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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Hot Spot Car Rally hits town

by Joe Sovia

On a spring day in 1992, the phone rang and Dick Howe answered. It was Randy Wahler, a good friend.

"Randy called me and asked if I wanted to get a car show started," Howe said last week.

Howe, who had just bought a 1946 Chevrolet pickup at a junkyard in Deaver, thought it was a good idea. "My wife wanted a little round pickup," he said.

The pickup was not restored until about two years later, but Howe and Wahler organized the first Hot Spot Car Rally in the summer of 1992. The show was small, with just six cars and Howe's old pickup (not yet restored). Skip Zancanata, Jim Daniels and others who owned classic cars got involved.

"It wasn't a car show. It was 'bring your favorite set of wheels,'" Howe said of the 1992 show, which was held at the Big T Drive-in (now the Lil' Wrangler). Later, the event was staged in the Consumers Thriftway (now Blair's Super Market) parking lot before moving to Hot Springs State Park.

Howe indicated that it took about five years for the Hot Spot Car Rally to blossom. The second year, there were only 12 cars and trucks entered. By 2008, the entry number had grown to 113. Last year, there were 143 entries — a show record. Cars came from all over Wyoming in addition to Montana, Colorado, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon.

The 18th annual Hot Spot Car Rally will be featured this weekend at the State Park.

Early bird registration and a get-together will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The parade of cars begins at 4:30 p.m. Saturday through the streets of Thermopolis. Rally committee chair Tawna McQueen said there could be 150 or more cars, trucks and motorcycles at this year's event, depending on the weather forecast.

There is a no-host barbecue and beer garden from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, with live local entertainment, including the Anonymity String Band.

A karate academy demonstration will also be featured.

Creative Signs by Scott will provide free custom pin striping both Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday's events begin with registration for the car show at 8 a.m.

The Show 'N Shine runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with lots of great music. Car rally T-shirts will be on sale.

For more information, call the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce at 864-3192 or McQueen at 864-3707.



From left, Tawna McQueen, Dick Howe and Rod McQueen are pictured with Howe's 1946 Chevrolet. The pickup will be among the entries in the 18th annual Hot Spot Car Rally this weekend.

Relay for Life Friday at 6 p.m.

by Cindy Glasson

The public is invited to come cheer on the teams participating in the Relay for Life at the high school track starting at 6 p.m. Friday.

Teams will walk around the track throughout the night in the fight against cancer on behalf of the American Cancer Society.

A survivor's dinner at the senior center starts things off at 5 p.m. The dinner is open to those who have beaten cancer.

Carnival games for all ages will be there from 7 to 9 p.m. Live music will be provided by Sweet Water.

Lighting of the luminaries will begin at 9 p.m. with a ceremony to follow at 10 p.m.

The luminaries will be lit around the perimeter of the track to honor those who lost their battle with cancer.

Festivities will continue throughout the night and into the morning with teams walking and participating in various games to keep them going.

A \$39,000 goal was set by the local Relay for Life core group this year.

Monies raised go to the American Cancer Society to be used for cancer research as well as raising awareness about the many forms of the disease.

Arts, crafts and smiles



Wyatt McDermott shows his Play-Doh creation to Garrett Titmus during craft classes sponsored by the Hot Springs County Recreation District. Crafting is just one of the many offerings by the district during the summer — Cindy Glasson photo

Town schedules master plan meeting for Tuesday

by Tom Burkindine

The Town of Thermopolis has begun developing a new master plan after completing a survey process earlier this year.

Town residents were sur-

veyed at random and that information is being used to develop the plan, which would replace the town's plan from nearly 40 years ago.

The Thermopolis Planning

Commission is hosting an open house meeting to gather public input to be used in developing the plan.

Interested citizens will have the opportunity to offer ideas

and comments about the town and ways to improve the community.

In addition, exhibits, maps, background information and the results of the survey will

all be on display and available for review.

The meeting will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall. The town's planning con-

sultant and planning commission members will be present to discuss the plan and answer questions. Refreshments will be provided.

Welcome to Summer tug-o-war



Red Rock Family Practice sponsored and hosted the third annual Welcome to Summer celebration Friday afternoon at Hot Springs State Park. Above, the Gottsche women's team pulls against the defending champion BOCES squad in the tug-o-war. Pictured, from left, are

Gottsche's Heather Herring, Aimee Kay, Karissa Williams and Misti Newby. Team members not pictured are Stephanie Richert and Linsey Smith. Gottsche won the division title. More photos from Welcome to Summer are on page 9 of this issue. — Joe Sovia photo

Fly-in features Fury Fighter

by Cindy Glasson

The sixth annual Airport Fly-in is scheduled for Saturday, June 19 at the Hot Springs County Airport.

The fly-in, held in conjunction every year with the Hot Spot Car Rally, features a free pancake breakfast from 7 to 9:30 a.m. along with shuttles to the car rally and downtown for shopping for the pilots and their families.

Special guests "MiG Fury Fighters" from Driggs, Idaho, will be flying in to present a static display of one of their T-28 fighters at the airport.

Airport director Ray Arey said there will be Young Eagle flights again this year for children from 8-17 years old that are accompanied by an adult. The flights will depend on how many qualified pilots are available.

Two die in crash

by Cindy Glasson

Two people were pronounced dead at the scene after a head-on collision on U.S. 20 north of Thermopolis at 5:50 p.m. Thursday.

According to Highway Patrol Trooper Sam Donahue, for reasons unknown, a 2006 Ford F350 driven by 56-year-old Robert Kesterson of Mountain View crossed into the northbound lane at Cole Draw, milepost 143, side-swiping a semi truck owned by Ronning Distributing.

Kesterson proceeded further into the northbound lane, colliding head-on with a 2002 Jeep Liberty driven by 59-year-old Maxine Andersen of Spokane, Wash.

Dr. Kevin Mahoney of Thermopolis was at the site at the time of the crash and pronounced both drivers dead at the scene.

The area was experiencing heavy rains and wet roadways at the time of the crash.

Highway Patrol reports that Andersen was wearing a seat belt; however, Kesterson was not buckled in.

The driver of the semi, 61-year-old Devon Bivens of Worland, did not sustain any injuries in the accident.

Donahue said the crash is still under investigation and toxicology and autopsy reports would not be available for about two weeks.