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Thermopolis
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Smiths prepare for 27th annual quarter horse sale

by Tom Burkindine

The WYO Quarter Horse Ranch will be holding its 27th annual May horse sale Saturday in Thermopolis.

As always, the internationally renowned sale has garnered attention throughout the United States and Canada. Last year's top seller was a gelding that was sold for \$27,500.

Carole and Bill Smith have partnered with family members Rick Smith, Jack Wipplinger, Todd Fike and friend Woody Bartlett to bring 73 broke geldings along with several young fillies to the bi-annual sale. Most of the geldings are between the ages of 5 and 12.

There has been some advertising on RFD-TV, a station dedicated to rural programming, and the station has recorded a DVD of the horses up

for sale.

That recording has been broadcast on the station and will be played during Friday's parade of geldings at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds. The horses will be presented live and via the Internet at www.wyohorses.com 7 p.m. that evening.

"We've already had a lot of phone bids," Carole Smith said. "It looks like it's going to be a good event."

Saturday's proceedings will begin with a roping preview at 9 a.m. The sale begins at noon at the fairgrounds.

"The motels are filling up and we'll have a lot of people from out of state," Smith said.

This is the Smith's largest sale of the year but for the 10th year, the family will also hold a September sale.

Joe Sova welcomed as editor/publisher of IR

by Tom Burkindine

The Independent Record welcomes a new member to our staff this week. Editor and publisher Joe Sova has taken the lead at the IR and said his emphasis is continuing to provide the outstanding local coverage and service Hot Springs County has come to expect from its newspaper of record.

"I am very excited about the opportunity to take the lead of one of the best community newspapers in Wyoming," Sova said. "The Independent Record has an outstanding staff that truly cares about the image of the newspaper projects. I have always been fond of Thermopolis, going back to my school years.

"In my years of newspaper involvement, I have always felt it is very important for the newspaper to be part of the community," he said. "The role of a local newspaper is to be a leader in the community and provide people with information about not only what has happened but also upcoming events."

A native of Wyoming, Sova was raised in Manderson and



Joe Sova

graduated from Manderson-Hyattville High School. He began his newspaper career at the Riverton Ranger in classified and display advertising before taking the helm as the publication's sports editor, a position he held for eight years.

Sova worked at KTRZ Radio in Riverton as a news and sports director and later became the editor of the Basin Republican Rustler. Continuing his illustrious

career in journalism, he became the sports editor of the Spokane Valley News Herald in Spokane, Wash., and The Observer in La Grande, Ore.

More recently, Sova has worked as the managing editor of the Messenger Index in Emmett, Idaho, and the Hungry Horse News in Columbia Falls, Mont. He has served as editor of the Casper Journal since September 2009.

"While I am the editor/publisher of the IR, a strong focus will remain on local news," Sova said. "We will not focus on national or even that much state news because this is your newspaper."

He said he and his wife Diane have been embraced by the community and look forward to meeting the rest of the people who live here. He has sisters in Thompson Falls, Mont., and Gillette, and a brother in Rock Springs.

Sova encourages community members to freely share information that is newsworthy.

"We want people to be free with information and don't hesitate to contact us with news tips or upcoming events," he said.

Student awareness



Fire Chief Mark Collins looks on as other firemen and emergency personnel evaluate the "victims" in a mock DUI crash held at the high school on Monday. The exercise drove home the importance of not drinking and driving to students eighth through 12th grade.

—Cindy Glasson photo

Mock DUI crash performed

by Cindy Glasson

A mock DUI crash at Hot Springs County High School on Monday brought home the horror of what can happen if you drink and drive.

High school students as well as eighth graders stood in the rain watching the scene that was based on an actual wreck.

One student was thrown from a vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. Students looked on as her body was

covered with a body bag and left in the rain while emergency personnel tended to the living.

Volunteer firemen extricated the other victims using the Jaws of Life, taking the roof completely off the vehicle carrying the male victims.

Both drivers were given the roadside sobriety test, handcuffed and placed in police cars.

The fatality was the last off the scene, loaded onto

a stretcher and placed in a hearse from Mortimore Funeral Home.

A good deal of realism was added to the exercise with the help of makeup and fake blood provided by the high school drama department.

Counselors were on hand after the mock crash to speak with any of the students who had questions or concerns.

The exercise was created by school resource officer Gary Sikes.

Time to file for primary election

by Cindy Glasson

The application period to file for the August primary election

begins today and runs through May 28.

Those wishing to run for fed-

eral or state offices must apply through the secretary of state while county offices are applied for through the county clerk's office.

Municipal candidates file applications through the city clerk.

There are six state offices coming open for primary election in 2010.

Those include governor, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, superintendent of public instruction and state representative for House District 28.

Nine positions are open in the county including two county commissioners, coroner, county attorney, sheriff, county clerk, treasurer, assessor and clerk of district court.

All of the above offices are partisan offices to be nominated by each political party at the primary.

Non-partisan offices include several municipal openings throughout the county.

Those municipal openings are mayor of Thermopolis and two town council openings, mayor of East Thermopolis and two council members as well as mayor of Kirby and two council members.

With the exception of representative for House District 28, all offices are four-year terms.

Six Republicans are also needed as Republican Precinct committee members and four Democrats are needed as members of the Democratic Precinct. Each of those terms run for a length of two years.

Primary elections will be held Aug. 17 with the General Election scheduled for Nov. 2.

A song for all ages



Singer-songwriter Bryan Ragsdale works on a song with kindergarteners from Ralph Witters Elementary on Tuesday. Ragsdale, a Wyoming native now living in Nashville, came to Thermopolis to get some help on a new

Christmas album that will accompany the National Christmas Tree to Washington D.C. Using the children's ideas, Ragsdale helped them write a song, while teaching them the basics of song writing.