

# Commissioners handle full agenda

The Hot Springs County Commissioners discussed a variety of issues at their Sept. 1 meeting at the county annex.

Sheriff Lou Falgoust told the commissioners he would like to see the sheriff impound lot moved from its current location for security reasons. The commissioners agreed a new location with secure fencing is needed. Falgoust will provide the commissioners with cost estimates for fencing at the new location for their approval.

County assessor Shelley Deromedi presented six 2015 tax rebates to the commissioners for their approval.

Commissioners agreed to give their sup-

port of the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police Marijuana Education and Awareness Project presented by Police Chief Steve Shay. The project is a statewide effort to inform citizens as to the harmful personal and societal effects of marijuana.

Hot Springs County Public Health Nurse Marie McDougall told the commissioners about a TANF/CPI grant the county had received in the amount of \$25,500 for families in need. The grant was accepted.

A \$15,000 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security was accepted by the commissioners.

The commissioners spent most of their afternoon session discussing the new airport with GDA Engineers.

Save the date notices were sent out for the Hot Springs County Airport Grand Opening Celebration Nov. 7.

Draft lease requirements for placing a hanger at the new airport are available at the Hot Springs County Clerk's office. Current tenants of hangers should notify the clerk if they intend to place a hanger at the new location. If there are left over hangers, they will be offered to the public.

The next commissioner meeting is set for Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. at the county annex.



photo by Lara Love

## Fill the Boot campaign

Thermopolis Volunteer Fireman James Coats holds his boot up for approaching motorists to see during the Fill the Boot fundraiser on Labor Day Monday in Thermopolis at the stoplight. Adriana Rivera holds a boot for a driver to drop in her donation.

## Chamber Board recaps derby, discusses parades

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce discussed Tuesday the recent Demolition Derby and plans for future Thermopolis parades at its latest meeting.

The Board declared the recent Demolition Derby, which was attended by over 2,000 people, a smashing success. The board suggested advertising for next year's event earlier, and reviewed prize money for each category. Some members supported the idea of holding two derbies a year like neighboring Riverton, but discussion of the topic was ultimately tabled.

Discussed next were parades, which have suffered from declining participation recently. Some members suggested holding fewer parades to increase participation, as Thermopolis holds six parades every year. Insurance for parades has also become more expensive, which would make insurance for all six parades almost 50% more expensive than years past. Discussion on this topic was also tabled for later debate.

The Board approved plans for a Board of Directors Christmas Party, which will be held in January, but tabled discussion for exact plans until a later date.

Also discussed was the upcoming Business After Hours, which will take place on September 17 at Farm Bureau Financial Services, and will feature Vicki Powell of the Healthcare Solutions Team.



## Town Council talks water rate increase

by Durward D. Jones

A ninety minute work session by the Thermopolis Town Council still did not yield an easy answer for the water rate increase.

The council's goal is to make a fair increase and to have a reserve of funds for future maintenance needs of the water plant and system for the town.

There was representative of the community in the audience. Margo Skaggs voiced her opinion for the increase. She had several concerns, one that the rate increase will not keep up with future inflation.

Another concern she Skaggs voiced is that the town's aging infrastructure cannot be maintained with a simple rate increase over time.

Living on a fixed income Skaggs brought up that she would rather see a big increase all at once, a fix that would take care of the financial issues of the water system all at once.

The Mayor explained several issues ranging from depreciation of the water plant to several areas in town that use several million gallons of water. Mentioning that the Schools, Airport Cemetery, and Hospital are the big users and they need to be put on raw water and that will take time and money.

Heath Overfield the town engineer recommended that they should work with the following making sure that the base rate should cover the

cost operating the plant, per thousand costs should be high enough to cover the water that is made, out of town users need to pay their fair share of the system.

Discussion soon focused on a setting a fair price on the base rate and what to charge per thousands, the question is what are the true numbers and what will be a fair price.

Bart Bader from the Owl Creek Water district had a concern that if a flat increase was made that his division would not be able to keep up with the prices.

He was for a per unit charge, otherwise a single rate increase would make it difficult to keep up financially. There just isn't enough users in the division to keep up with the cost increase.

In the end a resolution was closer but still not settled on, more numbers are needed to be crunched and fined tuned.

A plan to draft a rate for single user rate and per thousand cost then a tier increase rate for large consumers is in the works.

The Town Council had originally passed a water rate increase on first reading at their August meeting.

However, at the Sept. 1 Town Council meeting they decided to defeat the new rate increase as written and the special meeting was planned.

