

Man faces charges for theft of firearms during summer **5**

HSCHS golfer scores hole-in-one at Buffalo tourney **7**

Owners demolish Ava's Rock Shop building **8**

TMS and RWE launch new reading program **14**

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Friends of NRA banquet a hit

by Joe Sovo

The fifth annual Hot Springs Friends of NRA (National Rifle Association) Dinner, Auction and Fundraiser was held Saturday night at the Hot Springs County Fair Building and nearly \$34,000 was raised during live and silent auctions and raffles.

With sales tax included, the grand total for the evening was \$35,661. That was about \$1,000 more than last year's event. The net raised was \$17,635. Half that money goes to the NRA Foundation and the remainder stays in Wyoming and is used for grants and NRA youth programs.

"Where we really showed improvement was with the net," Hot Springs Friends of NRA committee chair Cynthia Garbin said. "We were able to get more (auction) items underwritten and more donations. We did very well this year."

"Net to gross was higher," said Paul Garbin, the committee treasurer said.

Cynthia Garbin indicated the banquet came within one ticket of being a sellout, with 149 tickets sold.

The top-selling item during the live auction at the banquet was the 2012 Friends of NRA Gun of the Year, a Benelli Ultra Light 12-gauge shotgun, which weighs only 6-1/2 pounds. The high bidder paid \$1,650, plus tax. The shotgun was donated by the Thermopolis Gun Club.

An African hunting safari for two was the next highest item. It sold for \$1,300 and was donated by NB Safaris and The Outdoorsman of Worland.

Brunton Epoch 10.5x43 top-of-the-line binoculars sold for \$900 in the live auction. The binoculars were donated by Hot Springs Friends of NRA. A Henry Arms Golden Boy .22 rifle went for \$725.

The Friends of NRA Knife of the Year, a chestnut handle Catskill Drop Point donated by Stones Throw, was purchased for \$160.

Near the end of the live auction, the popular "key game" was culminated by the opening of a case containing an unspecified long gun or handgun. There were six homemade pies sold and the high bidders each received a key. Chad Block was the first pie winner to try his key in the padlock on the case; it opened the lock and he had won a .300 Weatherby Magnum rifle.

The key game portion of the live auction raised nearly \$1,300, plus tax.

NRA Senior Field Representative Dave Manzur was the master of ceremonies for the banquet. Verne Lofink capably served as auctioneer.

Troy Daniels was the winner of the Taurus Protector .357-magnum handgun offered in a pre-banquet raffle, which sold out. One hundred tickets were sold at a cost of \$10 each.

Cynthia Garbin said there were fewer games where banquet goers could try their luck to win merchandise, but they were very popular.

"The games we did have the people really enjoyed," she said. Some of the games, including the Bullet Board, sold out.

Paul Garbin said there were 16 firearms offered in the live and silent auctions and raffles.

"People were very excited," he said.

Lil' Wrangler catered the prime rib dinner for banquet attendees.

"Our caterers did an exceptional job," Cynthia Garbin said.

Overall, it was a highly successful and enjoyable evening. "As people were leaving they said, 'See you next year,'" she said.



Chad and Julia Block watch their 10-month-old daughter Kaytlynn sit in a Jeep purchased by Kaytlynn's great-grandmother Ellen Roden during the Friends of NRA Dinner, Auction and Fundraiser on Saturday. Roden gave the Jeep to Kaytlynn. — Joe Sovo photo

All ages welcome at Gottsche Autumn Festival

The Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center Autumn Festival starts at 10 a.m. Saturday with the Autumn Fest Fun Run. Registration for the run will take place at the Big Horn Riverwalk behind Gottsche. The music, food and games will

start at 1 p.m. at the riverwalk.

The planners for the 2012 festival have also included Bingo and card games for the senior citizen participants, and various games, inflatables and a climbing wall for children and teens.

Music at the festival will include Patti Fiasco, The Del Cannon Band and local musician Eric Kay.

Food vendors include barbecue, pizza, snow cones, kettle corn, smoothies and cotton candy.

Participants in the fun run can walk, jog, run, bike or use any non-motorized transportation. Each team or individual will have nine clues given to them at the start to achieve different checkpoints. Participants will need to complete the

race before 4 p.m.

Those who complete the race will be entered into a drawing for Gottsche Wellness Center prizes. The grand prize for the drawing will be a one-year wellness pass to the Wellness Center.

The run fee will be \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a group of two or more. Individual participants will receive a T-shirt and groups will receive two shirts.

For more information about the festival, contact Gottsche at 864-2913.

Independent Record to host pair of candidate forums

Two weeks before the 2012 General Election, the Thermopolis Hot Springs Independent Record will host two candidate forums on consecutive evenings in October to focus on local races. Candidates in contested races as well as those who do not have opposition in the General Election will be featured. The forums will be held Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 22 and 23 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Both forums will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Oct. 22 forum will feature the two candidates on the ballot running for House District 28, the four candidates vying for two Thermopolis Town Council seats and other candidates running unopposed in the Nov. 6 General Election.

The HD28 candidates are Republican Nathan Winters and Democrat Connie Skates. Each won

a contested race on their respective party tickets in the Aug. 21 Primary Election.

Challengers LeRoy Hayes and Mark Nelson and incumbents Allan Braaten and Dick Hall are running for town council. Hayes, Braaten and Hall were on the Primary Election ballot and Nelson received enough write-in votes to qualify for the General Election; Nelson accepted the nomination. Incumbents Jack Kuiper and Merle William Moore are on the ballot for two East Thermopolis Town Council seats. Ross Rhodes, Raymond Nettles and Jessica Slagle are running for a pair of seats on the Kirby Town Council. Rhodes and Nettles advanced from the Primary Election. Slagle had enough write-in votes to qualify for the General Election and she accepted the nomination.

There were no mayoral races in this year's local election.

Republican incumbent Brad Basse is unopposed in the race for Hot Springs County commissioner. Another Republican incumbent, Mark Mortimore, is unopposed on the General Election ballot for county coroner.

Republican State Sen. Gerald Geis ran for reelection and is unopposed in the General Election. He represents Senate District 20, which includes Hot Springs County.

School board candidate forum

Six candidates running for three seats on the Hot Springs County School District No. 1 Board of Trustees are invited to attend the Oct. 23 forum. They are incumbents Travis Bomengen, Joe

Martinez and Clay VanAntwerp, and challengers Brittany Nelson, Melissa Johnson and Danny Pebbles. They are running for four-year terms.

Board chairwoman Liz Mahoney and trustees Karen Leyba, Hub Whitt and Tom Sullivan remain on the school board.

The Independent Record officially invites all those candidates mentioned above to their respective forums at the museum and cultural center.

IR reporter Cindy Glasson will be the moderator of the 90-minute Oct. 22 forum and IR editor/publisher Joe Sovo will moderate the hour-long Oct. 23 forum.

Details of the format for the forums will be published before they are held. Registered voters in Hot Springs County are encouraged to attend both forums.

Constitution Week Sept. 17-23

Members of the Washakie Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) are handing out copies of the Constitution to Hot Springs County fifth-grade students in recognition of the 225th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution.

The Hot Springs County Commissioners, Town of Thermopolis, Town of East Thermopolis and Washakie County Commissioners will all observe Constitution Week Sept. 17-23 with proclamations signed recently.

Chapter Regent Marilyn Strausborger said chapter volunteers would take educational bags to all public schools in Thermopolis, Worland and Ten Sleep. On Aug. 6, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill advised public schools throughout the state that DAR members would be handing out the educational bags for use during Constitution Week.

"We believe it's very important that all citizens, including students, are familiar with the Constitution and have the opportunity to learn a little additional (information)," Strausborger

said Tuesday.

In her memo, Hill said, "In an effort to honor this anniversary and with the unanimous support of the Wyoming Legislature...the National Society of the Daughters of American Revolution (NSDAR) have created an educational gift bag for each fifth-grade class in Wyoming. I support this initiative and encourage school districts to consider supporting it as well."

A legislative proclamation was signed by every member of both houses of Congress in Wyoming on March 8 and read publicly in each chamber declaring 2012 the "Year of Constitutional Literacy in the State of Wyoming."

The educational bags contain a pocket-sized version of the United States Constitution for each student to keep and use in the study of United States history; copies of letters written by the Daughters of the American Revolution; a sample lesson plan to assist teachers in their planning for Constitution Week; and a silver bell attached to the bag with a red, white and blue ribbon.

See Constitution on page 10



Jake Gerstner of Bartlett Ranches shows Be My Blue Juana, a 2-year-old gray gelding, during the WYO Quarter Horse Sale on Saturday afternoon at the fairgrounds.

—Joe Sovo photo

WYO Quarter Horse sale totals \$386,000

by J.D. Stetson

Buyers from across the nation had their eye on 87 horses in Thermopolis Saturday during the 12th annual Fall WYO Quarter Horse Sale.

The auction sold 34 geldings, 26 2-year-olds, 10 yearlings and 17 weanlings for a total of a little less than \$386,000. All of the animals are home-raised horses from the Bill and Carole Smith Ranch or Bartlett Ranches.

The geldings averaged about \$8,647 each, which is above the 2011 sale's average of \$8,213. The 2-year-olds averaged \$2,567, the yearlings were \$1,427.50 and the weanlings were \$635.

"We felt we had a good sale considering the drought and the price of hay," said Carole Smith.

Smith said the drought affected the sale of the weanlings the most because of the additional cost to feed the younger horses high-quality hay. Last year, the weanlings averaged about \$1,200, which is twice as much as this year's average.

The geldings, 2-year-olds and the yearlings, on the other hand, had a great sale with average prices improving from the previous year. Last year, the 2-year-olds averaged \$2,958 and the yearlings averaged about \$1,000 each.

The highest selling horse, a 9-year-old bay roan gelding by the name of Captain All Mighty, was sold to an Atlanta, Ga., buyer for \$18,000. The second highest, a blue roan named Cowboy Lead, sold for \$17,000.

Smith said Captain All Mighty was good looking with a gentle attitude and rode very smoothly. She said the buyer had tried out the horse before the sale and won the bid while on the phone.

There were about 30 horses sold to Wyoming buyers while other buyers came from 21 different states, including Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma and California.

"Overall, it was a good sale," Smith said.