

Kay headed to speech nationals

The Thermopolis Bobcats will be making their 15th appearance at the National Speech and Debate Association's National Tournament after senior Logan Kay worked his way into a qualifying spot for the event last weekend.

Kay has been competing in three events all season, but it was his humorous interpretation piece that will see him heading to Dallas in June. He placed second in humor at the National Qualifying tournament at CWC in Riverton on Saturday.

Also placing in finals but listed as alternates for Nationals were Kameron Olsen, second alternate in extemp and Darren Leonhardt, third alternate in extemp.

"The national tournament is literally the best of the best," coach Cindy Glasson said. "I cannot tell you how proud I am of Logan (Kay). He's worked hard this season and it's obvious the work has paid off."

"Kam (Olsen) and Darren (Leonhardt) had an exceptional weekend as well. Extemp is one of the toughest events. They choose a topic from a hat and have 30 minutes to create a persuasive speech based on the topic. It's all current events, so they have to be up on everything going on in the world."

Last weekend was the final tournament of the season for the Bobcats, coming off a first place win at state.

"Just like any team you have a few standouts," Glasson said, "but with speech every member of the team contributes to our final standings, even though they are participating in individual events."

"I'm proud to say the Bobcats are ranked sixth in the 23-member Hole in the Wall District. Our district includes Evanston, Green River and Natrona, three powerhouse teams. Green River brings two bus loads of speakers to every tournament, so to be able to say we're ranked sixth with less than a dozen on the team really speaks highly of the talent we have on this team."

The National Tournament will be held in Dallas, June 14-19.

Town considers allowing vendor fireworks sales

by Zachary White

Town Council members approved paying \$26,000 a year to Tony's Total Lawn Care for park lawns and other plantings maintenance during the meeting Tuesday, March 17.

The work includes maintenance of lawns and plantings in Candy Jack Park, Glade Edwards Park, Bicentennial Park, Family Park, Southside Parkway, flower garden and median circles on Broadway, side islands on Sixth Street and flower barrels and grassy areas in front of town hall.

Tony's Total Lawn Care was the only business to submit a bid for the job.

Tony Larson, who operates the company, abstained from voting.

Members of the Thermopolis Town Council are also contemplating changes to the town code in order to permit the sale of fireworks in town.

Currently the law doesn't allow any sale or use of fireworks within five miles of the courthouse.

The change comes on the back of a request from Derrick Burrows who recently acquired the fireworks stand that usually is set up on West Sunnyside Lane around the 4th of July.

In order for the rule to change, the council will have to approve the change during three different readings.

Burrows said if the town were to change the ordinance to allow sales in town, he would move the firework stand to the lot adjacent The Shoppe.

"The building would be at least 100 feet from any building," Burrows said.

Additionally, he said sale of fireworks would only happen for about a week during the 4th of July holiday.

Some council members agreed that this distance should be far enough from any other building to avoid a problem if an accident should occur.

Additionally, some members questioned whether the use of fireworks within town should also be allowed.

Town attorney Mike Messenger said that no matter how well the ordinance is enforced, people will either follow the law or they won't.

"You're not going to stop detonation because you already have detonation going on," Messenger said.

Yet, mayors assistant Fred Crosby said law enforcement in town does a good job of making sure people don't shoot off fireworks.

"The police enforce the detonation pretty well," Crosby said. "The first year I was in town I found that out."

Council members agreed to not allow the use of fireworks within the five-mile radius of town, but there may be a provision that allows the town council to lift the ban for short periods of time.



Pinky promoting poison prevention

Pinky the Elephant (Jessie Ream) high fives Ralph Witters Elementary kindergartner Kaden Scheel and explains the importance of cleanliness during a presentation by Phyllis Lewis from UW Cooperative Extension Nutrition and Food Safety Initiative explaining eating healthy and washing your hands in regards to Poison Prevention Week (March 15-21).

- Dennis Nierzwicki photo

THE GOLDEN DAYS OF GATSBY

by Cindy Glasson

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce celebrated the "Golden Days of Gatsby" last Saturday for their 94th Annual Chamber Banquet at the Days Inn.

A capacity crowd filled the celebration space with more than 200 attending the festivities, many of whom dressed in period costumes, adding a little spice to the evening.

In addition to the Business of the

Year, Non-Profit Organization of the Year and Citizen of the Year awards, the chamber recognized some milestone businesses in the county that show longevity.

The Town of Kirby was recognized as being a town for 100 years and the Kiwanis Club of Thermopolis was also recognized for their 100 years as a service organization in Thermopolis. The

See Gatsby on page A7



Merlin's Hide Out owner Merlin Heinze accepts the award for Business of the Year as his wife, Barb, looks on.



Meri Ann Rush presents the award for Citizen of the Year to Dorothy Milek.

-Lara Love photos



Sharon Skiver accepts the Non-Profit Organization of the Year award won by the Wyoming Pioneer Home.