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Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## 61st Gift of the Waters Pageant this weekend

by Joe Sovia

Had it not been for Mary Montabe, the Gift of the Waters Pageant held the first weekend of August each year might not exist. Montabe reportedly wrote the script for the first pageant, held in 1925.

The 61st Gift of the Waters Historical Indian Pageant and related activities are featured Saturday and Sunday in Thermopolis. The spotlight event, which commemorates the 1896 deeding of Indian land by Shoshone Chief Washakie to the people of Wyoming, will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

at Big Spring in Hot Springs State Park. There is no charge to attend the pageant.

The pageant is held near the new Smoking Water shelter. Big Spring has been known by Indian performers as Bah-gue-wana, or Smoking Water.

Gift of the Waters weekend events begin with a 5K/10K run/walk Saturday morning at the state park. Pre-register at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office.

Jeannette Titmus is the marshal of the Gift of the Waters Parade, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. She was named

the Chamber's Volunteer of the Year at the annual banquet. It is fitting Titmus is the marshal since this year's parade theme is "A Salute to the Volunteers."

Titmus, who has lived in Thermopolis since 1976, is on the Hot Springs County Senior Citizens Center board and is a volunteer at the center as well as the chamber office.

"I'm pumped. It's such a privilege," Titmus said Tuesday of being selected as parade marshal. "I really do enjoy it at the Chamber. You get to meet a lot of people."

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. Check-in is at the senior center and line-up begins at 9 a.m. at North Fourth and Arapahoe streets. At stake is \$50 in Chamber Bucks for first

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### Pageant event schedule

**Saturday, Aug. 6**

• 7:30 a.m. – 5K/10K run/walk, Hot Springs State Park. Registration 6:45-7:15 a.m. Cost \$15 in advance, \$20 day of race. Pre-register at chamber office.

• 10 a.m. – Pageant parade. Theme "A Salute to the Volunteers." Parade entry forms available at chamber office. Entry deadline: 3 p.m. Aug. 5. Note: The kiddies' parade is combined with the main parade this year.

• After parade – Indian dancing at flagpole at Broadway & Fifth street intersection.

• After parade – Open house at fire department. Rides for children.

• 10 a.m.-6 p.m. – Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair, state park, near pavilion.

• 11 a.m.-2 p.m. – Kiwanis buffalo burger and brat sale, Kiwanis Shelter, state park.

• 7 p.m. – Gift of the Waters Pageant, Big Spring, state park.

**Sunday, Aug. 7**

• 10 a.m.-4 p.m. – Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair, state park, near pavilion.

• 7 p.m. – Gift of the Waters Pageant, Big Spring, state park.



Thermopolis native Frances Collins, 93, makes a purchase from Sonja Becker during the first Farmers' Market of the season in Thermopolis on Saturday. The market is held each Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. through Sept. 17. – Joe Sovia photo

## Farmers' Market features locally grown produce and much more

by Joe Sovia

You can't have a second Farmers' Market until you have the first one, and the first of eight markets in Thermopolis was unveiled Saturday adjacent to Bicentennial Park, on Fifth Street just south of Broadway.

Representing local Master Gardeners, Sonja Becker of Becker Family Stock Farm organized the first Farmers' Market. The second market of the season is set for Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Markets are held each Saturday through Sept. 17.

Becker indicated the Farmers' Market is for more than getting some of the best, freshest produce in the area.

"We want it to be a community event," she said Monday. "We want people to come talk about their gardens and food in Wyoming."

Becker said produce is "kinda slow" this time of year, but much more locally grown produce will be available through August and well into September.

"Some people say they have squash, cucumbers and tomatoes," she said, and all are welcome at the market. Becker is hoping locally grown corn will soon grace the market.

The Becker booth at the Farmers' Market offers a variety of carrot, potato and cucumber types. Some potatoes are red on the inside and others are purple on the outside and white on the inside. "They come in all different colors," she said and exhibitors are trying to display produce you can't get elsewhere in the area. She said beans and winter squash would be added to the booth later in the growing season.

While Becker had the bulk of the produce available at the first Farmers' Market, there were several vendors showing hand-made arts and crafts and other items. So there is an opportunity to pick up produce and browse the other booths at upcoming markets as well. Rick Phipps sang and played the guitar to provide a relaxing, down-home mood, and live music will be featured at some of the markets the remainder of the season.

"If we can make this work this year, we'll have people planning ahead to sell next year," she said.

Anyone who would like to have a booth in this week's Farmers' Market or any of the markets over the next seven weeks is encouraged to contact Becker at 821-8456.



Jeannette Titmus

## Mosquito spraying begins next week in Hot Springs County

Hot Springs County Weed and Pest will begin spraying for mosquitos the week of Aug. 8.

For more information, call the Weed and Pest office at 864-2278.

### Showing off her style



Laurel Leonhardt models a dress during the 4-H Style Revue Thursday at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Leonhardt received Grand Champion for senior category for both the Fabric and Fashion/Construction contest and for the Style Revue.

## Grizzly kills heifer in Owl Creek area, relocated to Crandall area

### Bear suspected in attack on calves

by Joe Sovia

Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel trapped and relocated an 8-year-old male grizzly July 26 after the bear killed a yearling-bred heifer on an Owl Creek ranch property.

According to Game and Fish Bear Management Program Supervisor Mark Brusino in Cody, the bear killed the heifer – pregnant with her first calf – on the Pennoyer and Son Ranch northwest of Thermopolis on the night of July 25.

The grizzly is suspected in injuries incurred by two calves on the HD Ranch neighboring the Pennoyer property.

Frank Robbins of HD Ranch said one of the two calves died.

The other was still alive Monday after-

noon but might not survive, he said. Robbins believes one of the calves was attacked before the heifer was killed and perhaps the other calf was injured later.

"We suspect he (the grizzly) was involved in the two injured," Brusino said. "We will reimburse both ranches for those losses."

Responding the same day the heifer was found, Game and Fish personnel used a front quarter of the dead heifer as bait in a trap. "We use something he's feeding on for bait," Brusino said.

As expected, the grizzly returned the next day and was caught in the trap.

The bear was transported 80 miles and released in the Crandall area, about 34 miles northwest of Cody.

"There is no livestock currently at the release site," Brusino said. "We like to put as much wild country between them (the grizzly and livestock) as we can. That puts mostly wilderness between them."

Brusino said the grizzly, which already had ear tags, was fitted with a radio collar

and will be monitored from the air every week to 10 days.

That is consistent with federal regulations since grizzlies are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

"He gets one chance to get relocated," he said and if the grizzly causes more problems with livestock population more drastic measures could be taken.

According to Brusino, it's a bit unusual for grizzlies to come down from remote mountain country, but he wasn't surprised the bear was reported in the Owl Creek area.

"There has been an expanding bear population in the Absaroka Mountains in the Thermop area," he said, and Robbins suspects bears and wolves as predators that were responsible for missing livestock on the HD Ranch.

"We were 12 short on our yearlings last year," Robbins said. "I'm sure we'll be short again this year."

"We have so many bears, they're everywhere."

## Young Cody man dies in wreck on Hwy. 120

An 18-year-old Cody man lost his life Monday in a single-car rollover west of Thermopolis.

Emergency personnel were paged out at 5:30 a.m. Monday to the Gooseberry cutoff at the intersection of Highway 120 and Highway 431.

Travis Calkin had been driving a 1989 GMC Sierra pickup eastbound on Highway 120 when the vehicle left the road, going into a broadside slide before flipping three times, ejecting Calkin from

the vehicle. It is unknown what time the crash actually occurred.

Calkin was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Calkin, a recent graduate from Cody High School, was a defensive lineman for the Cody Broncos football team, earning all-state and all-conference honors as well as a trip to the Shrine Bowl.

He had been awarded a scholarship to play football for Chadron State College in Nebraska this fall.

# Pageant

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place in four presentation categories – Walking, Automobile/Float, Horse/Pets and Kids. All entries will be judged on Best Theme, Best Appearance and Most Original. An award of \$100 in Chamber Bucks goes to Best of Parade. Entry deadline is 3 p.m. Friday.

Community members and visitors are invited to join the Indian dancing at the flagpole at Broadway and Fifth streets after the parade. An open house at the fire department also follows the parade.

The Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair, which also features food booths, runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and continues 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday near the state park pavilion. A crowd favorite, the Kiwanis Burgers and Brats Sale is held Saturday at the Kiwanis Shelter. Cost is \$7 for a full meal.

## Verse, music featured

The multi-scene pageant play features verse and music showing how Chief Washakie gave the waters to his white brothers. Members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes will be part of the pageant, which features dancing in colorful Indian costumes. A women's choir, led by JoAnn Myers, will sing during the ceremony.

The tract of land now known as Hot Springs State Park origi-

nally belonged to the Shoshone and Arapaho Indians. Within the boundaries of the land were several hot mineral springs known for their healing powers. Big Spring, the largest hot medicinal spring in the world, flows 18.6 million gallons of water every 24 hours at a temperature of 135 degrees F. The hot water flows into cooling ponds from Big Spring.

When an agreement, or treaty, was reached in 1896, Chief Washakie was the first to sign. The second was Sharp Nose, an Arapaho. Alternately, members of both tribes signed. They received about \$60,000 worth of cattle and food supplies in return for the land, which included the Big Horn Hot Spring. It was noted Washakie said after he signed the deed, "I have given you the spring; my heart feels good."

The treaty was ratified by the government and a one-mile tract of land embracing all the springs was given to the State of Wyoming and it was made a state park.

The town of Thermopolis was moved six miles south to its present site – adjoining the Big Horn Hot Spring. In 1899, the Wyoming Legislature set aside one-fourth of the water of the Big Spring for free use and in later years, a camping area was reserved for Native Americans.

## Montabe directs 1950 pageant

It was reported Montabe wrote the Gift of the Waters Pageant script for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) state convention. After the first pageant in 1925, the event was not revived until 1949, when it was decided to hold the pageant each year in Thermopolis, resuming in 1950.

"She was happy it would become an annual event," this year's pageant treasurer Barb Vietti said of Montabe. "They brought her back to direct (the pageant)."

Montabe had a notable history. Her first husband was Mike Savaresy, who owned Savaresy Bakery, which later became Wigwam Bakery. He was a former Thermopolis mayor. After they divorced, Montabe married Harry Horton in Laramie and returned to Hot Springs County for the 1950 pageant.

Vietti said in the early years of the pageant, the ceremony's dialogue was in Native American language.

Pageant chairwoman Shasta Shafer and Vietti are spearheading the Saturday and Sunday evening event. They encourage people who will attend the pageant to have a seat in the bleachers or bring a lawn chair or blanket.

## Pop goes the soda bottle



Coke comes flying out of their bottles after Mentos mints were dropped inside. A group of Thermopolis youth gathered in the park for some warm-weather fun and a memorial for Wyatt Sommers, who passed away last summer. Shown getting drenched are, left to right, Nathan Paschal, Kyle Kinser, Sam Sommers, Brenda Lajeunesse, Daniel Leuers, Alisha Luers and Christina Joiner. – Cindy Glasson photo

# Enzi supports plan to cut spending, pay bills

U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., voted in favor of a plan Tuesday put together by Republican and Democrat leaders that cuts spending as it raises the nation's debt ceiling. Enzi said the legislation, while not doing as much as necessary to get the federal government's financial house in order, is a first step toward a habit of responsible spending. It was a better choice than the government not being able to pay its bills, he said.

The Senate has agreed to raise the nation's debt limit between \$2.1 and \$2.4 trillion on the condition government spending is cut more than the debt limit is increased. If that were done 10 consecutive years and enforced, it would balance the budget.

About \$917 billion in cuts come in the form of spending limits over 10 years. The rest of the cuts would be recommended by a bi-partisan committee of

Congressional lawmakers before Thanksgiving. The committee's recommendation would be put to a vote in the House and Senate and if the vote failed, or if the committee fails to come up with a plan, an automatic \$1.2 trillion cut would be enacted.

"The last election showed the intense concern over spending, highlighted by the new trillion-dollar health care bill. Legislation is evolutionary and seldom successfully revolutionary," said Enzi. "The American people are educating Congress – and Congress is slowly learning. If we could get more of my colleagues to travel to Wyoming and listen to the people, a balanced budget would happen faster."

"This deal does not solve all of our budget problems, but it keeps us in the hunt. It furthers our pursuit of a solution. The debate has changed from how much to spend

to how much to cut. It contains permanent spending controls. It doesn't contain tax increases. It does require Congress to vote on a Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment before the end of the year."

The Senate voted 74-26 to approve the plan. The House voted Monday night 269-161 in favor of passage and the President has indicated he will sign it.

Enzi is hopeful the annual appropriations process will bring about more spending cuts and was pleased at least the debt ceiling debate has brought attention to the debt problem we face. Going forward, he hopes more people will look at his "One Cent Solution" (S. 1316). That bill would cut spending by 1 percent for six years, cap spending in the seventh year and achieve a balanced budget in the eighth year. That's a \$7.5 trillion spending cut over 10 years.

# Woman bound over on meth charges

by J.D. Stetson

On July 26, Fifth Judicial Court Judge Thomas W. Harrington bound over Juanita June Simmons to Hot Springs County District Court on four felony drug charges.

Harrington bound over Simmons, who was 47 at the time she was arrested June 11, on one count of accessory before the fact to delivery of methamphetamine, one count of possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine, one count of conspiracy to possession with intent to deliver methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine.

The first three charges are punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 20 years, a fine up to \$25,000 or both. The last charge is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of seven years, a fine up to \$15,000 or both, according to court documents filed July 27.

Simmons was arrested after Hot Springs County Sheriff's deputies and Thermopolis Police officers searched a trailer home at 185 Lane 7 and found

1.65 ounces of methamphetamine and a small amount of marijuana.

Deputies and officers also arrested Anthony Aaron Simmons, who was 20 at the time of the arrest, and Timothy Michael Mitchell, who was 37. Both face felony drug charges that are pending with the Circuit and District courts.

Prior to the search of the home, law enforcement utilized the Big Horn Basin Tactical Response Team to secure the premises based on a 35-point risk assessment deputies used to assess probable dangers to officers.

Law enforcement had prior knowledge of an SKS assault rifle believed to be in the residence and there was an unknown person inside the home. The unknown person was not arrested or charged after the search of the home, and the assault rifle was confiscated.

Simmons' next step in the court process will be an arraignment, which the court will schedule for a later date.

# Public notices

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discuss a workshop that the Natural Resources Planning Committee would like to sponsor to assist county residents with their preparation of comments on the BLM BHB Resource Management Plan. The workshop is scheduled for August 11, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Episcopal Church meeting room. Mr. Bowman discussed the anticipated costs for this workshop for things such as postcards, postage and advertising. The Commissioners agreed that the County's share of those costs should come from the RMP line item and gave Mr. Bowman their approval to proceed.

## Executive Session – Land Acquisition

Brad Basse moved to enter Executive Session at 4:10 p.m. to discuss land acquisition. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Those present for the Executive Session included Commissioners Lumley, Basse and Baker, County Attorney Williams, Deputy Clerk Slocum, Admin Herdt, and GDA representative Dustin Spomer. Mike Baker moved to leave Executive Session at 4:43 p.m. Brad Basse seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action was taken during or as a result of the Executive Session.

## Airport Update

GDA representative Dustin Spomer reported that GDA representatives held a very productive meeting today with High Plains Power to discuss placement of electrical power at the airport. Mr. Spomer indicated that the geo-technical studies have resumed at the prospective airport site and he anticipates they will conclude towards the end of the week. In response to questions from Commissioner Baker, Mr. Spomer indicated that, while he will not have any definitive answers until the lab reports come back, preliminary indications are that some of the anticipated problems with the soils are not as severe as previously thought. Investigation has revealed that, while there has been some minor irrigation of the land recently, there has been no true flood irrigation of the area for quite some time.

## Consider Contract with WYDOT for WYO-Link Service

Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon presented a contract between WYDOT and Hot Springs County regarding operational arrangements for the WYO-Link Portable Enhancement Site for the Commission Chairman's signature. After extensive discussion with the County Attorney, Brad Basse moved approval of the contract between WYDOT and Hot Springs County for the WYO-Link Portable Enhancement Site. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gordon provided the Commissioners with a copy of the recorded access easement granted by Herrin Ranch to WYDOT for the tower site. County Attorney Williams had several questions about the easement agreement, which resulted in an agreement that Mr. Williams would review the document and draft a revised easement agreement if he felt it was necessary, which Mr. Gordon would then get signed and recorded in the County Clerk's office.

## WYO-Link Communications Tower Overhead Power

Mr. Gordon discussed the procedure for providing electrical power to the WYO-Link tower site. The original planned access point has been blocked by construction by another entity that uses land adjoining the tower site, so a new overhead access point for providing power to the WYO-Link tower site is necessary. Estimated costs for the electrical service are approximately \$5800-\$6200 for construction and \$1,000 for new survey work. Half of these costs will be borne by the Town of Thermopolis. Mike Baker moved to approve funds up to \$4,000 for installation of electrical service to the WYO-Link tower site. Brad Basse recused himself from voting due to his status as a materials supplier on the project. John P. Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried with Lumley and Baker voting aye and Basse abstaining.

## Award Lawn Mower Bids

Maintenance Foreman Chuck Carver presented the two bids received for a lawn mower. Bids were received from Park County Implement of Powell

for \$10,600.00 and Greenline Equipment of Riverton for \$10,550.00. The bids were identical in every respect but price. After reviewing the bids, Brad Basse moved to accept the bid from Greenline Equipment of Riverton in the amount of \$10,550.00 for a John Deere Z920A Commercial mower with a 14-Bushel Collection system. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Discussion: Funds to come out of the Rolling Stock budget line item. Motion carried unanimously.

## Parking Lot Sidewalk

The Commissioners asked Mr. Carver to work up specifications and seek bids for the parking lot sidewalk project which was removed from the SLIB Consensus Project list.

## Search & Rescue Report

Search & Rescue Captain Chad Baldes appeared before the Commissioners to give an update on the County Search & Rescue activities. The group currently has ten active members, with several younger recruits joining the squad recently. Mr. Baldes thanked the Commissioners for all their efforts to procure the new building for Search & Rescue. He reported that several outside Search & Rescue groups have used it for various classes and training and that vehicle maintenance has been greatly enhanced with the new facility. Mr. Baldes discussed the ongoing need for newer vehicles – the older ones are no longer reliable enough to be used regularly, and members are using their own vehicles more often than not. The Jet Ski acquired from the Sheriff's department has been very useful lately. Mr. Baldes reported that he has been spending the majority of the Search & Rescue budget replacing old equipment such as harnesses and ropes. This equipment has expiration dates and must be replaced regularly. Chairman Lumley provided Mr. Baldes with a card for Carl Florence – Fremont Motors Fleet Coordinator for the state and suggested he talk to Mr. Florence regarding upgrading the vehicles.

## TANF/CPI Grant Application

Hot Springs County Counseling Center representative Colleen Gardner presented the TANF/CPI Grant application for the Commissioners' consideration. This grant is for \$41,500.00, runs from 10/1/11 – 9/30/12, and provides funding through the Public Health Department for programs for the HOPE Agency, Cloud Peak Counseling, and the HSC Counseling Center. The application is due August 1, 2011. Due to the absence of Public Health personnel, the application was not completely filled out, so Ms. Gardner reviewed the uses for the money and how it was allocated among the three agencies. Brad Basse moved approval of the TANF/CPI Grant application subject to completion of all areas of the form, and signature of the chairman upon review of the completed form by the County Attorney. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## Administrative Services Agreement – Allegiant Insurance

As the County Attorney had not yet completed his review of this agreement, it was rescheduled to the August 2nd Commissioners meeting for consideration at that time.

## Owl Creek Water District Project – Request for Release of Funds & Environmental Review Report

Owl Creek Water District representative Harry Hughes reported that the Owl Creek Water Supply Project is now 100% funded through grants and loans. Mr. Hughes presented two documents for the Commissioners' review and approval – the HUD Request for Release of Funds and Certification, which allows for release of the Wyoming Business Council funding, and the Environmental Review Record, which accompanies submission of the Environmental Assessment to the Wyoming Business Council to fulfill the requirements for the CDBG funding. Brad Basse moved submission of the Request for Release of Funds & Certification to the U.S. Dept. of HUD through the Wyoming Business Council for the Owl Creek Water Supply Project, Phases I & II, subject to completion of the blank

portions of the form by CDBG Program Manager Sandy Quinlan, per her directions. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Baker moved to approve the chairman's signature on the Environmental Review Record with the Finding of No Significant Impact for the Owl Creek Water Supply Project, Phases I & II. Brad Basse seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## Radio Station/Emergency Notification Issues

Local citizen Harvey Seidel had appeared before the Commissioners at Monday's budget hearing to discuss the fact that the local radio station has been off the air for some time. As this station is designated as the primary emergency notification broadcast source for the county, Mr. Seidel asked that the Commissioners look into what the station owners' future plans were and consider designating some other source for emergency broadcasting.

Commissioner Basse moved to draft a letter to the station owners with assistance from Emergency Management Coordinator asking them the status of their service provision to the community and following up with a determination of other available sources for emergency broadcasting information. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## Other Business

**Lane 3 – WYDOT Preliminary Engineering Review Comments** – Engineering Associates representative Heath Overfield reviewed WYDOT's Preliminary Engineering Review Comments for the Lane 3 project with the Commissioners. Mr. Overfield is working on a response to these comments and will present that response to the Commissioners at the August 2nd meeting. The Commissioners discussed today's phone call with the Spirit Master representative regarding the Pamida easement. It is hoped that there will be some movement on this by the end of this week.

## Correspondence

**D&D Machine** – Airport Walkway Bid Complaint  
**Fair Board Minutes**  
**Growthhouse Construction** – Annual Golf Tournament Invitation  
**Owl Creek Water District** – Thank You  
**Office of Homeland Security** – PSIC Grant Deadline Extension  
**Reid Odde** – Scholarship Thank You  
**Basin Authority** – Notice of Intent to Vacate Office Space  
**Airport Activity Report** – June, 2011  
 The Commissioners reviewed the foregoing correspondence. No action was required.

## Executive Session

Brad Basse moved to enter Executive Session for reasons of litigation at 6:37 p.m. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Lumley, Basse and Baker, County Attorney Jerry Williams, Chief Deputy Clerk Slocum, and Admin Herdt. Mike Baker moved to leave Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. Brad Basse seconded the motion. Motion carried. No action was taken during or as a result of the Executive Session.

## Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners at this time, Brad Basse moved to adjourn. Chairman Lumley declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

John P. Lumley, Chairman

Karen Slocum,  
Chief Deputy County Clerk