

Wyoming Reads celebrates literacy with area first graders



Crook County first graders reading at Devils Tower.

Crook County first graders from Hulett, Moorcroft and Sundance made their annual trek to Devils Tower National Monument for the 9th annual Wyoming Reads celebration in Crook County. The day was a bit chilly but everyone enjoyed the natural history of Devils Tower and the celebration of literacy. After the students enjoyed a sack lunch and some camaraderie with friends, area coordinator Bonnie Stahla, Youth Services Librarian at the Crook County Library in Sundance, explained to the students what Wyoming Reads is all about. A readers theater of "Interrupting Chicken" by David Ezra Stein was performed by Bonnie Stahla, Sundance Elementary Library Media Specialist Kathy Bjornestad and Sundance 1st grade teacher Tina Inghram. There were lots of giggles throughout the crowd as they seemed to enjoy it. Each student received a hardback book with his/her name on a bookplate inside. This year the students also received a paperback copy of "Wyoming Firsts" by Carol Mead, First Lady of Wyoming with artwork by Wyoming High School Students.

John Jorgensen estab-

lished the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation in 1996 and founded the "Casper Cares, Casper Reads" celebration in 1999 to honor his late wife's commitment to literacy and children. This local event was renamed "Wyoming Reads" when it first expanded statewide in 2006. The idea to honor his wife's

memory started while sitting around a table with friends, he said, and has grown to distribute about 8,000 books to almost every first grader in Wyoming each year.

"We never in our wildest dreams imagined it was going to grow to what it is," Jorgensen said. "It's just an incredible blessing."

NOTICE

**The Crook County Courthouse
will be CLOSED
Monday, May 26
in observance of
MEMORIAL DAY**

A Taste of Western TIMES

Spaghetti Hot Dish

Submitted by Margaret Ellsbury

7 oz. uncooked spaghetti
noodles
1 cup cottage cheese
1 egg
½ cup milk

1 lb. hamburger, browned
and drained
32 oz. jar spaghetti sauce
1 lb. mozzarella cheese,
shredded

Cook spaghetti and use to line the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Mix together cottage cheese, egg and milk and pour on top of spaghetti. Layer in order on top of spaghetti the hamburger, spaghetti sauce and mozzarella. Bake at 350° for 45 to 60