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Fish for Kids' Sake fun



Bella Beamer came with her family from Worland to participate in the Fish For Kids' Sake event sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thermopolis. Just five families participated this year in the annual event.
— Cindy Glasson photo

Hospital seeks input on districting, new building

by J.D. Stetson

It will ultimately be up to the voters of Hot Springs County whether they feel the need to form a hospital district and to eventually build a replacement Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.

This week residents can expect to receive an information packet in the mail explaining the history, need and preliminary plans for a new hospital.

Hospital CEO Robin Roling explained the intention of the packets is to provide a broad overview of the issue at hand and explain the information gathered so far regarding districting and building a new hospital.

The packets are a precursor to a community opinion survey that will attempt to gather data to be presented to the Hot Springs County commissioners if the hospital's board of trustees choose to request the hospital district issue to appear on a ballot at either a special election or general election.

Hospital officials will also be on hand to present the information to the public and answer questions during two public meetings. The first meeting will be from 10-11 a.m. Saturday at the hospital cafeteria. The second meeting will take place from 7 to 8 p.m. June 20 at the cafeteria.

According to the packet, the board will not make a decision to request the issue appear on a ballot until later this summer. This allows time for the hospital to host the public meetings, conduct the survey and for a citizen task force to vet the proposal.

Current vs. new buildings

After 50 years of service, the board has determined the current facility is reaching the end of its useful life.

The building has outdated heating and cooling systems, deteriorated plumbing, energy in-

efficiencies and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliance issues as well as problems with patient privacy and staff efficiency.

The hospital also has found the age of the current facility has made it extremely difficult to recruit and retain surgeons and other medical professionals.

Studies of the current hospital by engineers and architects estimated the costs to remodel and retrofit the current hospital would be more than 75 percent of cost of building a replacement hospital.

Part of the cost is the changing nature of health care from in-patient services to outpatient services. The layout and design of the current hospital isn't conducive to patients who leave the hospital the same day as their surgery or procedure.

The hospital recently conducted a feasibility study with Align Healthcare, Davis Partnership Architects and GE Johnson that was completed in July 2012. Based on the plan, the estimated cost of a modern, 55,000- to 60,000-sq. ft. health care facility on an undeveloped site would cost about \$30 million.

The proposed preliminary plans for a new hospital would be designed with a focus on outpatient care, while also meeting the current in-patient

Public meetings

Times/dates: 10-11 a.m. Saturday, June 8; 7-8 p.m. June 20

Place: Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital cafeteria, 180 E. Arapahoe St.

Purpose: Provide information on Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital preliminary facility needs and hospital districting

Contact phone: 864-3121

See Hospital on page 17

Class of 2014 to enter Hall of Fame

In this centennial year, the next class to be inducted into the Hot Springs County Hall of Fame have been selected.

Inductees who will be in the third class to enter the Hall of Fame, all posthumously, are William H. and Carrie Gottsche, Father Nicholas Endres, Eddie Todorovich, Gyp "Cookie" Hayek, and Arnold and Jessie Duhig.

John Lumley, Dick Hall, Barb Vietti, Dorothy Milek, Tom Sullivan Sr. and Joe Sovo are members of the Hot Springs County Hall of Fame committee. The committee met last Thursday to consider the many nominees for the Hall of Fame. Every two years, five inductees enter the Hall of Fame during a banquet and ceremony. That event will be held Jan. 18, 2014, at Days Inn.

This is the third class of inductees. The first two inductions were held in 2010 and 2012.

"The selection process has always been hard as there are so many deserving people," Lumley said. "This year, the group voted on 10 names out of the 122 names submitted for consideration. And out of all the names submitted, the panel did not consider any relatives and those names were removed from consideration at this time."

The list was pared down after the panel each submitted 10 names. The panel discussed the names submitted and why the candidate should be considered. Two candidates were selected out of this initial process and each panel member again submitted five names from among the remaining candidates and the vote tally was totaled and the final three recipients were selected.

Lumley, Hall, Vietti and Milek were the committee's voting members. Sovo was the mediator and did not cast votes. Sullivan was unable to attend

The Gottsches, former sheep ranchers in the county, formed the William H. and Carrie Gottsche Foundation to establish the Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center.

Endres was the first pastor at St. Francis Catholic Church; the Catholic priest ministered in Thermopolis from 1906 to 1933. Todorovich was a Hot Springs County sheriff for 28 years.

Hayek was a teacher, coach and administrator in Hot Springs County.

Arnold and Jessie Duhig partnered in publishing the Thermopolis newspaper for nearly 50 years, beginning just before Hot Springs officially became a county.

Basis for induction

Committee members agreed the inductees were selected based on their contributions both inside and outside Hot

See Hall of Fame on page 17

Centennial Tree planting dedication on Saturday

Hot Springs County's Centennial activities will continue Saturday with the planting of a 15- to 20-foot-tall bur oak tree between the Hot Springs County Library and Ralph Witters Elementary School. What is referred to as the Hot Springs County Centennial Tree will be dedicated during a ceremony that begins at 11 a.m.

Ray Shaffer, the Hot Springs County Road and Bridge supervisor, is coordinating the planting of the official Centennial Tree. He asked for and was given permission by the county commissioners to plant the tree on county ground, and the site behind the library was selected.

Shaffer said the tree would be donated by the Charles B. and Pearl Shaffer family. Charles and Pearl were early pioneers, coming to what is now Hot Springs County in 1907.

During Monday's Centennial committee meeting, Shaffer recommended that a bur oak tree be planted, due its long life. They are known to grow for hundreds of years. Its acorn cup has a burry fringe and is a major identifier along with the leaf's large middle sinus that gives it a "pinched waist" look. Corky ridges often adorn the twigs. The bur oak or *Quercus macrocarpa* sheltered

and inspired North American pioneers who settled the prairies. The slow-growing, long-living bur oak – a member of the white oak family – could resist the fires that swept through mid-western prairies and forests. With roots that were nearly as expansive as the aboveground tree, the bur oak could withstand windstorms as well as droughts.

Acorns of bur oak make up much of the food of red squirrels and are also eaten by some other small animals. Bur oak has also been praised as an excellent landscaping tree.

Tree plaques

Centennial committee member Jacky Wright is coordinating the Centennial Tree Planting project that will involve many local citizens, who can have their own piece of history. County residents are invited to plant their own centennial tree at their home or business.

Centennial tree plaques are available from Wright to the first 100 families who request one. Residents must purchase their own tree, but the plaque is free. Those who planted a centennial tree will have their tree listed in the Centennial Time Capsule.

Call Wright at 864-4070 or stop by Broadway Bygones for more information.



Brad Basse, left, and Mike Baker watch as fellow Hot Springs County Commissioner John Lumley signs a proclamation declaring June 22 at Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration Day. Read about the commission meeting on page 17.
— Cindy Glasson photo

Commissioners discuss airport progress, LEC drainage problem

by Cindy Glasson
The Hot Springs County Commissioners discussed several matters during their first June meeting on Tuesday, including an update on the progress of the airport, water pooling in the parking lot next to the joint Law Enforcement Center and whether or not citizens would be able to plant trees on county property as part of the Centennial Celebration.
The commissioners took their final walk through of Phase I of the airport project on May 24, driving the entire site, looking over the fence construction and other items of interest.
Only three minor things were found to need attention during the walk-through.
GDA Engineers informed the com-

missioners that Phase I has actually come in approximately \$18,000 under budget.
As far as Phase II is concerned, the power lines are now securely underground and functional, even though the rains last week created a few problems on site.
The site received somewhere in the neighborhood of three-quarters of an inch of rain during the storms, pushing back the final completion date of this phase by one week, according to GDA.
Part of the purchase of the property west of town was a contractual agreement between the county and Joe Holden to move a portion of his ranching operation at the county's expense.
The first bill for that relocation has

arrived, \$19,000, and will be approved and withdrawn from the grant moneys around June 28.
Drainage problem at LEC
Maintenance supervisor Chuck Carver told the commissioners there has been a problem with water pooling in the parking lot that adjoins the joint Law Enforcement Center west of the courthouse.
Carver said there are two drains coming from the roof of the building that are no more than 5 feet apart, both draining into the parking lot.
During the heavy snows this spring and last week's rains, the water has pooled in the parking lot and has caused some peeling of paint on some of the ve-

hicles parked in the area.
Some concrete sealing has been done where Carver said he could tell water was seeping below the surface, and he has sealed everything around the foundation of the building. It does raise some questions as to whether the soil around the building was compacted properly when the building was erected.
The water is also causing some buckling of the sidewalks around the building, which Carver said would eventually have to be replaced.
Centennial proclamation
The commissioners signed a proclamation Tuesday making Saturday, June 22 the official Hot Springs County Centennial Celebration Day.

The Centennial committee has asked folks to plant trees throughout the county in commemoration of the 100-year anniversary.
Ray Shaffer, Road and Bridge supervisor and member of the Centennial committee, told the commissioners he has been asked by several people if they could plant their tree on county property.
One of the issues with this would be the county would then be responsible for watering, trimming and care of the trees.
The commissioners suggested, since Carver handles all the trees on county property, that perhaps he would know where it would be best to plant trees and asked that Shaffer direct people to Carver for his guidance.

Hall of Fame

Spring County.
"You have to look at the scope of their influence," Vietti said while considering the many nominees.
According to Lumley, a list of those persons who should be recognized will continue to be compiled. If a name was submitted a few years ago, it will remain an eligible name unless there are some extreme conditions that need to be considered.
"We always encourage people to submit names with information about why the person(s) should receive the award," Lumley said. "I feel we need to add new members to the committee occasionally. At this time, we have great knowledge and a historical background but as with any group, we'll need continual new input."
He said that as none of the inductees will be present for the

Jan. 18 banquet and ceremony, known relatives were contacted and invited to attend the event.
The list of inductees were to be presented to the Hot Springs County Board of County Commissioners for a proclamation as has been done in the past.
Hall and Lumley started the Hall of Fame committee.
"We 'Tom Sawyered' former chamber director Kathy Wallingford and it took an enormous amount of time (at least a year-and-a-half) to nail down the date due to conflicting events," Lumley said.
Here are the members of the first two classes of inductees:
Class of 2010
Gov. Dave Freudenthal; Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court Barton Voigt; Karl Allen, former teacher/mayor/county commissioner; post-

humously, Stan Smith, former commissioner, state legislator and Wyoming state treasurer; and Tim McCoy, Western movie star and Owl Creek rancher.
Class of 2012
Ruth Clare Johnson, civic leader and attorney; Calvin "Cal" King, Game and Fish biologist/author/scientist; post-humously, Alfred "Lefty" Graham, businessman and former Wyoming state legislator; Dr. Benjamin Gitlitz, well-known doctor; and H. D. Curtis, Empire Oil Company founder.
The members of all three classes of inductees will have a "lasting legacy" in Hot Springs County, according to Hall of Fame committee members.
Tickets to the Jan. 18 banquet and induction ceremony are \$30 and are available by calling Hall at 864-5552 or Lumley at 864-2620.

Arts and crafts



Jenn Cramer lends Tim Lippincott and his sister Skylar a helping hand with his craft project during summer arts and crafts classes offered by the Hot Springs County Recreation District. — Cindy Glasson photo

Hospital

needs. It could include two operating rooms, one endoscopy room, an emergency area with six treatment spaces and improved space for trauma care.
It will also have expanded imaging area, 14 medical/surgical patient rooms, two obstetric patient rooms, pharmacy, laboratory, specialty clinic, cardiopulmonary space, cardiac rehab space and dietary area. The new facility would also have space for administration, information technology, materials management, housekeeping/laundry, physical plant services and a lobby/reception area. The hospital is also planned to be

on one level and the site must include expansion space for Gottsche Rehabilitation and Wellness Center and Red Rock Family Practice.
The location of the new hospital also has not been decided. The hospital has already ruled out building north of town on Highway 20 because of rules requiring the hospital to be 35 miles away from the nearest hospital in order to retain its Critical Access Hospital designation.
Districting
Forming a hospital district is essential to begin the process of funding the

construction of a new hospital. The voters will have the opportunity due to a recent change in state law to approve the formation of the district and allow a 3-mill property tax levy.
An advantage to districting would be it would allow the hospital greater ability to tap state and federal grants as well as enter into long-term financing. The hospital has two options that include a voter-approved bond coupled with a voter-approved specific purpose sales and use tax, or it can engage a third party developer to build the hospital and lease the space from the devel-

oper with an option to buy the building.
Another part of forming a district will be the election of a hospital district board at the same time the districting issue is brought to the ballot. The board would be empowered to govern the hospital, approve long-term strategies, establish operating expectations and approve budget and financing for the hospital.
"The elected board would be accountable to the hospital district's voters and would govern the hospital within the parameters of the district that are approved by Hot Springs County resi-

dents," the packet reads.
The packet also includes preliminary artist renderings, floor plans and site plans for the hospital as well as portions of the departmental space program for public review.
The introduction ends with a personal appeal to community members.
"We realize that without strong support from our businesses and community leaders, replacing our aging hospital with a new, state-of-the-art medical facility will be an uphill battle," it reads. "We greatly appreciate your guidance as we move forward."

Public notices

Land Company, LLC to Hot Springs County, contingent upon approval by WYDOT, Holden Land Company, LLC and the County Attorney. John Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Modification – High Plains Power Contract – 3 Phase Power – Mr. Gilb presented a revised contract with High Plains Power for 3-Phase power to the airport site. The revision states that the monthly minimum charge begins as soon as the meter is installed, not five years later as stated in the original contract approved by the Commissioners at their May 7th meeting. Mike Baker moved approval of the revised contract for 3-Phase power to the airport site. John Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Phase III Bid Award Discussion – Dustin Spomer reviewed the GDA Recommendation of Award letter for Phase III of the airport relocation project. Of the seven bids received, Scarsella Brothers, Inc. of Kent, Washington was the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$6,499,057.05. After a compliance review of the bids, GDA recommended rejecting the Scarsella bid as an unbalanced and non-responsive bid. GDA recommended awarding the project to Paul Reed Construction in the amount of \$6,784,990.26. There also appears to be full justification for the county to reject all bids and re-bid the project, with the recommendation that re-bidding be done as soon as possible with no more than a four week advertising period. After a discussion regarding the reasons behind the recommendations offered in the ROA, Commissioner Baker asked what the impact of re-bidding the project would be. Mr. Spomer indicated that he believes re-bidding is likely to result in fewer and higher bids for the Phase III project. Mr. Spomer stated that Scarsella Brothers and Paul Reed Construction were subjected to an equally intense vetting process prior to the issuance of the Recommendation of Award letter. Mike Baker moved to reject the low bid of \$6,499,057.06 from Scarsella Brothers, Inc. on the grounds that it is an unbalanced and non-responsive bid and there is probable cause to believe that the bid would not result in the lowest possible price for the project. John Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried with Baker and Lumley voting aye, Basse abstaining due to his declared conflict of interest. John Lumley moved to approve Paul Reed Construction Inc.'s bid for Bid Schedules 1+2+3 for Phase III of the Airport Relocation project in the amount of \$6,784,990.26, contingent upon the following:
• Receiving a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant AND a State of Wyoming Aeronautics grant together with local match meeting or exceeding the required amount, and
• Receiving writing concurrence of the award from the FAA and State

of Wyoming Aeronautics Division
AND upon receiving the grants and written concurrence, the Hot Springs County Commissioners approve the Vice-Chairman's signature on the Notice of Award to Paul Reed Construction for Bid Schedules 1+2+3 for a total amount of \$6,784,990.05. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried with Baker and Lumley voting aye, Basse abstaining due to his declared conflict of interest.
Phase III Bid Award Letter to FAA - Mike Baker moved to approve a letter to the FAA on behalf of the Hot Springs County Commissioners stating their intentions to award this project once funding and concurrence has been received. The purpose of this letter is for the government agencies to secure the project funding. John Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried with Baker and Lumley voting aye, Basse abstaining due to his declared conflict of interest.
County Health Insurance Review
Brad Johnson, the County's insurance consultant, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the upcoming renewal of the County's health insurance policies. After reviewing the 2012-2013 plan year, Mr. Johnson indicated that the proposed renewal premium will increase approximately \$110,000.00 over last year, an increase of approximately 17%, if everything remains the same in terms of deductibles, coverages, etc. After extensive discussion, per Mr. Johnson's recommendation, John Lumley moved to authorize Clerk Odde's signature on the Excess Risk Stop Loss Disclosure Statement to lock in the quoted rate prior to the renewal date for the Re-insurance portion of the policy. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Johnson will prepare a list of renewal options and recommendations for the 2013-2014 renewal for the Commissioners' consideration at the June 4th Commission meeting.
Other Business
State of Wyoming Risk Management Settlement – No action required at this time.
Crowell & Moring, LLP Retention Letter – Clerk Odde presented a formal retention letter for the services of Bruce Salzburg as discussed at the May 7, 2013 Commissioners meeting. Mr. Salzburg has been retained to assist with the Phase III Airport Project contract bid as the County Attorney requested. Mike Baker moved to approve the Chairman's signature on the retention letter. John Lumley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
NRPC Memo – Rainbow Terraces – The NRPC has asked the Commissioners to draft a letter to Governor Mead asking for action to rectify

the current situation with the Rainbow Terraces in the State Park. John Lumley moved to have Planner Bowman draft such a letter for approval at the next Commissioners meeting. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Appointment of Special Prosecutor – County Attorney Jerry Williams presented a resolution for the Commissioners' signature appointing Marcy Argeris as a Special Prosecutor as approved at the March 19th Commissioners meeting. No further action was required beyond affixing the signatures.
USFS Grass Creek Road Maintenance Agreement – Modification #3 – Clerk Odde presented the annual agreement with the U.S. Forest Service providing funding to the County for maintenance of the Grass Creek Road by the county Road & Bridge department. The County Attorney has reviewed and approved this modified agreement. John Lumley moved to approve the Chairman's signature on Modification #3 of the Maintenance Agreement for Grass Creek Road between the U.S. Forest Service and Hot Springs County providing funding in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the time period of April 1, 2013-December 31, 2013. Mike Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Correspondence
Fair Board Minutes – April, 2013
County Assessor – County Abstract
Kalyn Marquart – Scholarship Thank You
Hot Springs Conservation District – Owl Creek Mgmt Plan TMDL Report Meeting Notification
NRPC Minutes – April, 2013
Library Board Minutes – April, 2013
The Commissioners reviewed the foregoing correspondence. No further action was required or taken at this time.
Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the Board of County Commissioners at this time, John Lumley moved to adjourn. Chairman Basse declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brad Basse, Chairman
Hans Odde, County Clerk

Pub. June 6, 2013
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