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Thermopolis
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SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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Election heats up in Tuesday's primary

Topping the races for seats in the 2010 Primary Election on Tuesday is the Hot Springs County Commission, where three candidates are competing for two seats to head into the General Election on Nov. 2.

John Lumley is running for re-election to the commission. Mike Baker is completing the unexpired term of the late Frank Manning, who resigned due to illness last spring. Baker was appointed to the position. Jerry Langbehn is vying for a commission seat for the second time; he ran unsuccessfully against Brad Basse in 2008. Basse remains on the commission.

Lumley, Baker and Langbehn are all Republicans. Since there are no Democrats on the primary ballot for the commission, the top two vote getters in the primary appear to be shoe-ins for seats.

Race for Thermopolis mayor

Incumbent Bill Malloy is being challenged by James Raymond for Thermopolis mayor. Since it's a non-partisan vote both will advance to the General Election, where the winner is declared.

Barring an abundance of write-ins, Toni Casciato and Marilyn Strausborger will be elected to seats on the Thermopolis Town Council. The Republicans will be the only candidates on the primary ballot; only two seats are open.

Reba Odde is the lone candidate for mayor of East Thermopolis. Delores Bush and David Peake are running for the town council; two seats are open.

It appears a write-in candidate could fill one of the two open seats on the Kirby Town Council. The only candidate on the ballot will be Irene "Dolly" Hurley. Tony Deromedi, who is filling an unexpired term, had filed for the election but is moving out of the Kirby Municipal District.

Don Larson is the lone candidate for mayor of Kirby. He has served as mayor numerous times.

In Hot Springs County positions, running unopposed are Mike Mortimore, coroner; Jerry Williams, attorney; Hans Odde, clerk; Mickeyjean Ford, treasurer; and Shelley Deromedi, assessor.

The race for Hot Springs County sheriff will wait until the general election. Incumbent Lou Falgoust, a Republican, will have opposition from Independent Sam Donahue.

Terri Cornella is unopposed for clerk of district court in the primary.

Lorraine Quarberg is running unopposed for state representative from House District 28.

State-headline races

There are state-headline races for governor and superintendent of public instruction this year.

A flurry of filings leaves seven Republicans, five Democrats and a Libertarian in the running for governor to replace Democrat Dave Freudenthal.

Republicans on the ballot are Alan Kousoulos, Matt Mead, Rita Meyer, Ron Micheli, John Self, Colin Simpson and Tom Ubben. The Democrats are Pete Gosar, Al Hamburg, Leslie Petersen, Rex Wilde and Chris Zachary. Libertarian Mike Wheeler will also be on the ballot.

On the Republican side of the primary ballot for state superintendent of public instruction are incumbent Jim McBride and three challengers, Ted Adams, Trent Blankenship and Cindy Hill.

Republicans Bruce Brown and Cynthia Cloud are vying to replace Rita Meyer as state auditor. No Democrats filed for the primary.

Incumbent Cynthia Lummis is opposed by Evan Slafter for U.S. representative; both are Republicans. David Wendt is running unopposed on the Democratic side of the ballot.

Colorful Indian dance



Dancing in the sun, a Native American dancer performs Saturday at the 60th Annual Gift of the Waters Pageant in the State Park. Performers from the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes entertained guests for two nights.

—Cindy Glasson photo

Escaped killer arrested in Meeteetse brought to Hot Springs County jail

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County had a brief stint under the national media spotlight Monday when U.S. marshals housed escaped fugitive Tracy Province, 42, in the county jail.

Province escaped July 30 from an Arizona prison with two other inmates, John McClusky, 45, and Daniel Renwick. Renwick was apprehended a short time later in Colorado.

Both McClusky and Casslyn Welch, 43, who is suspected in assisting with the escape, were still on the lam Tuesday and were believed to be in the Yellowstone Park area. They are considered armed and dangerous.

Since the widespread media release of Province's arrest, res-

idents in Hot Springs County have reported at least two sightings of the pair in Thermopolis, none of which provided a positive identification of the people, who had left the area. The sightings were forwarded to the U.S. marshals, Thermopolis dispatch officer Bill Gordon said.

"One of the nice things about the small-town aspect is that if they (residents) see something suspicious they try to report it," said Deputy U.S. Marshal Daquiri Tofte, who is part of the fugitive task force operating in Montana and Wyoming.

The marshals prefer to have too much information than not enough and they don't have any issue with following through with tips as they come in.

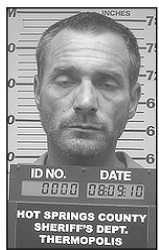
"We're all a lot safer here (in

a small town) because people are looking out for their neighbors," Tofte said.

Province spent about four hours in the Hot Springs County Detention Center under maximum security while U.S. marshals in Casper raced to interview him and transfer him to Park County. The only change that occurred was that the department brought another deputy on duty to guard the prisoner and helped provide transportation of the prisoner to Park County.

Falgoust praised the inter-agency coordination that occurred in the capture of Province and his agency's willingness to oblige the federal agency.

"We have to work together and likewise we facilitated their ability to use Hot Springs County Detention Center," Falgoust said.



Big Inventions



Allen Snooks shows his cousin Miracle Snooks the 'critter' he created during Camp Invention at Ralph Witters Elementary. Students learned how to think outside the box to invent, create and learn during the week-long camp.

Town council considers banning deer feeding

by J.D. Stetson

Residents who feed deer in town may be breaking the law if the Thermopolis Town Council passes a new ordinance.

Mayor Bill Malloy says he spends almost 90 percent of his time hearing and dealing with complaints regarding the deer.

Both he and town staff have done extensive research to find out what other communities are doing to address the issue.

After finding an ordinance in Buffalo that would make it a crime punishable by a \$250 fine to feed or have contact with fur-bearing or big-game wildlife species in town, he took it before the council during its Aug. 3 meeting to gauge them on the issue.

Unanimously, the council voted to allow town staff to write up a similar ordinance for Thermopolis.

"They (Buffalo) said they feel it is helping," Malloy said.

Malloy knows he may have stirred up a hornet's nest with regard to the deer, but he thinks the council must do something to address the issue — even if it will be difficult to enforce.

If an ordinance does pass three readings, it will open the door to allow state Game and Fish officials to remove problem deer from town, which is something the state will not do while people still feed them, Police Chief Mark Nelson said.

The issue is not a new one, but animal calls are a bulk of the work that town police must contend with month to month, Malloy said after the meeting.

The proposed ordinance will go before the council at its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 17. The first draft of the ordinance would make the act of feeding deer a misdemeanor punishable by a fine that does not exceed \$750, mayor's assistant Dan Stansill said.

The ordinance will have to come before the council for three readings before it can be finalized.

Where do I go to vote?

Next Tuesday, Aug. 17 voters go to the polls to cast their ballots in the 2010 Primary Election. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Eligible voters may register and vote at the polls on Primary Election Day, according to Hot Springs County Clerk Hans Odde. All polling places are readily accessible to voters with disabilities; however, you may request an absentee ballot from

the county clerk's office prior to Primary Election Day.

Here are the poll locations for Hot Springs County:

- Election District 1, Precinct 1 – Fair Building. Residents of Thermopolis who live west of Ninth Street.
- Election District 1, Precinct 2 – Fair Building. Residents of Thermopolis who live on Ninth Street and east of Ninth Street.

- Election District 3, Precinct 3 – National Guard Armory. Residents of the eastern part of county, including East Thermopolis and Kirby.

- Election District 2, Precinct 4 – Hot Springs County Museum. Residents of the western part of county, including Owl Creek.

If you have a question about your precinct or where to vote, call Odde at 864-3515.