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in \$372,000

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Thermopolis  
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# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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## September 11 Remembrance



Several Thermopolis volunteer firefighters traveled to Lander on Sunday for a special memorial service commemorating first responders lost during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. Pictured, left to right, are Jim Andreen,

Jay Duvall and Rod McQueen. More than 50 firefighters from across the state attended the service, bringing more than 30 fire apparatus for the silent parade down Lander's Main Street.

— Cindy Glasson photo

## Chamber has good month in August

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce is in a better position financially than it has been for most of the year after completing a successful Demolition Derby and receiving higher revenues for administration from the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board.

Interim Executive Director Michelle Lue reported to the chamber board at its Thursday, Sept. 8 meeting the chamber started the month of August with a bank balance of \$10,795.08 and ended the month with \$11,597.05. The ending balance does not include the money the chamber earned from the Demolition Derby, which was \$14,196.43.

The chamber also retains \$10,000 budgeted by Hot Springs County Commissioners for operations, Lue said.

After hearing the positive financial report, board vice president Gene Boehmke expressed to Town of Thermopolis liaison Dick Hall he had a message for Hall to take back to the Thermopolis Town Council.

Boehmke said Mayor Bill Malloy had several months ago challenged the chamber board to run the chamber like a business.

"I think we're doing that," Boehmke told Hall.

### Demolition Derby

Lue reported the Demolition Derby was a huge success for the chamber as a fundraiser.

The event yielded net revenue of \$14,196.43, which was collected from the chamber board operating a Pepsi Wagon as well as through sponsorships, ticket sales and vol-

unteers.

The chamber planned to have a "thank you" picnic at Candy Jack Park for derby volunteers.

The Pepsi Wagon was a large earner for the chamber and Lue reported they actually sold out of beverages and had to purchase more from local businesses.

### Lodging Tax appreciation

The chamber board did not have a quorum to take any action on motions during the meeting, but was able to discuss various items, including their appreciation of the Lodging Tax Board for a change in the way the board allocates revenues for operations to the chamber for running the Hot Springs County Tourism Center.

Lue reported the change would cover the tourism-related costs for tourist packets, phone service and materials.

However, both boards are still trying to quantify the cost and reimbursement covered by each agency involving visitors to the center each month.

Lue reported the Lodging Tax Board has asked the chamber to share in the estimated cost garnered by visitors each month.

The chamber board discussed the chamber's willingness to share some of the cost, but the board wants to see how it will affect revenues over a trial period or data showing how it would affect revenues over a year's time.

The chamber board agreed it wants to maintain a good relationship with the Lodging Tax Board, and the issue would be discussed further before the next Lodging Tax Board meeting Sept. 20 at Stones Throw Restaurant.

## Friends of NRA banquet in spotlight Saturday

### Tickets for annual event still available

by Joe Sovia

Hot Springs Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) hosts its fourth annual banquet Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. Doors open at 5 p.m. for games and a social hour. A catered dinner is served beginning at 7 p.m.

Featured will be raffles and live and silent auctions. Items to be auctioned include rifles, handguns, shotguns, knives, paintings, other forms of art and lots of unique NRA memorabilia.

The 2011 Gun of the Year will be featured during the auction. It is the NRA Centennial Edition of a 1911 Colt pistol .45ACP. The gun is valued at \$1,200. Other firearms up for auction include a Savage Model 93R17 BSEV 17 Series

Rimfire Rifle with NRA logo and a Sturm Ruger HM77R Hawkeye 7mm-08 Rem Rifle, also with NRA logo.

As of Wednesday, a few tickets for a pre-event raffle were available. The fire-arm is a Springfield Armory Xdm .40S&W with 3.8-inch barrel. Costs \$10 per ticket and only 100 tickets will be sold. Tickets were available at Canyon Sporting Goods and the winning ticket will be drawn during the banquet.

According to ticket coordinators Paul and Cynthia Garbin, banquet tickets are still available for the popular annual event.

"We are still ahead of where we were at this time last year," Cynthia said of ticket sales, and she expects a considerable push the last few days before the

banquet.

Members of NRA and nonmembers are welcome to attend the banquet. Cost is \$35 per person or \$25 for children under 12. Tickets are available at Four Winds Trading Post, Nature's Corner, Storyteller and Canyon Sporting Goods in Thermopolis.

This year's dinner features barbecued beef brisket from Grumpy's BBQ and smoked salmon.

"It's going to be a really fun event," Cynthia said. "A lot of really interesting and different items are going to be available. Some local artists have

contributed some really fine pieces." She hinted unique items would include a buffalo concealed carry vest and driftwood-frame mirror.



## Council discusses safety, deer, development

by J.D. Stetson

Thermopolis Mayor Bill Malloy discussed in general terms several complaints he had heard about the safety of pedestrians on 14th Street during a Thermopolis Town Council meeting Sept. 6.

Malloy said residents were upset by the high number of semi-trucks using the road and the speed people drive on the street. They said children walking on the street are not necessarily paying attention to the traffic because they are distracted by various handheld electronic devices.

Police Chief Mark Nelson said it may be time to adjust the speed limit and other signage in the area to slow people down and direct trucks away from the street. He added it will be difficult to lower the amount of vehicles on the street due to the development in the area as well as drivers who use a global positioning system (GPS) to navigate a shortcut to Highway 20 from Broadway Street or from Highway 20 to Highway 120 — using 14th Street.

Nelson added the department may step up enforcement in the area during high-traffic times.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby said he expects several community members at the council's next meeting at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 to discuss the issue.

### Other items discussed

■ **Economic Development:** The council received a report from Hot Springs Economic Development Co. Director Kendi Graves on the status of potential busi-

nesses moving to Thermopolis and the Red Rock Commercial Center.

Graves said the company is currently pursuing two potential business leads for Thermopolis, but she could not divulge them due to privacy concerns. She said there is some interest in the general area, but none of the leads are interested in the business park. The company currently does not have any new viable leads for potential development at the commercial center. The company plans to attend a conference of state economic organizations to discuss the park and generate new ideas for encouraging development.

■ **Deer:** The council briefly discussed the upcoming deer counts to be performed by the town and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Nelson said the counts would determine whether the town would be able to harvest deer in the fall to reduce population. He added that if the Game and Fish says there are not enough deer to be harvested, it will work out fine for the town.

■ **Recreational vehicles:** Nelson reported to the council the department would start asking people in the next month to remove parked RVs from the streets in order to accommodate snow removal and public safety. The town ordinance states a recreational vehicle cannot be parked on the streets in the same spot for more than 24 hours, but the department relaxes the requirement during the summer months as the vehicles are used. As winter approaches, the department will step up enforcement of the ordinance and remind people to prepare the vehicles for winter.

### Storytime's captive audience



Ethan Wells sits on his mother Sarah's lap while listening to a story during Storytime at the Hot Springs County Library. Storytime for the little ones is held Wednesdays and Thursdays starting at 10:30 a.m.

— Cindy Glasson photo