



Council approves 14th Street ordinance

by Mark Dykes

Tuesday evening, Thermopolis Town Council approved, with council member Tony Larson voting “no,” an emergency ordinance declaring 14th Street from its intersection with U.S. Highway 20 to State Highway 120 a non-through street. Larson did not object to the ordinance, but suggested it have the standard three readings to allow opportunity for public comment.

According to the ordinance, the street is a busy thoroughfare involving a school, school bus pick up and drop off, search and rescue and fire department, and becomes too congested for required activities when used as a by-pass by

truckers and other travelers.

The ordinance further states the street is not designed for the heavy traffic it has been receiving, and is deemed by the mayor and council to be a hazard to residents, schoolchildren and fire and safety if it continues to be a through street.

Under the ordinance, there shall be no through access from the intersection of Canyon Hills and U.S. Highway 20 north to the intersection of 14th with Broadway and State Highway 120, and vice versa. It shall be a violation for any driver of any motor vehicle to use Canyon Hills Road and 14th Street as a through street to bypass the downtown area

from either direction, and violators are subject to a fine up to \$750.

Residents concerned about speeding vehicles and the multitude of semis and other large vehicles on the street brought those concerns before council more than a year ago. Since then, various methods have been used to deter semis and improve safety, such as additional signage and flashing stoplights.

During the council’s Sept. 4 meeting, Forrest Coleman-Weisz reported the success he had with getting various GPS providers to remove the street from their maps, but he was

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Additional building concerns

by Cindy Glasson

Although work is progressing well on the roof of the multipurpose building at Hot Springs County Fairgrounds, a change order has arisen that will help with the overall look of the inside of the building.

While doing the spray in insulation, WYO Spray Coatings noted the steel beams inside the building, while structurally sound, look pretty rough on the surface, especially when compared to the newness of the insulation.

The company has offered to spray paint the beams for an additional \$10,000 to help with the aesthetics of the building.

The county commissioners agreed this was a fair price and approved the additional funds.

In addition, while doing the insulating, the company noted concerns about the vent stacks on the radiant heating units in the building.

The stacks are in various stages of disrepair, and in some cases, are completely rusted through. There is also not enough clearance for the insulation they are putting in and they are also concerned about the rubber boots that surround the stacks, noting they are worried they aren’t sufficiently rated for that type of venting.

For now, the company is not putting insulation in those particular areas until a resolution is found.

Commissioner Phil Scheel noted about half of the heaters in the building don’t work and he will be following through with the solution. For now, they are working on a temporary fix until something permanent can be done.

The commissioners also heard an update on the new, enhanced 9-1-1 system in the joint law enforcement center.

Work started on the update last week, but ran into a snag with the “in the alley” system used to coordinate calls between dispatch and other agencies. The current system we are using is no longer viable, nor is it updatable to become usable with the new system.

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photo by Cindy Glasson

Hope through the smoke

This home on Black Mountain Road barely missed being taken by the Red Hole Fire last Thursday, with burned grass nearly to their front door. The fire ultimately consumed 2,105 acres and was brought under control by concerted efforts between the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department, BLM, units from the Shoshone and Big Horn National Forest Service, Wind River Agency, Worland and one private entity with a fire truck. It was 80 percent contained by Friday night and fully contained by Saturday morning. Firefighters managed to put it completely out by Sunday.

Grizzly hunt still on hold

Three recently trapped in Hot Springs County

by Mark Dykes

According to Dusty Lasseter, Bear Wise community coordinator with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, grizzly bears have been caught in western Hot Springs County for livestock depredation.

Lasseter did not have any exact dates to share, but noted two bears were trapped and relocated. A third was euthanized a couple weeks back, he said, and the bears were located in the Owl Creek drainage area.

A local rancher in the area stated he has lost roughly 125 sheep and 20 calves to bears since April, and those numbers have been confirmed by Game and Fish.

Regarding the relocation of bears, Lasseter said they are never relocated inside the county, rather to more remote areas such as the Lander region, more toward Dubois and the Togwotee area.

Lasseter said the bears are at the point in their yearly cycle when they are entering hyperphagia mode, eating and drinking to fatten themselves up for their annual hibernations, but they are still plenty active.

It’s not typical for the county to see grizzlies and their spreading here is a symptom of the population recovery, he explained, as a higher density of bears results in an increased distribution.

If you happen to encounter a bear, Lasseter said the first option is to back away slowly. If the animal continues to be aggressive, he said, you have the right to defend yourself via bear spray or a firearm. If the animal appears to be protecting its food, cubs and space, Lasseter said the best thing people can do is to drop and cover and show they are not a threat. The majority of the time, the bear will leave.

More information about camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and general living in bear country is available through the Wyoming Game and Fish Department website, wfgd.wyo.gov

Earlier this year, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission voted to allow hunters to shoot as many as 22 grizzlies outside Yellowstone National Park, with the hunt planned for this September; it would be the first hunting season for the animals since 1974. In June of 2017, the Interior Department announced Yellowstone grizzlies would no longer be listed as “endangered.”

However, after several environmental groups and Native American tribes sued to reverse the delisting, an initial decision was made Aug. 30 to implement a two-week restraining order on the hunt. A second two-week order was entered on Sept. 13, delaying the hunting season until Sept. 27 with an end date of Nov. 15.



Golfers bring home 2A championship

by Cindy Glasson

The THS Bobcat Golf Team attended the State 2A High School Golf Tournament last weekend in Newcastle and came home as the new State 2A Boys Champions.

The scoring conditions were way harder than when they played there three weeks ago, but they were harder for everyone, and by the end of the tournament the Thermopolis boys team of Hardy Johnson, Jeffrey Clark, Will Clark, Kyle Roessing and Lee Grimm came out with a hard fought win.

Day one left the Bobcats in a three-way tie for second in the team competition and Kemmerer was leading with a score of 408. Thermopolis, Wright and Tongue River were all tied up at 418 in the team totals. Big Horn was just behind that with a score of 430 followed by Lovell, Sundance, Lusk, Moorcroft and Upton.

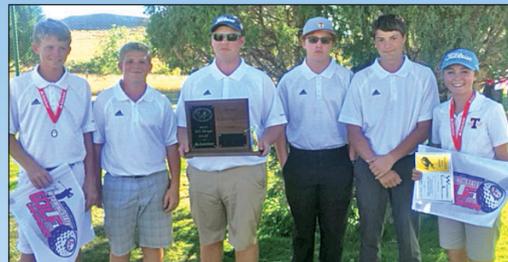
Hardy Johnson led the individual scoring for the boys with a 79. Will Clark shot his best score to date in a tournament with a 108, Jeffrey Clark shot 108, Kyle Roessing 123 and Lee Grimm with 126.

In the girls division Maddie Stam shot a 120.

Coach Joey Johnson said the kids came back from their round quite frustrated with their scoring after coming off of their best week

at the Bobcat Invitational at home the week before.

On day two, the Bobcat golfers showed significant improvements on their scoring.



Thermopolis Bobcat 2A Champion Golf Team

Hardy Johnson shot 77, Jeffrey Clark a 93, Will Clark with another tournament best for him, shooting a 99, Kyle Roessing and Lee Grimm both shot 115.

When the final scores came in, the team scored just enough to win the State Championship with a two stroke lead over Kemmerer, and a 5 stroke lead over Wright.

“I was extremely pleased how the Thermopolis boys team kept their composure and played smart golf to come in and win the team championship,” Johnson said. “They should be very proud of their accomplishments.”

Individually, our lone Bobcat Girls Golfer finished ninth in the State Tournament and received All-State honors with a two day to-

tal of a 241.

Johnson said, “Maddie has shown tremendous improvement over the golf season and has been very consistent in her scoring. I am very proud of her work ethic and the improvements she has made during the season.”

Hardy Johnson was the State Champion Individual Golfer in the State 2A Competition, scoring a two day total of 156 and was 21 strokes ahead of second place. He also received All-State honors.

“I’m very proud of Hardy,” coach Johnson said. “It’s been an extremely long season of golf for him. He’s maintained a 73.8 scoring average for the season and puts in a lot of hours on his golf game, it’s a true passion for him.”

“I want to congratulate all of our Bobcat golfers for a great season. Our goal at the beginning of the season was to win the State 2A Championship and they achieved that goal with a lot of hard work and determination.”

“In many instances we have Bobcat golfers that have improved their scores 20-30 strokes on the season. We have a young team between the boys and girls, and I just expect them to keep getting better and better. It excites me to think of what the next

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