

**Broadway parking
change reversed
by town council** 9

**Wyoming Whiskey
now producing
Kirby bourbon** 10

**Guardsmen
honored for
Korean service** 11

**Clay crops up,
adds to cost
of track update** 13

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 110, No. 30, July 23, 2009

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Bank of Thermopolis

A fourth bank opens in town

The Bank of Thermopolis opened Tuesday morning at the former Stump's Outpost building in Thermopolis at 701 Shoshoni.

It is the ninth bank in the group headquartered in Bridger, Mont., that includes three in Wyoming, Bank of Lovell, Bank of Greybull and Bank of Powell. The other Montana banks are in Red Lodge, Joliet, Harlem and Butte.

"We looked at expanding into Thermopolis in 2001, and the deal that we had didn't come together," Bank of Bridger corporate board member Bart Langemeier said.

Since then, bank officials have kept an eye on what was happening in the community and like what they see, he continued.

"Our customers travel north toward Billings and go through communities we already serve," Langemeier said. "We had looked for another community in Wyoming and liked Wyoming better than Montana for a lot of different reasons."

"Thermopolis was the best fit for us at this time, and we felt good about that. We've been watching, and the economy appeared to be growing somewhat."

"Basically Thermopolis just fits in with the footprint of our banks."

Personnel from their banks in Powell and Bridger have been

helping set up the Thermopolis bank and train the local employees: Shyla Buckner, Tasha Doyle and Heather Wilson. Candidates for branch manager are still being interviewed.

The bank will be open weekdays. Langemeier said the bank's focus on small business and consumer banking, SBA and rural development loans, noting the bank in Butte is the only one in a large city.

Asked if his group was one of bidders for the failed Bank of Wyoming (which was successfully acquired by Central Bank and Trust last week), Langemeier said, "I'm really not at liberty to talk about that."

He did note Bank of Wyoming played an integral role in Hot Springs County prior to its closure.

"We plan on being active in the community," he said.

Langemeier serves as president of the Bank of Red Lodge. Other corporate directors are his father, CEO Leon E. Langemeier; Richard C. Loegering; K.C. Hickok; Richard Anderson; his stepmother, Marilyn Langemeier; Martin Peters; and Charles N. Monk.

Leon and Marilyn Langemeier and Powell branch manager Denis Brothers were on hand for the bank opening on Tuesday.

"We're just excited to be down there," Bart Langemeier said.



Thermopolis firefighters, Mortimore Ambulance responders and Hot Springs County sheriff's deputy A.J. Helm assist Ray Arey and Kevin Fox on July 15 after the Cessna

172 they were flying crashed on Stagner Mountain west of Wind River Canyon. The impact ripped the engine, far right, from the airplane chassis.

—Jonathan Green photo

Airport operator, student injured in plane crash atop Stagner Mountain

by Jonathan Green

Two Thermopolis men were injured, one seriously, when the Cessna 172 Skyhawk they were flying crashed south of Thermopolis the night of July 15.

Ray Arey, 68, and Kevin Fox, 47, were in the four-seat aircraft headed to Thermopolis when it "landed" on the down-slope of Stagner Mountain a couple of miles west of Wind River Canyon.

The plane hit and crashed over an embankment on the Arapahoe Ranch road at

Red Cut, breaking both of Fox's legs, according to Thermopolis police chief Mark Nelson, a fireman.

Arey called his wife, Jocelyne, who contacted law enforcement at 11:33 p.m.

The Thermopolis Fire Department, Hot Springs County sheriff's office and Mortimore Ambulance responded.

The force of the crash left the engine several feet behind the rest of the wreckage, with the crumpled cockpit sitting atop the tail section.

The Cessna was the club aircraft owned by several people who use the Hot Springs County Airport, including Nelson. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

The Aareys lease the airport from the county through their business, DRA Services.

Another airport operator here, Walt Urbigkit died in a plane crash near Casper the night of May 17, 2002, while returning to Thermopolis.

Range session planned at LU

There is a free range monitoring workshop Friday on the LU Ranch at 10 a.m.

Range specialists Barton Stam and Rachel Mealor with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service will lead the tour.

Participants should meet at the Gooseberry Creek Rest Area. Bring a lunch and drinking water.

The workshop is sponsored by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, the UW Cooperative Extension Service, the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District and The Nature Conservancy.

For more information, contact Katherine Thompson at 587-1655.

by Cindy Glasson

Two different pests have led to crop damage with barley and hay this year in Hot Springs County.

A cool, wet spring has led to a significant weevil problem in the hay crops in the Lucerne area north of Thermopolis, according to Weed and Pest supervisor Marvin Andreen.

"The weevils are always there," Andreen said, but because the weather has been so unusual, farmers were not able to swath the first cutting of hay until two or three weeks later

than normal.

That gave the weevils more time to mature and more time to eat through the nutrients found in the hay. Andreen found a good portion of the hay damaged while making his crop certification rounds.

Ray Shaffer, who farms on West Sunnyside Lane, lost one entire stand of hay.

"It's the worst I've ever seen," Shaffer said. "We started cutting, and the swath head looked alive with weevils."

"A lot of us used to spray malathion; now we don't," he said.

Shaffer said it didn't appear to be a problem just in this area. He saw a lot of damage while traveling between Thermopolis and Billings.

He said the weevils shouldn't affect the second hay cutting but there are "no guarantees."

The life cycle of the weevil itself is short lived, growing into a snout beetle within a couple of weeks. Shaffer said that accounts for the large number of seagulls in the area recently as the snout beetle is a food source for the birds.

Mike Baker, who has raised hay for years on West Sunnyside Lane, said the infestation will probably not affect the cost of hay.

"Hay prices are more dependent on need rather than quality," he said.

ANOTHER PEST, the cereal leaf beetle, has caused damage in the barley crop, which should be harvested within the next week.

Baker said there is always some chronic infestation of the beetle, but the unusual weather this spring created a spike in their numbers.

He added that late barley crops are generally not affected because the beetle cannot stand the hot, dry weather late in the season.

"They crawl up the stems at night to eat and then curl up and drop off as soon as the sun hits them," Baker said.

They eat on the top leaves, which turns them white, he said.

Baker had to hire an aerial sprayer in order to cut down on the damage. The closest sprayer is out of Cody, and Baker said this probably adds another \$19 in cost to each acre he will harvest this year.

Baker said natural predators eventually take care of the beetle, including two small types of wasp that eat the beetle during the larvae stage.

Clothing, show open the fair on Thursday

by Cindy Glasson

A week of fun is planned at the Hot Springs County Fair through July 31.

Judging for 4-H clothing is being held at the Hot Springs County Museum Thursday starting at 3 p.m. The style show follows the judging.

Several items are on schedule for Tuesday, including visits to the exhibit hall from 4-8 p.m. The 4-H and open dog show is on the patio of the multi-purpose building at 6 p.m.

Five animal shows are on tap for Wednesday. The goat show will begin at 8 a.m., cat show at 9 a.m., rabbits at 10:30 a.m., poultry at noon and the sheep

show at 3 p.m.

John Brooks and his band will be the entertainment for the "Family Fun Nite" starting at 6 p.m. There will be carnival games, a dunk booth, a sand dig for ages 1-5 and "Family Fun on the Go" with blow up slides and other attractions.

The swine show is slated for 8 a.m. on Thursday followed by the beef show that evening starting at 6 p.m.

Final events for the fair will be Friday with showmanship round-robins at 10 a.m. and the pre-sale buyer's dinner at 6 p.m. The junior livestock auction and purple ribbon bake sale are at 7 p.m.

Couple falls victim to a \$4,258 scam

by Jonathan Green

A scam local law enforcement and the Independent Record first warned people about in June has claimed at least one pair of victims here.

Hot Springs County sheriff's deputy Kim Black said a couple in their early sixties lost \$4,258 last week when they responded to a telephone plea from someone who claimed to be their grandchild. The phony grandchild claimed to have been arrested in Canada.

Black said someone pretending to be a lawyer then came on the line and verified the grandchild was being detained. The lawyer said the grandparents would need to wire the money in order for their grandchild to be bonded out from jail.

Black said it was unlikely the couple will get their money back. Unlike checks, wire transfers are not subject to stop-payment orders and cannot be returned once fraudulently claimed.



Enjoying warm temperatures on a Slip 'n Slide Friday are, front to back, Noah Schwalbe, Robin and Rachael McCarthy, Allie Schwalbe and Caleb DeCoo. —Jonathan Green photo