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Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 112, No. 38, September 22, 2011

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

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School enrollment steady

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 (HSCSD) is holding its own on student enrollment for the first three weeks of the 2011-12 school year.

Enrollment as of last Friday was 663 in the district, which was one more student than on the same date a year ago. That was after the “10-day drop” period ended Sept. 8.

“We maintained pretty good numbers,” first-year district superintendent Dustin Hunt said Monday. “I thought we were going to be down a little bit. We’re pretty steady. That’s good for preparation purposes.”

In addition, maintaining average daily membership (ADM) in kindergarten through 12th grades, cumulatively, is important since state funding is based on the “three-year rolling district average” for student enrollment. A drop in ADM means less money for the district and could result in cuts in staffing and/or programs.

Hunt said the Thermopolis school district is doing well in student-teacher ratio. Districts are required to have no more than a 16:1 ratio of students to teachers, with an upper limit of 16.49:1 to avoid being in a “waiver” situation.

“The state (Wyoming Department of Education) is looking at school districts in trouble,” Hunt said, in terms of having a student-teacher ratio of higher than 16:1, “and what will be accepted as waivers. We’re in good shape.”

HSCSD had the lowest enrollment in grades 1 and 3 at the end of the 10-day drop period, with 39 students in each. In contrast, there were 49 students in kindergarten, 46 in second grade and 59 in fourth grade.

There are four grades – 5 to 8 – at the middle school. Those grades range from 50 students in the eighth grade and 58 in grade 5.

The junior class at the high school was the largest class as of last Friday with 60 students. There were 45 students in grade 9, 55 in grade 10 and 50 in the senior class.

Four-and-a-half day week

Hunt said the new four-and-a-half day school week is something district administrators will continue to study.

“We’ll try to get as much input from parents throughout the (school) year as possible,” the superintendent said, and the district would also like to eventually get input from students. He

did say it’s difficult to get evaluations from the younger students in the district about the new alternative calendar.

Playing a key role in the alternative calendar is the Lights On Afterschool program. It has been expanded to include Friday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. to provide additional educational opportunities for elementary and middle school students.

“We’ve had outstanding numbers,” Hunt said of Lights On and lauded the program coordinator. “Jenny (Davis) is doing a great job. It’s growing. It’s another opportunity for kids to learn.”

According to Hunt, the four-and-a-half day week is playing a role in the growth of the Lights On program.

Learning curve for Hunt

Hunt has made the transition from high school principal to superintendent over the last three or four months.

“I’m having to do a lot of learning. That’s the key,” Hunt said. “This staff has been great. The board has been very supportive.”

“We have an outstanding high school principal,” he said of Jason McArthur. “He’s a great addition to our team.”

In the role of superintendent, Hunt said he has the opportunity to visit more classrooms than he did as high school principal. “I can see the 200 high school students every day,” he said. “I can have a district-wide presence. I’ll be more of the students’ lives than just one building.”

Hunt believes the district has a lot of positive momentum going into the 2011-12 school year “because of our outstanding staff and community. There are so many good things happening.”

According to Hunt, student scores will continue to be an educational focus.

There are 15 new teachers in the local district this school year – people Hunt considers “the cream of the crop” – who are working with outstanding veteran teachers.

With leadership by Mary Myers, the district is formalizing its three-year mentor program. It will assist with teacher development.

“We’ve built collaboration in every (school) building. We’re giving them a ton of support,” Hunt said of the new teachers. “We want them to stay in the profession.”

“Our number-one focus is student learning and achievement,” he said.

Pink glove rockers



Matt Rhodes rocks it out while Jodi Sievers shows she can get her groove on during the Pink Glove Dance at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. Giving their support from behind are left to right, Marie Parsons, Cindy Shaffer and Brenda Bein. —Cindy Glasson photo

High demand for hay affects prices in Hot Springs County

by J.D. Stetson

High demand for hay stemming from a Texas drought is having somewhat of an impact in Hot Springs County on local producers and ranchers.

The biggest impact is the price of hay, which has gone up since the start of summer from normal prices to almost double.

Local producer Ray Shaffer said his hay crop this year had a decent first cutting, a smaller second cutting and a very small third cutting.

“It was not a good growing year,” he said, adding he never had a chance during the summer to irrigate the field due to the wet spring.

He also had some trouble with

grasshoppers along the fringes of his hay field, which also affected his crop. Shaffer said the grasshoppers were his own fault for not getting them sprayed earlier in the year.

Shaffer usually sells most of his hay, which is mostly small bales meant for horses, to repeat local customers in Thermopolis and Worland.

Although USDA guidelines are calling for prices around \$140 a ton, he plans to hold the line at \$100 in order to accommodate his local customers. His hay prices in the past have run at about \$80 a ton on average.

USDA prices

According to a USDA release from

Sept. 15, hay prices in central and western Wyoming are currently running at \$180 to \$205 a ton for premium large square alfalfa, and \$150 to \$190 a ton for good to premium large square alfalfa. Small squares are running at \$140 a ton.

The new prices compare to the 2010 annual average for alfalfa hay of \$90 a ton, as reported in the USDA Wyoming Field Office 2011 Agriculture Statistics publication. The average price in September 2010 also was \$90 a ton.

With the high demand, Shaffer has received various calls from local ranchers, horse owners and even goat owners searching for hay.

“I sell to whom I can, but some of

them end up driving a ways to find it,” Shaffer said.

Dave Denton, owner of White Horse Feed and Country Store, said even though local producers are seeing high demand, most of the ranchers are still finding hay for their herds either inside or out of the county.

Cattle industry

While cattlemen are now having to deal with the higher prices for hay, fortunately, livestock prices are also higher than average, which accounts for some of the extra money paid for hay.

Tom Christensen, a Hot Springs County rancher and a Wyoming Live-

stock Commission brand inspector, said many ranchers in Hot Springs County grow their own hay, but their first cutting was hampered by the wet spring.

He added he had recently heard of a Hot Springs County hay producer who got an offer of \$220 a ton from an out-of-state person for his third cutting.

Barry Nye, a local rancher who does not produce hay and buys hay for his 225-head herd of cattle in the winter, said the high cost of hay will take a large bite out of his bottom line – even with the increased price for cattle.

See Hay on page 10



John Dorman celebrates after his key opens a gun case containing a Remington Model 700 CDL 30-06 rifle at the Hot Springs Friends of NRA auction. Six pies were auctioned off with a key taped to the bottom of each tin. — Lara Love photo

Friends of NRA banquet raises \$33,000

by Joe Sovo

Highlighted by a climactic “homemade pie key game” to conclude the event, the fourth annual Hot Springs Friends of NRA Dinner, Auction and Fundraiser held Saturday evening at the fairgrounds was a rousing success.

Hot Springs Friends of NRA committee chairwoman Lorraine Quarberg said a near-capacity crowd attended the event. There were 151 tickets sold for the banquet and auction.

Unofficially, the event raised about \$33,000, down a bit compared to the 2010 banquet. Half of the proceeds goes to the NRA Foundation and the other half stays in Wyoming and is used for grants and NRA programs.

“I thought it was a really good evening. It was a lot of fun,” Quarberg said, and she gave credit to the local 4-H Shooting Club members and other youth who helped dur-

ing the event. Members of the local Boy Scouts posted the colors.

The top-selling item during the live auction was the 2011 Friends of NRA Gun of the Year, a 1911 Colt Pistol .45ACP NRA Centennial Edition. The high bidder paid \$1,300, plus tax. The pistol was donated by Hot Springs Friends of NRA.

Three other live auction items sold for more than \$500. A shotgun lamp with CCW drawer and a Kahr Arms CW9 semi-automatic pistol sold for \$750. It was donated by Richard and Pamela Olson, and Hot Springs Friends of NRA. A final bid of \$575 was accepted for a custom Henry Golden Boy .22 S/L/LR rifle. Brunton Epoch 10.5x43 top-of-the-line binoculars sold for \$500. The rifle and binoculars were also donated by Hot Springs Friends of NRA.

Another hot auction item

was a polished copper musket weathervane, which sold for \$400 and was donated by R & C Trucks. Merlin’s Hide Out donated a buffalo hide concealed carry vest made by Coronado Leather. The vest sold for \$375.

Paul and Cynthia Garbin of Hot Springs Friends of NRA said there were 26 items in the live auction, which raised \$7,680. The silent auction brought in another \$845 for a total of \$8,525.

“There was a fair amount of hootin’ and hollerin’,” Paul said.

The live auction was capped by the culmination of a “homemade pie key game.” Six pies were sold during the live auction, each with a key taped to the bottom of the tin. One of the six keys would open the padlock on the “big green gun case,” which contained either an unannounced hand gun or long gun. When none of the

first five keys opened the lock, John Dorman – holding key No. 6 – knew he had the winner. Inside the case was a Remington Model 700 CDL 30-06 rifle.

The key game portion of the live auction raised \$1,520. “We really enjoyed putting on that game,” Quarberg said.

Quarberg also gave credit to the sponsors of auction items and those who donated items for the silent auction.

“The businesses are so good about supporting everything in town,” she said.

Todd Daniels of Joliet, Mont., was the winner of a Springfield Armory Xdm .40 S&W rifle in the pre-event raffle.

Gary Nash was the auctioneer. NRA Senior Field Representative Dave Manzer attended the banquet and auction. “He’s our go-to guy,” Quarberg said, and he is responsible for all the Friends of NRA banquets in Wyoming.

Parents get taste of leadership training

by J.D. Stetson

Several parents and community members gathered at Common Ground Sept. 13 to learn about the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI).

They were introduced to several of the key goals of the organization to help parents make positive changes in their community through education and tools they will learn about throughout the course.

The event was led by Carol Pickett, Lin Davenport, Shu-

rie Scheel and Bobbie Overfield, who provided the history, overview and course examples to the group.

“This is an opportunity for something I wish I had earlier in my life,” Davenport told the group during her introduction.

The group offers two 10-week phases in which the participants discuss and help each other to develop solutions to problems in which the parents can influence change in the community and their own lives.

The course involves lessons in civics, networking, public speaking and various other tools as well as group discussion and activities to help the parents learn from each other.

The PLTI course provides a “safe” environment for parents to be open and confident items discussed will stay within the group. No cameras or other recording devices are allowed during the sessions.

Participants who apply are interviewed and the facilitators choose who can participate based on how they will enhance the diversity, strength and learning for the group as a whole.

Each participant will also be required to develop a community project to practice the skills they learn throughout the course.

The course is free and it offers a family meal before class starts and free childcare during the Thursday night course. The course will kick off during a day-long retreat Oct. 8. The three-hour classes take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays with another daylong class on Nov. 18.

The first phase of the class lasts until Dec. 8 and there is a break until the second phase resumes Jan. 12 and ends on March 15. Applications will be accepted up until the first class Oct. 8.

For more information about PLTI, contact Pickett at 921-0640 or pick up an application at Common Ground, Hot Springs County Public Health or the Hot Springs County Library.



Ray Shaffer works on the third cutting of hay on his property north of Thermopolis. Shaffer sells his hay mostly to local ranchers and is holding his prices to \$100 a ton, based on USDA pricing guidelines. — J.D. Stetson photo

Hay

Nye arranged in July to pay \$140 a ton for hay, but he saved money on freight by buying locally.

The cost of hay has always been one of the largest expenses for his operation, but this year the cost is even more of a problem for his margins.

“It’s lower than average,” Nye said. “We have more outgoing money than in the past.”

Final cut

While the demand is there for hay, the producers are also running out of time to finish their cutting of the hay crop.

Shaffer said it is a general rule that producers need to have their hay cut before Sept. 20 because of cooler temperatures at night and less time to cut during the day.

As conditions become more

likely for cold, frost or dew, the crop will get harder to cut and bale with machinery.

Shaffer expects to take the remainder of his crop to clients within the next few weeks allowing him to no longer worry about the prices or demand for hay and take the winter off from his farming – at least until next spring.

Public notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE)
)
OF)
) Probate No. P11-19
CHARLES A. THORNTON,)
)
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF PROBATE

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that on August 29, 2011, the Last Will and Testament of decedent was admitted to probate by the above named court, and Mary L. Thornton was appointed personal representative thereof.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the decedent or to his estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned at the law offices of Vincent & Vincent, 606 East Washington Ave., PO Drawer 1758, Riverton, Wyoming, 82501.

Creditors having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to file them in duplicate with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of said Court, on or before three months after the date of first publication of this notice, and if such claims are not so filed, unless otherwise allowed or paid, they will be forever barred.

DATED this 6th day of September, 2011.

MARY L. THORNTON,
Personal Representative

Pub. September 15, 22, 29 and October 6, 2011 No. 6370

STATE OF WYOMING) OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF
) COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HOT SPRINGS) THERMOPOLIS WYOMING
September 6, 2011

The Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Government Annex.

Present were Commissioners John P. Lumley, Brad Basse and Mike Baker. Also present were County Attorney Jerry Williams, County Clerk Hans Odde, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners Penny Herdt. Chairman John P. Lumley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Brad Basse moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2011, meeting as presented. Brad Basse seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brad Basse moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2011, meeting as presented. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve Bills

The following bills were submitted for approval:

BILLS – AUGUST, 2011

MATTHEW BENDER & CO., INC. 201.93 / THERMOPOLIS - HOT SPRINGS 10,000.00 / KONE INC. 350.10 / NORTHERN WYOMING DAILY NEWS 112.00 / WACO WY ASSOC OF CO OFFICERS 1,025.00 / HANSON'S FIRE EQUIPMENT 66.00 / HOT SPRINGS VETERINARY CLINIC 291.00 / SIRCHIE FINGERPRINT LABORATORI 71.49 / TEE'S PLUS 220.00 / GREINER MOTOR COMPANY 92.97 / JACK'S UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT 39.50 / ST. VINCENT HEALTHCARE 177.63 / BRADFORD SUPPLY COMPANY 640.59 / AFLAC (ACCOUNT #HW652) 913.97 / STATE OF WYOMING - A&I 53.36 / ALLEGIANCE BENEFIT PLAN MANGT, INC. 38,667.07 / AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION 35.00 / ANITA WEISBECK 57.72 / ATLAS OFFICE PRODUCTS, INC. 79.43 / BRESNAN COMMUNICATIONS 21.23 / BARTON STAM 421.80 / BOB BARKER COMPANY, INC. 787.43 / BIG HORN COUNTY CES 306.54 / BIG HORN WATER 76.75 / BLAIR'S SUPER MARKET 648.04 / BROKERS NATIONAL LIFE 498.60 / BRUCE N. "BO" BOWMAN 59.74 / CALIFORNIA CONTRACTORS 116.00 / CANYON SPORTING GOODS 91.84 / CAROL PICKETT 106.00 / THERMOPOLIS HARDWARE 553.90 / COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INS. 148.60 / VERIZON WIRELESS 98.64 / VERIZON WIRELESS 39.33 / VERIZON WIRELESS 56.74 / VERIZON WIRELESS 279.83 / VERIZON WIRELESS 137.67 / CREATIVE PRODUCT SOURCING, INC. 422.48 / CROWLEY AIR SERVICE, LLC 4,720.85 / DEBRA A. GERHARTER 22.49 / DEBORAH MILEK 342.99 / DON'S IGA 55.08 / ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES 893.50 / EXPRESS POLICE SUPPLY, INC 323.91 / SHELL FLEET PLUS PROCESSING CENTER

536.34 / FLEETPRIDE 1,384.61 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS 38,793.95 / FOOD SERVICES OF AMERICA 2,029.77 / FREMONT MOTOR COMPANY 1,005.58 / MORTIMORE FUNERAL HOME 1,360.00 / GDA ENGINEERS 21,351.73 / GOTTSCHKE THERAPY REHAB WELLNESS 300.00 / GREENLINE EQUIPMENT, LLC 10,550.00 / MOUNTAIN WEST BUSINESS SOLUTIONS 21.81 / MOUNTAIN WEST BUSINESS SOLUTIONS 30.87 / HANS ODDE 149.01 / HOLLAND & HART LLP 10,000.00 / HOT SPRINGS COUNTY TREASURER 358.09 / HOT SPRINGS COUNTY HEALTH INS ACCT 57,512.40 / HOT SPRINGS CO. SCHOOL DIST #1 8,854.61 / HUBERT COMPANY 3,494.03 / R.L. HUDSON, LAND SURVEYOR 642.00 / INDEPENDENT RECORD 1,710.58 / INDOFF INC. 922.79 / JADECO, INC. 214.16 / JENNIFER CHENEY 500.83 / JERRY D. WILLIAMS 212.01 / JILL JACOBSON 1,375.00 / JOHN P. LUMLEY 541.13 / JOHN P. WORRALL, P.C. 275.00 / JULIA'S RENTAL SALES & SERVICE INC. 231.00 / KENNEDY ACE HARDWARE 289.99 / KNAPP SUPPLY & EQUIPMENT CO. 298.50 / KREISERS INC 595.65 / LEXIS NEXIS 92.00 / HOLDING'S LITTLE AMERICA 134.45 / MARCIA E. BEAN 36.63 / MARY A. GORDON 350.17 / MARY L. SCHEIBLE 1,254.96 / MBA OF WYOMING 3,000.49 / MEADOW GOLD DAIRY 397.96 / HOT SPRINGS CO. MEM. HOSPITAL 1,346.90 / MESSENGER & JUROVICH, P.C. 607.65 / MICKEYJEAN FORD 36.35 / MIKE GULAR 104.20 / MOORE MEDICAL, LLC 68.93 / NACCHO DISTRIBUTION CENTER 6.75 / NEVE'S UNIFORMS, INC. 388.59 / NIELSEN OIL CO., INC. 904.00 / O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 23.40 / O'REILLY AUTO PARTS 22.95 / THE OFFICE SHOP, INC 4,347.41 / OWL LUMBER INC. 51.98 / ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER 5,126.70 / PAMIDA 229.24 / DANIEL J. PEBBLES 52.96 / PENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 6.88 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 229.68 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 539.10 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 14.99 / PERFORMANCE AUTO & GLASS 38.60 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS 1,355.00 / PINNACLE BANK OF THERMOPOLIS 1,755.00 / PLAINSMAN PRINTING & SUPPLY 1,671.07 / POSTMASTER 785.30 / POSTMASTER 380.99 / POWER EQUIPMENT 3,000.00 / QUARTERMASTER, INC. 182.12 / QUILL CORPORATION 535.62 / CENTURY LINK 650.52 / CENTURY LINK 5.74 / RAGG TAGGS 460.00 / BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL 87.90 / RANAE BALDES 69.93 / GORRELL & HOPKINSON, P.C. 842.88 / RIVERTON TIRE & OIL CO., INC. 878.02 / ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER 6,427.00 / ROY A. KRAUSHAAR 30.00 / RT COMMUNICATIONS, INC. 2,479.56 / SANDRA L BAKER 40.00 / SANOFI PASTEUR, INC. 2,748.19 / SECRETARY OF STATE 30.00 / SERLKAY PRINTING 35.00 / SHERI L. BARRETTE 30.00 / SHERRY DAIGLE 50.00 / SHELLEY DEROMEDI 145.55 / SHOSHONE OFFICE SUPPLY 211.47 / SMILEMAKERS 65.98 / THE STANDARD INS. CO. 1,416.49 / STEHLIN PLUMBING & CONTRACTING 135.00 / SUPER CIRCUITS 63.12 / TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL CORP. 964.45 / TEEPEE POOLS 318.00 / THERMOPOLIS-HOT SPRINGS COUNTY EDC 35,000.00 / THERMOPOLIS HARDWARE 189.07 / THOMAS L. BENNETT, M.D. 3,440.00 / THOMAS ALAN ROSSLER 298.30 / TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS 1,521.85 / TRAVELING COMPUTERS, INC. 278.00 / TRI COUNTY TELEPHONE ASSOC, INC 334.29 / VERIZON WIRELESS 34.31 / VERIZON WIRELESS 34.31 / VICKLUND PHARMACY 750.78 / VICKI M. NICHOLS 55.00 / VISA - CARD ONE 2,262.39 / VISA - CARD TWO 4,290.95 / VISA - CARD THREE 1,876.70 / VISA - CARD FOUR 462.70 / VISA - CARD FIVE 845.03 / VISA - CARD SIX 365.59 / VISA - CARD SEVEN 61.42 / VISA 405.00 / VISA 168.50 / WAVING AT YOU.COM 191.00 / WCS TELECOM 325.68 / WELD COUNTY SHERIFF 49.48 / WHITE HORSE FEED & SEED LLC 43.99 / EMPLOYMENT TAX DIVISION 2,568.97 / WYOMING CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT 40.00 / WYOMING.COM 95.00 / WYOMING DIVISION OF 235.00 / ORCHARD TRUST COMPANY 4,919.26 / WYOMING GAS 461.68 / WYONET INC. 113.95 / WYO RETIREMENT SYSTEM 22,628.30 / 036-NCPERS GROUP LIFE INS. 256.00 / WYOMING STATIONERY 32.15

Payroll for August, 2011 - \$169,053.18

Emergency Management Monthly Report

Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon presented the 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant for the Commissioners' approval. This grant provides 50% of the annual funding for Emergency Management. Brad Basse moved to approve the FY 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant award in the amount of \$14,521.00 for the period 10/1/11 – 3/31/12. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Maintenance Monthly Report

Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Carver reported that the County Planner's new office is just about ready to move into. The Planner is in need of a new desk and chair, which Mr. Carver felt could be obtained for less than \$1200.00. Mike Baker moved to approve the purchase of a new desk and chair for the Planning office for an amount not to exceed \$1200.00 - funds to come from Courthouse Equipment. Brad Basse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sam Hauf has been hired for the maintenance department and is working out well. June Peterson will continue to work until sometime in October to cover for vacations and allow the department to catch up on their backlog.

The new mower has been delivered and has cut mowing time to about half what was required previously.

Mr. Carver has investigated costs for placing sidewalks along the new parking lot and has received an estimate of roughly \$25,000.00. As this was considerably more than was budgeted for the project, the Commissioners asked Mr. Carver to meet with Town of Thermopolis representatives

to determine what their requirements might be and how costs might be reduced. Mr. Carver will report back in October.

Mr. Carver reported that a shower drain line broke and caused minor flooding in the law enforcement records storage room. The line has been replaced and repairs are nearly complete. A survey of the old pipes will be performed this winter to try to locate and prevent future problems.

Road and Bridge Monthly Report

Road & Bridge Superintendent Ray Shaffer reported that the closing of the Baird Pit is nearly complete. Pit run is being hauled from the Wagonhound Pit. The County is still working with the BLM on their enlargement application for the Wagonhound Pit. The crushing project is complete and chips have been staged at various sites around the county in anticipation of the chipping project starting this Thursday. Mr. Shaffer indicated that the price of oil for the chipping project should be somewhat less than anticipated due to a change in the type of oil being used. All of the overlay projects have been finished for the year. The leftover cold mix will be used for grader patching throughout the county this fall.

Mr. Shaffer has discussed the bridge repair/replacement funding options with WYDOT. The only funds available require full engineering and replacement of the bridge, with a 10% cost match on the part of the county. Mr. Shaffer does not feel that complete replacement of the Gooseberry Bridge is necessary at this time due to the minimal use of the bridge and the nature of the required repairs. Chairman Lumley asked Mr. Shaffer to check with WYDOT District Engineer Shelby Carlson to make sure that repairing the bridge rather than replacing it would not eliminate Hot Springs County's access to program funding in the future.

A 36" culvert has been replaced on Upper Grass Creek Road. The second round of roadside mowing is complete and fall seeding will start shortly. The new county-wide fuel system is installed and operational. Mr. Shaffer is checking on operator certification requirements to make sure those are met for the new system.

Teet Weston has resigned to take a position with Washakie County. The position has been advertised, with interviews to be conducted this week. Mr. Shaffer hopes to have someone on board by the first of October.

Youth Alternatives Monthly Report

Director Alan Rossler reported that there are only four participants in the program at this time. Four participants successfully completed the program in August. There were no 48-hour holds in August. Mr. Rossler has completed the True Thought certification process and has started the Corrective Thinking classes for program participants.

Planner Monthly Report

Planner Bo Bowman reported that the public comment workshop on the Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan sponsored by the NRPC went very well with good participation by county residents. The NRPC has also asked that the Commissioners consider asking Karen Budd-Falen to draft additional comments on the BHB RMP. After discussion, the Commissioners felt that there was not enough time for Ms. Budd-Falen to do the required research on this matter prior to the comment deadline of September 7, 2011, and that adequate response has already been made via ERG and the Commissioners. Chairman Lumley suggested that a short letter be drafted to Mr. Don Simpson, State BLM Director, reiterating the County's request that the County's land use plan be taken into consideration per FLPMA regulations prior to making decisions regarding BLM control of lands in Hot Springs County. Brad Basse moved to draft said letter for the signatures of the three Commissioners. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Bowman reported that the pending septic system regulation compliance issues at two sites in the county are in the process of being resolved. As a side note, a new septic system application form is now available from the DEQ and is being used by the county.

Constitution Week Proclamation

Representing the Washakie Chapter of the DAR, Ruth Clare Johnson and Kay Rush appeared to request the Commissioners to sign a Proclamation designating September 17 – 23, 2011, as Constitution Week in honor of the 224th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Ms. Johnson also provided the Commissioners with copies of a pamphlet on the history of the Star-Spangled Banner and a booklet on the Constitution. Brad Basse moved to approve the Constitution Week Proclamation as follows:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: September 17, 2011, marks the two hundred twenty-fourth anniversary of the drafting of the constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of the Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Lumley, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairman of the County Commissioners of the County of Hot Springs, in the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK