

Wrestlers represent well at Ron Thon Memorial Tournament

Bobcats place eleventh against forty-one teams

by Daniel Powell

The Hot Springs County High School Bobcats wrestlers made their annual trek to Riverton last weekend for the Ron Thon Memorial Tournament. The Tournament draws the best wrestlers from around the State of Wyoming, and this year featured forty-one Wyoming teams. The Cats scored 98.5 team points – good enough for a tie for an eleventh place finish in the team standings. The Cats were the top 2A team at the event, and scored more than ten points over their regional foe, Kemmerer.

Coach Travis McDermott said “The Bobcats placed four wrestlers in this tournament - the most that I can recall we have ever done. The boys had a great tournament, with some great upsets.”

Sophomores Dyllan Myers and Cannon Boren, each had great tournaments, making their way into the championship matches, with each securing runner-up finishes.

“Dyllan made a statement - knocking off Vendetti of Green River in the quarter-finals. Vendetti was the number one ranked 4A wrestler in the state, and was the number one seed in the tournament. He then beat Gallup of Kelly Walsh in the semi-finals, to put himself into

the championship match against Johnson of Green River.”

“In the championship, Dyllan made a run in the third period, but ran out of time, as he was about to get a take-down. Dyllan has become one of the best in the state this year, and his mindset is strong to make a serious run at a State Championship later this month.”

“Cannon continued his impressive season, making it into the championship, thru a tough 132 lb. bracket. While his semi-final wasn’t the ending that any of us wanted - with an injury default over Young of Rock Springs - he definitely deserved to reach the championship match.”

“Boren faced Wilson of Pinedale, a two-time State Champion, in the final. Cannon had some impressive scrambles, with Wilson on his feet, but just couldn’t get off the bottom. He lost a close one, with a 6 to 3 score to finish second, and made it two-for-two in placing at Ron Thon Tournaments.”

Seniors Sam Skelton and Brody Sorensen also had great tournaments, and were able to place in their final year of Ron Thon action. “Sam had a tough draw, but turned heads, knocking off the number two seed, and number one ranked, Bremmer of Lingle-Fort Laramie Southeast.

After falling behind in the match, Sam got to the top position in the second period and cradled Bremmer for pin, with only a short time left in the period”

“This was a great win for Sam, and sets him up well for a state title run. Sam ended up with a fifth place finish, to get his first Ron Thon placing.”

“Brody had a great tournament, finishing third. Brody had a battle every match, and his only loss was to a familiar foe, Crow of Sheridan. Brody next won his consolation-semi against Jones of Mountain View, and then knocked off the 3A number one ranked, Haley of Pinedale for a third place finish.”

Ethan Yarrington and Haeden Blair achieved wins for the Varsity team, while Tannen Birdsley, Kaycee Mackay, and Ryan Axtell all had wins for the JV team.

Summing up the Tournament, Coach McDermott said, “Overall, everyone wrestled tough, and had a good mindset for such a large tournament.”

With the wrestling season beginning to wind down, the Bobcats will head to Powell on Thursday for a dual, and will then face Moorcroft on Friday, and Greybull on Saturday, at the Greybull Duals Tournament.

Small Lady Cats team bring home big wins

by Daniel Powell

The Hot Springs County High School Lady Cats wrestlers were in Riverton last weekend, to compete in the annual Ron Thon Tournament. The Tournament is one of the largest in the State of Wyoming, and draws competitors from all over the state. This year, thirty-eight schools sent girls teams to match their skills against the best lady wrestlers in Wyoming.

The Lady Cats have just five wrestlers this year, with all five battling mightily in support of their team. The team finished the tournament in sixteenth place, scoring 70.5 team points. Commenting on the outcome, Coach Travis McDermott said, “This is the toughest tournament of the season for our Lady Cats, and the they all competed very hard - as they always do.”

Sophomore Lilly Quintanilla led the way for the Lady Cats, securing her second Ron Thon Title, together with her second, consecutive Outstanding Wrestler Award. “Lilly dropped a weight this week to find more competition. She walked her way to the championship, pinning all four of her opponents. The Championship featured two of the top undefeated wrestlers in the state.”

“Lilly met senior Laynee Walker, of Kemmerer, and the two put on the match of the tournament, with Lilly controlling most of the way. The match seemed a lot closer than the final 14-1 score. Lilly showed why she is ranked number one.”

After another successful tournament, junior Alix Sorensen brought home a third place finish. “Alix had a tough semi-final match, that I know she was disappointed with.

This is the third year in a row that Alix has placed at Ron Thon, making her the first to ever do so for Thermopolis.”

Freshman Izzie Hetzel drew a tough opponent in the bracket round, but still managed to wrestle well. “Izzie won her first match, and then battled with the eventual champion, Plant of Rock Springs, in the quarter-finals. Izzie gave everything, and just ran out of time, losing 12-10.

Sophomores Ava Dafoe and Summer Galovich each had wins in their respective brackets.

Summing up, Coach McDermott said, “Izzie, Ava and Summer are all good enough to place at this tough tournament, but they just had some tough draws in their brackets.”

This week, the Lady Cats will battle the Panthers in Powell on Thursday night, and will then wrestle at the Greybull Duals on Friday and Saturday.

WDE releases graduation rates

The Wyoming Department of Education announced that the four-year on-time high school graduation rate for schools throughout Wyoming remained relatively consistent at 81.6 percent in 2023-24, a slight increase of 0.2 percent from 81.4 percent in 2022-23.

For 2023-24, Hot Springs County High School’s graduation rate is 78.7%. In 2022-23 Hot Springs County’s graduation was slightly lower, it was 78.3%.

Wyoming’s on-time graduation rates have remained above 80 percent since 2015-16. 6,344 students graduated in 2023-24, with 6,193 in the four-year on-time cohort—the largest class since the inception of the federal cohort rate in 2009-10.

Hot Springs County High School students scored 54% in mathematics proficiency, 70% in reading proficiency, and 57% in science proficiency.

DEADLINES

- Legal Notices: Friday - 4 p.m.
- Display Ads: Monday - Noon
- Classified Ads: Monday - Noon
- Obituaries: Monday - 5 p.m.



P.O. Box 31 Thermopolis, WY 82443 • 431 Broadway St.
Phone: 307-864-2328 • news@thermopir.com

Public notices

Public Hearing on the Hot Springs County Supply Evaluation, Level II study.

When: February 13, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.
Where: Hot Springs County Annex - Meeting Room
117 N. 4th Street
Thermopolis, WY 82443

The Wyoming Water Development Commission will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the above listed project. The Commission will also be seeking information as to whether the proposed project functions and services can be served by any person, association or corporation engaged in private enterprise.

Representatives of the Water Development Commission, the project engineering team, and the project sponsor may be present to explain the proposed project and to record comments.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

For more information contact:
Wyoming Water Development Office
6920 Yellowtail Road
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7626

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COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on January 21, 2025, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Tony Larson, John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes, and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Jim Jeune-

homme, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett, and Town Attorney Marshall Keller.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the agenda as written.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the financial statement for December 2024.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: OEB SALOON – CATERING PERMIT: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve a catering permit for OEB Saloon for Hot Springs Health party on January 25, 2025, at the Fairgrounds, from 3pm to 12am. Permission was given by the Fair Board.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: 7 LAZY S CAFE & BAR – CATERING PERMIT: Larson made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve a catering permit for 7 Lazy S for a Galantines Event at 444 Broadway on February 6, 2025, from 4pm to 8pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: VARIANCE REQUEST – 107 BROADWAY: Jeunehomme noted the variance request is to allow the use of the existing foundation/basement at 107 Broadway. The current modular home is to be removed and will be replaced by another home. The basement extends into a five-foot setback required by town code. Removing the foundation/basement would be expensive, hence the variance request. Additional discussion ensued on changes to deed descriptions over time and the lack of a plat. The public hearing was opened at 7:15 pm. Discussion ensued on legal descriptions, the 8’ and 10’ walls in the basement and the lack of a plat. Estenson noted the hardship burden for the variance has been met. Keller noted the lack of a plat and the variance are two separate issues. The hearing was closed at 7:22 pm. Hughes made a motion and Lewis seconded to approve the variance request. Estenson and Jeunehomme noted they do not believe the variance

would set precedence. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Nothing at this time.

TOWN ATTORNEY: AMENDING 24HR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE APPLICATIONS & SALES: Keller read the proposed ordinance which would improve the efficiency of the permitting process and allow for administration to approve permits. Lewis made a motion and Dorman seconded to approve the first reading of the ordinance. Keller suggested changing the “new events” wording. Following discussion, the wording will be changed to “annual” for the second reading. Motion carried.

CODES ADMINISTRATION: PLAT ISSUE: Jeunehomme noted the property lines may not be correct. Discussion ensued on surveying the area. Keller noted the town could survey the area, but the negotiation between property owners is not the Town’s responsibility. Keller will research the plat issue.

ADMINISTRATION: EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: At 7:39 pm Hughes made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried, to enter executive session, as allowed under state statute 16-4-405 (a)(ix). At 7:52 pm the executive session ended.

ADMINISTRATION: HOT SPRINGS RURAL JOINT POWERS BOARD: Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried, to appoint Jim Jeunehomme to the Hot Springs Rural Joint Powers Board for a three-year term.

ADMINISTRATION: BIG HORN BASIN NATURE & DISCOVERY CENTER: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson to appoint Joe Moon to the joint County/Town board seat on the Nature & Discovery Center Board. The County appointed Moon earlier in the day. Motion carried.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: OWL CREEK WATER DISTRICT – LETTER OF SUPPORT: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the mayor’s signature on a letter of support for the district, who is applying for a grant for automated flushers on their water line. Additional discussion

ensued about a water line break earlier in the day and how residents were notified. Jeunehomme noted text-my-gov was used. At 8:02pm Hughes made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to adjourn. The next Council meeting is February 4, 2025, at 7pm.

ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule, Clerk/Treasurer	Adam R. Estenson, Mayor
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Notice of application for 2025-2026 Liquor License Renewals.

Notice is hereby given that on the dates given, the following applications were received for liquor license renewals. **RETAIL:** OEB LLC, 528 Broadway St., January 10, 2025; 7 Lazy S Café & Bar LLC, 109 S. 6th, January 9, 2025; Compass Realty Group/Thermopolis Liquors, 615 S. 6th, January 13, 2025; Mack’s Market Inc., 600 S. 6th, December 16, 2024; OEB Saloon, LLC, 500 S. 6th, January 10, 2025; Grand Cru Enterprises LLC, 735 S 6th, December 26, 2024; Maverik Inc., 425 S. 6th, December 30, 2024; Big Spring Spa Inc/Safari Club, 115 E. Park, January 15, 2025 and. **BAR & GRILL:** OEB LLC/One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Co., 535 Broadway, January 10, 2025; Lopez, Inc., Los Cabos, 942 Shoshoni, January 16, 2025, VFW Post #2281, 302 Broadway, January 17, 2025. **MICROBREWERY:** OEB LLC/One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Co., 528 Broadway, January 10, 2025. Protest, if there be any, against issuance of any of these licenses, will be heard at the hour of 7:00 p.m., February 18, 2025, at the Thermopolis Town Hall, 420 Broadway.

Tracey Van Heule,
Thermopolis Town Clerk

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