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Race For a Reason raises money for Gary Linton family **6**

Big Horn River trout population up due to several factors **7**

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Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 115, No. 25, June 19, 2014

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

Tug of War — No age limit



Stone Pebbles, Cody Bomengen, Ty Peterson and Sydney Peterson give their all during the Gottsche Tug of War Tournament June 12 at the state park. — Drew Foster photo

Pack Horse Race kicks off Cowboy Rendezvous

This weekend is jam-packed with rodeo action with the return of the annual Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo.

Tonight (Thursday) starts off the events with the Chuck Mead Memorial Pack Horse Race at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds at 7 p.m. with a calcutta auction preceding the race at 6 p.m.

Each heat will feature a two-person team racing through a variety of obstacles inside the arena, similar to what might be encountered on the trail.

The first annual Smokin' Waters Golf Invitational is scheduled for Friday, June 20 at the Thermopolis Golf Course. Play begins at 8 a.m.

For more information on the golf tournament, contact Joey Johnson at 864-3421.

the fairgrounds, sponsored by Tumbleweed Propane. Breakfast is open to the public.

Saturday morning, there will be some slack competition in the arena. Admission for slack is free and starts at 8 a.m.

Parade begins at 10 a.m.

The annual rodeo parade will hit the streets downtown at 10 a.m. For those participating in the parade, lineup will be at 9:30 a.m. at Pizza Hut.

Rendezvous Rodeo Queen Cayde Cuprak and her attendant Alexa Ballard will be out at White Horse Country Store from noon until 2 p.m. to meet folks and pose for pictures.

A Sarsaparilla Social will also be from noon until 2 p.m. over at Thermopolis Hardware and Mercantile.

'Tough Enough to Wear Pink' night

Saturday night's PRCA rodeo is "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" night to honor breast cancer awareness. The performance starts at 7 p.m. with admission \$10 per person.

After the rodeo you'll want to keep your boots on for a dance, sponsored by Riverbend Sheet Metal, in the fair building. Music will be provided by The Rewinders out of Big Horn County.

Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo weekend officially culminates on Sunday with Cowboy Church starting at 9 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

Rodeo performance Friday

Friday night's rodeo theme is "Patriotic Night" with visitors encouraged to dress in red, white and blue for the evening.

Gates at the fairgrounds and vendor alley will open at 4 p.m. with the rodeo beginning at 7 p.m. Admission cost is \$10 per person and advance tickets are available at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce office, Storyteller and White Horse Country Store.

Bring your appetite to the free pancake breakfast Saturday morning starting at 7:30 a.m. at

'Tis the season - for fires

by Drew Foster

The arrow on the sign displaying regional fire danger on Highway 20 South near the entrance to town has inched from blue to green — from low to moderate — hailing the impending arrival of fire season.

Fire Chief Mark Collins said relatively low spring temperatures and relatively high moisture levels are a double-edged sword with regard to fire conditions. The higher moisture levels have left the ground sodden for longer, but also have encouraged sheet grass growth, which could provide more fuel for future fires.

"In the next couple weeks, we'll be at a breaking point," Collins said, explaining that late-June weather will dictate when fire season officially begins.

If occasional rain showers persist, he said, fire is less likely, but a spate of dry weather coupled with a lightning storm could thrust the fire season upon the region.

"We're probably sitting better than where we have been in several years," he said.

May precipitation levels were lower than those in years past. This May saw 1.15 inches of precipitation compared to 2.72 inches in 2013, 1.32 inches

in 2012, 6.8 inches in 2011 and 5.7 inches in 2010. June, on the other hand, is shaping up to be wetter. Through Tuesday, .69 inches of precipitation was recorded at the wastewater treatment plant. In June 2013, .19 inches were recorded, while June 2012 saw just .01 inches of moisture. June 2011 received 2.41 inches and June 2010 saw 1.06 inches.

Those figures, however, don't make much difference when it comes to certain types of vegetation's ability to burn. Collins said cheatgrass, for example,

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Simpson hosts State Parks meeting

The public is invited to meet with Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson about the upcoming process for the development of a formal comprehensive master plan for the entire Hot Springs State Park at 6 p.m. on June 23 at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center, 700

Broadway St. in Thermopolis.

This is the second of the once-monthly visits Simpson committed to making to engage local citizens regarding this iconic state park. Also scheduled to attend the meeting are Kevin Skates, Hot Springs State Park superintendent; Domenic Bravo, State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails administrator; Todd Thibodeau,

planning and grants manager; and Mabel Jones, senior planner.

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

Any groups or members of the public who wish to meet with Simpson during his June 23 visit or during visits in subsequent months are asked to contact his office at 307-777-7496.

Prayers answered: Delanie Price making progress at Children's Hospital

by Joe Sovia

Prayers of Parke and Khris Price and their family have been answered — to a certain degree — as their youngest daughter, Delanie, is on the road to recovery at Children's Hospital in Denver, Colo.

The 18-year-old Price was seriously injured in a one-vehicle rollover that occurred one month ago, the night of May 21, on Wyoming 172 — also known as Black Mountain Road — about 15 miles north of Thermopolis. The crash took the life of the Prices' 21-year-old daughter Madisen Price.

Delanie Price was transported to

Wyoming Medical Center in Casper after initial attention at Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital. Suffering from head and neck injuries after being ejected from the car, she was in a coma, according to Khris Price.

The Price family is dealing as best they can with the loss of a daughter and the injury to their youngest.

"We need prayers and positive energy sent our way," Khris said while she and Parke were back home Tuesday to take care of family issues. "That's what's been helping us so far. It's amazing, the love..."

"My heart is broke," Khris said of

the loss to Maddie. "We're taking it moment by moment and everybody is so positive....I'm on the 'positive train.'"

As a member of the Hot Springs County High School Class of 2014, Delanie was slated to receive her diploma just four days later. Fellow graduates Jamie Materi and Dylan Shaffer accepted the diploma on her behalf during an emotional time at the May 25 commencement exercises.

Khris gave credit where credit is due — the first responders and other emergency personnel at the scene of the crash. "The ambulance team was fabulous," said Khris, who first saw

Delanie — known by family and close friends as Lanie — at the Thermopolis hospital.

Khris gave credit to Jim Lash, a local EMT, for his response to the scene — coming directly from his nearby home. "I believe Jim saved Lanie's life," she said, as he removed from her mouth dirt that was choking her. "He's very passionate. His quick reaction saved the life of our daughter." Local doctors Jason Weyer, Kevin Mahoney and Travis Bomengen were all at the hospital to help stabilize her before the flight to Casper. "The doctors did everything right," Khris said.

See Price on page 10

Hot Spot Car Rally draws 111 classic cars, trucks, bikes

by Joe Sovia

After unsettled weather on Saturday, sunshine graced the 22nd annual Hot Spot Car Rally on Father's Day at Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis.

According to organizer Dick Howe, who started the car rally with Randy Wahler, there were 111 entries in this year's "show n' shine," which featured classic cars, trucks and motorcycles.

There were 48 hands dealt in the eighth annual Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run, which took drivers and passengers to six Thermop businesses to build their hand.

Many of the vehicles entered in this year's "show n' shine" participated in the Parade of Cars late Saturday afternoon after a little moisture and wind earlier in the day.

"It went great. We had a lot of quality cars," Howe said. "We had a lot of new cars (new to the show) and a lot of repeats."

Wall art trophies were awarded in nine categories. There were also People's Choice and Committee Choice awards as well as four Kids' Choice awards.

Committee Choice honors went to Mike Lamb of Riverton with his 1932 Ford 3-window coupe. Jack Turnell became a four-time winner of the People's Choice award for his classic 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air.

Johnny Dorman of Thermop captured the Off Road division title with his pink '78 Jeep CJ5.

The other division winners were: Unmodified Pre 1950 — Denton Buss, Riverton, '34 Chevy. Pre 1985 Classic/Unmodified/Stock — Morris Spannagel, Hysham, Mont., '56 Ford Crown Victoria (with only 19,000 original miles). Post 1985 Classic/Unmodified/Stock, Ray Parnell, Casper, '88

Chevy Monte Carlo. 2000 and Beyond — Scott Steiner, Cody, 2011 Dodge Challenger. Motorcycle — Lloyd and Joan LaFave, Casper, '07 Boss Hog. Muscle Car — Irun and Renee Kiljander, Gillette, '69 Ford Mustang. Street Rod — Randy and Lori Nissen, Worland, '36 Ford 3-window coupe. Truck — Ed Marx, Green River, '51 GMC 1/2 ton.

Nissen missed last year's Hot Spot Car Rally after previous wins with his '36 Ford.

Kids' Choice awards

Patsy Dorman of Thermop was one of the four Kids' Choice award winners with her pink Volkswagen Beetle — sporting the longest eyelashes in the field of classic cars and trucks. The other Kids' Choice winners were local entrant Ben Arthur, '85 Toy Truck; Glenn Johnson, '68 Chevy Chevelle; and Ernie Robb, '56 Chevy Bel Air.

Justin Taylor received a "hard luck" award, presented by Ed Downs of the Wyoming Street Rod Association, for the issues he's had with his '65 Ford Mustang 2+2.

Mary Mills of Thermop had a lucky Father's Day weekend. She won \$144 for having the high hand — four 4s — in the Ted Spatol Memorial Poker Run. Mills also won one of the two pedal cars



Harvey and Geneva Byers admire a 1939 Chevy Master Sports Sedan owned by Michael and Shanna Drake of Worland during the Hot Spot Car Rally on Sunday. — Joe Sovia photo

in the Hot Spot Car Rally raffle — the car sponsored by Owl Lumber. Fremont County entrant Dan Rench won the pedal car sponsored by Wind River Casino. Kirk Kuykendall of Thermop had the queen-high for the low hand, pocketing \$96.

It was an enjoyable Hot Spot Car Rally for clas-

sic cars, trucks and motorcycles exhibitors and spectators alike.

Stan Goodwin of Casper took time from refreshing the shine on his '57 Chevy Bel Air to talk about the hobby he loves and the Hot Spot Car Rally. He and his wife Judy last exhibited here in 2006 and were happy to return.

"We enjoy the people. It's a form of art," he said. "Thermopolis — this is the real grassroots of our hobby."

It was Spannagel's first time as an entrant in the Thermop rally and he was rewarded with a division win.

Harold Bendlin of Thermop was anxious to talk about the '67 Pontiac GTO that he ordered new — directly from the factory. It's all original with the exception of the pipes and muffler he replaced some time ago and the new paint job — exactly the same as the original golf color. Bendlin even carries a bottle of Max Factor brand GTO aftershave and an "I Love GTO" mug in the classic car.

Right after the completion of the car show, with Rick Ridenour as the DJ and announcer, many of the drivers entertained the crowd with "burnouts" just outside the Kiwanis Washakie Shelter parking lot. The burnout creating the most smoke — to the delight of most spectators — was provided by Mike Forget of Riverton with his bright red Dodge Viper pickup.

Those burnouts placed the 2014 Hot Spot Car Rally in the record book and a new chapter begins next Father's Day.

Note: More photos from the Hot Spot Car Rally will be posted on the Independent Record's Facebook page this week.

Fires

— from page 1

only needs one hour to cure after a rainstorm. Sagebrush needs 10 hours, pine trees need 100 hours and lodge poles require 1,000 hours.

“The amount of moisture we’ve gotten doesn’t really affect the ground fuels,” Collins said, adding, “the stuff around town can burn.”

Lower spring temperatures, extended dew points and high humidity have helped extend some cure rates, Collins said.

Common blazes in summer months

Wildland fires are the most common type of summer blazes, the fire chief said.

“In the last five years, the ones we’ve had have been pretty manageable,” Collins said.

He partly attributed that to single engine air tanker planes, or SEATs, stationed by the Bureau of Land Management

in Worland. The planes have been available out of Worland for about five years and assisted with at least three fires last year, Collins said.

“Our little 30-, 40-, 50-acre fires would have been thousand-acre fires,” he said.

Collins said the planes could reach the Thermopolis area in about 15 minutes from Worland, sometimes beating fire trucks to the scene.

In order to better prevent grass fires, Collins recommended people not park vehicles on tall cheatgrass where hot vehicle components can ignite dry vegetation. He also recommended that people burning trash not burn in the wind and cover the fires with screens to prevent embers from escaping. Controlled burns should be called in to the fire department or law enforcement—both before and after the fire, he said.

Buck Brannaman Clinic



Buck Brannaman, known as the “Horse Whisperer,” conducted a four-day clinic Friday through Monday at the fairgrounds arena. The clinic featured colt starting and horsemanship. — Joe Sovo photo

Spanish Club Garage Sale donations sought

The annual Hot Springs County High School Spanish Club Garage Sale is still six weeks away, but donations are being accepted. The sale is set for the weekend of Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1 and 2 in the vo-tech/agriculture building and high school parking lot. Hours will be 7:30 a.m. to noon and 5 to 8 p.m. Aug. 1, and 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 2.

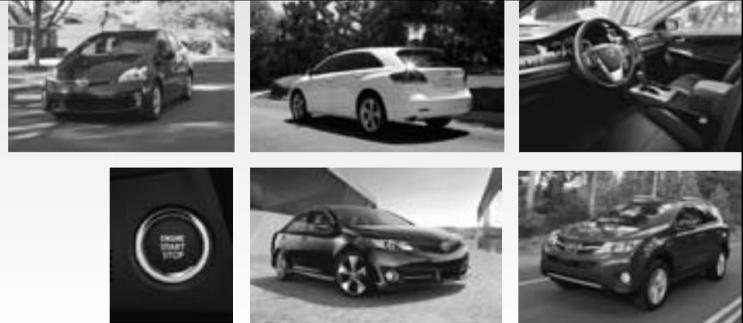
Donation of items for the garage sale can be dropped off Monday, June 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. as well as during the same hours Thursday, July 17.

Pickup of donated items is available by calling Aimee Kay at 921-1810.

All proceeds from the garage sale go to the 26 students for the Costa Rica Immersion Trip 2014.



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Capitalized cost of \$23,140 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$15,652. ⁵Cash Back offer provided by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. on new 2014 Camry, Camry Hybrid and Tundra CrewMax. ⁶Vehicle's projected resale value is specific to the 2014 model year. For more information, visit Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. ⁷Lease a new 2014 Tundra Double Cab SR5 FFV Large V8 for \$299 a month for 24 months with \$4,049 due at signing, which includes first month's payment of \$199 and \$2,200 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #8331. Total MSRP including freight \$37,410. Monthly payments of \$299 total \$7,176. Capitalized cost of \$36,479 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$25,728. ⁸2014 EPA-estimated 29 city/38 highway/32 combined mpg for Corolla LE CVT. Actual mileage will vary. ⁹Lease a new 2014 Corolla LE (excludes Matrix) for \$149 a month for 24 months with \$2,074 due at signing, which includes first month's payment of \$149 and \$1,925 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #1852. Total MSRP including freight \$19,335. Monthly payments of \$149 total \$3,576. Capitalized cost of \$18,978 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$13,359. ¹⁰APR financing with approved credit from Toyota Financial Services on new 2014 Corolla (excludes Matrix), Venza and RAV4 (excludes EV). ¹¹2014 EPA-estimated 18 city/25 highway/21 combined mpg for Venza V6 AWD. Actual mileage will vary. ¹²Lease a new 2014 Venza LE AWD 4-cyl. for \$199 a month for 24 months with \$2,399 due at signing, which includes first month's payment of \$199 and \$2,200 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #2820. Total MSRP including freight \$30,945. Monthly payments of \$199 total \$4,776. Capitalized cost of \$29,645 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$20,680. ¹³2014 EPA-estimated 22 city/29 highway/25 combined mpg for RAV4 AWD. Actual mileage will vary. ¹⁴Lease a new 2014 RAV4 LE AWD (excludes EV) for \$199 a month for 24 months with \$1,149 due at signing, which includes first month's payment of \$199 and \$950 down payment. Security deposit waived. Does not include taxes, license, title fees, insurance and dealer charges. Closed-end lease. Example based on model #4432. Total MSRP including freight \$26,185. Monthly payments of \$199 total \$4,776. Capitalized cost of \$25,690 based on down payment and dealer participation, which may vary by dealer. Payment may vary depending on final transaction price. Lease-end purchase option is \$19,062. ¹Average Finance Savings reflects the interest savings based on an average 3.46% finance rate offered by Toyota Financial Services to qualified customers in the Denver Region. Offers cannot be combined and may vary by region. See participating dealer for details. ²Customer responsible for maintenance, excess wear and tear and \$0.15 per mile over 12,000 miles per year. Camry lease to qualified Tier I+ and Tier I customers through Toyota Financial Services. Tundra, Corolla, Venza and RAV4 leases to qualified Tier I+ customers through Toyota Financial Services. \$350 disposition fee due at lease end unless customer purchases vehicle or decides to re-finance through Toyota Financial Service. Offers good in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.



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Rules & Entry Forms can be picked up at:
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Storyteller, Thermopolis Hardware,
Chamber of Commerce

For more info call:
Cassie 921-9257 or TJ 921-0534