



Drug busts lead to multiple arrests

by Mark Dykes

A total of five people have been arrested on drug-related felony charges, with one bust believed by Hot Springs County Sergeant Deputy Jeremie Kraushaar to be the biggest in the county for meth.

Kraushaar reported he had received information previously that Tyler Kihlstrom was returning from Utah with a large quantity of methamphetamine. The information was provided to Probation and Parole, which reported Kihlstrom had not appeared for his last scheduled appearance. That, Kraushaar said, provided him the authority to do

a traffic stop and search on Kihlstrom's vehicle on Aug. 1.

Kraushaar also noted Kihlstrom had been cited in Washakie County for use of meth a few days prior.

Prior to the stop, Kraushaar was informed there were secret hiding areas in the vehicle. Upon search of the vehicle, Kraushaar located a substance that appeared to be marijuana behind a vent. He also found a weight he knew is often used to calibrate scales.

A second deputy, Jon Bartlett, was called to the scene to assist in the search, and found pieces of what appeared to be broken glass

behind another vent.

Inside an area next to the glove box, Kraushaar said, there was a glasses case located containing seven small bags with a substance that appeared to be meth, a measuring spoon and hypodermic syringes. Reaching further into a cavity under the dash uncovered a large bag with four medium sized baggies, a large amount of suspected meth including a big chunk and a digital scale.

Kihlstrom was arrested, and the suspected substances returned presumptive positive

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photo by Mark Dykes

Pageant, festival packs town

by Mark Dykes

This past weekend was one of the more active in Thermopolis, with the Big Horn Basin Folk Festival and Gift of the Waters Pageant.

Toddi Darlington, who co-chairs the festival with Linda Herrin, said this year saw 51 booths featuring food, fine art, folk art and trading post items. There was a slight increase in Saturday visitors as well, Darlington noted, though Sunday it appeared there were more participants than people coming through. Darlington added there was a bit of a rush when church let out.

The festival had 17 master craftsmen over the two days, showing crafts such as drum making, leather craft, weaving, creating beads, tying flies, creating clay animals and wood working. The art activities tent, which is geared more toward kids' activities, had 84 people painting rocks in three hours. There were also baskets being woven and beaded key chains made.

At the main pavilion, Darlington said, there were a number of musicians entertaining, some with crowds of 80 or more. Storytellers also presented their tales, she said, with crowds of 40 to 50. Darlington said the storytelling was quite interesting, as members of the Hot Springs County Pioneer Association shared tales of the homesteading of the Wind River Canyon and Hamilton Dome, as well as local history.

According to the vendors she spoke to, Darlington said it looks like they had great sale days. Overall, she heard plenty of compliments on the festival including some who think this was the best year in its four-year history.

Vendors pay fees to set up their booths, and Darlington said that money goes to the local Kiwanis, which uses it for kids projects and scholarships.

As for the pageant, Gift of the Waters Committee Treasurer Barb Vietti said it went great and though there were a couple "hiccups" with the sound system and the rainy weather those were overcome. She was happy to see the pageant had more participants than it has in years, and the crowds were estimated at about 500 on Saturday and 200 on Sunday.

Gift of the Waters Committee President

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Quick steps

One of many Native American dancers performs a War Dance following the Gift of the Waters Pageant Parade on Saturday morning. Parade winners were: Overall — Gottsche, 12 and Under — Crimson Dietz, 13-18 — Hot Springs County/4-H Shooting Sports, Individual — Dan Pebbles, and Organization — Hot Springs County Republican Party.

Two sheriff's candidates answer questions at forum

by Mark Dykes

Monday night at the Hot Springs County Fair Building, several members of the community gathered to ask questions of the candidates for county sheriff in a no host public forum. Though all candidates were invited to speak at the forum, only Dan Pebbles and Tom Christensen attended.

After each candidate provided a brief introduction, those attending were allowed to ask questions, the first of which was in regard to working with the schools. Christensen said he knows there is a tight budget and not a lot to spend toward a school resource officer. He expressed concern of how current man hours are being used, and how some of the time could be allotted to school system.

Pebbles said he would like to see not just one but three school resource officers — one for each building — and he is also a proponent for possibly arming some of the teachers, noting it would be a good idea for those who are confident and maintain the training. Pebbles said the schools are moving toward a more secure environment but he would lobby for a school resource officer and, as sheriff, he plans to spend time at the schools.

The next question was in regard to the building of the Prevention Management Coalition, and opportunities for the sheriff's office to work with that coalition and any ideas to prevent against drug and alcohol use, and suicide, in schools. Pebbles said he recently attended a conference and received a drug resistance program

for high school students, and would like to be part of the coalition to fight drug use not just at the high school level but middle school and elementary.

Christensen said he would also like to be part of the group, possibly assigning a deputy to be a liaison. He said starting drug abuse education at a lower age would be helpful, as high school students are often already lost, and he would support the effort.

Asked about being a working sheriff, Christensen said a sheriff should be available and not have an unlisted phone number and be available to the public. He said it would be his responsibility if he were elected, to take care of any problem people might have.

Pebbles said being a working sheriff is imperative, and his experience, knowledge and training would be beneficial in training deputies.

The questions again came back to drug problems in the community and why someone can't be brought in to do controlled buys. Pebbles said drugs are an "every opportunity" kind of thing, meaning law enforcement needs to be talking to people involved with criminal activity every day in order to further their information. He added drugs are a community problem and people are needed in the community to provide any information they can.

Christensen said drugs are community problem and information provided allows officers to focus on specific individuals

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Livestock auction raises more than \$117,000

by Mark Dykes

The stands were full again this year with people coming out to support the county 4-H and FFA at the 2018 Junior Livestock Auction and Judges' Choice Bake Sale, Friday night at the fairgrounds. The total sales were \$117,023.30, up more than \$13,000 from last year.

Twenty-nine head of swine sold for a total \$30,775.50, at an average price of \$1,061.22 per head. Grand Champion Bridger Peil's animal sold for \$5.50 per pound, for a total \$1,479.50. This was also the highest price per pound. The buyer was One Eyed Buffalo.

Reserve Champion Remington Ferree chose not to sell his animal. The average price per pound was \$4.08

Twenty-five sheep sold for \$14,425.75, with an average price of \$577.03 per head. Grand Champion Tymber Eckley chose not to sell her animal, and Reserve Champion Remington Ferree's animal sold for \$4.25 per pound for a total \$603.50. The buyer was Thurgood Hay Grinding.

The high price per pound was \$6.75, paid on Cannon Boren's animal by Scott Miller Construction. The average price per pound was \$4.41.

Seventeen beef sold for a total \$66,797.05, at an average price of \$3,929.24 per head. Grand Champion Eli McCumber's animal sold for \$3.85 per pound, for a total \$5,286.05. McCumber's animal also brought the high price per pound. The buyer was McCumber Well Service.

Reserve Champion Maile McCumber's animal sold for \$3.75 per pound, for a total \$4,890. The buyer was R & C Trucks. The average price per pound was \$3.39.

In addition to animals, there were plenty of baked goods sold as well, bringing in a total \$5,025.



photo by Mark Dykes

Lined up

Remington Ferree sets his sheep during the auction.