

# Chamber Board elects new officers

by Chandler Smith

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce elected three new executive members during their Thursday meeting.

Phillip Scheel, who has been serving the last two years as president, had reached the end of his term and oversaw the board vote that elected Damien Oliver as president, Greg Willson as vice president, and Cherrie Wychgram as secretary treasurer.

Elected members of the executive board will be assuming their positions at the next board meeting, which will take place on Nov. 12 at the Hot Springs County Museum.

Shortly before the elections took place, Scheel

also announced the four new members elected to the board; Robin Roling, Damien Oliver, Toby Homi and Vivian Butchart. During Thursday's meeting, members Christine McLean and Tom Butler concluded their tenure on the board at the end of the meeting.

The board's Christmas committee decided to get rid of the Christmas parade this year after suggestions from community members that fewer parades will increase participation. Instead of the Christmas parade, the committee is planning a community Christmas stroll and tree lighting along with additional activities.

The board also decided to cancel this year's 4th of July parade and instead formed a committee

to organize a 4th of July event in Hot Springs State Park, which will coincide with the 100th anniversary of both the park's swinging bridge and buffalo herd.

In a meeting full of elections, Dood Jaussaud and Stevie Ann Jellis were voted Student Directors of the board who will coordinate between the board and the Hot Springs County schools. Jaussaud was formerly the student director from Thermopolis Middle School, but since his graduation and move to Hot Springs County High School has become the second director from the high school alongside Jellis.

The board scheduled a work session for 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at One Eyed Buffalo.



## Nice dance moves

Ghanian musician Okaidja teaches Hot Springs County High School students a traditional Ghanian dance before his performance at the school auditorium on Oct. 8.

photo by Chandler Smith

# HSC Hall of Fame inductees

by Durward D. Jones

The Hot Springs County Hall of Fame committee has gathered once again to select five individuals from our county to be inducted into the hall of fame. Gearing up for the upcoming banquet on Jan. 16, 2016, at the Days Inn, the committee is working diligently to make the celebration a success.

This year's inductees are Dorothy Milek for being the county historian; Bill Smith, World

Champion Bronc rider; Doctor Dana Carter, pioneer of medicine in Hot Springs County; John Herrin Sr., former president of Empire Oil and Dora McGarth who was the first woman State Legislator from Hot Springs County. Each person brought something special to our community and Hot Springs County is a better place because of them.

The hall of fame committee's goal is to honor those who came before.

The committee asks that any known relatives of the inductees get in touch with them. They would like to hear any stories people have about their family member being inducted.

There are 150 tickets available to the public for the banquet at \$30 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased from any committee member or at the Storyteller. For tickets or more information, call John Lumley at 921-9141.

# Public invited to community coffee to finalize welcome signs

The public is invited to an informal community coffee at Big Horn Federal on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 a.m. The community coffee group was organized in early spring after the Wyoming Business Alliance Tour 23.

At the suggestion of county commissioner John Lumley a group of citizens began meeting every other Thursday to address short term and long-term goals for Thermopolis. The group includes county commissioners, town council, chamber members, engineers,

WYDOT staff, organizations, clubs, groups, school and individuals interested in improving Thermopolis.

After several morning coffees the group decided to start on short-term goals which include welcome and wayfinding signs. A grant was received to pay for a sign design. The group is ready to approve the design and move forward toward the remaining steps, which includes cost of making the signs, location for the signs and what content should be placed on each sign. Sever-

al grants are available to help pay for the signs.

During the meeting, the group will present the sign design and will discuss the next steps needed to complete this short-term goal. The group will also approve this project being turned over to Main Street Thermopolis.

The community coffee group will continue to meet to start working on the next identified short-term goal.

Your input is important. Plan to attend this community meeting.

# Town water rate increase explained

by Durward D. Jones

Over the last couple of months the Thermopolis Town Council has been attacking the challenge of a new town water ordinance. There have been several obstacles that needed to be overcome. Over twenty different plans were looked at before the current version was accepted by the council. It passed on first reading during the Oct. 6 meeting.

Assistant to the mayor Fred Crosby explained the goal was to make this ordinance fair to everyone. The council worked hard to make the rate increase the least amount possible, but there will be an increase nonetheless.

The rate increase is being implemented to cover many issues. As of right now, the town is just breaking even for operating and maintenance costs for

supplying water to the town. With the rate increase this will allow the town to build a buffer and keep the water plant updated and have the revenue for the upkeep of the supply systems.

The question has been brought up why the town has not gone to a raw water system for yard irrigation. A raw water system brings its own set of problems and rules; mostly it would take a large amount of money to get it implemented.

The previous water rate of \$13.20 is being raised to \$22.00 then a tier rate will be in place. Starting at \$4 for the first thousand gallons up to 799,999 gallons, then \$4.50 per thousand from 800,000 gallons to 1,499,999 gallons and \$5 per thousand if in excess of 1,500,000 gallons. If you are getting your water from the

coin-operated dispenser by the water plant, it will cost \$7 per thousand gallons. If you need to connect or reconnect to town water it will be a \$50 charge.

The town also would like the public to know there is the availability of budget billing based off of the usage from the previous year.

Residents are encouraged to call the town hall to have whatever questions they have answered. The ordinance will be read out loud twice more at the town council meetings before becoming official. The next town council meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 20 at town hall beginning at 7 p.m. Plans are for the ordinance to be in effect by December 1.

The complete water rate ordinance is available to be viewed on the town's website at [www.townofthermopolis.com](http://www.townofthermopolis.com).

