



Three Bobcats qualify for speech nationals

by Lara Love and Cindy Glasson
The Bobcat Speech and Debate team will be representing Hot Springs County High School at the National Speech and Debate Tournament this summer in Salt Lake City. Three seniors will be traveling to Utah in June after placing at the National Qualifiers Tournament in Riverton at Central Wyoming College last weekend. Kameron Olsen will compete at Nationals in Lincoln-Douglas debate after going undefeated at the qualifying tournament, finishing the weekend with an 8-0 record. Amanda Dinsmore and Eryn Robinson will take the National stage with their duet, finishing in the top three at qualifiers.

“I said at the beginning of the season that Kam (Olsen) would be the guy to beat in LD and he more than proved he was qualified,” coach Cindy Glasson said. “We’ve joked about the ‘curse of State’ over the years, where if a student doesn’t do so well at the State Tournament they’re going to excel at Nat Quals, and Kam proved that curse works. He had a pretty rough time at State, getting tossed out of competition fairly early, only to come back this weekend and thoroughly trounce his competition.” Amanda Dinsmore and Eryn Robinson will also be representing the Cats at Nationals with their duet, finishing in the top three in Riverton.

“I knew early on this piece was going to take them places. It is so powerful they’ve had judges burst into tears and have to leave the room to compose themselves. I’ve had comments from coaches all across the state that couldn’t understand why they weren’t placing higher at tournaments. I guess they were just waiting for the right time,” said Glasson. Although he didn’t qualify for Nationals, senior Darren Leonhardt is slated as first runner-up in extemp, so if something precludes one of the top three qualifiers from attending the national event, he will be slid into their spot. This will be the team’s 15th trip to the National Tournament. It will be held June 10-17.



photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Stay low and go

Volunteer firefighter James Coats escorts Tyson Madina from the fire house at the Thermopolis Middle School Health Fair. The fire house simulates what it is like to be trapped in a smoky room.

Hospital CEO submits resignation

According to a press release issued by Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital (HSCMH) board chairman Bill Williams, Robin Roling has announced her resignation as Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, effective early in June of this year. The press release states that in the past four years under Roling’s leadership and full utilization of Health TechS3 resources, HSCMH has accomplished new benchmarks in financial management, patient satisfaction scores, new patient services and great relations with the hospital staff and local physicians. “Outside the hospital walls, Robin has been an integral part of championing health care to the community and being immersed in community activities. Our board, staff and especially our community will miss her leadership, integrity, professionalism and most of all her enthusiasm in the hospital and community,” said Williams in the press release. The release goes on to state that Health TechS3 and the board are already engaged in placing an interim CEO to work with Roling to assure the change will be as seamless as possible. The press release ends with a statement from Neil E. Todhunter, President of HealthTechS3. “We are sorry to see Roling leave the organization, her contributions to the hospital have been numerous and she has had a great impact on the hospital’s future. She has accepted a position in another hospital that is a significant step in her future development as a senior health care leader,” said Roling said she chose to leave because she was provided an amazing opportunity for career advancement. She will join Cheyenne Regional Medical Center as the Chief Operations Officer. Roling noted the decision is not made lightly and wants people to know she and her family will still be property owners in Hot Springs County. Further, she continues to also support the community, hospital, district initiative and specific purpose tax for the hospital renovation. She feels privileged to be part of Thermopolis, and hopes the community “really embraces what they have.”

Easter egg hunts, services

by Lara Love
Kids of all ages will be able to celebrate Easter twice this year with two Easter egg hunts planned in Thermopolis. The first hunt will be at Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center for children up to 10-years-old on Saturday, March 26. Children over 10 can volunteer to help with the hunt. The hunt will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the center with toys and candies that are age appropriate. The second hunt will be on Easter Sunday, sponsored by the Thermopolis Lions Club, weather permitting. It will be held in Hot Springs State Park, starting at 2 p.m. for children up to eight years old with prizes in a variety of age groups. According to Lions Club member Trenda Moore, around 1,000 eggs will be up for grabs at the event. Bikes will be given away as some of the top prizes. The schedule of area Holy Week church programs and services today (Thursday) through Sunday includes: Community Federated Church, 244 N. Sixth St. Maundy Thursday Holy Week service, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, Easter services, 8 a.m.,

10:30 a.m. and 6:32 p.m. First Baptist Church, 310 S. Sixth St. Easter Sunday breakfast, 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Easter service with choir celebration, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 642 Arapahoe. Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.; Good Friday, Stations of the Cross, noon and 7 p.m.; Saturday, Easter Vigil, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, 11 a.m. with an Easter egg hunt and brunch to follow. Living Waters Assembly of God, 318 N. Eighth St. Resurrection Service, 10:30 a.m., child care provided. Risen Son Southern Baptist Church, 342 Amoretti. Easter Sunday, Sunrise service, 7 a.m. at 215 Ramsey Lane; breakfast at the church, 8 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Easter service, 10:45 a.m.; no evening service. St. Francis Catholic Church, Eighth and Arapahoe. Holy Thursday, March 24, Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 6 p.m., church; Eucharistic Adoration, 7 p.m.-midnight, St. Nicholas chapel; Sacrament of Penance (Confession) celebrated until 8:30 p.m.; Good Friday, Day of Fast and Abstinence, Good Friday service, 6 p.m., church; Sacrament of Penance (Confession) celebrated after the service; Holy Saturday, no Mass at 5 p.m.; Easter Vigil Service & Mass, 8 p.m., church; Easter Sunday, Easter Sunday Mass, 9 a.m., church. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 288 U.S. Highway 20 South. Maundy Thursday Divine service, 7 p.m.; Good Friday Tenebrae service, 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, breakfast, 8 a.m.; Easter worship, 9 a.m.

Community members honored at banquet

by April S. Kelley
The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce 95th Annual Banquet awarded the business of the year, the nonprofit organization of the year and the citizen of the year at Saturday’s event. After a round of casino-like games at the “Casino Royale” themed event, attendees enjoyed a meal followed by raffles and the awards ceremony. The President’s award, given by Chamber President Damien Oliver, was awarded to Meri Ann Rush, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce. “Because of your achievements over these past years as chamber director, you have left a positive and indelible impact on the chamber and the community,” Oliver said. “Thanks for everything you do, Meri Ann.” The 2015 Business of the Year award was awarded to the Black Bear Cafe. “Thank you very much,” Rick Tudor, co-owner of the Black Bear Cafe said. “I know my wife appreciates it. We haven’t been in this community as long as some of the other folks have but in my mind, and I know in Deb’s [co-owner of the Black Bear Cafe] mind as well, this is our hometown. We truly appreciate the honor and recognition.” Other nominees for the Business of the Year were A Cut Above, Bank of Thermopolis, Broadway Bygones, Finishing Touches, Martin’s Appliance Repair and Sales, Merlin’s Hide Out, New York Life, One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Company, RT Communications, Thermopolis EyeCare, Thermopolis Petro & Tire and The Wyoming Dinosaur Center.



Howie Samelson, left, and Jacky Wright, board members of the Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation, accept the Nonprofit Organization of the Year award.

The 2015 Nonprofit Organization of the Year award was awarded to the Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation. “We love this community,” Jacky Wright, board member for the HSGLF, said. “If you have a child in a school here or have attended an Art-Stoll, you’ve helped us win this award. We couldn’t do it without all of the people here.” Other nominees for the Nonprofit Organization of the Year were Big Horn Basin Children’s Center, Big Horn Basin Foundation, Big Horn Basin Riders, Gift of the Waters Pageant, Gottsche Rehab Center, H.O.P.E. Agency, Hot Springs State Park, Hot Springs County 4-H, Hot Springs County Commissioners, Hot Springs County Senior Citizen’s Center, Relay for Life-Hot Springs County, Thermopolis Kiwanis and Thermopolis Rotary.