

Hot Spot Car Rally
preceded by
pedal car raffle

3

Salute to Bobcats'
2A state track
championship

7

Department of Health
Task Force meets
at Pioneer Home

9

Hospital gets closer
to extension of
trauma status

16

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 115, No. 23, June 5, 2014

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢



Hot Springs County High School band and choir students brought home five trophies from the Music in the Parks competition held Saturday, May 31 in Arvada, Colo. Trophies were: concert band, first place and overall; show choir, first place; concert choir, second place; and the Esprit de Corps Award.

Champions at Music in the Parks

For the fourth consecutive year, Hot Springs County High School band and choir groups have earned a number of trophies and captured top honors at the Music in the Parks competition, held Saturday, May 31 in Arvada, Colo., north of Denver. The awards ceremony was held at the Elitch Gardens amusement park.

According to band and choir director Dustin Olsen, 49 musicians from HSCHS were part of the competition, which featured students from schools in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska and Montana.

Olsen indicated the HSCHS concert band had a banner day – winning the first-place trophy and best overall trophy for all the competing bands. The show choir, with Christina Porath as the choreographer, was awarded the first-place trophy. The HSCHS concert choir received the second-place trophy.

“This year was special because our school

won, for the first time, the Esprit de Corps trophy, which is awarded to the school that is voted as the most respectful and supportive of all groups performing,” Olsen said. This trophy is awarded by the festival host to only one school in competition.

Olsen gave credit to HSCHS accompanist Nancy Williams and Porath, a graduating senior who served as the show choir’s choreographer for the first year.

Dating back to 2010, the HSCHS band and choirs have earned a total of 20 trophies at Music in the Parks. Each group finished in the top three every time.

“This trip was absolutely amazing, and I am very proud of our musicians,” Olsen said. “Our school is continuing the excellence in music and we are continuing to prove that we can compete with schools from all over the west. I have enjoyed watching the program grow over the past seven years, and I look forward to our bright future.”

Members of the combined concert band and choir and show choir at Music in the Parks:

Shayna Bauer, Ryan Bleak, Chloe Crosby, Makayla George, Sydnee Griffin, Jake Maksin, Morgan McCain, Christina Porath, Margaret Ryan, Korey Smith, Ashlynn Weber, Hannah Weyer, Darby Abbott, Cody Bleak, Sasha Bleak, Joshua Burrows, Grant Byrd, Tyler Cornwell, Kole Cox, Shayna Cox, Ben Crosby, Caleb DeCuro, Amanda Dinsmore, Coletton Draper, Kayla Gilbert, Eric Herold, Niki Hill, Macinna Holm, Kaili Johansen, Ryan Johnson, Callie Jordan-Lorenz, Keri Krueger, Jessica Lutz, Elizabeth Rhodes, Rhett Richmond, Alli Schwalbe, Baylee Shaffer, Zoe Stone, Courtney Yarrington, Cody Bjorhus, Kayla Conner, Janell Harvey, Alexander Jensen, Stacy Lewis, Dillon Matheson, Michael Meier, Tiffany Mortimore, Breanna Peterson and Brook Tillack.

Water rate increase given initial OK

Costs would still be lower than several BHB communities

by Drew Foster

Town officials believe Thermopolis’ water rates are among the lowest in the state and are inefficient for funding operations at the water treatment plant. On Tuesday, the Town Council gave initial approval to an ordinance that would double the base rate, leave the cost of additional gallons used untouched and still keep water rates lower than many neighboring communities.

Most town residents are currently charged a \$5 base rate and \$3.20 for each additional 1,000 gallons used. Rates are higher if residents use a line larger than three-quarters of an inch. Most out-of-town residents – in East Thermopolis, Owl Creek, Red Lane and south Thermopolis – are charged a \$5 base rate and \$3.97 for the first 1,000 gal-

lons used.

The ordinance voted on Tuesday would raise the in-town base rate to \$10 for residents using three-quarter of an inch lines and would not affect the price of additional gallons after the first 1,000 used. It will need to pass two additional readings before going into effect. The newly written ordinance, if passed, would become effective Sept. 1.

Residents using lines larger than three-quarters of an inch can contact Town Hall to find out the proposed base rates.

The heightened water rates are expected to generate about \$80,000 in revenue, Mayor’s Assistant Fred Crosby said. Through April of this fiscal year, the town’s water fund was about \$92,000 in the red.

“That number’s not going to

get any better,” Crosby told the council. “The chemical cost is not going to go down; the electricity costs are not going to go down. There’s not much we can do.”

The proposed rate increase would still leave Thermop’s water rates below those of several other Big Horn Basin communities.

Riverton charges residents a base rate of \$17.02 and \$2.36 per 1,000 gallons for the first 5,000 gallons used. Out-of-city residents are charged a base rate of \$21.27 and \$2.94 per 1,000 gallons for the first 5,000 gallons used.

Basin charges residents using three-quarter inch lines a base fee of \$28.24 and \$1.12 per 1,000 gallons used. Worland charges a base fee of \$8.62 and \$2.83 per 1,000 gallons for the first 4,000 gallons used.

Thermop currently charges

\$57.20 as a monthly base rate for sewer, water and sanitation services; that would bump up to \$62.20 if the ordinance is approved. Riverton, in comparison, charges about \$103 for those services, Crosby told the council.

Also at Tuesday’s council meeting, the 2014-15 fiscal year budget was approved on second reading. A third reading is pending.

Ross Rhodes was appointed to the Hot Springs Travel & Tourism Board with a unanimous vote.

A modified “Green River” ordinance, which stipulates how peddlers, solicitors, canvassers and various other transient and itinerant merchants and vendors operate inside town limits, passed on second reading. A third vote is needed before it goes into effect.

August primary election features contested races

Voters will have plenty of choices during the Aug. 19 primary election throughout Hot Springs County. Friday was the filing deadline.

All the persons filing are registered with the Republican Party, with the exception of one Democrat running for a precinct committeeman position.

Election to town mayor and council positions are nonpartisan, meaning party affiliation has no bearing in the primary election.

Appearing on the primary ballot for Mayor of Thermopolis will be incumbent Bill Malloy, Mike Mortimore and Ernest Cummings, Jr.

There are five candidates for three seats to be open on the Thermopolis Town Council. Dusty Lewis, Benge Brown and Ray Arey have filed for a single two-year term. Lewis is completing the term vacated by LeRoy Hayes. Incumbent Tony Larson and Connie Skates have filed for the two open four-year terms.

Folks in East Thermopolis will see incumbent David Peake in the mayor’s slot on the primary ballot along with incumbents Sybil Hannah and Delores Bush for town council.

Dale Bulman and Ross Rhodes are both running for Mayor of Kirby. Rhodes is currently a town councilman. Current Mayor Don Larson is seeking election to the town council, where two seats will be open.

County ballot

Those who will appear in contested races on the ballot in August on the county ballot include: Commissioner (two seats), Mike Baker, Joe Casciato, John Lumley and Tom Ryan; Sheriff, Tom Christensen and Lou Falgoust; County Clerk, Mark Nelson and Nina Webber; and Treasurer, Isabelle Willson and Julie Mortimore.

Uncontested races include: Terri Cornella, Clerk of District

Court; Shelley Deromedi, Assessor; Ron Jurovich, Magistrate/Circuit Court; Mark Mortimore, Coroner; and Jerry Williams, County Attorney.

According to state statute, Independent Party candidates for a county office can have his or her name on the general election ballot if they can secure enough signatures on a petition. The statute reads, “A petition for a county office shall be signed by registered electors, resident in the jurisdiction and eligible to vote for the petitioner, numbering not less than 2 percent of the total number of votes cast in the county for U.S. Representative in the last general election.”

Independent Party candidates can also run for a state legislative office, based on the same parameters.

The filing deadline for Independent Party candidates is Aug. 25, as the filing must be not fewer than 70 days prior to the general election. The filing fee for candidates for state legislative and county offices is \$25. The fee for federal and statewide offices is \$200.

Precincts

Twenty-four men and women are running for precinct committeemen and committeewomen in Hot Springs County. They are:

Precinct 2/4, Wyatt Agar and Teresa Brown; Precinct 3/3, Mike Baker, Phyllis Baker, James Collins, Carrie Galovich, Marianne Gular, Mike Gular, Becky Hutson, Harold Hutson, Victor Oliver, Belenda Willson and Howard Willson; Precinct 1/2, Brad Basse, Joe Casciato, Toni Casciato, Robin Kruse, Warren Kruse, Bradley Lee and Michael Wright; and Precinct 1/1, Charles Carver, Ellen Galyan, Lorraine Quarberg and Jerry Williams. All are registered as Republicans with the exception of Lee, who is affiliated with the Democratic Party.

Weighing & tagging



Hadley Johnson leads his sheep during weighing and tagging Sunday for 4-H and FFA animals to be entered in the 2014 Hot Springs County Fair.

– Donna Pennoyer photo

Substance abuse treatment contract goes to Basin

by Drew Foster

After Hot Springs County Counseling Services in February was denied a contract extension with the state that provides significant funding toward substance abuse treatment, a select committee on Monday voted 2-1 to recommend Big Horn Basin Counseling Services receive the contract and begin offering the services locally in July.

Hot Springs County Counseling Services, which has provided services locally for 35 years, is challenging the February denial and asking for a judicial review through Hot Springs County District Court.

The select committee that met Monday at the county annex was composed of Hot Springs County Commissioner Brad Basse, Washakie County Commissioner Aaron Anderson and Big Horn County Commissioner John Hyde. Basse and Hyde voted to recommend Big Horn Basin Counseling Services, of Basin, be awarded the state contract. Anderson voted that Cloud Peak Counseling Center, of Worland, be awarded the contract. The committee’s recommendation will be

passed on to the state Department of Health’s Behavioral Health Division administrator for final approval.

The funding in question allows Hot Springs County Counseling Services to provide substance-abuse treatment services to low-income clients at a reduced fee. Counseling Services will continue to provide the services, but they will be at full price if not covered by insurance. Mental health services will continue to be offered at reduced fees.

Counseling Services’ current contract, which runs through June 30, calls for the center to receive \$469,949 from the state general fund and \$10,422 from a federal Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment block grant for mental health and substance abuse counseling this year. The loss of the substance abuse treatment contract will reduce this funding by \$130,000 for fiscal year 2015.

Representatives of Big Horn Basin Counseling told the select committee on Monday they would rent office space in Thermopolis and work collaboratively with Counseling

Services in order to offer “seamless” substance abuse services in Hot Springs County.

Application for funding

Counseling Services applied in February to continue receiving state funding in order to offer substance abuse services at reduced rates in Hot Springs County. In a letter dated April 10, Senior Administrator Chris Newman of the state’s Behavioral Health Division denied Counseling Services’ request, saying Counseling Services did not meet criteria laid out in the division’s rules.

Counseling Services has since challenged the state Department of Health’s Behavioral Health Division’s decision not to renew the contract in District Court. Documents contained in the request for judicial review say the state failed to follow its own rules in accordance with renewing such contracts by not giving preference to the “organization currently under contract by the Division to provide services.”

See Counseling on page 11

Homegrown Girls



Rachel Berrier, Samantha Price and Alexis Price peruse items at the Linda’s Hand-made Jewelry Collection booth Saturday during the Homegrown Girls event held in front of the Thermopolis-Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce.
– Drew Foster photo

Counseling

from page 1

According to documents filed in District Court, the state contends that Counseling Services “was significantly below the required contract service hours for the past two contract years.” The documents state that Counseling Services provided 40 percent of the required service hours in fiscal year 2012 and 45.68 percent in fiscal year 2013. As of March 31, it stated that Counseling Services had completed 61.25 percent of the current fiscal year’s contract hours.

Counseling Services Executive Director Allan Braaten believes the center has met its contract services hours for the current fiscal year.

The document also stated that Counseling Services was “significantly below the statewide average for Treatment Complete outcome for the past two contract years” and “was significantly above statewide average wait time.”

Other reasons for denial included Counseling Services having less than two months of cash reserves on hand and being “at risk for closure,” as well as Counseling Services not addressing its alleged inability to provide the required service hours or developing “action steps” to address the issue.

Braaten disputes performance evaluation

Braaten addressed the state’s claims for not renewing the substance abuse contract in a document filed May 22 in District Court. Braaten stated that the only appropriate criteria for evaluating Counseling Services’ performance should fall within the current contract year, not the previous two contract years. He stated that Counseling Services is in compliance with the current contract.

“Two years of demonstrated performance is the criteria set forth in the proposed rules for

the Behavioral Health Division,” the document states. “However, the proposed rules have not been adopted nor implemented. Therefore, the only appropriate criteria under the current rules is performance under the current contract.”

Braaten stated in the documents that Counseling Services was below its contract service hours because it entered into an informal arrangement with Cloud Peak that would have allowed Cloud Peak to provide substance abuse counseling services in Hot Springs County.

“Hot Springs County residents had to travel to Worland to receive those services,” Braaten said in an email. “This portion was described as ‘intensive outpatient treatment’ and Cloud Peak ran the program for both counties for several years. In order to meet state contract requirements and at the behest of stakeholders in Hot Springs County, Hot Springs Counseling began an intensive outpatient treatment program in 2014.”

However, because the hours of service provided were delivered in Washakie County, they were credited to Cloud Peak and not to Counseling Services, the court document stated.

Braaten went on to state in the court documents that Counseling Services hired an additional substance abuse counselor in September and became “current on the hours of service required under its 2014 contract and is in full compliance with this contractual requirement.”

In the court document, Braaten called the claim that Counseling Services didn’t have adequate cash reserves “ridiculous.” “It would be impossible to generate a larger reserve and still provide the required services,” the document states.

“As for the other (allegations), they all seem to stem from the lack of service hours, which have been addressed this year,” Braaten said.

Commissioners hear favorable report on new airport

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners received an update on the progress of the new county airport and discussed some items that need addressing at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center during their meeting Tuesday.

Spring is in the air, and according to GDA Engineers, that is bringing out the noxious weeds at the site of the new airport.

Two in particular – knapweed and white top – are growing rampant and need to be dealt with in the next 10-14 days.

Commission Chair Mike Baker will get in touch with Weed and Pest to go out to the site to spray the 80 to 100 acres. The cost should be around \$3,000 and may be covered as a project expense through the FAA/state contract.

Overall, progress on Phase III of the project is about 24 percent complete and the contractor feels they may be even further ahead of the game next month, provided the weather continues its current trend.

On an even brighter note, the contractor informed GDA they had been able to hire some local workers on the project,

helping with the unemployment rate in the county, and plan on hiring additional workers in the next few weeks.

Phase IV has been awarded and the commissioners are waiting on minor paperwork from the state so final contracts may be signed. This phase may be completed by the end of the year.

Museum cracking, chipping issues

Museum Director Ross Rhodes approached the commissioners with concerns about some cracking and chipping issues he’s finding at ground level

on the corners of the museum building.

Rhodes said he was not sure how the commissioners would want him to proceed, and feels the deterioration of the cement is more of an appearance issue rather than a structural problem.

The commissioners reminded Rhodes that about \$20,000 had been set aside last year for some cosmetic repairs when the facade was removed. They plan to come down and inspect the area in question and see if the work can be included in the brick work job.

Gusty winds were not good for the roof at the “poverty shack” at the mu-

seum this spring.

A section of the roof was ripped off during one of the storms that passed through, and contractors’ estimates figure about \$854 to replace the rolled roofing.

Rhodes is going to check into an insurance claim on the damage, but the commissioners figure the deductible would be more than the job would actually cost.

The commissioners approved the work and authorized the payment come out of the “other building” line item in the county budget.

Tug of War Tournament

Gottsche Wellness Center is sponsoring a welcome to summer Tug of War Tournament on Thursday, June 12 at the sand volleyball courts in Hot Springs State Park.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the tourney begins at 7 p.m.

A movie will be shown at the state park pavilion following the tournament, beginning about 8:30 p.m.

Preregistration fee for a team

of eight members is \$40, which includes the tournament and movie. Registration the day of the tourney and movie is \$50 per team.

Prizes will be awarded to the top teams in these categories: male, female, coed, coed elementary, coed middle school and coed high school.

Tournament signup forms are available at Gottsche Wellness Center or online at www.gottsche.org.

**ACCOUNTING POSITION**

BOB RUWART MOTORS
in Wheatland is now hiring for an accounting position. Previous accounting experience and/or accounting degree preferred but will train the right person if we feel you are a good fit for our company. Duties will include accounts payable, receivable, and filing. Salary commensurate with experience. Apply in person at Bob Ruwart Motors, 2105 N 16th Street, Wheatland, WY

Wind River Flywheelers presents the
19th Annual Don Layton Memorial
ANTIQUE TRACTOR & GAS ENGINE SHOW & SHOSHONI DAYS

Shoshoni, WY • June 14-15

Saturday
9 a.m. Show Opens
10 a.m. Tractor Drive
11 a.m. Tractor Games
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Live Music & Lunch
1 p.m. Auction
1:30 p.m. Tractor Pull

Sunday
9 a.m. Show Opens
10 a.m. Tractor Drive
11 a.m. Tractor Pull
2 p.m. Raffle Drawings

Shoshoni Days
7-9 a.m. Free Biscuit & Gravy Breakfast (Senior Center)
7 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Bake Sale (Senior Center)
9 a.m. Gymkhana & Stick Horse Race (Rodeo Area)
9 a.m.-4 p.m. SRD Garage Sale (Shoshoni Recr. Bld.)
9 a.m. Battle of the Bars Softball Tourn. (Travis Park)
5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper (Senior Center)

BROWN'S WESTERN APPLIANCE

Make Dad's life easier.
Happy Father's Day!

- Mowers
- Tractors
- ZTR Mowers
- Rear & Front Tine Tillers
- Yard Machines
- MTD
- Troy-Bilt
- Remington
- Poulan Pro




711 SOUTH RAILWAY • WORLAND
1-800-570-3281 • 347-3281

Visiting Physicians
JUNE SCHEDULE
Washakie Medical Center Physician Outreach Clinic
1106 Big Horn Ave.
Worland, WY
(307) 347-8801

For more information and appointments, call the numbers listed below. Dates are subject to change.

DATE	PROVIDER	SPECIALTY	PHONE NUMBER
June 2	Christopher Lowther	Dermatologist	307-587-7000
June 3	Vernon Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
June 3	WY Cardiopulmonary	Cardiology	800-445-3501
June 4	Christopher Schreiber	Urologist	800-648-6274
June 4		Hearing Aid Institute	800-331-6009
June 9	Bryant Gulde	Prosthetic/Orthotics	800-707-4678
June 10	Vernon Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
June 12	Paul Byorth	Ear Nose & Throat	800-332-7156
June 12	James Sweet	Allergist	406-238-2501
June 16	Phillip Tallman	Dermatologist	866-988-3376
June 17	Vernon Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
June 17	WY Cardiopulmonary	Cardiology	800-445-3501
June 18	Andrew Rashkow	Cardiology	307-578-2980
June 19	Eric Dash	Podiatrist	307-266-4415
June 23	Dale Myers	Gynecologist	866-587-1155
June 24	Vernon Miller	General Surgeon	307-347-8115
June 25		Hearing Aid Institute	800-331-6009
June 26	Robert Joseph	Oncologist	800-332-7156
June 27	Christopher Lowther	Dermatologist	307-587-7000

**Washakie Medical Center**
Banner Health

MOUNTAIN WEST COMPUTER

724 Big Horn • Worland
347-2171
Mon.-Thurs. 9-5:30, Fri. 9-4
www.mountainw.com

Platinum Computer Repair

- Complete Infection Removal
- Fresh Reload of Windows 7 or 8 Operating System
- Latest Drivers Installed
- Antimalware/Antivirus

Regular Price \$129⁹⁵
Now \$89⁹⁵
Data Save Available at Additional Cost

Ask about upgrading from Windows XP. Computers running XP will be increasingly at risk for Infections, Identity Theft, and other Security Risks.

Handford's Sprinkler & Landscape

(307) 347-6662
100 South 2nd • Worland



- Decorative Concrete Curbing**
 - Three different styles
Slant, Square and Mowing Edge
 - Will not rust, decompose or break
 - Design Flexability
Curved, Straight Lines and Custom Designs
- Stamp Patterns Available**
- Random Rock

Running Brick

Aussie Slate

Basket Weave
- Circle Star

Circle Star

Circle Star

Circle Star
- www.handfordsprinkler.com



GET THE BEST TV FOR LESS!

PACKAGES START AT: \$19⁹⁹ mo 12 mo special

FREE Hopper[®] Upgrade

FREE Premium Channels For 3 Months
HBO COMET CWTIME starz

A FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY **CONNECT YOUR HOME**

CALL **866-574-6526**
www.dish-systems.com/wyoming

dish AUTHORIZED RETAILER

Terms and conditions apply. Call for details.