



River flows remain high

by Zachary White
Water levels in the Big Horn River south of Boysen Dam were increased again Tuesday, going up to 7,500 cubic feet per second. Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon said the river should start reducing in speed after this increase. "The plan is 7,500 is as high as it goes," Gordon said. This all comes from the Bureau of Reclamation who oversees water resource management throughout the country. Marshy and boggy stretches along the

river will likely begin to be flooded, and residents are being asked to continue to stay away from the river, as flow levels are high. However, while flow levels are high, residences along the river should not be affected by the flow increase. As Gordon pointed out earlier this year, the Big Horn has seen flow rates as high as 10,000 cubic feet per second in the past without causing much damage. The recent flooding and river flow increases come only months after the Bu-

reau of Reclamation thought we would be seeing a dry year, based on their data at the time. But May proved their information wrong as rainfall came down heavily causing some local flooding, as well as dragging high amounts of water and snowpack into Boysen Dam. The peak runoff into Boysen Reservoir from the Wind River Mountains is expected to happen late this week, so outflow from the reservoir is expected to continue at the 7,500 cfs rate for at least another week.

Pallet painting party set for Saturday stroll

Photography is the theme for the Second-Friday ArtStroll in downtown Thermopolis, Friday June 12 from 5-8 p.m. featuring artists and musicians from Thermopolis, New York State, Riverton and Fort Washakie. Most downtown businesses are open during the event. A pallet painting party will take place on Still Strolling Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bring your camera along for helpful hints and tips from Dr. Jeb Schenck, this month's featured photographer. Schenck will be located in Owl Creek Graphics on Friday, June 12. Schenck has traveled the world taking pictures and will have on hand his many photo albums. During Still Strolling Saturday, June 13, Schenck will do camera and photo printing demonstrations from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Owl Creek Graphics. Other photographers on display include Lauri Olsen at Nature's Corner. Olsen is new to photography, just recently expanding into wildlife, ballets, theatre, babies and weddings. Debbie Stroppel, Hawkwoman Photography (One Eyed Buffalo Brewery) began her passion for photography years ago. She found her spirit within nature while exploring her backyard and the world she travels through. Flying Eagle Gallery welcomes the Viewfinders Photography Club from Worland. An opening reception with members from Worland, Greybull, Tensleep and Powell will be held Friday evening. Members will be demonstrating photography techniques. The Viewfinders Photography Club will have their work on display until the end of June. Strollers on Friday evening and Saturday can visit jewelry designer Barbara Kruger (Broadway Bygones), who is visiting from New York State. Barbara Kruger/BKF Designs specializes in colorful enamels and cloisonné in sterling silver and mixed metal settings, with gem stones to add balance and accent to the designs. Kruger strives to make hand-made, one-of-a-kind, eco-friendly, high quality jewelry with unique features to help you feel extraordinary. Jennie Blakesley (Storyteller) has been designing jewelry for 10 to 15 years. Her work began with a lot of medieval/gothic influence but is eclectic and constantly evolving. Throughout the years Blakesley has been inspired by numerous trends but mostly it's whatever strikes her fancy. Other jewelry artists include Kelli A. Wesaw and Timothy T. Wesaw, Fort Washakie (Hazel N Pearls). Kelli does stained and fused glass; Timothy does silver and stone jewelry and art. Other artists along the stroll are Joy Jones, Riverton, (City Rags) who uses both a pottery wheel and hand-building techniques to create functional dinnerware and other pieces that

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Smiles for miles...

Tim Lippincott was having a wonderful time last week during arts and crafts time sponsored by the Hot Springs County Recreation District. Children worked with a variety of materials from paint to Play-Doh. -Cindy Glasson photo

Hometown hide workers Hollywood debut



by Zachary White
Hollywood hit home for Barb and Merlin Heinze when a costume designer working on Quentin Tarantino's newest movie "The Hateful Eight" reached out. The two proprietors of Merlin's Hide Out were asked to make buffalo coats for Kurt Russell to use in the movie. With the movie set to premiere this winter, Barb said it was stressful at times getting the work done correctly and quickly. It all amounted to eight coats for Hateful Eight, Tarantino's eighth movie. After getting the measurements for Kurt Russell, the crew at Merlin's Hide Out were first asked to do two coats. Barb, knowing that no two buffalo hides are alike, thought that was a challenge. "It takes two buffalo hides to build a coat, at least," Barb said. But before long, Barb said she was looking through 250 hides to find the 16 that looked similar enough to each other in order to make eight coats. What's more, Barb said it takes a week to turn a buffalo hide into the finished coat product. Merlin's Hide Out was an ideal candidate to build the coats, as Barb pointed out they sell between 300 and 400 hides a year, as well as building coats themselves. "We've shipped to every state in the United States and 10 international countries," she said. Between December and March, Barb said they sent all eight buffalo coats to the costume designer Courtney Hoffman. According to Barb, the coat design came from an older buffalo coat design from the 1880s that Hoffman found in The Autry National Center. The Autry National Center is a mu-

seum in Los Angeles dedicated to exploring an inclusive history of the American West. Using the design of that coat, the coat created for Russell's use in the movie was born. And it won't be the last time Merlin's Hide Out makes a movie appearance. Barb confirmed they have more in the works, but due to nondisclosure agreements the details are staying a secret for now. However, it may not be buffalo that is featured in Hollywood the next time Merlin's Hide Out makes a movie appearance. "Besides buffalo, we use about a thousand different kinds of furs," Barb said. The movie, The Hateful Eight, is a story of bounty hunters who are stuck in post-Civil War Wyoming during a massive blizzard. Barb said she enjoyed the experience of working with Hoffman, and being able to build coats for a Hollywood movie. "We couldn't have had a better experience," she said.

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