

Price, Larson earn
top athletic career
award honors

6

Five teachers retire
at end of 2010-11
school year

8

BLM announces
grasshopper
assessment

12

Heidi Hunt named
2010-11 Teacher
of the Year

14

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

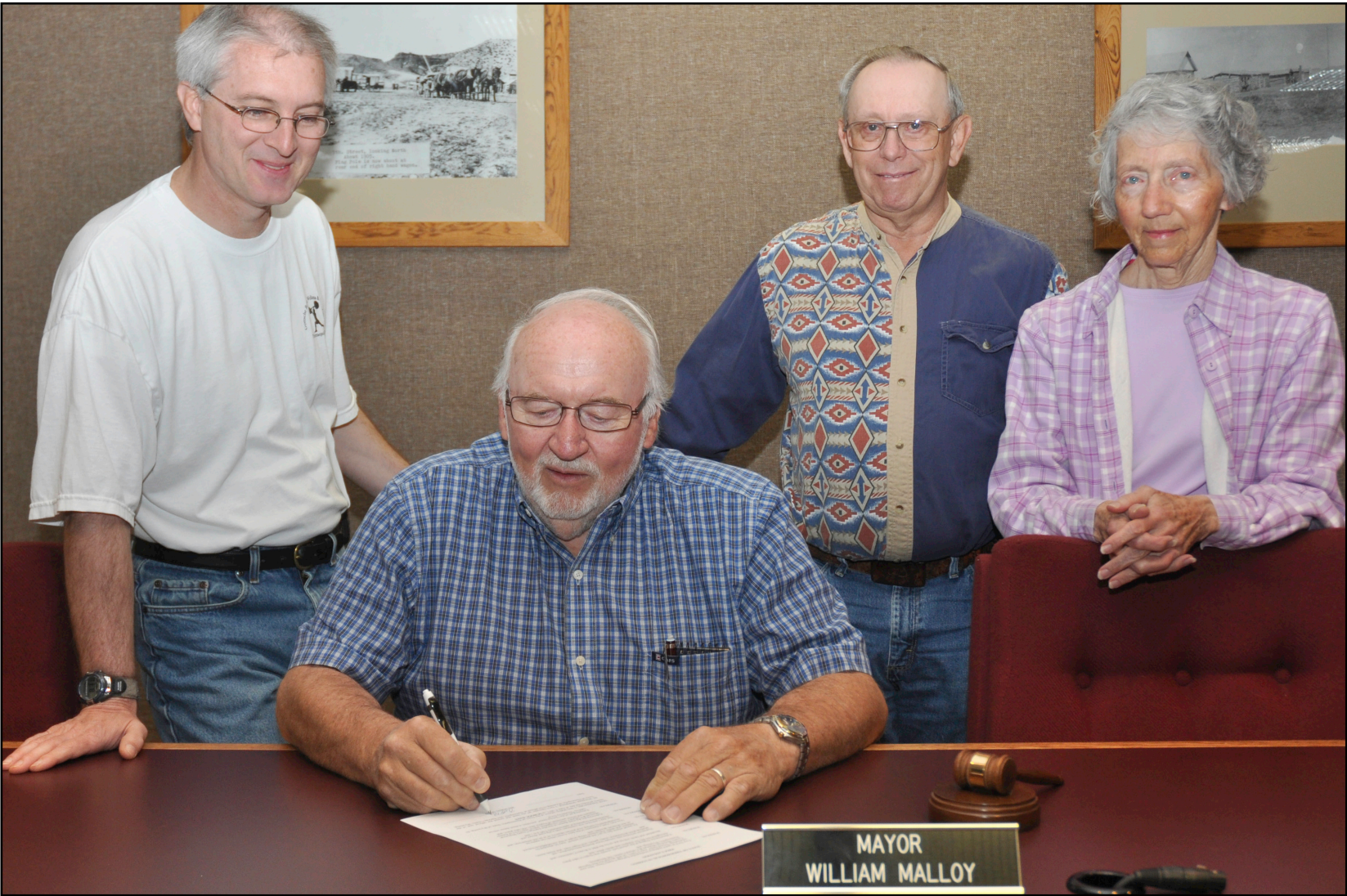
SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 112, No. 21, June 2, 2011

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢



From left, School Days committee chairman Gary Olheiser, museum and cultural center director Ross Rhodes and committee member Dorothy Milek watch Thermopolis Mayor Bill Malloy sign a proclamation declaring June 4 as "School Days."

School Days depicts early education

by Joe Sovo
Education in Hot Springs County in the early 1900s will be brought back to life in a significant way during School Days, set for Saturday at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center in Thermopolis.
Four for Fun and Funding is sponsoring the celebration to kick off the summer of 2011. The organization consists of the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center, Historical Society, Pioneer Association and Friends of the Museum.
Everyone is welcome to School Days. All past and present school personnel are encouraged to attend. You are asked to contact present or past school personnel you know and encourage them

to come to School Days.
"School Days shows the history of schools in the county, starting in the late-1800s," said Ross Rhodes, museum and cultural center director. "The significance of that, even though kids lived a long way from town they still got a good education."
School Days begins at 8 a.m. with a flag ceremony by local Boy Scouts and breakfast under the Big Top outside the museum offered by the PRCA Rodeo committee. The cost is \$3 per person.
The day-long event continues with a scavenger hunt and classes in the old Middleton School at the museum annex. During recess in the morning and afternoon, there will be games for children, horse shoe-

ing with Clay VanAntwerp, printing press demonstrations by Mike Parker and a pie and ice cream sale.
Parker will speak about the history of the "hornbook," featuring the use of phonetics in teaching people to read. The hornbook was popular from the late-1500s through the early-1900s. Parker's presentations are at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
People attending can get their photographs taken in an old school bus parked at the museum annex. Wear clothing similar to what was worn around 1913 for the photos.

History by Malloy, Allen, Conner

Mid-afternoon Saturday, at 3:45 p.m., educators Bill Malloy and Karl Allen, current and former mayors, will trace the history of education in the county. Carolyn Conner will speak about Northwest Wyoming Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).
Malloy, who is currently a substitute teacher as well as mayor, signed a proclamation last week to declare June 4 as "School Days."
Nellie Wales was the first superintendent of schools in Hot Springs County. Her granddaughter Adrienne McWhorter, a California resident, will attend School Days along with her daughter.
School personnel attending School Days, past and present, will be recognized at 4 p.m. Following is a question-and-answer segment, where school bells will be awarded in several categories, such as the oldest of school personnel attending, most years teaching, oldest eighth-grade graduate who attended a rural or Thermopolis school, the person who traveled the farthest to attend a rural county school and who walked the farthest to school, the last to ride a horse to school, the first to drive to school, etc.

"There were very few roads and vehicles. They didn't want the kids to have to travel too far to school," Rhodes said. "Sometimes teachers would live with one of the families."
A roast pig dinner is set for 5 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$10 per person, \$15 per couple and \$20 for a family of four or more. All beverages are \$1. Harley Rhodes sings the National Anthem just before dinner. Ron Foote provides entertainment during the meal. Dinner tickets can be purchased in advance at the museum.
Register at the museum before and during School Days to win two tickets for Sunday admittance to the Casper Antique and Collectors Club Antique Show and Sale in Casper. The winner will be drawn during dinner. The club makes a donation to all museums in Wyoming from show and sale proceeds.

'Roving reporter' skits

A big event set for 6:30 p.m. is "Whirl Winds and Rooster Feathers," a series of skits and "roving reporter" interviews depicting the second decade of the 20th century and focusing on rural county schools around 1913. Roles of residents of that era will be played by local people. Dorothy Milek is the event coordinator and she said the peak year for schools in the county was 1918-19, when 22 schools were educating students — all at the same time.
After the conclusion of the skits, Sounds by Sovo will provide DJ music from the 1940s through 1970s for listening or dancing pleasure. The music begins around 8 p.m. and goes until at least 10 p.m.
Rhodes said net proceeds from School Days will help pay for re-chinking of the museum maintenance shop, which was the livery stable for the former Emery Hotel.
For further information about School Days, call the museum at 864-5183.

BLM's preferred RMP presented

by Cindy Glasson
Around 75 concerned citizens attended a meeting Tuesday, May 24 at Thermopolis Middle School to discuss the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) being proposed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
The meeting, hosted by the Hot Springs County commissioners and the conservation district, featured visiting commissioners from Park, Washakie and Big Horn counties as well, all of which are directly impacted by the RMP.
Commissioner John Lumley told those gathered the two-and-a-half-year process had consisted of 37 meetings and the group had been required to keep the proceedings confidential at the request of the BLM. The plan consists of literally hundreds of pages.
In a nutshell, the preferred plan by the BLM, Plan D, increases its control of hundreds of thousands of acres in the four-county area, everything from grazing areas to recreation management areas and oil and gas production areas, to unprecedented proportions.

For example, the BLM currently manages about 80,000 acres of recreation area in Hot Springs County. Under their preferred Plan D, that management area would increase to 490,000 acres.
Oil and gas production areas under the BLM's control amounts to 33,000 acres, but under Plan D, those acres would explode to 144,000 acres.
Buffer zones around historic areas, streams and trails went from a few hundred feet to a proposed three miles, adding still more acreage.
Restricted areas outlined
A map showing the current areas with BLM management and restrictions was presented, followed by a layover of each of the new restricted areas, giving those in attendance a good idea of the enormous number of acres that will be affected.
By the time all of the layers were placed over the original map, very few acres in the four-county area were not under some kind of restriction by the BLM, with most having more than one restriction placed on them.

A study was done independent-

ly by the four counties, using the BLM's own paperwork, to compile an inventory of what actually lies in the management areas, roads, streams, drilling rigs, buildings, etc.
The group found hundreds of things the BLM had not listed in their plan that actually exist in the areas and spent time photographing and cataloging the items. With that in mind, the group feels the proposal by the BLM is flawed in nature.
One question the public had during the meeting was whether or not the commissioners were willing to take the appropriate steps, all the way to a lawsuit, if the BLM implements Plan D or any of the other, less desirable plans.
The answer was a definite, yes.
The commissioners' group said that was why it was so important for the public to make comment to the BLM on the proposed changes. If a lawsuit is filed, a judge is going to take the public comments on the plan very seriously, they said.

Oil industry's concern

Members of the audience from the oil industry expressed concern the plan would virtually eliminate the oil and gas industry in the four counties should it be implemented, saying they had trouble right now getting into areas where they hold leases and the costs of permits have skyrocketed.
The commissioners' group expressed the same concerns as 39 percent of the oil in Wyoming comes right from the Big Horn Basin. This would damage the tax base for the counties as well as put a burden on the residents who could find themselves out of work if drilling was halted.
The BLM will be holding a public meeting on the RMP in Thermopolis on Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Days Inn.
Anyone interested in commenting on the RMP is encouraged to do so. Comments may be emailed to BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov or mailed to Big Horn Basin RMP and EIS, Bureau of Land Management, Worland Field Office, PO Box 119, Worland, WY 82401.
The RMP may be viewed in its entirety at any of the BLM field offices or online at <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/lup/9506/19700/20213/default.jsp?projectName=BB+RM>.

School Days agenda

- 8:00 Flag ceremony
- 8:10 PRCA Rodeo committee breakfast
Scavenger hunt begins
- 9:00 Classes begin at Middleton School
- 10:30 Recess
Horse shoeing demonstration
Printing press demonstration
Pie and ice cream sale
Games for the kids
- Noon PRCA Rodeo committee lunch
- 1:00 Classes begin at Middleton School
- 2:30 Recess
Horse shoeing demonstration
Printing press demonstration
Pie and ice cream sale
Games for the kids
- 3:00 Find the mannequins in museum
- 3:30 Scavenger hunt ends, prizes awarded
- 3:45 History of county schools by Bill Malloy and Karl Allen; history of NW BOCES by Carolyn Conner
- 4:00 Recognition of teachers in attendance
- 5:00 Roast pig dinner; music by Ron Foote
- 6:30 Whirl Winds and Rooster Feathers skits
- 8:00 DJ music from Sounds by Sovo

Memorial Day preparation



Carl and Coreen Turnbaugh from the VFW and VFW Ladies Auxiliary spent Friday afternoon setting American flags at each of the graves of military personnel at Monument Hill and Riverside cemeteries.
— Cindy Glasson photo

Search & Rescue dispatched to help hiker

The Hot Springs County Search & Rescue was dispatched at 3:30 p.m. Saturday to help a 47-year-old woman who had broken her leg while hiking in the Rock Creek area six miles from Anchor Dam west of Thermopolis.

Thermopolis dispatch received the call at 3:30 p.m. that Stacey Wylie of East Thermopolis had a possible broken leg after she fell while hiking in the area.
The ambulance went as far as Anchor Dam, where Search & Rescue transported

the EMTs to the woman's location.
By 7 p.m., the ambulance headed back to Thermopolis with Wylie on board.
The Search & Rescue team included four personnel, three rescue units, a 6-by-6 truck and two ATVs.