

Appreciation dinner for first responders

A community dinner to thank local fire department, search and rescue, police, sheriff, highway patrol and dispatch members will be held Sunday, Nov. 1.

Stefanie Gilbert said the idea for the picnic originated from a discussion with community members on Facebook. “With everything going on in our country, we needed to remember to thank first responders,” she said, noting that first responders have a job that is often both thankless and dangerous.

A dinner will be held in the evening for first responders and their families, with the

public invited afterwards to show their support and appreciation for Thermopolis and Hot Springs County first responders. Gilbert also hopes that students from Thermopolis schools will get involved in the event.

Gilbert is collecting cash donations at Bank of Thermopolis to pay for meat and some of the more expensive items needed for the picnic, and encourages those who wish to give to the event to stop by. Although Gilbert is collecting donations, she said the event was organized by grateful community members and is not affiliated with local

organizations.

The dinner is planned for 5 p.m. for first responders, law enforcement and their spouses. Community members are invited to join the festivities at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the VFW on Broadway Street.

If you would like to donate money or bring a dish to the public potluck portion of the dinner, please call Stefanie at 689-9234. Community members who have had first hand experiences or would like to share stories about Thermopolis first responders, please call Jessica Slagle at 921-9765.



photo by Chandler Smith

Fire prevention fun

Thermopolis Volunteer Fireman Forrest Coleman Weisz helps fourth grader Kadance Bowman put out imaginary fires during the fourth grader’s trip to the fire station during Fire Prevention Week.

Town council approves water rate increase on first reading

by Durward D. Jones

Tuesday’s Thermopolis Town Council meeting was short but productive.

Town engineer Heath Overfield reported that all projects are progressing as scheduled.

The only caveat was the Cedar Ridge water tank relining will have to be postponed until March of next year due to the weather getting colder. Mayor Mike Mortimore agreed that this is good call and it needs to be done right

the first time.

Police Chief Steve Shay reported that Oktobrewfest went well. The mayor responded that there were a lot of good remarks on how well the police department did in support of the festival.

tival.

Fred Crosby brought forth to the meeting a couple of items, including a right of way agreement for High Plains Power to build a new security fence and a building permit for the Pioneer Home

to reroof their building.

The meat of the evening was the first reading for the new water rate increase. Bobbi Overfield from Messenger and Overfield read the new ordinance before the council. There will be two

more readings before the council moves on to instating the ordinance.

Details of the water rate increase are available at Town Hall and will be printed in next week’s IR.

County Commissioners green light funds for hospital Master Facility Plan

The Hot Springs County Commission set aside Tuesday \$28,000 from their emergency expenditures which will pay for the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital’s forthcoming Master Facility Plan.

The \$28,000 for the plan, which will be undertaken by Erdman Healthcare Strategic Planning Services, will include only the undertaking of the plan itself and not the extra expenses which include travel, accommodation and food for Erdman employees. HSCMH will pay those expenses itself.

The plan will include facility assessment, concept of development, and a budgeting plan among other crucial elements regarding the development of HSCMH.

The last master plan, published in 2012, had four major elements: assessment of te HSCMH facilities, definition of the requirements of the facility to serve the community, outlining of future facility options, and recommendations of financing alternatives to address the facility’s needs.

The commissioners showed full support for the upkeep and evolution of HSCMH during the meeting. “We are really, really trying to maintain a hospital in Hot Springs County,” said commissioner Brad Basse, adding that a hospital in Thermopolis was crucial to the wellbeing of the members of the community.

Other business undertaken by the com-

missioners on Tuesday included the opening of bids to repair library sidewalks, which was given to Schneider Construction of Worland for \$7,672. The bid stated that work will be done at the end of October.

The commissioners also discussed the upcoming airport grand opening, which is slated to take place on Nov. 1. The event will feature catering by Chubby Cheeks and will feature United States Senator John Barrasso.

Construction on the new airport is on track to be completed by the dates set forward by engineers at the beginning of the project, and the commissioners also reviewed and signed leases for a number of airport hangars during Tuesday’s meeting.



photo by Chandler Smith

King and Queen

Sean Miller and KinDale Andreen were named Bobcat Homecoming King and Queen during coronation. For more homecoming photos see B1 and B8.

Oktobrewfest declared huge success

Main Street Thermopolis declared their second annual Oktobrewfest a huge success during its monthly meeting on Oct. 1.

The group, which was organized to improve the town’s historic district, said they raised almost \$10,000 during the Sept. 23 event which featured local beers, music, games for children and adults alike, and brought tourists from as far as Billings and Greybull.

The group estimated that over 1,200 people attended, and noted that the 500 wristbands necessary for drinking were entirely sold out, along with special Oktobrewfest t-shirts. The special beer mugs offered by the group were also sold out at

the end of the night.

Members of Main Street Thermopolis were proud to note that attendance was about twice as high as last year.

Shops up and down Broadway were packed during the event as well, which drew revenue to the town as a whole.

The event, which cost about \$9,000 to put on, made over \$18,000 for the group, half of which is a profit and will stay in the downtown district for future events. A total of \$7,200 was made during last year’s event.

The group plans to expand the event next year, possibly looking for extra seating, a trailer or canopy for the bands, ex-

tended hours, and more drinker wristbands and shirts.

Among other business discussed at Thursday’s meeting was the Klink building ornaments, of which the group ordered 75 and are offering for sale. Seven have been bought so far, and the price of each was raised from \$25 to \$30 in order to recuperate all expenses from the design and purchase of said ornaments.

Main Street Thermopolis will also be joining the County Commissioner in purchasing Christmas ornament for the town. The organization hopes to put the ornaments around historic downtown Thermopolis.