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Godspell featured this week

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County High School students are presenting their spring musical this week, *Godspell*, based on the biblical writings from the Gospel of Matthew.

Tuesday was opening night; however, the community still has this evening (Thursday) and Friday night as well to see the unconventional musical.

"The kids have had fun with the 70s clothes and vibe, but have also learned a lot just about the stories that they are telling," director Eric Kay said.

Godspell, written in 1969, opened off Broadway in 1971 and features several musical numbers, including "Day by Day," which climbed the musical charts in the early 1970s.

Cyle Hart has been cast to portray Jesus with Devin Knight in a dual role as Judas/John the Baptist.

Covering several parables from the Gospel of Matthew, the performance ends with the Last Supper and the crucifixion. The crucifixion scene is presented in a unique way not seen in the auditorium before.

"This is the first musical I've directed in a long time," Kay said. "I'm glad I did it."

"I felt more like a facilitator than a director. With Dustin (Olsen) helping with music, Jennie (Chamberlain) helping with choreography, Jenny (Manning) helping so much with the costumes, and



Sallie Myers and Megan Kraushaar listen intently to one of the parables from the Gospel of Matthew during the Hot Springs County High School musical production of *Godspell*. The show is free to the public Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

— Cindy Glasson photo

of course Ron Philips working his usual magic with the set, often times I found myself just standing back and watching."

Philips created a circus tent to fill the stage for the performance, using ideas from his

own work on the show in Europe.

"This is also the first show I've done with an assistant director," Kay said. "Robert Kelly is a great asset to the program already. He went through my

program years ago and went on to Casper College to perform there as well. His help has been invaluable."

Curtain time for the performances will be 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

3-on-3 hits the streets

Thermop's time to shine during hoop tournament

by J.D. Stetson

As hundreds of people descend upon the streets of Thermopolis Friday evening to check in for the Thermopolis 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, it will be Hot Springs County's time to shine.

Event organizer World Events reported last week 125 teams from around the region pre-registered to enjoy two days of hoops Saturday and Sunday in the downtown area. The number of teams registered so far is approaching the 2010 tournament, which had 215 teams registered the week leading up to the tournament. The final tally for the 2010 tournament was 241 teams.

High gas prices aren't a concern for the chamber with the number of teams registered for the tournament. Both the chamber and World Events know from experience how people will wait until the last minute to decide to go to the tournament.

Plans are in the works to set up Friday, which the National Weather Service in Riverton predicts to be a sunny day with a high of 72 degrees. The extended forecast for Saturday and Sunday each call for sunny days with highs in the low 70s, as of Tuesday.

Michelle Lue, interim director of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, said there won't be much deviation in the 3-on-3 from what has taken place in the past. This will be Lue's first tournament as executive director.

Lue believes the town now has a personal stake in the 3-on-3. She thinks it is a prime opportunity to show people from other communities such as Casper, Riverton, Billings, Mont., and the various other places where players come from that Thermopolis is a thriving tourism-centered community and not one that is suffering, which has been what they have been led to believe from some media outlets.

"It's a prime time to prove this town is thriving and not a ghost town," Lue said.

Community involvement

The chamber already has a list of volunteers to help with the check-in Friday evening and set up banners, but they are still in need of more people to volunteer to help keep score and referee the tournament.

The chamber board also will allow volunteers in an athletic trainer program to use the opportunity to get some experience under the supervision of HSCHS athletic trainer Brandon Dero-

medi during the tournament, Lue said.

Based on second-hand information, Lue thought there would be at least three downtown businesses closed during the 3-on-3, but there will be many other businesses open, and 11 vendors will set up on Fifth Street west of Bicentennial Park.

Lue is optimistic about the community involvement with the tournament this year given the community's willingness to step up and donate money to the cause in December and January. The chamber lacked the money it needed to pay for the first \$6,250 contractual payment to World Events to provide the equipment and logistics for the tournament.

"The people really rallied because they really like the event," Lue said.

Chamber support

Lue said there is a misconception out there that the chamber makes money hand over fist during the 3-on-3, when in reality they don't.

Each team registered submits a \$130 fee, and the chamber gets \$40 from the fee, not the entire amount. So, the money the chamber will make on the tournament will depend on the number of teams participating in the event.

After the tournament, the chamber will have most of the expenses for restrooms, clean-up and other miscellaneous items. It also will need to pay the second contractual payment of \$6,250 to World Events.

This year, the chamber will man one of two trailers provided by PepsiCo, to raise money for operating expenses.

The chamber hopes to be able to get by on the money earned from the 3-on-3 until July, when many of its members will be due on their membership. However, the board also is trying to ramp up recruitment of new members in the meantime in order to get some additional income, Lue said.

The board recently approached the Thermopolis Town Council to ask for any monetary support the town could give the chamber as it considers its 2011-12 budget. It also plans to approach the Hot Springs County Commission to make the same request.

Lue is the only employee for the chamber and she is the only person manning the Visitor's Center during the day as people travel through the town or call to get information about the area.

But with just one person manning the chamber, an involved board of directors, 3-on-3 volunteers and the downtown businesses, Lue is confident the people of Thermopolis and Hot Springs County will prove to its neighbors the insinuations of Thermopolis' suffering have been exaggerated, and the town is happy to have them visit the community and see how alive it really is.

Rain raises risk of flooding, rock slides

by J.D. Stetson

While no one could necessarily claim the 1.35 inches of rain that fell Monday and Tuesday in Thermopolis was a bad thing for the dry ground, there may be some problems later on down the road, including flooding and falling rock in the Wind River Canyon.

According to the official record by the National Weather Service in Riverton, Thermopolis received .25 inches of rain on Monday and 1.1 inches of rain Tuesday.

None of the rain caused any immediate flooding and seemed to soak into the ground, said Bill Gordon, Hot Springs County Emergency Management coordinator.

Gordon is more worried about the weekend, particularly on Sunday and Monday,

when higher than normal temperatures and high winds forecasted for the mountains may cause snow to melt at an accelerated rate, causing potential for flooding in drainages west of Thermopolis.

"It's like putting a fan on a snowball," Gordon said.

Areas of concern include Owl Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Gooseberry Creek. Gordon reminds anyone living in those vicinities, or any other drainage, to keep an eye on the flow for potential flooding. If they see any flooding, Gordon asks them to report it immediately to the Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office at 864-2622.

Gordon added the county would make available places where residents can pick up

sandbags if they are worried about potential flooding. He asks residents to pay attention to Code Red updates and bulletins to find out where to pick up the sandbags.

He also wanted to remind motorists not to drive through any flowing water.

Motorists also are reminded to watch out for fallen rock in the canyon. During and after rainfall is when falling rock becomes a concern because the mud and erosion may loosen the rock, allowing it to fall down into the canyon, said Cody Beers, Wyoming Department of Transportation spokesman.

"It's that time of year," Beers said.

To his knowledge, Beers said there were no rock slides in the canyon during the most recent rainstorm.

Choir first, band second at Music in the Parks



Hot Springs County School District choir and band director Dustin Olsen displays the first- and second-place trophies won at the Music in the Parks national competition.

Hot Springs County High School capped another outstanding year in band and choir, earning honors at the Music in the Parks national competition held last Saturday in Denver.

The high school choir came home with the championship trophy while the band emerged with the second-place award.

Choir and band director Dustin Olsen said there were 1,500 students participating in Music in the Parks, representing 10 states. Each Thermopolis group competed against 20 different schools at the festival.

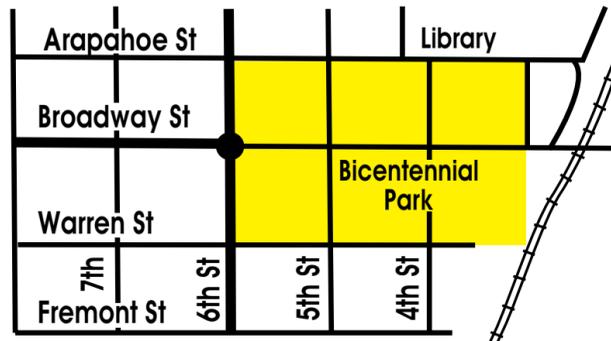
"I can't express how proud I am of our students. They represented our school, our music department and our community very well," said an elated Olsen. "It is awesome to see a small Wyoming school go and win a national competition. I can't wait to continue to build on this success and to compete at a high level."

HSCHS students who were part of the first-place choir at Music in the Parks: Kira Oliver, Shayna Cox, Megan Mortimore, Makayla Murdaugh, Krista Tippetts, Katie Lehman,

Chancey Bauer, Henry Chism, Harley Rhodes, Hallie Harvey, Justice Stehlin, Morgan McCain, Estashia Basse, Kaylee Groh, Jamie Materi, Elissa McNeff, Kaycee Tenboer, Jon Burrows, Torrie Colter, Shelby Shinkle, Ivy Paris, Mikell Pearce, Katie Olsen, Liz Palmer, Sallie Meyers, Callie Johnson, Cyle Hart, Taylor Matkin, Tori Anderson, Tiffany Mortimore, Sarah Basse, Natasha Knight, Emma Dorman and Megan Kraushaar.

Nancy Williams was the choir accompanist.

Members of the HSCHS band earning the second-place trophy: Tori Anderson, Tippetts, Annelisa Herold, Abby Lankford, Tiffany Mortimore, Kalyn Marquart, Johnson, Miranda Matkin, Jessica Lutz, Taylor Matkin, Megan Mortimore, Katie Lehman, Desi Rangel, Cody Blount, Katie Crosby, Laurel Leonhardt, Stehlin, Bralter Stewart, Zach Anderson, Tenboer, Cox, Luke Casciato, Austin Rush, Burrows, Devin Knight, Dan Lehman, Kenny Harvey, John Cramer, David Leonhardt, Kassidi Marquart, Palmer and Christina Porath.



Motor vehicle traffic will be restricted in the Thermopolis downtown area Saturday and Sunday during the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.