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Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 115, No. 27, July 3, 2014

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

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## Thermopolis - hotter than the Fourth of July

### Parade, Freedom Run, concert, fireworks on tap

This Fourth of July weekend is shaping up to be very busy and quite entertaining for locals and visitors to Thermopolis with parades, music, dancing and of course, plenty of red, white and blue.

The holiday weekend debuts with the third annual Pet and Pedal Parade, sponsored by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

This year, along with all the kids, adults are invited to participate in the parade as well. Entries must be in to the chamber by 4 p.m. today (Thursday). Everyone is to join the patriotism of Independence Day – dressing up your dogs, cats, horses, sheep and even yourself and enter the parade.

There is no charge for entries, but \$25 in Chamber Bucks will be awarded to the winners of three divisions – Kids, Motorized and Most Patriotic.

The parade entries will line up

at the parking lot adjacent to the County Extension Office at 9:30 a.m. and the parade begins its trek through downtown Thermopolis at 10 a.m. – covering both sides of Broadway St.

#### Freedom Run, golf tourney

Evening activities begin with a car and motorcycle show at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds as part of the Freedom Run.

Gates will open at 4 p.m.

The next few hours will be jam-packed with Mountain Heart in concert at the pavilion in Hot Springs State Park at 7 p.m. – making a return appearance. There is no charge for admission to the concert, made possible by Bruce Webster.

A putt-putt golf tournament, sponsored by Dairyland, takes the place of the annual hot dog eating contest held in years past. Competition will feature two-person teams and players of all ages are



Sgt. First Class Dana Bowman plans to parachute into the fairgrounds arena with a huge American flag on the evening of the Fourth of July. That will be a Freedom Run feature.

invited to enter.

The cost is \$15 per team. Tee-off will be at 9 p.m. July 4. Prizes will be awarded. Call 864-2757 to register.

#### Parachutist, fireworks display

At 8 p.m., Sgt. First Class Dana Bowman (Ret.) drops in on the fairgrounds – literally – as he parachutes into the Freedom Run with a 2,000-square-foot American flag.

The night sky will be lit up at dusk as members of Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department set off the annual Fourth of July fireworks. Thousands of dollars have been invested in the show this year – mostly via donations – and it is promised to be a spectacular event.

The fun continues on Saturday with a free breakfast at the VFW, hosted by the VFW Auxiliary women from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Donations are welcome.

After breakfast, the Freedom Run will begin its poker run and poker walk at 9:30 a.m.

The weekend comes to a close with a dance at the fair building, presented as part of the Freedom Run, starting at 9 p.m.

## Commissioners approve contracts, get good news on airport

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners spent a majority of their meeting on Tuesday approving various contracts to start the month.

County Assessor Shelley Deromedi had a pair of contracts that needed commissioner approval – one for TY Pickett for its work as an appraiser for WyoBen and Wyoming Whiskey properties, and a second through the Wyoming Department of Revenue to continue using specific hardware in the office needed

for operation.

A contract was approved with Natrona County for 2014-15 for juvenile detention and transportation. The contract, which covers expenses of \$195 per day if needed by the county, also includes medical care and schooling.

The commissioners also approved a rewrite of the Natural Resources plan and a utility license agreement on Sunnyside Lane with RT Communications, and reviewed the bridge inspection report for Hot Springs County.

Bridger Wireless was approved for a land use change to install a 195-foot cell tower off King Road in Kirby.

The approval does include stipulations about lighting and a weed management plan, but the commissioners see the tower as a safety measure – eliminating the dead spot for cell service that falls between Kirby and the Washakie County line.

In other business, emergency management head Bill Gordon told the commissioners the river flow has been raised to

3,700 cfs with Boysen Reservoir sitting at 98 percent of capacity.

Gordon said the flows are coming in high, which means folks using the river should be cautious while floating, boating or fishing, but they are not outrageously high. Cooler temperatures this spring have prevented flooding conditions so far.

The commissioners also heard an update on the airport progress from GDA Engineers at Tuesday's meeting.

Phase III of the project is well under way and the contractor is moving at a

pace well ahead of what was expected.

Some money will be saved with a change order regarding some of the backfill going on in the area around the runway.

While smoothness is critical in some areas, in this instance a reduction in smoothness is not necessary and would result in a cost reduction for the county without causing a sacrifice in quality.

The commissioners approved the change order contingent upon state and FAA approval.



Kim Enis' Duck Dynasty Team was the top fundraiser with about \$14,000 in donations in Relay For Life, which featured a survivor and caregiver dinner at the VFW Club followed by a luminary ceremony in the rain at the Hot Springs State Park pavilion. Luminaries lined the sidewalks in that area. Members of the Duck Dynasty Team were, front row, from left, Jennifer Grimm, Cindy Magelky, Brenda Barnes, Cindy Harvey, Shelly Burrows and Jamie Asay; and second row, Stefanie Ireland, Michelle Herring, Cathi Hart and Kim Enis. More Relay For Life event photos will be posted this week on the Independent Record's Facebook page. – Joe Sova photo

## Relay For Life raises \$21,241

Rainy conditions did not stop participation in 2014 Relay For Life from wrapping up this year's fundraising effort last weekend in Hot Springs County.

Eight teams and 46 participants raised more than \$21,000 for 2014 Relay For Life, which culminated with events Friday evening, June 26 and going through the early-morning hours Saturday, June 27.

According to the Relay For Life website, "Relay For Life of Hot Springs County is an incredible and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to honor cancer survivors, raise awareness about what we can do to reduce our cancer risk, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society fight the disease."

Due to the rain, Friday's survivor and caregiver dinner was moved indoors to the Thermopolis VFW, which was well attended. Cancer survivor Connie Hoffman was the guest speaker.

During the dinner, a short ceremony using glow sticks in the dark was held. Teams participating in the Relay fundraising effort were recognized. The total money raised locally was \$21,241.75, with some contributions yet to be received. Kim Enis' team led the way with \$13,890. The Motivated Couch Potatoes raised \$2,797.75. Becky Martinez's team totaled \$1,811 to round out the top three. The top individual fundraisers were Enis with \$2,705.25; Brenda Barnes, \$2,560.25; and Jennifer Grimm, \$2,160. All three are members of Enis' team, dressed in Duck Dynasty garb.

Relay For Life continued at Hot Springs State Park, where a luminary ceremony was held at 9:45 p.m. Lea Schoenewald read the names of people who are cancer survivors and those who lost their battle with the disease. Those attending took a "first lap" along the state park sidewalks lined by luminaria, paper bags in memory of and in honor of those afflicted with cancer.

## Water rate OK'd by 3-2 vote

by Drew Foster

A divided Thermopolis Town Council early Monday morning passed the third and final reading of an ordinance that will raise residents' base water rates beginning Aug. 1 instead of the previously proposed Sept. 1.

Mayor Bill Malloy cast the fifth and deciding vote in the three-to-two decision that will increase most residents' base rate from \$5 to \$10. Base rates for residents using larger taps also will increase.

Councilmen Tony Larson and Mark Nelson also cast "aye" votes. Mike Mortimore and Dusty Lewis voted against the increase.

At issue were the one-month rollback and the timing of the vote, which took place during a 6:30 a.m. meeting Monday. The council usually meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. This week's meeting was held on Monday so the council could pass resolutions to the 2013-14 budget before the new fiscal year began July 1.

The meeting was scheduled for 6:30 a.m. because some council members could not meet that evening.

Mortimore wanted to see the vote tabled until the council's next meeting – so members of the public could more easily attend and offer input on

the start-date change from September to August.

"It looks underhanded to do it at 6:30 (a.m.), folks," Mortimore told the council.

The increase in base rates received initial approval during the previous two council meetings, which were held at their regular time and included the Sept. 1 start date.

Lewis said after the meeting that he also wanted to see the third and final reading take place at a regularly scheduled council meeting since the ordinance was modified Monday to go into effect Aug. 1.

A vote to table the rate increase was defeated three to two – Mortimore and Lewis voted to delay the decision – before the measure ultimately passed with the same vote.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby said residents are using less water this summer compared to last year. He said residents had used 31 million gallons of water through June 25, while they'd used 44 million gallons at that time in 2013.

"We've had a wet spring, and people aren't using that much water," Crosby said.

The increase in the base rate is expected to generate about \$77,000 this fiscal year and about \$84,000 in future fiscal years, Crosby said.

## Municipal Court on the move

by Drew Foster

Thermopolis Municipal Court not only moved offices and courtrooms earlier this week – it moved into the digital age.

The move from the Circuit Court courtroom in the courthouse to Town Hall's council chambers on Tuesday ushered in a new era of record keeping – files previously recorded and stored on paper ledgers are now entered into Excel spreadsheets.

Municipal Court Judge Jill Logan will use the codes officer's office for her chamber, and court clerk duties have been taken over by Town Hall staff. Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby said the transition of clerk duties would have a positive fiscal impact on the town.

The town budgeted \$6,600 in salary for the Municipal Court secretary last year.

"It should save us some money because we won't be funding a secretarial position," Crosby said.

Bonnie Smith had held the Municipal Court clerk position, but Crosby said she retired around the first of the year. He said Smith continued to help with Municipal Court duties, but those duties have now shifted to Town Hall staff. Crosby does not believe a contract exists for Smith's position.

Municipal Court adjudicates citations such as municipal speeding tickets and nuisance violations. Offenders will now pay fines at Town Hall.

Town Clerk-Treasurer Trac-

ey Van Heule will assume most of the court clerk duties. She said she'll initially rely on Excel spreadsheets to maintain court records and will then evaluate the necessity of additional, court-specific software down the road.

"It just depends on the number of citations that come through," Van Heule said.

Crosby expects an initial learning curve as Town Hall takes over the Municipal Court duties, but does not anticipate any major challenges.

"We'll have some bumps in the road, but we'll get it worked out," he said. "I think it'll consolidate some resources and save some money and (give the town) better control over Municipal Court."