



photo by Mark Dykes

Passing the badge

Newly elected Hot Springs County Sheriff Jerimie Krausharr receives his badge from outgoing sheriff Lou Falgoust.

Mike Mortimore reflects on time as Thermopolis mayor

by Mark Dykes

Mike Mortimore bid farewell Tuesday evening at the Thermopolis Town Council meeting, ending his most recent term as mayor.

Mortimore was elected to a four-year term the town council in 1986, with the term beginning in 1987. He later served a total of five terms as mayor, back when terms were two years each, with a few breaks in between. 2000-

2002 was his final two-year stint before getting out for at least 10 years. He then joined the town council and in 2014 was again elected mayor, for a four-year term.

Mortimore said there’s been some major deficits due to the minerals being doing so low, and he and town staff have been successful in keeping things going. “We have some great people who work for us. We’ve been very success-

ful in maintaining services and maintaining the town, really, with [budget] projections as high as a million dollars short.”

The town has also been successful, he said, in updating infrastructure such as water and sewer lines. He regrets he didn’t have another couple years to see some other projects come to fruition, but is satisfied with the things that have been done, includ-

ing those that have been done in the last 30 years.

“I really don’t think people realize what it takes to keep providing the services we do,” he said, particularly with declining revenues and cuts made on the state level. He expects the provision of services to continue with Mayor’s Assistant Fred Crosby, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule and an experience town council. There are

some good plans laid out, Mortimore noted, such as the transfer station at the landfill and the future of the police department.

Mortimore’s “been proud serving the people of Thermop. You don’t get paid a lot, you get zero benefits, and there’s something noble about that. It’s the one job where you feel like you’re putting in a heck of a lot of time and you feel like you’re dedicating yourself to that.”

Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mountain Construction Co., on behalf of land-owners Howard and Belenda Willson, has requested a Land Use Change to reclassify approximately 15.0 acres from **Agricultural** to **Industrial** to allow the following:

- A gravel pit;
- Gravel crushing;
- A hot mix plant.

The subject property consists of Gov’t Lots 2 and 3, Section 6, Township 44 North, Range 94 West. Fronting on the north side of Sprowl Road, 2,500 feet west of Hwy. 20 N, approximately eight miles north of Thermopolis, it is addressed as 810 Sprowl Rd.

A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Commissioners at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room of the County Annex Building. Anyone requiring additional information should call the County Planning Office at 864-2961. Those unable to attend are invited to comment in writing to: County Planning, 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443, or by e-mail at hscplanner@hscounty.com.

Pub. Jan. 10, 2019 No. 8486

The Board of Directors of the Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) will hold a Board work session beginning at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 and a Board meeting beginning at 8:30 am, Wednesday, January 23, 2019, at the offices of WCDA, 155 N. Beech, Casper, WY.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss general business of the Authority. An agenda is available at the offices of WCDA at 155 N. Beech, Casper, WY 82601.

Pub. Jan. 10, 2019 No. 8490

Public Notice

HIGH PLAINS POWER DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The Board of Directors of High Plains Power, Inc. has selected a nominating committee. The committee will place in nomination, prospective members desiring to run for election at the annual meeting to be held on March 16, 2019 at Hot Springs County Middle School in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

The members of the nominating committee and their represented districts are as follows:

District 1 –	Jeffrey City, WY
Rebecca Gullion	
District 2 –	Lander, WY
Frederick Tammany	

District 3 –	Dubois, WY
Martin Meeks	
District 4 –	Riverton, WY
James Woodward	
District 5 –	Riverton, WY
Ron Blumenshine	
District 6 –	Riverton, WY
Nick Anderson	
District 7 –	Crowheart, WY
John Sharp	
District 8 –	Kinnear, WY
Bruce Westlake	
District 9 –	Thermopolis, WY
Josh Longwell	
District 10 –	Worland, WY
Dan Weber	
District 11 –	Casper, WY
Randy Marton	
District 12 –	MedicineBow, WY
Sue Cowdin	

The Director Districts holding elections are as follows:

District 1 – Jeffrey City, Gas Hills, Hudson areas
District 3 – Dubois area
District 6 – Arapahoe and Riverview areas
District 7 – Crowheart area

Any member residing in these districts interested in serving on the High Plains Power Board should contact a member of the nominating committee. The committee will meet January 25, 2019.

Pub. Jan. 10, 2019 No. 8487

STATE OF WYOMING)	OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THERMOPOLIS WYOMING
COUNTY OF HOT SPRINGS)	December 18, 2018

The Hot Springs Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Government Annex. Present were Commissioners Tom Ryan, Phillip Scheel, and John Lumley. Also present was County Clerk Nina Webber, County Attorney Jerry Williams, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners Penny Herdt. Chairman Ryan led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

Lumley Recognition – Commissioner John Lumley was recognized for his thirty-nine years of service to the citizens of Hot Springs County. Commissioner Lumley is retiring effective January 7, 2019.

Magistrate Discussion – Incoming Circuit Court Judge Ed Luhm appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the current lack of a full-time magistrate located in Hot Springs County.

Jerimie Kraushaar takes over as Hot Springs County Sheriff

by Mark Dykes

On Monday, Jan. 7, just before 8:15, oaths of office were administered to several elected officials, among them new Hot Springs County Sheriff Jerimie Kraushaar, taking over from Lou Falgoust, who has spent 48 years in law enforcement — 17 of it as sheriff here.

Following the oath of office, Falgoust pinned Kraushaar’s new badge on and the two shared a heartfelt embrace.

Kraushaar said his main priorities are to provide as much coverage for the county as possible, as well as being proactive and trying to curb any crime happening or drugs coming into the county, and being seen as approachable in the county.

Falgoust commended the deputies, who are already making great strides in slowing the flow of drugs in the community, and that will continue. Kraushaar added the deputies are working on the large sect here in town, and word has come from users and dealers that drugs are harder to come by. The new sheriff said the work has been exhausting but nice.

Kraushaar also plans to continue programs in the commu-

nity that Falgoust started, such as the annual Pumpkin Patch and candy canes for students, and going through the schools and getting to know them. There will be some subtle changes, he said, but did not elaborate on them at this time.

He also wants to have more stops in the rural community, as the deputies haven’t been stopping as much as they could just to visit with folks. “You learn things if you stop and talk to the local ranchers,” he said, such as reports of suspicious subjects and vehicles.

Something really nice, Kraushaar said, is that he’s spoken to the interim police chief and “it seems like we’re, at least up front, on the same wavelength. It’ll be nice to see if we [the sheriff’s office and police department] can all start moving forward together.”

Regarding Falgoust, Kraushaar said he’s enjoyed working with him for nearly 15 years. “He’s treated me with respect, with confidence, and I couldn’t have asked for a better boss, a better mentor, through the early years of my law enforcement [career], and through watching and learning how to work

the administrative side.” Even when they haven’t agreed, he said, they treated each other with dignity and Falgoust never held a grudge or threw a deputy under the bus.

“He expects you to work, as he should, and every once in a while you’d need pointed in the right direction and when the time came he’d do that, but other than that he left us to do what we do.”

Kraushaar said people couldn’t deny the awards Falgoust received, the knowledge he has or what he does for the community. He noted the outgoing sheriff has a genuine care for people, particularly shown in his work with children and senior citizens.

Falgoust said, “I’m very proud of Jerimie. I think he’s going to do a good job.” He added the voters made a very good choice, and Kraushaar will do what’s best for the community. “I look forward to seeing his growth.”

After nearly 50 years in law enforcement, Falgoust said he’s got a couple bird dogs and he’d like to do some bird hunting outside the state, as it’s become his passion outside law enforcement.

Bank of Thermopolis Depository Resolution – The Commissioners approved Bank of Thermopolis as a depository for County funds. **Advertising – Non-Compliant Special Districts** – There are two special districts that have not yet filed their required annual reports with the State Dept. of Audit. This item was tabled to the January 8, 2019 meeting.

Correspondence – HSC Pioneer Association – Donation Request; Fair Board Minutes – November, 2018; University of Wyoming – Western Confluence Publication – Fall 2018

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Attest:

Thomas J. Ryan, Chairman
Nina Webber, Clerk to the Board

Pub. Jan. 10, 2019 No. 8488

STATE OF WYOMING)	OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THERMOPOLIS WYOMING
COUNTY OF HOT SPRINGS)	December 28, 2018

The Hot Springs Board of County Commissioners met in emergency session on Friday, December 28, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Government Annex. Present were Commissioners Tom Ryan, Phillip Scheel, and John Lumley. Also present was County Clerk Nina Webber, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioners Penny Herdt.

Chairman Tom Ryan called the emergency meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. During the course of making repairs to the sewer line in the basement of the courthouse, it was discovered that the line from the third floor judge’s bathroom was plugged completely and disintegrating. The meeting was moved to the Courthouse basement to review the situation with the plumber. After observing the line via video camera, the Commissioners authorized the plumber to repair the judge’s system via an above ground pipe running along the inside wall of the old Commissioner’s meeting room over to the main sewer line. The plumber was also authorized to continue with repairs on the main sewer line westward down the basement hallway to at least the water fountain. Jackhammering of the floor will be done on the weekend to avoid disruption in the courthouse.

These decisions will be formally ratified at the January 8, 2019 meeting.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Attest:

Thomas J. Ryan, Chairman
Nina Webber, Clerk to the Board

Pub. Jan. 10, 2019 No. 8489