

Sheriff defends jail against allegations

by April S. Kelley

Hot Springs County Sheriff Lou Falgoust and head jailer Beth Price defended the jail against Set Free Church Minister Frank Robbins' allegations.

Robbins and the jail have had many disagreements within the past year after a negotiation was made to allow Robbins to have a two-hour time slot allotted on Thursday mornings at 8 a.m. to visit with inmates.

Hot Springs County Commissioners agreed to refund the \$7,000 raised by the Set Free Church to help with improving the jail's facilities at Robbins request.

Robbins said he does not believe he should have to share his time slot with other religious groups because of the money his ministry raised, which is why he requested the money be refunded.

"They [Falgoust and Price] both agreed to fix those facilities," Robbins said. "Based on that, it looked like we had cooperation, like maybe they were going to work with us. We thought as a ministry that they showed good faith, so we thought we would show good faith and raise money to donate toward the project. I asked Lou if these facilities were fixed if he would allow more than one inmate to

visit at a time and he said, 'No.' So the \$7,000 donated to help fix those things so that we could visit with more than one inmate at a time was worthless. That's why I asked for the money back, because they weren't willing to do what they said they would do. They both agreed to give our ministry those two hours. Beth said she never agreed to that, and Lou said I was negotiating for the whole town. I wasn't negotiating for the whole town. We donated our money for our time."

Robbins went on to say what he meant

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photo by April S. Kelley

Wreck closes highway through canyon

Hot Springs County emergency crews responded to a one vehicle rollover in Wind River Canyon Tuesday. U.S. Highway 20 was closed immediately following the wreck and there were traffic delays throughout the afternoon. Clean up crews from Specialty Towing were on scene Wednesday morning to recover the trailer.

Illinois man killed in crash in Wind River Canyon

A fatal crash between Thermopolis and Shoshoni on Tuesday, July 12 has resulted in the death of 45-year-old Marion Mabry Jr., of Calumet Park, Ill.

According to a press release issued by Wyoming Highway Patrol, the crash occurred at 12:44 p.m. near mile post 113 on US Highway

20 approximately 13 miles north of Shoshoni.

Mabry was driving a 2007 Volvo commercial truck towing a trailer southbound on US 20 in a steep left curve. The truck initially left the highway to the west and was overcorrected to the left. The overcorrection caused the load in the trailer,

approximately 42,000 lbs. of bagged bentonite, to shift. The load shift caused the truck and trailer to trip and rollover. The truck came to rest stuck in a section of guardrail. The trailer, that did breach, was left hanging over an approximate 40 foot embankment.

Mabry was not wearing his seat

belt and was ejected during the crash. He sustained fatal injuries on scene.

Both lanes of US 20 were closed until 2:55 p.m. Eventually the scene became safe enough for first responders to set up traffic control and route traffic around the crash one lane at a time. Both lanes were opened and normal traffic resumed at 6:09 p.m.

Driver distraction due to an electronic device, improper load securement and failure to wear a seat belt are being investigated as contributing factors in this crash that marked the 46th highway fatality in Wyoming for 2016. There were 70 fatalities during this same time period in 2015.

Early, absentee voting opens

by Mark Dykes

The period for early voting, as well as to pick up absentee ballots for the primary election officially opened July 7, just over five weeks ahead of the primary election on Aug. 16.

Ballots can be picked up at the Hot Springs County Clerk's Office, but voters must be regis-

tered. Ballots can also be requested by calling the Clerk's Office at 864-3515, and there are sample ballots posted and available to pick up at the office should voters want them to look over their options prior to decisions.

Voters may choose to register as unaffiliated, or under the Republican, Democratic, Libertar-

ian or Constitution party. County Clerk Nina Webber noted people can get an absentee ballot or do same day early voting up until the day before the election, Aug. 15, but election day voting must be done at one of the polling locations including the fair building, the museum or the armory.

Dunks partially sentenced

by Mark Dykes

On June 30, officers from the Thermopolis Police Department, Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office and Wyoming Highway Patrol worked together to stop the driver of a stolen motorcycle that tore through town and his passenger.

According to an agreement the motorcycle driver, Jerome Dunks will plead guilty in District Court to a felony charge of wrongful receiving, concealing or disposing of property \$1,000 or more, in exchange for a sentence of 2.5 to four years at the Wyoming State Penitentiary, as well as \$3,000 fine to be suspended.

Dunks will also plead guilty on felonies including two counts of fleeing or attempting to elude police officer, and interference with an officer, in exchange for a sentence of 180 days in prison, served concurrently, and the state will not recommend imposition of a fine.

In circuit court, Dunks has pleaded to and was sentenced to 20 days, also served concurrently, for driving under suspension, failure to stop a vehicle where an accident involves damage to attended vehicle and failure to stop vehicle where accident involves personal injury. Over 10 additional charges against him were dismissed.

As for the passenger, Samantha Messick, she is bound over to district court on charges of conspiracy to wrongful receiving, concealing or disposing of property, interference with a peace officer and second-offense possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine.



Sample ballots for the primary election Aug. 16 are on display at the Hot Springs County Clerk's Office.