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Independent Record

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Homecoming Week on tap

by Cindy Glasson

Hot Springs County High School's 2011 Homecoming week, "Cat Attack," is just around the corner, and promises to have something for everyone before the culminating football match-up between the Bobcats and Mountain View next Friday.

The week starts Monday, with students and staff dressing up in attire from their favorite decade.

Buff Puff Volleyball pits the boys against each other, class against class, starting that night at 6 p.m. in the high school gym. The girls will get in on the fun, too, with the Powder Puff Football game around 7 p.m.

The school will be filled with nerds Tuesday for Nerd Day.

The Life Skills department will be spending most of the day getting the Jell-O ready for the annual Jell-O slip-n-slide, held on the west lawn of the high school at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Things will get pretty confusing on Wednesday as students participate in Opposite/Twins Day, dressing alike or as the opposite sex.

One of the students' favorites, the air band competition, will be in the auditorium at 2 p.m. Wednesday, followed by a pep assembly and coronation of

homecoming royalty.

Everyone will be able to tell which class is which on Thursday for Class Colors Day. Freshmen will be wearing green; sophomores, yellow; juniors, black; and seniors will be dressed in blue.

Thursday is also Senior Night for the volleyball players. Each senior player and her parents will be honored during the varsity game, scheduled for 6 p.m. The freshmen play at 4 p.m. and junior varsity at 5 p.m.

Purple and gold will be the dress of the day on Friday as students, staff and alumni prepare for the Homecoming parade at 11 a.m.

Long-time vocational educator Jim Cramer is the grand marshal for this year's event.

The Homecoming game against Mountain View begins at 7 p.m. and will include recognition of Special Olympics athletes as well as introduction of senior athletes and their parents from football, cross country and golf, before the kick-off.

Royalty will be announced at halftime as well as the Spirit Week winning class.

Students will finish off the week with the Homecoming dance on Saturday from 9 p.m. to midnight at the high school.

4-H Family Fun Night bingo



Virginia Baird and Jules Ward check their bingo cards for numbers called during the 4-H Family Fun Night Sunday in the Hot Springs County Fair Building. A cakewalk for kids was also featured. — J.D. Stetson photo

Commissioners hear update on airport

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners covered a myriad of topics during their meeting Tuesday, including an update on the new airport project, a land use change and some new equipment for County Road and Bridge.

Airport update

Commissioner Brad Basse, along with County Clerk Hans Odde, met with GDA Engineering and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) aeronautics commission last week to update them on the progress with the new airport project.

The group discussed an adjusted project schedule and budget as well as progress on land acquisition, and the county's commitment to seeing the airport completed.

Dusty Spomer with GDA Engineering felt the meeting went well, that the attendees were given the answers they were looking for.

"It appears other places in the state are having the same kind of land acquisition problems we are," Spomer said. "I didn't see any wavering on the project on WYDOT's part. I think they're very comfortable with the process."

Spomer also said his company had been up to the current airport to check how the seal

coating and crack sealing done two years ago is holding up. He said he was very pleased at how good it looked and doesn't think it will have to be done again before the new airport is completed.

Land use change approved

The commissioners gave final approval on a land use change request made by GK Construction on approximately 20 acres at the intersection of Black Mountain Road and Cowboy Mine Road south of Thermopolis.

The request called for a change of use from agricultural to industrial in order to facilitate a small support location for the company's trucks for oil and tire changes and light maintenance.

The request had been sent back to the planning board for further review in September. That board recommended it be sent back to the commissioners for approval — contingent upon obtaining approval from the Kirby Irrigation District.

With that item in place, the commissioners approved the land use change.

Road and Bridge

Road and Bridge Supervisor Ray Shaffer told the commissioners his department has

completed 18 miles of road chipping, which should last a good 10 to 15 years.

Shaffer then said the department could use a new broom truck for chip sealing as the current broom is a 1939 model that desperately needs replaced.

"We've had to rent (a broom) this year," Shaffer said. "That's run us in the neighborhood of \$10,000."

A brand new unit would cost about \$40,000, and the amount already put out for rental could be used as credit toward purchase, bringing the cost down to approximately \$31,000.

"The problem is," Shaffer said, "if we do this we won't have the money to buy the new plow truck and that is the priority."

The commissioners indicated there were not enough funds in the county's rolling stock budget to pay the entire amount, but a solution would be to take one-half of the cost from that budget and one-half from the road and bridge budget.

That solution was unanimously approved by the commissioners.

The commissioners also held two separate executive sessions Tuesday afternoon, one relating to land acquisition, the other regarding personnel. Basse said Tuesday night no action was taken after the executive sessions.

Grizzly bear encounter

by Lara Love

An Oregon man was treated Monday at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital for minor injuries sustained during a run-in with a grizzly bear in the West Fork of Gooseberry Creek near Aspen Creek Trail.

According to Wyoming Game and Fish Warden Benge Brown, the injured man reported he surprised the bear at close range while hunting. The bear reportedly ran toward the man, knocked him down and then walked away. The man said he yelled at the bear while he was running at him but did not fire the rifle he

was carrying.

During the altercation, the man received at least three puncture wounds to his hand. Brown said the punctures were consistent with canine teeth bite marks. The man had no other injuries.

"There is no need for further follow-up regarding the bear involved in this incident," said Brown. "The man's injuries are very minor and the bear did not show aggression beyond normal for this situation."

Brown said this is the first reported bear/human conflict reported in the county since he became game warden five years ago.



Angie Taylor holds the last balloon to be released as part of the Statewide Silent Witness Ceremony Saturday at the auditorium at Hot Springs County High School. Taylor released the balloon in honor of her daughter, Kelley S. Taylor, who was murdered by her boyfriend in 2002. The ceremony commemorated 60 victims of domestic violence, including Beckie K. Creek Wiley, of Thermopolis, who died Nov. 24, 1990.

Speaking for a Silent Witness

A mother's grief for nine years without her daughter

by J.D. Stetson

H.O.P.E. Agency Director Jennifer Domhoff's face showed through the translucent purple rubber of balloons as one-by-one they were released into the sky.

The smiling face stayed there until she and her compatriots, Sheriff Lou Falgoust, Renee Baldes and Danny Pebbles, came to the last one.

Domhoff's face was replaced by the watered eyes of Angie Taylor as Taylor took hold of the last balloon.

She waited for Falgoust to cut the string as she held it. She looked around and saw people watching for the penultimate moment.

A smile crept onto Taylor's face as her emotions changed from sadness to tempered joy as the balloon fluttered above her head.

She knew this one is for her daughter Kelley S. Taylor, and she knew Kelley was there for her waiting with the balloon in the air above.

Tragedy strikes

Angie has attended almost every Statewide Silent Witness Ceremony since her 23-year-old daughter died on Sept. 15, 2002, at the hand of her boyfriend Michael Allen Grohl.

Angie remembers the day it happened and the people who had told her Kelley had been killed, and that the man who killed her had taken his own life.

She and Kelley were supposed to go to Walmart that morning, but when Angie arrived at Kelley's apartment, she saw a broken door with tape on it.

Eventually, Falgoust and Domhoff sat down with her and explained what they knew about the kidnapping and the murder.

"It didn't hit me, it did not hit me," Angie said. "Some days it does not register, you just want to think that they're on vacation and they are just not home."

It was the same for the rest of the day, as her husband, Scott, was notified and returned home from working out of town.

The next five years were hard. Angie helped to calm her husband, who became very angry about the death of their daughter. She said most people would not talk about it with him because of fear of upsetting him.

"The first few years I had to keep anger of my husband settled down, because his anger was absolutely horrendous, and there wasn't anything he could do about it," Angie said.

Finding H.O.P.E.

In 2004, Angie started volunteer work for the H.O.P.E. Agency to help herself as well as the victims of violence.

The agency director at the time thought it would be cathartic for Angie to volunteer because she was a victim. But Angie doesn't think of herself as a victim, she thinks of

herself as the person who was left alone.

Now, Angie works for the agency and sees behind the curtain of the community with regard to domestic violence.

"It's hard day to day, when you hear about people getting beat and you wouldn't think that they'd do that," Angie said.

From her own experience, she knows first hand of the blame people place on themselves for the tragedies and acts of others who inflict physical or emotional pain.

During the time Kelley and Michael lived with her and Scott, Angie never saw the whole picture or the signs of the relationship.

"She put up with a very argumentative and very controlling relationship, and I didn't see that part," Angie said.

Now, Angie knows the signs and what to look for as she works in her position to try to help the victims whose lives can be improved.

Silent witness

During Saturday's Silent Witness Ceremony, Angie reflected on the good times with Kelley as well as the horrible circumstances of her death.

"When we have these ceremonies, I cry because she's not there and I think she would be very much a part of this," she said.

But there was a brief instance, while

See Silent on page 11

Silent

McKenna Bomegen sang to the crowd that Angie was able to let go of Kelley and live in the moment.

“I was so in awe of her singing and the song she chose, that it took me away from the fact I was sitting at a ceremony about Silent Witnesses,” Angie said.

Angie also was moved by the presentation of Haylee Reay, a student at Central Wyoming College, whose mother was a victim of domestic violence.

Reay presented a slideshow projecting the pictures of her mother. Those pictures brought Angie back to her own pictures of Kelley, one of which shows Kelley receiving a kiss from Angie’s granddaughter Joey in Hot Springs State Park.

It’s the pictures Angie holds onto because they are all she has left. The last known picture of Kelley sits in her wallet, taken by a friend during a motorcycle ride only days before the murder.

“That particular ceremony

really hit me hard,” Angie said.

Community emotion

Nine years after her daughter was taken from her, Angie has seen the best the community has to offer when it comes to helping her family.

“The community has been really good. They almost don’t know what to say,” she said.

Some people give compliments where they are not due, while others ignored her because they didn’t know what to say.

“I don’t expect them to say something nine years later, but it seems like just yesterday to me,” Angie said.

During the ceremony, Angie noted the lack of attendance compared to prior ceremonies. She had hoped for more people from the community to be there, but there was still so much the ceremony did to make it personal for her.

“Every ceremony I go to, I have this issue, because I never got to

hold her,” Angie said. “I still drive her car, because that’s where she took her last breath.”

Never forget

The balloon is cut.

It flies up higher than the rest. It doesn’t get caught in the trees, or dip down. It goes straight.

Angie watches it go just as Domhoff embraces her in a hug that lasts only a few seconds, but feels like an eternity.

Angie’s smile changed back to sadness as her eyes began to water again as she looked on at the balloon.

Kelley’s spirit was there, just like it is whenever Angie talks about her, or smells her perfume in the home.

Angie knows Kelley isn’t the only victim ever to die from violence. There are 59 others whose stories were shared during the ceremony.

That’s why Angie inducted Kelley as a Silent Witness.

So she will never be forgotten.



Eric Kay carries one of the 60 silhouettes honoring the victims of domestic violence during Saturday's Statewide Silent Witness Ceremony. Volunteers and family members carried the silhouettes from Broadway Street to the HSCHS Auditorium. — J.D. Stetson photo



Deputy Robert Dale demonstrates Bingo, the Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office canine officer, during the Responsible Dog Ownership Day at the Ruff House. — J.D. Stetson photo

Hot Springs County cost of living below average

by J.D. Stetson

With the exception of housing costs, the cost of living index in Hot Springs is above the statewide average in several major categories, but overall is below the state average.

According to a report from the state Department of Administration & Information Economic Analysis Division, the state saw a 4.5-percent increase in cost of living for all categories in the second quarter of 2011.

A breakdown of the analysis shows Hot Springs County is 10 points below the state average for all categories. Housing is the one category that is well below the average, with 26 points below. All of the other categories,

which include food, apparel, transportation, medical and recreation/personal care are above the average.

Food is 3 points above the average, apparel is 6 points, transportation 1 point, medical 13 points and recreation/personal care 5 points.

The state considers Hot Springs County part of the northwest region for measuring the change in inflation rates. Other counties include Teton, Park, Big Horn and Washakie.

According to the report, the northwest region mimicked the state with 4.5-percent inflation in the second quarter of 2011. The rate has increased from the fourth quarter

of 2010, which saw 3.8-percent inflation.

Statewide, transportation caused the highest inflation fluctuation throughout the state with an 11-percent increase.

The report also measures average rental rates as an economic indicator for the county.

In Hot Springs County, the average rental rate for a two-bedroom, unfurnished, apartment decreased 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 2011 from the same period in 2010. Mobile home lots increased 22.2 percent and a single family home decreased 2 percent.

The report lists the average monthly rent for an apartment at \$419, a mobile home lot at \$183 and a single-family home at \$588.

Public notices

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE			
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Wyoming Statutes, Annotated, Sections 34-4-104 and 34-4-105 (2011), that a certain mortgage dated April 18, 2008, which was executed and delivered by Annette Arey, a single person, to First Interstate Bank, and recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, on April 21, 2008, in Book 130 at Page 360 as Instrument No. 477720, and was assigned to Wyoming Community Development Authority on August 14, 2008, and the Assignment was recorded in the County Clerk's Office, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, on August 19, 2008, in Book 132 at Page 314 as Instrument No. 479764, will be foreclosed by a sale to the highest bidder at a public auction of the premises described pursuant to a power of sale contained in the mortgage.			
The premises that are described in the mortgage are as follows:			
Lots 17 and 18 and the West 12 ½ feet of Lot 19, Block 5, Original Townsite to the Town of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, less and except therefrom the East 1 foot of the South 110 feet of said Lot 19.			
The mortgage contains an address of 726 Warren Street, Thermopolis WY 82443.			
The above sale will be conducted by the Sheriff or the Sheriff's Deputy at the front door of the courthouse in Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, at 11:00 a.m. on October 25, 2011. Annette Arey has defaulted in the terms of the note and mortgage and the undersigned claims \$104,960.48 principal and interest due on the mortgage, plus per diem interest of \$16.71 on the unpaid balance to the date of sale, plus reasonable attorney's fees and expenses of sale.			
The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid.			
DATED this 19th day of September, 2011.			
Wyoming Community Development Authority, Mortgagee			
BY: James R. Bell MURANE & BOSTWICK, LLC 201 North Wolcott Casper WY 82601 307-234-9345 / Fax: 307-237-5110 Attorney for Mortgagee			
Pub. September 22, 29, October 6 and 13, 2011		No. 6375	

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOT SPRINGS COUNTY, WYOMING FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT			
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE) : OF) : CHARLES A. THORNTON,) : Deceased.)			
Probate No. P11-19			
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	

NOTICE TO BIDDERS			
The Town of Thermopolis requests sealed bids for one new trailer mounted Vacuum Excavator -FOB Thermopolis, Wyoming. Submit sealed bids to Mayor's Office at 420 Broadway, P.O. Box 603, Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443. Bid specifications may be obtained at Town Hall or by calling 307 864-9285. Sealed bids will be accepted until 3 p.m. Tuesday, October 11th, 2011, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late bids will not be accepted. Please mark envelope "vacuum Excavator Unit". The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids.			
Pub. September 22, 29 and October 6, 2011		No. 6376	