner Kelly Donathan's request for 24-hour catering permits on July 10-12
- Proclaimed Monday through June 27 "Cowboy Rendezvous Week"
- Amended the current budget to reflect the replacement of the golf course irrigation pump.

The final version of the budget is posted on the Independent Record website, www.thermopir.com.



Amanda Hart Mortimore and Mark Mortimore watch Matt Mortimore chip the ball onto the green during the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament on Saturday. —Jonathan Green photo