

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

Cruising



Dan Wychgram drives his 1957 Ford Thunderbird while his wife, Jocelyn, and Ally Taylor ride as passengers in the Hot Spot Car Rally Parade Saturday afternoon. See page 12 for rally results and awards. — J.D. Stetson photo

Centennial Celebration Parade, entertainment, barbecue Saturday

You can expect wall-to-wall entertainment Saturday during the Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration in Thermopolis and Hot Springs State Park. The county is celebrating its 100th birthday in a huge way, in conjunction with the annual Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous set for tonight (Thursday), Friday and Saturday. One of the components of the celebration is a free buffalo barbecue at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter in the state park.

After the free Tumbleweed Propane pancake breakfast at the fair building to kick off Saturday's events, the Centennial portion of the weekend begins with the Cowboy Rendezvous/Centennial Celebration Parade at 10 a.m. The route is the same as last year's parade, beginning where Shoshoni Street turns into Sixth Street heading for downtown Thermopolis.

Former Gov. Dave Freudenthal and his wife, U.S. Federal District Court Judge Nancy J. Freudenthal, will be featured as part of the parade.

Parade spectators are encouraged to stay downtown for the Centennial Celebration ceremony, which starts at 11 a.m. at Bicentennial Park at Broadway and Fifth streets. It will include the reading of proclamations by the county commissioners and Town of Thermopolis recognizing June 22 as Hot Springs County Centennial

Schedule of Events

- 7 a.m., Tumbleweed Propane pancake breakfast (free)
- 10 a.m., Cowboy Rendezvous/Centennial Celebration parade
- 11 a.m., Centennial ceremony
- 1-6:30 p.m., Centennial entertainment, state park pavilion
- 5 p.m., Buffalo barbecue, Kiwanis Washakie Shelter (free)
- 7 p.m., PRCA Rodeo, fairgrounds arena
- 9:30 p.m., Cowboy Rendezvous dance, fair building

See Centennial on page 12

Lodging Tax Board, chamber to each have their own directors

by J.D. Stetson

The relationship dynamic between the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce and the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board was fundamentally changed during a chamber board meeting Thursday, June 13.

The chamber discussed the status of its proposed fiscal year 2013-14 budget. Executive Director Amanda Moeller informed the board the Lodging Tax Board has decided not to fund \$14,000 in administrative reimbursement this year and that adjustments had been made to keep the budget "in the black."

The Lodging Tax Board has budgeted for advertising spending for its special events fund, which includes funding for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Demolition Derby, Gift of the Waters Pageant, etc., said Lodging Tax Board member Carl Leyba.

Lodging Tax Board Chairman Earnest Cummings explained his board has strived long and hard to figure out how to bring people to town and that room occupancy rates at hotels have been in decline.

Because of the decline, the lodging tax coffers have taken a hit – resulting in \$17,000 being cut from the lodging tax budget during the next fiscal year.

Cummings then explained that he had a recent epiphany regarding the way the town operates. He said the Town of Thermopolis is "doing it right."

"They're building it, the tourists will come," Cummings said.

Using the "Field of Dreams" analogy, Cummings stated the town is correct in focusing on infrastructure, leaving the work of marketing the town to the Lodging Tax Board, chamber, Fair Board and the Hot Springs County Economic Development Co.

Cummings explained a Lodging Tax Board plan to hire/contract a person to focus 100 percent on tourism marketing while working in concert with the chamber to promote special events and common interests.

He said the Lodging Tax Board is giving the chamber an opportunity to focus 100 percent on businesses, educating the community in e-commerce and special events.

The Lodging Tax Board stressed that the strategy isn't to break up the two boards, but to strengthen both by relying on two people instead of one director.

Moeller resignation

Moeller also presented her resignation as executive director of the chamber during the meeting and lodging tax discussion.

Moeller said that after careful consideration, she plans to take the position/contract offered by the Lodging Tax Board.

Regarding the new chamber director, she stated the changes would take more than a 33 percent load off a new director, and that she will still be a resource to assist the chamber and its director.

At the end of the meeting, the board went into closed executive session to discuss personnel.

Chamber board

Several members of the chamber's board of directors expressed interest in the new relationship and endeavor.

Board member Donna Nally said she thought the Lodging Tax Board was doing the right thing and that the chamber and the board can continue on their new paths together and build from it.

However, she expressed brief disappointment in losing Moeller as chamber director.

Board member Tom Butler asked and expressed interest in the goal of the plan to "free up the chamber so that it is not as concerned or at odds with tourism."

Board President Meri Ann Rush expressed the desire to continue a dialogue and suggested meeting sometime in July to brainstorm new ideas after completion of the Hot Spot Car Rally, Centennial Celebration and Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.

The Lodging Tax Board asked that if the chamber wants to keep the tourism office at the chamber, they request the chamber provide a proposal for office space rental within 10 days – to which the chamber board replied they would discuss the issue and get back to the Lodging Tax Board.

Cowboy Rendezvous packs the weekend with activities

The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous kicks off tonight (Thursday) with the Pack Horse Race with PRCA Rodeo action to follow Friday and Saturday.

The Pack Horse Race starts at 7 p.m. at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds. A Calcutta auction will take place at 6 p.m. and participants must be at the fairgrounds no later than 5:30 p.m.

Admission to the race is free and participation is limited to 16 teams.

The rodeo action will get going at 7 p.m. Friday with gates opening at 4 p.m. for the first performance. Tickets to both performances cost \$10 each night and will feature various rodeo events and special entertainment courtesy of trick rider Sally Bishop and rodeo clown and barrel man Justin Rumford.

Saturday will feature a full day of rodeo and a parade in conjunction with Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration events.

The free Tumbleweed Propane Pancake Feed will be from 7 to 9 a.m. and rodeo slack will start at 8 a.m.

The Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo and Centennial Celebration Parade will start at 10 a.m. with lineup at 9:30 at Pizza Hut. At the end of the parade an Old West gunfight featuring the Smoking Waters Outlaws will precede a Centennial Celebration ceremony at Bicentennial Park, beginning at 11 a.m.

Rodeo spectators Saturday are encouraged to participate in the Tough Enough To Wear Pink Night and to stick around after the show for the traditional dance in the fair building. The final event of the weekend will be Cowboy Church at 9 a.m. Sunday at the fairgrounds.

For more information on the rodeo visit <http://www.thermopoliscowboyrendezvous.com>.

Commissioners declare drought disaster status

by J.D. Stetson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners passed a resolution Tuesday evening declaring a state of disaster due to drought and the agricultural impacts of drought.

In the resolution, the commissioners recognize that the agricultural community is suffering critical impairment in operation caused by drought, that the costs of support is more than the county resources available and that the conditions are predicted to worsen or continue into the future.

Accompanying the resolution is a formal letter to Gov. Matt Mead announcing the declaration of Hot Springs County as an Agri-Business Disaster/Drought Area and requesting him to begin the drought declaration process for Hot Springs County.

During the discussion of the resolution, commissioner Mike Baker said farmers and ranchers in the county indicated it had been a good start for grass this summer, but that there is not water available in the springs and reservoirs for livestock.

The commissioners also discussed a press release by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation indicating a revised percentage of 44 percent of a 30-year average as the forecast inflow into Boysen Reservoir from last April to July.

The bureau's release indicates 113,000 acre-feet of water flowed into the reservoir during April and May and that 137,000 acre-feet is expected for June and July.

Legend Rock

John Fish approached the commissioners to provide information on a possible plan to secure private land in the vicinity of Legend Rock Petroglyph Site in order to help manage and secure the site.

Fish explained the idea to swap land currently managed and in trust by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the private land currently surrounding Legend Rock.

He said the private landowner is in favor of the swap, but the BLM has indicated the rangeland intended to be traded does not match criteria needed to make the swap equitable.

Fish explained the BLM wants to trade "apples for apples and oranges for oranges."

Commissioners received more specifics about the proposal before advising Fish to discuss the issue with BLM and state officials in Cheyenne.

Fish added that Legend Rock keeps developing without its own budget through community, independent and Hot Springs State Park support. He said it's a goal to make the site a jewel for the state as visitor numbers increase and more people come to see the historical site.

Trane update

The commissioners started their meeting with an update on the Trane Energy Project.

Dan Marshall of Trane said the project is currently being held up by pending approval from Rocky Mountain Power regarding rebates for the buildings.

The rebates currently affect the Joint Law Enforcement Center, courthouse, library and agriculture storage building.

Marshall's report indicated that pending approval from the power company, the project should be near completion by July 1.

WBC Diversified Ag Tour



The Wyoming Business Council hosted its 11th annual Diversified Ag Tour on Tuesday. It was the first time the event was held in Hot Springs County. Above, Suzi Cooper, left, and Martha Empfield admire a badger hide at Merlin's Hide Out. There were also tour stops at Wyoming Whiskey and Lucy's Sheep Camp. — Joe Sovo photo

Hot Spot Car Rally brings in 131 entries

by J.D. Stetson

The number of vehicles that vied for prizes during the 21st annual Hot Spot Car Rally on Father's Day was 131 vehicles. That was slightly down from 147 in 2012, but the rally competed with another Wyoming car rally during the weekend.

Cars, trucks and motorcycles from across the state descended on Hot Springs State Park for the two-day festival. The rally had three entries from Idaho as well as individual entries from South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Oregon and Virginia Beach, Va.

David Burroughs of Virginia Beach received the Farthest Distance Award, traveling almost 2,000 miles for the rally.

The rally committee earned \$1,725 in the Pedal Car and Leather Jacket raffle. Winners of the raffle were Patsy Kuntz, Billings, Mont., for the pin-striped leather jacket; Harvey Kuntz, Billings, the 1937 wrecker pedal car; Dawn Higginbotham, of Riverton, the Pink Princess; and Butch Hall, Thermopolis, the purple 1934 Roadster.

The rally awards started with the Kids' Choice awards, which

included 57 children voting for their favorite vehicle. The first-place winner was Zack Miller, Lander, for his 2007 Ford Mustang; second-place was Patsy Dorman, Thermopolis, for her 2000 Volkswagen Beetle "Miss Daisy;" and third place was Randy Stephenson, Evansville, for his 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle SS.

The major awards were presented at 3 p.m. Sunday. Each winner was presented a Hot Spot "rock" trophy. Winners of the People's Choice and Committee's Choice awards also received certificates for two-night stays at local hotels. The winners include:

Off Road: Jason Clark, Gillette, 1968 Ford Bronco

Street Rod: Jackson Sisneros, Casper, 1958 Chevrolet Sedan Delivery

Truck: John and Trudy Carrillo, Rigby, Idaho, 1936 International C-1½ ton truck

Muscle Car: Tom Wolff, Gillette, 1965 Pontiac GTO

Motorcycle: Lloyd and Joan LaFave, Casper, 2007 Boss Hoss trike

Post 1985 Classic-unmodified: Ray Parnell, Casper, 1988 Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS

Pre 1985 Classic-unmodified: Bryon and Anita Hathaway, Dubois, 1954 Hudson Hornet

Pre 1950 Classic-unmodified: Anthony Weibel, Worland, 1947 Dodge WD-21 truck

2000 and Beyond: Scott Steiner, Cody, 2011 Dodge Challenger SRT 8

People's Choice: Stephenson, 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle SS

Committee's Choice: Clark, 1968 Ford Bronco

The seventh annual Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run set a new record for the number of hands dealt with 116. The number of hands in 2012 was 75. The low-hand winner was Mary Mills, Thermopolis, with a queen, nine and eight. The high-hand winner was Tacic Stephenson, Evansville, with five jacks.

The Wyoming Street Rod Association also presented an award to PeeWee Blair of Big Piney for his 1957 Chevrolet 150 pickup.

Jacket winners during the rally included Tony Ferguson, Casper; John Eckman, Casper; Jay Powelson, Greybull; Lloyd LaFave; Scott Steiner, Cody; and Dan Rench, Riverton.

Reinterment of bones



Father Hugo Blotsky officiates the ceremony for the reinterment of pioneer bones at Riverside Cemetery on Friday. Attending the ceremony, from left, are Jeanie Love, Doris Ann Ready, Charlyne White and Dorothy Milek. — Cindy Glasson photo

Centennial

from page 1

Celebration Day. Dave Freudenthal, one of Hot Springs County's "native sons," will be the keynote speaker.

Freudenthal's ancestors were settlers in what would become Hot Springs County shortly after the turn of the 20th century. He grew up on a farm north of Thermopolis. After holding other key positions, Freudenthal was appointed United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming. He was elected the 31st governor of Wyoming on Nov. 7, 2002 – serving two terms.

To begin the centennial ceremony, Harley Rhodes will sing our National Anthem and State Rep. Nathan Winters will offer a prayer.

Preceding Freudenthal's address, brief talks will be given by commission chairman Brad Basse, Winters and Sen. Gerald

Geis. A letter of congratulations for the county's centennial from U.S. Sen. John Barrasso will be read by field representative Pam Buline. Notes from U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi and U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis will also be read.

To wrap up the ceremony, everyone will be entertained by an "Old West gunfight" provided by a local group, the Smoking Waters Outlaws – right there in Bicentennial Park, under the direction of Belinda Moore. That will be just a taste of what can be witnessed during an afternoon of entertainment at the state park pavilion.

Jacky Wright, another Centennial Celebration committee member, has a lineup of nonstop talent coming at spectators beginning at 1 p.m. at the pavilion. Winters will get it all started by singing the Wyoming state song.

One of the highlights is a 30-minute performance by the Centennial Singers, directed by Ellen Mortimore. Scheduled is music from Owl Creek, Hometown, Hub Whitt, Cody Burrows, John Brooks & Friends, Bluegrass Jammers, Wally Van Antwerp, the Christian School Quartet and Rashal Gerrells. Other acts on the slate: Bawani Dancers, Joy of Dance, Maddie Stam and Mike Berry teaching line dancing. Dick Hall will provide cowboy poetry and Barb Vietti will make a Gift of the Waters presentation.

After the entertainment and buffalo barbecue, folks are invited to take in Tough Enough To Wear Pink night at the PRCA Rodeo, starting at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds arena. The rodeo dance follows at 9:30 p.m. at the fair building.

Shake Shop inside Needful Things

by Cindy Glasson

When you have a craving for a good old-fashioned milkshake, there's no need to look any further than downtown Thermopolis at the newly opened Shake Shop on Broadway.

Deb Mount, owner of Needful Things, recently purchased the business and remodeled, adding an old-fashioned bar in the back as well as tables and chairs.

"All of our shakes are made from premium, old-fashioned hard ice cream," Mount said. "We have the traditional strawberry, chocolate and vanilla and about 10 other different flavors."

Some of those flavors include Chunky Monkey, Thin Mint, Dreamside and Butterfinger, all blended with 10 scoops of ice cream. "We barely put any milk in," she laughed. "Just enough to keep the blenders from burning up. They're so thick you can stand a spoon up in them."

Mount said if anyone remembers the shakes that used to be available in Shoshoni, these would be very similar.

"They're not only thick, we'll be adding fruits and puddings and things to enhance the flavors. They'll be unique with a distinct taste," she said.

Along with the shakes, Mount said they would have handmade Italian sodas, too. The Shake Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Just keep your eyes open in the evenings," she said. "As long as we have people still coming in we'll keep serving."

Public notices

Hot Springs County School District No. 1
Notice of Special Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Hot Springs County School District No. 1 will hold a special meeting in the Board Room, located at 415 Springview, Thermopolis, WY, at 5:30 p.m. on June 27, 2013. The purpose of the special meeting will be to approve budget amendments, staffing recommendations, award bid for TMS Paving/Playground project, and appoint board member.

/s/ Liz Mahoney
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Pub. June 20, 2013 No. 6920

NOTICE OF FINAL PAYMENT

The Chairman of the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District, acting as agent for the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District, has accepted all work as complete according to the Project Agreement set forth in the written Agreement between the **Len Cannella - Solar Well Project** and the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District dated the 8th day of March, 2013 for the Solar Well Project. **Len Cannella**, Contractor, is entitled to final payment therefore, and on the 1st day of August, 2013, the 41st day after the first publication of this notice final payment of the full amount due under the Agreement will be made. Nothing in this notice shall be construed as relieving the contractor and the Sureties on its bond from any claim or claims for the work or labor done or materials or supplies furnished in the execution of the Agreement. All persons having claims for labor and materials furnished the Contractor shall present a verified statement of the amount due and unpaid on account of the same to the District prior to the day specified for final payment. Failure on the part of the claimant to file such statement will relieve the District from any and all liability on such claims.

Owner: Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District

By: /s/_____
Dee Hillberry, Treasurer

Pub. June 20, July 4 and 11, 2013 No. 6923

DON'T FORGET!

Chamber Meet & Greet Thursday, June 20 • 5:30 PM

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital

Robin Roling will present an educational program on our strategic plan, challenges with our existing building and hospital district formation. Refreshments will be served.

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Contact T.J. Schoenewald at 864-3121 or tj.schoenewald@mail.hscmh.org for more information.

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