

Hospital districting bill passes second reading in House

by J.D. Stetson

Senate File 19, the hospital district elections bill, has made it past second reading in the Wyoming House of Representatives.

The bill, which is sponsored by Sen. Gerald Geis, hit the floor Monday after receiving a recommendation to pass from the House Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions committee on Feb. 5 by a unanimous vote.

The hospital district elections bill allows county commissioners to pass a resolution to bring the issue of a hospital district to the ballot. It streamlines and removes prior state requirements to take the issue to the ballot.

During the first reading Monday, the House passed one amendment requiring the commissioners to provide 30 days notice before any meeting where the resolution is considered.

During the second reading Tuesday, Rep. Elaine D. Harvey (R-Big Horn/Park) proposed an amendment striking the majority of the bill and replacing it with a requirement to create a petition signed by 25 percent of the landowners who own at least 10 percent of the assessed valuation in the county. The amendment would have removed the ability by the commissioners to bring the issue to the ballot by resolution.

The amendment failed, and the House voted to pass the bill on second reading as it stood. The bill could go before the House for its third reading Wednesday. If it is passed, it could go back to the Senate for concurrence on amendments before receiving an enrolled act number and signatures of the Senate president and House speaker.

The final step for the bill to become law would be when it is signed by Gov. Matt Mead.

Dancing the night away



Thermopolis volunteer firefighter Jerry Williams dances with Kim Jones, his daughter, during the Fireman's Ball Saturday night at the VFW Club. The packed hall danced

to the music of Dakota Country from Belle Fourche, S.D. The event helped raise money for the department to purchase rescue tools.

— J.D. Stetson photo

Kindergarten readiness bill fails in Legislature

by Cindy Glasson

The Wyoming State Legislature killed a bill recently that would have set standards for kindergarten readiness for all children in the state.

House Bill 144, the Kindergarten Readiness Bill, failed the house by a vote of 26-33 on Jan. 21.

Educators across the state were unhappy at the bill's failing, and Dustin Hunt, superintendent for the Hot Springs County School District, was one of them.

"I'm not very excited about this," Hunt said. "I'm in full support of our children being kindergarten ready and our program is an excellent model for the state."

Hunt said getting children off on the right

foot makes the most sense.

"This (bill) would have brought the state together," he said. "It would have brought people together to decide what readiness is."

"Nationally, educators need a target. They've been working extremely hard, but don't have that target. I feel this bill would have given Wyoming educators a target to shoot for."

Hunt said part of the issue is educators are dealing with a pretty regulated basis of education as it is and the current design provides no state testing until the third grade.

"Studies have shown that college readiness is dependent on students being able to read at grade level by third grade," he said. "As it is now, there isn't even any testing until third grade."

Teacher accountability

Another part of the equation is the accountability for teachers on the upper end of the system is greater, yet the impact on students and their success falls more on the lower grade-level teachers.

Nathan Winters, representative for House District 28, voted against the bill.

"I believe in private preschools and the hard-working people who run them. I do not want them to face ever-stringent rules that force them out of business," he said.

"Our local kindergarten readiness program is a model program and worthy of study. The problem with the legislation proposed is that when you take a wonderful local program and

look at ways to implement it statewide, it can easily begin the process that leads to the consolidation of preschools into the universal preschool agenda. This bill has been used as gateway legislation to introduce state-run preschools in other states."

Hunt doesn't see things the same way. "It's good for all of Wyoming's children," Hunt said.

Hunt, along with Amy Ready and Karen Leyba, will be presenting on behalf of kindergarten readiness at the National School Boards Association in San Diego in April.

"I think our daycares and preschools in Thermopolis are working extremely hard to get our children ready," Hunt said.

Cash Mob braves the snow



Cash Mobsters Diane Sova, Felicia Messimer, Donna Nally, Stefanie Cowen, Meri Ann Rush and Tawna McQueen gather in front of Thermopolis Hardware Saturday before shopping at the business. Afterwards, the Mob went to Las Fuentes for lunch. The Cash Mob promotes local businesses by having each member pledge to spend \$10 or more at retail stores and restaurants.

— J.D. Stetson photo

Scenic Byway meeting held

by Cindy Glasson

A plan to enhance, preserve and maintain the aesthetic properties of the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway got underway Feb. 6 at a meeting to create a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) at the Hot Springs County Museum.

Members of the public were invited to give their input on the most important aspects of the canyon and what things they would like to see added to the scenic byway by Susan Springer of the Intrinsic Consulting, a group hired by the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes to create the CMP.

Springer said studies have shown more people are planning

their vacations around scenic byways, of which the canyon is one. The scenic byway actually starts in Shoshoni, works its way through the canyon and ends at the top of Hospital Hill north of Thermopolis, encompassing about 34 miles.

According to Talbot Haufler, Scenic Byways coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Transportation, "Wind River Canyon is Wyoming's best-kept secret."

Promoting the canyon could increase tourism for Hot Springs County.

Any projects taken on through the CMP will be financed through

the Federal Highway Administration at 80 percent and the Tribes will cover the other 20 percent.

Public comment on the CMP will be gathered first, a draft CMP released and then an additional comment period will be held before the final CMP. Springer assured those attending the meeting that public input would be critical to the plan and any ongoing studies.

Comments must be completed and returned to Springer by Feb. 22 at susan@intrinsicinfo.com. Comment sheets are available at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center.

Construction moves forward on airport; county road projects, changes discussed

by J.D. Stetson

Dirt work and initial construction continues to move forward for the new Hot Springs County Airport.

During the Hot Springs County Commissioners' meeting Feb. 5, GDA Engineers provided updates on phases II and III of the airport project.

Phase II is closer to proceeding with commissioners conditionally approving the construction contracts and the notice to proceed to contractor High Country Construction during the meeting.

Engineer Jeremy Gilb informed the commissioners of new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design layout updates, which will revise the design for the airport. The changes may reduce costs of the project in the long run because there will be less pavement to install.

Phase II work is anticipated to last until late June. It is scheduled for substantial completion June 18 and final completion June 28, barring unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather.

For phase III, the design suffered a slight setback because of technological difficulties at the GDA office, but was back on schedule as of the commissioners' meeting, Gilb said.

Gilb provided an updated schedule for phase III, which will begin advertising to contractors for bids by March 7. The bids are scheduled to be opened May 17.

County roads

County Road and Bridge Supervisor Ray Shaffer reported the department is working toward updating and organizing county road records at the courthouse. The county is currently weighing options to preserve, organize and fill in missing documents pertaining to the county road system. The board also heard from professional surveyor Rick Hudson and Lee Campbell with regard to the Templeton Survey, a survey

Construction

from page 1

conducted in the early 1920s dictated by state statute to locate and map all “highways” in the county. The highways included all county roads at the time.

The discussion of the Templeton Survey served as an example of how the older documents can be preserved and scanned into an electronic format.

Other county road issues discussed included:

■ A proposed application for a \$100,000 matching grant from a Rural Safety Program. The grant money would be used to install and update road guardrails along East River Road, which has for numerous years been a road with a high ratio of traffic accidents compared with other county roads.

■ Commissioners approved a motion to change the name of “Upper Gooseberry Road” to “West Gooseberry Road” in order to meet possible U.S. Postal Service needs in the future if someone were to build a home on the road. The commissioners also consid-

ered changing the name of “Lower Spring Creek Road” to “South Spring Creek Road,” but instead directed Shaffer to collect input from the residents of the road.

■ Commissioners also discussed an issue pertaining to “Mountain View Drive,” of which there are currently two roads with the same name.

One is a town street and the other is a road in the county. County Planner Bo Bowman reported he has received input from residents of the road in the county asking to change the name from “drive” to “road” in order to avoid confusion by emergency services or parcel delivery companies. Commissioners determined a person with a direct interest in the road name change should bring the issue to the commission for action. They directed Bowman to contact the homeowners on the road to bring a formal request to the commission and to also “give some thought” to an alternative name for the road.

Board appointments

Commissioners made several appointments to county boards during the commissions’ Feb. 5 meeting. The appointments include:
Natural Resources Planning Committee: Robert Overton, Carl Dockery, Dorothy Milek
Library Board: Cindy Toth, Frederic DeArmond
Land Use Planning Board: Nina Webber
Museum Board: Richard R. Hall
Predatory Animal Control Board: Don Harvey

Board openings

Open positions on county boards include:
Natural Resources Planning Committee: Two positions
Lodging Tax Board: One position
Museum Board: One position

Fishbaugh, friend OK after truck breaks through Ocean Lake ice

by Katie Roenigk
The Riverton Ranger
George Fishbaugh of Thermopolis says he'll never drive on ice again.
“Even on a four-wheeler,” he said last week. “If I can’t walk out, I’m not going.”
He made the resolution after a scary experience Friday, Feb. 1, when Fishbaugh’s pickup truck broke through the ice on Ocean Lake in Fremont County. The 1998 Dodge remained in the water until Tuesday, Feb. 5, when a crew from Auto & RV Specialties in Thermopolis succeeded in pulling it out.
Fishbaugh said he had ventured onto the north side of the lake Friday morning, looking forward to a day of ice fishing with his friend Bob.
“It was about 10:30 a.m. when we got there,” Fishbaugh said. “You could see where everybody’s been driving out on the ice. I had a friend there the week before, and that’s where they went.”
They followed the tracks for about 475 yards until they came across an area of

ice that seemed less stable.
“I could feel my wheels go through the slush, maybe a couple inches of slush,” Fishbaugh said.
His companion also felt the change, but the men decided to continue on their way.
“We went on out and fished,” he said. “When we came back, there was water sitting there.”
He guessed that 3-5 inches of water had emerged from a spot where the ice had caved in.
“It broke actually while we were fishing,” he said. “It broke for probably over a quarter of a mile through there.”
When Fishbaugh attempted to drive over the area, he said his truck “just went down in.”
“The water ... started going into the cab right away, clear up to the bottom of the seats,” he said. “We were really scared.”
Fishbaugh, 69, and his 76-year-old friend managed to get their doors open and escape from the vehicle, which set-

tled into the icy hole but did not sink. Fishbaugh said the truck had its nose pointed downward into the water, facing a wall of ice that rose from the surface of the lake at a 45-degree angle.
“The ice going together was wedging together, so we weren’t going clear to the bottom,” Fishbaugh said. “My truck was still running, and it wasn’t settling any farther.”
Long, cold walk
Though the obstruction kept his vehicle from being submerged, Fishbaugh said the sheet of ice posed another problem: While his friend was able to get to shore quickly by scaling the sloped wall using spiked boots, Fishbaugh’s own footwear was not sufficient for the task.
“I have chains I wear on the ice, but they were too slick,” he said. “I couldn’t get out. I tried three or four times.”
Instead, he retrieved his keys from the truck and took a longer path back to shore, walking for about a quarter of

a mile until he found more solid ice. He returned to his friend, who was waiting at the edge of the lake protected by some trees.
“We were wet clear up past our waists and the wind was howling,” Fishbaugh said, adding that there was no cell phone coverage in the area. “You worry about hypothermia.”
The men made their way to the highway and spent some more cold minutes waiting for a passerby to pick them up. After about eight vehicles had driven by, Fishbaugh said rancher Lyle David pulled over and took the stranded duo to his house. Fishbaugh called the towing company, and at about 4:30 p.m. Friday Auto & RV Specialties owner Bill Wells notified law enforcement of the situation.
Removing the truck
In his report to officials, Wells said the truck would be recovered by Saturday morning. But Fishbaugh said the

workers ran into trouble during the operation, which ended up taking five days to complete.
On Saturday, Feb. 2, they tried to pull the truck out of the water using a four-wheeler with a winch. When that didn’t work, the crew returned the next day with the A-frame they had built specifically for ice recoveries. Fishbaugh said the second attempt almost was successful.
“They got the wheels up on the edge of the ice and were going great,” he said. “Then their A-frame broke.”
Monday was spent repairing the A-frame, and on Tuesday the group returned for what would be their final try at the truck.
Fishbaugh said the vehicle would be a total loss.
“I don’t have insurance either – I just dropped it six months ago when we bought another car,” he said. “But the important thing is we both got out and were safe. Monetary things ... can be replaced.”

Town of Thermopolis closer to bidding out waterline projects

Two Town of Thermopolis waterline projects are expected to go to bid in the next month.
The town has started advertising for bids for the Broadway East waterline replacement project and the 14th Street replacement project.
Both projects are continuations on two prior water projects replacing older waterline within the town.
The Broadway East project starts at Third Street and continues east across the Big Horn River bridge to East Thermopolis.
The 14th Street project picks up in front of the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Hall and heads south to Canyon Hills Road, and then

turns east to Highway 20 South.
Anthony Barnett with Engineering Associates said both projects should proceed to bidding with construction to start in the spring.
On the 14th Street project, Barnett said they would likely stipulate that construction not start until the end of the school year in order to mitigate any disruption for students. However, it is not known if the project will be completely finished by the time school begins next fall.
The town also is currently waiting for a response from BNSF Railway as it proceeds with the Broadway East project, Barnett said.

Projects

Town Codes Administrator Fred Crosby reported January was a slow month for permits, but said two large projects are coming in the near future.
Crosby said Northwest B.O.C.E.S. is making progress on its Broadway Street bus barn. Councilman Tony Larson said the bids for the barn were planned to be let Monday and it would be between 30 and 60 days for construction to start.
Crosby also said High Plains Power is in the beginning stages of planning for a shop within the town.

Public notices

NOTICE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE
BY ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE

On December 30, 2005, Kelli L. Donahoo, made, executed, and delivered in favor of Big Horn Federal Savings Bank her promissory note in the principal sum of \$67,250.00. As collateral for that promissory note, on December 30, 2005, Kelli L. Donahoo made, executed and delivered a mortgage to Big Horn Federal Savings Bank, as Mortgagee. The mortgage was recorded on January 5, 2006 as Document Number 0464560, in Book 116, Pages 316-323, in the office of the Hot Springs County Clerk and Recorder in Thermopolis, Wyoming. That mortgage was assigned to the Wyoming Community Development Authority, P.O. Box 634, Casper, Wyoming ("WCDA") by virtue of an Assignment of Mortgage dated December 30, 2005, which was duly recorded on January 5, 2006 as Document Number 0464561, in Book 116, Page 324 in the office of the Hot Springs County Clerk and Recorder in Thermopolis, Wyoming. That mortgage and assignment of mortgage are made a part hereof and incorporated herein by reference. The mortgage and assignment of mortgage cover the following described real property located in Hot Springs County, Wyoming, to wit:

The South half of Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 46, Original Townsite to the Town of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming. This property is commonly described as 411 South 10th Street, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

(hereinafter referred to as the "Real Property").

The record owner of the property is Kelli L. Donahoo.

A written notice of intent to foreclose the mortgage by advertisement and sale has been served upon the record owner and any person in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication. The amount due on the Promissory Note and Mortgage as of February 14, 2013 (the first date of publication) is principal of \$54,810.53, accrued interest of \$3,008.46, late charges of \$205.44, past due escrow of \$1,152.70, unapplied funds of (\$13.00), and attorney's fees and costs of \$1,218.00, for a total of \$60,382.13. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid principal balance at the rate of \$6.09 per day. Additional sums will accrue for legal fees, late charges and costs expended including costs of this publication. The Mortgagor has failed to pay the principal and interest on the Promissory Note and Mortgage described herein when the same became due and payable, and she failed to cure the default pursuant to the Notice of Default and Intent to Foreclose served on her by Big Horn Federal Savings Bank as servicing agent for WCDA and the Notice of Intent to Foreclose also served on her by WCDA. No suit or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

TAKE NOTICE THAT, WCDA, pursuant to the power of sale by advertisement contained in the Mortgage, and pursuant to Wyoming law, will cause the real property to be foreclosed and therefore, that the above described real property, together with improvements thereon, will be sold by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff of Hot Springs County, Wyoming, to the highest bidder, for cash, at public vendue, on the steps of the Hot Springs County Court House, 415 Arapahoe, Thermopolis, WY 82443, at 11 o'clock a.m. on the 19th day of March, 2013. The proceeds of the sale shall be applied first to the amounts claimed to be due on the Note and Mortgage which, as of the first publication of this notice are: \$60,382.13 consisting of the following: principal of \$54,810.53, accrued interest of \$3,008.46, late charges of \$205.44, past due escrow of \$1,152.70, unapplied funds of (\$13.00), and attorney's fees and costs of \$1,218.00, for a total of \$60,382.13. Interest continues to accrue on the unpaid principal balance at the rate of \$6.09 per day. In addition, sums will accrue for late charges, costs incurred in the foreclosure process, escrow adjustments and attorney's fees. Any remaining proceeds will thereafter be distributed in accordance with Wyoming law. The property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale and any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2013.

WYOMING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
c/o Randy L. Royal
Randy L. Royal, P.C.
P. O. Box 551
Greybull, Wyoming 82426
(307) 765-4433

Pub. February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 2013 No. 6762

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

To: The heirs, devisees, successors and/or assigns of W. Brown Garrett, The General Public and Unknown Persons.

You are hereby notified that Ronald G. Luther and Sandra E. Luther, husband and wife, and Thomas H. Jeunehomme and Patrice E. Jeunehomme, husband and wife, have filed in the District Court of Hot Springs County, Wyoming, at Thermopolis, Civil Action No. C12-27 on May 15, 2012, a Complaint the object and prayer of which is to recover and quiet title against you and in the Plaintiff's name to the following described property:

A parcel of land in Lot 1 of Section 24, Township 43 North, Range 95 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Hot Springs County, Wyoming; being a strip of land adjacent to Haskin Street within Artois; to wit:

Beginning at the center quarter corner (southwest corner of said Lot 1) of said Section 24; thence S 89°53'41" E, along the south line of said Lot 1, a distance of 30 feet to a point on the east right-of-way line of Country Road 3, also known as Red Lane, the true point of beginning and southwest corner of the parcel herein set forth:

Thence continuing S 89°53'41" E, a distance of 650 feet to Corner No. 5 (the northeast corner) of said Artois; thence continuing S 89°53'41" E, a distance of 40 feet to the southeast corner of this parcel; thence N 0°18'59" E, a distance of 28 feet; thence N 89°53'41" W, a distance of 260 feet; thence S 0°18'59" W, a distance of 4 feet; thence N 89°53'41" W, a distance of 430 feet; thence S 0°19'11" W, a distance of 24 feet to the true point of beginning; containing 0.404 acre.

Pub. February 14 and 21, 2013 No. 6764

Considering a Vasectomy?
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For further equitable relief, you are notified that you are required to answer said Complaint on or before the (30) thirtieth day following the last date of publication or else Judgement by default may be rendered, and that Judgement by default may be rendered against you if you fail to appear.

Defendants that have already answered do not need to file another answer.

WITNESS my hand and official seal at Thermopolis, Wyoming, this 11 day of February, 2013, at Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming.

/s/
James A. Michel, Jr., Bar No. 6-3419
Messenger & Overfield, P.C.
P.O. Box 111
Thermopolis, WY 82443
307-864-5541

Pub. February 14, 21, 28 and March 7, 2013 No. 6765


PUBLIC NOTICE

The Bureau of Reclamation intends to renew a water service contract with F. Clarke Jackman, Jr. (Contractor) in accordance with Sec. 9(e) of the Act of August 4, 1939 (53 Stat. 1187). The contract will provide a supplemental water supply to the Contractor from the Boysen Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, Wyoming. Reclamation will prepare an Environmental Assessment to evaluate environmental effects of renewing the long-term water service contract with the Contractor. To provide written comments, to request additional information, or to view a copy of the proposed contract, please contact Mahonri Williams at (307) 261-5624, or write to: Mahonri Williams, Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Area Office, P.O. Box 1630, Mills, WY 82644. Written comments will be accepted for a period of 60 days from the initial date of this notice.

Pub. February 14 and 21, 2013 No. 6764

We will be closed Monday, February 18 to celebrate

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