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Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## Thanksgiving dinner offered

# Lots of community events planned for holidays here

Lots of activities and community efforts are on the agenda this holiday season in Hot Springs County.

People for People will sponsor a free Thanksgiving dinner Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Reservations are required to make certain enough food is prepared.

Dinners can be delivered. Call 864-2119.

Donations of traditional Thanksgiving dinner items are accepted.

### Tour of Homes

Tickets for the Holiday Tour of Homes on Dec. 14 are on sale at Storyteller, NuVogue Salon, The Shoppe, A Cut Above, Needful Things, Gottsche, Let's Talk Cellular and at the office of each school.

Ticketholders may begin the tour at the home they choose, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The tour includes six homes in Thermopolis with a reception at the Museum and Cultural Center, also beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Door prizes will be drawn during the reception so ticket holders are reminded to bring their ticket with them.

The tour of homes is a fund-raiser for People for People. For details, call Judy Carswell at 921-8264.

### Christmas Baskets

Registration for the Christmas Baskets program continues through Dec. 11 at NOWCAP and the HOPE agency. The food baskets will be distributed Dec. 19 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Elf Tree

The Department of Family Services is taking applications from youngsters up to age 14 to be included on the Elf Tree at Owl Creek Graphics for the holidays.

Applications may be picked up and returned to DFS or the H.O.P.E. agency until Dec. 4.

Those wishing to purchase a gift for an "elf" may pick a name from the tree. Gifts must be back to Owl Creek Graphics no later than Dec. 14. For details, call Donna Joachim at DFS, 864-2158.

### Christmas Light Parade

The theme of the Christmas Light Parade at 6 p.m. Dec. 5, a Saturday, will be Jingle Bell Christmas.

The parade will start near the Teepee Pools in Hot Springs State Park and go past the Wyoming Pioneer Home, turn south on Buffalo Street past the hospital and go west on Broadway to the traffic light and make the traditional U-turn back to Bicentennial Park.

There Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit with children. Fifth Street adjacent to the park may be blocked off to allow judging and viewing of the lighted floats.

### Decorating contest

The deadline to enter the business and residential lighting contest is Dec. 14.

Homes in Thermopolis, Owl Creek, Lucerne and Hamilton Dome are eligible for judging.

Chamber bucks will be awarded to the winners of the contest.

Entry forms for both the parade and the decorating contest are available at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office at 220 Park Street.

Licensed local childcare providers will baby sit for parents who are holiday shopping on Dec. 5 and 12 from 7 a.m. to midnight at Kiddie Kollege.

There is a fee, and you must preregister by calling 250-2900.



Bathing in November sunshine, a herd of belted Galloways, known by some as Oreo or panda cows, grazes on tufts of green forage between the Buffalo Creek highway and the rust-colored cliffs above the Big Horn River south of Thermopolis.

—Pat Schmidt photo

# Thermop students SEEK awards at state robotics

by Cindy Glasson

Nine students from Ralph Witters Elementary School will be traveling to Casper Dec. 4-5 for a robotics competition.

Structured and Expanded Enrichment and Knowledge (SEEK) students have built two robots and prepared a detailed report to present at the First Lego League competition. The theme this year is "Transportation."

SEEK program advisor Heidi Hunt said this is the first year the students have participated in this competition.

The brick or "brain" of the

robot and the motors come in a kit, which must be used to keep consistency in the competition. The students build the robots from Legos.

Robots must perform specific tasks, and the team receives points for completing those tasks.

Each team runs the course three times, recording their highest score.

In addition, each student becomes an expert on a specific area of the report, and the student answers questions from judges, gaining more team points. In keeping with the transportation

theme, the report explains how garbage travels from one place to another.

As part of the competition, the students put together a Capri Sun Brigade, gathering silver juice bags for recycling.

SEEK students attending the competition include fourth graders Daniel Leonhardt, Wyatt Wright, Cheyenne Yarrington, Mary Ryan, Stormy Cox, Jared Little, Dakota Wedor, Charlie Channel and Hayley McDermott.

They will be competing in the lowest age bracket at the competition.

# School vacation schedules set

by Cindy Glasson

Students in Hot Springs County schools will be on Thanksgiving vacation from Wednesday through Sunday.

Classes will resume as usual on Monday.

Christmas vacation will begin on Monday, Dec. 21. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 4.

# Two water meetings Tuesday

There will be two Wyoming Water Development meetings Tuesday at Big Horn Federal.

The first meeting at 6 p.m. will be for the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District Supply Project regarding a proposed new storage tank and transmission lines.

The second meeting at 7 p.m. is for the Owl Creek Rural Water District, a phased proposal to construct a pipeline, pump station and storage tank.

Representatives for both entities will be available to explain the projects and receive comments.

For more information, call 777-7626.



Dana Marshall carefully paints a flower on Korey Smith's cheek during the Beta Sigma Phi Holiday Affair at the fair building on Saturday.

—Pat Schmidt photo

# Awards pouring in for state championship Bobcat team

Individual awards are starting to pile up for members and coaches of the Bobcat 2009 Class 2A state football champions.

Chuck Syverson of Thermopolis and his staff are coaches of the year, and his son, Bobcat quarterback Mitch Syverson is offensive player of the year.

Surprisingly, Kemmerer, which was eliminated by Thermopolis 33-13 in the semifinals, took two of the top awards. Eric Robinson is player of the year and Cole Shimmin is defensive player of the year.

Thermopolis had seven players on the Class 2A All State Team:

• Seniors: Colin Herold, second year, wide receiver and safety; Chris Leyba, second year, wide receiver and linebacker; Riley Sikes, offensive lineman and linebacker.

Juniors: Syverson, quarterback and defensive back. Tanner Cornwell, offensive lineman and linebacker.

Sophomore: Chris Ryan, running back and defensive back.

Those seven Bobcats plus senior lineman Nate Thomas made the East All Conference team

The number of All State players for other teams were Glenrock six, Kemmerer four, Greybull four, Lovell three, Big Piney three, Wright three, Big Horn three, Burns two, Pinedale two, Wyoming Indian two, Lyman one, Mountain View one, Moorcroft one, Newcastle one, Tongue River one.

Thermopolis players selected by the Casper Star-Tribune for its Super 25 for all five classes included Syverson first team; Herold, Leyba, second team; Cornwell, third team; Ryan honorable mention.

# Relay for Life to start on Tuesday

by Cindy Glasson

Relay for Life is preparing to kick off another season of fund-raising and fun with a "party" on Tuesday at Common Ground.

Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with snacks. An informational meeting follows at 6 p.m.

Chairman Becky Martinez said the American Cancer Society has set the relay goal for Thermopolis at \$29,000 this year. However, the organizing committee is aiming for \$39,000.

Relay teams are made up of seven to 15 members. The team must have a business sponsor with a \$100 donation

followed by an additional \$100 per team member. Teams do fund-raisers throughout the year to raise the per member donation.

The theme for the relay on June 18 is "Saving Lives, Celebrating More Birthdays."

"We would like to shoot for 20 teams this year," Martinez said. "We will always take new teams."

"We're going to be doing some different stuff this year, and we're always open for new suggestions."

"Everybody has a reason to relay. It's heart touching to us all."

For more information, call Martinez at 864-3674.