



Small Business Saturday scavenger hunt

by Chandler Smith
Saturday will serve as the beginning of the Chamber of Commerce's Hometown Holiday celebration.
Events will be held to encourage holiday shoppers to spend the day in town shopping at their local merchants.
Small Business Saturday will have businesses featuring specials all day Saturday. Main Street Thermopolis plans on making this Saturday one to remember, and has organized a special scavenger hunt to encourage participation in the event.
In coordination with the Lights On after-school program, Main Street Thermopolis

has designed and purchased a 1,000-piece puzzle.
Puzzle pieces with their business name written on the back will be distributed to each store taking part in the scavenger hunt. Shoppers must collect a puzzle piece from ten different stores on Saturday, and then return the pieces to the Main Street Thermopolis office located at Central Bank and Trust. Puzzle pieces must be received by 6 p.m. to make it into the drawing.
Every shopper who collects ten pieces will be entered into a raffle. If all 1,000 pieces are distributed, the one lucky winner will take home \$200 in Chamber Bucks. The

second place drawing will win the puzzle. If only a portion of the 1,000 pieces are returned, the first place winner will receive \$100 in Chamber Bucks.
The drawing for the raffle will take place at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 28 at 6 p.m.
Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be visiting with children at Hazel-n-Pearls following the tree lighting.
The Ritz will have a 1 p.m. showing of "Northpole" sponsored by Pinnacle Bank. Admission will be free with a canned food good or present.



photo by Durward D. Jones

He has the moves to win!

Soren Webber gets ready to show the room how to win at Pachinko at the Rocky Mountain Elks Foundation's annual Hunters Ball.

Finishing touches to airport

by Chandler Smith
Hot Springs County Commissioners and GDA engineer Jeremy Gilb declared the Nov. 7 airport grand opening a "huge success" on all fronts during their Thursday afternoon meeting.
Over 300 people attended the event, which according to early estimates ran a mere \$50 dollars over budget. Incredible Edibles, who catered the event, counted 212 plates served, and Gilb added that he saw around a hundred people that did not eat.
Opening day for the airport was a busy day, with 20 different planes landing on the runway, some taking off and landing multiple times.
A few projects are unfinished at the airport, which is currently open and functioning within all FAA and WYDOT parameters.
An underdrain project, which Gilb said was supposed to start Monday but instead was delayed to Thursday, should take about one or two weeks to finish. GDA is also researching a fix for the airport beacon, which has caused a handful of complaints from nearby residents.
During Thursday's meeting, Gilb and commissioner Brad Basse said they would search for a way to solve the issue of the beacon. A sheet metal reflector was suggested, and Basse and Gilb volunteered to speak to the community member who raised the concern.
Jadeco entered a winning bid for the airport security system, which will cost just over \$4,000. Kenco, out of Billings, also entered a bid, but lost due its \$15,000 price tag.
The county commissioners have filled out all applicable paperwork from WYDOT to receive a license to sell fuel at the airport. Nate Messenger, the airport FOB, will be in charge of all fuel sales.

More food donations needed

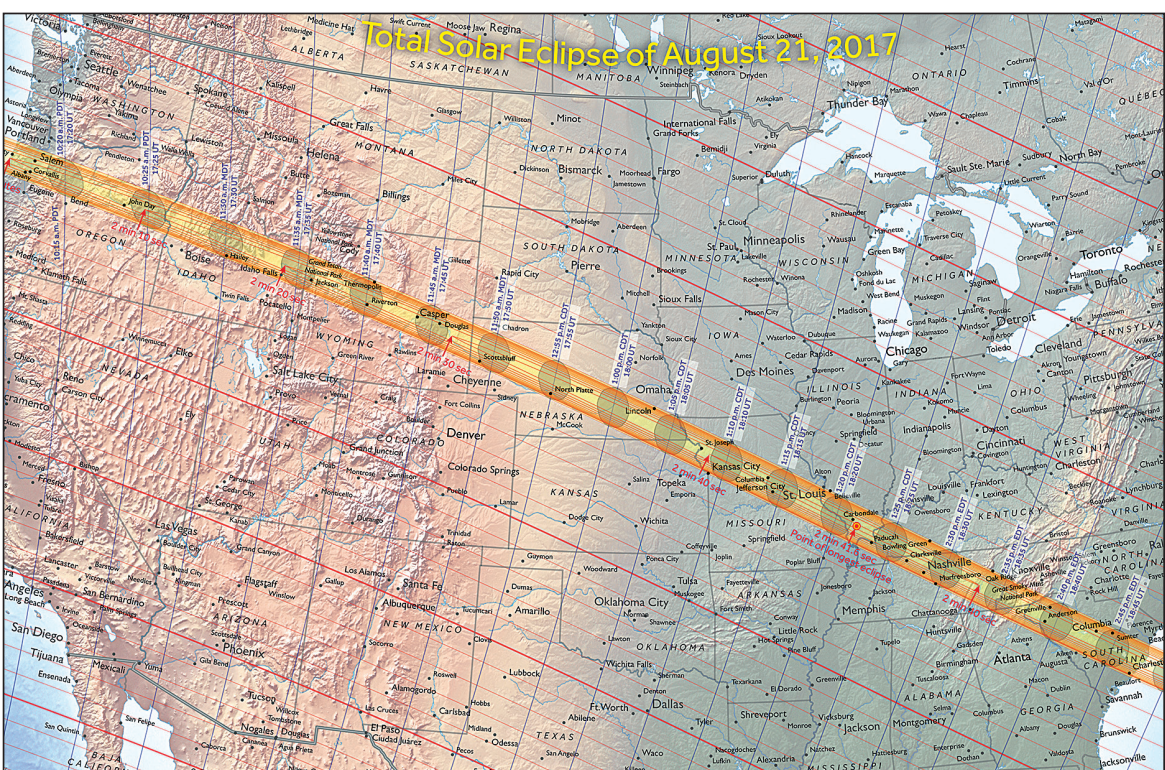
The Christmas Basket program is in need of more canned goods, boxed meals and other non-perishable food.
Donations of canned fruit and vegetables, boxed meals such as macaroni and cheese and Hamburger Helper along with boxed potatoes and stuffing are needed.
You can drop food off at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 7th and Arapahoe.
Other places you can drop food off include the box in the lobby of the courthouse, the Independent Record and Common Ground from noon-3 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday.
Monetary donations can be mailed to: Christmas Baskets, PO Box 950, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

Planning underway for 2017 solar eclipse

by Chandler Smith
Members of the Hot Springs County community are currently making plans in advance of the 2017 solar eclipse. Tourists from all over are expected to come to Hot Springs County and surrounding communities because Wyoming will be in the eclipse's area of totality, meaning the entire sun will appear as a black dot as it passes behind the moon.
Representatives from the area's state parks, Chamber Board, and Shoshoni officials attended a meeting on Wednesday that sought to find the best way to plan and prepare for the upcoming event.
The planning group spoke with Thermopolis native Scott Mecca, who currently works in the Albany County School District IT department. Mecca, who has also taught science classes in Wyoming high schools, is an amateur astronomer and was able to give group members an idea of what they should plan for in August 2017.
Mecca mentioned the idea of "star parties," which are amateur astronomy get togethers where dozens or sometimes hundreds of amateur astronomers gather and set up telescopes to observe the

night sky. Chamber Board Executive Director Meri Ann Rush suggested that the group plan a "star party" for the upcoming summer as a test run, consider-

ing the Lander, Riverton, Shoshoni and Thermopolis communities will be directly in the line of totality for the eclipse.
"You're going to see the entire world looking at Wyoming for the next six hundred days," said Mecca, noting that surrounding communities have a special opportunity to provide a unique experience to community members and tourists alike.
Representatives from both Hot Springs and Boysen State Parks are planning on organizing campgrounds in advance of the influx of tourists expected. Mecca gave organizers various tips for amenities "star party" goers might expect, like a generator, alongside other necessities like bathrooms and water.
Mecca also noted that local science teachers can apply for grants from a National Solar Observatory-University of Wyoming joint venture that offers telescopes and education about eclipse to schools in the zone of totality.
"Ultimately you're going to want to have a place where people could step up and take a look," Mecca said, suggesting that telescopes should be purchased for the eclipse and any "star parties" state parks wish to hold.
The next step for the planning committee is contacting school officials and looking for grant money to procure telescopes and related equipment that will encourage tourism.



This map shows the optimal viewing locations of the 2017 solar eclipse across the United States. Map courtesy of Michael Zeiler, GreatAmericanEclipse.com.