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Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## Commissioners, state to meet about Terraces' condition

### *Decrease of a nearly 40 percent flow from Big Spring huge factor*

by Cindy Glasson

In July, the Hot Springs County Commissioners penned a letter to Gov. Matt Mead, asking his input on what steps the state intends to take to resolve the issue of the Rainbow Terraces' lack of water in Hot Springs State Park.

In the letter, the commissioners pointed out the terraces appear to be dying.

"Once perpetually growing due to flowing mineral water, they are now dehydrated," the letter states. "Once multi-hued, they have now become a deathly grey as the algae have been allowed to die off."

The commissioners said evidence suggests the issue began immediately after the state installed a heat exchanger at the bath house which diverted mineral water discharge directly into the river instead of flowing over the terraces as in the past.

The exchanger was put in place somewhere around 2007 with the blessings of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Another issue could be boardwalks that were placed on the terraces in 2004 that appear to impede the flow of the water.

"From what we can determine, it appears these improvements were engineered and constructed without local government involvement or public input," the letter states.

The commissioners went on to say they have been assured the damage to the terraces can be reversed, but that time is a critical factor.

"We respectfully request that you direct the Wyoming Department of Parks and Cultural Resources, as well as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, to give their highest priority to developing a solution to this critical problem," the commissioners asked.

#### State's response

A response was received four months later, on Oct. 8, from the governor.

In his response, the governor indicated he had asked the director of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Milward Simpson, to provide him with background on the issue, saying he felt Simpson's suggestions made sense.

In that briefing, Simpson stated, "Although the terraces appear to be natural, they take an abundant amount of manpower to ensure proper and even flow over the cascading faces.

"Due to decreased staff and budget and the time-consuming nature of the terraces, the site personnel have decreased their efforts of managing the terraces and, this past winter, diverted a major portion of the flow around the large ponds.

"Hot Springs State Park



The Rainbow Terraces in Hot Springs State Park have become extremely dehydrated over the years, causing the travertine formation to become gray rather than the natural reds, yellows and greens of the past. The Hot

Springs County commissioners will be meeting about their condition with members of the State Parks and Natural Resources Department.

— Cindy Glasson photo

would welcome any assistance from the local governments with manpower to manage the Rainbow Terraces."

Simpson goes on to say a nearly 40 percent decrease in water flow from the springs as well as an increased demand for

water from the Star Plunge and TePee Pool have substantially decreased the flow of water over the terraces.

According to the response letter, the request for water went from 300 gallons per minute to 400 gallons per minute.

"Unfortunately, our site personnel succumbed to the complaints and increased the flow of mineral water for an extended period of time.

"This decreased the temperature of the mineral water flowing through the pools and

over the terraces which created ice dams around portions of the walkway."

Simpson also said to minimize the ice damming, site personnel diverted flow around

See Terraces on page 12

## Land use change for fire training facility OK'd, sent to commissioners

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Rural Fire Department applied to the Land Use Planning Commission for a land use change from residential to institutional for approximately 12 acres south of Thermopolis.

The department would like to construct a training facility, a concrete "burn" building, that would be used to train firefighters as well as create an area for vehicle extrication training and other procedures.

Several area residents were involved in the public hearing held by the commission on Wednesday,

Oct. 16 at the county annex, expressing their concerns regarding the building and the activities that would go on in the Dusty Acres Subdivision.

Smoke created by the training facility was the biggest concern among the residents who attended the meeting, stating there are residents in the area with asthma and other breathing or health-related issues that could be harmed by activities at the burn building.

Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Chief Dale Andreen addressed those concerns, saying the facility would only be used about once a month and only when

conditions were right to dissipate the smoke as quickly as possible.

A fire would be built in the building using wooden pallets, a team of firefighters would go in to train and then the fire would be suppressed but not completely extinguished, using a small amount of water. The exercise would then be repeated, probably for no more than four hours at a time.

The amount of smoke produced would be somewhere in the range of what you would see from a campground.

Andreen said fires would not be lit during cold

months when temperature inversions could trap the smoke in the area. Also, on particularly windy days the air pressure inside the burn building would make it unsafe to use, so the department would do no live fire training on windy days either.

#### No chemicals used

Some area residents were concerned about the use of chemicals on the fire and the possibility of those chemicals seeping into the ground or being

See Land Use Change on page 13

### Breast Fest fun



Gayle Johnson shows off a black bustier decorated for the Breast Fest, a cancer awareness fundraiser held at Days Inn last Friday night. More than \$800 was raised at the event that featured dozens of decorated brassieres, games and fun.

— Cindy Glasson photo

## People for People 25th anniversary

by Joe Sova

People for People is celebrating a milestone this year as 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the local food service program.

Getting its beginning in 1988, People for People is a small group of volunteers that provide free meals every Sunday for people in need in the Thermopolis community.

Shelley Deromedi and Nancy Madrigal are the current program coordinators. They have been part of People for People for more than 15 years. Deromedi and Madrigal are members of the VFW Auxiliary team, and Madrigal is also part of the Arapahoe Street team.

Wayne Bentel, a Holy Trinity Episcopal Church member, is credited with starting the People of People program, according to Deromedi. From there, teams were formed and they began cooking a hot meal on Sundays for community

members. When Deromedi got involved in 1998, there were six teams of volunteers.

According to Judy Carswell — a member of the county employees' team and a 17-year

People for People volunteer — there are now 12 teams of volunteers that rotate to cook and deliver meals to from 60 to 65 community members around noon each Sunday. Other

teams are made up of volunteers from local churches, the Kiwanis Club and friends just getting together to serve their

See People on page 12

### Homes needed for Holiday Tour on Dec. 9

In early December each year, a few generous residents in the community volunteer to open their homes to the public for the enjoyment of sharing Christmas spirit and donating to a very worthwhile cause.

The event is Holiday Tour of Homes and this year's tour is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 9. However, several more homes are needed to be featured. There are usually five or six homes in the tour.

"It has always been a good holiday event," said Judy Carswell, one of the Holiday Tour of Homes coordinators. "About 200 people take the tour (each year)...It's such an excellent benefit (for People for People)."

Tickets to the Holiday Tour of Homes are sold for \$6 each and the ticket allows the person to view the homes as well as attend a reception at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center at the conclusion of the tour — featuring holiday goodies and a silent auction that benefits People for People.

What is most important is that this single event is People for People's only fundraiser each year and the proceeds are used to help provide meals for people in need in the Thermopolis community.

"With that (Holiday Tour of Homes) donation we're able to buy food for people," Carswell said. Without it, People for People would be hard-pressed to continue its weekly meal deliveries.

Anyone who has interest in opening their home for the Holiday Tour of Homes is urged to contact Carswell (921-8264), Ranae Baldes (921-1837) or Kelly Andreen (864-2896).

## Reese and Ray's IGA sets Grand Opening

With remodeling nearly completed, the Grand Opening for Reese and Ray's IGA will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30.

Over the past few months, visitors have surely noticed some changes to the liquor store, the check-out counters and the new

cases throughout the store.

The newest additions are a deli case and a bakery case — where folks can pick up fresh Chester Fried Chicken and a variety of donuts and pastries.

Ceremonies and specials will begin at

Reese and Ray's IGA with a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Wednesday. There will be prizes to win along with free cake and coffee during the event.

There will also be groceries given away through the month of November.



# People

from page 1

community.

Carswell indicated about 20 meals are delivered to residents of the senior apartments and 40 to 45 other meals go to additional community members around town.

Meals are served to the elderly and folks living alone, recovering from an illness or surgery, the disabled, handicapped and homeless, and people unable to prepare a nutritious meal or unable to stretch their food budget far enough.

“The biggest reward is when you go into a home where people are not getting out and you see the smile on their face when you’re bringing them a hot meal,” Madrigal said. “It’s absolutely wonderful.”

People in the program can eat at the church, carry out a meal or have home delivery.

The teams prepare the meals at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church kitchen on Sunday mornings – conforming to Wyoming Department of Health guidelines.

Some of the food is prepared a day ahead, on Saturdays. The church kitchen has been recently remodeled, which allows for more efficient food preparation and packaging.

The church even enlarged its ground floor closet, which accommodates more storage. The People for People pantry is downstairs in a dedicated room and another room is used for container storage.

Carswell gave credit to the church for use of the kitchen in food preparation and other space for storage. In fact, Father Joe Galligan of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and his wife Ellen were early members of People for People.

People for People purchases food locally and from the Food Bank of Wyoming, headquartered in Casper. Deliveries are made to Thermopolis and Deromedi handles the weekly receipt of the food – often all on her own.

Nonperishable food is also donated from miscellaneous food drives such as those held by the mail carriers and Boy Scouts. Bountiful Basket program food that is unclaimed often also goes to People for People.

In addition, People for People receives donations of wild game as well as meat from other generous people when they purchase animals at the Hot Springs County Fair.

“This could be the only meal for some people on weekends,” Carswell said. “We don’t want them to be without a meal that day.”

Most of the 12 teams have from six to eight volunteers, but others have just a few.

“We’re always looking for volunteers,” she said, and only a couple of hours of volunteer time four Sundays a year are required.

For further information about People for People, call Deromedi at 921-9219 or Madrigal at 307-349-2573.



Ranae Baldes places a bratwurst in a lunch container held by Sandy Medvigy during preparation to deliver People for People meals at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on Sunday.

## Public notices

STATE OF WYOMING	)	OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
		OCTOBER 18, 2013
COUNTY OF HOT SPRINGS	)	THERMOPOLIS, WYOMING

The facsimile of the Paper Ballots, which appear in this paper are samples. The names of the candidates will be rotated on the official ballots and will not always appear in the order indicated on the sample ballots.

ELECTION DIST.	PRECINCT NUMBER	POLLING PLACE
1	1	Fair Building
1	2	Fair Building
3	3	National Guard Armory
2	4	Hot Springs County Museum

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES, HOWEVER IF YOU WISH YOU MAY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FROM THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY.

Special Election: November 5, 2013. Polls open 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Eligible voters may register and vote at the polls on Election Day.

Hans Odde  
Hot Springs County Clerk

OFFICIAL BALLOT, SPECIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT ELECTION			
A		B	
HOT SPRINGS COUNTY		STATE OF WYOMING	
C		D	
NOVEMBER 5, 2013			
INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER		HOSPITAL DISTRICT FORMATION	
1. TO VOTE YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL ( ● ) COMPLETELY NEXT TO THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE FOR WHOM YOU WISH TO VOTE.		HOSPITAL DISTRICT DIRECTOR ONE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR THREE (3)	
2. IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT, DO NOT ERASE, BUT ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT.			
3. USE ONLY A BLACK INK PEN.		HOSPITAL DISTRICT DIRECTOR THREE YEAR TERM VOTE FOR TWO (2)	
4. TO WRITE IN A NAME, YOU MUST BLACKEN THE OVAL ( ● ) TO THE LEFT OF THE LINE PROVIDED, AND WRITE THE COMPLETE NAME ON THE SPACE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE.			
		FOR the Hospital District formation	
		AGAINST the Hospital District formation	
		END OF VOTING	
A		B	
Town of Thermopolis Pct 1		Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01	
C		D	
Seq:0001			

Are You

Confused?

In The Beginning The Main Reason For Forming A Hospital District Was To Build A New Hospital.

NOW SUDDENLY

“This election is about keeping our hospital open...”

Independent Record — May 2, 2013

“Overall, the hospital is expecting to end the current budget year in June with a net total surplus of \$562,838.”

What Has Happened In The Past 120 Days?

Under These Circumstances It Is Premature To Create A Hospital District.

More Information Is Needed Before Voters Impose A 3 Mill Tax Burden On County Taxpayers

Vote NO on November 5th

Paid for by Just Say NO To The Hospital District



# Land Use Change

from page 1

washed down gullies to the river. “We would not be using chemicals at the training facility,” Andreen said. “Chemicals are used to put a fire out and we want to be able to use the fire over and over.”

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on the chemicals the fire department uses were available at the meeting and show the ones used have “no hazardous components or ingredients” and are completely biodegradable.

In addition, the concentration of those chemicals are at 1 percent, meaning just one gallon of the chemical is used per 100 gallons of water. Even if there was a small amount of chemical left in the hoses being used at the training facility, it would not be harmful to people, pets or vegetation.

“We have used these (chemicals) on haystack fires and the livestock have gone ahead and eaten the hay with no issues,” Andreen said. “There have been no issues with the soils, either.”

Logically, firemen come in contact with these chemicals at most fires, breathing in the moisture and having the water spray directly on their clothing and skin. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not allow the use of hazardous substances for firefighting where personnel will come in direct contact with it.

**Amount of water used**

There was also some concern about the amount of water that will be used at the facility – with worries about further erosion of the soil. The recent rains in the

area were cited as an example of what could happen if the department used too much water.

Andreen addressed the water issue as well, stating that at any given time, the department would not be using more than about 200 gallons of water for training at the facility.

“Two hundred gallons of water is nowhere near what came down during the last couple of storms we’ve had,” he said. A containment pond will be built at the site in accordance with EPA and DEQ recommendations.

**Traffic on Lane 7**

Some were worried about the number of vehicles, anywhere from 30 to 40 in addition to fire trucks, that would be coming down Lane 7 to get to the facility. That traffic would be on

the weekends, either on Saturday or Sunday, and there was some question if it would further deteriorate the road surface on the lane.

Residents in the area really questioned why the facility had to be built in their subdivision, asking, too, why it could not be built 10 or 15 miles outside of town where it would be less of a hazard to surrounding landowners.

Andreen responded by saying the subdivision is a good place due to its accessibility to town and the bulk of the department’s response area.

“If we’re training and there’s a fire call we have to be able to respond quickly,” he said. “If we build this 15 miles out (of town) that puts us 15 more miles away from being able to

put out the fire.

“Let’s say your house catches on fire. If we’re training at a facility 15 miles from town we have to stop, load up the men and then drive into town. That could take 25 minutes. We don’t have 25 minutes to get to your house and save it.”

**Use of Riverton facility**

It was pointed out there is a training facility in Riverton and Andreen was asked why the department doesn’t just go to Riverton to train.

“We do send our guys to the State Training Facility in Riverton,” he said, “but we can’t all go at once. Having our own facility would allow us to train together as a team rather than a few at a time here and there. “Think of it like a football team

doing drills. The team works better if they train as a team.”

After the public comment portion of the meeting closed – approximately an hour-and-a-half later – the planning commission voted to send the land use change request on to the county commissioners with a list of 10 conditions for approval.

Those conditions include surfaced driveways and parking areas to eliminate dust, an exterior lighting plan, weed management plan, solid waste removal, certain burning hours and specific burning areas, a 200 foot buffer around the building, an approved drainage plan, weather and wind restrictions on burn days and all necessary state and federal permits.

The county commissioners will hear the request on Nov. 19.

NOVEMBER  
BOOK  
DISCUSSION

Thursday  
Evening • 7 PM

“The Shadow  
of the Wind”  
by Carlos Ruiz Zafón

HSC Library

Copies available at the library.

HSC High School  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

3

4

Oct. 25-26

Regional Volleyball at Lander

Fri., Oct. 25

Football at Pinedale, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 26

State Cross Country  
at Sheridan

Mon., Oct. 28

Cross Country Banquet, HS  
Commons, 6:30 p.m.,

Tues., Oct. 29

Fall Concert,  
Auditorium, 6 p.m.

Oct. 30-31

FFA Haunted House,  
MP Building

Oct. 30-Nov. 2

National FFA Convention

Oct. 31-Nov. 2

State Volleyball at Casper

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Hot Springs County  
SENIOR CENTER  
• LUNCH MENU •  
October 28-November 1

MONDAY

Baked Ham, Mashed Sweet  
Potatoes, Cauliflower, Coleslaw,  
Corn Muffin, Rice Crispy Treats

TUESDAY

Salisbury Steak, Baked Potato  
w/Sour Cream, Mushroom Gravy,  
Country Vegetables, Strawberries  
& Bananas

WEDNESDAY

Chicken Strips, BBQ Sauce/Sweet  
& Sour/Ranch Sauces, French Fries,  
Brussels Sprouts, Sliced Apples

THURSDAY

Beef Stew, Cottage Cheese w/  
Peaches, Rolls, Dirt In A Cup

FRIDAY

Baked Pork Chops, Bread  
Stuffing w/Gravy, Steamed  
Cauliflower, Three Bean Salad,  
Rolls, Pear Crisp

Menu subject to change without notice.  
864-2151  
206 Senior Avenue

This menu sponsored by

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your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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- Jan

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PICKUP SINCE 2005”<sup>5</sup>

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Options shown. Offers end 11/4/13. Does not include College Grad or Military Rebate. <sup>1</sup>Average Finance Savings reflects the interest savings based on an average 3.42% finance rate offered by Toyota Financial Services to qualified customers in the Denver Region. (Average finance rate of 3.74% for Tundra). Offers cannot be combined and may vary by region. See participating dealer for details. <sup>2</sup>APR financing with approved credit from Toyota Financial Services on new 2014 Tundra. <sup>3</sup>Cash Back offer provided by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. on new 2014 Tundra CrewMax. <sup>4</sup>Vehicle's projected resale value is specific to the 2013 model year. For more information, visit Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com. Kelley Blue Book is a registered trademark of Kelley Blue Book Co., Inc. <sup>5</sup>MotorIntelligence.com, CY 2005-2011 sales. <sup>6</sup>2013 Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price, excludes the Delivery, Processing and Handling Fee of \$760 for Cars, \$810 for Small/Medium Trucks (Sienna, RAV4, Highlander Gas, Highlander HV, FJ Cruiser, 4Runner, Tacoma, Land Cruiser and Venza) and \$960 for Large Trucks, Vans and SUVs. Actual dealer price may vary and does not include state and local taxes, tags and registration and title. <sup>7</sup>Tacoma Double Cab SR5 Short Bed V6 4x4 model shown. <sup>8</sup>Covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids.

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