



School board candidates answer questions

by Cindy Glasson

Teachers, parents and community members gathered Tuesday night for a Candidates Forum featuring the six people who are vying for three seats on the School Board.

Kendi Heinze, Daniel Pebbles, Sherman Skelton, Jennifer Axtell, Rick Englebrecht and Ronda Freel were on hand to answer a series of questions created by the Wyoming Board of Education.

Each of the candidates were given the time to introduce themselves and give their reasons for running for one of the open seats.

Sherman Skelton – A fifth generation resident of the county, Skelton said it is something altogether different to teach other chil-

dren, giving praise to the staff at all of the schools. He said his love for community runs deep and would like to continue to serve the community on the board.

Rick Englebrecht – Englebrecht, after a stint in the Air Force, began an engineering career, moving to Thermopolis in 1995. Passionate about public education, he helps out at the Shoshoni school when he can. He has taught adult education classes and is an advocate for kids and grandkids and wants to do the best for employees and community.

Ronda Freel – Freel has spent 34 of her 35 years teaching right here in Thermopolis. She has worked at all of the different schools in the district and feels its time for her to get

back into helping the kids and the community.

Kendi Heinze – Originally from Kaycee, Heinze has been living here the past eight years. A graduate of Chadron State College, Heinze has been the executive director of the EDC and currently works at Central Bank and Trust as a loan officer. She is an advocate for the children and believes they deserve the best education we can offer them.

Jennifer Axtell – Axtell has been on the board for the past four years and has a vested interest in the district's success. She has participated in board activities, presented on the state and national level and talked to legis-

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photo by Cindy Glasson

Orange you creative!

Kids of all ages spent their morning last Saturday picking and carving or decorating pumpkins, courtesy of Mack's Market. Dozens of pumpkins of all shapes and sizes were available for them to pull out the creative juices and start cutting.

Airport apron expansion project funding discussed

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday afternoon and discussed an application for supplemental funding for an apron expansion project at the airport.

In talking with TO Engineers, the commissioners learned chances of getting the grant look to be about 50/50 at this time, but more money is coming down in the next three years.

The grant would be a 100 percent grant amounting to about \$3 million, however, that is one of the smaller projects WYDOT and the FAA are looking at, so it could help our chances of getting on the list.

Every five years the county has to provide a request for quote (RFQ) for engineering services for the county as well as planning services. The board approved an RFQ and it will appear in the Casper paper for three weeks. Submissions will be reviewed in November and services granted the first part of December.

Chris Schmeltzer with Park County Implement of Cody was on hand to offer the county another great deal on leasing certain equipment needed for the airport and the courthouse.

Although the price of the lease has gone up, airport FBO Nate Messenger and Maintenance Supervisor Anthony Fruciano both agreed the equipment was much needed and helped them save a lot of time.

The commissioners approved the lease of two John Deere implements for the coming year.

A bid for replacing the roofing over the walk-in cooler at the Senior Center was approved as well.

Patterson Construction will be doing the project for \$8,880 with funding coming out of the original SLIB funding that allowed the replacement of the Senior Center roof.

The Pioneer Association approached the commissioners on Tuesday about purchasing the log house and property that is to the west of the museum.

Ray Shaffer, speaking for the association, told the commissioners they are considering the purchase, but have not made anything official as yet.

If they pursue the purchase, they would rent the home on the piece of property for a time to help pay off the loan for the purchase, and then would tear it down so it could be used as an annex to the museum.

If purchased, it would allow them to put a French drain in between the two property lines, abating the issue with water getting into the basement of the museum. A structure could be built on the property to house artifacts as well.

This would put the property in the hands of the county and the commissioners were not opposed to the purchase and felt it would be a good way to expand the museum down the road.

Girls cross country team takes state

by Mark Dykes

Those who weren't sure as to why there were so many sirens and lights in Thermopolis on Saturday night with

no sign of fires or accidents, it was to welcome home our Thermopolis Cross Country runners from State competition in Sheridan, and to congratulate the girls team, which was named the Class 2A champions for Wyoming.

On top of being named state champs, three of our girls — Tahja Hunt, McKenna Bomengen and Olivia Weyer — were selected by the Wyoming Coaches' Association as All-State in Cross Country. The three took top 10 spots for the girls team, Hunt placing second with 20:11.39, Bomengen in sixth with 21:11.75 and Weyer at ninth with 22:03.88.

But the accomplishments didn't stop there, as Hallie Martinez and Karsten

Hart had their personal records for the season, Martinez finishing 11th with 22:06.80 and Hart finishing with a time of 25:45.59 in the boys race.

they had to outrun them in order to get the top spot. Metz further noted everyone really raced with heart and passion at this meet.



courtesy photo by Lisa Bomengen

The Class 2A State Champions are, from left: McKenna Bomengen, Tahja Hunt, Olivia Weyer, Aime Robinson, Hallie Martinez and Rebekah Johnson.

Other times and placings for the girls included: Aime Robinson 13th 22:31.62 and Rebekah Johnson 25:47.92.

Coach Stephanie Metz said the girls have been pushing hard and knew what they had to do at State to get the win. They knew their competition and knew

times through the season and to just outside the top 10 at State.

Though there were highs and lows through the season, including not being able to compete at Regionals, Metz said the runners knew what they had to do and nothing got them down.

And it shows, as in addition to the personal records for Martinez and Hart all runners finished with better times than when they ran at Sheridan earlier in the season. All of the runners did their best, Metz said, and wore the uniform with pride. "It was a great day to be a Bobcat."

Overall, it was a good season, Metz said, noted they were in transition with sophomores becoming juniors, but those juniors brought their leadership to the team as well, helping Martinez bring up her