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play first games of
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SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Hot Spot Car Rally in spotlight this weekend

by Joe Sovia
Father's Day weekend will be a blast as Hot Springs State Park is the site for the 21st annual Hot Spot Car Rally. Featured will be classic cars, pickups and motorcycles. The 4x4 category returns for its second year.
Tawna McQueen, the Hot Spot Car Rally committee chairwoman, said there were 147 entries in last year's rally, graced by beautiful weather. As of Monday, she already had 38 pre-entries. Traditionally, 70 to 75 percent of exhibitors enter on Saturday, the day before the actual show. This year's event could set a new record for exhibitors.
In addition to exhibitors from Wyoming, Idaho and Montana, vintage vehicles often come from Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and South Dakota. David Burroughs of Winnemucca, Nev., plans to return with his antique Schwinn bicycle. In the neighborhood of 40 locals will have exhibits.
"Rock trophies," designed by Mike Stevens, will again be awarded to 11 category winners. The People's Choice award went to Randy Stephenson of Evansville for his 1969 Chevelle SS last year. The Committee's Choice award went to Shane Miller of Mills, who displayed his 1947 Hudson coupe.
Early-bird registration is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The seventh annual Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run is featured from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 per hand with a maximum of two hands per rider. The new poker run route this year features stops at the museum, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Merlin's

Hide Out, Hazel-n-Pearl's, Southside Travel Center and Butch's Place in Kirby. Poker Run awards will be given just before the parade begins.
The Parade of Cars through Thermopolis starts at 4:30 p.m. The parade starts at the state park, proceeding along Senior Avenue through downtown Thermopolis to Fourth Street. The route goes up Broadway to the stoplight at Sixth Street, then south around the curve onto Shoshoni Street, right on Canyon Hills Road – through the Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center parking area – and concluding on 14th Street.
Added this year, the Thermopolis Masons will host a barbecue at the Kiwanis Washakie shelter in the state park right after the parade.
Live music featuring Honky Tonk Heroes of Cody is set for 5 to 9 p.m. at the state park pavilion. They play country and country rock music and might toss in a few "car tunes." There is no admission charge.
Registration for the rally resumes at 7:30 a.m. Father's Day and the main "show and shine" featuring vintage cars, pickups and motorcycles runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The opening ceremony will feature a flag raising by members of the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department.
There will be special kids' judging from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, when youngsters cast votes for their favorite vehicle. O'Reilly Auto Parts is donating three \$25 gift certificates to be given to owners

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Welcome to Summer fun



Katie Rice was the smallest competitor in Red Rock Family Practice's Welcome to Summer celebration tug-of-war Friday. Division winners were: men, Cup of Lemonade; women, Gottsche; ages 13-18, Team 2; and ages 6-12, D'beasts. Shelley Deromedi won the salsa-making contest and Ron Luther was the winner of an iPad mini. More Welcome to Summer photos will be posted on the Independent Record's Facebook page.

Rodeo weekend kicks off with Pack Horse Race



Annually, Hot Springs County plays host to the first PRCA Rodeo of the year in the Big Horn Basin with the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.
This year's production falls in conjunction with the 100-year celebration of Hot Springs County, and features several co-events as well as rodeo-only attractions.
The rodeo will officially start with a new free-admission event called the Pack Horse Race. The race starts at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20, and more information will be further down in the story.
Friday, June 21, features the first rodeo performance with gates opening at 4 p.m. and the action starting at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 22, will have the tra-

ditionally free pancake breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m., provided by Tumbleweed Propane, with rodeo slack slated to start at 8 a.m.
The Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo and Centennial Celebration Parade will start at 10 a.m. with lineup starting at 9:30 a.m. at Pizza Hut.
Following the parade, speakers will be present in Bicentennial Park and Centennial festivities will continue from 1 to 6:30 p.m. in Hot Springs State Park.
Gates for the Saturday night performance will be open at 4 p.m. with the rodeo starting at 7 p.m. It will also be Tough Enough To Wear Pink Night.
After the action is over, the tradition-

al dance will start in the fair building.
The final event of the rodeo will be the Cowboy Church at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 23, at the fairgrounds.
Tickets for the rodeo are \$10 for each nightly performance with admission for children ages 3 and under free. Season tickets are available in advance of the rodeo for \$15 and are available at Storyteller, Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, White Horse Country Store and Cross Feed Store in Worland.
Pack Horse Race
The new Pack Horse Race will challenge teams of two people to race along an obstacle course in a timed event with

specified rules.
Teams must provide riding equipment, pack saddle, dutch oven (minimum 10 inches), coffee pot, a full length slicker and six cans of food.
The committee will furnish a tin can with marbles, horseshoes, bedroll, pots and pans, rubber bucket, shovel, 12 fresh eggs in carton, one 40-pound bag of salt and two gallons of water.
The first-place winner will receive a custom designed buckle for each team member. The second- and third-place finishers will receive awards and all entrants will receive a participation cap.

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Roling shares plans for new hospital at public meeting

by Joe Sovia
Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital CEO Robin Roling presented an overview of the proposed new hospital in Thermopolis during the first of two community meetings Saturday morning in the HSCMH cafeteria. Twenty-one people attended the meeting, which concluded with a tour of the current facility.
"It's an important time for our organization. I want to talk about the building of a new hospital," Roling said in her opening statement.

A letter mailed last week to county residents stated, "Our aging hospital is reaching the end of its useful life" and the "50-year-old hospital poses serious challenges." The letter indicated a community opinion survey was upcoming.
Roling said the current hospital has been in use since 1959 after being established through Hill Burton funds. Roling gave a list of bullet points giving reasons for a new hospital. They included: no private showers or baths; imaging equipment is spread through the facility; lack

of efficiency; very inpatient-centered; up-stairs/downstairs services; maintenance tunnel infrastructure; heating and cooling challenges; HIPAA (privacy issues); and recruitment and retention of medical staff.
"It's a challenge for health care providers," Roling said. "It's harder and harder to find qualified people in health care."
She spoke about Strategic Development and Facility Master Planning, which includes market research, facility assessment, customer listening, how

much could be afforded for a new hospital, strategy for a new facility, what the hospital would look like and how it could be implemented.
In site planning, Roling indicated the new critical access hospital must be located a minimum of 35 miles from any other hospital in order to maintain that designation. Therefore, the hospital cannot be located any closer to Worland than the current facility.
"What goes where" was outlined in a preliminary floor design shown by Roling.

The goal is to maximize staff efficiency and minimize total square feet.
The new hospital would be 55,000 to 60,000 square feet in floor space with more focus on outpatient services. It would have two operating rooms, one endoscopy suite, an emergency room with six treatment spaces, an expanded imaging area, 15 medical/surgical patient rooms, two obstetrical rooms, a pharmacy, laboratory, specialty clinic, cardio

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Centennial Tree planting



The official Hot Springs County Centennial Tree, a bur oak, was planted Saturday morning north of the library in Thermopolis. Pictured, from left, are State Rep. Nathan

Winters and county officials Mike Baker, Chuck Carver, Ray Shaffer, Brad Basse and Shelley Deromedi. A dedication ceremony has held after the planting.

Reinternment for pioneers

After two years above ground, the remains of three Hot Springs County pioneers will be reinterred at Riverside Cemetery in time for the county's Centennial Celebration.
According to Dorothy Milek with the Pioneer Association, the Hot Springs County Cemetery District has donated a plot for the pioneers to be placed in and three boxes have been hand hewn for the remains by John Ready.
Found during excavation of a gravel pit north of Thermopolis, the 76 bones came from an area near the old townsite of Thermopolis and have been identified as best they can without DNA testing by local archaeologist, Greg Willson.
The three men may be Tom Bird, a man shot by Ben Hanson at a housewarming party at Hanson's home, Lem Ritchie, whose body washed up along the banks of the Owl Creek, and possibly Hank Monroe, a local freighter.
The original burial plot for the remains was located on a grassy knoll, surrounded by a white picket fence.
Although there will be no fence for the pioneers this time, their reinternment will be a special celebration.
A private burial will be held this week at the cemetery, but a public memorial service is being planned for Sunday, June 23, at 11 a.m. during the Hot Springs County Centennial.
Everyone is invited to attend the ceremony on Sunday morning.

Car Rally

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of the top entries in the kids' balloting. Summit Motor Sports is supplying the kids' ballots. Saturday and Sunday, collector car rally T-shirts will be sold at \$12 each. Door prizes will be given away. Food vendors and a beer garden will be in operation.

Three pedal cars will be given away in this year's Hot Spot Car Rally raffle. They include a 1937 wrecker, sponsored by Smith Oil Field Service; a Pink Princess Pedal Car, sponsored by Owl Lumber; and a purple 1934 Roadster with yellow flames, sponsored by the Hot Spot Car Rally com-

mittee. They are on display at Pinnacle Bank until the car rally. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Tickets are available at the bank or from Hot Spot Car Rally committee members. Tickets will be sold up to the drawing for the pedal cars at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Proceeds from the raffle will go to a local charity and a family in need. Last year's pedal car raffle raised \$2,300. For further information, contact McQueen at 864-5555 or 864-3707, or the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce at 864-3192.

Howe carries on Father's Day tradition

Dick Howe and Randy Wahler were classic car buffs in the early 1990s. They got together and had the same idea: Why don't we start a classic car rally in Thermopolis? So they did. "We said, 'bring your favorite set of wheels,'" Howe said. By that they meant the car rally was open to classic cars, trucks and even motorcycles. That first rally, 21 years ago, was staged at the Big-T Drive-in, which is now Lil' Wrangler on Shoshoni Street, featuring 34 cars and trucks. The annual event held on Father's Day weekend quickly grew and moved to the Blair's Super Market parking lot and then to its current home, Hot Springs State Park, seven years ago. For four or five years, Howe organized and ran the Hot Spot Car Rally on his own. Diana Shaf-

fer came on board about 15 years ago to help share the workload. Howe will enter his 1946 Chevrolet pickup and 1974 Chevy Nova in the car rally. They are the current classics in his history of owning vintage vehicles. He had a '53 Chevy, now owned by his son Justin in Casper. Howe still has a 1980 Camaro under cover in one of his garages, owned by him and his son. "I've had classic cars since I was 15," Howe said Monday. He started with a 1941 Plymouth business coupe, a single-seater with a hemi motor. He changed the engine twice, going from two 6-cylinders to an 8-cylinder. He took a stock hemi out of a '56 Dodge. That boosted the car's horses from 130 hp to about 250 hp. When Howe purchased the '74 Nova, he "built" it for his wife,

Sandy, who is right with him during car shows. Howe's current project is restoring a 1929 Ford 5-window coupe, which he's had for about three years. It still has its original 4-cylinder engine and appears to have all-original parts. "I hope to have it in next year's show (Hot Spot Car Rally)," he said. Howe usually enters three or four shows a year with his pickup and Nova. He mentioned the annual show in Deadwood, S.D., which has outgrown itself due to the limited space for classic vehicles. The largest show Howe has attended is Hot August Nights in Reno, Nev., which has more than 2,000 classics on display. He would like to attend the car show in Billings, Mont., this season and is thinking about a show in Wright.



Dick Howe, who started the Hot Spot Car Rally along with Randy Wahler, stands with his 1946 Chevrolet pickup and 1974 Chevy Nova. Howe will enter both classic vehicles in this weekend's car rally at Hot Springs State Park. – Joe Sova photo

Rodeo

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Team registration is \$50 per team and entries must be submitted to White Horse Country Store by Monday. Participants will be required to be onsite at 5:30 p.m. June 20, and a calcutta auction will take place at 6 p.m. The contest is limited to 16 teams. For more information about the race, contact White Horse

Country Store at 864-3048. For more information on the rodeo visit <http://www.thermopolis-cowboyrendezvous.com>. **Rodeo performances** Changes keep coming as the current Rodeo committee strives to improve the shows and add events to make the weekend more enjoyable for

spectators, competitors and the organizers. Rodeo committee President Mark Ellis said this is the ninth year under the current group of citizens to bring the PRCA back to Hot Springs County. Crowd pleaser for the past two years and legendary rodeo clown and barrel man Justin Rumford will return for the ro-

deo, Ellis said. The rodeo will also feature a new entertainment act performed by trick rider Sally Bishop of Sure Shot Productions. Part of the act will feature four-horse Roman Riding, where Bishop stands atop two horses while driving two others. As for the rodeo itself, Ellis

said the competitor registration isn't quite set in stone yet, but currently at least three National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualifiers have signed up, as well as several top-end circuit bareback and saddle bronc riders. The number of competitors in rodeo events continues to increase year-to-year with the improvement in the reputation

and purses in the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous. The rodeo committee also is excited to see the NFR-quality offerings of stock providers Bill and Dona Vold Larsen and their daughter Tami Vold Larsen of Triple V Rodeo Company. "It's all coming together good, and that's what our goal is and what we strive for," Ellis said.

Roling

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pulmonary area and other features. The new facility includes Red Rock Family Practice as part of the building in the preliminary plan. How much would the new hospital cost? Roling said the budget, based on current costs, would be \$27,786,689. That cost is expected to be higher by the time the hospital is built. The projected construction time, start to finish, is about 17 months. A reason to construct a new hospital is that it's projected the cost to remodel/upgrade the current facility is 75 percent of the cost of a new one.

Question of hospital district Roling also gave bullet points in her presentation about why it would be important to establish a hospital district. They include: improved strategic and long-term planning capabilities; large equipment purchases; bonds; cash flow; anticipated decrease in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements; and continued use and potential increase in charity care and bad debt service. According to Roling, nine of the 16 critical access hospitals in Wyoming are funded by a hospital district. It spreads the support across all county taxpayers and the district would have publicly elected board members. "We want to make sure we're here for the long haul," Roling said. "We have great access to health care here...We have great physicians." Roling explained the economic impact to coun-

ty taxpayers. The district would be supported by a 3-mill levy. For example, the owner of a home valued at \$150,000 would pay \$42.75 per year to support the district. For agricultural land, the levy would be \$51.27 per year for 160 acres. Currently, HSCMH gets an annual stipend from the Hot Springs County Commissioners for capital equipment. Roling emphasized that the "golden hour," the first hour of medical treatment for a patient, is extremely critical and it's important to have a facility to meet patients' needs. There has been discussion that Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center could be part of the new hospital property, perhaps a part of the building. Roling said Gottsche is now in the first year of a five-year plan, but she is hopeful Gottsche would be able to relocate with the hospital. "People for the most part want to stay here," HSCMH board secretary/treasurer Margaret Stansill said. She spoke highly of the medical services offered in Thermopolis. A question was asked about the future of the current hospital if it's vacated. Roling said use as a senior housing project would be possible plus other options. Before the tour of the facility began, HSCMH board chairman Bill Williams said it would cost more than \$24 million to bring the current hospital up to code. The second community meeting is set for Thursday, June 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the hospital cafeteria.

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FRIDAY
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John invites you to celebrate and meet his new colleagues – **Homer S. Smith IV CFP®**, CRPC®, Financial Advisor; **Edward T. Kelly CFP®, CLU®, ChFC®**, Financial Advisor; **Justin T. Samples, CRPC®, AWMA®**, Financial Advisor – at a Customer Appreciation Open House and special presentation on Building a Confident Retirement:

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Hors d'oeuvres, Beer, Wine and Entertainment will be provided. Please RSVP for yourself and any friends or family you may like to bring at (800) 564-6437. This is an informational presentation. There is no cost to attend. RSVP early as the room will fill quickly!

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