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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

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Hot Spot Car Rally set Father's Day weekend

by Joe Sovà

Father's Day weekend in Thermopolis will be very special again this year with the 22nd annual Hot Spot Car Rally in the spotlight at Hot Springs State Park. Available for inspection will be nearly 150 classic cars, pickups and motorcycles.

There were 131 entries in last year's rally. Traditionally, 70 to 75 percent of exhibitors enter on Saturday, the day before the actual "show n' shine."

In addition to exhibitors from Wyoming, Idaho, South Dakota and Montana, vintage vehicles came from Arizona, Oregon and Virginia.

According to new Hot Spot Car Rally committee chairman Dick Howe – who started the car rally with Randy Wahler – "wall art" trophies will be awarded to 11 category winners. For the second straight year, the People's Choice award went to Randy Stephenson of Evansville for his 1969 Chevrolet SS last year. Jason Clark of Gillette won the Committee's Choice award for his 1968 Ford Bronco.

Early-bird registration is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The eighth annual Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run is featured from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 per hand with a maximum of two hands per rider. Registration begins at 10 a.m. at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter in the state park.

The new poker run route this year features stops at O'Reilly Auto Parts, Merlin's Hide Out, Southside Exxon Travel Center, Front Porch, Storyteller and the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. Poker Run awards will be given at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter – just before the Parade of Cars begins.

The parade through Thermopolis starts at 4:30 p.m. It starts at the state park, proceeding along Senior Avenue through downtown Thermopolis to Fourth Street. The route goes up Broadway to the spotlight at Sixth Street, then south around the curve onto Shoshoni Street, right on Canyon Hills Road and concludes on 14th Street.

There will be a barbecue at the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter right after the parade.

Registration for the "show n' shine" resumes at 7:30 a.m. Father's Day and the show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The opening ceremony will feature

a flag raising by members of the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department.

There will be special kids' judging from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, when youngsters cast votes for their favorite vehicle. O'Reilly Auto Parts is donating three \$25 gift certificates to be given to owners of the top entries in the kids' balloting. Summit Motor Sports is supplying the kids' ballots.

Saturday and Sunday, collector car rally T-shirts will be sold at \$12 each. Door prizes will be given away. Food vendors will be in operation.

Tickets for the pedal car raffle are still available at a cost of \$5 each or three for \$10 at Owl Lumber, a car sponsor, or from Hot Spot Car Rally committee members. Tickets will be sold up to the pedal car drawing at 3 p.m. Sunday. Proceeds from the raffle will go to a local charity.

For further information, contact Howe at 864-3981 or 921-1175, or the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce at 864-3192.

Cancer survivor Boiles enters 'show n' shine'

Ron Boiles has gone through more than his share of adversity in the first 72 years of his life. Not once, but twice, he has won a battle with cancer. With those trials and tribulations behind him, he wants to have a little fun – and to bring back memories of his teenage years at the same time.

Boiles, a Texas native who spent most of his life in California, and his wife Ailene have lived in Thermopolis for seven years, come next month. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary later this year. And his wife has been with him every step of the way in his cancer battles.

For the first time, Boiles will have an entry in the Hot Spot Car Rally this weekend. It will be the bright red 1932 Ford street rod that he purchased Jan. 6. Why buy a classic car from that specific type and year? When he was a teenager, his sister was dating a guy who had a '32 Ford street rod and he really wanted to own one.



Ron Boiles shows the bright and shiny 1932 Ford street rod he purchased about five months ago. He will enter the classic car in this year's Hot Spot Car Rally. – Joe Sovà photo

Boiles, a retired general contractor, went shopping on the Internet. Last November, he found a '35 Ford street rod in California, and almost bought it. The owner finally "fessed up" and told Boiles it had a cracked frame and that ended the potential deal.

In early January, Boiles found a '32 Ford street rod advertised online. It was in Florida, but made the deal and went to pick it up. On May 10, he entered the rod in a car show in Casper. The following weekend, he ran across a show n' shine in Pagosa Springs, Colo., while driving over famed Wolf Creek Pass.

The Ford street rod is not his first classic car. He previously owned a stock '31 Model A and a '36 Ford 5-window coupe. Due to health issues, he sold the cars. He was without a classic car since 2000 before buying the street rod.

Since he came to Thermopolis, classic car and

pickup buff Dick Howe bought Boiles' enclosed trailer to haul his own classic automobiles. Boiles now has a trailer used to haul his street rod – when he's not driving it to shows.

You might have seen Boiles driving his 2005 Jeep Rubicon, complete with flames, around town. He formerly owned a 1951 Jeep CJ2A, powered by a 350-cubic-inch Chevy engine, when he lived in California. He entered hill climbs and sand drags from 1969-73. Boiles eventually wrecked the CJ2A, rebuilt it and sold the Jeep. It wasn't very economical – getting only about 3 miles per gallon of gas.

Since moving here, Boiles has enjoyed attending the Hot Spot Car Rally – yearning to have a classic car entered in the show n' shine. After beating cancer – twice – he'll be right in the middle of the action on Father's Day.

"I'm in my second childhood," Boiles said.

Cowboy Rendezvous to feature variety of events

Pack Horse Race, parade, PRCA Rodeo, dance on tap

Summer time in the West, when a cowboy's heart turns to – Rodeo!

The 2014 Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo and related events are coming Thursday, June 19 through Sunday, June 22 with a schedule sure to keep the entire family entertained.

What began in 1895 as a spur-of-the-moment bucking horse

event turned into one of the most recognized rodeo events in the United States by the 1940s. Its popularity carried through the 1970s before drifting into the sunset.

In 2004, a group of PRCA rodeo enthusiasts, business people and community members pulled together to restore the grandeur of the Thermopolis rodeo and once again make the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo a destination for cowboys and rodeo fans across the country.

**Pack Horse Race
leads off events Thursday**
Things will kick off on Thursday, June 19 with the Chuck Mead Memorial Pack Horse Race

at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds at 7 p.m.

Each heat will feature a two-man team racing through a variety of obstacles inside the arena, similar to what might be encountered on the trail.

Teams will provide their own mounts, saddles and related equipment as well as a tarp, Dutch oven, coffee pot and canned food.

The race committee furnishes each team with the remaining necessities for the "trail" like horse-shoes, bedroll, pots and pans and a dozen eggs.

The winning team will receive a custom-designed trophy belt buckle. All entry fees will

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PRCA Rodeo parade entries accepted

Entries are being accepted in six categories for the 2014 Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo parade, scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 21. Leading the parade will be bucking stock that is used during the Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.

Music is a new category this year, joining Walking, Car/Automobile, Float, Horse and Pet divisions. Local musicians along with out-of-county artists are invited to get together for parade entries.

Prizes will be awarded in each category, with winners receiving four tickets to a Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo performance and two Rodeopolis T-shirts.

There is no fee for entries in the parade and entry forms are available at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, Storyteller, Pinnacle Bank and White Horse Country Store. The entry form is also printable online at www.thermopoliscowboyrendezvous.com.

Lineup for the parade is set for 9:30 a.m. June 21 at Pizza Hut. Entry numbers will be printed on the street to assist with lineup. The parade begins at 10 a.m. It proceeds north on Sixth Street, turns right at the spotlight at Broadway Street and continues to the VFW Club. There will be no parking on the south side of Broadway between Fifth and Sixth streets just before and during the parade. To ensure safety, spectators must stay behind the roped-off area – since the rodeo horses tend to get a bit unruly. Tawna McQueen of the Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo committee said the throwing of candy from parade entries would not be allowed. People will be allowed to hand out candy to kids along the parade route.

Trailblazers: Conservation Corps crafts new state park path

by Drew Foster

Red dirt misted the afternoon air with each scoop of soil and swing of the pickaxe. The path took shape, widened and snaked up the hill – shovels in front, dirt tampers bringing up the rear. A trail was born.

The Wyoming Conservation Corps, composed primarily of University of Wyoming students, rolled into town Tuesday and began forging what will become the Quarry Trail, a four-mile loop that begins near Smoky Row Cemetery in Hot Springs State Park and winds past the old rail line. Between 24 and 30 inches wide, the trail should accommodate hikers and mountain bikers.

A 45-degree back slope on the up-facing edge should slow water flow and minimize erosion. Foreign materials such as gravel or chipped rock are eschewed in favor of compacting the existing dirt and strategically placing natural rocks for stability.

The project, one of about 18 the Wyoming Conservation Corps is embarking upon this summer, will cost the state park \$12,963, significantly less than a private contractor would charge, said senior project coordinator Patrick Harrington. The Conservation Corps members work 10-hour days, sleep in tents and bathe, if they're lucky, at the bath house.

"It's a relatively cheap and quick way to do things," Harrington said. "It may look like a chunk of money, but it's very much money well spent."

The crews should have the trail finished next week.

Paul Gritten, nonmotorized trails manager for the Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails, said the trail-building project is a part of the state's effort to diversify the offerings of its parks.

"Hot Springs State Park sees 1.9 million people a year and most of them are on their way to Yellowstone," Gritten said. "And this gives them something else to do."

Benefits to members of corps

The project benefits the Conservation Corps members as well.

Crew leader Natalie Perkins said members are paid \$3,250 for 450 labor hours of work and receive a \$1,200 educational stipend from AmeriCorps, as well as college credits.

"It's a fantastic experience," she said. "We've had people who have never camped before."

Ben Wiebe, another crew leader, is not one of them. Originally from Scottsbluff, Neb., Wiebe grew up with a healthy appre-

ciation for nature. It's one of the things that attracted him to the University of Wyoming.

"I came to UW to be outside," he said.

This is Wiebe's second year with the Wyoming Conservation Corps. Projects he's worked on have involved sage grouse and grassland conservation, as well as invasive species management.

"It teaches you how to be independent," Wiebe said. "This program is all about stewardship."

Before heading to Thermop, Wiebe had just finished a project in Sinks Canyon State Park south of Lander, where his crew fished for dinner and bathed in the river.

"It is rustic," he said of Conservation Corps endeavors. "But sometimes it's better that way."

Harrington said 73 percent of this summer's Conservation Corps projects will be done in conjunction with Wyoming state parks. The crews operate for 91 days between May 15 and Aug. 13. The Conservation Corps is funded by UW and AmeriCorps grants.

The Quarry Trail will eventually be outfitted with interpretive signs, and explanatory pamphlets should be made available nearby, Gritten said.

"That'll happen down the road," he added.



University of Wyoming student and Wyoming Conservation Corps member Billy Sanford swings a pickax while building the Quarry Trail in Hot Springs State Park on Tuesday. Fellow Conservation Corps member and UW student Phil Klebba shovels dirt in the background. – Drew Foster photo

Linton benefit poker run



Darren Burrows receives a \$200 check from Jenni Dorman on behalf of the Big Horn Basin Riders, as a donation to the Gary Linton family. The benefit poker run raised more than \$1,800 for the family. – Cindy Glasson photo

Pet and Pedal, Gift of the Waters parades slated for this summer

Everyone loves a parade, and the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce has two planned for this summer.

The Fourth of July Pet and Pedal parade has become an institution in Thermopolis, featuring kids, their pets and any manner of rolling transportation – from bikes to scooters to little red wagons.

This year, the Chamber of Commerce is expanding the holiday tradition to include the grown-ups, too.

It's still a red, white and blue patriotic theme, but this year, the youngsters will line up next to the County Extension Service building on Arapahoe and the adults will assemble near the Senior Citizens Center on Senior Avenue.

Lineup will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the parade starting at 10 a.m.

Awards will be given for the most patriotic entry with the kids and with the adults.

Entries for the Fourth of July parade must be turned in to the Chamber by 3 p.m. on July 3.

Pageant Days Parade

Later this summer will be the Gift of the Waters Parade, Saturday, Aug. 2.

"The Great Outdoors" is the theme this year and folks can enter the parade in a number of ways, including businesses, automobiles, floats and even kids' entries.

Lineup will be at the Senior Citizens Center, too, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Judging will be based on theme, appearance and originality.

Entries for the Gift of the Waters Parade must be at the Chamber by 3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 1.

Businesses earn TripAdvisor awards

Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Front Porch Deli and Stones Throw Restaurant have been awarded 2014 Certificates of Excellence, signifying that they have consistently earned outstanding feedback from TripAdvisor travelers, according to the travel information website.

According to TripAdvisor, this prestigious award is based on the quality of reviews and opinions the business has earned on the TripAdvisor website over the past year.

Rendezvous

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be jackpotted and places paid based on the number of entries.

Anyone wishing to get in on the action may bet on his or her favorite team to win during the calcutta auction that begins at 6 p.m.

Friday's happenings

Not all of the action will be found at the fairgrounds with the first annual Smokin' Waters Golf Invitational scheduled for Friday, June 20 at the Thermopolis Golf Club.

Play will begin at 8 a.m. Tournament information is part of a story on page 6 of this issue of the Independent Record.

Friday night's rodeo theme is "Patriotic Night" with visitors encouraged to dress in red, white and blue for the evening.

Gates at the fairgrounds and vendor alley will open at 4 p.m. with the rodeo beginning at 7 p.m.

Saturday's slate

Rise and shine on Saturday for the free pancake breakfast starting at 7:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds, sponsored by Tumbleweed Propane. Breakfast is open to the public.

After breakfast you can mosey on over to the

arena where the cowboys will be doing some slack competition. Admission for slack is free and starts at 8 a.m.

The annual rodeo parade will hit the streets downtown at 10 a.m. For those participating in the parade, lineup will be at 9:30 a.m. at Pizza Hut. (See related story about the parade on page 1 of this issue of the Independent Record.)

Rendezvous Rodeo queen Cayde Cuprak and her attendant Alexa Ballard will be out at White Horse Country Store from noon until 2 p.m. to meet folks and pose for pictures.

It's just a hop, skip and a jump over to Thermopolis Hardware for the Sarsaparilla Social that will also be from noon to 2 p.m.

Saturday night's PRCA rodeo is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night to honor breast cancer awareness. The performance starts at 7 p.m.

After the rodeo you'll want to keep your boots on for a dance, sponsored by Riverbend Sheet Metal, in the fair building. Music will be provided by The Rewinders.

Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo weekend officially culminates on Sunday, June 22 with Cowboy Church starting at 9 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

\$56M tagged for highways

by Drew Foster

About \$56 million of State Transportation Improvement Program funding is destined to be spent on District 5 roads and highways by the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) this federal fiscal year, which runs through Sept. 30.

District 5 encompasses the northwest section of Wyoming from Dubois to the west, Ten Sleep to the east and South Pass to the south.

Projects in Hot Springs County include repaving the tunnels on U.S. Highway 20/ Wyoming 789 through the Wind River Canyon, which should cost \$396,759 and begin June 16, and a \$1.4 million project to replace the Owl Creek bridge on Wyoming 170.

The Owl Creek bridge replacement project includes removing the existing bridge this month, pouring a concrete deck around mid-August and asphalt paving in mid-September. The Wind River tunnels project includes replacing the concrete surface with asphalt within the tunnels and 50 feet outside in both directions.

Retaining walls also were recently built along Highway 20 South in the canyon to prevent shoulder erosion.

Fiscal year 2016 projects include an overlay of Wyoming 170 near Hamilton Dome north of the bridge.

This fiscal year's Transportation Improvement Program funding in District 5 increased from \$48 million in the 2013 federal fiscal year, but is expected to drop to \$37 million in the next federal fiscal year.

District 5 Engineer Shelby Carlson said during a Department of Transportation meeting last week at the government annex in Thermopolis that the district expected to receive \$39 million this fiscal year. Carlson attributed the increase in dollars to additional 10-cent fuel tax revenue generated in the state and leftover emergency relief funding.

Monies for the Transportation Improvement Program come from WYDOT's roughly \$352 million highway improvement and contract maintenance fund. The Department of Transportation expects to spend about \$317.5 million on construction projects statewide this fiscal year, up from about \$278 million last fiscal year.

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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, visit www.westparkhospital.org and click on "Physician Directory."

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