

Town water attraction still in the works

by Holly Thomas

For many kids, parents, and water-loving adults, there is only one place to beat the summer heat - in the water. Splash parks have been the latest trend in many towns across the nation for summer relief and Thermopolis locals are ready to get on board.

What some may not know is that the town elected officials are already on board and have been researching the best wa-

ter feature for our town.

A splash park was first discussed at town council nearly a year and a half ago when the city received unexpected funds from the state.

At that time, 2/3 of the funds were spent on operational expenses and the remaining \$100,000 was saved to give something fun back to the community. High on the list of fun, give-back projects for the town was a splash park.

Multiple council members had visited splash parks in Ten Sleep, Cowley, and other locations and envisioned a similar project for Thermopolis.

Upon taking office, Mayor Mike Mortimore, along with council members, began splash park research but quickly ran into speed bumps including higher than expected building and maintenance costs and the public's concern for the aesthetics of Bicentennial Park

(the chosen location for the water feature to boost downtown revitalization efforts).

These comments prompted Mayor Mortimore to present a different water feature to the council - a fountain-type water feature that would be more cost efficient and maintenance-friendly, but still be beautiful and fun for kids to play in.

With involvement from the

See Water page A6



photo by Holly Thomas

Flying colors

A Shoshone dancer performs the traditional "Fancy Shawl" dance, letting the sun bring out the brilliant colors in her costume as she dances around the flagpole downtown after the Gift of the Waters parade on Saturday.

Commissioners discuss fuel, taxes and gravel pit

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners covered a lot of ground during their meeting Monday at the county annex.

Applications had been requested recently to fill an unexpired term on the Hot Springs County Library board. In all, five applications from interested citizens were received by the county clerk.

The commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Carol Shaffer to the position.

Tim and Sylvia Lippincott approached the commissioners with questions about fuel supplies at the Hot

Springs County airport.

While the new airport will not be officially open for a few months yet, the Lippincotts told the commissioners there is only enough fuel to last about six weeks at the current rate of consumption at the current airport.

A smaller amount of fuel could be purchased to get through until the opening of the new airport, however, it would cost considerably more than a full filling of the tanks.

After some discussion, the commissioners determined it would be better to go ahead with a full fill of the current tanks then siphon off the remain-

ing fuel to transfer it to the new airport once the new tanks are installed.

The commissioners also had a public hearing on a proposed land use change for a gravel pit requested by Paul Ward.

The change would encompass approximately 14 acres of land that sits 20 to 30 feet above the irrigation ditch on Ward's property.

Ward told the commissioners there would be no crushing at the site, it would basically be leveling a hill of sorts, taking the raw gravel out, making the land even with the irrigation ditch.

An oil company in the area had approached Ward about using the rock

to create gravel roads to a few drilling sites they are working on.

The commissioners approved the change from agricultural to industrial provided a weed management plan is put in place, Ward acquires all the necessary permits from the DEQ and the land is reclaimed as soon as the pit is cleared.

The land would return to agricultural at that time.

County Assessor Shelley Deromedi presented two tax rebates and three supplemental tax notices to the commissioners.

Two rebates in the amount of

\$4,529.49 will be returned to Wyo-Ben, one from 2011 and the other for 2014.

The three supplemental tax notices are also for Wyo-Ben in the amount of \$9,548.19 stemming from under-assessments between 2011 and 2014.

According to Deromedi, the amounts changed due to a company audit that showed some of their product was being produced in another county and shipped here, while some product was being produced here and shipped elsewhere.

This created some confusion as to which county should be taxing which amount, prompting the rebates and supplementals.

Livestock auction brings in \$133,137 for HSC youth



photo by Holly Thomas

Spencer Axtell used a patriotic theme to attract bidders at the county fair livestock sale.

by Holly Thomas

Results for the Hot Springs County Junior Livestock Auction and Judge's Choice Bake Sale are in and fair participants, buyers, and attendees should be proud.

The auction was Friday in the Multi-Purpose Building at the fairgrounds at 7 p.m. with a Pre-sale Buyer's Dinner that started the evening at 6 p.m.

The auction showcased a total of 58 livestock and eight judge's choice bake sale entries and brought in \$133,137 dollars.

The following results were provided by the Hot Springs County Fair, and unless specified, the results do not include add-ons or donations.

The total amount collected at the sale is just shy of last year's total of \$134,662.75.

Market Lambs

The livestock auction showcased 13 market lamb entries with sales totaling \$10,098.50. Grand Champion, Barbara Kissel's sheep was purchased by R&C Trucks for \$903 at \$7/pound. Reserve Champion, Hayden Overfield's sheep was purchased by Park County Implement for \$678 at \$6/pound. The high seller for market

lamb was Lexi Overfield with a sale price of \$966 at \$7/pound by Red Rock Family Practice.

Market Swine

An outstanding thirty-two entries were sold at the livestock auction for market swine totaling \$53,877.50 in sales. Remington Ferree's Grand Champion sold for \$1,904 at \$7/pound by Daniel's Construction. The high seller for market swine was Audrey Axtell with a sale price of \$2,168 at \$8/pound by Axtell Ranches.

Market Beef

Thirteen market beef entries were showcased in the livestock auction with sales totaling \$66,416.00. Strite Daniels' Grand Champion sold for \$7,800 at \$6/pound to Thermopolis Hardware. Porter McCumber's Reserve Champion was the high seller for the evening selling for \$8,046 at \$6/pound to Blair's Market.

Bake Sale

The annual Judge's Choice Bake Sale featured eight entries and brought \$2,745.00 in total sales. Jessica Lutz's basket was the high selling item for \$600 to Owl Creek Graphics.

For more pictures from the Hot Springs County Fair see page B1.