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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Gift of the Waters Pageant, related events this weekend

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs State Park will be the site of the 63rd annual Gift of the Waters Historic Indian Pageant this weekend. The pageant is set for 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Big Spring on the north side of the park.

Events during pageant weekend include plays both evenings along with a Saturday parade, Indian dancing, Thermopolis Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair and buffalo burger and bratwurst sale, 5K/10K run/walk, fire department open house and Cowboy Church.

"Happy 100th Birthday, Hot Springs County" is the theme of this year's Gift of the Waters parade, which is in the spotlight at 10 a.m. Saturday. The theme ties in with Hot Springs County's Centennial celebration. Hot Springs officially became a county in 1913.

The pageant parade, sponsored by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, begins at 10 a.m. At stake is \$50 in Chamber Bucks for first place in four presentation categories – Business, Automobile/Float, Horse/Pets and Kids. All entries will be judged on theme, appearance and originality. An award of \$100 in Chamber Bucks goes to Best of Parade. Contact the chamber for entry information; entries are due by 3 p.m. Friday.

Indian dancing at the flagpole in downtown Thermopolis follows the parade as well as an open house hosted by the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department at the 14th Street facility.

According to Gift of the Waters Historic Indian Pageant Committee treasurer Barb Vietti, the starting time for the pageant play remains at 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The multiscene pageant play features verse and music showing how Chief Washakie deeded the waters to his white brothers.

Elder Shoshone Chief Starr Weed, who will celebrate his 93rd birthday during the pageant weekend, is expected to participate in the pageant play.

Script for pageant play

Marie Montabé is depicted in history as the author of the play script for the first pageant, held in 1925. The first pageant was held in October. After a 25-year hiatus, the pageant resumed in 1950 and has been held the first weekend of August each year.

The Gift of the Waters spotlight event commemorates the 1896 deeding of a 10-mile square of Indian land by Shoshone Chief Washakie, spokesman for the Shoshone and Arapahoe Indians, to the U.S. government. In the agreement, a one-

mile tract of land embracing the hot springs was given to the State of Wyoming, and it was made into what is now Hot Springs State Park.

The pageant is currently held near the 2-year-old Smoking Water shelter. Big Spring has been known by Indian performers as Bah-gue-wana, or Smoking Water.

Cindy Glasson will be the pageant play narrator this year. She is being coached by the play's original narrator, Clark Mortimore. In his first year, Mortimore's coach was Montabé.

Weekend events in state park

Pageant weekend events begin with the Pageant Days 5K Run/Walk and 10K Run at 7:30 a.m. Saturday (see story on page 6 for more information).

The Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Fair in the state park near the pavilion runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The fair will include arts, crafts and food vendors.

The Kiwanis burger and brat sale is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter.

A women's chorus, organized and directed by Gift of the Waters committee secretary JoAnn Myers, will sing during the pageant play Saturday and Sunday evenings. Scheduled choir members are committee chairwoman Shasta Shafer, Carrie Galovich, Melene Mierzereski, Barb Vietti, Tori Anderson, Karen Hitchens, Amber Galovich, Nancy Darland, KinDale Andreen, Jacky Wright, Shelley Butler and Laura Vietti.

A Cowboy Church is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Sunday at the state park with Pastor Chuck Cooper officiating.

Leading up to the Pageant Days weekend, the committee is raffling a handmade quilt that is being donated by Myers. It is on display at Flying Eagle Gallery and tickets will be sold until the drawing at the conclusion of the pageant Sunday at Big Spring. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. They are available at Flying Eagle Gallery or from Gift of the Waters committee members.

In addition to Shaffer, Vietti and Myers, the other committee members are Darland, Hitchens, Anderson, Marilyn Strausborger, Donna Lossner, Nancy Madrigal, Glasson, Kevin Skates, Vivian Swallow, and Starr and Elaine Weed.

"We have such a good group of people," Barb Vietti said.

The Gift of the Waters Committee is a nonprofit entity and donations are welcome and appreciated. Send donations to Gift of the Waters Committee, P.O. Box 936, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

For a full schedule of events see page 9 of this issue of the Independent Record.



Barb Vietti

Buckner benefit



Community support for a benefit spaghetti dinner and auction to benefit Rob Buckner during his battle with lung disease Saturday evening at the Thermopolis VFW was overwhelming. The benefit raised \$15,732 via the dinner, live and silent auctions and donations. Above, Layne Myers shows a beautiful painting during the live auction. A pair of chaps donated by Merlin's Hide Out and an anonymous party sold for \$2,500 to Luke Mead. In turn, Mead gave the chaps directly to Buckner. — Joe Sovo photo

Scenic Byway enhancement Comments sought on management plan

by J.D. Stetson

Plans are moving forward with the creation of a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) to be used as a guideline in enhancing a scenic byway corridor that contains Thermopolis, Shoshoni and the Wind River Canyon. Organizers of the CMP met with stakeholders and citizens at two public meetings Thursday, July 25, in Riverton and Shoshoni while members of an advisory committee created to help guide the CMP met Friday.

The goal of the two public meetings was to gather public input on items and issues that should be addressed along the corridor as well as create a priority list of items that need to be emphasized.

According to documentation provided at the meetings, the CMP is a vision of the byway and surrounding area. The southern end of the 34-mile corridor

begins near a park on Second Street at the eastern edge of Shoshoni. The corridor follows Highway 20 through the canyon and Thermopolis, and ends near the Hot Springs State Park turnout on Hospital Hill.

The document includes an inventory of characteristics, features, resources along the corridor and documentation of special qualities. The CMP is being funded through an 80 percent grant from the Federal Highway Administration and 20 percent by the Northern Arapahoe and Eastern Shoshone tribes.

Priorities

Participants at the meetings were asked to rate the importance of goals and issues pertaining to the byway. The various ideas ranged from public safety to increased tourism to funding of enhancements.

The input from the meetings was provided to the advisory committee to set priorities for the CMP.

Toddi Darlington, a member of the advisory committee, said the committee decided on three main priorities during the Friday meeting.

The first priority will focus on safety in the canyon by improving communication along the corridor and addressing rocks falling in the canyon.

The second priority is preservation, which will include graffiti cleanup, keeping the aesthetics of the canyon and history of the byway.

The third priority is funding for improvements.

Local impacts

As part of the byway, some of the key issues that pertain

See Byway page 14

Three hurt in oil field flash fire

Three people were injured Tuesday at about 9:30 a.m. in the Murphy Dome Oil field as a result of a flash fire, according to emergency services radio traffic.

Fire Chief Dale Andreen said the department responded to the scene, which is located along Kirby Creek Road and accessed through Black Mountain Road, with two structure engines and

a water tanker.

The department arrived to find smoke emanating from a tank and small shed, and proceeded to extinguish the remaining fire and cool the tank off. The flash did not result in any grass catching fire around the scene.

Andreen said the cause of the fire is still under investigation and could not release any details

learned thus far.

Sheriff Lou Falgoust said he assisted in escorting a family member into town from Owl Creek, but that was the extent of the Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office's involvement.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has jurisdiction in investigating industrial accidents.



Maddie Stam shows judge Ashle McLean a 4-H clothing/textile project during a judging July 25 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. — Cindy Glasson photo

Byway

from page 1

specifically to Thermopolis included possible funding for visitor centers/kiosks in the two bookend towns.

There was discussion about a large visitor center and possible locations.

Some of the participants expressed interest in placing the center on the former Baird property south of Thermopolis; however, Howard Brown, planning assistant to the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes Division of Transportation, said the property cannot be considered for a visitor center because it is owned by one tribe and not both. He said any possible center would have to be located on joint tribal lands.

Another aspect discussed included existing and new development along the corridor and ways to accommodate development in order to preserve intrinsic qualities of the byway. All of the par-

ticipants during the Shoshoni meeting indicated the issue was not important at this time.

Other local impacts included issues pertaining to improved ways to provide information to visitors and locals, improved accessibility opportunities such as hiking and ADA compliant locations, and improved safety and preservation.

Public comment

The Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation has posted a draft copy of the CMP so far on its website www.hsglf.org.

Darlington said the public has a chance to submit written comments on the CMP until Sept. 30 and the document is tentatively scheduled to be completed by December.

Comments can be submitted to Project Manager Susan Springer of Intrinsic Consulting at susan@intrinsicinfo.com.



A group of citizens discuss issues and goals for enhancement of the Scenic Byway between Thermopolis and Shoshoni during a meeting Thursday, July 25 in Shoshoni. — J.D. Stetson photo



Summer Recreation Calendar

August 2, 5, 7
Watercize, Star Plunge, 9 a.m.



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Quips & Health
By Carol Bivens



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August 2-9

MONDAY
Fish & Chips, Green Beans, Carrot Raisin Salad, Almond Poppy Seed Muffins, Strawberries w/Bananas

TUESDAY
Tater Tot Casserole, Tossed Green Salad, Baked Acorn Squash, Wheat Bread, Fruited Jell-O

WEDNESDAY
Chicken Pot Pie w/Potatoes/Peas/ Carrots & Biscuit Topping, Mixed Vegetable Salad, Apricots, Cookies


THURSDAY
French Dip w/Au Jus, Parslied Potatoes, Broccoli Craisin Salad, Fresh Fruit

FRIDAY
Roast Pork w/Gravy, Mashed Sweet Potatoes,Marinated Cucumber Salad, Oregon Beans (Variety Of Beans), Onion Cheese Roll, Apple Pie

Menu subject to change without notice.

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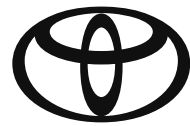
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