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by Lara Love
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A tower of cups

Carter Mascorro looks up at a tower of cups he had stacked that were starting to shake, while Alec Martinez stacks cups in a more traditional way. Both boys were making cup towers on the 100th day of school at Ralph Witters Elementary. -ZacharyWhitephoto

Commissioners accept resignation of HSC Fire Warden

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners made several appointments to county boards at their meeting on Tuesday.

Dawn Peil was appointed to the Fair Board with Scott Shoop being appointed to the Library Board. Scott Miller and Earl Jackson were both appointed to the Predatory Animal Control Board and Arnold Penoyer and Dee Hillberry were appointed to the Weed and Pest Board.

In other business, the commissioners heard from Hot Springs County Museum director Ross Rhodes, who brought in photos of several tiles either broken or missing from the military memorial that sits in front of the museum.

According to Rhodes, the damage appears to have been due to snow removal by one of the county workers clearing around it using a small tractor. Maintenance director Chuck Carver indicated he has talked with the employee and said there will be more manual

snow removal, using a shovel, in the future to prevent this happening again.

When the memorial was placed, no money was set aside for maintenance or upkeep. Rhodes is not even sure he can locate tiles that will match in color or style as companies change the tiles they carry periodically.

Damages will be taken care of out of the county's general maintenance fund and Rhodes will find someone to do the work.

The commissioners accepted the resignation of

Hot Springs County Fire Warden, Jay DuVall during the meeting.

According to his resignation letter, his job and other circumstances do not allow him to dedicate the time to the position that it deserves.

County attorney and volunteer fireman Jerry Williams said the fire department is aware of the resignation and they are in the process of looking through their ranks to find a replacement they can recommend to the commissioners for appointment.

What goes up, must come down

by Zachary White

Taking down Christmas decorations throughout Thermopolis has become a community project, with various businesses taking part in the effort.

John Zupan, of Zupan Electric and Plumbing, explained that the job is one that someone has to do, and he doesn't mind being a helping hand.

"It's our community, I've raised kids here, it's part of community pride," Zupan said.

He said he has been taking part in the process of cleaning up since 1979, but even before that somebody had to take them down.

"The fire department started doing it long before

I helped out," Zupan said.

Six other companies helped take down decorations, as well as the Thermopolis Fire Department.

Mark Range, of Rocky Mountain Power, said his company was there to help during the day.

In total, Range said taking down decoration took less than three hours.

Mike Howland, of Charter Communications, said he was more than happy to help take decorations down over the past four years.

Howland said Charter started helping when a city employee came in and asked if they were interested. He said sure.

It's simple conversations like that, which pull peo-

ple into helping out where they can.

Brad Basse, JADCO Electric, said for him it was as easy as one of his employees asking him to get involved with it again.

"This is the first time we've done it for awhile," Basse said.

He said that when his operations manager, a Thermopolis volunteer firefighter, asked him to help out again, it was simply a matter of making some of their vehicles available.

And while some are willing to help, others can't remember when they started helping.

"We've been helping for at least 20 years," John Tissel, of High Plains Power,

said.

Like Zupan, Tissel said the work is done simply because someone needs to do it.

Tissel said that he's been helping since before his old company merged with another company to become High Plains Power.

"It's been a long time," he said.

In total, workers from TAK Electric, RT Communications, JADCO Electric, Zupan Electric, Charter Communications, High Plains Power and Rocky Mountain Power helped take down decorations.

At the same time Tracy Linko, Barb Rice and Meri Ann Rush took down decorations in the downtown.

