

Ruth Clare Yonkee Johnson to mark 90th birthday **3**

Golfers earn honors in Junior Club Championships **6**

Pearce prepares final budget before leaving district **10**

Community Pride Garden Tour slated June 30 **18**

Thermopolis Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 25, June 21, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

## Saddle up for Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Fairgrounds will be the venue for the first big PRCA Rodeo of the season, the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo, Friday and Saturday.

Top-ranked contestants and professional rodeo stock will be featured during the two-day event that will include bull riding, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding and other traditional rodeo events. Gayla Mead of the rodeo committee indicated contestants will come from Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and Texas this weekend.

Marking the eighth year the rodeo committee has been working to restore the event to its once national notoriety, the event will kick off with a Wild Bunch members-only dinner at the fairgrounds Friday at 5:30 p.m., followed by the first PRCA Rodeo performance at 7 p.m.

Jump start your Saturday with the free pancake breakfast,

sponsored by T & J Propane, starting at 7 a.m. at the fair building. Rodeo slack events will start in the arena at 8 a.m.

Folks will want to gather downtown after breakfast for the "Rendezvous for the Cure" parade at 10 a.m. The theme reflects the rodeo committee's commitment to assist those battling cancer as well as a celebration of the Tough Enough To Wear Pink rodeo Saturday night. Line-up for the parade begins at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Fifth and Shoshoni streets.

There is no entry fee for the parade and entry forms are available at White Horse Country Store. Entries close Friday at 9 a.m.

White Horse Country Store will give you a chance to meet the rodeo queens from noon until 1 p.m., and just down the road at Thermopolis Hardware, you can join in the sarsaparilla social from 1 to 2 p.m., featuring the famous Tom O'Day and Bronco Nell.

Gates to the fairgrounds will open at 4 p.m. Saturday with the Tough Enough To Wear Pink night rodeo starting at 7 p.m. A dance, sponsored by Riverbend Sheet Metal, will follow the rodeo.

A traditional cowboy church will start at 9 a.m. Sunday, featuring bull riding champion, Will Farrell.

### Wild Bunch membership

If you really want to enhance your rodeo experience, membership in the Wild Bunch is the way to go. Membership entitles you to special seating at the rodeos, pre-rodeo parties, meals and extra fun.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the Wild Bunch should call Meri Ann Rush at 921-8464 or Johnny Dorman at 921-9694.

The rodeo committee is also selling raffle tickets for a variety of fabulous prizes to be given away during the evening rodeos.

See Rodeo on page 11

### Car rally beauty



This year's winner in the Street Rod category at the 20th Annual Hot Spot Car Rally went to this 1936 Ford 3-window coupe, owned by Randy and Lori Nissen of Worland. A complete list of results for the rally are on page 8.

— Cindy Glasson photo

## Chamber Board members seek to continue 3-on-3

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce board of directors has chosen to continue to pursue a new contract with Colorado-based World Events to bring back the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament for another year.

During the meeting, Executive Director Michelle Lue presented a breakdown of the expenses and net revenue the chamber garnered during the tournament.

The chamber had a total net income of \$1,831.83 after all bills were paid. The chamber spent \$37,898.48 on the tournament and brought in \$39,730.31 in income and sponsorships.

The two largest expenses were the contract with World Events and advertising for the event. The contract for the 3-on-3 was \$12,500 and advertising was \$15,000. The Hot Springs County

Lodging Tax Board appropriated the \$15,000 to pay for advertising 3-on-3.

For other income, the chamber also received \$8,350 in sponsorships, \$7,000 from team registration fees (\$40 per team), \$1,638 from the two Pepsi wagons, \$850 in vendor fees and \$200 for Slam Dunk sponsorships.

According to the contract, the chamber receives \$40 per team with up to 12 comp teams for which the chamber does not have to pay a registration fee. The chamber filled 11 comp teams for the tournament.

Some of the board members questioned the amount of work the chamber placed into the tournament and the low return. After discussing the issue and the benefit to portions of the community and possible changes that may benefit others, the board

decided to continue the discussion with World Events.

### 3-on-3 contract

Several changes to the tournament and the contract were discussed. The board may consider changing the location, the layout or the date of the tournament to the first or second weekend in June.

The board hopes the changes to the tournament will be more favorable to businesses and would allow them to stay open and serve their regular customer base as well as benefit from any additional business garnered from the tournament.

But before any major changes can be made, the chamber must

See Chamber on page 11

## Harley Owners Group considering Thermopolis for rally

by Cindy Glasson

The possibility of a Harley Owners Group (HOG) rally for the summer of 2013 was of great interest during Tuesday's meeting of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Lodging Tax Board.

Jenni Dorman approached the board Tuesday, asking for a small amount of funding to attend the annual HOG rally in Laramie to give a presentation to Wyoming HOG, request-

ing they plan their 2013 rally in Thermopolis.

According to Dorman, the board has already expressed interest in having the event here and they are estimating, with the central location of Thermopolis, that as many as 300 Harley Davidson owners would attend the three-day event.

Dorman has contacted business owners in town to garner

their signatures for support of the event and has talked with the mayor's office, getting their initial support for the rally.

Some of the events during the rally that have been discussed are a street dance, motorcycle show and a walking poker run that would go through the downtown businesses.

The board approved up to \$300 to Dorman to help defray

her expenses for the trip to Laramie for the presentation.

### Budget

With the fiscal year fast approaching, the board reviewed its current financial situation in preparation for the upcoming budget.

While there appears to be some confusion among members of the board about various amendments to line items in

the current budget, the board has not surpassed its budget spending for the year.

A new budget must be in the hands of the Hot Springs County Commissioners by July 16 and the board would like to have a work session with the accountant to discuss how to make those budget amendments go forward.

Treasurer Harvey Seidel will arrange a work session next

week in order to have the budget ready by the commissioners' deadline.

### Visitor statistics

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michelle Lue presented the visitor statistics for April to the board which includes both chamber walk-ins and telephone calls as well

See Lodging on page 11

### Race For A Reason



Dr. Travis Bomengen, along with his son Cody, leads the pack at Race For A Reason Saturday in Hot Springs State Park. Proceeds from the race were donated to the Zerrian Stone family to help defray expenses associated with Zerrian's leukemia treatments. Race For A Reason results are listed on page 8.

— Cindy Glasson photo

## Commissioners hear request for Red Lane area fire, fireworks ban

### Wakely Road area variance, subdivision plat given go-ahead

by Cindy Glasson

During their Tuesday afternoon meeting, the Hot Springs County Commissioners heard a request for a fire ban in the Red Lane area, and approved a variance and subdivision request from Rocky and Charlie McClintock.

### Fire ban

Red Lane resident Carol Pickett approached the commissioners requesting a fire ban be put in place in Red Lane in light of a grass fire in the area June 8.

One structure was lost during the grass fire and firefighters fought the blaze to within a few feet of a home. Firefighters brought their quick attack trucks to the scene, but had to return the two miles into town to fill the trucks up from a hydrant near the Chamber of Commerce before driving back to Red Lane to continue fighting the fire.

Pickett noted there is no fire protection in Red Lane, according to the master plan, no fire hydrants and the water tank for the area has insufficient capacity to cover a large fire. A flush-out valve in the area would have limited effect, and if fire personnel were to connect to it with a pumper truck, the lines would collapse.

Pickett is requesting a fire ban and fireworks ban for the area

See County on page 11

# Counseling Center approaches town for funding

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council heard a request from the Hot Springs County Counseling Center with regard to contributing \$3,000 to the non-profit entity in order to satisfy state regulations.

The council did not rule on the request during the meeting and said they still needed to talk to town financial auditors with regard to a question raised statewide about giving money to non-governmental agencies.

Councilman Al Braaten, acting in his capacity as executive director of the

center, made the request to the council. Braaten stated he would obviously re-use himself from a vote due to the conflict of interest.

Braaten gave a short history of the counseling center, which came into existence in 1979. Braaten explained the mission of the counseling center to provide behavioral, mental health and substance abuse services to which residents in towns such as Thermopolis typically do not have access. The not-for-profit agency offers a sliding fee scale in order to make those services affordable to residents in need.

Braaten also explained the vital aspects of the service to the community and its working relationships with law enforcement, social services, education and other healthcare providers in the community.

The counseling center also is bound by state regulations, which require a 10-percent investment from agencies such as the town and the county in order for the center to operate in the community.

"(It) shows to the state, Thermopolis cares about this," Braaten said.

Councilman Tom Linnansaid he would

support providing the funding if it is legal under state law, and Mayor Bill Malloy said he would like to ask the auditors about the legality of providing the funding.

Councilman Tony Larson also pointed out his concerns regarding similar requests from other agencies and how the council would address those requests in the future.

Police Sgt. Mike Chimenti also added his experience on the counseling center's board when the counseling center was originally built. He said his understanding was that the counseling center is a county

building and the 10-percent requirement was satisfied under the county's maintenance and landscaping for the building.

Braaten stated the circumstances have changed since then and it no longer works the same way.

Braaten had also stated need for the services and for government support because of the dependency of a not-for-profit on those subsidies due to the low rates to the patients.

"We're here because each one of us needs this service available," Braaten said.

## Chamber

from page 1

first have a contract with World Events or another contractor specializing in a 3-on-3 tournament.

Instead of a three-year contract, the board wants to negotiate for a single-year contract with several new stipulations to mitigate problems brought to the board's attention.

The board was shocked by complaints about a \$5 additional transaction fee imposed on the teams that paid registration with a credit card. The fee was not included in the contract with the chamber.

Board member Dixie Vialpando stated she had also heard some problems involving rude comments made by game officials and said she is not in favor of entering into a new contract with the same company.

Board member Meri Ann Rush said there were times

during the tournament where a person from the corporation was not at the bracket tent; the contract requires a person from the corporation to be there at all times during the tournament.

Some of the board members also had heard problems with game officials not adhering to the rules by letting teams play after forfeit papers had already been signed.

The board was divided in other feedback received on the tournament. Some of the board members did not hear any positive feedback, only negative, while others only heard positive feedback.

The decision after the discussion was to take the problems the board had heard about to World Events and to see what the company would do to correct them during the contract negotiations.



The sun sparkles off the chrome on this teal green 1954 Chevy Bel Air convertible during the 20th Annual Hot Spot Car Rally on Sunday. Complete with wide whitewalls, this beauty is owned by Denton and Virginia Boss of Riverton. — Cindy Glasson photo

## Rodeo

from page 1

Cindy Denton with White Horse Country Store handcrafted a pair of working chinks that will be raffled off. Tickets for the chinks are \$5 each or five for \$20. The drawing will be held during the rodeo Saturday night.

Wyoming Whiskey has donated a pair of unique Wyoming Whiskey serving trays to be raffled off, one on Friday night and one on Saturday. Ticket prices are two for \$5 or 10 for \$20.

Raffle tickets may be purchased from any committee member and are available at several downtown businesses.

Tickets for the rodeo performances are \$10 each; age 3 and under are free. Tickets for both nights are also available for \$15 and may be purchased at Storyteller, Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and White Horse Country Store.

## Lodging

from page 1

as visitation to the chamber's website.

Across the board, statistics for the chamber for April 2012 are up from April 2011.

Local folks coming into the chamber office for information has risen from 96 last year to 116 in April this year. Local phone calls also rose from 153 to 195, up 52 from last year.

Numbers are up with the tourist trade as well, with a jump in walk-ins from 91 last year to 134 this year. Phone calls from

potential tourists, however, are down to 119 compared to 162 last April.

Calls and letters requesting tourism packets from the chamber are down as are email requests for the packets, but the addition of those items being available for download via the chamber's website more than makes up for it.

In 2011, there were 162 requests made for tourism packets through phone calls, letters and email. In 2012, those num-

bers have risen by 84 requests with the addition of downloadable tourism packets.

### Advertising

The Lodging Tax Board advertises in various magazines and flyers as well as doing billboard advertising each year.

One of the magazines is "99 Things To Do In Yellowstone," a magazine and online website that potential visitors may access to get information about Yellowstone and the surround-

ing area.

Another advertising venue the board uses is "Forever West," published by the Wyoming Office of Tourism in Cheyenne.

The reason for advertising in the various publications is not only to give potential visitors a glimpse of Thermopolis and other areas of Wyoming, but to generate interest in the area and fulfill requests for tourism packets.

During the month of May, Lue told the board she had received

2,134 requests for tourism packets through the advertising in "Forever West," yet had only received nine requests due to the advertising in "99 Things To Do In Yellowstone," prompting the board to question whether the Yellowstone magazine advertising was worth the cost.

The board spent \$12,000 on the Yellowstone magazine advertising with an additional \$4,400 that would ensure the tourism packets for Thermopolis would be mailed out via the Yellowstone magazine.

To date, the magazine has not requested the chamber send any

information to them for mailing.

Also, the board is upset that the publisher has not changed the information about Thermopolis in approximately three years, even after numerous calls from the board president asking for content changes. (This reporter looked at the publication's website and found the Old West Wax Museum and the Dancing Bear Folk Center still listed as places to visit, both of which are no longer in business.)

When it comes to advertising for next year, the board plans to request face-to-face presentations from the publishers.

## County

from page 1

until the situation can be remedied, something she felt could actually take a few years to do.

Commissioner John Lumley said the county fire warden is usually the one who comes to the commissioners to ask for a fire ban, but had not contacted them as yet regarding weather conditions and fuel sources that would warrant a ban.

County attorney Jerry Williams, who is also a firefighter, said the fire in Red Lane was very aggressive, but was also thankful the fire had not happened last Sunday.

"If we had had that fire on Sunday, it would have been really bad," Williams said. He, also, suggested Pickett contact the county fire warden.

### McClintock variance and subdivision

County Planner Bo Bowman brought a request for a variance and the preliminary plat for a subdivision before the commissioners on behalf of Rocky and Charlie McClintock.

The property in question is at

the end of Wakely Road, north of Thermopolis.

The McClintocks would like a variance allowing a 30-foot road easement for a subdivision on their property where a 60-foot right-of-way is required.

In addition, they are asking for approval of the preliminary plat for a subdivision of 35 acres into two lots, one of 18.4 acres and a second of 16.6 acres.

The Land Use Planning Board had already approved the two issues May 23 with the recommendation the commissioners approve it as well.

The commissioners approved the variance and preliminary plat with the following:

- The preliminary plat will expire one year after its initial approval. The final plat will be submitted for the county's review and approval prior to its expiration.

- A notation will be placed on the final plat stating that any new residential construction shall have its lowest floor level elevated 2 feet above the present ground level.

- The possible building sites on tract 1 shall be identified on the final plat and shall be located on the upper portion of the tract.

- A weed management plan shall be submitted for the review and approval of the staff.

- A notation shall be placed on the final plat stating a mound-septic system, in accordance with DEQ requirements, shall be required for any new or replacement septic systems within the subdivision.

- A notation shall be placed on the final plat indicating the 30-foot road easement variance.

### Other business

In other business, the commissioners appointed Ann Deromedi and Marlene Christofferson as

**Vicklund PHARMACY**  
QUALITY • SERVICE • SAVINGS

**Quips & Health**  
By Carol Bivens



Retirement...  
twice as much  
husband/wife,  
half as much  
money.

**Most adults need  
7 1/2 to 8 hours of  
sleep per night. Sleep  
deprivation may affect  
our mood, memory,  
alertness and overall  
quality of life.**

Your neighborhood pharmacy that  
Thermopolis has trusted for over 20 years.

864-2369  
610 S. 6th St.  
(near Bob's Super Market)

**GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY**

Mon.-Fri., 9-6  
Sat., 9-2

canvass board members for the 2012 elections.

The commissioners approved a salary change for election judges. The salaries were bumped up to \$9.50 per hour from \$9 per hour, for a total increase of approximately \$360 for the upcoming elections. The increase will come out of the elections line in the budget.

New copiers will be purchased for three departments at the courthouse. The clerk's office, assessor's office and the clerk of district court will each get a new machine for a total of \$16,449.

That amount is \$6,551 less than the \$23,000 originally budgeted for the equipment.

**Hot Springs County  
SENIOR CENTER  
• LUNCH MENU •**

*June 25-29*

**MONDAY**  
Beef Pepper Steak, Steamed Rice,  
Peas, Tossed Salad, Roll, Apples

**TUESDAY**  
Lemon Baked Fish, Oven Browned  
Potatoes, Oriental Vegetables, Fruit  
Salad, Bran Muffin, Peaches

**WEDNESDAY**  
Chicken Strips, Mashed  
Potatoes w/Gravy, Mediterranean  
Blend Vegetables, Whole Wheat  
Bread, Apricot Crisp

**THURSDAY**  
French Dip Sandwich w/Au Jus,  
Tri Colored Potatoes, Broccoli &  
Raisin Salad, Fresh Melon

**FRIDAY**  
Baked Liver & Onions, Whipped  
Potatoes, Creamy Confetti Coleslaw,  
Corn, Rolls, Pear Betty

Menu subject to change without notice.

**864-2151**  
206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by

**R&C Trucks, Inc.**  
101 Amoretto St. • 864-3340

**We Welcome Adult Title 19 Patients!**

**Medicaid covers adult dental care including:  
Exams, X-Rays, Cleanings, Fillings, Extractions,  
and Partial and Complete Dentures.**

*We accept patients over 15 years of age.*

**Peter J. Pappas,**  
D.M.D., M.A.  
Check the Yellow Pages

**933 Main St.  
Lander**  
**332-3434**  
1-800-332-0502

**FAMILY DENTAL CENTER**

**HOT SPRINGS COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING 6:30 PM  
Tuesday, June 26, 2012  
Conference Room**

**MEETING AGENDA**

- I. **Board Education**
  - A. Accounts Receivable Process Improvement Team - Jody Sievers, Cindy Messenger, Linda Gregory, Teresa Fields, Toni Andreen
- II. **Approval of Agenda**
- III. **Approve Consent Agenda**
  - A. Approval of Minutes, May 29, 2012
  - B. CEO Report - Robin Roling
  - C. Operations Report
  - D. Financial Report
- IV. **Reports**
  - A. County Commissioners - John Lumley
  - B. Medical Staff - Dr. David Cook
  - C. Quality Pillar - Bryan Evensen
  - D. Service Pillar - TJ Schoenewald
    - 1. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement
      - Action Item
  - E. Financial Pillar - Shelly Larson
  - F. People Pillar - Patti Jeunehomme
    - 1. Holiday Pay and Procedure
      - Action Item
    - 2. Call Pay Policy and Procedure
      - Action Item
  - G. Growth Pillar - Robin Roling
- V. **Informational**
  - A. Auxiliary Meeting Minutes
- VI. **Executive Session**

In accordance with Wyoming Statute 16-4-405(a) Executive Session is held for:

  - (ii) Considering the appointment, employment, right to practice, dismissal complaints or charges against a public officer, professional person or employee
  - (iii) On matters concerning litigation to which the governing body is a party or proposed litigation to which the governing body may be a party
  - (ix) Considering information classified as confidential by law
- VII. **Adjournment**

Next Board of Trustees Meeting July 31, 2012, 6:30 PM,  
Conference Room

## Considering a Vasectomy?

Why not have it done by the only Board Certified Urologist located full-time in the Basin?



**Dr. Gregory Stewart**  
**Urological Services of Northern Wyoming, PC**

Specializing in the "no needle/no scalpel technique." 15 minute office procedure. Frequently done on Fridays with the possibility of back to light duty work on Monday.

Vasectomy reversal also available at competitive pricing.

**Urological Services**

of Northern Wyoming

**307-587-5131**

225 W. Yellowstone Ave. • Ste. 9 • Cody, Wyoming