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Students gear up for Homecoming

Neon Day, Opposite Day, dance, football game highlight week's events

by Cindy Glasson
Hot Springs County High School students and alumni will celebrate Homecoming with just three short days due to how the district set up the calendar for the school year.
The theme for 2010 Homecoming is "Under the Sea" and will include activities for just three days rather than the usual five.
The week begins Monday, Sept. 20, and ends with a football game against Moorcroft on Friday night, followed by the traditional Homecoming dance Saturday in the high school foyer.
However, students will only be in school Monday through Wednesday as parent/teacher conferences are scheduled Thursday and Friday. Students will be out of school those two days.
No Homecoming volleyball match is scheduled and some students will be out of town for 3A State Golf in Evanston.

The traditional Homecoming parade will be held Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Here is the Homecoming activity schedule:
Mon., Sept. 20
Theme, Neon Day (dress in neon colors)
Jello Slip and Slide, 6-7 p.m., north side of the high school
Tues., Sept. 21
Theme, Opposite Day (dress up as opposite)
Air Band Competition, 10-11 a.m., auditorium
Homecoming Royalty Coronation, 11 a.m., auditorium
Buff Puff Volleyball, 6-7 p.m., high school gym
Powder Puff Football, 7 p.m., high school football field
Wed., Sept. 22
Theme, Purple and Gold Day
Float building, 10 a.m., high school parking lot
Parade, 2 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 24
Homecoming football game vs. Moorcroft, 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 25
Homecoming dance, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., high school foyer

Right fit for bike safety



Hot Springs County Public Health office manager Deb Donahue fits 4-year-old Christopher Bapst with a bicycle helmet during the Fall Festival on Saturday at the Gottsche Riverwalk. The local health department gave out 85 free helmets at the event to promote bike safety. Helmets are also available at the Public Health office. See page 14 for more about the Fall Festival. — Joe Sova photo

Constitution Week starts

by Cindy Glasson
Sept. 17 marks the 223rd anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States and both the town and county have signed proclamations declaring Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week.
Appearing before the county commissioners, Ruth Clare Johnson asked commission chair John Lumley to sign the proclamation, urging citizens to reaffirm the ideals framed in the Constitution in 1787.
Marilynn Strausborger also approached the Thermopolis Town Council at their meeting Sept. 7, asking mayor Bill Malloy for his endorsement.
The Washakie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution ask residents to join them in ringing bells at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17 – Citizenship Day – in honor of the Constitution.
A program on the history of the document will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the museum.
The program will include music by Leroy Williams; readings by Margaret Mecca; forming of the Constitution by Karl Allen; and present day importance of the Constitution information by Jerry Williams.

Chamber passes budget; Lodging Tax Board eyes funding

The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce board finally approved a \$228,000 budget during its monthly meeting Sept. 8.
The budget took several months to adjust as the chamber contended with cuts from other government agencies, slow income from membership fees and a busy tourism season.
The final picture of the budget balances on whether the chamber can receive \$46,500 in grants within the current fiscal year.
"If we don't get it then we are really going to be pinching pennies," said Veva Blakesley, chamber president.
Blakesley added the chamber can only spend the money it receives, but it is hoping there will be some grant money to offset anticipated expenses.
The chamber is in need of someone with experience with grant writing and would be willing

to help them apply for various grants.
Another option would be for the chamber to train someone in grant writing by attending four online grant writing seminars offered through Central Wyoming College, but the board has not made a decision yet on who will take the course.
The chamber also is working on several small fundraisers for the winter, such as a small fundraiser at the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree tour and the Chamber Banquet. The chamber also made a profit of about \$7,700 during the Demolition Derby, which was unfortunately down from the previous year due to less, or smaller, sponsorships.
Copy machine issue
Other issues the chamber tackled at its board meeting was to find ways to offset revenues, such as to try to get money from the Hot Springs County

Lodging Tax Board to help pay for the chamber's lease on its copy machine, which Chamber Director Kathy Wallingford contends is used 80 percent of the time for Tourist Center purposes.
At the Lodging Tax Board's Tuesday meeting the board indicated its approval to pay \$2,592 the next fiscal year for the machine, but tabled the discussion until the next meeting in order to find money in its own budget for the chamber's request.
The Lodging Tax Board also discussed whether to continue fully funding the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser.
Wallingford told the board although the event

is a popular one for the town, it has not been a huge moneymaker for the chamber because of the cost of the event organizer and a lower amount of sponsorship money each year.
Some of the members wanted to cut the budget from \$15,000 to \$5,000, but later decided it would remain at \$15,000 for this year in order to fulfill contract provisions the chamber entered into with the event organizer.
However, the Lodging Tax board made it clear to Wallingford they would like to see a change during the 2012 event in the amount of money Lodging Tax pays for it.

Smiths move 79 horses at fall sale

by Cindy Glasson
A good crowd was on hand for the 10th Annual WYO Quarter Horse Ranch Fall Sale this weekend at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.
Bill and Carole Smith sold 79 horses during the event, with an average sale tag of \$4,654.
"This was a really good sale," Carole Smith said. "The buyers were there and they were ready to buy."

Two groups of horses, the aged geldings and the weanling fillies, came in with, on average, higher prices than they did during last year's sale.
Thirty-three aged geldings were sold, bringing an average of \$8,929. The two-year old geldings averaged \$1,250.
A group of 16 two-year old geldings from the Bartlett Ranch in Chugwater brought in an average of \$2,953 each.

Yearlings were averaging \$888, a group of four mares brought \$1,250 each and the 15 weanling fillies averaged \$910.
"We have horses going to 16 different states," Smith said. "And we have two going to Hawaii."
The pair going to Hawaii will be flown to the islands after all their paperwork is done.
"We talked about sending them by boat," she said, "but the buyer thought the five days transit time might be too hard on them."
Sports Smokin Spirit, a 2003 buckskin gelding known as "Sport," brought the highest price for the sale, coming in at \$40,000.
"We had two people bidding for him on the phone," Smith said. "He will be going to California."
Dry Playgun, known as "Shooter," brought in the second highest amount at \$19,000. He is a 2002 bay gelding that will be staying with a family here in Wyoming.
A 2004 red dun gelding came in third on the list with \$15,000. Dunnys Boy, called "Ace," will find his new home in Kansas.
Smith said 19 of the horses will be staying in Wyoming, 10 will go to California, nine to Texas and eight will be heading to Colorado.

"We had a lot, 23, that sold by phone bids," she said.
Smith attributes the number sold via phone bids to having videos of each of the animals online.

Friends of NRA fun



Mark O'Loughlin watches as Gil Guyon selects a bullet from a game board during the Friends of NRA banquet Saturday. The event had an excellent turn out. For information on monies raised see page 9. — Lara Love photo

Airport relocation project clarified

It has come to GDA Engineers' attention that there was a misunderstanding of what was stated during the July 6, 2010, Hot Springs County Commissioners meeting concerning the acquisition of portions of the Holden Angus Ranch properties for the Hot Springs County Airport Relocation Project.
Communications as of that date concerning details of the acquisition had only included Joe Holden, his counsel, and Rick Patton, aviation planner with GDA Engineers. The commissioners have not yet had direct contact with Holden. The project requirements do not include acquiring

the entire ranch – rather only that portion of the ranch needed for construction of airport infrastructure. A complete buy-out is not intended.
The headquarter buildings may be relocated or purchased outright in order to adequately serve the current and future property needs of the new airport.
However, no final decision has been reached by the parties involved.
The next step will be an appraisal of the land required to safely accommodate aircraft traffic and for access to the facility.



Zack Curran ropes the head of a steer while showing off a gray gelding at the Wyoming Quarter Horse Ranch Sale preview Saturday morning. — J.D. Stetson photo