



Town council hears animal concerns

by Mark Dykes

At Tuesday evening's Thermopolis Town Council meeting, Byron Williams brought forth concerns regarding animals in the Grandview trailer park; Williams recently became an assistant manager for the park, and is concerned the police don't want to enforce ordinances there.

Police Chief Steve Shay added Williams is speaking specifically to those ordinances regarding animals at large. He pointed out they do enforce the ordinances regarding vicious animals, but not those regarding dogs at large. He explained the ordinance states a dog has to leave a property to be considered "at large," and trailer parks are considered as singular pieces

of property with one owner and people lease or sublet space within the park to live.

Shay further added, in looking at incidents, most of the time officers speak to the dog owners when the animals are found at large. He also pointed out citations have been given for those with vicious animals.

Williams said people that let their dogs run loose need to be ticketed, as he considers that to be a dog at large. He added the park rules and regulations state residents must abide by town ordinances. Shay suggested rules be written for the trailer park to address the situation, though Williams noted things have been going on this way for so long that people think they

can get away with anything. Williams further added there are people in the park that have pets such as chickens, ducks and rabbits.

Forrest Coleman-Weisz suggested adding an addendum to the lease agreements in the park to create some enforcement. Williams said of ten people, when faced with a fine, simply pay it then turn their animals loose. Coleman-Weisz suggested putting the fine in the addendum on an increasing gradient for offenses.

In action, council approved a malt beverage permit for Oktobrewfest on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., as well as lifting the

See Concerns on page 8



photo by Mark Dykes

Carriage ride

Queen Kelly Johnson and King Jeffery VanAntwerp, as well a driver Clay VanAntwerp, wave to students during the Homecoming parade last Friday. The parade was among the activities for the week, which also included themed dress up days along with dodgeball, volleyball and football games. See pictures from the week's activities on Page 14.

Citizens, businesses honored at HMB

by Cindy Glasson

Thermopolis FFA Alumni, friends and family gathered at the Hot Springs County Fair Building on Saturday night to honor AG Citizens and AG Businesses of the Year during the Harvest Moon Ball.

After dinner the AG Citizen awards were presented to Jim Dowdy and Verne Lofink, while the AG Businesses which were honored were Thermopolis Hardware (Dennis and Karen Sinclair) and the Glade Edwards Foundation.

Jim Dowdy - Jim and Nellie Dowdy operated a feedlot North of town for over 30 years. During that time he used the feedlot to bring weaner calves in from his ranch and feed them up before sending them back to the ranch. He later sold that ranch and started feeding local producers stock and Jerry Just from Nebraska calves.

Throughout the years the feed lot was used for the University of Wyoming WBCI program of AI'ing heifers and the Baird ranch brought their stock in to AI their heifers there. He bought the feed lot so that he could diversify his operations and depending on the market he had cattle or sheep in the pens. At one time he had 1000 head of ewes in the pens. After playing the market between cattle and sheep he then went on to short term cattle, to yearlings, to custom feeding for producers.

He was known to have cattle available for the local youth to use for judg-

ing practice and at times even a lot of pigs for them. Jim Dowdy has helped local youth out throughout the years by helping figure out rations with the Pearson square, to grinding their feed, and if nearby, delivering it to their property.

Jim Dowdy has helped local youth out through 4-H and FFA in this community since he arrived and still today, if a young person had a question he would probably be able to answer it.

Verne Lofink - Vern started farming on Jan 9, 1965 with his father-in-law in Worland. He moved to Hot Springs County on March 1, 1989. Verne has been a prominent man of Hot Springs and Washakie for many years. He has served on the Washakie County Fair Board when he lived in Worland. We all know him as the auctioneer at our county fair. Many of us as former 4-H and FFA members have stood in that same ring with him while we sold our animals, he sees, so much potential in us all.

He sold his first farm auction in January of 1978 in downtown Otto, Wyoming. When he moved to Hot Springs County in 1989 he was the only sugar beet farmer hauling many of loads of beets to Worland.

He has 3 children 2 girls and a boy he also has 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. His oldest daughter was killed in a horse-riding acci-

See Honors on page 8

High risk road signs going up

by Cindy Glasson

The Thermopolis Airport had a small hand in helping with the fires near Dubois as FBO Nate Messenger reported to the county commissioners on Tuesday that one of the planes fighting the fires fueled up at our airport.

Messenger said the fuel truck the pilot was expecting was about five hours behind schedule and he needed to get on scene as quickly as possible and chose our airport to refuel before heading back to the fire.

As the crow flies, our airport is just 40 miles from the fire scene, so stopping here for fuel made the most sense.

Messenger indicated September was a good month for traffic as well as fuel sales at the airport with a lot of fishermen flying in as well as folks who came for the horse sale.

Road and Bridge supervisor Dave Schlager let the commissioners know all of the posts are up for the high risk roads and they will be attaching the signs, furnished at no cost by the state, shortly.

The areas that were determined by Schlager and WYDOT to be high risk areas are those sections that have a curve you don't necessarily see until you're right up on them.

His crew also put up some school bus signs on Missouri Flats Road and are thinking they may put more up on some other roads, just to remind drivers where the school bus stops are.

County Maintenance Supervisor Anthony Fruciano said the lock company is now on site and started work on Monday morning.

So far, they have found the lock mechanism on the sally-port door is very worn and they are suggesting it be completely replaced. When taking it apart, Fruciano said you could see the grooves in the metal from so many years of use.

They started working on the sliding doors of the

See County on page 8

Student proficiency test scores released

by Cindy Glasson

The Wyoming Department of Education recently released the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) results for all schools within Wyoming.

Stat Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jillian Balow said, "We went from a paper and pencil, multiple-choice-only test that provided limited useful information to teachers, to an adaptable, interactive, on-line assessment that gives teachers data that can be used to inform instruction."

"I'm so proud of the teachers, principals, tech directors and assessment coordinators who helped make this

transition as seamless as it could be for students."

These numbers create a new baseline for statewide assessment results. From this point forward, proficiency rates will no longer be compared with PAWS, the Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students.

WY-TOPP results will be used to inform accountability determinations, which will be released on Nov. 1. With a few exceptions, students from Hot Springs County tested at or above the state averages.

In third grade math, 20.83 percent of students tested below basic in math skills, 29.17 percent at basic, 30.50 percent proficient

and 12.50 percent advanced.

Compare those numbers to the state average of 23.4 percent below basic, 25.3 percent basic, 29.4 percent proficient and 21.9 percent advanced and you will see our third grade math students are doing very well.

Language arts, or English on the third grade levels show RWE students are 18.75 percent below basic, 33.33 percent at a basic level, 35.42 percent proficient and 12.5 percent advanced.

State averages for third grade Language arts were 23 percent below average, 25.6 percent basic, 36 percent proficient and 15.5 percent advanced.

See Scores on page 8