

Fourth of July fireworks, parade

The Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department and the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce raised \$7,994 for the 2012 Fourth of July Fireworks Display.

The donations are up about \$2,000 from what was made in 2011, which will yield a larger show, said chamber executive director Michelle Lue.

The annual fireworks show will take place at dusk Wednesday along the northern edge of town. The fire department traditionally sets up at the top of T-Hill and fires various shells once it is dark.

Various individual community members and businesses contributed money to the fund to make the fireworks show happen.

Also going on in town on the Fourth of July is the chamber's first annual Pedal and Pet Parade.

Participants, which can include children or adults with their pets, must contact the

chamber by 3 p.m. Tuesday. The line will start at 10:15 a.m. in the parking lot east of the Hot Springs County Public Library and the Hot Springs County Cooperative Extension Office.

The parade route will start on Arapahoe Street and head south on Fifth Street to Broadway Street; it will turn west on Broadway and continue until the turnaround. The parade will go back down Broadway on the southern side and end at Fourth Street. The Thermopolis Town Council approved the parade route during a June 19 meeting.

Participants are encouraged to dress up their bicycles, skateboards, tricycles, big wheels and their pets in a patriotic fashion.

The chamber will award \$75 in Chamber Bucks to the first place winner, \$50 in Chamber Bucks for second place and \$25 in Chamber Bucks for third place.

For more information on both events, contact the chamber at 864-3192.



Emme Norsworthy throws candy from the Lucy's Sheep Camp float during the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous parade Saturday morning. The theme for this year's parade was Rendezvous for the Cure. — Joe Sovo photo

Anderson hired as new school business manager

Special meeting scheduled next week canceled

by Joe Sovo

Current Hot Springs County School District No. 1 employee Colleen Anderson was approved as the new business manager during Thursday's meeting of the board of trustees. Anderson is in the transition from federal funds bookkeeper to her new position; she has been with the school district since 2009.

Anderson will officially replace outgoing business manager Lisa Pearce when Anderson's contract begins July 1.

Pearce tendered her resignation in order to accept the position as chief financial officer with the Kodiak Island Borough School District in Alaska. She will remain in Thermopolis the first couple weeks of July to help Anderson with the transition.

In other board action Thursday, trustees accepted the resignation of high school guidance counselor and middle school volleyball head coach Amy Mason. Later in the week, Mason said she had accepted a counselor position with the Wind River school district in Pavillion. Trustees approved the hiring of former Thermopolis resident Courtney Thoren to replace Mason.

Trustees also accepted the resignation of Madyson Dreiling as Thermopolis Middle School Lights On facilitator and Ralph Witters Elementary paraprofessional, effective retroactively to May 24. Shaelene Worley was approved to replace Dreiling; she had been a substitute in the school district. The board also accepted the resignation of elementary teacher Samantha Kokesh.

The board approved the employment of numerous other people. They are Marian Lanik, custodian; Shannon Hamilton,

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Rodeo cowboys, cowgirls beat the heat

by Joe Sovo

Both the competition and the weather were hot for the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous PRCA Rodeo held Friday and Saturday nights at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds arena. Temperatures around 100 degrees both days did not keep fans from turning out for the eighth year in the restoration toward national notoriety.

"We had an excellent rodeo this year," said Gayla Mead, secretary-treasurer of the Cowboy Rendezvous committee. "We drew more competitors from further distances than in previous years and we hosted top-ranked contenders."

Kaleb Asay of Powell fared the best among the Big Horn Basin cowboys and cowgirls in competition. He shared first place in the saddle broncs with a score of 77 aboard War Bon-

net in the second section Saturday night. Asay is the grandson of Verne and Peggy Lofink of Thermopolis.

Colton Miller of Lance Creek also scored a 77 in the same section to earn a share of first place.

The bulls were especially tough on the cowboys during the Cowboy Rendezvous Rodeo as there were only three scores in bull riding. Trenton Love of Cheyenne took top honors with a 75 aboard Dr. Speck. That was the only qualified ride Friday night. Texas cowboys finished second and third for a good pay-off.

Two Thermopolis bull riders, Will Farrell and Bridger Lahoe, were unable to stay aboard their draws for the full 8 seconds.

Laramie cowboy Zach Curran rode to first place in the barebacks, scoring a 78 aboard War Whoop. Tony Larsen of Sheri-

dan took honors in steer wrestling with a time of 4.6 seconds. Just two-tenths of a second separated first through fourth places. Lexi Bath of Burns turned in a time of 18 seconds flat to win the barrel racing. Pat Spratt of Lysite, formerly of Thermopolis, had a solid run in the barrels but was unable to crack the top 10 for a pay-off.

A trio of Colorado entries went 1-2-3 in team roping. J.W. Borrego of Pueblo West and Josh Fillmore of Florence finished first in 5.5 seconds. Joey Dickens of Loveland, Colo., won tie down roping with a time of 9 seconds flat.

Beating the heat

"The heat was certainly a factor. We had to work harder to manage the ground and keep the dust under control," Mead said. "We had a phenomenal

Parade winners

Here are the category winners in the Thermopolis Cowboy Rendezvous parade held Saturday:

- Equine — White Horse Country Store/Axtell Family Merchant — Lucy's Sheep Camp
- Youth — Mesa Allen

crowd considering the extreme temperatures. Their enthusiasm was second to none.

"The horses bucked well in spite of the 100-plus degree weather. The bulls bucked great; many of them were youngsters with this being their first year on the road. Several showed promise as future NFR (National Finals Rodeo) contenders."

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Early deadline for July 5 issue of the IR

The Independent Record office will be closed Wednesday, July 4 in recognition of Independence Day. The deadline for display and legal advertising in the July 5 issue is 4 p.m. Friday, June 29. The IR office will be open until 5 p.m. that day.

The deadline for classified advertising for the July 5 issue is noon Monday, July 2, since that issue will be printed a day early, on Tuesday, July 3. That is also the deadline for editorial/news content for the July 5 issue.

Subscribers to the IR should receive their copies of the July 5 issue at the usual time that week since the issue will be mailed the evening of Tuesday, July 3. On some occasions, the IR might not arrive in subscribers' mailboxes until a day later than usual.

4-H camp fun



A 4-H camp was held last week at H Diamond W in Grass Creek. Enjoying Casino Night on Thursday are, clockwise from foreground, William DeVries, Alexandria Krueger, Hot Springs County 4-H Educator Jennifer Cheney, Park County 4-H Educator Kelsey Roop and gamemaster Jerry Umdenstock. — Donna Pennoyer photo

Town pushes ahead with water projects

by J.D. Stetson

Last week the Thermopolis Town Council authorized additional work on the Arapahoe Street Treated Water Main Replacement project and received information on grants for two other construction projects.

At a prior meeting, the council gave verbal authorization for contractor Lamax Construction, Inc. of Basin to proceed with the project up to 12th Street.

At the June 19 meeting and by request of the contractor, the council gave written permission via a work change directive to proceed to 12th Street. The contractor was close to finishing the project up to Ninth Street before the meeting.

If the town has enough funds left over after the contractor completes the project up to 12th Street, it may choose to have the line replaced up to 14th Street.

Broadway project

The town received good news with regard to a grant application to the State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB).

The board awarded the town a \$250,000 matching grant from the Mineral Royalty Grant program for the town's Broadway East Treated Water Main replacement project phase II.

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Commissioners could impose partial fire ban

Hot Springs County will probably come under a partial fire ban on Friday after an expected vote by the county commissioners.

Under a partial fire ban, any open fire or discharge of class A, B or C fireworks will be prohibited in the county.

The commissioners will vote on the ban Friday during their work session meeting for the county budget.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wind River/Bighorn Basin District (WR/BBD) is warning the public that the fire danger rating throughout the WR/BBD is extreme and urges caution for those recreating on public lands.

Several large fires are currently burning in

the Rocky Mountain area, some of which were human-caused. The BLM cautions that wherever you are camping and recreating this summer, there will be plenty of cured vegetation that can easily burn.

In addition, be aware of the potential for a fire to spark when driving or riding off-highway vehicles (OHVs) through tall grass. OHVs must be equipped with Society of Automotive Engineers-approved spark arresters. The public is also reminded that the use of fireworks is illegal on public lands.

Report all wildfires immediately to the Cody Interagency Dispatch Center at 800-295-9954 or to 911. For more information about fire conditions, call 307-347-4790.

