

Miracle: Mortimore
smokes cancer,
kicks butt habit 3

McManis replaces
Allen as pro at
the golf course 6

A salute to the
2009 Cowboy
Rendezvous! 10

Grand marshal
Clarke Jackman
ropes, ranches 18

Thermopolis
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Third time in five years

TMS floors raised back into position

by Jonathan Green

Contractors from Hayward Baker of Denver have wrapped up slabjacking the floor slabs in Thermopolis Middle School classrooms.

District maintenance supervisor Phil Miller said this is the third time in five years such work has been done at the middle school, which was completed in 1997. He said the building superstructure was constructed on pilings to prevent settling, but the floors are floating slabs of concrete and have continued to settle on the unstable soil under the building.

Slabjacking involves drilling bore holes through the slabs and injecting a mixture of material into the void beneath to float the concrete back up into place.

Hayward Baker contractors were able to complete their work in less than a week and did not damage new carpets installed in at least three classrooms, Miller said. They cut flaps in the carpet where the bore holes were needed, rather than tearing up the new flooring.

The settling causes cosmetic, not structural, issues, Miller said. As the floor sinks lower, it causes a gap between carpets and trim and cracks in the walls. Some teachers have complained of noise from adjoining rooms leaking through the cracks.

Miller said an engineer had determined there is no cost-effective solution to the issue, other than to continue injecting slurry below the floors when necessary.



Cyle Hart and Randi Campbell check the flooded parking lot below the Rainbow Terraces in Hot Springs State Park

on Sunday. For more on the rising Big Horn River and Boysen Dam, turn to page 7.

—Pat Schmidt photo

Lots of entries, steer drive, stick-horse posse, dance and local competitors highlight the new PRCA rodeo

You're invited to join in or watch the parade of steers at 4 p.m. Friday that will start the 2009 Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.

Rodeos will be held at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with the slack in barrel racing and single steer roping at 8 a.m. Friday. There will be a dance at the fair building after the rodeo on Saturday with music provided by the Sundowners.

There are almost 200 entries in bareback, saddle bronc, bull riding, team roping, calf roping, barrel racing and, returning after a decades-long absence, single steer roping. There will be an added event for the stick horse posse.

The posse of youngsters riding stick horses led by sheriff Lou Falgout will trail the parade of steers Friday at 4 p.m. All children with stick horses should meet in the Big Horn Federal parking lot at 3:30 p.m., and wear western clothes with white shirts. Questions should be directed

to Bethany Webber, 250-2900.

The plan is for the Wild Bunch and the Triple V Rodeo producers to trail the steers from the west end of Broadway east, with those interested joining the procession at the top of the Broadway hill.

Among those expected to be in the parade is famed movie and television actor Wilford Brimley, who has several properties in Big Horn County. Brimley, who is familiar to many for his television commercials on diabetes, is occasionally in Thermopolis and attends events such as the Bill and Carol Smiths' Wyo Quarter Horse Sale.

People are invited to watch as the steers are herded east to Fifth Street and north to the fairgrounds.

Single steer roping 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.

The single steer roping is part of a tri-state steer roping in cooperation with Dickinson, N.D., and Belle Fourche, S.D. The cowboy with the most points from the three rodeos will win a \$2,500 bronze sculpture.

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

Theme of the Saturday rodeo is Tough Enough to Wear Pink, with a raffle benefitting the effort against breast cancer.

Tim Fuller will again be the rodeo announcer.

Rocket Ryan from Montana will be the barrel man.

The entire week has been proclaimed "Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Week" by mayor Bill Malloy "to ensure the spirit of the West is preserved for generations to come."

Hot Springs County residents entered include Will and Jeremiah Farrell in the bull riding on Friday and Will in the bareback on Saturday; Justin Ellis and Jake Buller in the bull riding; and Bobbi Zupan in the barrel racing. Others with county connections include Jay Pixley of Sundance, whose wife, Reesann, is the daughter of Rees and Kerry Jackman.

Among the entrants who have competed in the National Finals Rodeo are Will Farrell, Andy Martinez of Riverton, Bobby Welsh of Gillette and world champion barrel racer Kelly Kaminski of Bellville Texas.

Register now for All-class reunion here

The Hot Springs County High School All-class Reunion is July 17-19.

All reunion chairmen are asked to attend a meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Thermopolis Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office.

Students with graduation years ending with the numbers 4 and 9 are featured this year. Registration deadline for the reunion is July 10.

Registrations may be mailed to the Alumni Association, Box 66, Thermopolis 82443.

'Guests' to be arrested

Don't assume every vehicle being stopped by the Hot Springs County sheriff on Friday is a lawbreaker.

People in out-of-state vehicles will be offered the chance to be big winners as part of the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo on Friday and Saturday.

The first to accept the offer will be treated to a free dinner, motel room, swimming tickets and visit to the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. They will participate in the rodeo parade and be given the VIP treatment at the rodeo on Friday.

The same offer is expected to be made for the Gift of the Waters Pageant and Parade in August. For more details, contact the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.



As he follows through after throwing from a kneeling position, Kameron Olsen focuses on the football heading toward the hole in a tire. The activity was one of many for participants in the Lights On! Summer Adventure Camp on Monday morning.

— Jonathan Green photo



Tom Walker of Sheridan, left, admires the engine of a 1964 Catalina owned by Robert Halbert of Gillette at the Hot Spot Car Rally on Saturday. Halbert's 15-GEBU license plate drew almost as much attention as the car. For more on the car show winners, turn to page 6.

Relay for Life Going Back to 80s; entertainment offered this Friday

by Cindy Glasson

The eighth annual Hot Springs County Relay For Life is Friday night at Hot Springs State Park.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Relay for Life, and teams will be going "back to the 80s" to celebrate through music by Mr. B's DJ service. Opening public ceremonies at 6:45 p.m. will honor local cancer survivors. Those survivors will lead the first lap of the 12-hour event.

A public carnival is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. with balloon darts, bean bag toss, jump house, cotton candy, carriage rides and face painting.

Baskets have been on display at Common

Ground and will be available for public viewing and bidding with a silent auction ending at 9 p.m.

At nightfall, participants will light hundreds of luminary candles around the track in a moving ceremony that honors cancer survivors and remembers those lost to the disease.

The events will be preceded by a dinner for the survivors, their caregivers, the teams and their families at 5:30 p.m.

A goal of \$27,000 was set earlier in the year, and core chairman Heather Herring said the drive is within \$4,500 of reaching that goal. Call her at 921-1935 for more details on survivor participation or purchasing luminaria.