



Here's mud in your eye

Hot Springs County High School student Sheyle Lippincott posed as a potted plant last week during teacher Jeb Schenck's photography class. At left, getting Lippincott ready to be photographed is fellow student Baylee Dickinson. Schenck said he thought of the idea to make up students with mud and have them pose as the potted plants as a way to offer different photography styles and picture possibilities for his students. Other students who got "dressed up" for the occasion were Elisa Hunter, Jackson Hayes and Colter Brown.

-- Keith E. Domke photos

Town prepares for less funding

State contribution undoubtedly down

by Keith E. Domke
It's a little too early to tell, but the Town of Thermopolis may have to budget for the coming fiscal year with a lot less funding from the state.
"Some areas of funding may be as much as 60 percent less," assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill said earlier this month. "As far as the town, that would impact the level of services to some degree we can provide to residents here."
Stansill said exact figures won't be known until after the Legislature begins to meet next month for its budget session, but all signs point to a reduction in monies available to counties and municipalities.
"We're already taking a cautious wait-and-see proactive approach," Stansill said. "We need to have a plan in place to respond to what the economic impact at the state level will be as far as revenue."
The assistant to the mayor said Thermopolis officials will begin the budgeting process for Fiscal Year 2011 in February, but it will take a few months to complete.
"We'll have a better idea of what the dollar potential will be in 30 to 60 days," he said. "That gives us another month or two, and we'll have a better idea then where we'll end up this year and where we're look-

ing for next year.
"Right now, we're looking at November and December (figures). That will give us enough of a pattern to determine where revenues are for this fiscal year."
Stansill was quick to point out that no matter what the financial situation, he doesn't expect layoffs.
"But don't expect raises," he said. "And, if someone resigns, we don't know if we'll replace them. That's not a hiring freeze, per se, because some positions need to be replaced. It will be selective to a degree."
But, above all, Stansill said the key will be remain calm, no matter what the financial situation may end up being.
"We do anticipate the budget session to be tough," he said. "It may be my toughest one since I've been here (10 years). We'll just need to make sure we have a handle on what the economic downturn will mean to us."
Also, he said, the town already is in pretty good shape financially.
"We have about \$2.3 million in cash right now in the general fund," he said. "That's a cushion, but we'll need to use it prudently. And, again, that's just in the general fund."
"We have cash in hand that will help us during these times. We just can't panic."

Inaugural class finds home in hall

by Keith E. Domke

Over time, they made their mark in different ways as a cowboy, a governor, a chief justice, a rancher and politician and a teacher. Yet the common tie they have is Hot Springs County. The inaugural Hot Springs County Hall of Fame banquet and ceremony inducted five individuals with varying personalities and talents Saturday night at the Days Inn. To a man, they gave credit to their local roots that helped turn them into the success stories they were or have become.
Col. Tim McCoy, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming Chief Justice Barton Voigt, former rancher and state treasurer Stan Smith and teacher and local leader Karl Allen were honored in front of dozens of friends, family members and community supporters and colleagues and officially became the Hot Springs County Hall of Fame Class of 2010.
"There are people here who need to be recognized, so we're going to recognize them," program emcee Dick Hall said at the start of the festivities. "It took something like 14 months getting this thing together, and it wasn't easy, but we're glad we're here tonight to recognize these five deserving people."
The three county commissioners – Brad Basse, John Lumley and Frank Manning – signed a proclamation establishing the hall of fame in October.
Each of the five were given an induction plaque. Identical ones will hang in the Hot Springs County Courthouse.
Tim McCoy
McCoy's youngest son, Terry, accepted the award for his dad, who died in 1978 after being decorated after service in both world wars and after a career that featured more than 100 films and decades of Wild West shows and circuses.

"What I can tell you about my time (with my dad) was that I was born in a museum," Terry McCoy said. "My dad was an entertainer, but he was a real cowboy. The people he introduced me to were members of the last remnants of the Old West."
According to his biographical information, the elder McCoy was a resident of Hot Springs County from 1912 to 1942. During his 30-year residency, he established the Eagle's Nest ranch on Owl Creek. In 1942, he ran for the Republican nomination for a U.S. Senate seat, but he was defeated in the primary. The day after the election, he volunteered for military service.
In the U.S. Army, he earned the rank of colonel with the Army Air Corps. He also served Wyoming as its adjunct general between the two world wars. At age 28, he became the youngest brigadier general in the history of the U.S. Army. He is credited with developing the Wyoming National Guard.
After serving his country, he appeared in more than 100 "B" Western movies. He also was a showman and toured the country with multiple Wild West shows and circuses. In the 1950s, he won an Emmy for his work on a children's television program. He also earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
He was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1974.
Terry McCoy spent much of his time accepting his dad's honor by showing pictures and telling stories about his father, the people he knew and the kind of life he lived. Many of the photos and items he brought will now stay in Hot Springs County.
Terry McCoy attributed his father's success to his roots.

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Terry McCoy, the youngest son of the late Col. Tim McCoy, displays a pair of his father's chaps that will be on display locally. The elder McCoy was one of five men comprising the Hot Springs County Hall of Fame Class of 2010 who were inducted Saturday.

-- Keith E. Domke photo

IR adds reporter to mix

A new voice joined the Thermopolis Independent Record this week, and he said he will strive to keep the standard of journalism at the high level Hot Springs County residents have come to expect and enjoy.
A native of Missouri, Tom Burkindine, 28, is a veteran in the business who has written for newspapers throughout the country and managed a newspaper in a small Pacific island nation.
He was raised in southwest Missouri and graduated from Drury University in Springfield, Mo., with a bachelor's degree in journalism.
"Tom is a welcome addition to our staff," publisher Keith E. Domke said. "He is an experienced journalist who knows his job. It will be an asset for the Independent Record and the community to have him on board here."
Burkindine worked as a reporter and editor for several newspapers in northeast Texas before becoming the managing editor of a newspaper in the Federated States of Micronesia, a small string of islands in the South Pacific.
He moved to Wyoming from Missouri.
For the IR, he will cover town- and police-related news and help with other general assignments and photographs.
In his spare time, Burkindine enjoys the outdoors, sports, music and literature.
He also spends his time SCUBA diving, hiking and playing golf.



Burkindine

Cornella selected to fill district court clerk position

by Cindy Glasson
Hot Springs County native Terri Cornella has been appointed by the county commissioners as the new clerk of the district court.
Cornella was appointed by the commissioners Tuesday afternoon and sworn in at the courthouse Wednesday morning.
She fills the position vacated by the retirement of long-time clerk Linda Harris.
Cornella was among three applicants approved by the Republican Party to fill Harris' position. The process started earlier this week with the local GOP representatives narrowing the field of applicants to the three

who were forwarded to the commissioners. The commissioners began their Tuesday meeting by conducting an executive session where the three candidates were interviewed.
Cornella has been a deputy clerk for about five years and worked with Harris during that tenure. She will begin her new duties immediately.
Harris had been in the position for 23 years prior to her retirement late last year.
In a nutshell, a court clerk is the officer who oversees administrative functions, especially managing the flow of cases through the court.
Cornella soon will start the

process of finding a new deputy clerk.
The commissioners on Tuesday also accepted the resignation of County Road and Bridge supervisor Jim Skelton, effective Jan. 31.
There will be another opening on the hospital board as well with the resignation of Rhonda Skar.