

HSCHS fall practice sessions to begin Monday, Aug. 13 **6**

All-class Reunion photos; more to come next week **8**

Bob Krisko shares visit to Egypt, Japan, Korea **10**

Hot Springs County Fair Youth Horse Show results **18**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

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Gift of the Waters Pageant weekend

Parade entries accepted until Friday at 3 p.m.

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs State Park will be the site of the 62nd annual Gift of the Waters Historic Indian Pageant this weekend. The pageant is set for 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Big Spring on the north side of the park.

Events during pageant weekend include plays both evenings along with a Saturday parade, Indian dancing, Thermopolis Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair and buffalo burger and bratwurst sale, 5K/10K run/walk, fire department open house, three guided tours and Cowboy Church.

"Echoes of the West" is the theme of this year's Gift of the Waters parade, which is in the spotlight at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The pageant parade, sponsored by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, begins at 10 a.m. At stake is \$50 in Chamber Bucks for first place in four presentation categories — Business, Automobile/Float, Horse/Pets and Kids. All entries will be judged on theme, appearance and originality. An award of \$100 in Chamber Bucks goes

to Best of Parade. Contact the chamber for entry information; entries are due by 3 p.m. Friday.

Indian dancing at the flagpole in downtown Thermopolis follows the parade as well as an open house hosted by the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department at the 14th Street facility.

Gift of the Waters Historic Indian Pageant committee treasurer Barb Vietti said the pageant would be held at 6 p.m. rather than 7 p.m., the time for the event in recent years. She said the change was requested by participants in the pageant.

The multi-scene pageant play features verse and music showing how Chief Washakie deeded the waters to his white brothers.

Elder Shoshone Chief Starr Weed, who will celebrate his 92nd birthday during the pageant weekend, is expected to participate in the pageant play.

Script for pageant play

Marie Montabé is depicted in history as the author of the play script for the first pageant, held in 1925. The first pageant was held in October. After a 25-year hiatus, the pageant resumed in 1950 and has been held the first weekend of August each year.

Mary Jacobs, who has family ties to Montabé, plans to attend

See Pageant on page 11

Ferret at the fair



Jessica Lutz holds a pet ferret while giving her presentation during the Hot Springs County Fair exhibit judging Tuesday morning at the fair building. The exhibits will be

on display in the building throughout the fair. The exhibits include baked goods, photography, art, quilts, clothing and more. — J.D. Stetson photo

Candidates cover education, retirement, energy revenues at forum

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County citizens had their opportunity to meet the five candidates vying for the House District 28 seat in the Wyoming Legislature during a public forum and debate Friday evening at Thermopolis Middle School.

Moderator Jerry Langbehn opened the proceedings by introducing some of the candidates for voting precinct committee men and women, the Kirby Town Council, the Thermopolis Town Council and the Hot Springs County coroner's position. Langbehn also introduced State Sen. Gerald Geis, who also is seeking reelection in Senate District 20.

The precinct committee men and women who appeared at the forum included Charles Curley,

Ellen Galyan, Michael Wright, Marianne Gular and Mike Gular.

Kirby Town Councilman Ross R. Rhodes spoke briefly about his seeking reelection and Thermopolis Town Councilman Dick Hall also spoke about reelection.

Both Mike Mortimore and Mark Mortimore spoke together about their upcoming election to the county coroner position.

Mike Mortimore stated regardless of the outcome, both are pledged to serve the citizens of Hot Springs County.

Geis spoke quickly about his core values, which include the right to work, right to life and right to bear arms. He also said people need to get out and

vote in the election.

"Cause if we don't win this one, I don't know what we're going to do," Geis said.

Geis' statements came on the heels of Hall's comments, which also contained a message for people to get out and vote in this election.

House District 28 debate

The main event of the evening featured the HD 28 candidates, which include Republican candidates Echo Renner, Nathan Winters and Roland Luehne; and Democratic candidates Carl Leyba and Connie Skates.

The prepared topics included education, retirement for state employees, energy revenues and

whether or not to make the "buffalo" the U.S. national mammal, which would be similar to another national animal, the bald eagle.

The opening question asked the candidates whether they agreed with making the "buffalo" the national mammal in accordance with a recent bill proposed by U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi.

Nearly all of the candidates said they were unfamiliar with the bill and many had only learned of the existence of the bill that night. Some of the candidates stated they would need to know specifics about the resolution in order to comment further.

Skates offered first comments on the issue. She

See Candidates on page 11

Farmers' Market opener



Shelley Deromedi shows Bev Adams a bundle of kale during the opening weekend of the Farmers' Market Saturday near Bicentennial Park. The market runs from 8 to 10 a.m. each Saturday until Sept. 15. — J.D. Stetson photo

Hot Springs County jobless rate spikes in June

The Hot Springs County seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 4.7 percent in June from 4.1 percent in May, but it also jumped to third in the rankings for lowest unemployment rate in the state.

The rate is below the rate a year ago, which was 5.2 percent in June 2011, and it remains below the current statewide unemployment rate of 5.4 percent, according to a report released by the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services Research and Planning section.

The number of unemployed in the county rose to 126 from 108 in May. Last year, it was 141. The number is determined by

the county's number of employed subtracted from its labor force.

In June, the number of employed was 2,559 and the labor force was 2,685. Both the labor force and the number of employed increased from May.

Statewide, the unemployment rate rose to 5.4 percent from 5.2 percent and is considerably lower than in June 2011, when it was 6 percent. The department doesn't consider the change statistically significant, and it remains well below the U.S. jobless rate of 8.2 percent.

Most county jobless rates increased. State officials attribute the increase to the new workers joining the workforce after gradu-

ating from high school or college.

Albany County had the largest increase, going from 4 percent in May to 5.3 percent in June. Fremont County also saw a large increase, going from 5 percent in May to 6 percent in June.

Rates decreased in two counties. Teton County fell from 8.7 percent to 5.2 percent, and Lincoln County fell from 7.2 percent to 7.1 percent.

Counties with the lowest jobless rates were Sublette with 3.6 percent, Campbell with 4.6 percent and Hot Springs.

Counties with the highest unemployment rate included Lincoln, Fremont and both Laramie and Big Horn with 6.3 percent.

Shoshone forest plan, EIS now available

The Shoshone National Forest released its draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on Monday.

Eight years and over 75 public meetings went into the creation of the draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement. The documents are a combination of input from private individuals, public meetings, and cooperator meetings.

The draft documents are available on the Shoshone National Forest website.

The draft forest plan and draft environmental impact statement may also be viewed at the library or the Ranger District Office in Worland.

To request the documents in hard copy or on a compact disk, contact the forest supervisor's office at 307-527-6241.

An official 90-day comment period begins Aug. 4.

During this time, the public is encouraged to submit substantive comments, which may be used to modify alternatives, evaluate new alternatives, improve or modify the analysis, and make factual corrections.

A public meeting to review the plan and learn how to make comments will be held in Thermopolis at Big Horn Federal on Sept. 27 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For further information about the Shoshone National Forest's draft forest plan or draft EIS, stop by any Shoshone National Forest office in Cody, Dubois or Lander.

As the nation's first national forest, the Shoshone National Forest has 2.4 million acres of diverse terrain and a mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the forest to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Pageant

the Gift of the Waters Pageant and related activities. Jacobs' father's grandfather and Montabé's grandfather were brothers. Jacobs will be in Thermopolis this weekend, accompanied by her sisters, Jenny and Laurie.

Jacobs said when she was in about eighth grade, she went with her aunt and uncle to Wyoming to visit Montabé, who lived in Laramie at the time and was married to George Lindstrom. They all traveled to Thermopolis and the Wind River Indian Reservation, where they stopped at Chief Washakie's grave and met the current chief.

"It was very special to me, as I have always been interested in Native American culture," Jacobs said. "I wish I could talk with Marie now that I am an adult...I only remember recognizing that she was a writer, had written the pageant, loved Wyoming and knew quite a lot about it and the Shoshone."

"She clearly loved Wyoming and I fell in love with it, too."

Jacobs came back to visit in Wyoming three times since then, but did not return to Thermopolis.

"Last year, I was looking at some family

photos and thought it would be great to come out to Thermopolis and experience the Gift of the Waters Pageant," Jacobs said.

The Gift of the Waters spotlight event commemorates the 1896 deeding of a 10-mile square of Indian land by Shoshone Chief Washakie, spokesman for the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians, to the U.S. government. In the agreement, a one-mile tract of land embracing the hot springs was given to the State of Wyoming, and it was made into what is now Hot Springs State Park.

The pageant is currently held near the year-old Smoking Water shelter. Big Spring has been known by Indian performers as Bah-gue-wana, or Smoking Water.

Weekend events

Pageant weekend events begin with the 5K/10K run/walk at 7:30 a.m. Saturday (see story on page 6 for more information).

The Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair in the state park near the pavilion runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The fair will include arts, crafts and food vendors.

The Kiwanis burger and brat sale is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter.

A women's chorus, organized by Gift of the Waters committee secretary JoAnn Myers, will sing during the pageant play Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Several free guided tours, coordinated by Nancy Darland, have been added to the pageant weekend this year.

The Legend Rock Petroglyph Site tour will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday. Meet at the chamber office to caravan out to the site about 30 miles northwest of Thermopolis for a one-hour visit. Wear closed-toe shoes, and bring sunscreen and water.

On Sunday, a one-hour tour of the Big Spring, terraces and swinging bridge area is set for 1 p.m. Meet at Big Spring. Also Sunday, a one-hour buffalo pasture area tour begins at 3 p.m. Meet at the viewing area above the buffalo barn in the pasture. Hot Springs State Park staff will conduct all three tours.

A Cowboy Church is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the state park with Pastor Chuck Cooper officiating.

Pageant weekend event schedule

Saturday

- 7:30 a.m. – 5K/10K run/walk, Hot Springs State Park. Registration 6:45-7:15 a.m. Pre-register at chamber office.
- 10 a.m. – Pageant parade. Theme "Echoes of the West." Parade entry forms available at chamber office. Entry deadline: 3 p.m. Friday.
- After the parade – Indian dancing at flagpole at intersection of Broadway & Fifth streets.
- After the parade – Open house at fire department. Rides for children.
- 10 a.m.-6 p.m. – Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair, state park, near pavilion.
- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. – Kiwanis buffalo burger and brat sale, Kiwanis Washakie Shelter, state park.
- 2 p.m. – Legend Rock tour.
- 6 p.m. – Gift of the Waters Pageant, Big Spring, state park.

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. – Cowboy Church, state park.
- 10 a.m.-4 p.m. – Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair, state park, near pavilion.
- 1 p.m. – Big Spring, terraces and swinging bridge area tour.
- 3 p.m. – Buffalo pasture area tour.
- 6 p.m. – Gift of the Waters Pageant, Big Spring, state park.

Candidates

said the buffalo are her neighbors at Hot Springs State Park and she understands the importance of the animals to the people of Wyoming. She said she would agree with the proposed legislation, but would want more research into the animal.

Luehne stated his thoughts on the strength, beauty and the symbolization of buffalo on the state's flag and its importance to Wyoming.

Winters said he would not want to destroy the economic benefit of the species if the buffalo were to be treated on the same lines as bald eagles.

Leyba said if the legislation is properly done, he did not believe it would affect buffalo ranchers.

Renner stated that she wasn't opposed to the bill, but she did not think it is necessarily government's role to be naming national or state animals. She

said the government has more important things to do.

Education

Wyoming spends about \$16,000 per student in funding its public education system. Langbehn asked how the state can achieve higher returns in reaching its education goals.

Winters stated his thoughts regarding the number of administrative personnel compared to the number of teachers at Wyoming schools, and the need to make the structure more efficient by reducing the levels of administrators currently outnumbering teachers.

Leyba said his experience with the education system locally has been that the teachers and administration are currently doing great with education. He said last year, 98 percent of the senior class graduated. He said

the people of Wyoming paid for the PAWS tests currently used by the state to evaluate schools, and they will need to use it as a tool and adapt to its use.

Luehne stated his belief in Wyoming's education structure, but stated his belief that the state should stop imposing federal government on the state's teachers.

"We need to support them (teachers) any way we can," Luehne said.

Retirement

Langbehn asked the candidates how they would close the \$1 billion anticipated shortfall in the Wyoming retirement system for government employees.

Winters stated he would need to have all the information about the current system in order to make a careful decision on the issue, which he believes stems

from the drop in state revenues from the decrease in natural gas prices. He also added his thoughts concerning changing contracts for new employees in order to lower the shortfall.

Renner echoed Winters on looking at new contracts, but she also added her thoughts to increase mineral production, which would also increase revenue.

Skates said the rate of retirement people in Thermopolis is an asset for communities in providing volunteerism and labor to the small towns and communities. While tackling the issue of the shortfall at the legislature will be a challenge, it is important to remember the asset the retirees offer the community.

Luehne stated his belief in the need to make sure the elderly have the care they deserve through the Medicare system,

because someday the younger generations will also be in need of such care.

Energy revenues

The moderator posed the question about the reduction in energy funding at the state level and how the state can channel other sources of revenue to the counties or municipalities.

Renner said the state needs to continue seeking increased production in energy fields such as oil and gas and work to remove regulations on state and federal lands needlessly hindering production.

Leyba suggested Gov. Matt Mead should continue meeting with foreign interests seeking to buy Wyoming coal and resources because the resources are in demand. He said working to sustain that demand would keep people employed here.

Skates stated the need to educate other states currently blocking the path of coal to other markets and the need to educate and fund programs currently on hold and waiting for politics to get out of the way.

Other candidates

Several candidates seeking election this year who were not in attendance at the forum include:

Thermopolis Town Council: LeRoy Hayes, Allan Braaten.

East Thermopolis Town Council: Jack Kuiper, Merle William Moore.

Kirby Town Council: Raymond L. Nettles.

Precinct committee men and women: Robin Kruse, Warren Kruse, Jerry Williams, Joyce Kelley, Mike Kelley, Howard Willson, Belenda Willson, Mike Baker, Phyllis Baker.

Elk hunt program returns

Hunters with area 61, 62 and 63 elk licenses once again have an opportunity to pursue antlerless elk in the Meeteetse area where game managers are seeking to increase elk harvest. Left-over antlerless elk licenses for these areas are still available.

The Cody Region Hunter Management and Access Program (HMAP) is designed to reduce elk numbers in hunt areas 61, 62 and 63 by increasing hunter access to private land.

Increasing hunter access to private lands within these hunt areas will help reduce growing numbers of elk in the Meeteetse area, will keep the herds within population objectives, and address the issue of potential transmission of brucellosis from elk to cattle.

"The program allows landowners, sportsmen, and Game and Fish personnel to work together to address elk management issues," said Tim Woolley, wildlife management coordinator for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "The program was a success last year and was

well received by landowners and hunters."

For the 2012-13 season, two hunt coordinators will again work with landowners to identify areas where the elk are congregating on private lands and then help point pre-selected hunters to those locations.

"We're trying to place hunters where the elk are to give them the best opportunity to harvest an animal," Woolley said.

The hunt coordinators will not serve as guides and will not always accompany hunters in the field.

The program will focus harvest on the Meeteetse Creek and Wood River areas outside of Meeteetse.

The program will run from Sept. 15, 2012 until Jan. 13, 2013, depending on elk distribution and availability.

It is open to antlerless elk hunting for persons with valid area 61, 62, or 63 elk licenses. Currently, there are over 800 antlerless elk licenses available for purchase in qualifying hunt areas used by the program.

In September, applicants may apply for the Cody Region Hunter Management and Access Program online at the Game and Fish website at <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

All hunters are encouraged to help the Game and Fish collect blood samples this fall for brucellosis monitoring.

Hunters are reminded to carry blood sampling kits with them when they hunt, collect clean blood from harvested elk and keep the sample from freezing or getting hot.



Quips & Health
By Carol Bivens



Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.

The American Diabetes Association estimates 20.8 million Americans have diabetes; however, 6.2 million of those people are not aware they have it.

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by **Gregory S. Stewart, M.D.**
Board Certified Urologist



EXCESSIVE MEDS CAN LEAD TO ED

When we talk about excessive use of medication, the consequences cannot always be predicted. In this case, we are talking about excessive use of medications leading to "erectile dysfunction" (ED). According to research involving more than 37,700 men between the ages of 46 and 69, those regularly taking several medications were found to be at increased risk of ED. The more drugs the men took, the higher their risk was of developing ED (even after taking into account factors such as older age, higher body mass index (BMI), diabetes, and smoking history). In light of this finding, men who experience ED might want to review their current medications and try to adopt healthy habits to replace them.

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AUGUST 7	V. Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
AUGUST 9	P. Byorth	Ear Nose Throat	800-332-7156
AUGUST 9	J. Sweet	Allergist	406-238-2501
AUGUST 10	A1C Clinic		307-347-8801
AUGUST 13	D. Myers	Gynecologist	866-587-1155
AUGUST 13	B. Gulde	Prosthetic/Orthotics	800-707-4678
AUGUST 14	V. Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
AUGUST 14	WY Cardiopulmonary		800-445-3501
AUGUST 14	Emery	Orthopedic	866-330-1952
AUGUST 15	D. Chavez	Urologist	800-648-6274
AUGUST 15	A. Rashkow	Cardiology	307-578-2980
AUGUST 20	P. Tallman	Dermatologist	866-988-3376
AUGUST 21	V. Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
AUGUST 22	C. Lowther	Dermatologist	307-587-7000
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AUGUST 27	D. Myers	Gynecologist	866-587-1155
AUGUST 28	V. Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
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