

Harvest Moon Ball tickets available

by Lara Love

The Ag Citizen of the Year and Rising Star award winners will be announced at the Harvest Moon Ball on Nov. 8 at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. The ball will feature a dinner and dance beginning at 6 p.m.

Nominees for Ag Citizen of the Year are Jim Cramer, Dr. Kevin Dickey, Jim Collins and Joey Johnson.

Nominees for Rising Star are Shawn and Hannah Smith, Wyatt and Joey Agar, Brad Peil and Travis Allen. Winners will be announced at the

Harvest Moon Ball.

The Century Award will be presented to the Anderson/Russell family.

At 4:30 p.m. the event will kick off with the branding of wooden wall plaques that will be permanently mounted in the fair building. If you are registered on current brand merchandise the fee will be \$5. If you are not registered, you can sign up for \$35. Bring your branding iron and make your mark.

Dinner will be pulled pork sandwiches, corn on the cob, potato, salad and dessert. Live music

will be provided by the Sundowner Band. Tickets to the Harvest Moon Ball are \$15 for an adult, \$25 for a couple, \$8 for kids 4-12, with three and under free.

Advance tickets to the Harvest Moon Ball may be purchased at Storyteller, Thermopolis Hardware and White Horse Country Store, from Thermopolis FFA Alumni Association members or by contacting FFA advisor Britton Van Heule at 864-6501 or 921-9044. Tickets will also be sold at the door. You must attend the dinner in order to be admitted to the dance.



Alayna Scheel, dressed in her best German Dirndl, helps "Ethel S. Crow" with her lunch from the Senior Center. The first Oktoberfest to benefit Main Street Thermopolis was a big success, bringing locals downtown to shop, enjoy the music and tour the historic buildings.

About \$1,200 was raised during the scarecrow auction which featured creative characters sure to scare the crows out of anyone's garden. "The entire day went much better than we ever imagined," said Oktoberfest chairman Stefanie Crozier. -- Cindy Glasson photo

Brats, beer and lots of cheer celebrate Oktoberfest

Main Street Thermopolis held their first Oktoberfest celebration last Saturday, bringing a steady stream of people through the downtown businesses, into historic buildings and around Bicentennial Park.

According to Oktoberfest chairman Stefanie Crozier, said there were so many people enjoying the beautiful day

they sold out of brats four times, sold out of Oktoberfest t-shirts and nearly sold out of beer in the beer garden.

"Thank goodness the weather was so awesome," Crozier said. "The entire day went much better than we ever imagined."

Crozier said the committee has gotten good feedback from participants

and folks who came out to enjoy the event.

"The vendors were really pleased," she said. "We've had good feedback from many of the downtown businesses."

"Of course, being our first year there were some bumps, but we're open to suggestions on making this bigger and

better for next year."

One of the main events was the scarecrow auction in Bicentennial Park.

Crozier said they raised around \$1,200 from the auction.

The historic building tours were a big hit with everyone, too.

Folks were invited to tour the Sto-

ryteller building, an apartment upstairs and see a model of how downtown used to look at the Hot Springs County Museum.

"I just want to thank all the volunteers, our sponsors, and all of you for the community support," Crozier said. "Without you, this would not have been possible."

Splash park coming to Bicentennial Park?

by Cindy Glasson

Nothing has been set in concrete yet, but the Thermopolis Town Council is continuing to look into a splash park for youngsters, possibly in Bicentennial Park on Fifth and Broadway.

Started in 1976 as part of the country's Bicentennial celebration, the park includes the Bicentennial tree, a small area with playground equipment, picnic areas and a stage for outdoor performances.

While still in the infancy stages, the council has a few thoughts as to what the splash park might contain and where they would like to see it placed.

The splash park would essentially be "bowl" shaped, a concave cement area approximately 50' by 50', containing water attractions such as ground spray features, and a dump bucket for young children to enjoy.

Most of the features would be operated by buttons that children would push to activate rather than having the water running continuously.

The council briefly discussed a height or age limit to the splash park to keep it just for the little ones.

Mayor Bill Malloy said in his travels to Laramie he has noticed there is a splash park at almost all of their public parks. The closest one to Thermopolis is in Ten Sleep.

The council would like a simple design, something that could actually have a secondary use in the winter as a possible ice skating rink.

By having the features removable, the area could be flooded in the winter.

In looking at prices, the council found the splash park in Ten Sleep cost the community in the area of \$150,000 to build, which is more than they anticipated when first thinking about this addition to the downtown area.

However, they are going to start looking into grant money that may be available for this type of project.

The water would, of course, be city water, but the trade off would be removing a portion of the grass in Bicentennial Park to make room for the splash park, eliminating the need to water the grass.

It is also possible to install a cistern in order to recycle the water back into the system to water the remaining grass.

