

# Car theft spree ends Monday in Cody

by Mark Dykes

At about 7:30 Sunday morning, the Thermopolis Police Department responded to a pursuit coming out of the south end of Wind River Canyon. Though initiated by the Wyoming Highway Patrol, local police took over the pursuit of a white Chrysler 300 in town. Officers located the vehicle, which was northbound, at Fifth and Broadway. The 300 later turned on to Park Street and was lost for a short while. Officers received a report the vehicle had gone up the hill leading to the old airport and was on a dirt road.

Responding officers found the vehicle had

gone through a fence, and it was later located with nobody around it. Officer Mike Mascorro and Hot Springs County Deputy Jake Miller proceeded to the Red Lane District, searching buildings for the driver and notifying people to keep their possessions and homes locked up. The officers made it about halfway to Sessions Lane, where a white Mazda Miata was reported stolen at 3:35 p.m. Sunday.

According to information from the Cody Police Department, on Monday at about 10:45 p.m. an officer observed a Miata matching the description of the one stolen. The officer knew a vehicle matching this description had

recently been stolen from Thermopolis and knew that it was involved in a vehicle pursuit involving the Park County Sheriff's Department and the Wyoming Highway Patrol, along Highway 14A between Cody and Powell, which was terminated when the driver of the vehicle began driving into oncoming traffic.

The officer confirmed that this vehicle was in fact the stolen vehicle from Thermopolis, and attempted to stop it near Eighth Street and Canyon Avenue in Cody. The Mazda sped up and a vehicle pursuit began. During this

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

## Colorful performance

Members of the Risen Son Christian School Flag Corps perform at the Encore Talent Show on Sunday. The group won the Elementary division of the competition. From left, Skylar Lippincott, Madison Shaffer, James Whitt and Maile McCumber. For complete results see page 3.

# School security measures in place, more coming

by Cindy Glasson

Mass shootings, school shootings in particular, seem to have become an almost weekly occurrence in the United States. Parents and citizens are calling out for more security in our schools and the school districts are doing all they can, as quickly as they can, to provide that additional level of security.

Hot Springs County School District is currently working on a single point of entry system in all three schools that includes a 'buzz in-buzz out' area at each main entrance.

According to Superintendent Dustin Hunt, the system is nearly complete and letters will be sent to parents advising them when everything goes live.

Hunt said a safety audit is being organized from law enforcement, fire and other entities who would respond first to any situation at the school.

"This is not just for an active shooter situation," he said. "It could be for anything from a weather related incident to a disaster situation."

First responders will become familiar with the layout of the building, where emergency shut offs are and formulate not

only plans for their own use, but give the district an idea of some things they may be able to make a little better for the future.

There are currently four ALICE trainers in the district and the schools are committed to the drills on all levels, from active shooter to fire drills.

Over the next three years the camera systems in all buildings are going to be upgraded with additional cameras added in high traffic and high need areas. Already, the secretaries in each building have a large, split-screen TV to monitor activity throughout the building and their entrances.

Once the safety audit is complete, training of staff will begin.

Hunt said the plan is to have a public forum on April 30 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium so parents can ask questions, voice concerns and the district can share their plans for school safety.

"We ask that folks be patient as we learn," Hunt said. "We want to be as parent friendly as possible, but the safety of the kids is our number one priority."



photo by Cindy Glasson

## Not the drive thru

Allen Keech of Montana went through the yard at Julia's Rentals and hit several things before crashing into the light pole at the entrance to McDonald's last Wednesday.

## Driver loses control of truck

by Mark Dykes

On the afternoon of Wednesday, April 4, law enforcement and emergency personnel responded to an accident at McDonald's.

According to information from the Thermopolis Police Department, Allen D. Keech from Montana was southbound driving a white Ford F150 when he appeared to be choking. The truck entered the alley behind Julia's Rentals before driving through the lot at the business, striking several pieces of equipment and materials.

The truck then crossed Sixth Street and entered the restaurant property, hitting a sign, a town light pole and a light near the entrance of the parking lot.

Keech and his wife Linda were transported by ambulance and hospitalized. A second passenger, Robert Kingsbury, was taken by an officer to the hospital to wait. Nobody in the truck was wearing a seatbelt.

The truck was reported as a total loss, but there was no information available as to how much damage it caused or the extent of injuries. Keech was cited for no vehicle insurance.