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SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Commissioners' closed meeting on personnel

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners held a special closed meeting on Tuesday to discuss personnel issues. Along with the commissioners, county attorney Jerry Williams and sheriff Lou Falgoust were in attendance.

According to the commissioners, they have received a growing number of complaints regarding issues within the sheriff's department. Williams' office has received complaints in person and by telephone as well.

Commission chairman John Lumley met recently with the Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI), the State's Attorney General and the State Livestock Board in Cheyenne regarding an incident on Mud Creek Road involving the euthanization of a

horse on Aug. 10.

Lumley said the livestock board would not do an investigation into the incident after the fact. In addition, he indicated DCI and the attorney general conferred on the matter and advised the commissioners they (the commissioners) have access to a venue they can pursue if they feel no action is being taken.

"At this point we have rumors and innuendo," Lumley said. "No one has agreed to put their name on the line constituting a formal complaint. Until someone brings in credible evidence and is willing to sign a complaint, there is nothing we can do.

"We understand they're seeking a venue to get a problem solved, and there are points that do cause us concern, but there is

no solution we, as a commission, can mandate."

If a citizen signs a complaint, it is given to the sheriff and the county attorney for investigation. "We are taking this very seriously," Lumley said. "None of us has refused a phone call about this and neither has Jerry (Williams)."

The commissioners said they understand that people just want a venue to express their concern and they are not going to "shirk their duty to the citizens."

"We aren't going into this with any pre-supposed opinions," commissioner Brad Basse said. "We expect both sides to get equal treatment."

"We expect a fair investigation of any credible, signed complaints," Lumley said.

Pool contract still in the works

by Cindy Glasson

A meeting between Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites and concessionaires in Hot Springs State Park was held in Thermopolis Tuesday in an attempt to come to a contractual agreement.

The closed meeting included State Parks Director Milward Simpson, division administrator Domenic Bravo, Temple Stevenson from the governor's office and the owners of TePee Pools and Star Plunge.

"It was a good meeting," Stevenson said. "Things are progressing toward contracts with both concessionaires."

The contracts have been on the table for two years, the state asking for triple their current

payment to the state from the pool owners. In addition to the higher severance payment, the state has asked for more control over how the facilities are cared for and changes in insurance.

At Gov. Dave Freudenthal's request, Stevenson attended the meeting to act as a mediator and discussion leader. The governor has expressed his desire to see the contract negotiations completed before his term ends. "This isn't something the governor has mandated," Stevenson said, "but he would like to see it taken care of."

Stevenson could not elaborate on the discussions that went on during the meeting. Another meeting will be planned in mid-October with both sides coming to the table again.

Cage the wolves for Homecoming



Freshman Cole Williams sits in the wolf cage as Tiffini Kolar and Janae Gerrells keep a close eye on him. The freshman float featured Moorcroft Wolves walking the plank before plunging into the "sea" as part of the Homecoming theme of "Under the Sea." The Bobcat football team beat Moorcroft, 42-14.

— Cindy Glasson photo

Community arts month begins with quilters

October is National Arts and Humanities Month, and Thermopolis will join the celebration with a full month of activities for all ages.

Mayor Bill Malloy has issued a proclamation to name October as "Community Arts Month."

The first week of October is also American Craft Week — a time to celebrate the work of our hands. Local and regional quilters will exhibit at a Contemporary Quilters Show throughout the month of October. The exhibit opens Friday at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Quilts will represent the spectrum of today's quilting — from traditional hand

quilting to machine quilting. It is part of a collaborative effort of Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation and Wyoming Arts Council to document quilting in the region during the last 20 years.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

A virtual quilt directory is currently being developed for the Internet, and a photo shoot for the directory will be scheduled later in October.

Sidewalk demonstrations by local artisans and crafts people will be held in the downtown area on Broadway, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Cantrells, of Nashville, Tenn., will perform country, folk and bluegrass Oct. 13-15. The Cantrells are widely known for their appearance as old-time musicians in Robert Redford's film, "A River Runs Through It." They are sponsored by a grant from Western Arts Federation.

A house concert will be held Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are limited to 40 people and are \$40. A public concert follows Oct. 15 at the Hot Springs County School Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors with students free. Advance tickets available at Broadway Bygones are \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors and children. The Cantrells will

conduct a three-day school music residency in the Hot Springs County schools.

Leslie Basse, a Thermopolis musician, will present a free pianoconcert, "Hymns with a Twist," at noon Oct. 19 at Broadway Bygones. The piano on which she will perform is a Civil War-era square grand piano.

The popular monthly Bluegrass Jam will be held Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m. The location will be announced in advance of the jam.

Wyoming's poet laureate, David Romtvedt of Buffalo will give an informal music and poetry presentation Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hot Springs County Museum

and Cultural Center. He will be working with school students in a writing residency Oct. 25-26. Romtvedt is author of several books of poetry and fiction and is the recipient of two NEA fellowships, the Pushcart Prize and Wyoming Governor's Arts Award. He also plays Creole dance music on the button accordion and is a member of The Fireants, which performs throughout the Rocky Mountain states. Romtvedt is co-sponsored by Wyoming Arts Council, Hot Springs County Schools and Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation.

Bryan Ragsdale, national award-winning cowboy country-folk singer from Green Riv-

er will return to Thermopolis in a free concert Oct. 29 at the Hot Springs County School Auditorium. The performance will include music that Thermopolis students helped write for the holiday CD that will accompany the Wyoming Christmas tree to Washington, D.C., for the holiday celebration. Students will be part of Ragsdale's Thermopolis performance.

Community Arts Month is organized and sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation, working with local and state organizations and businesses, in an effort to help all of us recognize the value of arts in our daily lives.

Local veterans take pride in 300th 'A' Battery

by J.D. Stetson

The sights, sounds and smells of Korea weigh heavily on the memories of the few remaining soldiers who endured the war fought for 805 days in 1950-1952.

Bill Whitt, 83, remembers the feeling of not knowing what will happen to him and his unit from day to day as they fought back North Korean and Chinese forces during the campaign.

Robert Brown, 84, remembers an old smoking train he had to ride as it took him from the port to the front lines. When they finally got there after three days, the soldiers were covered in black soot.

"We weren't anxious to get there, and we weren't allowed to get tired," he said.

Whitt, Brown and Pete Cavalli, 80, all remember the endless days of combat, and the instinct to get to cover as soon as they heard a "pop" followed by a "whistle."



From left, Ike Blakesley, Robert Brown, John Dodge, Pete Cavalli, Gene Smith, Robert James and Bill Whitt pose in a manner similar to the original group who stood for a pho-

"We were under continuous fire, and we weren't allowed to rest," Cavalli said.

Cavalli remembered the

smell the most. The noxious, "cabbage" smell of sewage that lined the ditches of the streets. It could only be covered up by

the smell of burnt gunpowder after a shell is fired.

The three Korean War veterans had plenty to reminisce

about as they wandered the basement of the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

At the exhibit dedicated to the 300th Armored Field Artillery Battalion "A" Battery, the three stopped to remember their time together.

The small reunion of soldiers in "A" Battery was prompted by a ceremony to take place Friday in Cheyenne when the entire battalion will be honored with the Navy and Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation for service in the Korean War, where the battalion fired more than 500,000 rounds of artillery.

Battery "A" earned two previous U.S. Presidential Unit Citations, two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Unit Citations, a United Nations Service Medal, a Korean Service Medal, three Silver Star Medals, 18 Bronze Star Medals, 21 Purple Heart Medals and seven Army Commendation Medals.

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