

Cats host Mtn. View; conference XC meet Friday

**Infection Prevention** Week observed Oct. 20-26

Airport work ongoing; commissioners meet new nurse

Thermopolis **Hot Springs** 

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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### 4-H Carnival fun



Mesa Longwell examines her prize after winning as booth volunteer Bobbi Zupan and Mesa's brother McCoy look on. This was just one of the many games and inflatables offered at the 4-H Carnival on Sunday at Thermopolis Middle School.

- Donna Pennoyer photo

## Deer numbers in the books

## Council hears school science project report

by Joe Sova

London Jenks' new Environmental Science class at Hot Springs County High School presented findings of a deer population survey to the Thermopolis Town Council at Tuesday's regular meeting.

The project was appropriately titled, "Oh Deer!" It featured an online survey of town residents, asking them such questions as whether they want the deer in town, if the population is too high and if deer were damaging their property.

In a letter to students in the class before the project began, Mayor Bill Malloy said, "It is important for local government

to utilize the resources available within their boundaries, including citizens with special skills and interests. For this reason, the Town of Thermopolis would like to enlist your help and support in analyzing this important issue...'

Jenks divided his students into eight teams, each responsible for an assessment. He explained that a "quadrant sampling method" was used to estimate the number of deer in town at a given time. The town was divided into 238 quadrants, each about the size of a city block. It was determined there were .91 deer per quadrant, or about 217 in town.

Morgan McCain, one of the team leaders, said the challenge was to estimate the deer population, identify interactions, create a survey and make recommendations as to what to do about the deer population – if anything.

One team gave a report titled, "Energy and Matter Flow," which included information about the "food chain." The report indicated there is plenty of grass and resources for deer.

Giving a report for one of the teams, Jenks answered the question, "Where do you most interact with deer?" The most popular answer by respondents was in their

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## Chamber of Commerce welcomes four new members to the board

by J.D. Stetson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce membership elected four new members to its board of directors last week.

The election results were announced during the regular meeting of the board. The new directors include: Phil Scheel (re-elected), Barb Heinze, Deb Tudor and Greg Willson.

The new directors will take positions during the next board meeting Nov. 14.

Also during the meeting, the chamber board elected new officers. Scheel was elected president. Tracy Linko is the new vice president and Diane Sova was elected secretary/treasurer.

Scheel offered notes of thank you and recognition to outgoing board members Donna Nally and Tawna McQueen.

The board has two more seats available that could be appointed at the November meeting. Executive Director Meri Ann Rush said any qualified chamber member interested in joining the board might fill out an application at the chamber. The chamber board will review the applications.

#### Committees The board heard a number of reports from com-

mittees, including the Retail Committee, Cash Mob, Moonlight Madness and the 3-on-3 Basket-The chamber also has several other committees

in which members can become involved. They include the Hot Spot Car Rally, Demolition Derby, Christmas Parade and others.

Scheel asked for the new and current board members to consider serving on the various committees. Several upcoming events include Moonlight Madness Oct. 24 and the Christmas Parade, which will be held Nov. 30, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

The chamber also discussed requesting advertising funding from the Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board at its meeting Tuesday.

# Lodging Tax Board elects officers, hears request for 3-on-3 funding

by Cindy Glasson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Lodging Tax Board elected new officers for 2013-14 at its meeting at the Super 8 on Tuesday.

Cindy Ellison with Shorty's Liquor is the new president for the group and will be backed up by Kevin Skates as vice president. Carl Leyba remains treasurer and Dan Moriarity will continue his duties as secretary.

Sandy Newsome, lodging tax representative for District 5, attended Tuesday's meeting, letting the board know that she will be appointing another member to the board on her behalf.

According to state bylaws for lodging tax, Newsome is considered a board member on a local level, but her travel schedule for the state precludes her from being at meetings on a regular basis.

This is not an unusual or common occurrence and Newsome assured the board she would have someone vetted by the first of the year to sit in her place.

### Request for tourney advertising funds

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Meri Ann Rush and President Phil Scheel approached the board with a request for \$4,000 for advertising for next year's 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Rush told the board World Events, the company that puts the tournament together, has promised to take care of several items that were not handled last year. The chamber has signed a single-year contract with the company.

The 3-on-3 committee will be meeting within the next couple of weeks to look over registra-

tions from previous years to determine where the Friday night before the rally to entice folks the best places are to spend the advertising dollars they are requesting.

Leyba questioned Rush and Scheel about World Events' ability to put the registration packets online, giving students plenty of time to put together teams for the spring competition.

While the company has not done that in the past, Rush assured Leyba she would be talking with World Events to see if something could be done to get the registration forms online.

No action was taken on the funding request at this time.

### **Band for Hot Spot Car Rally**

Last month, the Lodging Tax Board had a lengthy discussion on the Hot Spot Car Rally and tossed around the idea of hiring a band for to come early for the weekend's activities.

Angie Guyon let the board know Tuesday that she had been in contact with some of the organizers of the car rally and they were definitely interested in discussing the idea further.

The band that had been discussed in September would cost \$7,500 for the evening's entertainment; however, there are other bands the group can look at that could provide the same type of music at a lower cost.

The board ended the meeting with a discussion on getting some new television advertising going for the fall.

Tourism Director Amanda Moeller will be making some phone calls to the various regional stations to get quotes on advertising packages to help boost the fall tourism numbers.

# Pioneer Home gets a bright, new look

by Cindy Glasson

What started out as plumbing problems turned into a beautiful, complete remodel of the Wyoming Pioneer Home in Hot Springs State Park.

The assisted living facility, licensed by the State of Wyoming Department of Health, opened its doors in 1949 with three wings, an infirmary, kitchen, dining room, laundry and front office and has grown to eight wings that are now state of the art throughout.

According to the facility director Sharon Skiver, the building had been experiencing plumbing problems around 2006, prompting a major remodel of the South Montgomery Wing.

Seeing the delicate state of the pipes in that wing, a push toward capital construction funding started – to not only replace the antiquated plumbing, but completely remodel the entire building - bringing it up to code. Those funds were finally granted in 2009 and the work

#### Residents temporarily relocated

Each wing had to be closed down for the reconstruction, and Skiver said there were residents who had to move as many as three times during the project before getting to finally relax in their new rooms.

"I really have to commend the staff," Skiver said. "Each time they had to move a resident they went in, took everything out and recreated the exact same room so the resident would feel comfortable. Pictures went back on the walls in the exact same places, everything. They just did a wonderful job."

And the residents adjusted as

See Pioneer on page 10

## Fire Safety and Bullying Prevention Assembly



Ralph Witters Elementary held a combined Fire Safety and Bullying Prevention Assembly last Friday in the school gymnasium. Students learned about the importantance

of observing National Fire Prevention Week and National Bullying Prevention Month. Pictured across the front, from left, are Bridger Peil, Lainie Boren and Lucille Andreen.

## Pioneer-

best they could, too, during the construction.

Things were moved around a lot and they took it all in stride. The hair salon alone was moved five different times in the fouryear period.

#### Electrical upgrade

When the Pioneer Home was first opened, there were very few electrical items a resident would have, so there were generally no more than two electrical outlets in each room.

Today, however, residents have an assortment of electri-

televisions and even computers, necessitating an upgrade of the electrical system throughout the

Reconstruction of each wing took between four and five months to complete, starting with tearing out the floor and replacing the water and sewer lines. New walls were built, electrical replaced and a new sprinkler system installed before new paint, tile and flooring finished up the project.

New windows were installed, bringing energy efficiency up and new lighting was brought in as

cal devices such as alarm clocks, well – creating a bright, new living space for the residents.

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from page 1

Larger rooms welcomed

And rooms are bigger, too. Starting with approximately 80 rooms, the facility now has just 56 resident rooms after taking down some walls and restructuring the various wings.

With new names like "Meadowlark Lane" and "Rodeo Lane," there are a lot of changes around the Pioneer Home. And if you haven't seen them yet, Skiver and her staff invite you to come over for a visit.

# Council

yards. Seventy percent of those completing the online survey indicated deer had caused damage to their personal property.

According to students Ivy Paris and Jamie Materi, 78 percent of respondents indicated deer are "a problem." Everyone who answered another question said deer were "not afraid" of interaction with humans. Most people said interactions were negative rather than positive.

Tori Anderson shared the results of interaction with deer. In the survey, 84 percent of respondents said deer "need to be controlled" and 72 percent indicated property damage by deer.

What is the best way to deal with the deer population issue? More than half of the survey respondents indicated some of them

should be eradicated. The next most popular choice was to relocate some of the deer. One proposal was to relocate deer in the state park buffalo pasture.

One team came to the conclusion the population should be reduced by bowhunting the deer rather than shooting them with a firearm. A report presented by Darby Abbott said if deer are relocated, they would either die or come back to their original area

After hearing the report to the council, Malloy thanked the Environmental Science class for the work on the survey and project.

The mayor indicated the town had started taking down deer about three years ago – by permit – at a rate of about 60 per year. The current permit allows for the elimination of 60 more deer, beginning within the next two to three weeks.

It appears the present deer population is healthier than when the town started to take them down. In the first year, about 20 percent tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) and that level of unhealthy animals has gone down dramatically since then.

"It costs us quite a bit," Malloy said of the eradication process, since the deer that do not test positive for CWD are processed at a cost of about \$100 each. The processed meat is given to local residents, with a considerable waiting list.

"We realize they're a nuisance," Malloy said of the deer in town. "We're doing all we can do."

Wyoming Pioneer Home director Sharon Skiver, center, welcomes visitors to the open house held last week at the facility to showcase the remodel that has been ongoing since 2009. Everything from new flooring to new windows have created a wonderful space for the residents. With Skiver is Margie Jackson, left, and Teri Williams, right. - Cindy Glasson photo

## Attorneys provide free legal advice in Oct. 23 online clinic

Week, the Wyoming Center for Legal Aid has announced that it would sponsor a free legal advice clinic Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Hot Springs County Library, 344 Arapahoe St. in Thermopolis. Hours are 5 to 6 p.m.

Low-income residents can sign up to receive one-on-one legal advice from a lawyer over the Internet using Skype at this clinic. Applicants will be scheduled for a consultation with a volunteer attorney to receive legal advice on civil (no criminal) legal issues, such as divorce and custody, landlord/tenant, housing, wills and estate planning, and debt and consumer issues.

"This is a great service that volunteer attorneys provide to the community. We hope this service will help people understand their legal rights, address some of their specific legal prob-

In recognition of National Celebrate Pro Bono lems, and make legal advice available to those who otherwise would not be able to afford to talk to a lawyer," said Angie Dorsch, executive director of the Wyoming Center for Legal Aid. "This is a way to connect a volunteer lawyer anywhere in the state with clients that need these

> To schedule an appointment or learn more about the Skype Legal Clinic, call the Wyoming Center for Legal Aid at 307-777-8383. Applicants will be screened for eligibility. Appointments must be made no later than Oct. 22.

> The Wyoming Center for Legal Aid provides a range of legal resources, information and services to qualifying individuals. To find out more about the Center or to view a calendar of all legal aid events throughout the state, visit the Center's website at www.legalhelpwy.org.

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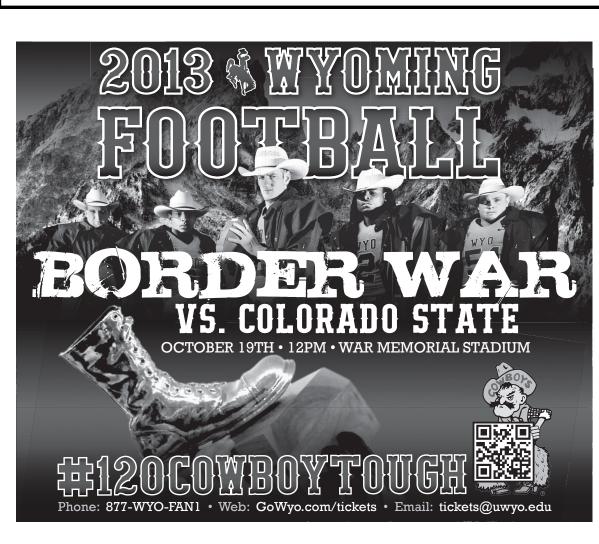
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Washakie Museum, 2200 Big Horn Avenue, Worland www.washakiemuseum.org

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#### The West Park Hospital Medical Staff includes a wide range of primary care physicians and specialists, from Anesthesiology to Urgent Care, to serve the needs of the entire Big Horn Basin. For more information about these doctors, including educational background and professional interests, Ophthalmology Anesthesiology Ajax, Theodore.....(307) 527-7501 Welch, Barry .....(307) 587-5538 Bracke, Luke.....(307) 527-7501 Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery St. John, Dane.....(307) 578-2886 Schmidt, Catherine.....(307) 578-1960 **Orthopedic Surgery** Cardiology Biles, Jimmie .....(307) 578-1953 Rashkow, Andrew.....(307) 578-2980 Emery, Stephen.....(307) 578-1959 **ENT / Allergy** Lee, Jared .....(307) 578-1955 Schmidt, Frank.....(307) 578-1955 Boudreaux, Bridget .....(307) 578-2976 Winzenried, Jay.....(307) 527-7100 **Emergency Medicine** Pathology Beasley, Benjamin .....(307) 578-2000 Beia, Todd .....(307) 578-2000 Clegg, Pamela P.....(307) 578-2696 Bollinger, Kirk .....(307) 578-2000 **Pediatrics** Peters, Stanley .....(307) 578-2000 Polley, Scott.....(307) 578-2000 Jamieson, Charles.....(307) 587-5545 Podiatry Family Medicine Beachler, Lael .....(307) 527-9191 Bower, Ryan .....(307) 527-7561 Fraser, Hugh .....(307) 527-9191 Bowlby, Adair .....(307) 527-7561 Morton, Douglas .....(307) 527-7561 **Psychiatry** Peters, Adam.....(307) 527-7561 Hopkins, Matthew .....(307) 586-2324 Trotter, John.....(307) 527-7561 Nelson, Sandra .....(307) 578-2283 **General Surgery** Pollard, Scott .....(307) 578-2283 Etter, Thomas .....(307) 578-2947 **Pulmonary Medicine** Evans, Bill.....(307) 578-2947 Mainini, Stephen.....(307) 527-7561 Welch, Charles G.....(307) 587-9800 Radiation Oncology Gynecology Gilroy, Jeffery.....(307) 587-2955 Myers, Dale.....(307) 587-1155 Radiology **Hospitalists** Cross, Gregory .....(307) 527-7501 DiVincenzo, Kathleen .....(307) 527-7501 Graham, Travis .....(307) 527-7501 McCue, Gregory .....(307) 527-7501 Rheumatology Seger, Clint.....(307) 527-7501 Slight, Kim .....(307) 527-7501 Danforth, Rebecca.....(307) 578-2975 **Internal Medicine** Urology