



Voters support new clerk, sheriff, mayor

by Mark Dykes

The results are in — at least the unofficial ones — for the Primary election in Hot Springs County. Of the 1,996 ballots cast, 1,818 were Republican, 138 were Democratic and 40 were Nonpartisan.

Looking at the local races, Jeremie Kraushaar won for Hot Springs County Sheriff with 544 votes. Other candidates in the running were: Pat Cornwell with 400; Daniel Pebbles with 372; Michael Nelson with 245 and Tom Christensen with 215. There were also 49 write in votes.

For Hot Springs County Clerk, Rosemary DeSeyn won with 1,071 votes, beating out

incumbent Nina Webber, who had 406, and Joe Martinez, who had 305. There were 10 write ins.

In the Republican voting for Hot Springs County Commission the top two were incumbent Tom Ryan with 1,111 votes, and newcomer Jack Baird with 815. Other candidates were Michael Liesch with 578 and Steven Shay with 533. There were 25 write in votes.

As for Democratic candidates for commissioner, Sonja Becker will move on to the General Election with 112 votes. Though he had withdrawn from the Primary, Carl Leyba still received 36 votes and there were four write in votes.

In the mayoral race, Mike Chimenti won with 449 votes, compared to Forrest Coleman-Weisz's 246, incumbent Mike Mortimore's 273 and Bradyn Harvey's 125. There were three write in votes.

As for Thermopolis Town Council, incumbents John Dorman Sr. and Tony Larson will retain their seats, as Dorman received 584 votes and Larson received 451. Other candidates were: Krista Raymond with 339; John Fish with 284 and Joshua Brown with 259. There were four write in votes.

Other positions decided in Hot Springs

See Election on page 8

Demolition Derby packs grandstands



photo by Cindy Glasson

A smashing good time

Pat King, left, and Nate Paschall, right, along with all the fans in the stands had a smashing good time at the Annual Demolition Derby at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds Saturday night.

The Hot Springs County Fairgrounds were filled to overflowing last Saturday for the biggest event of the summer, the Annual Demolition Derby, sponsored by the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce.

There were enough drivers to have three main heats, the top two winners moving on to the winners heat, the losers moving down to the losers heat, a Herbie Derby, Truck Derby and new this year, a Power Wheels Derby.

This year's winners were:
1st – Travis Long, \$4,000
2nd – Zack Larson, \$1,000
3rd – Cory Bowman, \$700
4th – Pat King, \$500

Truck Derby
1st – Brad Becerra, \$1,500
2nd – William Kawlewski, \$750
3rd – Alan Woodward, \$500

Women's Herby
1st – Taylor Sprigg, \$500
2nd – Chelsie Flinn, \$250
3rd – Heather Bowman, \$150

The winner of the prettiest car contest was Pat King and the Mad Dog award was given to Travis Long (\$250).

One of the best heats of the night was the Power Wheels Derby which pitted the littlest derby fans against each other with their battery powered cars.

A balloon was attached to each fender and bumper and the tykes were turned loose. Cars were considered out when each balloon was broke.

All 21 of the Power Wheels participants received a ribbon, but the overall winner, Mason Lunbeck, received \$25 in Chamber Bucks.

Further discussion on water options

by Cindy Glasson and Mark Dykes

The Hot Springs County Commissioners heard the results of the Big Horn Regional Southern Supply Level II Study on Tuesday afternoon which presented some interesting numbers should the town and county switch from surface based water to a well.

DOWL and WESTON completed the study, looking at two possible well options, Buffalo Creek Well #2 and the Lysite Mountain Well.

In the beginning, there is no doubt the project would be costly, but in the long run, would end up saving residents on their water bill.

Jeff Rosenlund with DOWL said the company would suggest the Lysite Well.

"The USDA is confident we would get a grant for the project at 67 percent," Rosenlund said. "There are other grant monies out there that could take that number even higher, reducing the cost further. Higher water usage would actually take costs down and if the town would eliminate the water treatment plant they would be eliminating those costs."

Rosenlund broke down the costs for the well and the pipeline, showing the well construction would be \$1.5 million, pipeline from Lysite to Lucerne would be \$26.7 million and then pipe from Lucerne to Thermopolis would be \$6.6 million.

There would be 23 miles of pipeline between the well and Thermopolis.

Going with the Lysite Well would mean costs like treatment, distribution and replacement funding for a water treatment plant would be gone.

The commissioners agreed that if water costs were lower, citizens would use more, watering lawns and such, making the water even cheaper, benefitting both the town and the county.

Rosenlund added that the water would not need treatment and would be coming into town at a higher pressure, too. Drilling could feasibly start the summer of 2019.

He pointed out the treatment plant is going to either need major upgrades or build a completely new one and grant monies for those projects is questionable.

Town council discussion

During the Tuesday night meeting of the Thermopolis Town Council, there was again some lengthy discussion regarding the possibility of drilling a well to provide groundwater for the town and outlying districts.

At their Aug. 7 meeting, council heard from Hot Springs County Rural Water Joint Powers Board (HSCRWJPB) representatives Tom Ryan and Phil Scheel. At that meeting, numbers were presented regarding the cost to town residents and the possibility of a rate increase. However, last night's meeting showed a radically different picture, with rates actually going down.

Information was presented by Neil Miller in a more condensed form than the multiple-page Level 2 study that had been done concerning the possibility of a well. The options studied include a well on Buffalo Creek and at Lysite Mountain, though the latter has been the subject of further study

See Water on page 8

Billboard creates controversy

by Mark Dykes

A billboard just a few miles outside Thermopolis welcomes people to Wyoming, though the message it has with it is stirring up some people. The sign, put up by Scott Weber and advertising his gun auction company, bids everyone a hearty "Welcome to Wyoming!" and lets people know "Here we Hunt, Trap, Shoot and wear Fur. Enjoy All!" Prominently featured on the billboard is a proud hunter with a grizzly bear he just bagged.

Weber, of Cody, said the billboard was put up in May or June, and was keyed into the grizzly season.

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 grizzlies would no longer be listed as "endangered."

However, the decision to delist the animals has been challenged and there is a hearing on the matter in federal court in Missoula, Mont. on Aug. 30.

It's not the first time Weber has started some controversy, as he started putting up the boards about 18 months ago, when wolves were being delisted, though he noted he's been fighting anti-

hunter boards for years. With a billboard about grizzly and wolf delisting, he received about 8,500 angry emails.

In particular, Weber said, Native Americans have gotten upset over his billboards. Bears and wolves have cultural and religious significance in Native American culture.

Those who are opposed to wolf and grizzly hunting have put up their own billboards, which could be seen as just as shocking if not more so. One in particular, which was put up in Cody in 2013 and quickly taken down, showed bloody remains of four wolves, with more "blood" dripping from the top of the sign, and stated "This is what is happening to your Yellowstone wolves. Do you care?"

Though he's had plenty of complaints from all over about the signs, Weber said he's also had plenty of compliments as well.

He said it was his intention to get people riled up, and he's seen a real good response. Many people like them, he said, and the controversy has certainly given his company plenty of exposure.

One thing's for sure. The sign war is far from over, as Weber is already planning on more billboards through the Cody area and around the gateway through Yellowstone Park, and Aug. 30 will see whether grizzlies will remain protected or not.



This billboard along Highway 120 a few miles from Thermopolis is creating controversy near and far.