Skates files for HD28 position

by Cindy Glasson

Fifth generation Wyoming native Connie Skates has made the decision to run for Wyoming's House District 28 seat on the Democratic ticket.

Born and raised in Rawlins, Skates moved to Thermopolis six years ago with her husband, Kevin, who is employed with the Hot Springs State Park superintend. She's served on several boards over the years, including the Rawlins City Council. She has been director of the Rawlins Chamber of Commerce and served on the Old Ponitary AIins Board.

Skates says Wyoming's heritage speaks for itself.

"As a state, I think we're on the right course," she said. "In my state, we stand more on our own. We're a sovereign state with our own ideas," she said. "I like that. I think the states need to stand more on their own."

"Our resources are what drives us – the coal, the wind power, oil and gas. We think those resources need to come back to our citizens."

The application period for the primary election ends June 1. Hot Springs County Clerk Hans Odde said applications for running for office could still be picked up at the clerk's office in the courthouse.

Applications for the Town of Thermopolis positions are available at town hall, and Kirby and East Thermopolis applications are available at their respective town halls.

Trustees approve ‘steps and lanes’ for district staff

• Continuation of the district contribution of 2.8 percent to health insurance premiums, spouses fulfill either of those requirements.

• Addition of one additional sick day for part-time classified employees.

A $200 defined benefit for returning principals Jason McArthur and Deb Brown and curriculum director Janet Phillips.

As reported earlier, district employees are expected to see a 4 percent increase in their health insurance premiums for 2012-13 and a 7 percent hike in their dental and vision premiums, and a blood draw during the April health fair in Thermopolis or to have a blood draw Wednesday – both through Wyoming Health Fair – district employees’ health insurance premiums would not increase for the next school year. At least 60 percent of the employees and spouses fulfill either of those requirements.

District Superintendent Dustin Hunt said he was pleased to see trustees adopt the board's request to approve the “steps and lanes” for employees. "The board's work is to be able to make it possible."

May 17 meeting details

During the May 17 regular board meeting, trustees heard a district initiative report from high school principal Jason McArthur and vocational agriculture teacher Britton Van Houze, approved third and final reading on two policy revisions and passed a motion to approve the second reading on two other policies.

The report by McArthur and Van Houze was on an "action research project," that focused on the graduation rate in the district over the last four years. The research showed "why we have lost students in the past," McArthur said.

The graduation rate in the district for the 2010-11 school year was 52 percent.

By Joe Sova

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 trustees approved 2012-13 school year salaries and benefits after a 90-minute executive session during a special meeting Tuesday evening.

By unanimous vote, trustees approved:

- "Steps and lanes" for all certified and classified staff.

- On a State of Wyoming contingency Joint Powers Board.

- Continuation of the district contribution of 2.8 percent to district staff's health insurance premiums.

- A $200 defined benefit for returning principals.

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The team consisting of Thermopolis agriculture students came out on top over Cindy Benton - Owners - in an elec- tric car race on the last day of school Friday at the high school track. The ag team’s solar-powered vehicle completed 13 laps, nine more than the science car. At right, teacher Jim Cramer the science squad. Above, Jenn Cra- mer team while London Jenks headed about to fail because the gear ratio was running, but the science vehicle was completed 15 laps, nine more than the sci- ence car race on the last day of school topped over the science team in an elec -

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The board moved to approve revision of job de- scriptions for the transportation supervisor and maintenance manager positions on second read- ing. However, after executive session late in the meeting, they tabled indefinitely and put the revision on the revision of the job description for the food services manager.

Treasurers motioned to approve two sub- contracts with Northwest Wyoming Boulevard of Cooperative Educational Services. They were for $20,683.75 for April 30-June 30 and $58,625 for April 4-June 30, both that year.

The board moved to advertise for physical ther- apy services for the 2012-13 school year.

Tomlin High Springs County Recreation District board member Gunn Thomsen moved and Gary Zillmer seconded the motion to have a new $75 fee for a vehicle at a home game, plus $50 for a vehicle at a road game.

The boarders approved the 2012-13 school budget, which included $38,625.75 for the transportation department. The boarders approved the 2012-13 school budget, which included $38,625.75 for the transportation department.

For the past 15 years, Hot Springs County’s chief health officer has served hundreds of thousands of miles, from home to school and back, across the state for academics and athletics, music and school trips – all thanks to the dedication of Thermopolis maintenance assistant Jeff Miller. "I've missed emotions (about retiring)." Miller said. "I've worked all my life."

McArthur said the males are not leaving the district is a 100-percent graduation rate.

He's really looking forward to doing what she wants, she said. "I'll be teaching swimming lessons in the pool this summer."

We're going to go through Idaho to the Or- egon coast, through San Francisco to Monterey, we're planning a coastal vacation in their one-rental home, "We're going to take all two-rooms to rent."

We'll be looking at Mosquito Spit, a bit, maybe start spending our winters there.

But not to worry, Miller said they don't intend to leave Thermopolis forever, just the winters. "We want to take to many foreign friends here."

Other retirement plans include working more community oriented projects, farming and getting back into gardening.

We used to garden, you know," he said. He's built some raised boxes, winch-high ones, and dug into a water well for those plants to still travel and the plants don't die. It's still in the experimental stages right now, so we se-

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School board

well above the state average, but the goal of the district is a 100 percent graduation rate.

McArthur and Van Heule indicated most stu- dents drop out of school before they are identified before they reach sixth grade. While reading ability fig- ures play a large role, drop-out rates are also a strong correlation between dropouts and the use of alco- hol, tobacco and drugs.

They indicated parental support and expecta- tions are among the most important influences on students’ behavior and academic performance, especially for students of middle school age. The reason this project shows one-third of dropouts occurred in ninth grade nationally, while most local dropouts occurred in 11th grade. McArthur explained that could be because those students are well be- hind on credits and are a year behind in high school.

The study shows 75 percent of dropouts in Hot Springs County over the four-year period were male. However, McArthur said the males are not dropping out and going into the service (i.e. Army, Navy, etc.).

McArthur and Van Heule indicated they would start to compile an action plan to address the drop- out issue in the school district.

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-needed parents to express support for their children, to stay involved in the decision-making process, and to set high expectations for their children’s success.”

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