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More than 200 people attended the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet at the fair building Saturday night. Folks feasted on prime rib, beer-boiled shrimp and all-you-can-eat king crab legs. — Cindy Glasson photo

Chamber banquet deemed huge success

by J.D. Stetson

Residents and businesses partied down luau-style Saturday at the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet at the fair building.

The popular event heralded the start of spring by offering a meal reminiscent of warmer weather and allowing people a chance to get out of their winter doldrums, said Executive Director Michelle Lue.

About 204 people attended the event, down slightly from 206 in 2011, Lue said.

The chamber pre-sold more tickets this year with about 180 compared to 142 in

2011. Tickets sold at the door were down.

"It went awesome," Lue said. "I think everyone enjoyed their time."

The banquet went very smoothly without any problems, Lue said.

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No outsourcing for food service

by Joe Sovo

Hot Springs County School District No. 1 will not be outsourcing its food service program for the 2012-13 school year.

An item under Old Business for the March 22 regular meeting of the board of trustees to consider approval and advertising for a request for proposal to outsource the program was removed from the agenda. The Wyoming Department of Education determined the option to hire an outside company to manage food service programs was not an option for the 2012-13 school year due to the state timeline in preparation for such outsourcing.

In essence, the district's food service program will remain basically "status quo" for at least the 2012-13 school year. Trustees were to consider the option to help alleviate reductions in the budget for the next fiscal year.

Also during the budget discussion, superintendent Dustin Hunt recommended the reduction of .43 FTE (full-time equivalent) in a middle school social studies position, in alignment with the original request from last year. It was also recommended the district discontinue its Gottsche Sports Training contract by not renewing it for 2012-13.

In action by the board, only the teaching position reduction was approved. The sports training contract issue would be addressed at a later date.

Following an 80-minute executive session, trustees unanimously passed a motion to offer 19 initial teaching contracts to employees for the 2012-13 school year as well as 43 continuing teaching contracts. Offers for seven non-teaching contracts were also approved.

Contracts were not offered to three teachers since they will

retire at the end of the 2011-12 school year. They are Dr. John "Jeb" Schenck, Kathy Taylor and Cindy Toth. Jamie Snyder, a new elementary teacher in the district this school year, submitted her resignation; it was approved by the board earlier in the meeting.

Trustees approved the employment of Jere Apland as maintenance and grounds director, effective April 2, and Jerry Bowman as transportation director, effective July 1. Phil Miller, who is retiring at the end of this school year, holds both positions.

Based on board action, high school principal Jason McArthur will assume duties as director of the Special Services/Alternative Program, effective July 1.

Here are the school district employees who will be offered contracts for the 2012-13 school year, based on action by the board of trustees during the March 22 regular meeting:

Initial Teaching Contracts

Rebecca Bean, Beth Breining, Shau-na Cannon, Emma Christoffersen, Staci Curry, Brenna Dooley, Kristin Francisco, Philip Goodell III, Anna Goor, London Jenks, Devan Jones, Holli Klassen, Nichole Koerwitz, Samantha Kokesh, Mary McGil-livray, Mallory Nelson, Amy Ready, Cate-lyn Shue and Travis Winger.

Non-Teaching Contracts

Sierra Barber, Janet Chimenti, Jenny Davis, Davis S. Duncan, Amy Mason, Cody McLean and Lonnie Music.

Continuing Teaching Contracts

Bryan Bailey, Kimberly Carswell, Jennifer Chamberlain, Sharon Cordingly, James Cramer, Breez Daniels, Donna Daniels, Toby Emery, Ronda Freely, Jennifer Graham, Lisa Herold, Kent Hesselthaler, Sonja Holm, Bret Hoover, Kara Hulse, Heidi Hunt, Kara Jones, Carol Johnson, Jocelyn Jurovich, Eric Kay, Aimee Kay, Pamela Kerr, Jody Kummerfeld, Catherine Lash, James C. Lash, Debra Law, Matt Mason, Madonna McIntosh, Mary Myers, James Newby, Dustin Olsen, Thomas A. Olsen, Brenda Peterman, Lisa G. Pierce, Parke Price, Kathie Richardson, Bill Ricketts, Sarah Spring, Charles Syverson, Kay Uffelman, Britton VanHeule, Kathleen Vicklund and Jennifer Weber.

Commissioners, WYDOT, FAA, GDA discuss airport construction time line

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners held a work session with the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and GDA Engineers Monday to discuss the construction time line for the new Hot Springs County Airport.

According to Dusty Spomer with GDA, some equipment and a survey crew were moved out to the site Monday morning.

A plan will be formulated on relocation of various buildings on the property as there are certain guidelines in the relocation contract that must be followed.

The county has been very clear on what is and isn't eligible for relocation; however, it is going to be a complicated process, so a single point of contact between the four entities was determined in order to ensure all information is distributed properly.

The actual design for the airport

is set to be a "B2" class with flexibility within the plan that would allow for an upgrade to a "C2" class in the future. Some items in the plan are already set at "C2" standards.

The next set of plans, the master design, will be available in May. WYDOT and the FAA agree the design is smart planning, looking ahead on the part of the commissioners and GDA.

The original vision of the commissioners for the airport was to

have a safe, usable airport — nothing extravagant. That vision is still in place, making sure the design and budget match, including a quarterly review to stay within the funding parameters.

A project status report will be distributed every week by GDA and a monthly meeting with the commissioners will be held at 1 p.m. every first Tuesday of the month. A monthly newsletter on the project's progress will also be available on the Hot Springs County website.

New leadership roles presented at hospital

by J.D. Stetson

Change has come to the Hot Springs County Hospital Board of Trustees.

At its meeting Tuesday night, the board welcomed new member Heath Overfield and heard from several new people in leadership positions at the hospital.

Overfield stated after the meeting he thought it went "fantastic." He said he was motivated to join the board because he was looking for an opportunity to serve the public.

He added others in the community also thought his expertise may be helpful as the board moves toward either renovation or building a new facility.

The key person of the night was Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Robin Roling, who started the meeting with a presentation of the hospital's mission, vision and values to provide quality health care to the citizens of Hot Springs County while also acting with fiscal responsibility.

Roling broke those values down into five "pillars" of the hospital and provided key steps for the hospital to work on in order to live up to its mission and improve upon.

Throughout the evening and in future meetings, individuals charged with overseeing each pillar will have the opportunity to provide status and direction for their respective area.

They include: Quality, overseen by Quality, Compliance and Risk Director Bryan Evensen; Customer Service, overseen by Customer Service Director TJ Schoenewald; Financials, overseen by Chief Financial Officer Shelly Larson; People, overseen by Human Resources Director Patti Jeunehomme; and Growth, overseen by Roling.

During the presentation, Roling gave summaries of each pillar, which were previously discussed and identified during the board's retreat at the beginning of the month and through research Roling had performed since starting the first week of March.

Items discussed during the meeting included the hospitals response to quality assurance, reducing the time it takes to send out bills for medical services, electronic medical records, staff morale and recruitment of a radiologist and new orthopaedic surgeon.

Roling informed the board of Dr. David A. Cook's retirement scheduled for June.

Dads and Daylight



Steve Medvigy and his sons Carson, left, and Tanner enjoy breakfast in the Ralph Witters Elementary com-

mons Friday morning during a Lights On "Dads and Daylight" event. — Joe Sovo photo

