

**Bobcats open state
football playoffs
here this Friday**

6

**Pool leases on
agenda for
Lander meeting**

11

**Students out,
but teachers
work on Friday**

13

**Daylight Savings
Time ends
November 1**
Turn your clocks back.



Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 110, No. 44, October 29, 2009

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Moonlight Madness hits

Moonlight Madness hits downtown Thermopolis with bargains in stores on Thursday, and Halloween events continue through Saturday.

The Kiddie Parade at 5:45 p.m. Thursday will be preceded by a Halloween costume contest at 5:30 in Bicentennial Park. There will be five age groups for children up to age 12 with cash awards given by Pinnacle Bank to the winner in each age group.

Parents are encouraged to dress up and walk with their children in the parade past the flag pole to the traffic light on Broadway and back.

Many of the downtown businesses are planning to be open late. (See the ads on page 2.)

Pumpernicks restaurant will have a spook house on the patio with scary stuff for all ages. The Thermopolis Masons will be selling tacos from 5-7 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge.

The second annual haunted house at Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center is slated for Thursday and Friday in its basement.

Relay for Life will be hosting a Halloween carnival Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at the armory recreation center. There will be carnival games, a cupcake walk, popcorn balls, cotton candy and caramel apples.

The entrance fee for the carnival will be donated to cancer research.

Three rural districts holding elections by mail in county

by Cindy Glasson

Three elections being held via mail ballots in Hot Springs County will be final on Tuesday.

The biggest race revolves around the Red Lane Watershed Improvement District, which is looking for two members.

Mikki Martinez, Ronald Luther, Terry TenBoer and incumbent Virginia Pearce are on the ballot.

Dennis Stotts, Carol Pickett and Shirlee Crofutt are currently on the board.

The Cottonwood-Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District will be electing two board members for three-year terms. Incumbents Dee Hillberry and Mike Healy are running for reelection and are the only names on the ballot.

Others filling out the five-member board include John

Leroux, Laura Bell and James Butterfield.

Bart Bader is currently filling a vacated seat on the Owl Creek Water District board and is the only person running in that election.

Additional Owl Creek Water District Board members are Colter McCumber, Don McCumber and Rees Jackman. The Owl Creek board is short one member.

Discussing items not on agenda for closed session splits board

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Board member Ron Jurovich went on record at the regular meeting Tuesday night objecting to a pair of items discussed in a closed executive session Sept. 29.

Jurovich said he was bothered by two items discussed during the executive session and reviewed the Wyoming open meeting laws. He said he did not object to two other items discussed during the session.

"I think the board went in to discuss two items and the other two were just FYI," board member Carl Leyba said. "I don't think any harmful intention was meant."

Board member Delores Loughlin joined Leyba in refusing to object to the two items.

Other members joining Leyba in objecting to the discussion were chairman Bill Williams, Ellen Roden and Margaret Stansill.

The exact items discussed in the executive session were not revealed during the discussion on Tuesday.

Flu update

Hospital chief executive officer Charlie Myers discussed recent H1N1 flu meetings.

The hospital has received some of the nasal spray vaccine for H1N1, an alternative usable only for people ages 2-49. Some hospital workers have refused the nasal spray vaccine because it contains live H1N1 virus.

A trade was made with Red Rock Family Practice to acquire injectable vaccine, which can be used for all ages.

Hospital officials are sharing their extra supply with other health care providers, including emergency medical staff.

Radios needed

Myers told the board more internal radios will need to be purchased.

This was discovered after a mock disaster drill

held at the high school with "victims" being treated at the hospital.

There is a possibility that the cost of additional radios could be covered through a Homeland Security grant.

Work session

The board set a date for a work session to determine the direction a master facility plan for the hospital should take.

With a variety of options such as building a new facility, upgrading the current hospital or an addition, it was determined a special meeting should be held Nov. 10 to attempt to come to a better understanding of the community and the hospital's needs.

Stansill will chair the building committee, joined by Roden and Rhonda Skar.

Lab changes

The lab was informed in June that the manufacturer of their current blood culture analyzer would no longer have product available, prompting the need for new equipment, even though it is not a line item in the current budget.

The current system is manual. Research into a similar manual system showed only one other on the market, and that system did not receive good marks from other hospitals.

The analyzer being requested is automated, which would save time. It would decrease the amount of time needed to determine a positive or negative culture by up to a day and a half, allowing physicians to get the proper medications to patients more quickly.

BioMerieux, the manufacturer of the system, has offered a \$3,000 discount to the hospital provided the purchase is made before next Monday. The company will be in Wyoming installing two other identical systems.

The board approved the purchase of the analyzer for \$13,400.



Austin Weaver, 9, and his brother, Jaydon, 8, complete repairs on one of their Halloween decorations that vandals damaged. Note the taped-up cheek. —Pat Schmidt photo

Highway bid: \$3.3 million

A contract in Hot Springs County is among \$30.4 million for ten highway projects around the state awarded by the Wyoming Transportation Commission in October.

McGarvin-Moberly Construction of Wor-

land won a \$3.3 million contract for an overlay to preserve the pavement on nearly nine miles of US 20 from Thermopolis to about two miles north of Lucerne.

The completion date is Oct. 15, 2010.



Despite the hard freezes that have stripped the leaves off many trees, the foliage that remains still has some bright

fall colors to accent the highlights in Monument Hill and the surrounding mountains.

—Jonathan Green photo

Swine flu vaccinations set for some county residents

by Jonathan Green

Vaccinations for both the seasonal and novel A(H1N1) swine flu are available, for some.

Bree Gerber with Hot Springs County Public Health Nursing said a limited number of swine flu vaccinations are available for certain groups of people. She declined to say how many vaccinations have been delivered to the office or administered.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were still doses available.

Only targeted groups can receive the swine flu inoculation until supply levels increase. They include pregnant women, persons caring for infants, those aged six months to 24 years of age, and health care and emergency medical service providers.

Other adults may qualify for vaccination if suffering from other medical conditions that increase their flu risk. Swine flu shots are available by appointment only.

The public health office will also offer three by-appointment clinics for children to receive the seasonal flu vaccine. The immunizations are also available at the Red Rock Clinic.

Gerber said her adult seasonal flu inoculation stocks are exhausted for now but she hopes additional doses will be received. Those under 18 can receive the children's shot for flu.

The first children's seasonal flu shot clinic is Thursday. To make an appointment for either vaccine, call the public health office at 864-3311.