

Town council approves street closure

by Holly Thomas

Catering permits and street closures were the main discussion for Tuesday evening's town council meeting. Catering permits for the NRA Banquet and two weddings at the HSC Fairgrounds and one permit for an Arts in the Park event were all approved by the council.

Stefanie Gilbert with Main Street Thermopolis gave a presentation asking for downtown street closure for Oktobrewfest on September 26. Gilbert said the hope for this year's event is to appeal to adults but maintain a family-friendly atmosphere while encouraging visitors to stay longer, explore the entire closed-off area, and shop at downtown stores.

The closed off area would run from Nature's Corner to W.O.W. down past the public restrooms and run alley to alley on 5th Street. Open containers would be allowed throughout the closed off area. Gilbert asked for street closure from 7 a.m. until approximately 9 p.m. for set-up and clean-up.

Chief of Police Steve Shay approved of the ID wristband system and had no concerns regarding the event. Ernie Slagle asked if the event would conflict with the farmer's market, but Gilbert did not think that it would. The motion to approve the street closure with open containers passed with the stipulation that the event not conflict with the farmer's

market.

Two right-of-way agreements, one for a chain-link fence and one for Round Top Motel's new sign, were approved.

The WYDOT Resolution, which provides the city with approximately \$60,000/year to plow the highways through city limits, was approved.

Council said they were still pricing the interactive water fountain that is planned to be constructed in Bicentennial Park.

The deer study that was conducted within town limits last year was approved to be conducted this year with the use of game cameras and scent attractants.



photos by Cindy Glasson

Fourth of July celebration

Team Fast Trax, above, comes in for a landing at Whitt Field as part of the Big Horn Basin Riders' 4th of July celebration.

Destiny Abrams, right, was all decked out in red, white and blue for the 4th of July parade through downtown Thermopolis.

Winners in the Fourth of July parade included Thomas, Sam, Ben and Mike South in the kids division; the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors in the motorized division and Katie Little and Dawn Jones in the most patriotic category.



Public comments incorporated into Hot Springs State Park Master Plan

by Holly Thomas

The State Park Master Plan Steering Committee met on Tuesday, June 30 with the goal of reviewing public comments and incorporating these comments into the draft preferred alternative plan.

Tina Bishop, project manager with landscape architectural consulting firm Mundus Bishop, presented a list of comments from the community gathered from public meetings, website entries, emails, letters, and "I Wish" notes.

These comments included a wide range of requests, some of which included: a sense of arrival when entering the state park, consistent architectural character, engagement for families and children, a discovery and nature center, promoting thermal water for health and wellness, use of potable water for more pools, consolidating water features, additional/updated lodging, year-round recreation, improvement of trails, zipline, disc golf course, water development for the terraces, river corridor development, fishing access, tent and RV camping, parking, natural spring pools at the bath house, and additional signage in

and approaching town.

Star Plunge business owners submitted their own comments for review regarding direct changes to the water park. These comments included adding a five-story hotel, indoor water and splash park, and tower of three slides.

After reviewing all public comments, the steering committee reviewed the original vision and goals set for the park which were: protect and manage the water; provide recreational activities; upgrade and improve facilities; provide and encourage redevelopment to prioritize life, health, and safety; reestablish the cultural and natural legacy; build upon aesthetics and create a sense of arrival and connectivity; sustainable approach; and create opportunities for research.

All public comments were taken into consideration for changes to the preferred alternative which were presented to the steering committee. These changes included: potential expansion at the county recreation area for active recreation; RV camping and tent camping along the Bighorn River and primitive tent camping on T Hill; additional parking at the Pioneer Home; improved overlooks in the bison pas-

Relay for Life fundraisers

by Cindy Glasson

Two fundraisers are being planned by the "Pac-Man's Munch for a Cure" Relay for Life team on the next two Saturdays.

During the Ranch Rodeo Saturday, you can take a chance and "Shop in the Slop" to win prizes.

A horse trough will be filled with "slop" along with numbered rocks. For \$5, you can reach your hand in, rustle around, and hopefully come up with a numbered rock.

Each number corresponds with a different prize with the grand prize being two tickets to go white water rafting.

There will also be a trough for the kids filled with sand and toys. For just a dollar, kids may reach

in and find a toy.

Look for the Relay for Life booth at the Ranch Rodeo at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.

Then on Saturday, July 18, the team will be throwing an 80's party at Mac's Bar.

There will be a PacMan "flip cup" tournament starting at 8:30 p.m. A four-person team may enter for just \$10.

Following the tournament will be "bra pong" and prizes for the best-dressed male and female of the evening.

Jello shots will be available for a dollar throughout the night.

All proceeds from the two events will go to Relay for Life.

If you have any questions, please call Mandi Reynolds at 307-480-0131.

