# Thermopolis Hot Springs Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW VOLUME 113, No. 30, July 26, 2012 THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443 USPS 627-300

## Hayes inducted into **NHSACA Hall of Fame**

FARGO, N.D. - LeRoy Hayes reached the echelon of his coaching career as the Thermopolis icon was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame during a ceremony Tuesday afternoon at the Holiday Inn.

Hayes took a step toward such national recognition when he was inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Association (WCA) Hall of Fame last July in Casper.

Bill Strannigan, the longtime coach and activities/athletic director at St. Stephens and Riverton, was also inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame during the awards ceremony. They were nominated for the honor by the WCA Board of Directors. Hayes and Strannigan are the only Wyomingites to be inducted this year.

Hayes and Strannigan were among the 27 current or former coaches inducted into the Class of 2012.

Hayes' wife Lily was unable to attend Tuesday's NHSACA luncheon and ceremony due to another commitment. LeRoy and Lily have three children - Ron and Heath Hayes, and Heather Hayes Goffena. The Hayes brothers live in Douglas and Heather resides in Thermopolis.

Heath Hayes, who is a WCA past president, attended the induction luncheon.

"The list of people I'm being inducted with is totally amazing," LeRoy said, and expressed his appreciation for the nomination by his peers. "I never dreamt there were enough people around the state who think this much of me.

'It's very, very humbling when you think of all the doggone experience in this room," he said

just before receiving his Hall of Fame award at the Fargo facility.

Hayes is about to enter his 34th year of coaching, all in Thermopolis, after retiring from teaching physical education for 30 years. He currently coaches indoor and outdoor track, and football. He began his teaching career in 1977 and has coached at the junior high/middle school and high school levels.

#### Hayes' previous honors

Honors have been plentiful for Hayes, although he has reached the pinnacle of the coaching ranks with his national induction. He was an assistant football coach on the Bobcats' three consecutive state champion teams from 1990-92. Those teams are now in the Bobcat Athletics Hall of Fame.

In WCA honors, Hayes was Wrestling Head Coach of the Year in 1992, Assistant Football Coach of the Year in 1991 and Indoor Track Coach of the Year in 2009.

Last year, he was a finalist for National Assistant Track Coach of the Year. Hayes served as WCA president from 1990-92 after filling the vice president position from 1988-90.

Hayes battled back from a stroke suffered about a decade ago and continued coaching despite limited use of the right side of his body.

"Physical challenges have not kept him from the career he loves," read John Hutchison, co-chair of the Hall of Fame Committee during Hayes' induction. "He maintained a positive attitude..."

After being inducted, Hayes was sure to give credit to a number of influential coaches early in his career. They include Phil Treick, Don Simp-

See Hayes on page 12



LeRoy Hayes of Thermopolis, left, and Bill Strannigan of Riverton are pictured following their induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Tuesday afternoon in Fargo, N.D. -Joe Sova photo

## Farmers/ranchers weigh in on effects of drought in HSC

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County continues to be in moderate drought with little to no precipitation in  $June\,and\,sparse\,\overline{precipitation}\,in$ May. Precipitation in July has reached .13, according to National Weather Service records.

The dry weather earlier in the spring brought with it several challenges for the area farmers and ranchers.

Ranchers have been moving their cows from pasture to pasture trying to keep their cattle crop fed throughout the summer but are quickly running out of places with enough grass and are having to dip into feed reserves.

Many farmers have been fortunate enough to be able to draw

water from the Big Horn River, but they have had trouble keeping their crops irrigated, leading to a shortfall in production and quality.

While the crop producers are seeing high prices for their crops, the ranchers are anticipating tighter margins as they go into the shipping season early because they are running out of feed.

#### **Ranchers**

John Baird has lived and ranched in Hot Springs County all his life and he has never seen a dryer spring than this year.

Baird operates a ranch east of town where he runs cattle and farms a little bit of hay. Baird's hay crop is down about 50 percent from other years, and the grass situation on his summer ranges is sparse because of the dry spring.

For his cattle, the ranch is coasting on the leftover feed from last year.

While water for the cattle is short, his water reserve is still sufficient to get him through the season. The higher concern for the rancher is the feed situation, which may force him to sell the cows earlier than when the ranch traditionally sells.

The problem with selling earlier is the cows will likely be 75 pounds lighter than usual, which means less money per head.

See Drought on page 12

#### School trustees adopt budget According to new District (go into reserves) to meet the

by Joe Sova

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 trustees unanimously adopted the new fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 budget Wednesday, July 18 after a public hearing to outline the parameters of the budget.

The hearing was held at 8 p.m. after trustees adjourned their monthly meeting and the budget was approved by a 5-0 vote. Board chairwoman Liz Mahoney and other trustees Clay VanAntwerp, Karen Leyba, Dr. Travis Bomengen and Tom Sullivan cast aye votes; Joe Martinez and Hub Whitt were unable to attend the hearing and meeting.

Business Manager Colleen Anderson, the budgeted expenditures for FY2012-13 are ter the meeting, and he was \$14,287,502, which includes the money in all nine district funds. That compares to a \$15,514,130 year we wanted to compensate total budget for the just-complet- staff. We felt good we were able ed 2011-12 school year.

The General Fund budget shows \$11,180,638, which is about \$420,000 less than the 2011-12 projected amount.

What is key for the district is that the budget was balanced without going into reserves, which the district had to do last year to overcome a budget

deficit. "We had to do that last year

goals of the district," Superintendent Dustin Hunt said afpleased that could be avoided for the FY2012-13 budget. "This to do both."

#### Decreases in two

accounts

The new FY2012-13 budget reflects major changes in two accounts - Special Revenue Fund and Major Maintenance Fund. The budgeted amount of \$625,000 in the Special Revenue

See School on page 13

### Herding the turtles



State Park worker, Chuck Laver, walks in the cooling pond up to his chest on Sunday to mix up the turtles for the annual Rotary Turtle Trek. Laver uses a leaf blower to herd the turtles from one side of the pond to the other before the winning numbers were drawn. See Turtle Trek results on page 11. -Cindy Glasson photo

### County attorney helps nab suspect in felony car burglary

by J.D. Stetson

Fifth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Thomas W. Harrington bound over Corey Coriddi, who was 24 at the time of his arrest, to Hot Springs County District Court on a felony burglary charge, two misdemeanor charges of unlawful possession of property and one misdemeanor charge of possession of stolen property.

The felony charge is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$10,000 or both fine and imprisonment.

Thermopolis Police Officers and Hot Springs County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Coriddi June 27 after Jerry Williams, who serves as the Hot Springs County Attorney and as a Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department firefighter, witnessed Coriddi walk to a vehicle parked in front of a warehouse in the 300 block of Amoretti Street at about 10 p.m., according to court docu-

Williams stated he saw Coriddi allegedly enter the vehicle through an open driver's side window and rummage around in the vehicle. Williams walked over to Coriddi, who jumped out of the vehicle and started jogging away, accord-

ing to court documents. Williams approached Coriddi and asked him what he was doing. Coriddi allegedly responded he was trying to retrieve some of his belongings from a friend who was inside the warehouse. Williams indicated he wanted to verify Coriddi's story with his friend. As the two approached the warehouse, Coriddi allegedly took slower steps and then took off running. Williams pur-

Coriddi allegedly ran for several blocks with Williams in pursuit. While making a turn at the northeast corner of Amoretti and Fourth streets, Coriddi fell down and lost one of his shoes. He continued running with one shoe as Williams closed

Williams tackled Coriddi, knocking him to the ground, where Williams was able to detain Coriddi and call Thermopolis Dispatch to report the

situation. When officers arrived at the location in the 400 block of Clark Street they observed Coriddion the ground and Williams on top of him. Officers

See Burglary on page 13

from page 1

## Drought

"My father always said you just have to play with the cards you're dealt," Baird said.

Rancher Jim Wilson is in exactly the same situation as Baird with his ranch. Wilson has traditionally shipped his cows near Oct. 1, which is about a month earlier than Baird's traditional ship date.

Wilson is still shooting for the October date, but the question will be how many cows that can be wintered for next year, based upon how much feed will be left over on the rangeland and in reserves after the summer.

"If it's going to be a tough winter, we're going to have to sell the cows," Wilson said.

#### Drought assistance

Wilson stated it is fortunate some areas of the state have been made eligible for emergency drought assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

The ranchers who apply may be able to receive assistance in the form of a tax break on their capital gains taxes on the animals they may have to sell because of circumstances brought on by the

The agency's field office in Worland currently has not received any requests for disaster assistance or requests under its emergency conservation loan program, said Farm Loan Manager Bill Morrison.

Producers have eight months after the disaster is declared to take advantage of the programs. Morrison doesn't expect to receive many requests until after the selling season and producers have a better idea of their damages incurred.

The agency has recently sent out appraisers to evaluate hay crop losses at some local farms, but the results of the appraisals were not yet available.

Morrison did say he had heard the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had recently sent out a letter to producers indicating the producers would have to be off BLM land earlier than anticipated and that some of the ranges would be closed to grazing during the winter because they did not grow any grass this year.

If true, some producers may need to sell some of their breeding stock, which would apply toward

the disaster program and could delay the payment on their capital gains tax.

Morrison stated producers who are currently or plan to haul water in the near future should contact the agency to document it in the event they require assistance due to the drought.

The producers should continue to document their production losses and the number of days grazing to help in any future need for assistance.

The county currently does not qualify under the Emergency Livestock Feed Program, which helps provide financial assistance for hay after a "D2" drought is declared. In order for it to be declared, the county must be under severe drought for eight consecutive weeks.

#### Hay prices

The ranchers also are being hit with high prices for feed. According to a recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, hay prices as of July 19 were running at an estimated average of \$200 a ton for good to premium alfalfa in central and western Wyoming.

The prices are being driven by the demand and most producers are reporting a 20 to 30 percent decrease in their yields. The dry conditions also are hindering the quality of the hay, according to the report.

Fair to good alfalfa was at \$180 a ton, premium large squares for alfalfa/grass ran at \$250 a ton, small squares were at \$280 a ton. Fair to good large squares were at \$195. Large squares of oat hay were at \$120.

#### **Farmers**

While ranchers are facing lower returns and higher feed costs, local farmers are seeing the spike in prices this year and are worried about the next year.

Mike Baker, a local farmer and Hot Springs County Commissioner, said it has been very difficult to keep up with irrigation this summer.

Baker has being farming for 40 years and thinks this is an amazing time in agriculture for both farmers and ranchers.

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Baker utilizes water from the Big Horn River

in irrigating his crops, which has been painstaking process given the intense heat.

"It's reduced our ability to get top yields," Bak-

For his barley crop, the lack of spring rains will likely result in an early harvest because the natural rain wasn't there to spring it up.

It has also left him with an uneven crop with various patches just waiting to catch up with the rest.

The story is a little different with his corn crop. So far it has been a good corn year with the warm temperatures early in the process. The corn crops are just now beginning to pollinate.

Baker hopes the temperatures decrease later in the season because the heat can be a problem after the kernels form.

The price of corn also has risen more than 50 percent from the prior month, Baker said.

While the prices are high now for grains and hav. Baker worries about next year. He expects the high demand this year will be opposite next year because he expects many of the livestock producers won't have the same number of animals to

"I would rather have 'good' prices over a longer

period of time, than large price spikes," Baker said.

#### Fire potential

While Hot Springs County has not seen the same level of fire danger as in other areas of the state and Colorado, it has nonetheless been a great concern among the ranchers dependent upon the rangeland for their cattle.

While it is a concern for his crop, Baker said the fields currently have irrigation ditches to reduce the possibility of a fire crossing over.

Baker stated his concern for the ranchers who utilize his land after harvest and for his neighbors who lost a 1,000 acres of range due to the Zimmer-

man Butte fire. Baird said it has been a very severe situation, but the severity has been somewhat lessened by the fact there isn't enough fuel on the rangeland to fuel very many fires.

Dave Denton, owner of White Horse Country Store, said he has talked to various ranchers about the drought and the fire situation.

While all the ranchers are worried, they are optimistic that the county won't face the same kind of rangeland fires through the rest of the summer.

## Hayes

son, Wayne Ward and Mick Lehner.

Hayes said Lehner, who is afflicted with multiple sclerosis, was one of the first people to call him after his stroke.

"He called and said, 'Don't you ever give up," Hayes said of the conversation.

#### Strannigan's lengthy career

Strannigan began his 35-year coaching career at St. Stephens, where he coached basketball, football and track. In his third year, he was named Wyoming Coach of the Year in basketball. Strannigan's St. Stephens boys' team won two state titles in his four years there, and he coached the Eagles to a boys' state track title.

At Riverton, Strannigan was boys' head bas-

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ketball coach from 1966-75. He became activities/athletic director in 1975 and served as Riverton Aquatic Center director from 1987 until he retired. He was recognized as National Athletic Director of the Year in 1993.

Strannigan's wife Clarice and a number of other family members attended the induction ceremony.

"They've earned it," Heath Hayes said of the induction of his father along with Strannigan and the other members of the NHSACA Hall of Fame Class of 2012. "Most of the awards are given for longevity.'

Heath Hayes also mentioned their commitment to their state associations and especially to the Hall of Fame in their respective state.

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