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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Rodeo/Centennial weekend wrap-up

by Joe Sovo

As the saying goes, "Everybody loves a parade." And Saturday's Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo/Centennial Celebration parade was certainly a crowd pleaser.

With the Cowboy Rendezvous and Centennial sharing the spotlight, there were 42 parade entries, according to Cowboy Rendezvous committee chairwoman Gayla Mead. The parade, which finished as Mother Nature provided a little rain, quickly drew the attention of spectators as 51 bucking horses from the Triple V Rodeo Co. led the way down Sixth Street and onto Broadway.

"This was one of the big-

gest parades I've seen in Hot Springs County for a long time," Mead said. "There were some of the most quality entries as well... We had quite a few last-minute entries."

Aside from a bit of a log-jam at the turn from Sixth to Broadway, the parade of horses went off without a hitch.

"Horses trail easier than cattle," Mead said, remembering two years ago when a herd of steers ran wild before being corralled.

There were awards given in six categories in the parade. Here are the category winners: Music, Centennial Singers; Pet, Legacy Livestock; Float,

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Emme Norsworthy, Bubba Bowman and Hunter Bartholomew lead the 4-H Float in the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous/Centennial Celebration Parade down Sixth Street Saturday.

The parade had 42 entries, and awards were given in six parade categories that included music, pet, float, automobile, walking and horse. — J.D. Stetson photo

HSC Commissioners release 2013-14 proposed budget

The Hot Springs County Commissioners have released their proposed budget for 2013-14 after meetings last week to hear requests from county and noncounty agencies.

Items in the proposed budget are not final and are still open to possible changes.

This year, the Chamber of Commerce requested \$9,825 to help with its expenses. The commissioners reduced that amount to \$5,000 in the proposed budget, the same dollar figure as was given to the chamber last year.

The Legion Town and Country Club

(golf course) requested \$11,500 from the commissioners this year, but have come away from the table for a second year with no additional funding being allotted.

The Hot Springs County Library received \$10,000 toward the Library Endowment Fund, the same financial obligation given to them last year by the commissioners. The Wyoming Library Association will match those funds through its Endowment Fund Challenge as it has for the past few years.

Another entity coming away with an amount equal to their 2012 request was

the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Although the museum asked for \$100,000 this year, the commissioners stuck with the \$90,000 they were given last year.

The Hot Springs County Recreation District did not request any funding last year; however, this year they asked for \$5,000, an amount the commissioners agreed to give them.

The Senior Citizen Center will also be receiving \$10,000 more than they were given last year from the commissioners, asking for \$75,000.

The commissioners also granted

\$10,000 more to the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Economic Development Company. Last year, they received \$15,000. This time around they requested \$35,000, but were eventually awarded \$25,000.

Some of the regular county entities received small increases in their funding, like the landfill, which received \$2,630 more than last budget year. The commissioners' budget went up \$810 and the sheriff's office rose by \$14,340.

One large increase among the county entities was for road and bridge, which walked away from the table

with \$24,750 more than they received last year.

The one line item in the budget that saw the largest increase over last year was the rolling stock line, the budget for county vehicles. Rolling stock rose by \$180,000, up to \$235,000.

The large increase is attributed to a final payment on the plow truck for the airport at \$35,000, a new pickup truck for the road and bridge department for \$30,000 and \$170,000 for a plow truck for road and bridge.

A final budget must be completed by July 15.

Town of Thermopolis finalizes new fiscal year budget

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis Town Council finalized the town's budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year at its meeting June 18.

There was no discussion during a public hearing that took place before the vote on the final draft. The council passed the draft and then immediately

passed a resolution approving the final budget amounts.

For revenues, the resolution calls for about \$3.8 million for the general fund, \$2.9 million for the enterprise fund, \$3.2 million for the enterprise fund depreciation reserve, \$653,200 for the insurance trust fund, \$10,450 for the special assessment fund,

\$5,200 for the Nicholson Trust Fund and \$600 for the revolving loan fund.

For expenses, the general fund balances at \$3.8 million, the enterprise depreciation is \$2.7 million, the enterprise fund capital outlay is \$2.8 million and the remaining funds balance with revenues.

Counseling contract

The council tabled action to renew a \$3,000 contract with Hot Springs County Counseling Center in order to re-evaluate the contract.

Councilman Mike Mortimore questioned the need for the contract, which was enacted in 2012 to provide consultation

services to the Thermopolis Police Department when dealing with prisoners or others in need of counseling as well as provide services to town employees at a cost borne by the employees' insurance and fee schedule.

Mortimore questioned Police Chief Mike Chimenti on whether the services provided under

the contract were being used. Chimenti answered the police department has not used the services under the contract and have instead utilized services under Title 25 laws.

Mortimore motioned to table the contract renewal and the council voted in favor of doing so.

Pack Horse Race



Dan Webber rounds a corner in the obstacle course during the Pack Horse Race last Thursday, June 20, at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds. Webber and his partner Travis Bomengen competed with seven other teams in the race. Gary Bauer and Brett McKinley took first place. — J.D. Stetson photo

Relay for Life featured Friday in HS State Park

Hot Springs State Park will be buzzing with activity Friday night as the 14th Annual Relay for Life kicks off its overnight event at 6 p.m.

A survivors' dinner will be served at 6 p.m. at the pavilion for those who have beat cancer, their caregivers and loved ones, followed by opening ceremonies at 6:30 p.m.

Survivors will take the first lap of the evening at 7 p.m.

A silent auction will be held throughout the evening, ending at 9 p.m. The various teams gathered items for the auction, so there is bound to be something for everyone to place bids on. The items are on display at different local businesses.

Once dark settles in, about 9:30 p.m., the lu-

minaria ceremony will begin, featuring glowing luminaries along the Relay's walking path in memory of those who have lost their battle with cancer.

Luminaries are available for purchase by contacting Shurie Scheel at 307-460-0392 or Kim Enis at 864-5278. Cost will be \$5 each or three for \$10. They will also be available the night of the event.

A big hit at last year's Relay was the water park for kids which is returning this year from 5 to 8 p.m.

To date, the Thermopolis Relay for Life has raised \$35,000. Everyone is invited to come to the park for any of the activities.

Pheasants Forever to host banquet fundraiser Saturday

The Wedding of the Waters chapter of Pheasants Forever has much in store for its first annual banquet Saturday in its work to enhance the sport and keep youth involved in pheasant hunting.

The banquet starts at 5 p.m. Saturday at Days Inn. It features games, raffles, drawings, a live auction and a silent auction.

Chapter President Gene Boehmke said the chapter is completely about getting kids involved and teaching safety. The proceeds of the banquet will be used to support Hot Springs County youth programs including youth hunts that will be organized in the fall.

The organization will even provide the guns and ammunition for the youth hunts and more details will become available as hunting season

approaches.

Boehmke said the purpose of the organization — statewide and nationally — has been to improve pheasant habitat, but in Hot Springs County it will primarily support and educate children.

Another purpose of the banquet will be to get more people from the county involved with the organization. The auctions' raffles and games will feature "tons" of donations and merchandise, and Boehmke thanked numerous businesses for their support.

Tickets to the banquet are available at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, White Horse Country Store, Canyon Sporting Goods, from Wedding of the Waters chapter members and at the door.

Wrap-up

Smoking Water Outlaws; Automobile, Sen. John Barrasso and his wife Bobbi (driven by Dan Wychgram); Walking, Joy of Dance Dancers; and Horse, Pack Horse Racers.

Tim Fuller, the PRCA Rodeo announcer for the performances, donated his time as the parade announcer.

Two Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo PRCA Rodeo performances were held in addition to Saturday slack (see page 6 for rodeo results).

"I'm extremely pleased with how the rodeo went. We had a sellout crowd Saturday night," Mead said. "We have a really super crew. They all work really hard to fill their spots... We get a lot of excellent volunteers."

Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous activities began with a new event, the Pack Horse Race, on Thursday evening at the fairgrounds arena.

There were eight teams in competition. Gary Bauer and Brett McKinley teamed for first place. Bauer and Tim Izell were second, and Clay and Jeffery Van Antwerp placed third. John Zupan bought what proved to be the winning team in the pre-event Calcutta. Lisa Bomengen had the second-place team.

"It was a great, great success and we look forward to doing it again next year," said Dave Denton, coordinator of the Pack Horse Race.

Tumbleweed Propane employees and volunteers served pancakes and sausage nonstop from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday at the

fair building, free of charge. After the rodeo, a dance was held at the fair building. Cowboy church capped the rendezvous Sunday morning.

Support for PRCA Rodeo

Financially, the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo went well.

"I'm really excited," Mead said. "We had excellent support from community businesses. That's the key to having a good rodeo."

"A lot of cowboys and stock contractors said that this is an outstanding rodeo, and that the volunteers are friendly and helpful."

American Cowboy magazine has declared the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo as one of the top 72 rodeos to see this summer.

"We're trying to restore this rodeo to its former position of

being one of the top rodeos in the country," Mead said, indicating the rodeo had been in the top 10 in the country years ago.

Mead said the rodeo committee was striving to win the Best Small Town Outdoor Rodeo of the Year award, presented by PRCA. She said the award is based on voting by the rodeo cowboys themselves. Nominations are made by the cowboys, stock contractors and specialty acts at rodeos. The Thermopolis rodeo made the award ballot last year.

Two of the highlights this year were attendance by Justin Rumford, the 2012 PRCA Barrel Man of the Year and trick rider Sally Bishop of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Mead said Bishop has been a "stunt double" for actress Julia Roberts. She'll perform as a specialty act at the Cody Stampede July 1-4.



Buck Clouse spasms as Marcus Lee checks to see if he's "dead" during a skit performed by the Smoking Water Outlaws Saturday during Centennial Celebration entertainment in Hot Springs State Park. — J.D. Stetson photo

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Hot Springs County SENIOR CENTER LUNCH MENU

July 1-5

MONDAY

Hamburger Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Tomatoes & Zucchini, Peaches, Cookies

TUESDAY

Lemon Baked Fish, Steamed White Rice, Peas & Carrots, Cole-slaw, Bran Muffin, Fresh Fruit

WEDNESDAY

Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Pacific Blend Vegetables, Beet & Onion Salad, Frosted White Cake

THURSDAY

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Happy 4th of July

FRIDAY

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Quips & Health
By Tony Deromedi



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Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY THURSDAY JULY 4th 2013

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