

# Hospital district, sales tax pass

by Lara Love

Unofficial results are in, and Hot Springs County voters passed both of the two propositions concerning Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital in Tuesday’s general election.

On the proposition to form a special hospital district there were 1,688 votes in favor and 890 votes against.

On the proposition for the creation of a one percent specific purpose sales and use excise tax there were 1,643 votes for and 947 votes against. The tax will be used to collect \$16.4 million for the construction,

expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing and equipping of the hospital.

The propositions have been heatedly debated for several months with a wealth of information coming from both the Vote Yes for our Hospital and the Citizens for Common Sense Healthcare Political Action Committees.

Seventeen candidates were on the ballot for five seats on the Hot Springs County Hospital District Board of Directors.

For the two seats for four-year terms on the hospital district, voters selected Bill Williams with 1,096 votes and David Koer-

witz with 907 votes to serve on the board. Votes received by the other candidates include Joseph Casciato 449, Josh Conrad 612, Bradyn Harvey 361, Dean Stone 149, Allan Braaten 204 and Jim Wilson 577.

For the three seats for two-year terms on the hospital district, voters selected Breez Longwell Daniels with 1,114 votes, Dan Herdt with 971 votes and Heath Overfield with 906 votes to serve on the board. Votes received by the other candidates include Paul Galovich 624, Harvey Seidel 411, Bengé Brown 440, Joshua P. Brown 226, Tom Olsen 780 and Jean E. Skelton 658.

## New leaders selected

by Lara Love

Unofficial results from Tuesday's general election have come in and new leadership will be taking over in January on the national, state and local level.

An amazing 2,644 voters turned out in Hot Springs County with many first time voters registering Tuesday at the polls.

Voting machines in precincts 1-1, 1-2 and 3-3 experienced an issue upon starting up. According to Hot Springs County Clerk Nina Webber the normal and usual backup plan, the manual feed bin, was implemented. Voters were all still able to vote at that time.

Once the issue was resolved, ballots from the manual feed bin were witnessed and audited as they were fed through the automated portion of the voting machine.

Republicans Donald Trump and Michael Pence won the race for President and Vice President of the United States. The pair also won in Wyoming and Hot Springs County. Locally, Trump/Pence (R) received 1,939 votes, Clinton/Kaine (D) 400, Johnson/Weld (Lib.) 136, Castle/Bradley (Con.) 21, Stein/Baraka (Ind.) 35 and De La Fuente/Steinberg (Ind.) 4

Liz Cheney (R) will serve a two-year term in the state's at-large congressional district seat vacated by Cynthia Lummis (R). In Hot Springs County, Cheney received 1,725 votes, over Ryan Greene (D) with 644, Lawrence Struempf (Lib.) with 98 and Daniel Clyde Cummings (Con.) with 109.

Wyatt Agar (R) won the Senate District 20 seat vacated by Gerald Geis (R). Locally, Agar received 1,817 to 714 for Mary Jane Norskog (D).

Nathan Winters (R) will serve his third term in the District 28 State House of Representatives. Winters received 1,719 votes in Hot Springs County to Howard Samelson's (D) 760.

Phillip Scheel (R) ran unopposed for an open four-year term on the Hot Springs County Commission receiving 2,129 votes.

Dusty Lewis and William H. Malloy will both serve a four-year term on the Thermopolis Town Council. Lewis received 1,052 votes and Malloy 898 votes.

Both Jack Kuiper and Merle William Moore were elected to the Town Council



photo by Cindy Glasson

### Read ‘em cowgirl!

Autumn Cornwell shows real cowgirl spirit as she “pole bends” during the Reading Rodeo at Ralph Witters Elementary School. Students participated in barrel racing, pole bending, roping and other rodeo type events before heading inside to read their favorite books.

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# Hot Springs State Park 20 year master plan released

by Cindy Glasson

After much anticipation, the master plan for Hot Springs State Park was unveiled last Thursday by State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Darin Westby. The gathering was held at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center with a standing room only crowd.

The master plan provides a 20-year strategy for physical improvements and management of the 1,100-acre park as well as providing a framework for those improvements based on need and available funding.

A study of the park and its facilities has shown it is not keeping pace with contemporary outdoor trends, recreational trends or the changing demographics of today’s travelers.

Most significant is the change to the mineral waters coming from the Big Spring, which are diminishing from their historic flows, requiring a review of resource management.

**Keeping historical elements**

Hot Springs State Park was formally established in 1929, and to build on that historic legacy, the park will conserve its core resource – the mineral waters.

In addition, key historical features will be restored and the park’s ecological zones will be protected.

Improvements will be made to the buffalo pasture, buildings and facilities to ensure visitors the highest quality experience.

Known archeological elements will be protected and studies will be conducted to identify as yet unknown elements, too. Archeological investigations will be done before any earthwork for upcoming operations or developments begin.

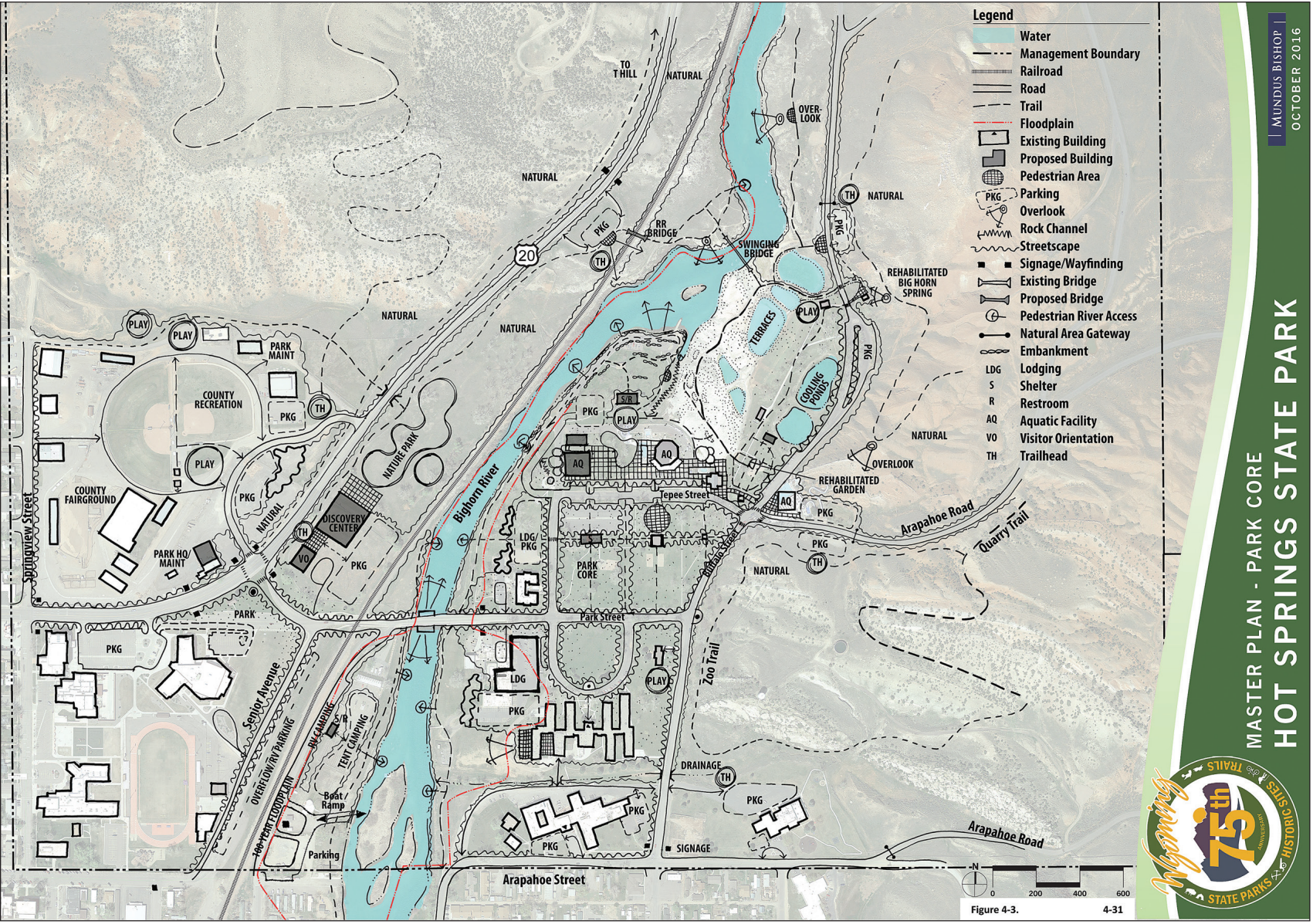
At one time, two stately hotels flanked the entrance to the park, and the state would like to see that return.

The biggest eyesore for most locals has been the entrance to the park.

The park entrance will be reconstructed with a new intersection at Highway 20 and Park Street. Road improvements and a new streetscape will enhance the the entrance road through the railroad underpass.

The Plaza will remain with its historic rooms, however, some major changes are being asked for with regards to the Days Inn. Updates of not only the rooms, but of the exterior, including a change in where visitors drive in to register, are

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A rendition of what the final plan will look like was provided by the State Parks and Cultural Resources committee.