

# ACT scores discussed

Hot Springs County School District #1 Board of Trustees met Aug. 15, the last meeting before the start of the new school year.

Laurie Graves, principal at Ralph Witters Elementary, gave a presentation to the board on how summer school went this year with the recent financial cutbacks.

Graves said it was a little different, but Kinder Camp had a good three days focused on letter and word recognition. There was a 90 percent attendance rate for the little ones, which is a great turn out.

First through fourth grades had almost a 100 percent attendance rate for the full six days.

They used a blended learning approach, mixing up the kids across the grade levels rather than keeping them to their individual grades. In addition, they worked on a business model, learning how to use power tools and math to put together lemonade stands.

Once the stands were completed, the students took them to various areas in town and used their math skills for counting money and making change at their stands.

"The teachers had a mixture of ages," Graves said, "and they all felt it went swimmingly, collaborating between the different age groups."

Next on the agenda was high school principal Breez Daniels, who presented to the board how they used recent student and ACT data from the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to build the student's schedules and smart goals for the 2017-2018 school year.

Daniels said they looked at the grades from freshmen to incoming seniors, noticing an up and down trend in English as well as the other core subjects throughout their school years, and use that data to determine if students are on the track for a Hathaway Scholarship.

When the junior class takes their ACT tests, a score of 21 is "in the money" as far as the scholarship is consid-

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# Eclipse traffic tops 10,000 vehicles Monday

by Cindy Glasson

It was pretty hard not to notice the increase in traffic through Hot Springs County during eclipse time, but the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) has released numbers that will give an accurate accounting of just how many vehicles there were.

The state, overall, experienced historic traffic volumes on Monday, Aug. 21, the day of the eclipse – 494,000 vehicles, a 63 percent increase.

In Hot Springs County, on WY 120W (Thermopolis to Cody), the five-year average

on Wednesday, Aug. 16th is 2,225 cars. This last Wednesday, there were 2,199.

Numbers started creeping up on Thursday when they went from an average of 2,221 to 2,564; Friday went from an average of 2,277 to 2,682. Saturday saw a big jump in traffic with the average being 1,849, jumping to 2,560. Sunday went from 2,076 to 3,115.

The big day, was, of course Monday, when traffic went from an average of 2,089 cars to 7,350 – a 251 percent increase.

US Hwy.20 So. (Worland to Shoshoni) took a couple of days to really get going too, with Wednesday's five-year average being

3,212. WYDOT says last Wednesday there were 3,371 travelers on the road into or through Thermopolis.

Thursday's numbers were a little bigger, going from an average of 3,448 to 3,748 for the day. Friday had a significant jump from 3,811 to 4,308.

Sunday was a big day, too, with the average being 3,771 vehicles and WYDOT showing 5,774 cars coming our way in preparation for the big day.

Monday, however, was definitely historic.

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courtesy photo

## Coming together for the eclipse

NW BOCES students and staff joined together on Monday to watch the eclipse. Several visitors and community members all over the county paused to watch the amazing sight of the total eclipse, just as hundreds of thousands did across the state and country.



photo by Cindy Glasson

## Mud slingin' good time

The stands were packed for the annual demolition derby at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds on Saturday where spectators were treated to hours of smashing and crashing.

# Australian competes in demo derby

by Cindy Glasson

Mud slinging, engines revving, screaming fans – it was a typical night at Hot Springs County Fairgrounds as the Demolition Derby hit the field.

After four main heats, the Herbie Derby and the Truck Derby, it came down to the final heat with Pat King, Stephen Flinn, Kyle Larson, Deven Scherf, Zack Larson, Wyatt Ramsey, Kyle McIntosh, Kurt Shaffer, Luke Mead and Chase Mead.

The survivors were first place, Wyatt Ramsey; second place, Zack Larson; third place, Stephen Flinn and fourth place, Deven Scherf.

For Ramsey, who is just 18-years old, this was his third run in a derby. A senior at Shoshoni High School, he

brought home \$3,000 and a trophy, running an 85 Buick.

Ramsey builds his cars at his grandfather, Alton Ramsey's house. His great-grandparents are from Thermopolis, also, "Punk" and Neta Ramsey and Shirley Irelan.

The Women's Herbie Derby was won by Heather Bowman; Barbara Munger, second place and Taylor Sprigg, third place.

Evan VanNorman took home first place in the Truck Derby, followed by Alan Woodward in second and coming in out of left field, Brendan Burgen from Australia taking home third.

Burgen came to Thermopolis for the eclipse from Queensland, Australia. He heard about the demo derby and really

wanted to take part.

Along comes Brad Becerra, who sold Burgen his derby truck.

Burgen said the experience was great and he fully intends to come back and do it again, possibly bringing along a few friends.

Of course, for Burgen the truck drove on the "wrong side" and he found it handled differently, but it was way faster. It certainly didn't stop him from not only placing third, but he was the Mad Dog winner in the truck heat.

Other Mad Dog winners were Chase Mead in the main heat, Wyatt Ramsey in the winners heat and Heather Bowman in the Women's Derby.

Stevie Jellis won prettiest car.

See page 7 for more photos.

# Traffic stop results in drug bust

by Mark Dykes

On Aug. 14, an officer spotted a vehicle pulling a trailer fail to stop at Sixth Street and Shoshoni. The officer later observed the vehicle make an unsafe/unlawful lane change, as the driver did not utilize his turn signal.

The officer performed a traffic stop, informing the driver, identified as Corey Bloom, of the traffic violations. During the stop, the officer noted a distinct odor of burnt marijuana, though the smell was not consistent.

The officer also asked why there was no registration on the trailer, and was answered by a voice from the back seat. Bloom rolled down the rear window and a male subject identified as Andrew Gillum, explained he hadn't yet obtained registration for the trailer. Gillum noted the vehicle and trailer were both his.

With the rear window down, the officer could consistently smell burnt marijuana, and asked the vehicle occupants for an explanation. Gillum said it was his and he had only a small amount for personal use.

Gillum was instructed to get out of the vehicle and complied, stating he realized possession of marijuana was a big deal in Wyoming and he was embarrassed.

Gillum was placed in the officer's vehicle, and stated there were three guns in his vehicle and he had a concealed carry permit.

Bloom was also asked to exit the vehicle, and was detained pending investigation into the marijuana odor. Upon search of the vehicle, a firearm

was found in the front center console. Also found was a container with what appeared to be, and tested presumptive positive for, marijuana, a device with a bowl packed with a green leafy substance and apparatus commonly used for grinding marijuana.

Found in the trunk of the vehicle were prescriptions with Gillum's name, a jar with a substance that smelled of marijuana, a pipe with an odor and residue consistent with marijuana and other paraphernalia.

Also among the found items was a container of pills labelled "O." A backup officer also located the other two guns.

Upon interview, Gillum said he and bloom were travelling from Minnesota to Hoback Junction and Jackson Hole to view the eclipse. He also said all the marijuana was his and consented to a search of the trailer.

Inside the trailer were several vials of what appeared to be prescriptions, many of which were labelled with letters starting with "A." There was no vial between "N" and "P." An officer detected an odor of marijuana, and upon further search found a container with a substance consistent with marijuana. Other paraphernalia was found, and the variety of substances were later identified.

Gillum faces a total eight counts — two felonies and six misdemeanors — of possession of a controlled substance. One count of possession against him, as well as a possession count against Bloom, have been recommended for dismissal.