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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 111, No. 25, June 24, 2010

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Cowboy Rendezvous features rodeo, parade and a dance

Back in the 1950s and early 60s, Thermopolis was the host site of one of the most famous and well-attended rodeos in the U.S. The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo committee has been working diligently to restore this historic annual event with this year marking the sixth year of a great comeback.

Two rodeo performances plus a parade, pancake breakfast and dance are highlights of the Cowboy Rendezvous, set for Friday and Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.

The gates open at 5 p.m. and rodeo action begins at 7 p.m. both days. Featured Saturday is the "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" performance. "Tough Enough to Wear

Pink" is a national campaign to raise cancer awareness and funds to assist local people in their battle against the disease. Contestants and spectators are encouraged to show support by wearing pink.

Both rodeo performances will feature saddle bronc and bareback riding, and bull riding in rough stock events. Roping events include tie-down roping, team roping and steer roping.

Competition in barrel racing for the ladies will also be featured each evening.

Slack will be run on Saturday morning and afternoon, if necessary.

Local bull rider Will Farrell had a scheduling conflict and is competing in Reno, Nev. He'll miss

the Rendezvous Rodeo.

Expected to make an appearance at the Rendezvous Rodeo include Ms. Cheyenne Frontier Days Rachael Shutter and her Lady in Waiting, Amy Berry. Ms. Rodeo Jackson Hole and Ms. Rodeo Cody Stampede are also going to grace the arena.

Second-generation rodeo clown and "inventor" Slim Garner entertains the crowd with amazing antics and endless wit. Bullfighters Jeff Griffin and Mark Gill are kept busy in the bull riding event.

Returning stock contractor for this year's rodeo is Dona Vold Larsen of Triple V Rodeo. Arena director is Mark Ellis.

Saturday's activities begin with a free pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the fair building. T&J Propane sponsors the breakfast, when rodeo slack will be held. There will be various food and merchandise vendors.

There will be a dance after the Saturday night rodeo at the fair building. Entry is free to ticket holders and \$5 for non-rodeo ticket holders. The band is the well-known Sundowners.

The Rendezvous wraps up Sunday morning with Cowboy Church in the grandstand at 9:30 a.m. Attendance at the service is free.

Tickets for this year's rodeo have been streamlined. The cost is \$10 per person for each performance, regardless of age. Advance rodeo tickets are available at the Broadway Bygones, Wyoming Whiskey, White Horse Country Store and the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Still time to enter parade Saturday

A parade can be a great way to promote your business, candidacy, cause or event. In conjunction with the Cowboy Rendezvous this weekend, a parade is in the spotlight Saturday.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will follow a new route. Parade entries line up at Fifth and Shoshoni streets. They travel down Sixth Street to the stop light, turn right on Broadway, left on Fifth at the flagpoles and finish at the fairgrounds.

There will be an award for the best equine entry as well as the Mayor's Trophy for the best float/parade entry.

For those interested in adding an entry to the parade, forms are available at White Horse Country Store and are due at the store by Friday. For more information, contact Dave Denton at 864-3047 or Gayla Mead, 864-9339.

School resource officer resigns

by Joe Sovo
Hot Springs County Sheriff's Deputy Gary Sikes, who served as the school resource officer for the local school district, has resigned his position. Sheriff Lou Falgoust confirmed Sikes' resignation on Monday afternoon.

Sikes was the school resource officer for about eight months, according to school district superintendent Marty Kobza.

He said the position was funded by a three-year grant, with a commitment from the school district for that period of time.

In the fourth year, the school district is responsible for 80 percent of the grant, Kobza said.

"The position has to remain intact," the superintendent

said. Therefore, the position will be filled.

Falgoust said he is taking applications from inside and outside the sheriff's department.

"It's going to take a special person and a special personality," Falgoust said of the position. "We're going to seek out that person."

Falgoust had no information that could be made public about Sikes' resignation, but did say the issue is "under investigation" by an "outside entity" since it involves a sheriff's deputy.

Before joining the sheriff's department as school resource officer, Sikes served as an officer with the Thermopolis Police Department.

A face glowing with hope



Roxy Connor-Linnehan pauses for a moment during the luminary ceremony at the Relay for Life event on Friday. More than \$30,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society by the Thermopolis teams. —Cindy Glasson photo

Electrifying!



A bolt of lightning strikes just off the end of the Padlock Rim near Owl Creek. —Lara Love photo

Council looks at lowering downtown speed limit

by Tom Burkindine
A study has been completed detailing a proposal to lower the speed limit in much of the downtown Thermopolis area.

The proposal, if approved by the Thermopolis Town Council, would change the speed limit for Broadway and Arapahoe streets east of Sixth Street as well as the connecting sections of Third, Fourth and Fifth streets. The speed limit would be lowered from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.

Town engineer Heath Overfield conducted the study at the request of the Thermopolis Town Council and Police Department. Interest in the study stemmed from a report from Police Chief Mark Nelson last month.

Nelson approached the council

with numerous complaints from residents about low visibility at the intersection of Fourth and Arapahoe streets. New signage in front of the new Hot Springs County Annex building decreased visibility at the intersection.

While conducting the study, Overfield found parking on the streets and pedestrians caused a traffic hazard throughout the entire downtown area. Median parking on Broadway and diagonal parking on both Arapahoe and Broadway were cited as reasons for additional congestion.

Further information cited in the study stated that pedestrians take as long as 12 seconds to cross two lanes of traffic while a vehicle traveling 30 mph can travel more than one full town block in that amount of time.

In addition, Overfield cited two separate studies that concluded the odds of a pedestrian being killed in a collision with a vehicle traveling 30 mph are 40 percent. When the speed of the vehicle is lowered to 20 mph, the odds drop precipitously to 5 percent.

The conclusion of Overfield's study recommended the area speed limits be lowered and corresponding signage be installed in strategic spots throughout downtown.

The proposal was presented to the town council at a June 15 meeting. Council members will review the information and are expected to take action as early as their next meeting on July 6. Mayor Bill Malloy and several council members indicated their support of the proposal.

A pickin' good time!



John Herrington picks his banjo at the Bluegrass Jam at Shell Southside. —Cindy Glasson photo