

Conservation tax loses 2-1

School board: Big vote elects two old, two new

by Pat Schmidt
Over 86% of registered voters participated in the general election in Hot Springs County on Tuesday, and the vote total of 2,563 people surpassed the 2,506 who voted in the presidential election in 2004.
The four people elected to the school board were Dr. Travis Bomengen with 1,437 votes, Clay Van Antwerp 1,172, and incumbents Breez Longwell Daniels 1,107; and Karen Leyba 996.
Other totals were Bruce Thurgood 915, Tom Christensen 733, Dr. Howard Willson 642, Gary Olheiser 544, Lexie Yarrington 529 and Mark Wagstaff 273. Don Lewis, who withdrew, received 112 votes.

Conservation tax levy
Voters may have sent a signal they do not want to vote again on a property tax of up to one mill for the Hot Springs County Conservation District, since it failed by a larger margin than in several other elections. The measure failed 1,580-812, a 2-1 margin. In fact, voters in all four precincts rejected it soundly.

Statewide races
Republican Cynthia Lummis, who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, also won here with 1,431 votes. Democrat Gary Trauner had 933 and Libertarian David Herbert 143.

Both Republican senators were returned to office.

In the race for a six-year term, U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi topped the ballot in Hot Springs County with 2,097 votes, while Democrat Chris Rothfuss had 422.

In the race for a four-year term, U.S. Sen. John Barrasso had two fewer votes than Enzi, 2,095. Democrat Nick Carter had 435.



Cindy Heath, 49, votes for the first time in her life. Assisting is Precinct 4 election judge Nellie Corley, 80, who has voted in every election but one since she was 21. She was not eligible to vote that time due to a move to Lovell and a 30-day residency requirement in those days. -Lara Love photo

Veterans honored

Veterans Day services will be at the VFW Post at 11 a.m. on Tuesday.
There will be a 6:30 p.m. candlelight memorial service

The President-elect, Barack Obama, lost in Wyoming as he did here. However, Obama drew 618 votes, almost 25% of those voting in the race.

John McCain had 1,834, Libertarian Bob Barr 28, independent Ralph Nader 27 and independent Chuck Baldwin 15.

State Legislature
Both Republican incumbents were reelected to the Wyoming Legislature.

Sen. Gerald Geis of Worland received 2,154 votes in Hot Springs County, 3,596 in Washakie County and 1,305 in southern Big Horn County for a total of 7,055.

Rep. Lorraine Quarberg received 1,816 in Hot Springs County and 1,304 in southern Big Horn County for a total of 3,120.

County races
All county candidates were unopposed.

Incumbent Republican county commissioner received 2,020 votes.

Elected to the cemetery district board for two years was Cindy DeVries with 1,977 and for four years were Gerald Gerber 1,685, Rose Watkins 1,664, and Jeanie Love 1,647.

On the conservation district board, Debbie Axtell had 2,158 votes for the urban seat and Robert Overton 1,893 for the rural seat.

Tim Anderson was reelected to the Hot Springs County Rural Fire District Board. He received 560 votes in Precinct 3 and 126 in Precinct 4 for a total of 686.

People in the towns do not vote for the fire board.

Judiciary races
Local voters favored retaining Wyoming Supreme Court justice William U. Hill 1,711-422. He won by similar margins across

the state.

They favored retaining Fifth Judicial District judge Steven Cranfill 1,686-433. Voters in Park, Big Horn and Washakie counties also supported Cranfill.

Amendments
Voters across Wyoming strongly favored Constitutional Amendment A to simplify and modernize the oath of office that people take when they are installed. Here it passed 1,930 to 441, a 66%-17% margin.

Support was far weaker for Amendment B, which would change the requirement for petition drives for ballot initiatives, using the 30 state senate districts instead of the 23 counties.

The vote here was 1,173 to 1,066 in favor, a 46%-42% margin. It failed because it needed 1,282 votes (over half of the total votes cast in the election).

Election returns

	Thermop Dist. 1	Thermop Dist. 2	East Dist. 3	West Dist. 4	TOTAL
President					
McCain (Rep.)	581	494	644	115	1,834
Obama (Dem.)	226	177	186	29	618
Barr (Lib.)	10	13	4	1	28
Baldwin (independent)	6	3	3	3	15
Nader (independent)	9	9	8	1	27
US Senator (Six years)					
Enzi (Rep.)	691	565	709	132	2097
Rothfuss (Dem.)	132	131	136	23	422
US Senator (Four years)					
Barrasso (Rep.)	693	570	703	129	2095
Carter (Dem.)	139	129	141	26	435
US Representative					
Lummis (Rep.)	440	373	509	109	1431
Trauner (Dem.)	349	271	272	41	933
Herbert (Lib.)	37	48	54	4	143
State Senator					
Geis (Rep.)	710	597	727	120	2154
State Representative					
Quarberg (Rep.)	600	511	604	101	1816
County Commissioner					
Basse	677	558	685	100	2020
School Board (Elect four)					
Bomengen	481	389	495	72	1437
Van Antwerp	372	314	428	58	1172
Daniels	354	270	423	60	1107
Leyba	345	271	317	63	996
Thurgood	263	229	347	76	915
Christensen	188	214	270	61	733
Willson	218	176	204	44	642
Olheiser	181	175	153	35	544
Yarrington	229	143	134	23	529
Wagstaff	90	80	80	23	273
Lewis (withdrew)	32	47	23	10	112
Conservation District supervisors (unopposed)					
Overton (Rural)	607	540	632	114	1893
Axtell (Urban)	696	592	741	129	2158
Cemetery District board (Three four-year terms)					
Gerber	579	460	556	90	1685
Love	544	447	553	103	1647
Watkins	533	433	606	92	1664
Cemetery District board (One two-year term)					
DeVries	634	558	672	113	1977
Supreme Court Justice Hill					
For	586	467	572	86	1711
Against	114	127	143	38	422
Fifth Judicial District Judge Cranfill					
For	581	451	564	90	1686
Against	117	140	140	36	433
Constitutional Amendment A					
For	648	527	634	121	1930
Against	130	134	155	22	441
Constitutional Amendment B					
For	421	325	353	74	1173
Against	310	297	396	63	1066
Hot Springs Conservation District Tax					
For	280	216	257	59	812
Against	497	451	546	86	1580
People voting	842	707	859	155	2,563
Total registered	985	827	971	177	2,960
2008 Primary Elect.	508	397	505	107	1517
2006 General Elect.	806	619	759	148	2332
2004 General Elect.	877	690	777	162	2506



Emcee Tawna McQueen, dressed as a pirate, announces mad scientist Jeremy Gibbel is the Madness by the Moon Kiddie Parade winner for ages 7-9 years. Perfect weather on Thursday night and a big turnout in the preschool age groups left judges choosing winners from among 102 entries in five division. -Pat Schmidt photo

Town council choices made except in Kirby?

Two candidates were elected to the town council in each of the three incorporated towns in Hot Springs County.

Thermopolis
Allen Braaten and Dick Hall were elected to the Thermopolis Town Council.

The vote totals, with Precinct 1 listed first and Precinct 2 second:

Braaten: 403, 337=740.
Hall: 341, 306=647.
Jim Joiner: 284, 387=571.
John Sarchett: 267, 201=468.

East Thermopolis
Jack Kuiper with 61 votes and

Merle William Moore with 59 were elected to the East Thermopolis Town Council.

Edmond Belleque and Budd J. Kelly had 47.

Kirby
Ross R. Rhodes with 24 votes and Jessica Slagle with 11 apparently were elected to the Kirby Town Council.

Irene "Dolly" Hurley had 8.
Since there were 23 write-in votes, the possibility exists someone could have finished ahead of Slagle. The write-ins were not available as of Wednesday morning.

Meeting Thursday on Lane 3 improvements

Possible improvements to Lane 3 south of Thermopolis will be discussed Thursday at the Thermopolis town hall at 7 p.m.

According to Hot Springs County planner Lee Campbell improvements to the road, as well as connecting it with Lane 7 to the south, are being considered. Most of the road is privately held between Ryan Brothers Trucking, B&G Industries and Pamida.

Campbell said the town could annex the road or the county could adopt the road.

The installation of curb and

gutter as well as paving the road would lead to a reduction in dust and improve drainage.

Any improvements would probably be funded through the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Economic Development Co., he said. As a partnership between Thermopolis and Hot Springs County, the burden would be shared.

Campbell said improving Lane 3, which sees heavy traffic, while connecting to Lane 7, would be a logical move.

Development in Wyoming follows water, and water follows road development, Campbell reasoned.



Princess Taylor Kannapel beams at the Kiddies Costume Contest judges.

Natural gas increase set

A rate hike for Wyoming Gas Co. has been approved effective last Saturday by the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

The increase of \$0.1248 per hundred cubic feet (ccf) increases the rate from \$0.5670 to \$0.6918. That is in addition to the cost of service, \$0.18025 for residences and \$0.16792 for commercial users.

According to PSC figures a residential customer using 80 ccf per month will have a \$10.38 increase per month, 14.73%. The increase will vary according to the amount of usage.

For more information, including commenting on the increase, turn to the public notices in this newspaper.