



# Octobrewfest hits town Saturday

by Chandler Smith

The second annual Oktobrewfest, which will feature 10 microbreweries, nine food vendors and 20 non-food vendors will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in downtown Thermopolis.

The event, presented by Main Street Thermopolis, seeks to draw members of Thermopolis and other Wyoming communities to the town's historic downtown district and will feature German food, music, historic building tours, and games for people of all ages.

The ten breweries involved will each present one beer that will be sold on one of two beer wagons that will be parked on Broadway Street. One Eyed Buffalo, Thermopolis' own microbrewery,

will present a special Oktobrewfest beer for the event. Wyoming Whiskey will also bring a special drink featuring its Wyoming-local spirits.

Flights, or samplers, of beer will be available at the beer wagons as well. Among food served will be German chocolate, pretzels, bratwurst, fennel cake and other German specialties as well as hot dogs and kettle corn.

Oktobrewfest will also feature plenty of games for drinkers and non-drinkers alike. A corn-hole tournament will allow two-person teams to compete for a chance to win a custom set of boards built by Sawdust and Slivers and donated by Cory and Stefanie Gilbert.

Jackpot minnow races, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Thermopolis, will be held along-

side the corn-hole tournament. The winner of the races will win a cash prize.

For the youngsters in the crowd, the Hot Springs County 4-H is sponsoring a Kids' Carnival with a bouncy house and kids games.

Registering for events such as the tournaments or historic building tours will take place at the information booth run by Main Street Thermopolis. All drinkers must register at the booth to get a wristband before buying beer at the beer wagons.

The information booth will also be selling Oktobrewfest t-shirts and taking orders for custom designed Thermopolis ornaments. This year's ornament, designed by Main Street Thermopolis, will feature the historic Klink Building.



photo by Lara Love

## Leaping at the library olympics

Hot Springs County Children's Librarian Sue Hurd watches to make sure Matthew Reynolds clears the line of books during one of the events at the Library Olympics Friday. Other competitors Brendon Thomas, Brennun Paxman and Darrick Collins await their turn.

## Volunteers needed for mass dispensing exercise

by Durward D. Jones

Hot Springs County Local Emergency Planning Committee has a lot to get done in the next couple of months. Chairman James Coates started the meeting with a need to conduct an exercise for this calendar year.

Mary Gordon from Hot Springs County Public Health spoke of a Mass Dispensing Exercise for the Hot Springs County Public Health. She would need community participation, as many people as she can get to make the exercise beneficial. Residents will stand be issued fake medicine and have to fill out a small form estimating to take five to ten minutes. This will also give people a chance to get a Flu shot, as they will be available for those who complete the exercise. The event would help the community plan and prepare for a disaster or disease outbreak. The event is scheduled to take place October 27.

Mary Gordon mentioned that there would be a statewide tabletop exercise on an Ebola response. This will be in the month of January; there will be a future full-scale exercise involving our At Risk populations that will need to be completed by June 2016.

Clint Huckfeldt from WYDOT was asked to be the official representative of the Owner/Operator Group by Chairman Coates. Mr. Huckfeldt agreed to be the representative.

The next meeting will be on October 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Thermopolis Fire Department Meeting Room.

Contact Mary Gordon for more information about the Mass Dispensing Exercise at the Hot Springs County Public Health.



## School board reviews conflict of interest policy

by Durward D. Jones

The Hot Springs County School Board began their September meeting as usual with the acceptance of the current agenda and then onto monthly celebrations.

Thermopolis Middle School Principal Breez Longwell Daniels addressed the board, giving reasons why TMS secretary Brenda Cornwell was the August Staff Member of the Month because of her dedication to the students and the public. Superintendent Dustin Hunt also had great words for RWE secretary Susan Little, the September Staff Member of the Month. Superintendent Hunt wanted the board to know that these ladies are the face of the schools and have the trust of the public and the students alike.

Lastly was the September Teacher of the Month, Mary McGilivray, the RWE music educator. Her hard work includes after school projects and representing RWE in several out of county events.

Student trustee Tyler Cornwell reported to the board on several school activities. Jenny Davis, the After-school Program Coordinator, presented a slideshow for the Lights On program.

The board then moved on to address a continuation from the August meeting about Policy BCB Board Member Conflict of Interest. The policy was adopted in 1992 to prevent board members from using their position to gain better opportunities for family members or themselves.

Trustee Dr. Travis Bomengen was not present; but through a text message read by Chairman Tobi Johansen stated that he would like to keep the current policy after talking to several community members.

After setting the motion up for further discussion Trustee Danny Pebbles started the discussion with his interpretation of the old policy "it is a all or none policy, it either applies to everyone or to no one" Pebbles stated. He presented several examples to the board on why the policy is about perception from the community and fairness to the board. It would be difficult to get away from hiring people with in the community that are not related due to the size of the town.

Trustee Jenifer Axtell said she feels there is not really a conflict of interest.

The board Treasurer Nichole Weyer mentioned that there are several community members who are related to various administrators with in the system. Why would it just apply to the board? Chairman Johansen responded with, "There is nobody higher than us."

Trustee Clay Van Antwerp retorted that it is not about perception, they are putting added pressure on current and future administrators "With mathematical certainty some day somebody will get hired that was not qualified as this person over here because how they are related to a board member."

Van Antwerp said.

The discussion continued on with worries about the fairness of the old

policy and just how much detail should be amended to the policy. Board members were concerned about the future effect that this could have on the county and administrators? After much deliberation, the board voted six to one to table the motion indefinitely.

The board moved on to other business with a motion to approve an operation loan from Central Bank and Trust for the amount of \$500,000 for potential cash flow problems from state and local funding. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Tobi Johansen made a motion to revise the purchase policy. The revision will grant special consideration for local bidders that are with in 5% from the lowest bid. The motion was approved.

The Board moved into executive session to discuss personnel, salaries and benefits.

To finish out the meeting Superintendent Dustin Hunt gave his report. He mentioned that the School Improvement Survey is coming up. The last time it was offered, only 18 surveys were returned so there needs to be more effort in communication and participation from the public. The results must be in by November 1, 2015; this will affect the district's accreditation.

Ending on a positive note Hunt was happy to say the district is up 52 students this year.

The full version of the boards minutes can be found on Hot Springs County School District website.