

Thermopolis junior  
rodeo Saturday  
and Sunday **6**

Vietti, Moody cycle  
330 miles in Tour  
de Wyoming **11**

Centennial review:  
2006 to  
2010 **12-13**

HSC Commissioners  
OK budget for  
new fiscal year **18**

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 114, No. 30, July 25, 2013

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## County fire training facility land-use change fails vote

by J.D. Stetson

Plans to build a fire training facility on Lane 7 have been placed on hold after the Hot Springs County Commissioners determined a proposed land-use change did not fit criteria set forth in the county's comprehensive land use plan.

The commissioners made the determination after a public hearing July 16 during the commission's regular meeting.

The Hot Springs County Rural Fire District requested to reclassify 12 acres of land from residential to institutional. The land is located a half mile southwest of Thermopolis on the east side of Lane 7, and approximately 600 feet south of the intersection of Lane 3 and Lane 7.

The proposed change would have allowed the district and the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department to construct a fire training facility, which would entail the construction of a 2,125-square-foot "burn building" in the center of the property.

County Planner Bo Bowman presented commissioners with a full report detailing the progression of the proposed facility through the change process with the Land Use Planning Board.

He presented commissioners a recommendation for approval submitted by the Land Use Planning Board and several conditions for approval.

After Bowman's presentation, the commissioners opened the public hearing to comments from numerous landowners near the property expressing disapproval of the project and the land-use change.

### Public comments

Several landowners expressed concern about potential groundwater and air pollution as a result of training activities.

Many were concerned about potential chemicals and increased water runoff from training activities that may affect crops or gardens at lower elevations around the property.

Others expressed concern about smoke from the burn building affecting air quality around their property.

The commissioners also heard concerns about soil erosion and concerns toward building structures on the property because of the soils.

Other comments pertained to the need for a facility at this time,

fiscal responsibility and issues pertaining to property values, weather detriments and other unforeseen developments made possible by the land-use change.

### Fire department response

Fire Chief Dale Andreen and firefighter Mark Collins, who previously served as chief for 20 years, addressed the concerns brought up during the public hearing.

Andreen addressed the concerns pertaining to water contamination and air quality by explaining the department's use of chemicals that are certified safe for the environment. Andreen also explained the department will also have to comply with permitting and oversight from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Collins explained the new structure would be state-of-the-art in its ability to give firefighters control of the training situations and the release of smoke. The department explained it only planned to burn wood or propane to simulate fire situations.

As far as the soils concerns, Bowman and the department explained the foundation of the building would require a specific type of concrete in order to address concerns.

Other activities that may occur at the site include extrication training or wildland fire training, Andreen said.

"It will give us a better chance to prepare for dangers when called to a structure fire," Andreen said.

The department also indicated current limitations in training opportunities at other facilities in the state because of the volunteer nature of the department.

"Training is the absolute best way to be prepared," Andreen said, adding that half of the volunteer firefighters currently with the department only have two years of experience and there have not been many structure fires during that time.

### Checklist

After asking several questions pertaining to smoke, location and cleanup, the commissioners proceeded to assess the land-use change with each filling out a required relative policies checklist.

*See Fire on page 10*

### Reunion picnic



Hot Springs County High School reunion attendees admire class photos taken by Jeb Schenk at a booth during the All-Class Picnic Sunday. Reunion attendees were treated

to food and photos Sunday as well as music and entertainment Saturday night at the VFW. For the various class photos see page 7.  
— J.D. Stetson photo

## Farmers' Market opens Saturday

The first Farmers' Market of the summer will be featured Saturday in downtown Thermopolis. The market location is on Fifth Street between Broadway and Warren streets, adjacent to Bicentennial Park. Hours are 8 to 10 a.m.

This is the first of eight scheduled markets, each at the same time on Saturdays, running through Sept. 14. According to organizer Sonja Becker, the Farmers' Market could be extended a week or two – and possibly into early October.

With just the two-hour window for the market – featured before the day heats up – it's advised to attend the Farmers' Market early for the best selection of products and craft items. However, shoppers are asked to not expect service before 8 a.m. – to allow vendors to set up their booths.

The vendor cost is \$5 per booth. Vendors can pay a one-time \$25 fee for the eight-week

season. Preregistration is not necessary as vendors can pay their fee when they set up Saturday morning.

The local Farmers' Market series is sponsored by the Red Dirt Master Gardeners, with support from the Wyoming Farmers Marketing Association and its "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" slogan. The Master Gardeners are associated with the University of Wyoming Extension Service.

According to Becker, the first market of the season will feature locally grown vegetables, such as tomatoes, beets, carrots, chard and others. "Tomatoes are always a big hit," she said.

Becker said jams, jellies and baked goods would be available for purchase, along with local homemade crafts. Grass-fed meats, including beef and lamb, will also be on sale.

With the growing season a little later here than in other locations, the Farmers'

Market series begins in late July.

"I'm better off than I was last year," said Becker, who owns and operates Becker Family Stock Farm, of the growing season. "People are now starting to plant extra (crops) to bring (to the market)."

New this year – the Master Gardeners will be offering potted plants for sale.

Participating Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions about their produce and problems they might encounter.

Becker said live acoustic music would be featured during the Farmers' Market each Saturday during the season.

"This is a place and time to come see your neighbors, and hang out for awhile," she said.

Anyone who would like booth space for the Farmers' Market is urged to contact Becker at 921-8456, or pick up a registration form at the Hot Springs County Extension Service office at 328 Arapahoe St.

## School trustees approve \$14.95 million budget

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 board trustees approved a \$14,949,233 budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year during the July 17 regular meeting.

After discussion of the proposed budget, led by district business manager Colleen Anderson, a public hearing was held. There was no public comment and the board endorsed the new budget by a unanimous vote. Casting

aye votes were board chair Liz Mahoney, Clay Van Antwerp, Hub Whitt, Dr. Travis Bomen-gen, Melissa Johnson and Dan Pebbles. Trustee Tom Sullivan was absent.

This is the first time in four years that the district budget has increased. The new budget is \$14,949,233 compared to a projected budget of \$14,591,485 in 2012-13, an increase of \$357,748.

With all anticipated reve-

nue and expenses considered, the new budget includes a base increase of \$1,000 for district teachers through the "steps and lanes" process, beginning with their new contract that begins Sept. 1, according to Anderson. Classified staff will receive an increase of 20 cents per hour in their base pay and as much as 40 cents per hour, based on their position on the earnings chart. Administrators will also

get base increases.

"I commend our board. They're conservative," Anderson said after the meeting. "They've supported the staff with our salaries."

Aside from the district's Special Revenue Fund, the new budget – by specific fund – is very similar to the 2012-13 budget. The Special Revenue Fund is up

*See School on page 10*

## Style Review today; fair runs through Aug. 2



Lane McMartin presents his horse, Joker, to judge Steph Schroeder during the Pee wee 4-H Horse Showmanship competition Saturday.

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Fair officially kicks off on Tuesday, running through Friday, Aug. 2, but some of the "Sow It - Grow It - Show It" fair-related events are starting now.

4-H members who are into sewing will have the annual clothing judging and Style Review beginning at 3 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

The Thermopolis WJRA (Wyoming Junior Rodeo Association) Rodeo is featured Saturday, July 27 at the fairgrounds and a second run of rodeo events on Sunday, July 28. Events begin at 10 a.m. both days.

Exhibits will open at the fair building at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30. The public is welcome to visit the exhibits until 8 p.m. Exhibits will continue to be open the remainder of the week from 10 a.m.

Other events scheduled for

Tuesday include the Dog Show at 6 p.m. and Ag Olympics at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the FFA Alumni, the Ag Olympics will feature teams participating in tractor pulling, straw stacking, wheelbarrow pole bending and round bale push. Anyone interested in having a five-person team in the contest needs to sign up with FFA advisor Britton Van Heule by 7 p.m. Tuesday.

### Flurry of activities on Wednesday

Wednesday brings a full slate of events starting at 8 a.m. with the Goat Show, followed by the Cat Show at 9 a.m., Rabbit Show at 10:30 a.m. and the Poultry Show at noon.

There's a little break before things start up again at 3 p.m. with the Sheep Show, followed by the Over the Hill Showmanship.

Another FFA Alumni-sponsored event, the Over the Hill Showmanship will test your live-

stock showmanship skills. Anyone may participate or nominate someone to show for \$5. If your nominee doesn't wish to participate, they must pay \$10 to get out of it. All proceeds will go to the FFA Alumni Association for scholarships.

A kiddies' Pet Parade, Pocket Pets on the Patio will start at 6:30 p.m. There will be children and adult divisions, and everyone is encouraged to dress up with their favorite dog, cat, chicken or other animal. The theme will be "Sow It - Grow It - Show It."

A new addition, the Smoking Water Outlaws, will perform right after the Pet Parade with the ever-popular Family Fun Nite following at 7 p.m.

There will be face painting, carnival games, blow-up bouncers, a dunk tank and more at Family Fun Nite, ensuring there is something for everyone to enjoy.

*See Fair on page 10*



# Fire

Chairman Brad Basse explained to the people in attendance that the commission must follow its land-use plan policies and that because the plan is not a detailed document, there are not many rules.

Basse explained that people choose to live in the county because of the freedom to do more on their property, and told the people in attendance that neighbors also have the same freedom as they do.

Each commissioner completes a checklist, and if their scores are either zero or positive, the land-

use plan is approved. If the score is negative, the land-use change is not approved.

After completing his checklist, Commissioner Mike Baker indicated that he came up with a score that was minus one because of issues pertaining to air quality and soils, adding that he could not support the change.

Commissioner John Lumley concurred on the issues of air quality and soils, adding that he also had a negative score.

Basse said he also marked a negative based on possible nuisance from smoke, but he also

said he marked positive on increased fire protection.

The commissioners then proceeded to vote on the land-use change, which failed.

Bowman asked the commissioners if they had any recommendations for the district to improve their proposal should the district decide to start the process over again.

The commissioners indicated their checklists were part of the public record and recommended the district further address the issues resulting in negative scores.

from page 1

# School

about \$460,000 and Anderson explained the significant difference.

“We’ve had rollover, the capacity to spend this many more dollars,” she said. “It’s available for expenditures. Different things can flow in there.”

Anderson said there are additional funds through a federal grant for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. The district is coming off what is

called five-year “Cohort 5” funding in the amount of \$100,300 (for 2012-13). The amount of Cohort 6 money is \$142,500. Cohort 8 funding is on tap, amounting to \$148,750. Curriculum Director Janet Philp presented those figures during the July 17 meeting.

**Drop in district ADM**

Each school district in the state receives a block grant with the amount based in average

daily membership (ADM). The forecast for the ADM is 651.721 compared to 664.377 in 2012-13. That 13-student drop in membership means the district would receive about \$218,000 less for its General Fund than last school year.

A 1.68 percent increase in what goes into the Wyoming retirement system has been passed on to district employees, according to Anderson, so the salary increase with help compensate for that.

from page 1

## CWC BOCHES mill levy unchanged

Trustees of Hot Springs County School District No. 1 finalized the mill levies for the 2013-14 fiscal year during a special meeting Tuesday.

The issue at hand was whether to increase the Central Wyoming College Board of Cooperative Higher Educational Services (BOCHES) from .25 mills to .45 mills or to leave it unchanged. By vote of the board, CWC BOCHES will remain at .25 mills for 2013-14.

During the July 17 regular board meeting, trustees approved the increase of .20 mills – on the condition the issue would be revisited at a special meeting – after the funding status was determined. The vote came after extensive discussion, led by Dr. Travis Bomengen, who represents the Thermopolis district on the CWC BOCHES board.

“I don’t think we’re going to need it,” Bomengen said of increasing the mill levy at the July 17 meeting. He indicated there was a CWC BOCHES surplus of \$18,696 that carries over from the 2012-13 school year. That funding

allows high school students in the district to take dual-credit classes through Central Wyoming College.

“Our students use that CWC BOCHES to get their electives,” business manager Colleen Anderson said after the July 17 meeting.

Board chairwoman Liz Mahoney and other trustees indicated they wanted to get information from CWC BOCHES Director Jackie Meeker before the mill levy was finalized.

The other mill levies for the school district remain the same for 2013-14 and the budget considerations are based on an estimated assessed Hot Springs County valuation of \$228,461,507 – nearly \$20 million lower than 2012-13. Those other mill levies: Special District Tax, 25.00; County School Tax, 6.00; Debt Service, none; Northwest Board of Cooperative Educational Services (NWBOCES), .500; Fremont Board of Cooperative Educational Services (FremontBOCES), .500; and Recreation Board, 1.00. The total levy remains at 33.250 mills.

## Reunion fun



Above, TJ Owsley and Tayler Slagle dance during the All-Class Dance at the VFW Saturday night.



Left, Mary King and Delores Loughlin pose for a photo during the All-Class Picnic Sunday. Loughlin has 42 years experience organizing the annual reunion weekend and King has 35 years of experience. Both expressed willingness to still help others in organizing reunions into the future.

## Fair

from page 1

**Lots of Thursday events**

Another packed day of activities for all on Thursday includes the Swine Show beginning at 8 a.m. in the arena with the Over the Hill Showmanship to follow.

There is a Chili Cook-off slated for 5 p.m. Thursday in the multi-purpose building. Bring your best chili recipe or just come down and vote for your favorite.

The Beef Show will begin at 6 p.m. with Over the Hill Showmanship to follow.

**Bake Sale, Junior Livestock Auction**

The final day of the fair will

be on Friday, Aug. 2, starting with round robins in the multi-purpose building at 10 a.m.

The Parade of Champions will feature all fair participants riding fire trucks through downtown Thermopolis at 1 p.m. Friday afternoon.

Friday night is also the Judges’ Choice Bake Sale and Junior Livestock Auction. The presale buyers’ dinner will start serving at 6 p.m. with the sale to follow at 7 p.m.

### Have fun at the Fair!



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## Best of Luck at the Fair!

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### Hot Springs County Recreation District

# YOUTH FOOTBALL



**Registration Dates**  
**July 22 - August 9**  
(NO Registrations will be accepted after August 16)  
\*\*Registrations received August 12 - 16 will be assessed a late fee\*\*

**Ages 3rd - 6th Grade**  
(2013 - 14 School Year)

**Fee is \$30 + \$50 Equipment Deposit**  
(Equipment deposit will be returned at the end of the season when equipment is checked in and is not damaged)

**Season Dates:**  
**mid-August through mid-October**


Practices will start the week of August 20.

Players must submit a complete physical form before being issued equipment and being allowed to participate in practices or games.  
Attendance at the mandatory Parent Meeting is required before players will be placed on a team.

**Mandatory Parent Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 13, 7 PM at the Armory Building

Register at the Recreation Office (Armory Building) or online at [www.hsrecreation.com](http://www.hsrecreation.com)


# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Thur., July 25	Toastmasters meeting, museum, noon Food & Clothing Giveaway, Risen Son Baptist Church, 1-3 HSC Fair 4-H Style Review, museum, 3:30 p.m. HS Conservation District meeting, Weed & Pest, 6 p.m. Power in The Constitution, Big Horn Federal, 7 p.m. Summer Reading Program, county library, 10:30-noon Open gym, armory, 7-9 p.m.
Fri., July 26	Farmers' Market, 5th & Broadway, 8-10 a.m. WJRA Youth Rodeo, fairgrounds, 10 a.m. Adult Scrabble, county library, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Open gym, armory, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Craig Johnson book signing, Storyteller, noon Buckner spaghetti dinner & auction fundraiser, VFW, 6 p.m.
Sat., July 27	WJRA Youth Rodeo, fairgrounds, 10 a.m. Dog Show, fairgrounds, 6 p.m. HSCMH Board meeting, conference room, 6:30 p.m. Ag Olympics, fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m. Goat Show, fairgrounds, 8 a.m. Cat Show, fairgrounds, 9 a.m. Shoshone National Forest meeting, Big Horn Federal, 9-4 Rabbit Show, fairgrounds, 10:30 a.m. Poultry Show, fairgrounds, noon Sheep Show, fairgrounds, 3 p.m. Over the Hill Showmanship, fairgrounds, after Sheep Show Pet Parade, fairgrounds, 6:30 p.m. Family Fun Night, fairgrounds, 7 p.m. Smoking Water Outlaws Shootout, fairgrounds, 7 p.m. Open gym, armory, 7-9 p.m.
Sun., July 28	Swine Show, fairgrounds, 8 a.m.
Tues., July 30	Over the Hill Showmanship, fairgrounds, after Swine Show Toastmasters meeting, museum, noon Chili Cook-off, multi-purpose building, fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m. Beef Show, fairgrounds, 6 p.m. Over the Hill Showmanship, fairgrounds, after Beef Show Thermopolis Gun Club meeting, armory, 7 p.m.
Wed., July 31	
Thur., Aug. 1	

**Call 864-2328 to have your community event listed.**

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