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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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FFA members listen closely to their judge during the Sheep Show at the Hot Springs County Fair. Shown, left to right, are Liz Rhodes, Cameron Igou, Harley Rhodes, Chandra Maddock and Choc Maddock. —Cindy Glasson photo

Jr. Livestock Auction nets nearly \$136,000

by J.D. Stetson

After all was said and done during the 2013 Hot Springs County Junior Livestock Auction in the Multi-Purpose Building at the fairgrounds, animals were sold, donations and additional money was given and the total amount tallied was \$135,935.25.

The total dollar amount was about \$35,800 more than the total amount made during the auction last year, which was \$100,052. Auctioneer Vern Lofink said late in the auction that this could be the highest per pound average sale in history.

Sixty-six fair participants sold animals and baked goods during the auction with \$3,970 made for charitable causes.

A lamb donated by Harley Rhodes garnered \$1,380 from Red Rock Family Practice at \$10 per pound, with an additional \$250 from ConocoPhillips, \$150 from John and Virginia Baird, and \$100 each from Bank of Thermopolis and Independent Record. All the proceeds of the sale go toward aiding Scott Harvey, Bryce Harvey and Brody Gillespie, who were burned during an oil field fire July 30.

DNG Pigs also donated a market swine to be sold with proceeds to benefit Doug Nichols, who suffered a severe back injury in a fall from a scaffold. The pig sold for \$5.50 a pound for \$940.50 to Central Bank & Trust.

ConocoPhillips also donated back a lamb bought from Cade McLean. The lamb originally sold for \$728 and was rebought for \$1,050 by Jim Wilson of V Ranch with the proceeds of the V Ranch purchase being split 50 percent each between 4-H and FFA chapters.

Another notable highlight was the donation by Big Horn Co-op of \$15 to each animal sold

in the auction. The total of the donation would be \$990 – based on the number of participants.

Jason Bowman was the recipient of the Joey Mahoney Memorial Scholarship, a \$700 award given to a first-year participant.

The following results were provided by the Hot Springs County Fair, and unless specified, the interpretation of the results does not include add-ons or donations but only the sale price of the animal and main buyer(s).

Beef

Buyers had 15 opportunities to buy beef at the auction, with the highest-selling beef being Strite Daniels' Grand Champion, which sold for \$7,350 at \$5.25 a pound to Red Rock Family Practice.

The Reserve Champion, raised by Melissa Ward, sold for \$6,350 at \$5 a pound to Drs. Schmidt and Lee.

The highest per pound beef sold was Jessie Pennoyer's steer at \$5.50 a pound for \$6,803.50 to Owl Creek Ranch.

Overall, the beef sale accounted for \$77,580 in total, including add-ons and donations.

Market lambs

Not including any of the donated sheep for charity, the auction had 19 participants with the highest regular selling sheep owned by Emme Norsworthy, which sold for \$1,200 at \$7.50 a pound to Lofink Farms and Plowboy Auto Sales.

The Grand Champion sheep raised by Rhodes sold for \$7 a pound for \$1,008 to Wind River Processing.

The Reserve Champion sheep shown by Choc

See Auction on page 14

'Healthy-opolis' program coming to Thermop

Obesity in county to be the focus

by J.D. Stetson

A community-wide health needs assessment addressing the issue of obesity will begin to kick into gear in the coming months.

Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Marketing Manager T.J. Schoenewald

reported to the board of trustees July 30 that the core group, which is comprised of several health-oriented agencies and organizations in the county, has chosen to target obesity in the community through a program entitled "Healthy-opolis."

The name of the program is reminiscent of the established marketing campaign being run by the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board, but the program is not affiliated with any of the board's "opolis" marketing.

Some of the entities involved in the

assessment include Hot Springs County Counseling Center, Hot Springs County Prevention Coalition, Hot Springs County Public Health and others.

The program, which is spurred by a federally required community needs assessment, uses evidence-based practices to promote healthy changes in a community.

According to state accumulated statistics, 25.7 percent of the people in Hot Springs County are obese, Schoenewald said.

The program promotes awareness and

prevention with the goal of reducing the percentage. It will involve exercise, diet and monitoring of about 20-40 people as well as a control group in which the participants are monitored but will not require any lifestyle changes.

The program is scheduled to start in September and more details about how to get involved will be forthcoming.

Hospital districting

CEO Robin Roling presented a potential timeline for the proposed hospital

districting issue should the Hot Springs County Commissioners choose to proceed to an election after a public hearing Aug. 20.

If the commissioners pass a resolution to bring the issue to the ballot for an election Nov. 5, landowners would have from Aug. 21 to Sept. 19 to submit written protests. If landowners accounting for at least 35 percent of the county's assessed valuation protest the issue with-

See Hospital on page 14

Economic Development Co. adjusting to recent changes

Harry Hughes resigns from the EDC board

by Cindy Glasson

An interview with Thermopolis-Hot Springs Economic Development Company (EDC) President Mark Mortimore reveals some changes within the company.

In May, the first lot in the Red Rock Commercial Center was sold to Fred Carey, owner of Riverbend Sheet Metal.

Unfortunately, according to Mortimore, after numerous conversations with Carey it was decided the business park would not be a good fit for the business and the EDC is in the process of purchasing the lot back from Carey.

Two recent resignations have put some strain on the EDC board.

Executive Director Kendi Heinz resigned several weeks ago and the EDC

has had to use a consulting group to fill the gap left by her resignation.

They are currently looking for a part-time employee to answer phones and be in the EDC office while they pursue a replacement situation.

In addition, a strong board member, Harry Hughes, has resigned his position on the board for professional reasons, presenting an opening on the board which will need to be filled.

Recruiting businesses

Work to bring businesses into the community is still progressing, in spite of a few bumps in the road.

"We're working with two or three private entities right now," Mortimore said. "Of course, we'd all like to see things move along, but we can't set the pace. There is a lot of paperwork involved and of course, privacy concerns."

Those privacy concerns are what keeps

the EDC from divulging what companies are looking at Thermopolis.

"Everybody on the board wants businesses here," Mortimore said.

Another restraint the EDC faces is funding.

"You see businesses going into other communities (Casper, Cheyenne, etc.), but those communities have more financial backing than we have," Mortimore said.

The Hot Springs County Commissioners gave the EDC just \$25,000 for the upcoming year. The Town of Thermopolis provided a "loan" to the EDC last year in the amount of \$10,000.

Some businesses the EDC has been in contact with indicate they want a "move-in ready" building rather than building their own space.

"We had a package company approach us a few years ago," Mortimore said. "They told us, when there is a building in place, we'll consider it."

Murphy Dome flash fire victims hospitalized

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) continues to investigate a flash fire that occurred July 30 in the Murphy Dome Oil Field.

Numerous sources have identified the three injured as Scott Harvey, Bryce Harvey and Brody Gillespie. All three were transferred to a hospital

in Greeley, Colo., for treatment. Further details of the condition of the injured are being withheld at the request of the families.

A Wyoming Department of Workforce Services/OSHA spokesperson said the incident is an open investigation and that OSHA officials were on site in-

vestigating.

The spokesperson said the incident has been classified as a "catastrophe" under OSHA classifications because three or more people were hospitalized.

No further information regarding the cause of the fire was provided.

Community members have

begun several fundraisers to help the burn victims. Money was already raised during the Hot Springs County Junior Livestock Auction to support the victims of the fire.

Please see the subsequent stories in this issue of the Independent Record for more information on upcoming fundraisers.

Pageant dancer



A little warrior dances to the beat of the drum during the Gift of the Waters Pageant Saturday evening.

Auction

from page 1

Maddock sold for \$7 a pound for \$994 to Thurgood Hay Grinders.

There was a tie for the highest per pound sheep sold at \$8 per pound. Jeffrey VanAntwerp sold his lamb for \$1,128 to Merit Energy Co., and Jase Longwell sold his for \$1,072 to the HD Ranch.

Overall, the market lamb sale netted \$19,116, including add-ons and donations.

Market swine

In the market swine auction, the top-selling swine was Owen McCumber's Grand Champion at \$7.50 a pound for \$1,950 to Stones Throw. McCumber's pig was also the top per pound pig sold at \$7.50.

Remington Ferree's Reserve Champion pig sold for \$5 a pound for \$1,365 to Tumbleweed Propane.

The next highest selling pig was raised by Eli McCumber, which sold for \$1,771 to Blair's Super Market. He tied with

Hardy Johnson for second highest per pound sale, with Johnson's pig also selling for \$7 per pound at \$1,666 to Red Rock Family Practice.

The total amount garnered from the market swine auction was \$31,253.75, including add-ons and donations.

Bake sale

The annual Judges' Choice Bake Sale had 12 entries, which yielded a total of \$4,015, including add-ons and donations.

Maddie Stam had the highest selling basket, which sold for \$650 to the Bomengen Family.

The second highest was a basket made by Haylee Hoffmann, which sold for \$380 to Barbara Campbell.

There was a tie for third highest selling baked goods with baskets owned by Jennifer Cramer and Russell Gibbel both earning \$325. Ray Shaffer bought Cramer's basket and Owl Creek Veterinary Clinic purchased Gibbel's offering.



Two Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department engines carried Hot Springs County Fair youth from the fairgrounds to the downtown area and back during the Parade of Champions on Friday.

— Joe Sovo photo

Hospital

from page 1

in the time period, the districting issue would not go to an election.

If the issue makes it past the protest period, citizens interested in comprising a five-member district board position would be able to file for office between Sept. 27 and Oct. 7. Three of the positions will be for three-year terms and two of the positions will be for one-year terms.

The County Clerk's Office could begin to accept absentee ballots on and after Oct. 14 with the ballot to be published in the Independent Record Oct. 24.

CNO Kath Virgil-Belding, CFO Shelly Larson and Roling updated the board on the EMR (electronic medical records) implementation, which went live in June.

The hospital has been operating

on the new system for more than a month and it is approaching the benchmarks needed to meet federal "meaningful use" requirements in order to be reimbursed a portion of the costs.

Board Chairman Bill Williams said the accomplishment of the transition is a tribute to the whole staff and the leadership at the hospital.

Issues with billing and financials are still being worked out as the hospital expects increases on its days in accounts receivable and decreases in its days cash on hand as the wrinkles are ironed out.

The board also voted to retain its current officers in their positions. They are Margaret Stansill, secretary; Brian Green, vice chairman; and Williams, chairman.

Rotary Turtle Trek tickets available

The most popular turtles in Thermopolis in August are neither ninjas, nor teenage mutants, but are the cool sunglasses-wearing turtles that will descend on the cooling ponds at Hot Springs State Park.

The Thermopolis Rotary Club is gearing up for its Eighth Annual Great American Turbo Turtle Trek Saturday, Aug. 24 at Hot Springs State Park.

Members in the community can adopt a turtle for a \$10 fee in order to win various prizes should the turtle they adopted be among the first to be picked from the pond. Turtle retrieving will begin at 1 p.m.

The grand prize is \$1,000 in cash; second, a Mossberg 715T AR style 22LR rifle; third, big screen HDTV; fourth, weekend

at Super 8 with swimming and dinner for two included; fifth, two-night stay in a deluxe room at Red Pole Lodge in Cody; sixth, one night stay and play package for two at Deadwood Gulch Gaming Resort; seventh, gas grill donated by Tumbleweed Propane; eighth, a Kindle Fire; ninth, microwave oven; and 10th, Blu-ray DVD player.

Prizes for 11th through 24th places include: \$100 gift certificate from Thermopolis Hardware; \$100 gift certificate from Thermopolis EyeCare; \$100 gift certificate to Meeteetse Chocolatier; remote controlled



Ferrari car; remote controlled Porsche car; Dinosaur Fossil Dig at Wyoming Dinosaur Center; social hour party for 10 at Days Inn; guided whitewater raft trip

for four with Wind River Canyon Whitewater; framed print; family pass to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center; a one-night stay at Wind River Casino Hotel; \$50 savings bond donated by Mike Messenger; and one-day swim pass for four at Star Plunge.

Other prizes include four one-day swimming passes at Hellie's TePee Pool; four free nights/days boarding at MR Kennels; propane cards good for one tank fill up from Tumbleweed Propane; large pizzas from Pizza Hut; and a gift basket from Wind River Casino.

Entries will not have to be present at the drawing to win prizes.

Turtle adoption tickets can be attained from any local Rotarian.

Meeteetse Museum's Kirwin tour Saturday

Meeteetse Museums will host its free, annual field trip to Kirwin, the former mining town, on Saturday. Kirwin is located in the Absaroka Mountains about 38 miles southwest of Meeteetse.

The guided tour will begin at Kirwin at 10:30 a.m. Tour participants should meet at the museum between 8 and 8:30 a.m. to sign in and also to arrange for a ride if one is needed.

Those wanting to meet at Kirwin and not wait for the group may do so, but must still sign in at Kirwin. They should arrive there before 10:30 a.m. Tour participants should bring a picnic lunch and plenty of water. If one plans to hike past Kirwin, bear spray is recommended. A high-clearance vehicle is needed to get to Kirwin.

The tour will be led by Jim and Rich Dunrud, whose family owned the property for years, as well as the historic Double D

Guest Ranch. Jim will explain some of the history of the site, while his brother Rich, a geologist, will explain about the surrounding area's geology. Participants will have opportunity to explore the individual buildings (inside and out) as well as the general layout of the former town. Guests may also hike the trail about a mile to the remnants of the summer cabin that was being built by Carl Dunrud for his friend, aviatrix Amelia Earhart. Construction on the cabin stopped when Earhart's

plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937.

Kirwin's mining history began in 1881 when William Kirwin and Harry Adams were hunting in the area and discovered ore. Money and people rushed to Kir-

win and, by the early 1900s, the mining town had a population of more than 200 people.

For more information about the tour, call 307-868-2423 or email info@meeteetsemuseums.org.

Summer Recreation Calendar

August 9
Watercize, Star Plunge, 9 a.m.

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Quips & Health

By Tony Deromedi

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WEDNESDAY
Liver & Onions, Hash Browns, Coleslaw, Garden Medley Vegetables, Bread, Fresh Fruit

THURSDAY
Sweet & Sour Pork, Brown Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Asian Salad, Ginger Snap Cookies

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Public notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that on the 7th day of August 2013, Stones Throw Restaurant and Bar, LLC filed an application for transfer of Retail Liquor License in the office of the Clerk of the County of Hot Springs for the following described place and premises, to wit: Club Building, North of Thermopolis at County Airport and Golf Course and protests, if any there be, against transfer of such license will be heard at the hour of 11:45 a.m. on the 3rd day of September 2013. The Hearing will be in the Meeting Room of the Governmental Annex Building, 117 North 4th.

Hans Odde
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. August 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2013 No. 7020

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of August 2013, Violet M. VanBuskirk dba Flying Dutchman filed an application in the office of the Clerk of the County of Hot Springs for renewal of a County Retail Liquor Permit for the following described place and premises to wit: a 14'X 60' Room on the west side of a building in a portion of lot 1, section 11, T44N, R95W PM and protests, if there be, against the issuance of such license will be heard at the hour of 11:45 a.m. on the 3rd day of September 2013. The Hearing will be in the Meeting Room of the Governmental Annex Building, 117 North 4th.

Hans Odde
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. August 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2013 No. 7024

Wyoming Department of Health

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Tax Refund for Elderly & Disabled

Everyday bills and other expenses can sure add up throughout the year. Many older and disabled Wyoming residents could use a little extra financial help. The Tax Refund for Elderly & Disabled Program provides an allowance to help cover sales and use taxes, property taxes, utility and energy costs that qualified residents paid last year.

- ✓ A qualified single person could receive up to \$800.
- ✓ A qualified married couple could receive up to \$900.
- ✓ Refund amounts may be lower, based on income.
- ✓ To be eligible, applicants must be age 65 or over, or be totally (100%) disabled and age 18 or over with an income last year of less than \$17,500 for single persons or \$28,500 for married persons.
- ✓ Applications are needed each year and must be postmarked by the last working day in August.
- ✓ Applicants who have submitted the required documentation will begin receiving checks on or before December 20, if their application has been approved.
- ✓ Eligibility is determined by the Wyoming Department of Health.

Local senior centers around Wyoming have applications and more information about the refund program.

Hot Springs County Senior Center

(307) 864-2151