

Number of college graduates rise in HS County

3

Volleyball, football, cross country previews

6-7

Hot Springs County Fair final results

10-12

Marathon Oil Corp. celebrates 100 years in state

16

Thermopolis
Hot Springs

Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

VOLUME 113, No. 34, August 23, 2012

THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

USPS 627-300

75¢

HD28 hopefuls Winters, Skates advance to General Election

	Thermop Dist. 1	Thermop Dist. 2	East Dist. 3	West Dist. 4	TOTAL
US Senator					
Barasso (R)	413	308	496	86	1303
Bleming (R)	28	23	20	8	79
Mavy (R)	10	14	10	0	34
Bryk (D)	15	7	9	1	32
Chestnut (D)	31	19	22	3	75
Hamburg (D)	22	17	10	3	52
US Representative					
Lummis (R)	387	318	474	86	1265
Henrichsen (D)	63	42	43	5	153
State Senator					
Geis (R)	405	314	474	81	1274
State Representative					
Luehne (R)	27	26	27	3	83
Renner (R)	152	112	188	37	489
Winters (R)	281	215	311	56	863
Leyba (D)	33	21	19	3	76
Skates (D)	48	31	30	4	113
Commissioner					
Basse (R)	345	270	388	50	1053
Coroner					
Mark Mortimore (R)	238	178	279	47	742
Mike Mortimore (R)	184	143	191	34	552
Councilperson - Town of Thermopolis					
Braaten	231	162	x	x	393
Hall	181	156	x	x	337
Hayes	401	282	x	x	683
Councilperson - Town of East Thermopolis					
Kuiper	x	x	56	x	56
Moore	x	x	52	x	52
Councilperson - Town of Kirby					
Nettles	x	x	13	x	13
Rhodes	x	x	15	x	15
Precinct Committeeman - Precinct 1					
Williams (R)	253	x	x	x	253
Winters (R)	333	x	x	x	333
Precinct Committeewoman - Precinct 1					
Galyan (R)	361	x	x	x	361
Precinct Committeeman - Precinct 2					
Curley (R)	x	107	x	x	107
Kruse (R)	x	108	x	x	108
Wright (R)	x	237	x	x	237
Precinct Committeewoman - Precinct 2					
Kelley (R)	x	251	x	x	251
Kruse (R)	x	168	x	x	168
Precinct Committeeman - Precinct 3					
Baker (R)	x	x	376	x	376
Gular (R)	x	x	141	x	141
Willson (R)	x	x	253	x	253
Precinct Committeewoman - Precinct 3					
Baker (R)	x	x	357	x	357
Gular (R)	x	x	166	x	166
Willson (R)	x	x	230	x	230



David Smith hands his numbered card to judge Carol Widman in preparation to vote in the 2012 Primary Election on Tuesday morning at the Hot Springs County Fair Building. Election judge Joyce Kelley is also pictured. — Joe Sovo photo

Mark Mortimore defeats brother Mike in coroner's primary

Republican Nathan Winters will face Democrat Connie Skates for the Wyoming House District 28 seat in the 2012 General Election after advancing with Tuesday victories in the primary.

Winters, from Thermopolis, collected 1,391 votes while Echo Renner of rural Meeteetse finished with 986 in the Republican ballot. Roland Luehne was third with 100 votes. Winters had the majority among Hot Springs, Big Horn and Fremont county voters. His totals, by county, were: Hot Springs, 863 (59 percent); Big Horn, 370; Fremont, 97; and Park, 61. Renner carried her home Park County with 175 votes. Her other totals were: Hot Springs, 489; Big Horn, 257; and Fremont, 65. Luehne had 83 votes in Hot Springs County and 17 in other three counties combined.

Winters, the former Hot Springs County Republican Party chairman and assistant

pastor at First Baptist Church, said Wednesday morning he was humbled by election results. However, he also knows the election isn't over and he will need to keep the momentum going as he visits all the counties in the district in preparation for the General Election in November.

"I'm humbled by it, and I feel a profound sense of gratitude," Winters said.

Renner was gracious in accepting defeat in the high-profile race for the HD28 seat to be vacated by Rep. Lorraine Quarberg.

"I'm extremely grateful to the voters and my team for their support and their help," Renner said.

Skates won a race with Carl Leyba for Democratic nomination for HD28. She finished with 155 votes and Leyba had 99. Skates carried three of the four counties where voters went to the polls. The vote totals, by county, were: Hot Springs, 113; Big Horn, 21;

Park, 14; and Fremont, 7. Leyba had 76, 12, 2 and 9 votes in those counties, respectively.

"I first want to thank all my supporters," Skates said. "Now I'm looking forward to getting past the labeling. Let's get into the real-time issues. I want to meet more people and let them get to know me."

In the battle of the Mortimore brothers, incumbent Mark defeated Mike in the Republican race for coroner. There were no Democrats on the ballot. Mark collected about 51 percent of the votes cast, finishing with 742. Mike had 552 votes, or about 38 percent. There were 21 write-in votes.

Mark Mortimore said he's grateful the community put their trust in him.

"I'm happy that I won, but here's the tough thing about politics," he said. "You always feel bad for the other guy."

For Mortimore it's more than

just the "other guy," it's his older brother, making the win a bit harder.

According to Hot Springs County Clerk Hans Odde, there were 2,523 registered voters in the county and 1,679 of them went to the polls Tuesday, or 66 percent.

Odde said he provided 236 absentee ballots and 222 of them were received in time to be counted in the election totals.

Republican incumbent Brad Basse was unopposed for county commissioner.

U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, the Republican incumbent, will advance to the General Election after his primary win Tuesday. He garnered 73,508 votes while Thomas Bleming had 5,238 and Emmett Mavy 2,872. Barrasso will face Democrat Tim Chestnut in the General Election. Chestnut had 9,172 votes while Al Hamburg had 4,629 and William Bryk 3,047.

Demolition Derby draws 42 drivers

by Joe Sovo

When the smashing, bashing and crashing was over Saturday night, seven of the nine top spots in the winners' heat of the 33rd annual Thermopolis Demolition Derby were earned by Hot Springs County drivers. Thermopolis drivers also went 1-2-3 in the eight-car women's Herbie Derby.

The event is sponsored each year by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Director Michelle Lue said there were 42 cars in this year's derby compared to 33 a year ago. There were 1,765 paid admissions to the derby, which filled the fairgrounds stands and featured an overflow crowd.

Jason Weyer earned second place overall. A crowd favorite, he battled Rob Laing of Casper down to the final seconds. Laing, with his third straight Thermopolis derby title, roared head-on into the grill of Weyer's car for the final blow. Weyer's Plymouth — voted the Prettiest Car before the start of the derby — wasn't so shiny when it was over.

While Laing pocketed the first-place money of \$2,000, Weyer took home \$1,000. Weyer was determined to cash in this year after finishing eighth and just out of the money in last year's winners' heat. He was seventh in 2010.

In the winners' heat, Thermopolis drivers placed second through sixth. Kurt Shaffer was third (\$700), Scott Harvey fourth (\$500), Dylan Shaffer fifth (\$300) and Zach Larson sixth (\$200). Brad Matsen of Riverton finished seventh (\$100).

Riverton driver Kenny Smi-

ley was first in the losers' heat with Seth White of Thermop second and Dusty Watts of Hudson third. Each won \$75.

Taylor Sprigg of Thermop emerged with the women's Herbie Derby crown, outlasting runner-up Carri Harris, third place Jessica White and four other female drivers. Sprigg won \$500, Harris received \$400 and White was awarded \$300. There were only two entries in the 2011 women's Herbie Derby.

Riverton drivers went 1-2-3 in the men's Herbie Derby, a competition of smaller cars similar to those in the women's event. Jake David was first (\$500), Travis Long second (\$400) and Robert Vincent third (\$300).

"It was a fabulous turnout," Lue said of the demolition derby. "It turned out very well. The more cars you have the better derby you have."

Lue was elated with the participation in the women's Herbie Derby.

"It's great the women are stepping up. We had more women out there (in the Herbies) than men," she said.

Of the 26 payouts during the derby, 15 of them went to Hot Springs County drivers.

"The money that was given is staying local," Lue said. "We're getting the younger generation out there. They're getting excited, they're ready (to compete)... People are getting excited about the event (derby) again."

Derby fans flocked to the fairgrounds and many had to stand to watch the action.

"It was an awesome crowd. I want to thank everybody who came out and supported the chamber and the vendors," Lue said.

The demolition derby is the top fundraiser for the chamber each year.

"It helps us get through the winter. It's a community event. They back it wholeheartedly," Lue said.

The top two finishers in each heat race earned \$75 and qualified for the winners' heat.

Heat winners
Heat 1 — Clint Malkovich (Worland) and Laing. Heat 2 — Dylan Shaffer and Larson. Heat 3 — Don Harter (Gillette) and Matsen. Heat 4 — Weyer and Cody Hensley (Thermop). Heat 5 — Scott Harvey and Kurt Shaffer.



The cars of winner Rob Laing, left, and runner-up Jason Weyer rest head-to-head against each other to end the Demolition Derby.

Jury finds former airport manager and flying club responsible in '09 crash

A verdict in a lawsuit filed by Kevin L. Fox against D.R.A. Services, LLC, finds the former airport company, its owner Donald Ray Arey and the Round Top Flyers responsible for damages to Fox incurred in a plane crash in July 2009.

The verdict was filed Aug. 17 in U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming after a trial last week presided over by Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal, according to documents released by Fox's attorney Larry Grubbs of Eiselein & Grubbs, which is based in Billings, Mont.

A judgment in the case was filed Aug. 20 ordering D.R.A. Services to pay \$80,000 for Fox's injuries and damages.

Arey and Fox were injured in the crash July 15, 2009, on the down-slope of Stagner Mountain, which is a couple of miles west of Wind River Canyon.

Flyers. The two had traveled to Riverton and Lander, and they were on the way home when the crash occurred after the two became distracted and did not notice they were not at a sufficient altitude.

D.R.A. Services leased the airport from Hot Springs County before Crowley Air Service took over the lease in March 2011.

Fox filed the lawsuit in July 2011, seeking to recover the costs of injuries and damages incurred in the crash attributable to negligence.

The jury determined the total amount of the injuries incurred to be \$400,000. It found Arey individually responsible for 34 percent of the fault; Round Top Flyers, 34 percent; D.R.A. Services, 20 percent; and Fox, 12 percent.

The judgment awards Fox \$400,000 and determines the amount owed by D.R.A. Services to be \$80,000, which will be paid with a post-judgment interest rate of .2 percent along with costs.