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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Town bustling with reunion

by Cindy Glasson
The Hot Springs County High School reunion kicks off Friday with mixers at various locations, ending with an all-class picnic on Sunday.
Registration for the reunion will be held at the VFW on Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.
Here are the scheduled reunion events:
1950 – Friday, 6 p.m., Candy Jack Park
Contact Barbara Webber, 864-5256
1955 – Friday, 6 p.m., State Park (across from Big Springs)
Saturday, 10 a.m., Brunch, Leona Elliott residence, 903 Arapahoe
Saturday, 6 p.m., Stone's Throw Restaurant
Contact Leona Elliott, 864-3774
1960 – Friday, 6 p.m., VFW
Saturday, 5:30 p.m. gathering, 7 p.m. dinner, Jack Kuiper residence, 310 Horse Shoe Court
Contact Doris Ann Ready, 867-2365
1965 – Friday, 5:30 p.m., VFW
Saturday, 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, Carol Smith residence, 303 Horse Shoe Court
Contact Carol Smith, 864-3915
1970 – Friday, 5 p.m., John Zupan residence, 1121 Arapahoe
Saturday, 6 p.m., John Zupan residence
Contact Roxie Braley, 864-3444
1975 – Friday, 6 p.m., Doug Nichols residence, 151 S. Highway 20
Saturday, 6 p.m., BBQ, Doug Nichols residence

Contact Doug Nichols, 864-3635
1980 – Friday, 5:30 p.m., Stone's Throw Restaurant
Saturday, 6 p.m., Stone's Throw Restaurant
Contact Mark Mortimore, 864-3220
1985 – Friday, 7 p.m., Julie Lehman residence, 1322 Broadway
Saturday, 6 p.m., Lions Shelter, State Park
Contact Julie Lehman, 864-3697
1990 – Friday, 6 p.m., VFW
Saturday, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, Pumpernick's
Contact Anissa Gustason, (702) 460-1922
2000 – Friday, 5 p.m., Butch's Place
Saturday, River Float
Contact Brittany Uffelman, (307) 851-6603
There will be an all-class dance on Saturday night, starting at 9 p.m. at the VFW.
Anyone is welcome to attend the all-class picnic on Sunday at noon at the Kiwanis shelter. Tickets to eat at the picnic must be purchased in advance.
More information on the reunion may be obtained by calling Delores Loughlin at 864-9273 or Mary King at 864-3668.
In addition, there will be a Grass Creek reunion at the museum on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring a covered dish.

Volleyball in the park



Beth Lewis saves the ball from going out of bounds while her husband Dusty Lewis gets ready for the spike and Matt Schneider prepares to block him during the Gottsche Sand Volleyball Tournament on Sunday. The 10-team tournament raised about \$500 for the Gottsche

Rehabilitation Center and featured teams from businesses and organizations from around the region. Mercil Construction earned the first-place T-shirts. Team Iubuprofen took second place, and Milk Shake and the Fran Fries finished third.
– J.D. Stetson photo

Overpayment of severance tax a surprise

by Cindy Glasson
A lot of questions are still unanswered in regards to the State of Wyoming's request for repayment of severance taxes from 1995.
The state treasurer's office overpaid severance taxes to towns, cities and counties that year in an estimated amount of \$3.65 million. Now, the state wants its money back.
The Hot Springs County Commissioners were made aware of the situation the last week in June; however, according to assistant to the mayor Dan Stansill, the Town of Thermopolis was not aware of the repayment schedule until reading about it in the Thermopolis Independent Record.
Stansill said there were discussions about the repayment a couple of years ago and the town had actually budgeted an amount they thought they would have to repay.
"The municipalities thought it was going to be dropped," Stansill said. "We haven't received anything from the state.

"We're not real happy about it."
Stansill said the money that had been set aside has now been spent since the Wyoming Association of Municipalities had told its members the state was not going to pursue repayment.
"This was brought to the Appropriations Committee sometime in 2009," State Rep. Lorraine Quarberg said, a full 15 years after the millions had been distributed.
Quarberg said she has been in contact with State Treasurer Joe Meyer regarding the situation since finding out about it last week.
"I told him the towns and counties had already set their budgets for the year," she said. "I'm concerned that we're all in short-fall status as it is."
"He (Meyer) assured me he will continue to make calls and look into the options," Quarberg said. "The information I have received indicates the state wanted to start repayment July first. I would

prefer they don't put the schedule into effect until 2011."
Quarberg asked Meyer if there would be any legal ramifications to extending the payback time, and he told her he would be looking into it.
"Actually, the state doesn't even have a firm dollar amount," Quarberg said.
Quarberg believes there is a definite lack of communication between the associations and their membership.
"The Town of Thermopolis and the county commissioners did not understand this repayment was going to start in 2010," she said. "Everybody needs to know the payback terms. It needs to be spelled out completely."
State Sen. Gerald Geis said he was unaware of the situation since it had come from the Appropriations Committee.
"If it happened 15 years ago, they should let bygones be bygones," he said. "Now is not the time to be asking for money back."

Fire in the sky



The setting sun combined with some evening clouds creates a magnificent display west of Thermopolis Sunday.
–Lara Love photo

Fourth of July hero

by Cindy Glasson
Tragedy was averted on the Fourth of July – thanks to the quick actions of a Cody man.
Terry Amick was fishing with a young relative at the boat dock in the State Park around 3:30 p.m. when he noticed a family tubing down the Big Horn River.
As the rest of the family came safely out of the river near the dock, one of the family members, a boy of about 11 years old, got caught in the current and was being pulled further downriver.
The boy panicked and jumped from his tube. He could not swim and Amick said he was not wearing a life preserver.
Without a thought for his own safety, Amick jumped into the water and swam to the boy, pulling him to shore, fighting the swift current and well-known undertow in the area.
The boy and his family left the area without being identified.
Amick is the son-in-law of Thermopolis residents Griff and Natalie Hodson.

First fair event Saturday

The Hot Springs County Fair is almost ready to get down to business.
The annual event that will showcase the hard work of youth and adults in the agriculture business plans a slurry of events open to the public within the next two weeks.
■ The first event starts at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds with the 4-H and FFA Youth Horse Show kicking off the fair competitions.
■ The next event will take place July 22 with the 4-H Clothing competition at the Hot Springs Museum and Cultural Center.
■ The starting date for the actual fair will be July 27. It will begin with the Open Class Building exhibit judging and dog show.
■ The second day, July 28, will start with weigh-ins, then move to the goat show, cat show, rabbit show, poultry show and sheep show. It will end with the Family Fun Nite.
■ The third day, July 29, will feature the swine and beef shows.
■ The final day, July 30, will end the fair with the Junior Livestock Auction and the Judges' Choice Bake Sale. Eligible candidates will prepare for the state fair during a meeting earlier in the day.