



Judge Overfield sworn in, robed

by Mark Dykes

Thursday, Nov. 8, was an emotional day for Bobbi Overfield, as she was joined by colleagues, friends and family – many who were a surprise for her – during her official robing as District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District. Overfield officially began in the position in October, selected by the Judicial Nominating Committee (JNC) to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Robert Skar.

The number of attendees spilled out into the hallway from the Hot Springs District Courtroom, with the most prominent table occupied by Justices of the Wyoming Supreme Court. Chief Justice Michael K. Davis, who later

would administer the official oath to Overfield, noted her appointment was because of her stellar career and personal characteristics that make for a good judge.

Weston Graham, president of the Wyoming State Bar, expressed congratulations on behalf of himself, his staff and the more than 3,000 attorneys licensed in Wyoming that he represents. The robing ceremony was special for Graham, as he considers Overfield his friend. “Regardless of whether I was president or not, I would be here. I would be in the audience, I’d just be in a different seat is all,” he said, add-

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Judge Bobbi Overfield receives her robe from husband Heath.



photo by Cindy Glasson

Flag raising at dawn

Members of the Big Horn Basin Riders and the VFW were up before dawn raising the flags at Monument Hill Cemetery, Hawk's Avenue of Flags, on Veteran's Day. The two groups, along with some volunteers, not only put the flags up in the early morning, but were back before sunset to carefully retire them and place them in their storage containers until they are used again.

Nearly 100 HSCHS students letter

by Mark Dykes

Monday night was the annual Academic Letter Banquet at Hot Springs County High School, with 99 students receiving their letters and/or pins. In order to receive a letter, a student must have been on the honor roll in the fall and spring semester of their previous year.

Prior to the presentation of awards, Superintendent Dustin Hunt expressed appreciation to the parents for helping make education a priority in their children's lives. “Parents are truly our partners,” Hunt said, “and by placing value on education it becomes a value to your students.”

Hunt also appreciates the teachers and staff for the time they put in, and is especially grateful to the students who have followed through to take advantage of the opportunity for a Wyoming public education. Hunt also pointed out the students continue to create history and build legacy in the district, with 99 students being among the highest receiving academic letters and seniors last year earning more than \$500,000 in scholarships.

Also impressive to Hunt was this year's Homecoming, with the students showing they know how to have a good time and show school spirit. What most impressed him was their remembering Homecoming

is a community event and ensuring everyone got to have fun.

Hunt reached out to his former students, teachers and classmates to gather some advice to the students as they go forward. That advice includes refusing to be denied, finding something they love and a way to make a living doing that, thinking about and getting to what they see as their next level.



NHS inductees Krynne McGinty, Ashley McPhie, Olivia Weyer, McKenna Bomen-gen, Kaylee DeVries, Ben Manning, Breeze Petty, Audrey Axtell, Ashley Brawley, Tyler Kay, Taydee Landrum, Sterling Gerber, Hannah Hu and Erica Meier.

The superintendent also advised students to be grateful for living in a community that values education, and for their teachers and parents.

Those earning awards Monday night were Naomi Bishop, McKenna Bomen-gen, Ashley Brawley, KyAnn Calhoun, Jasmine Collins, Oran Coyne, Brianna DeVries, Kolby George, Hannah Hu, Tahja Hunt, Dood Jaussaud, Kelly Johnson, Tyler Kay, Barbara Kissel, Dakota Leonhardt, Ashley McPhie, Breeze Petty, Lane Randall, Hyrum Rich, Dayna Sandberg, Reagan Severance, Madeline Stam, Jasman Steadman, Barden

Steere, Jeffery VanAntwerp, Olivia Weyer, Grace Whitt, Audrey Axtell, Tamara Bleak, Oakley Bowman, Patricia Capelle, Jeffrey Clark, Mya Conrad, Leam Daniels, Kaylee DeVries, Akeyla Franklin, Sterling Gerber, Ian Harbin, Destiny Harris, Jaxson Jensen, Jazmen Jensen, Courtney Jeune-homme, Rebekah Johnson, McKayla Layman, Hayden Little, Savannah Magelky,

Krynne McGinty, Jolie Nicodemus, Emme Norsworthy, Dani Jo Pebbles, Aime Robinson, Kyle Roessing, Jaden Schierkolk, Charles Vialpando, Kiara Warman, Elisa Weber, Hailie Weber, Chase White, Kalli Blandford, Katie Burrows, Maggie Cable, Joshua Canfield, Logan Cole, Colton Dobbins, Owen Douglas, Remington Ferree, Sequoia Fishbaugh, Aaron Hanson, Aaron Harvey, Jonathan Harvey, Austin Ireland, Aspen Jensen, Sesilili Jensen, Taydee Landrum, Monte Love, Chandler Maddock, John Maier, Benjamin Manning, Cody Mayfield, Sydney McGinty, Cade McLean, Erica Meier, Savana Meier, Ryan Miller, Sean Miller, Jarron Mortimore, Corianna Nolan, Ramsay Owens, Aidan Ozmon, Seth Parker, Matthew Reynolds, Reilly Russell, Riley Shaffer, Kaylee Shook, Tyson Tobar,

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Move made to acquire property adjoining county museum

by Mark Dykes

The Hot Springs County Pioneer Association (Pioneers) is spearheading an initiative to raise funding to acquire property adjoining the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Rarely does an opportunity present itself whereby the community can join together to improve our museum.

Museums, as a rule, not only offer a glimpse of our past but offer opportunity for us and future generations to continue to document the story of our custom and culture in our unique part of the world. Our museum not only draws tourism dollars, but also offers a venue for community meetings and entertainment, and a place of learning for both children and adults.

At present, the museum's collection of archives has outgrown the room to display them. Several buildings of storage are needed to contain collections of relics and research data.

The property adjoining the museum has been offered for sale, so with the idea that

“unless we grow, we die,” the Pioneers have made an offer of \$105,000 for the property. The property contains a four-bedroom log home with an unattached double garage situated on 1.5 lots.

The Pioneers have committed themselves to raise the funds within the next 60 days in order to purchase the property with a cash payment, and are asking the community to come alongside in an effort to meet their goal by mid-December. A committee has been organized to offer various options for folks to contribute toward the goal, and these opportunities will be published in the Independent Record going forward.

As the Pioneers are a 501c3 non-profit, all donations are tax deductible. As year-end approaches, consider making a tax deductible donation toward this worthy cause. Donations can be made to Hot Springs County Pioneer Association Special Account and sent to HSC Pioneer Assn., P.O. Box 11, Thermopolis, WY 82443, marked Attention: Bonnie Bauer.