

Nominees for district judge vacancy

Earlier this year, the Honorable Judge Robert E. Skar announced his retirement as District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, with his final day being Oct. 2.

On behalf of the Judicial Nominating Commission, Wyoming Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael K. Davis, who serves as Chairman, announced Friday that the Commission has completed its consideration of all who have expressed interest in

the position of District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District. Pursuant to Article 5, § 4 of the Wyoming Constitution, the Judicial Nominating Commission submitted three nominees for the position to Governor Matthew H. Mead for his consideration. The nominees, in alphabetical order, are: Stephen Joseph Darrah, Edward G. Luhm and Bobbi Dean Overfield.

Governor Mead has thirty days to appoint

one of these three nominees to serve as the new District Judge. Current members of the Judicial Nominating Commission are three lawyers elected by the Wyoming State Bar: Richard H. Honaker of Rock Springs, Professor John M. Burman of Laramie, and Gay Woodhouse of Cheyenne; and three non-lawyers appointed by the Governor: Rosie Berger of Big Horn, Lori A. Emmert of Douglas and Paul Scherbel of Afton.



photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Bringing it together

Saturday morning saw an outpouring of community pride as people climbed Monument Hill to rebuild the monument that was previously knocked down by vandals. Rather than building one large monument, those who made the climb chose to create three smaller markers. The hill is not only a unique opportunity for residents and visitors — as those who make the climb can sign their names and enjoy a view of the area — it also stands as a testament to those who have experienced the hot springs, as it was tradition for those healed by the springs to take a rock to the top of the hill.

Fair board hears from concerned parents

by Cindy Glasson

Things became rather heated at the Hot Springs County Fair board meeting last week as a number of families attended, upset about some things that went on during the Hot Springs County Fair.

One of the issues was overweight animals not being allowed in the ring for the final shows.

Daniel Webber was very vocal that his son, after taking first place in his division, was told as he was leaving the ring that he could not be in the final show because his animal was overweight.

Wyoming State Fair rules do not disqualify an animal due to being overweight and Webber pointed out there is nothing in the County Fair rules regarding it, so he questioned why it was done and especially as the child was leaving the ring.

In response, the board said they will have to have a discussion and ensure their rules are in coordination with the state rules, but said they were not the ones who made the decision at the ring.

Apparently, the judge is the one who makes the decision, but those in attendance felt strongly that the decision should be the board's. That would track right back to the board making the rules in accordance with the state fair rules and ensuring they were adhered to.

The issue began with the sheep show, when the judge said an overweight sheep didn't need to re-enter the ring and continued with the swine and beef shows,

so they were consistent throughout, not just singling out a single show.

The families would like to see the rules in October so they can better prepare for changes made to the fair rules. They do everything to adhere to the state rules, so consistency between the two entities is necessary.

The board agreed things need to be updated and suggested perhaps some of the 4-H and FFA leaders need to come to the board meetings to give their input throughout the year.

The board also pointed out there is a hard and fast rule about leaving the fair early and some families pulled their animals and left.

Those attending the meeting also asked the board to have a majority of the signs that are posted all over the grounds reminding them not to help their kids with their projects removed.

They feel the number of signs posted are unnecessary. Parents indicated they know it's their child's project and being reminded of it every time they turn around was ridiculous.

Some kids may need a little help, say a 70-pound kid with a 1,400-pound steer, but the parents feel like they're constantly being watched.

It was even suggested the older kids helping the younger ones should be getting some kind of recognition for helping out.

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Pennoyer receives national FFA recognition

by Cindy Glasson

National FFA Organization announced on Friday, Aug. 4 that Jessie Pennoyer of Thermopolis was selected as a national finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award in Beef Production-Placement. Pennoyer is one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals to be held at the 91st National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis Oct. 24-27.

The proficiency awards recognize outstanding student achievement in agribusiness gained through establishment of a new business, working for an existing company or otherwise gaining hands-on career experience. The Beef Production-Placement award is one of 47 proficiency program areas FFA members can participate in to develop valuable experience and leadership skills at the local, state and national levels. Descriptions of each proficiency award area are available at FFA.org/proficiency.

The Beef Production-Placement award is for a student who works for a livestock producer applying the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market beef. This award is for any beef

animals, including miniature Hereford, Zebu, etc.

Pennoyer said she's been working for her dad and the family ranch since she was a little girl and grew up learning the management practices. She further added she started with simple chores from helping feed to trailing cows, but now has a real say in the genetics used, using her livestock judging knowledge to help select replacement heifers to help with daily operation of the ranch. As far as the paperwork involved, she kept an accurate FFA record book of items such as the hours put in and how many cattle she owns, and the application itself was 24 pages long.

She was excited to find out she is a finalist and able to attend the national convention, though she previously attended with the Thermopolis chapter for National State Booth.

Josi Thurgood earned a Bronze rating in Diversified Agricultural Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement. Placement is non-ownership, agriculturally related paid or unpaid employment and/or volunteer work. Examples include hourly employment at an agricultural magazine, salaried work as a groom at a horse

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Jessie Pennoyer