

Rhodes selected again for National FFA Chorus

3

WYDOT webcam in the WRC now operational

8

IR recognizes athletes in fall sports

10-11

Lights On celebrates 13th year with two events

18

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 42, October 18, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

## Candidate forums featured

Hot Springs County office-seekers will be in the spotlight early next week during a pair of candidate forums, sponsored by the Independent Record, as preludes to the Nov. 6 General Election.

Both forums will be held at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center and begin at 5:30 p.m.

The forum set for Monday is geared toward the two candidates on the ballot running for House District 28, the four candidates vying for two Thermopolis Town Council seats and all other local candidates running unopposed in the Nov. 6 General Election. Candidates for special districts are also invited to attend.

Six candidates running for four seats on the Hot Springs County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees are invited to participate in a forum on Tuesday.

Candidates in contested races invited to Monday's forum:

House District 28 (one seat) – Republican Nathan Winters and Democrat Connie Skates. Thermopolis Town Council (two seats) – incumbents Allan Braaten and Dick Hall, and challengers LeRoy Hayes and Mark Nelson. Kirby Town Council (two seats) – incumbent Ross Rhodes and challengers Raymond Nettles and Jessica Slagle.

Among the candidates in uncontested races extended an invitation to Monday's forum include incumbents Jack Kuiper and Merle William Moore for two East Thermopolis Town Council seats; Republican incumbent Brad Basse, one open seat as Hot Springs County commissioner; Republican incumbent Mark

Mortimore, county coroner; Republican State Sen. Gerald Geis, state senate.

Candidates in other uncontested races: Hot Springs County Conservation District Director, Rural, Robert Overton and Urban, Debbie Axtell; Hot Springs County Cemetery District Director, three four-year terms, Rose Watkins, Cindy DeVries and Jeanie Love, and one two-year term, Mary Jane Starnes; and Rural Fire Protection District Director, Tim Anderson.

Candidates for four-year terms on the school board invited to participate in Tuesday's forum are incumbents Travis Bomengen, Joe Martinez and Clay VanAntwerp, and challengers Britnee Nelson, Melissa Johnson and Danny Pebbles.

Each candidate in attendance for their respective forums will be allowed a two-minute introduction during which they can give their background and reason for running for election.

Candidates are being asked to confirm their attendance by Friday at 4 p.m. to the Independent Record office by phone or email.

IR reporter Cindy Glasson will be the moderator of Monday's forum, scheduled for 90 minutes. IR editor/publisher Joe Sovo will moderate Tuesday's school board candidate forum, which will be limited to one hour.

The moderators will ask each candidate questions pertinent to the position which they seek.

The forums will conclude with an opportunity for persons in the audience to ask candidates specific questions.

The candidate forums are open to the public. Refreshments will be provided, compliments of the Hot Springs County Republican and Democratic parties.

## National Fire Prevention Week



Firefighter Rod McQueen allows Ralph Witters Elementary third-grade student Ryleen Davis to use a fire hose on one of the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department grass fire trucks during a National Fire Prevention Week program Oct. 11 at the fire hall. For more information about fire prevention week, see Page 4. —J.D. Stetson photo

## Chamber supports renewal of lodging tax

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors made the decision Oct. 11 to show support for renewal of the county's 4 percent lodging tax.

The tax is slated to appear on the ballot during the 2012 General Election to be voted upon by the community.

The board discussed ways to help educate the public about the tax, which is collected on the rental of hotel rooms and campsites in the county.

The lodging tax is an excise

tax not paid for by residents of the county, but by the visitors who travel and stay in the county.

The Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board uses the revenue from the tax to promote tourism and help cover the cost of event advertising for entities such as the chamber, the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department, the Gift of the Waters Pageant, the PRCA Rodeo and others.

The chamber board agreed to develop an advertisement in order to show its support and

educate the public on the ballot issue.

### 3-on-3 Tournament

Executive Director Michele Lue reported the chamber would hold a "town hall" meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday to gain input on changes to the 2012 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

The chamber has so far not made any final decisions regarding the 3-on-3, but it has been gathering input and ideas for making beneficial changes.

Lue reported feedback has been mixed regarding chang-

ing the venue of the tournament from downtown to Senior Avenue.

One of the goals of the change is to encourage some of the downtown businesses that have closed during previous tournaments to remain open for the tournament. However, Lue has received some feedback stating the businesses would close anyway because they are accustomed to closing during the event.

The board discussed the need for the town hall meeting and its purpose, and decided it would be a good idea to continue with

the meeting in order to gain more input.

### Cash mob

During the past few months, the board has discussed the possibility of starting "Cash Mobs" to support local businesses.

The idea of a Cash Mob is for people to gather at a business during a specified time with the intention of spending "cash" they have pinned to their shirts at the business. The amount of cash can change between \$10 to \$20, depending on how much the person can afford to spend.

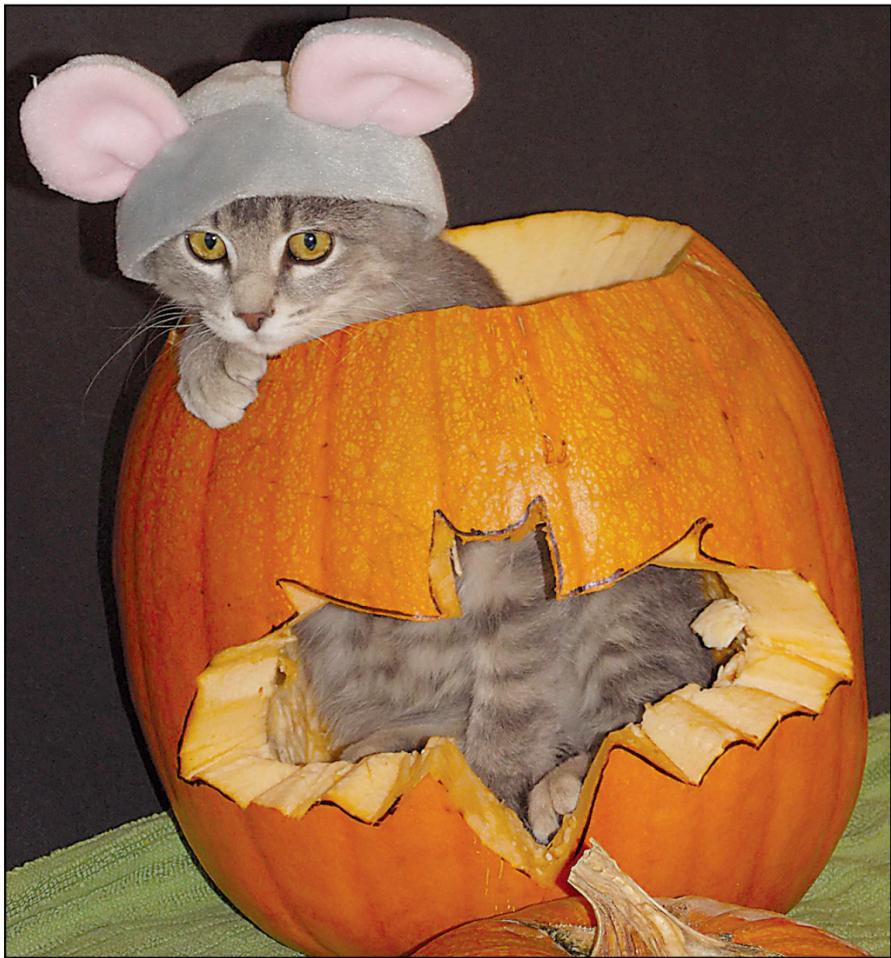
After shopping, the members will go to another business for coffee, tea or lunch.

Board member Meri Ann Rush reported the chamber will have its first Cash Mob Nov. 10 at 11 a.m.

The place of the Cash Mob would be drawn the Thursday before the event from a list of chamber member businesses that contact the chamber for a chance to host the mob.

For more information about the Cash Mob or to become a participant, call the chamber at 864-3192.

## Gat Mouse in the hat pumpkin



"Mouse," the gray kitty, is all dressed up in her Halloween costume, ready to trick or treat. All the little ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses will be out and about on Halloween. The weather forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies with a 20-percent chance of precipitation that evening. —Liz Russell photo

## McCumber, Axtell families to receive Century Award

by Joe Sovo

Members of two families that have homesteaded for more than 100 years in Hot Springs County will be honored during the FFA Alumni Harvest Moon Ball, set for Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. The Thermopolis FFA Alumni organization sponsors the event, which features a dinner and dance.

The second annual Century Farm/Ranch Award will be presented to the McCumber and Axtell families. The McCumbers have been homesteading in the county since 1906. They currently own property west of Thermopolis, off Missouri Flats Road. The Axtell family operation began in 1910 in the county. They now own property off Buffalo Creek Road and north of town.

The 2012 Ag Citizen of the Year will be announced during the Harvest Moon Ball. The four nominees are Bill Daniels, Arnold Pennoyer, Ray Shaffer and Bruce Thurgood.

Tickets to the Harvest Moon Ball are \$12 each for adults and \$7 for ages 12 and under. They may be purchased in advance at Bank of Thermopolis and White Horse Country Store. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Dinner will be served beginning at 7 p.m. and includes smoked pork loin, twice baked potatoes, corn on the cob, dessert and beverages. Presentation of the Century Farm/Ranch Award and Ag Citizen of the Year Award follow the dinner. Dancing to a live

See Century on page 13

## Lodging Tax Board hears opportunities

by Cindy Glasson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Lodging Tax Board heard a report from Mary Mills of Days Inn regarding the recent meeting of the Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association (WLRA) and had a lengthy discussion with the webmaster for the Chamber of Commerce webpage at its meeting Tuesday.

Mills told the board about advertising opportunities offered by the State Tourism Commission that she learned about during the WLRA meeting in Casper earlier this month.

Through the state, the Lodging Tax Board can enter into a co-op situation for advertising where the state will pay half the costs of advertising the community.

There are brochures put out by the Tourism Commission as well as inserts that are placed in a multitude of newspapers in the fall and spring, and leads for tourist opportunities that are available as well as detailed statistics the board can use for free to better emphasize various attractions in the county.

Mills showed the board an advertisement for Sheridan that encompassed two full pages in the state brochure featuring a number of businesses and events in that town, suggesting that the Lodging Tax Board could create something similar for next year's edition, all for half the usual cost when using the co-op opportunity.

The board also heard from

Rick Groh, webmaster for the chamber website. Groh filled the board in on the changes he's made to the website since he took over its content in April.

One of the items the board is most interested in is tracking visits to the website by potential tourists.

Currently, chamber director Michelle Lue uses Google Analytics to track those visits; however, Groh said there are thousands of plug-ins he can use through WordPress to not only track the visits, but break those visits down to which pages are being visited the most, what part of the country the visitors are coming from and how long they're spending

See Lodging on page 13

# Century

band is planned for after the award presentations.

For tickets to the Harvest Moon Ball, contact Thermopolis FFA Alumni president Phil Scheel at 307-460-0347 or Thermopolis FFA advisor Britton Van Heule at 921-9044.

Backgrounds of the McCumber and Axtell families will be part of a story in next week's Independent Record along with information about the Ag Citizen of the Year nominees.

## FFA Alumni takes over branded items

The Thermopolis FFA Alumni has taken over the

branded merchandise formerly sold by the Hot Springs County CowBelles. The alumni group is selling afghans and napkins with livestock brands from around the county and elsewhere in Wyoming. When the supply is depleted, more merchandise will be printed with the FFA Alumni and brands as well.

Afghans in the current stock, which have more than 100 different brands, are being sold for \$25 each. The napkins are \$7 per 100. They are being promoted as Christmas gift ideas and are being sold at those discounted prices.

"We want to reinvent that idea," Thermopolis FFA advisor Britton Van Heule said of branding of the items. "We'll redesign them under the FFA Alumni."

The branding idea is being carried over to the annual FFA Alumni Harvest Moon Ball. Owners of brands are invited to bring their irons to the event and brand two wooden benches now being built by Van Heule and Jim Cramer. The cost is \$30 per brand (for both benches) and branding begins at 6 p.m. outside the fair building.

"We'll take as many as we can," Van Heule said

of the number of brands on the benches.

The brands will also be applied, in a smaller version, on the upcoming new stock of afghans, coffee cups and napkins.

One of the benches will be sold by auction at the Harvest Moon Ball. The other bench will be kept by the FFA Alumni for use as VIP seating for special events.

Anyone who would like to purchase branding rights on the benches and other items should contact Van Heule at 921-9044 or Thermopolis FFA Alumni president Phil Scheel at 307-460-0347.

# Lodging

on the website.

The board agreed to allow Groh to set up some of the plug-ins and use them for the next six months to track visitors to the site in an effort to better personalize the visitors' experience.

A list of all businesses in Thermopolis and Hot Springs County can be added to the webpage; all a business needs to do is contact Groh through the contact link on the site and give him the information they would like included about their business. All of this will be available to businesses free of charge.

## Billboard update

The fate of the billboard on the Hessenthaler property south of Thermopolis is still up

# Ford retiring from position as treasurer of HS County

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners received a retirement notice Tuesday afternoon from a county employee of 29 years.

Mickeyjean Ford, Hot Springs County treasurer, gave notice of her retirement, effective Dec. 31.

Ford started her career in the treasurer's office in 1983 and was appointed by the commissioners to county treasurer in 1983, replacing Grace Allard.

"Thank you for your support," Ford told the commissioners. "This isn't a quick decision, there's been a lot of thought and prayer gone into it. I feel fine, I just think it's time for someone else to take this on."

The commissioners accepted her resignation with regret.

The Hot Springs County Republican Central Committee will be notified of her retirement and will give their suggestions for a replacement to the commissioners after Dec. 31.

in the air.

The Lodging Tax Board had indicated they did not want to advertise on the billboard as the chamber was asking \$300 per month for its use. The Lodging Tax Board actually built the billboard, but as it is not allowed to own any property per state statute, the board turned it over

to the chamber some years ago.

There are several issues the board would like to have resolved in writing before it will consider changing its mind about the billboard, including who is responsible for repairs and insurance.

In years past, a representative from the chamber and the

Lodging Tax Board have attended the National Traveler's Association (NTA) meeting in an effort to bring more tourism to the area.

This year, however, there has only been one touring company that has contacted the chamber about setting up a meeting to find out about Thermopolis,

compared to more than 20 companies last year.

There is some question that there may be other, more effective meetings to attend other than NTA this year.

Some of the things potential tourists are looking for are evening events or attractions that Thermopolis doesn't offer. A few

of those items are chuckwagon dinners, rodeos and horseback riding. They indicated there is plenty to do during the day, but the area lacks in evening entertainment.

The board voted not to attend the NTA this year, but set aside the registration fees and may possibly attend next year.

Our cars come with a lot of things you'll love.

A LOT FOR LESS  
Like savings.

## NEW 2012 CAMRY

35 Estimated MPG<sup>1</sup>  
"CLASS LEADING MPG RATING"<sup>2</sup>

Average  
APR Finance  
Savings  
\$599



0% APR<sup>3</sup> OR \$189 PER MO. LEASE ON CAMRY LE<sup>12</sup>  
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed  
36 mos\*\* with \$3009 due at signing plus taxes and fees<sup>11</sup> (Excludes Hybrid)

## NEW 2012 TUNDRA

"MOST DEPENDABLE LARGE PICKUP, SEVEN YEARS IN A ROW"<sup>6</sup>

Average  
APR Finance  
Savings  
\$3,674



0% APR<sup>3</sup> PLUS GET \$1400 BONUS CASH<sup>7</sup> OR \$3000 CASH BACK<sup>8</sup> (CrewMax model only)  
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed

## NEW 2013 COROLLA

34 Estimated MPG<sup>1</sup>  
"BEST-SELLING COMPACT CAR IN AMERICA"<sup>9</sup>

Average  
APR Finance  
Savings  
\$293



0% APR<sup>3</sup> OR \$500 CASH BACK<sup>3</sup>  
Financing for 36 mos with \$27.78 per \$1000 borrowed  
\$169 PER MO. LEASE ON COROLLA LE<sup>13</sup>  
OR 36 mos\*\* with \$1889 due at signing plus taxes and fees<sup>13</sup>

## NEW 2012 RAV4

28 Estimated MPG<sup>7</sup>  
NAMED "2011 BEST BET" BY CARS.COM<sup>10</sup>

Average  
APR Finance  
Savings  
\$2,645



0% APR<sup>3</sup> OR \$1000 CASH BACK<sup>3</sup>  
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed  
\$199 PER MO. LEASE ON RAV4 4X4<sup>14</sup>  
OR 36 mos\*\* with \$1398 due at signing plus taxes and fees<sup>14</sup>

## NEW 2012 HIGHLANDER

25 Estimated MPG<sup>11</sup>  
AVAILABLE ALL-WHEEL DRIVE

Average  
APR Finance  
Savings  
\$3,527



0% APR<sup>3</sup> OR \$1000 CASH BACK<sup>3</sup>  
Financing for 60 mos with \$16.67 per \$1000 borrowed  
\$299 PER MO. LEASE ON HIGHLANDER<sup>15</sup>  
OR 36 mos\*\* with \$3499 due at signing plus taxes and fees<sup>15</sup> (Excludes Hybrid)

Get ToyotaCare complimentary with any purchase or lease of any new Toyota.



VISIT YOUR TOYOTA DEALER TODAY.

SEE YOUR LOCAL COWBOY STATE TOYOTA DEALER:

BUYAToyota.com



FREMONT TOYOTA OF LANDER  
103 Fremont Way, Lander  
(307) 332-5011

Options shown. Offers end 11/5/12. \*Average Finance Savings reflects the interest savings based on an average 3.74% finance rate offered by Toyota Financial Services to qualified customers in the Denver Region. Offers cannot be combined and may vary by region. See participating dealer for details. <sup>1</sup>APR financing with approved credit from Toyota Financial Services on new 2012 Camry, Tundra, RAV4, Highlander and 2013 Corolla. <sup>2</sup>Cash back offer provided by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. on new 2012 Tundra, RAV4, Highlander and 2013 Corolla. <sup>3</sup>Retail Bonus Cash offer provided by Toyota Financial Services to eligible customers who finance a new, unused or unlicensed 2012 Tundra. <sup>4</sup>2012 EPA-estimated 25 city/35 highway/28 combined mileage for Camry 4-cyl. Actual mileage will vary. <sup>5</sup>Based on 2012 EPA class Midsize Car V6 non-luxury vehicle combined ratings. Camry V6 rated 21 city/30 highway/25 combined. Actual mileage will vary. <sup>6</sup>The Toyota Tundra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among large pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2006-2012 Vehicle Dependability Study. <sup>7</sup>2012 study based on 31,325 consumer responses measuring problems consumers experience in the past 12 months with three-year-old vehicles (2009 model-year cars and trucks). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed October-December 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com). <sup>8</sup>2011 sales. <sup>9</sup>2012 EPA-estimated 22 city/28 highway/24 combined mileage for RAV4 4-cylinder 2WD. Actual mileage will vary. <sup>10</sup>Based on independent testing by Cars.com. <sup>11</sup>2012 EPA-estimated 20 city/25 highway/22 combined mileage for Highlander 4-cyl. Actual mileage will vary. <sup>12</sup>Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet. See participating Toyota dealer for complete plan details. Valid only in the continental United States and Alaska. <sup>13</sup>Lease a new 2012 Camry LE (excludes Camry Hybrid) for \$189 a month for 36 months with \$3,009 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment of \$189 and \$2,820 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2532. Total MSRP including freight \$24,060. Monthly payments of \$189 total \$6,804. Capitalized cost of \$23,270 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$13,660. <sup>14</sup>Lease a new 2013 Corolla LE 4-cyl. for \$169 a month for 36 months with \$1,889 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment of \$169 and \$1,720 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #1838. Total MSRP including freight \$19,200. Monthly payments of \$169 total \$6,084. Capitalized cost of \$18,570 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$11,272. <sup>15</sup>Lease a new 2012 RAV4 4-cyl. for \$199 a month for 36 months with \$3,198 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment of \$199 and \$2,999 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #4432. Total MSRP including freight \$25,270. Monthly payments of \$199 total \$7,154. Capitalized cost of \$25,023 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$14,871. <sup>16</sup>Lease a new 2012 Highlander (excludes Hybrid) for \$299 a month for 36 months with \$3,499 due at signing. Due at signing costs include first month's payment of \$299 and \$3,200 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #6953. Total MSRP including freight \$37,006. Monthly payments of \$299 total \$10,764. Capitalized cost of \$35,217 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$21,270. <sup>17</sup>Customer responsible for maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year. To qualified Tier 1 customers through Toyota Financial Services. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end unless customer purchases vehicle or decides to re-finance through Toyota Financial Services. Offers good in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

TOYOTA.COM

## UROLOGY Update



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

### OVERCOMING INHIBITION

Men who experience "inhibited ejaculation" may be reluctant to discuss their problem with a doctor. However, doing so may help them overcome their inability to reach a satisfying climax despite being able to achieve and maintain an erection. Most men ejaculate within four to ten minutes of beginning sexual intercourse. However, if a man attempts to reach orgasm for an extended period of time and gives up in frustration or fatigue, there is a chance he is experiencing inhibited ejaculation. Causes include alcohol consumption and some prescription medications that interfere with ejaculation. Otherwise, unfulfilled sexual expectations or lack of communication with a sexual partner may play roles. If so, a frank discussion of the problem may help overcome it.

At our office, we see men and women and treat several urological conditions including, bladder and kidney disorders, infertility, kidney stones, prostate problems and urinary incontinence. Should you require the care of a urologist, don't hesitate and call UROLOGICAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN WYOMING at 307-587-5131.

New patients are gladly accepted.

## Urological Services

of Northern Wyoming  
307-587-5131  
225 W. Yellowstone Ave • Ste. 9  
Cody