

Child safety seat
checkup set for
Monday afternoon **3**

Cat grid team at Big
Piney; others
also in action **6-7**

Sunlight Mattress &
Appliance opens
in Thermopolis **9**

Feedback provides
support for
3-on-3 tourney **12**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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75¢

Bingo!



The Hot Springs County Senior Citizens Center hosted a spaghetti dinner and bingo fundraiser last Saturday at the Thermopolis facility. Staff cooks Stephanie Palu and Rachelle Roberts served 88 dinners, and

there were 64 bingo players listening to Jeanne Beyette call the numbers. The event raised a gross of \$1,254. Above, Dave Smith signals a bingo win.

— Joe Sovo photo

Friends of NRA banquet Saturday

by Joe Sovo

Each fall, Hot Springs County Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) hosts a banquet to raise funds for the NRA Foundation and youth shooting sports in Wyoming. Friends of NRA is the education safety arm of the NRA and the local contribution to 4-H has been well over \$25,000 since Hot Springs County Friends of NRA was established six years ago.

The sixth annual Hot Springs County Friends of NRA Banquet will be featured this Saturday at the Hot Springs County Fair Building.

Doors open at 5 p.m. for games and a social hour. A catered dinner is served beginning at 7 p.m. This year's banquet features a prime rib dinner provided by Lil' Wrangler in Thermopolis. Members of NRA and nonmembers are welcome to attend.

Featured during the evening will be raffles, and live and silent auctions. Items to be auctioned include guns, pistols, knives, several forms of art and lots of unique NRA memorabilia. The live auction begins as the dinner is concluding.

"Ticket sales are going well," said Cynthia Garbin, Hot Springs County Friends of NRA chairwoman. "There may not be any (tickets) available at the door. We encourage people to get them now."

Admission is \$35 per person or \$25 for children 14 and under, which includes the dinner. Advance tickets are available at Canyon Sporting Goods, Storyteller and Thermopolis Hardware & Mercantile in Thermopolis or from Hot Springs County Friends of NRA members, including Cynthia Garbin (921-8304) and treasurer Paul Garbin (921-8303).

Donations through the live and silent auctions are tax deductible since Friends of NRA is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.

Hot Springs County Friends of NRA's goal is to presell 150

banquet tickets. The organization opted not to increase the banquet ticket cost from last year.

Tickets for prebanquet raffle still available

A prebanquet raffle is now underway. The prize is a Taurus 1911 stainless single-stack .45 ACP handgun. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$20 each and are available at Canyon Sporting Goods and Storyteller, or from Cynthia or Paul Garbin.

Cynthia Garbin said Tuesday



only a limited number of raffle tickets were still available.

More than 15 firearms will be up for bid during the auction.

"We have some new additions we're excited about," she said.

An auction item that will draw lots of attention is the NRA 2013 Gun of the Year—a Weatherby® Vanguard® Series 2 Eurosport .270WIN rifle, complete with a top-of-the-line Leopold scope and protective case. A hard-to-find Kel-Tec KSG 12-gauge shotgun is also on the list of firearms.

Paul Garbin indicated Friends of NRA would have several AR15 rifle lowers at the auction, with polymer as the main component.

An auction item recently added is a set of Speiner binoculars. They offer high quality in low light, and are water- and fog-resistant.

When you buy a rose for a special lady at the banquet, you'll have a chance to win multiple prizes—including a Taurus .38 special with a pink pearl grip.

Cynthia Garbin said there will be "new twists on popular games" before the live auction begins.

Most of the net from the annual banquet goes to youth programs and the remainder to training and education, range development, women's programs, conservation, special grants and endowments.

Town Council takes action on projects

by J.D. Stetson

The Town of Thermopolis is taking steps at the Town Landfill to address an issue pertaining to recent and future cells.

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a draft copy of an "Administrative Order on Consent," which was tentatively approved by the town at its Sept. 3 meeting. The council gave Mayor Bill Malloy authority to sign the finalized document when it is completed.

The action was required after town officials and DEQ determined a recently built cell was over excavated—based on the operating plan and as-built surveys.

The town requested to modify its permit in order to address the issue. The DEQ asked the town to approve the order, which sets a schedule for the town to come back into compliance with its permit for future excavations.

The order requires notifications to the DEQ regarding future excavations and other data after the cells are completed to be filed with the DEQ.

Seventh Street bid opening

The council chose to award the bid for the North Seventh Street Treated Water Main Replacement project to Lamax Construction Inc. for a bid amount of \$502,770.

Engineering Associates had estimated the project cost to be \$514,987.75. The project will replace the water main on Seventh Street north of Broadway Street up to the Airport Water Storage Tank, which is located within the Natural Conservancy property.

The project is expected to start quickly in the fall.

McDonald's expansion

Town Codes Administrator Fred Crosby briefly apprised the council on the expansion of McDonald's.

Crosby said the project entails a 1,200-square-foot addition with a new roof and façade to modernize the building. He said the project would relocate the restrooms and expand the dining area.

The owner did not include a projected date for completion, Crosby said.

Banner permits

The council approved a draft permit presented by Town Attorney Mike Messenger for entities to take advantage of promoting special events on banner poles recently permitted to the town by the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT).

The permit includes rules and conditions allowing for banners to be installed. The banners must maintain an 18-foot clearance from the bottom of the banner to the highway surface.

The permit also releases the town from liability on any claims asserted against the town as a result of the act, error or omission of the applicant for the permit that results in damages, injury or death to the applicant, employee or any third party.

The council discussed installing a fee for the permit, but decided not to charge a fee for it.

Department of Interior dismisses state's appeal about tribal land

Concern about possible casino

by Cindy Glasson

An appeal filed by the State of Wyoming versus the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regarding placing four parcels of land south of Thermopolis into trust for the Northern Arapaho Tribe has been dismissed by the United States Department of the Interior.

The state sought review of the July decision made by the Wind River Agency Superintendent, allowing the land to be put into trust for the Tribe.

The Department of the Interior dismissed the appeal, "because the Board does not have jurisdiction over an appeal from the Superintendent's decision. The State must first exhaust its remedies within BIA through an appeal to the BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Director."

This dismissal does not affect a recent appeal made by the Hot Springs County Commissioners to the Department of the Interior, BIA.

The 250 acres in question, owned by the Northern Arapaho Tribe, border the Arapaho Ranch and are currently designated for ranching or farming.

The Tribe is considering other

uses for the acreage, including the possibility of building a casino on the property.

The commissioners are concerned, not only about the possibility of a casino and costs that may be incurred by the county for law enforcement, fire and other emergency services, but the strain that could be put on the county should the land be taken off the property tax rolls.

By filing an appeal, the commissioners hope negotiations can take place that would allow for at least some financial relief for the county and Town of Thermopolis regarding local impacts.

Community Garden



David Thornton looks over some of his plants at the Community Garden last week. The garden is sponsored by the Red Dirt Master Gardeners. Carla Thomas, with the Hot Springs Conservation District and a Master Gardener herself, said 34 plots of vegetables and flowers were grown in the garden this year, up from last year. Thomas said there are plans for more raised and ground-level plots for next year's garden to give more folks a chance to grow their own produce.

— Cindy Glasson photo

WYO Horse Sale set for Saturday

Things are looking good going into the 13th annual Fall WYO Quarter Horse Ranch sale Saturday, said sale organizer Bill Smith.

With 94 horses tentatively going to the auction block, the annual sale is gearing up for people all over the country to place bids.

The sale features horses cultivated by Bill and Carol Smith, Todd and Lorie Fike, Jack and Becky Wipplinger, and Dr. H.B. "Woody" Bartlett.

The event kicks off Friday at 7 p.m. with the "Parade of Geldings & 2-Year-Olds" video dis-

play at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.

A performance preview is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday and the sale will start at 1 p.m.

The auction features 40 broke geldings, 24 started 2-year-olds, eight yearlings, 19 weanlings and three bred mares.

Smith said both the spring and fall sales have yielded very good sales with very good horses being sold all over the country.

For more information about the sale, call the Smiths at 864-5671 or visit www.wyohorses.com.