

First Summer Music
Festival set for
Thermop July 19 **3**

Ryan wins Red, White
& Blue; Uffelman
cards hole-in-one **6**

State Parks to hold
public meeting
next Thursday **10**

Second Friday ArtStroll
features artists,
local musicians **16**

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Rep. Winters pushes for solution to terraces issue

by Cindy Glasson

An initial step toward bringing the colors back to the Rainbow Terraces in Hot Springs State Park has been completed and now the waiting game begins.

Tommaron, Inc. recently finished filling in and lining four of the cooling ponds on the terraces in an effort to lower the depth of the pools – allowing more water to flow freely through them – in hopes that getting the water flowing over the terraces again will bring their color back.

Over the years, buildup of minerals from the water has slowed or, as in the case of some areas, stopped the flow of water over the travertine formations. Lower levels of water coming out of the Big Spring has also attributed to the situation.

The lack of water has caused the formations to take on a bleached look.

Personal issue with water flow

Nathan Winters, Representative for House District 28, has taken on the condition of the terraces and the flows from the Big Spring as a personal issue for Hot Springs County.

“I am thankful that the State Parks were willing to work with me last fall as I relayed the concerns of the Natural Resource Planning

Committee and conversations I had with the vendors regarding the need to fix a number of areas on the terraces to allow for better water flow,” Winters said. “I also appreciate their willingness to take the ideas I proposed, like reducing the depth of some of the upper ponds so that the water can be distributed over more surface area, and bring them to reality.”

Some have expressed concern regarding the heat exchanger installed by the state some years ago, stressing that many of the problems with water flow began when the system was installed.

Winters asked for some outside assistance with the issue, which is ongoing.

“I contacted the University of Wyoming to see if we could have a peer review of the heat exchanger system,” Winters said. “The work of Dr. Stephen Coon and the State Parks is the culmination

of that effort and I appreciate the cooperation between agencies.”

Possibility of recycling water

Another possible solution also being looked into is recycling water from the three pools over the terraces.

For years, it has been thought, because the

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Rep. Nathan Winters (R-HD28), right, speaks with State Parks and Cultural Resources Administrator Domenic Bravo about the state park's terrace project during a public meeting June 23 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

– Joe Sovia photo

Fourth of July parade



The winner in the Pet and Pedal division of the Fourth of July parade was Ben Stucky with his dog Callie. The Big Horn Basin Riders won the Motorized division title. The Thermopolis Ambassadors' float, featuring residents from Big Horn Enterprises, was the winner in the Patriotic division. Tinsley Dorman, above, was one of the cutest parade participants.

– Cindy Glasson photo

Lions Club Ranch Rodeo featured

Rodeo is a sport that can be enjoyed by all members of the family from a spectator standpoint, not to mention the competitors.

The Thermopolis Lions Club Ranch Rodeo is creeping up on its silver anniversary, which will be celebrated next summer. In the meantime, the 24th annual Ranch Rodeo will feature a pair of evening performances this weekend – set for 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12 at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds arena. The facility features a brand new announcer's booth that is centrally located above the arena.

Gates open at 5 p.m. each day. There will be a Calcutta Friday at 7 p.m. where spectators can choose their favorite teams for the performances and have a chance to make a trip to the pay window.

According to Tenda Moore of the Thermopolis Lions Club, a portion of the money raised during the Calcutta and all the net concessions proceeds both days are donated by the Thermopolis Lions Club locally for eye care. She encourages community members to attend and support the Ranch Rodeo for its valuable cause.

Challenging events

Teams consist of five members, including a businessperson. Each team must include either one female or youth age 15 and under.

Popular yet challenging events include wild cow milking, wild cow riding, branding, trailer loading and ribbon roping. Prizes will be awarded based on the number of teams entered.

Events for the kids will include mutton bustin' and a calf scam-

Ranch Days history

The Thermopolis Lions Club's Ranch Rodeo, originally known as Ranch Days, dates back 40 years – having its beginning in 1974. It got its start largely due to the effort of Dick Dickeson and a handful of other Hot Springs County residents.

Dickeson remembers the first event was a one-day rodeo featuring events that started in the morning and ran past midnight.

The second year, the rodeo was expanded to two days – thus, its name was Ranch Days. It was just too much to cram into a single day. During its early years, the rodeo covered either two or three days.

However, the rodeo went into hiatus after six years, according to Dickeson, who indicated the group of people organizing and running the rodeo got burned out.

After spending about 12 years in hiatus, what came to

be called the Ranch Rodeo was revived – becoming an annual event again in 1991. The Ranch Rodeo is just two years away from its silver anniversary. That will also be the 90th birthday of the existence of the Thermopolis Lions Club.

Dickeson indicated that such ranch rodeos have spread all over the United States and the Thermopolis Lions Club is keeping the spirit alive.

Over the last several decades, many ranches – on a nationwide basis – have downsized, making it more of a local challenge to get a team together for the annual Ranch Rodeo.

There may not be quite as many events at the Ranch Rodeo that you'll see these days, but the high enthusiasm and competitive spirit remains the same.

For pure entertainment value, the Ranch Rodeo is top-notch and well worth the nominal price of admission.

ble. There will be special prizes for winners in those events.

With the variety of events testing the skills of competitors, the Ranch Rodeo is truly a family event – with no shortage of laughs.

Tickets for each Ranch Rodeo performance are \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children ages 7-12 and seniors (age 60 and over). Kids under 7 are admitted free. Advance tickets are available at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office and the Hot Springs County Se-

nior Citizens Center or from any Thermopolis Lions Club member.

Concessions will be available. The Lions Club asks that those attending the performances to not bring in any coolers.

“Next year we want to have a dance and a chuckwagon dinner,” Moore said of the 25th annual event in 2015. A kids' rodeo on Saturday afternoon is also a possibility next year.

For more information about the Ranch Rodeo, call 921-1902 or 921-9547, or contact any Thermopolis Lions Club member.

Finding a meth solution

by Drew Foster

After seeing that Hot Springs County ranked third-highest in the state for the percentage of arrests involving methamphetamine, a local committee is forming to help combat the presence of the drug in the community.

The Hot Springs County Community Prevention Coalition has compiled a list of 22 names of potential members since June and hopes to pare the roster down to 10 by September.

Becky Mortimore, of the Community Prevention Coalition, is heading the group, which should be composed of members of law enforcement, the judicial system, town and county government, probation and parole and the school system.

The committee is still in its infancy, and Mortimore is not sure what it will do to address the issue of methamphetamine, but she wants to create a group that will address the drug's negative impact on the community.

“I don't know if there's anything we can do, but we can try,” Mortimore said.

A report released in April by the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs showed that 6.6 percent of arrests in Hot Springs County last year involved methamphetamine – the third highest percentage in Wyoming behind Campbell and Sweetwater counties. Statewide, 3.44 percent of arrests reportedly involved methamphetamine.

The figures alarmed Thermop-

olis Mayor Bill Malloy, who said he wanted to see a group formed to address the issue and proposed the idea to the Prevention Coalition last month. Malloy said he's concerned that many drug-related court cases result in probation, and he wants to better understand the County Attorney's approach to sentencing recommendations.

Mortimore also pointed to a 2012 Wyoming Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) report that listed Hot Springs County as having the highest level of risk factors for substance abuse among youth in the state.

“The PNA measured wider ranges of attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions that are related to substance

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Celebrating our independence



Fireworks lit up the night on the Fourth of July as the Thermopolis volunteer firemen sent several thousands of dollars worth of shells high into the air above T Hill. The spectacular show went on for more than 30 minutes, enchanting onlookers from all over town.

– Cindy Glasson photo

Terraces

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water would be too cool, that recycling the water would do more harm than good; however, that may not be the case.

"I am working on having a scientist look at the possibility of using some of the water that comes from the current facilities to pump over the terraces," Winters said. "The discharge of one of these facilities could increase the flow over the terraces by nearly half again."

"I have heard several times that the water has residue in it that could hurt the terraces and yet we do not have any empirical evidence that it will."

"I am asking for testing to determine the pH balance of the water and whether they will help or hurt the growth of thermophiles. This is one solution that should be properly explored because of its potential benefit."



There is evidence that the four cooling ponds in Hot Springs State Park, as pictured above in late June, are near capacity after they were drained, lined and refilled. The desired result of the project would be that mineral water will again eventually flow over the Rainbow Terraces. — Joe Sovo photo

State Parks meeting July 17 at museum

The "healing waters" aspects of Hot Springs State Park will be discussed at the next public meeting with Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 17 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center in Thermopolis.

This is the third of the monthly visits Simpson committed to making to engage local citizens regarding Hot Springs State Park. In addition, Hot Springs State Park

Superintendent Kevin Skates and State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails Administrator Domenic Bravo will be in attendance.

Cheryl Shero, executive director of Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, is tentatively scheduled to speak and other professionals have been invited to talk about the unique characteristics of these waters. Members of the public also are encouraged to share their own stories and experiences during the meeting.

Persons with questions may contact Hot Springs State Park headquarters at 864-2176.

Any groups or members of the public who wish to meet with Simpson during his visit on July 17 or during visits in subsequent months are asked to contact his office at 307-777-7496.

Information from the June public meeting is available by contacting Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails at 307-777-6323.

Reunion of '74 state hoop title team July 19

It was a weekend to remember for the Bobcat boys' basketball team in March 1974.

After placing third at the district tournament, the Cats arrived in Laramie to beat the defending state champion Buffalo Bison in game one of the state tournament, handled the Star Valley Braves rather handily in game number two and went on to tower over the Torrington Trailblazers — bringing home the school's first state championship in basketball in 20 years.

To commemorate that banner year, members of the 1974 basketball team — along with coaches and families of players, statisticians and cheerleaders — will be holding a reunion Saturday, July 19 during All-Class Reunion weekend.

The team reunion will start at 11 a.m. in the commons area at Hot Springs County High School and will run through 3 p.m.

Local photographer Jeb Schenck will be taking pictures of the team at 1:30 that afternoon.

Anyone who would like to come visit with the team, coaches or cheerleaders are welcome to stop by, and anyone with memorabilia of the championship year is encouraged to bring it along.

DVDs of the championship game will be available for purchase and T-shirts will be for sale, also.

If you have questions about the event, call Rod Anderson at 307-709-5055.

Grass Creek Reunion on tap

The annual Grass Creek Reunion will be held Saturday, July 19 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center in Thermopolis. The event is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes a luncheon.

Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish. For further information about the Grass Creek Reunion, contact Frances Johnson at 921-1178 or Jack Johnson at 921-8148.

Meth

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use," the report stated. "Those attitudes that are associated with increased likelihood of substance use are called Risk Factors."

The formation of the commit-

tee is on hold until September — the soonest District Judge Robert E. Skar can meet with the group, Mortimore said.

Public input is encouraged as

well.

"We welcome anyone to come and give input," Mortimore said. "We want people's opinion on what would be beneficial to the com-

munity."

The Community Prevention Coalition next meets Aug. 6 at 11:30 a.m., tentatively planned to be held at the County Annex building.



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