

Thermopolis
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Commissioners affirm existence of County Road 19

by J.D. Stetson

Hot Springs County Commissioners chose to affirm a determination from county officials that County Road 19 is in fact a county road as described in the Templeton Survey conducted in the early 1920s.

County Road 19 is a road that stems off Black Mountain Road north of Thermopolis. The road entrance is before Cowboy Mine Road and breaks away from a home that used to be owned by Jim Skelton. It proceeds all the way around Black Mountain. The road fell out of use and suffered disrepair over the years. Parts of the road are used by landowners in the area while other parts have disappeared due to natural erosion.

County Road and Bridge Supervisor Ray Shaffer said the county has reviewed the records, and the staff is of the opinion that the road is an official county road because there is evidence the road was surveyed and there was noth-

ing in the record indicating the county abandoned the road.

Shaffer did contend that the road today likely isn't exactly as the road was surveyed due to erosion caused by a creek bed.

Commissioners heard from Tom Anderson of the Russell Ranch with regard to his perspective on the road, which he frequently uses to cross to his property.

Anderson indicated the area where the road is located is showing interest as far as mineral and oil development. He said any disagreement with regard to the status of the road would be dependent upon the determination of the commissioners.

As a landowner in the area, Anderson said he would fight for the road to remain a county road, but said others may fight to treat the road as abandoned. He said he supports public access and cited an earlier comment made

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Seeing 'eye to eye'



Thermopolis Middle School wrestling coach Toby Emery consoles and encourages Mikey Wilkinson after a match dur-

ing the Conference Tournament held Saturday. Results of the tourney are on page 7 of this issue. — Joe Sova photo

Hospital districting bill signed into law by Mead

by J.D. Stetson

From the start of the 2013 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature on Jan. 8 to receiving the signature of Gov. Matt Mead on Friday, Senate File 19, the hospital districting elections bill, has officially become law.

The bill, which originated from a request from Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital officials and Hot Springs County Commissioners to Sen. Gerald Geis, allows county commissioners to pass a resolution to place the issue of a hospital district on the election ballot. The bill was amended to require 30 days notice and a public hearing before a resolution can be passed.

Sen. Geis' bill effectively removes a law requiring a petition signed by en-

tities responsible for 25 percent of the counties' assessed valuation and a petition signed by 25 percent of property taxpayers in favor of a district before the issue can be placed on the ballot.

Hospital CEO Robin Roling said after the bill passed third and final reading in the House of Representatives that it was really a group effort to get the bill passed through the legislature.

She said she was delighted an amendment that was introduced on both second and third readings failed both times. The amendment would have completely rewritten the bill, and would have required a petition signed by 25 percent of landowners owning at least 10 percent of the assessed valuation in order for the issue to go to an election.

Roling said there is misinformation about the bill concerning the formation of a hospital district. The bill does not immediately create a hospital district, but only allows the issue to go before the public in an election for the people to decide if they want a hospital district.

Defying the odds

Before the bill went to the legislature, commissioners told the hospital board the bill would have a 7 to 8 percent chance of making it through the legislature.

The bill defied the odds, earning unanimous favorable votes in both the senate and house Corporations, Elections, Political Subdivisions committees, 28 votes in the senate and 41 in

the house on third and final reading.

In the senate, the bill only received two opposing votes. It received 17 opposing votes in the house. Rep. Nathan Winters, R-Hot Springs County, was one of the opposing votes.

Roling was ecstatic the bill made it through the legislature given the odds, but the group effort persevered and the legislators saw the benefit a district can provide to small rural communities.

"It's a huge win for Hot Springs County for sure," she said.

Election

Commission Chairman Brad Basse, speaking for himself and not on behalf of the other commissioners, said his initial thoughts with regard to bring-

ing the issue to an election would be to wait until the next general election in order to ensure the highest number of people have a chance to cast their vote.

Basse said in two years during the November 2014 General Election, a number of county offices will be up for election, which may help to ensure high voter turnout.

A special election would not be his preferred method because of the possibility of lower turnout and costs associated with holding a special election.

Basse spoke briefly on the previous law, which he believes would have been impossible to bring the issue to election even with oil company support. He said

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FFA Week celebration



Celebrating National FFA Week Feb. 16-23, Jessie Pennoyer draws on a downtown business window to promote FFA.

Water supply outlook near normal

The latest Wyoming Water Supply Outlook issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association indicates near normal mountain snowpack for February.

Snowpack for many basins around the state are between 80 to 85 percent of average with some areas averaging between

90 and 105 percent of normal in western Wyoming.

Based on the report, stream flow is expected to be between 90 and 99 percent of normal in the upper Wind River Basin, and near normal across the other major basins in northwestern Wyoming.

Analysts expect well below normal stream flow volumes for

southern Wyoming watersheds with only 50 to 75 percent of normal spring snowmelt volumes.

Reservoir storage around the state remains near average for February. A report from the Bureau of Reclamation released earlier in the month indicates Boysen Reservoir is expecting inflows of about 400,000 acre feet of water

from the Wind River between April and July. One acre foot is the amount of water needed to cover one acre, or about 325,851 gallons.

The inflow into the reservoir from the river is about 71 percent of the 30-year average, which the average is 562,000 acre feet for April through July.

Funding cuts hampering Afterschool Alliance programs

by Joe Sova

It's no secret that public education is one of the areas that is seeing budget cuts, both at the federal and state levels.

Jenny Davis, the Lights On Afterschool coordinator for Hot Springs County School District No. 1, was in Washington, D.C., recently with that fact in mind as she spoke to legislators about the importance of maintaining the afterschool program. In her first year as an Afterschool Alliance ambassador, she was in the nation's capitol for the 12th annual Afterschool for All Challenge.

Ambassadors paid tribute to the U.S. senators who are supporting the proposed Afterschool for America's Children Act (S.326). Davis is hoping Wyoming Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso are supportive of the legislation, but neither had joined the afterschool caucus.

The Hot Springs school district is in the fifth and final year of the current "cohort" of Lights On Afterschool federal funding, which comes via a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant through the U.S. Department of Education. During five-year periods, the 21st CCLC program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for

children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

According to Davis the three goals of the Wyoming 21st CCLC state program are: 1, to establish community learning centers that help students in high-poverty, low-performing schools meet academic achievement standards; 2, to offer a broad array of high-quality enrichment activities that are aligned with and complement the regular academic school day while positively affecting student outcomes such as school attendance and academic performance and decreasing behavioral risk factors; and 3, to provide programming to engage the families of 21st CCLC participants for the purpose of increasing parent/family engagement in learning and developing resiliency through positive home/school relationships.

"(Lights On) Afterschool is making a huge difference," Davis said of the 10-plus years of the program in the Hot Springs district. This is her fifth year as the program coordinator.

Reduction in federal funding

In a budget analysis provided by Davis, the 21st CCLC national funding level for fiscal year (FY) 2013 has dropped to about \$1.151 billion. Of that amount, about \$5.63 million would go to Wyoming. But with the estimated



Jenny Davis

cut due to sequestration, the state funding would be just more than \$5.31 million – serving 5,310 children in Wyoming. That number is 333 fewer children than are being served in FY2012. The number of children served is based on a cost of \$1,000 per child.

With district curriculum director Janet Philp doing the grant writing, a renewal application for funding has been made for FY2013, according to Davis. The renewal is possible since the Hot Springs district reached its SMART goals, which are "specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound."

"We wrote a really good proposal," Davis said. "We had to write an expansion of the current program to follow that rubric (scoring tool used for grant evaluation)."

An Afterschool Alliance publication recently

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Hospital

from page 1

the law read that "landowners" owning 25 percent of the assessed valuation must sign a petition in favor of it, and that oil companies do not necessarily own the land.

He also said he was in favor of the fact the legislators chose to allow the issue to go to election, rather than treating it like a wastewater district, which the commissioners can currently create without it going to a vote of the people.

It also came somewhat as a surprise to Basse that the mineral industry did not oppose the bill while it was being debated in committee, he said.

He also thought the 30-day notice requirement and the public hearing were great ideas that allow people chances to voice their concerns.

Hospital district

For more than 20 years, people in the community have sought to form a hospital district within the county as the hospital building has continued to age and fall out of current standards.

When and if the commissioners choose to bring the issue to the people for a vote, former commissioner and small oil company owner Tom Sullivan Sr. said he wants people to get out and vote on the issue.

Sullivan is a supporter of creating a district and he has traveled across the country to meet with oil company CEOs to convince them of the need of a district in Hot Springs County.

Sullivan thanked Sen. Geis for his strong support and dedication to ramrod the bill through the legislative process.

Sullivan traveled to Dallas in order to meet with Merit Energy CEOs. He thought he had a good chance to convince Merit, but the company did not wish to speak for, or burden, other companies.

Now that the law has been changed, he sees an opportunity that had no chance of existing under the previous law.

Currently, the hospital receives local government funding through the county in the form of an annual budget line item, which is used for capital improvement. The funding comes from the county's own mill levy and is subject to rise or decline from year to year based on various factors.

The hospital's board of trustees has determined the hospital must make drastic improvements in order to ensure the hospital's sustainability. It has worked toward a master facilities plan that has determined the cost effectiveness of building a new hospital far outweighs the cost of bringing the existing building, which is more than 50 years old, up to current standards.

Sullivan said now is the time to form a district. The county's assessed valuation, which is used to calculate the mill levy, is at the point where it makes sense to form a district.

He also said the district is needed because the county, with its aging population, can't afford to lose or see a decline in the current medical services the hospital provides.

He said many years ago, when he sat on the commission and it came time to expand a new Law Enforcement Center, the leaders of the

town stepped up and voted for it.

He considers the vote for a hospital district to be just as important, if not more important, than the vote for the Law Enforcement Center. He hopes he gets a chance before the election to address the people in a public forum.

"I will tell people, 'Don't just sit back and let someone else vote,'" Sullivan said. "If we didn't have seven votes (back then) we wouldn't have a Law Enforcement Center."

Enthusiasm

Another person who has fought for a hospital district is Clark Mortimore. In the past, Clark and three others traveled to Cody to convince Marathon Oil Co. to support a district. At the time, it was discouraging because of economic worries.

Now, Mortimore has heard multiple sides of the issues regarding the hospital building a new facility. Some think the county needs a new hospital more than an airport, others are just concerned about the hospital program continuing amid a tense political climate.

"Thermopolis is fortunate the hospital has done the things they have given what they are up against," Mortimore said, referring in part to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare.

He said the hospital is in need of a reasonable, and stable, source of revenue, and he thinks there will be much more enthusiasm in the next couple of years as the people mull the idea of creating a district and cast their vote.



Sen. Gerald Geis poses with Gov. Matt Mead as the governor signs Senate File 19, the hospital district elections bill, into law. The bill allows county commissioners to pass a resolution to bring the issue of the creation of a hospital district to an election.

— Photo courtesy of Gov. Matt Mead's office

Public notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming will receive sealed bids until 2:00 P.M., local time, February 28, 2013 at the Thermopolis Town Hall, at 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, Wyoming, for MATERIALS, LABOR, SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION & COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BROADWAY EAST TREATED WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – PHASE II project. The Engineer's opinion of probable construction costs ranges from \$260,000 to \$390,000. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud - date and time stated above. Mail or deliver to Town of Thermopolis, P.O. Box 603, 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, WY 82443. The Town of Thermopolis will take no responsibility for delivery of bids through mail. Complete digital copies of the bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com and at www.eaengineers.com under PROJECTS OUT TO BID. Submitting Contractors will be required to register with the website to download the bidding documents for \$20 by inputting Quest project #2450603 on the website's Project search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Optional paper copies of bidding documents are available at: Engineering Associates, 429 Broadway, Thermopolis, WY 82443 for \$150.00, non-refundable. The Town of Thermopolis reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any informalities if deemed in the best interest of the Owner. No bid may be considered unless accompanied by the required bid guarantee of 5% of the total bid amount which amount shall be forfeited if the bidder is awarded the Contract and fails to enter into a Contract with the Owners. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2:00 P.M. local time, on February 21, 2013 at the Town Hall, 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Town of Thermopolis

Pub. February 7, 14 and 21, 2013

No. 6759

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming will receive sealed bids until 2:00 P.M., local time, February 28, 2013 at the Thermopolis Town Hall, at 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, Wyoming, for MATERIALS, LABOR, SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION & COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 14TH STREET TREATED WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – PHASE II project. The Engineer's opinion of probable construction costs ranges from \$350,000 to \$500,000. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud - date and time stated above. Mail or deliver to Town of Thermopolis, P.O. Box 603, 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, WY 82443. The Town of Thermopolis will take no responsibility for delivery of bids through mail. Complete digital copies of the bidding documents are available at www.questcdn.com and at www.eaengineers.com under PROJECTS OUT TO BID. Submitting Contractors will be required to register with the website to download the bidding documents for \$20 by inputting Quest project #2450642 on the website's Project search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. Optional paper copies of bidding documents are available at: Engineering Associates, 429 Broadway, Thermopolis, WY 82443 for \$150.00, non-refundable. The Town of Thermopolis reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive any informalities if deemed in the best interest of the Owner. No bid may be considered unless accompanied by the required bid guarantee of 5% of the total bid amount which amount shall be forfeited if the bidder is awarded the Contract and fails to enter into a Contract with the Owners. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 3:00 P.M. local time, on February 21, 2013 at the Town Hall, 420 Broadway, Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2013.

/s/ Town of Thermopolis

Pub. February 7, 14 and 21, 2013

No. 6760

NOTICE OF SALE

The following vehicles will be sold at Sheriff's public auction on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse, 415 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, Wyoming, on March 5, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. This sale is to satisfy abandoned vehicle costs on the listed vehicles by Auto and RV Specialties, Inc. in the amount specified, plus all reasonable costs incurred for the sale of the vehicles.

Name	Vehicle Description	VIN	Amount
Antoinette Jergenson	1997 Ford Green	1ZVLT20A9V5136935	\$704.00
Kerry Whiteplume	2005 Chevy Impala	2G1WF52E159101892	\$1,297.00
Kayloni Bybee	1999 Chevy Malibu	1G1ND52T4X6131401	\$697.00
Lance Addison	2004 Pontiac Grand Prix	2G2WS522X41357118	\$707.00
Todd Stevenson	2001 Chevy Blazer	1GNDT13W212145083	\$2,062.50
Samantha Cooper	1995 Lexus Sedan	JT8UZ30C3S0045499	\$1,094.00
Soul Hernandez	2003 Dodge P/U	1D7HA18DX3S379732	\$1,300.50
Rodeen	2002 Pontiac	1G2NF52E52M639579	\$697.00

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

Pub. February 21 and 28, 2013

No. 6763

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on February 15, 2013, Cynthia L. Ellison, dba Miss Kitty's LLC, filed application for renewal of the Retail Liquor License for the following described place and premises, dba Shorty's Liquor Store, to wit: Lots 34, 35, and 36, Block 3, East Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming, a 24' x 22' room on the north end of the building located at 103 East Broadway. Protests, if any there be, against the issuance of such license shall be heard at 7:00 P.M. on April 2, 2013 at the East Thermopolis Town Hall.

/s/ Angela D. Chism, Town Clerk

Pub. February 21, 28, March 7 and 14, 2013

No. 6768

