

Trail ride cancelled

by Cindy Glasson
The 19th annual Outlaw Trail Ride has been cancelled, according to ride coordinator Jim Schwalbe.
As of Friday only ten riders were registered to take the six-day ride along trails where outlaws and mountain men once rode. Schwalbe said about 35 riders are needed to break even.
“It was with deep regret that we had to make the decision to cancel, but I think the economy got us this year just like everyone else,” Schwalbe said.
The trail ride committee plans to use remaining funds to advertise for the ride next year.
He said this is a great traditional ride for the state of Wyo-

oming and a great legacy to founding member, Vince Hayes.
“We would like to see the ride continue and some volunteers to keep things going would be good,” he said.
A route change was planned this year. The first leg of the trip included the Axtell Ranch/Copper Mountain area, followed by the Bloomquist Ranch and Lysite Mountain.
The final leg wound through the Everett Jones Ranch and Wild Horse Butte, an area frequented by mountain man Jim Bridger.
The only other time the trail ride was cancelled was the summer of 2002, after the Sept. 11, 2001, airplane attacks.

Red Rock doctors plan to open Worland clinic

by Cindy Glasson
Red Rock Family Practice is opening an additional clinic in Worland, according to Dr. Travis Bomengen.
“We are not losing anyone or any time here in Thermopolis,” Bomengen said. “As a matter of fact, we’re gaining an extra doctor.”
According to Bomengen, Washakie County has had a difficult time retaining doctors, so the Red Rock doctors decided to help. Years ago, they saw the same need in Basin when they opened a clinic there.
“This will be an outpatient clinic only,” Bomengen said.
According to Bomengen, this should actually open up more time for patients in the Thermopolis clinic since doctors will be seeing Worland patients in Worland rather than here.
“If you call to see a doctor here, you can usually see a doctor that day,” Bomengen said.
He added if you wish to see

a specific doctor the wait could feasibly be a few days.
If a patient calls who is very sick and their personal physician is not available, he said the receptionist will suggest seeing one of the other doctors or going to the emergency room.
With the addition of Dr. Jennifer Rice to the staff soon, there will be a slight change in the emergency room doctor rotation, but there will always be a physician on call.
Dr. Rice will spend two days at the Worland clinic and two days in Thermopolis. Dr. Weyer will be in Worland on Mondays and Dr. Pettipiece will be there on Wednesdays.
Nurse practitioner Keristyn Carrell will have four days in Worland. Brett Argeris, physician’s assistant, will spend two days in Basin and two days in Worland.
Bomengen said they are seeking another physician’s assistant for the Basin clinic.



Grand marshal Clarke Jackman leads the steers in the parade Friday to the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo. Smiling in the rain while he helps haze the herd down Broadway is Justin Reed. —Lara Love photo

Rodeos attract more participants and fans; W. Farrell conquers Really Red

by Cindy Glasson
Attendance and participant numbers were up for the Thermopolis PRCA rodeo last weekend.
Dave Denton, one of the organizers of the Cowboy Rendezvous, said the crowd on Friday night was a little light, but attributed that to the rain and so many locals involved in the Relay for Life.
He said Saturday the crowd was “really strong.”
Denton’s wife Cindy was in charge of the hospitality room for the cowboys both nights, and he said the participants really appreciated it.
“We really try to take care of them,” Denton said.
The Tough Enough to Wear Pink event against breast cancer raised around \$1,500.
Total prize money for each event was around \$2,000 with day money added.

Local cowboy Will Farrell took top prize in bull riding, scoring an 85 on Really Red. Farrell said he was bucked off the same bull at the Thermopolis rodeo last year.
Dona Vold Larson, stock contractor, rode across the arena to shake Farrell’s hand and tell him it was the first time the bull had been ridden.
“You know, we couldn’t have scripted it any better for the hometown boy to come in and win,” Denton said.

Annex starts Wednesday

by Jonathan Green
A ground-breaking ceremony will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the future site of the Hot Springs County Public Health and Government Annex building.
The building will be constructed on the former Odd Fellows lot, on the southeast corner of Fourth and Arapahoe, directly east of the courthouse.
Hot Springs County clerk Hans Odde said invitations have been sent to the governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and superintendent of public instruction, as well as state senator Gerald Geis and state representative Lorraine Quarberg.

Grass fires already here

Despite the green grass resulting from regular rainstorms, the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department has been called to five grass fires in the last two weeks.
More are expected as high temperatures dry the grass. Assistant fire chief and fire warden AJ Helm said the fire danger was raised to moderate on Tuesday.
“If you start a fire, please be sure you call 911,” fire chief Mark Collins said. “You can remain anonymous when you call, but things can get out of hand really quickly.”
Records indicated there were 17 fires between June 28 and July 12 last year. Collins said 11 of those were grass fires.



An osprey peers from its nest high atop a power pole at the end of West Sunnyside Lane. Smaller birds were darting in and out of the lower sides of the large nest, apparently seeking shelter or food. —Pat Schmidt photo

School requests bank bids

by Jonathan Green
Members of the Hot Springs County School Board unanimously voted Thursday to issue a request for banking proposals.
Board members Dr. Travis Bomengen and Joe Martinez were absent.
The vote followed discussion June 8 about depository problems at Bank of Wyoming, where the district maintains most of its accounts. The board voted to name Security State Bank of Worland as a designated depository at that meeting, while asking business manager Lisa Pearce to keep as much business as possible local and research other options.
Bank of Wyoming was able to provide the necessary securities to back the funds for the district’s payroll obligations in June, according to superintendent Marty Kobza.
“Not one dollar left the county,” he said.
Big Horn Federal branch vice president Brian Green said he had received the bid packet Friday and the bank would “respond and bid on those services.”
Minnie Miller, vice president at Pinnacle Bank, said she had received the same information but was unsure whether the bank would need to return a bid, since it is already a designated depository for the district. She is waiting to receive clarification from Pearce.
Bart Langemeier, president of Bank of Bridger, said his company would also submit a bid. The bank is preparing to open a branch in Thermopolis on Shoshoni Street in the old Stump’s Outpost location.
The district will open bids Wednesday.
Art teacher hired
Board members unanimously voted to employ Jennifer Graham of Montana as art teacher and accepted resignations from Jo Anne Stickney as special education and alternative program teacher and Karissa Williams as assistant eighth grade volleyball coach.
Consent agenda
Belenda Willson asked the staffing items be removed from the consent agenda to vote on the recommendations one-by-one. Later, she asked the board policy for staffing recommendations be amended so staffing items are handled separately from consent items.
(The consent items are printed on the agenda, such as staffing recommendations, approval of

the minutes and financial items. Unless a board member asks that one or more of the items be removed for discussion, the members vote on the entire list at once.)
Kobza wanted the items retained in the consent portion of the meeting, to guard against “micro-management.” After several minutes of discussion the board voted to adopt the agenda policy as written, which includes staff information in the consent agenda.
Attorney’s opinion
Kobza informed the board that lawyer Tracey Copenhagen of Powell “really cautioned against” allowing members to vote remotely, such as over a telephone.
He said Copenhagen “really discouraged it.”
Kobza offered to ask Copenhagen to draft a policy if the board directed, but the board declined.
SEEK Program
Elementary principal Deb Brown and teacher Heidi Hunt briefed the board on Structured and Expanded Enrichment in Knowledge (SEEK), a talented and gifted program the district will roll out in the fall.
The program will give advanced students opportunities to strike out on their own beyond the normally programmed curriculum. It will involve a theme each semester across grades and activities, the first theme to be zoo animals.
Denver Zoo officials will also visit the district in the fall, bringing animals to the students. Hunt won a grant for \$5,000, which will cover about half of the cost of the visit.
Other business
In other business, the board:
• Tabled any decision on accepting an offer from Gottsche Rehabilitation Center to provide training support to athletic teams for \$6,000 allowing time to investigate liability issues.
• Formally approved the sale of the 14th Street property to Hot Springs County.
• Approved a contract with RT Communications to televise district athletic events on the Internet.
• Accepted the Hot Springs County Recreation District budget for fiscal year 2009-10.
• Approved changes to student handbooks in each of the three school buildings.
• Accepted on first reading several policy changes to correct minor errors and to bring policies in-line with practice and legal requirements.