

Town takes first look at park closings

by Mark Dykes

Tuesday evening, the Thermopolis Town Council approved upon first reading a resolution that would allow for the establishment of opening and closing times for each municipal park, with times to vary at each. The hours, when established, will be posted at usual or normal entrances to the parks, and those found to be in the parks outside the posted hours could be fined up to \$750.

The ordinance is being put in place as a result of the considerable amount of vandalism being done to the park restrooms, picnic tables, shelters and other amenities and the

town finding it necessary to determine park hours to address the vandalism. Additional readings of the ordinance will take place at future meetings.

In other action, Council approved a malt beverage permit from the Hot Springs County Fair Board, for the demolition derby Aug. 20 from 5-10:30 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

Council also approved placing a proposition, on the ballot for the election Nov. 8, for imposing a once one percent specific purpose sales and use excise tax in the county. The tax would be used to provide funding for construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation,

furnishing and equipping Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital, and once that funding — estimated at \$16.4 million — is complete, the tax goes away. County Commissioner Brad Basse noted support of two-thirds of the municipalities was required to place the proposition on the ballot.

A chip seal bid from Wild West Construction of Cody was approved, at \$64,999.48. The project includes areas along Odell Street, Johnson Avenue, 11th Street, 10th Street, Warren Street and Clark Street.

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photo by Mark Dykes

Cast and catch

Ashly Pinkston helps Rilynn Pinkston get a good cast, as Brylie and James Pinkston check for bites a little further along the shore at Boysen Reservoir. The Thermopolis family participated in last weekend's Boysen Fishing Derby, and planned to do some boat fishing as well. The derby was open for kids up to age 13, and participants received free fishing poles they couldn't wait to try out.

County budget finalized

by April S. Kelley

Hot Springs County Commissioners held a special meeting Monday to hold a public hearing regarding the budget for fiscal year 2016-2017, wherein the finalized budget was approved.

Chairman John Lumley opened the floor for public comment regarding the proposed budget for 2016-2017.

Vice-Chairman Tom Ryan said the treasurer handed him numbers with the total cash available at \$5,067,875,520. He also commented that \$10,000 was added for the soil conservation district. He said between those two changes, it brought the emergency expenditures to \$114,508,029.

Commissioner Brad Basse said he thought it would be important to talk about significant changes made in this year's budget concerning the hospital, the library and the fair versus historical budgets and the reasons for those changes.

"In previous years, those three entities were in what we call the top part of the budget, listing total cash available, total revenue and appropriations," he said. "It was a very confusing way to do the budget for both the public and us. We had to make a lot more estimates."

For example, Basse said the library would not include fines, interlibrary loans and postage and that got confusing to deal with. The other thing it did was it put those entities at a disadvantage in two ways.

"The first disadvantage being that any delinquent taxes would hit their budget," he said. "It was about \$7,900 last year for the library, whereas someone at the lower part of the budget, like the

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Drafted for the legislature and the convention

by Tom Mullen

Trepidation.

"It has crossed my mind," Nathan Winters told the Independent Record from the floor of the Republican Convention in Cleveland on Monday.

Winters is one of three Hot Springs men to serve as national delegates this week and in the run up to politic's biggest event in decades, he's heard a lot of talk about the potential for violence in the streets. But the First Baptist Church Minister and House District 28 Representative took a thoughtful pause to find the words.

"The thing is, that has overwhelmed me, is that no matter how challenging the obstacle, that's when you must stand up for your principles."

A bit of a row ensued and the dozens of Colorado delegates, sitting alongside the Wyoming delegation, stood up and left the convention floor in protest Monday afternoon. The Dump Trump coalition had failed to get the votes needed to earn a roll call vote from the party on a rule change and so a parade of cowboy hats (the Colorado delegation all wore them) left the hall in a parade of sorts.

It was the culmination of a day of bickering and inquiry among thousands of party loyalists gathered to officially nominate their party's presumptive presidential nominee: Donald Trump. Looking around the floor at it all, Winters was circumspect.

"To see politics in action like this,

it has become clear to me that if you know who you are and what you believe, no matter what you stand for, you're going to be just fine," he said.

Winters, who grew up in Cheyenne, pursued what he called an opportunity to serve in a church in Thermopolis.

"It's been 10 and a half years now and I feel very blessed to be back in Wyoming."

He made his start in politics in Hot Springs County attending Republican Committee meetings. Soon he was elected as Vice-Chair and eventually as Chair.

"So when Lorraine Quarberg decided to retire from the House it was my job to recruit candidates to run for that position."

He said he began reaching out to people he thought were capable of doing the job but he kept hearing a familiar answer.

"A lot of people asked me to run," he said.

That was four years ago.

"As far as being a delegate, I was one of the chairmen of the Platform Committee and a number of people asked if I was willing to be an alternate delegate and I kept saying, 'no' but after a while I realized that this is one of the most important conventions since 1976 with Reagan and Ford. So I ran and came in third (making him a delegate) and I was really honored and I mean to do my job in an honorable manner — it's quite a responsibility," he said.

See page A8 for stories on Jim Collins and Charles Curley.

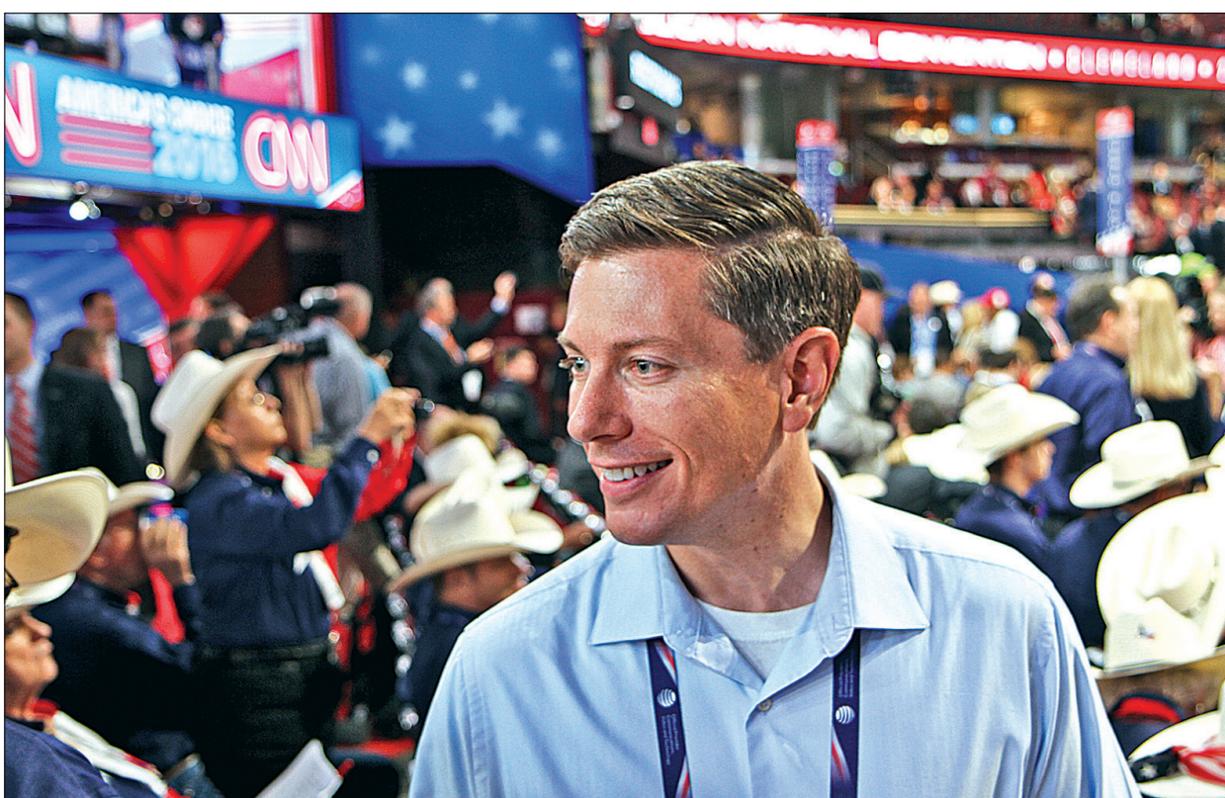


photo by Tom Mullen

Amidst a parade of cowboy hats

House District 28 Representative and Delegate to the Republican National Convention Nathan Winters answers questions on the convention floor from an A.P. Reporter just prior to a failed attempt to change the rules on Monday. The cowboy hats behind him are worn by the Colorado delegation, which left the floor en masse when a request for a roll call vote failed.