

Nominations for
Ag Citizen of the
Year sought

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Fall Festival Saturday
in downtown
Thermopolis

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Lady Cats second at
Border War VB
tournament

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High school principal
McArthur's
first column

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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 112, No. 36, September 8, 2011

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Commissioners vote on land use change

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners approved one land use change during Tuesday's meeting. However, a second land use change was sent back down to the Planning Commission.

Wyoming Whiskey received approval for a two-acre change from agricultural to industrial in order to build an additional storage facility for whiskey casks.

A second land use change, from agricultural to industrial, was sent back to the Planning Commission in order to clear up some issues with water use on the property from the Kirby Irrigation District.

GK Construction asked for approval for the 20.5-acre change in order to build a maintenance facility for trucks hauling bentonite for Wyo-Ben.

Several adjoining landowners attended the meeting with the commissioners to express their concern over noise, dust, higher taxes and other possibly adverse impacts to surrounding property should the change be approved.

The biggest concern is the water rights that would have to be abandoned or transferred to someone else within the Kirby

Irrigation District.

Rick Grandalen, owner of GK Construction, assured the residents it was a priority for his company to keep the dust down in the area, and using the water to fill the trucks would be one way of keeping the water rights current.

County attorney Jerry Williams was not sure if using the water in that manner was against the absolute policies of the county land use plan.

"The use of the water has to be absolutely clear," Williams said. "The water rights are more of a legality than anything else."

"I don't think we have enough information to act right now," commissioner Brad Basse said. "To me, if they could come back with a specific plan, then we could score that."

Commissioner Mike Baker agreed, saying, "We need to have a water management plan that will specify the application and use of the water."

The commissioners agreed to send the situation back down to the Planning Commission for review Sept. 21, and they will address the issue again at the Oct. 4 commissioners meeting.

Filling the boot



Jay Duvall works to collect money during the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association) "Fill the Boot" Fundraiser at the stoplight at Sixth and Broadway streets Monday

morning. The department made about \$4,800 for muscular dystrophy research, about \$1,000 more than last year, said fire chief Mark Collins. — J.D. Stetson photo

Quarter Horse Sale Saturday

by J.D. Stetson

About 90 horses will be sold Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds during the 11th annual Fall WYO Quarter Horse Sale.

The sale will feature 43 geldings, 24 2-year-olds, 15 weanlings and eight yearlings. All of the horses are home-raised horses — from either the Bill and Carole Smith Ranch or the Bartlett Ranch, said Carole Smith.

The annual sale takes place each year on the second Saturday in September. Last year, the sale had 33 geldings with an average price of \$8,929. The sale also sold 16 2-year-olds, 15 weanlings, eight yearlings and four mares.

The sale will start with a video presentation at 7 p.m. Friday at the fairgrounds.

A performance preview will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, and the sale will start promptly at noon.

Most of the horses currently up for sale have recently been featured at other horse events

in the region, which has sparked interest in the sale, Smith said.

She expects there will be higher participation this fall compared to the spring sale last May, based on the number of phone calls she has received and interest at other events.

At the spring sale, widespread media reports of the spread of a horse herpes disease from an event in Ogden, Utah, put a damper on the sale, Smith said.

The overall average price at the spring sale was \$8,045. The sale sold 60 geldings, nine yearlings and five 2-year-olds. The highest priced horse went for \$22,000.

The sale also accepts phone bids for horses, which has been a growing trend in the business. People will come out and preview the horses at their convenience before the sale and then bid on them from home in order to avoid a second trip, Smith said.

For more information about the sale, visit website www.wy-horses.com.

September 11 Remembrance

Thermopolis volunteer firemen will be traveling to Lander on Sunday for a special September 11 Remembrance, hosted by the Lander Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire departments from across the state, as well as emergency service and law enforcement personnel, have been invited to Lander to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. on

Sept. 11, 2001. The Lander Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring the event.

According to Thermopolis Fire Chief Mark Collins, the firemen will be taking a truck to the anniversary memorial, which begins with a luncheon at 11 a.m. at Lander Valley High School.

After the luncheon, a 45-minute memorial service will be held at the newly dedi-

cated Fremont County Veterans Memorial at 1 p.m., followed by a silent parade down Lander's Main Street. The parade will feature emergency support personnel, such as firemen, EMS and law enforcement officers. Other September 11 Remembrance activities are slated at Mr. D's in Lander after the parade. Everyone is invited to attend the remembrance.

CPWyo to host annual Constitution Day celebration in Thermopolis on Sept. 17

The Constitution Party of Wyoming (CPWyo) will host its second annual program to commemorate Constitution Day, the annual federal ob-

servance that recognizes the ratification of the Constitution, on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Thermopolis.

The CPWyo's only annual

event will be staged at the armory building, 728 N. Park St. Presentations begin at 1 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person; children 12 and under are free.

The event will include three presentations, highlighted by Wyoming author Mike Mackey's historical look at Wyoming's Constitutional Convention of 1889, as well as a catered dinner, a silent auction and a "hat auction" for an engraved Model 1860 Army Re-

volver in a presentation box.

The CPWyo officially organized in July 2010 and was accepted as an affiliate member of the national party in November 2010. The party began its statewide petition campaign in April to gain ballot access for 2012. The first Constitution Day event was held last year in Rawlins.

For more information on the CPWyo, go to the party's official website at www.wyomingcp.com.

Working the field



A farmer rakes hay in preparation for baling on property north of Thermopolis on East River Road as the Big

Horn River flows in the background.

— J.D. Stetson photo

Jobless rate drops

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County saw a large drop in its unemployment rate between June and July.

The monthly rate fell from 5.1 percent in June to 4.6 percent in July. The rate is also below the rate in July 2010, which also was 5.1 percent, according to a report from the Department of Workforce Services Research and Planning Division.

Hot Springs County saw a drop of 12 people from its unemployed number of 131 in June, which made the July number 119.

The number of unemployed people in the county are those who report employment, subtracted from the estimated number of people in the labor

force. In July, the county had 2,451 employed people and 2,581 people in the labor force.

Statewide, the state also saw a decrease in its seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 5.6 percent in June to 5.2 percent in July. It is still well below the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 9.1 percent in July.

Counties with the highest unemployment rate include Lincoln County with 6.6 percent, Fremont County with 6.3 percent and Big Horn County with 6.2 percent.

Counties with the lowest unemployment include Sublette County with 3 percent, Campbell County with 4.2 percent, and Albany and Niobrara counties with 4.3 percent.