

Town Council extends term lengths

by Zachary White
During the Town Council Meeting Feb. 3, council members extended the term length of appointed personnel from two to four years.
Mayor Mike Mortimore suggested the change, saying that a two year term is sometimes not long enough to get things accomplished.
The Mayor can still remove appointed personnel from their post at any point.
“If they’re not doing their job it’s my job to let them know they’re not doing

their job,” Mortimore said, explaining that performance should be the main term limit on employees.
Mortimore also said if council members have a problem with his appointees, they should remove him as mayor because the performance of appointees is directly connected to his effectiveness as mayor.
Dusty Lewis voted against the change and John Dorman Sr. was not present to vote.
Members also discussed the total cost of snow removal so far this winter.

As of Feb. 3, the town had spent \$76,740.32 on snow removal.
The cost stems from both the heavy snowfall that occurred at the beginning of the year and the method with which Thermopolis removes snow.
While some towns simply plow the streets and push snow to the sides of the road, Thermopolis pays to have snow picked up and removed which makes it easier on locals to get out of their driveways and keeps cars parked on the street from getting buried in snow.

However, mayoral assistant Fred Crosby said people still find things to have a problem with.
“Folks will usually call up to complain before they call up to say good job,” Crosby said. “I hope that folks remember we did the best we could.”
Council members also gave Police Chief Steve Shay the green light to apply for a grant from Homeland Security for \$6,239.65.
Monies from this grant can be used to pay for a variety of things the department would already be paying for.

Senate File 109 withdrawn by bill’s author

by Cindy Glasson
The 63rd Legislature for the State of Wyoming has been working fast and furiously the past few weeks in an attempt to get through the hundreds of pieces of legislation proposed for this session.
One bill, Senate File 109 (SF109) is of particular interest to Hot Springs County as it refers to state park leases, of which there are several in Hot Springs State Park.
According to the bill, legislative approval would be needed for concessionaires to negotiate for leases longer than five years.
With the TePee Pools recently receiving a 35-year lease, they would be automatically “grandfathered” in, however, it would greatly affect other concessionaires in the park, specifically the Days Inn, Star Plunge and Best Western.
According to Representative Nathan Winters, the bill did not make it out of the Committee of the Whole, being withdrawn by the bill’s author when so many obstacles were brought up during discussion.
“Negotiations take a bit of time,” Winters said. “Add the necessity of going through legislative approval for a lease over five years and you’re looking at an additional two years for approval. Businesses can’t wait that long for approval.”

Regulation Freedom Amendment
Winters is part of the House Judiciary Committee and is proposing a bill that seeks to restore elected representation in government, House Judiciary 001 (HJ001).
The Constitution placed a safeguard in American government, which is the concept of “checks and balances”. The rise of regulatory agencies over the past 85 years has reached the point where they constitute another branch of government that Winters feels must be reined in.
“We have seen laws develop through regulation that should only be made by elected representatives of the people,” Winters said. “This bill would urge Congress to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment.
“We, in this state, have watched the maddening overreach of regulatory agencies and this is a powerful way to restore some balance of power. Decisions that should be made by elected officials accountable to voters are now being dictated by federal regulators.”
Winters said just like laws, major federal regulations should be approved by Congress before they can go into effect.
The Regulation Freedom Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would permanently require that Congress approve major new federal regulations.
“Similar Resolutions have been passed in a couple of other states and are likely to be introduced in more than 30 states this year,” Winters said. “I would like to see this state in the vanguard of this effort because we have a powerful



Attention to detail

Tessa Whipple applies beads to an animal skull during the Guns & Roses Sweetheart Sale Saturday at the VFW. Decorated skulls sell for hundreds, at times thousands, of dollars.
-Lara Love photo

“It was a taste of home.”

- Denny Jones

by Zachary White
Denny Jones has lived in Hot Springs County practically his entire life.
He was born in Thermopolis on Oct. 31, 1930. He graduated from Hot Springs County High School, and in 1952 he was drafted into the U.S. Army.
It was then that Denny started getting his own copy of the Independent Record.
“My mother sent it to me when I was in the service,” Denny said. “It was a taste of home.”
After serving two years in the service, Denny returned to Thermopolis and met his wife, Caroline Roberts.
“I married a Montana Girl,” Denny said. “She would travel here (for work), so I took her horse in and her too.”
Around that same time, in

July of 1954, Denny bought his own subscription to the newspaper.
And over the years, he has kept getting his subscription to the paper.
As a rancher, at one point he said he was working a 4,000 steer operation outside of Sheridan, while also working a job up in Montana. During that time he never cancelled his subscription.
“I’ve had it mailed to me wherever I’ve been since I got out of the service,” Denny said.
However, Denny did say there was one thing he didn’t quite like about the paper recently.
“I don’t like the front page, I didn’t like seeing the name (Thermopolis Independent Record) disappear,” he said.

Now, as a resident at the Pioneer Home along with Caroline, Denny said they still get a subscription.
“Well, my wife gets it first and then I read it,” he said.
The two were married on Jan. 11, 1957. Denny and Caroline had three children who they raised outside of town.
And as they grew older, times changed with the seasons. One year became two, and two years became 10. And one day, Denny noticed something.
“I used to know everybody I used to read about in the paper,” Denny said. “But that’s not the case anymore.”

Editor’s note: Denny Jones is one of the longest subscribers to the Thermopolis IR. He’s had a subscription for more than 60 years.

