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Thermopolis  
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# Independent Record



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## Mead, Simpson invited to 'Save the TePee' event

### Lease terminated; owners ordered to vacate property

by Cindy Glasson  
Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, along with State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson, have been invited to Thermopolis Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Hot Springs State Park pavilion to present the state's plan for a "world-class" waterpark being considered for the state park.

The governor and Simpson were invited to attend the meeting by a group of concerned citizens of Hot Springs County, known as the "Save the TePee Pools" group.

Initially, the pair declined, citing a Lincoln Day event in Sweetwater County that same evening would prevent them from being able to attend.

In addition to Mead and Simpson, Rep. Cathy Davison (R-HD8, Kemmerer), who is chairman of the House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee, was invited.

State engineers, division administrator Domenic Bravo and representatives from the TePee Pool may also be here.

Invitations have been extended to other government agencies as well as local government to attend the event.

A tentative schedule of events includes brief statements by Simpson and Mead, followed by

a question-and-answer period for residents to ask the questions most important to them.

Everyone in the community is invited to attend the event, which is expected to last approximately two hours.

#### Splash Park

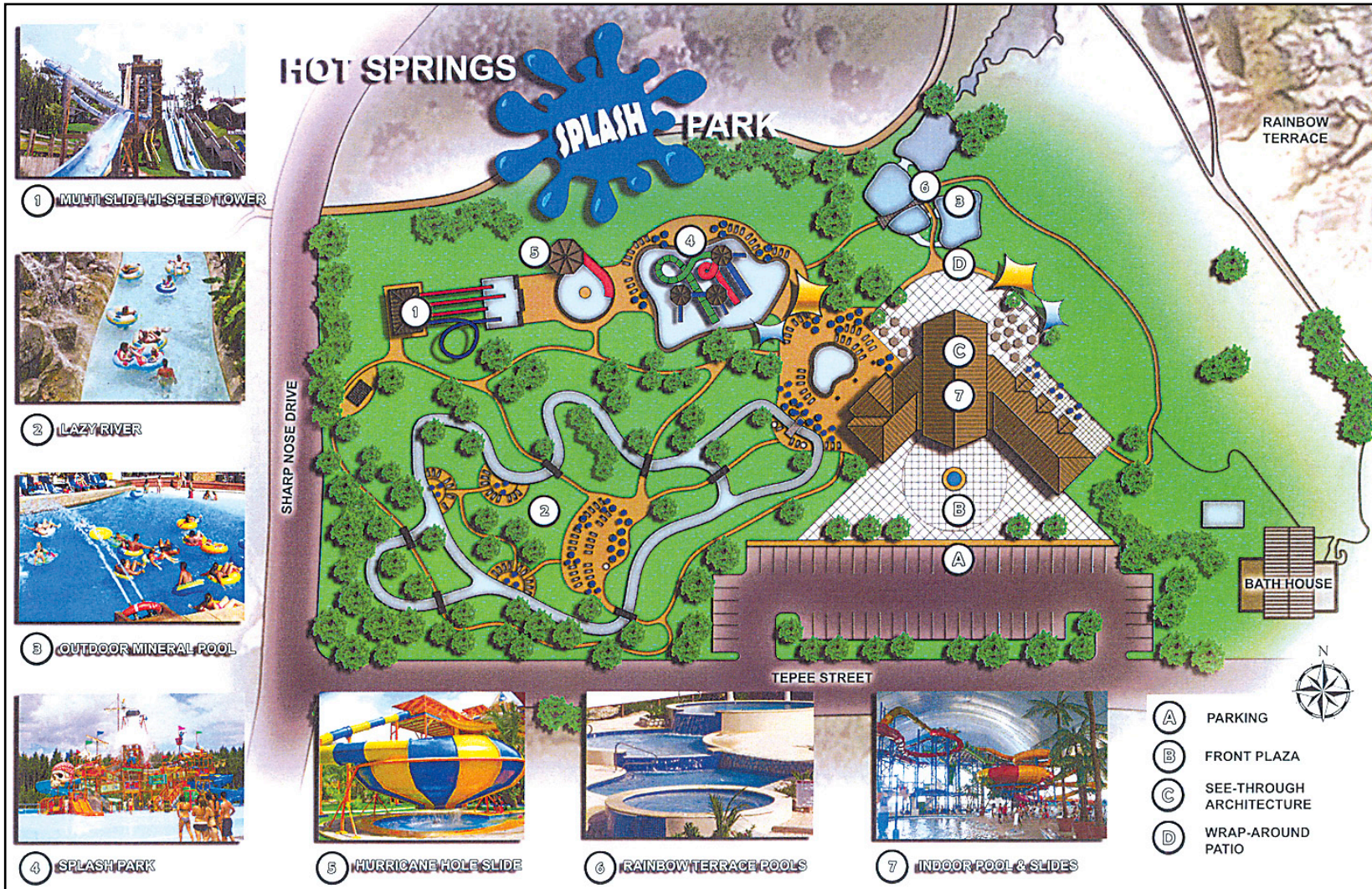
"The new Hot Springs Splash Park will soon become a renowned focal point of recreation positioned in the heart of Wyoming," says the summary of the design concept released by the state.

Included in the concept is parking, which would be in front of the new building with overflow parking available to the south (Kiwanis Washakie Shelter parking lot).

A front plaza would include a fountain, and see-through architecture would be featured on the north and south sides with views of the "exciting terraced pools beyond."

A wrap-around patio would allow visitors to view all of the features of the water park, "including views of the natural beauty of the Rainbow Terraces."

For the thrill seekers, a fresh water multi-slide tower would be placed within viewing distance of the highway in an attempt to draw in visitors.



Above is the conceptual drawing of a proposed water park for Hot Springs State Park. Gov. Matt Mead and State Parks and Cultural Resources Director Milward Simpson have been invited to Thermopolis on Saturday to explain the idea and answer questions about the cancellation of TePee Pools, Inc.'s lease with the state.

A fresh water lazy river is slated for the west side of the property—where the large grassy area now exists – and a splash area for the little ones would be

close to the main building.

The Hurricane Hole Slide, also a fresh water attraction, "spins visitors in circles before dropping them into the pool below."

Rainbow Terrace Pools would be a collection of pools built at the base of the Rainbow Terraces, within "close proximity to the inlet of the river."

There would be one outdoor mineral pool and one indoor mineral pool. According to the design concept, the indoor pool would be available year round.

## Major facelift on the horizon for historic Klink building

by Joe Sovia  
Revitalization of historic downtown Thermopolis is in the cards over the coming months, and years, and it appears what is known as the Klink building will be the first to get a major facelift.

Bob Bell of Bell Leasing, Co., the owner of the building, traveled from Laramie to Thermopolis a couple of weeks ago to meet with Amanda Moeller upon her initial contact and invitation. She is the executive director of the Thermopolis-Hot

Springs Economic Development Company (EDC). They discussed how she could assist Bell to apply for a Historic Architectural Assistance Fund (HAAF) grant, which could help facilitate Bell's ideas for the Klink restoration. A factor in Bell's desire for revitalization is that the Klink building has been in his family, in terms of ownership, since it was built in 1916. It would be a rejuvenated landmark when its 100th birthday comes just two years from now.

The building, located at 504 Broadway, is the former home of Mac's Bar. That storefront sits between The Marketplace, on the northwest corner of Broadway and Fifth streets, and the Bangkok Thai Restaurant. During a visit to the Independent Record office that same day, Bell said his company had earlier purchased what is now Bangkok Thai and is leasing that building to Lee Soundthaly and her husband Peter Jaroenchisakon. That gives Bell store-

fronts from Bangkok Thai around the corner to include Thermopolis EyeCare and Herring's Taxidermy, all the way to the alley; those business owners lease their space from Bell.

"We want to proceed with it and make the building better," Bell said.

"We want to preserve the integrity of the building," Moeller said.

With Moeller as the project manager, if the grant is satisfied it would provide expertise and consultation rather

than money. "They provide an architect or an engineer. No money changes hands," she said. "I did the grant plan for EDC. I'll be here to work with the consultant." Moeller and Bell should know within the next couple of weeks if the grant would be satisfied.

#### Kiwanis Club meeting visit

Moeller was the guest speaker at the

See Klink on page 11

### Easter egg hunter



Zoey Sharp had a ball, or an egg, during the Thermopolis Rehabilitation and Care Center's Easter Egg hunt on Saturday afternoon. The bunny hid his wares in the dining room and all over the grounds for the kiddies to discover. – Cindy Glasson photo

## Rainbow Terraces project underway

by Cindy Glasson  
With the start of summer tourist season just a few weeks away, last-minute work on the terraces will be underway this week.

In an effort to get mineral water flowing back over areas of the Rainbow Terraces, contractor Tom Davidson with Tommaron, Inc. out of Burlington will begin filling and lining three of the pools.

Over the years, water has begun seeping through the pools along the terraces rather than flowing over the edges on their way to the river. According to State Park personnel, there is no

way to determine just how much water is being lost to the seepage.

In an effort to bring the color back to the terraces, Davidson and a team of engineers have looked over the area and blocked out what the elevations are and where work needs to be done to lower some of those elevations to get things moving freely again.

While most of the change in elevations will be a matter of mere inches, residents will see heavy equipment on the terraces, and the walkway will be blocked off during the weeks it takes to get the job completed.

The pools that will be relined

will first be filled with a layer of sand then lined with plastic before refilling with mineral water. The water will be diverted to other areas of the terraces while the project is ongoing.

By placing a few inches of sand below the lining, the depth of the pools will become more shallow. This will allow the water to flow over the edges of the ponds, even with the lower levels of mineral water coming from the Big Spring.

Davidson hopes to have the pools lined and the elevations corrected as quickly as possible so as not to interfere with visitors to the state park.

## Sheriff's office begins trial in Casper over euthanization of horse in 2010

by Drew Foster  
A civil trial began Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Casper involving Hot Springs County Sheriff Lou Falgoust, acting in his official capacity, as the defendant and regarding policies and procedures practiced by the sheriff's office when a horse was euthanized on West Mud Creek Road in August 2010.

The jury trial is scheduled to last four days.

Plaintiffs Chris and Larry Bentley are seeking damages for alleged violations of their Fourth and Fourteenth amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution.

At the heart of the lawsuit are actions surrounding the Aug. 10, 2010, shooting of a horse named Bud on West Mud Creek Road by former Under-sheriff Dave Larson. An off-duty sheriff's deputy and an off-duty police department employee found the horse on West Mud Creek Road that day. Larson

was dispatched to the scene. Katrin Kolder, a local veterinarian at the time, arrived a short time later.

According to the plaintiff's claims and contentions in a joint final pre-trial order filed March 28, Kolder asked if the horse belonged to the Bentleys, and Larson said he believed it was abandoned. The horse was then inspected, determined to be in poor condition, administered a sedative and euthanized, the document states.

Larson settled a portion of the lawsuit in April 2013 for \$2,700 plus the plaintiff's attorney fees and recoverable court costs. Larson initially was named the sole defendant in his individual capacity, but a first amended complaint filed April 2, 2013, by attorneys representing the plaintiffs added the sheriff's office to the lawsuit. Falgoust was

See Lawsuit on page 12

