

County Board appointments

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners made several board appointments at their June 16 meeting, received an update from GDA Engineers on the fuel system for the new airport, discussed the grand opening of the airport and met again with Frank Robbins and members of the Set Free Church regarding issues in the jail.

The commissioners reviewed applications they received for several openings on various county boards before making final decisions on whom to appoint.

For the Big Horn Basin Nature and Dis-

covery Center Joint Powers Board, the commissioners appointed Peter Coggi.

Josh Conrad and Breez Daniels were appointed to the hospital board while Barb Vietti and Jennifer Paris were appointed to the library board.

Phyllis Baker will be on the museum board and Richard Tudor will be the newest member of the Travel and Tourism board.

One of the things the commissioners have struggled with over the years is having enough people apply for the different board positions. This time, however, they had plenty of applicants.

Commission chair Brad Basse noted the large number of applicants this time and expressed appreciation on behalf of the commissioners for the public's interest in serving.

"There were many qualified applicants for all of the boards," Basse said. "I encourage those who were not selected this time to re-apply when future openings happen."

Jeremy Gilb with GDA Engineers discussed a couple of possible funding methods for a fuel system for the new airport.

Originally it was thought the system from

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Changes coming to school handbooks

by Cindy Glasson

Classes have only been out for about a month, but the Hot Springs County School District No.1 Board of Trustees are still hard at work preparing for the 2015-16 school year.

During their meeting last Thursday, the board approved, on second reading, the transportation and athletic handbooks for the coming year.

While a majority of the transportation handbook remains the same at this point, there have been a few things changed in the document, including hiring procedures for bus aides and school bus drivers. Some items are simply wording changes for regulations that are already in place.

There are also some changes to the scheduling procedures to ensure the best and safest drivers are provided for each trip.

Trial periods will be implemented for bus aides when they are initially hired and a three month probation period will be put in place.

Aides will be required to not only keep the students safe entering or exiting the bus, they are also responsible for seeing that volume levels are kept low so as not to interfere with the driver's concentration, that safety measures, including remaining seated, are followed, and that rules are followed consistently, on every bus, every day.

Background checks, drug testing and physicals as well as the proper licensing are the norm with bus drivers, however, there will also be a three month probation period and must be on a permanent route for at least 30 days before being hired for the long term. Drivers will be considered "substitute" drivers until permanently hired.

New drivers will not be able to do any out of town trips for one year. After that, they will be allowed to drive within a 100-mile radius of Thermopolis with certain restrictions.

Of course, all drivers are subject to approval by the transportation director before being allowed to drive and may lose driving privileges for safety related violations.

One change found in the athletic handbook pertains to student travel.

While students are required to travel to and from school activities on the school bus, they are allowed to return home with their parents if they've completed a release form provided by the coaches.

They were only allowed to be released to their parents, not to another student's parents or guardians, however, an exception has been added that a travel waiver,

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Showroom shine

The 23rd Annual Hot Spot Car Rally Show & Shine displayed polished classics and rare vehicles from all over, basking in the sun for all to come and enjoy at the Hot Springs State Park Saturday and Sunday.

Hot Spot Car Rally draws 122 entrants

by Cindy Glasson

Car buffs as far as the eye could see filled Hot Springs State Park last weekend for the 23rd Annual Hot Spot Car Rally.

A Father's Day tradition, the rally features a parade, show and shine, and fun for the entire family. With 122 entrants this year, the rally continues to grow in popularity.

This year's winners include:

Unmodified, pre-1950 – Dick and Sandy Howe, Thermopolis

Pre 1985, classic/unmodified/stock – Lee and Terri Tucker, Cody

Past 1985, classic/unmodified/stock – Ray Parnell, Casper

2000 and beyond – Martin Shumate, Casper

Muscle Car – Renee Kiljander, Gillette

Street Rod – Dan Buckley, Buffalo

Truck – Rob and Moon Seilaff, Dixon

Off road – Bruce and Barbara Seilaff, Rawlins

People's Choice – Jan Swanson, Riverton

Kid's Choice – Rob Crowe, Casper

Pedal car winners: Dean Waltz, Thermopolis; Dolly Daniels, Thermopolis; Michael Isbell, Buffalo.

Poker run: Jim Farmer, low hand, Thermopolis; Deb Buckley high hand, Buffalo.

Jacket winners: Ron Boiles, Thermopolis; Lloyd Lafave, Casper; Rob Crowe, Casper; Joel Highsmith, Shoshoni; Martin Shumate, Casper; Rex Williams, Otto.



Wyoming Great American Road Trip

by Holly Thomas

When the weather warms up and schools close for the summer, Americans hit the highways. Our great country has so many sights to see that the automobile is still the simplest way for many Americans to vacation; and with 50 states to see boasting over 400 amusement parks, 58 national parks, three coast lines and major mountain ranges, a grand canyon and a slew of islands, the competition is fierce. Tourism boards around the United States are constantly working new ad campaigns to attract travelers to their states.

The Wyoming Office of Tourism is upping their game with a program started in 2013 titled the Wyoming Great American Road Trip which provides tourists

with a map with routes across the state highlighting features where geographical stickers can be collected. Some stickers represent the state as a whole, while other stickers feature a landmark which can only be collected at a certain location.

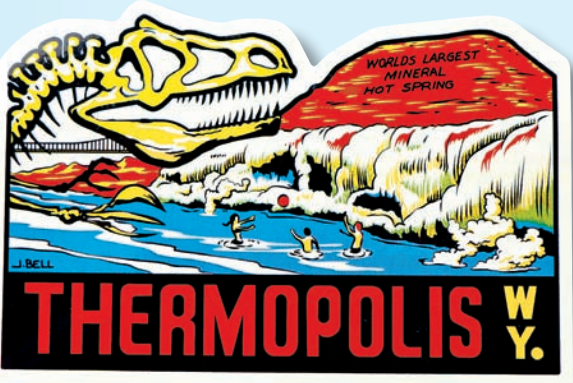
With six new colorful stickers and an interactive map, the Wyoming Great American Road Trip program is starting 2015 off with a bang. The road trip program highlights four routes across the state. The first route named the Park to Park Route (which takes tourists through Thermopolis) is a 489-mile road trip with 25 stops starting in Cheyenne and continuing through Douglas, Casper, Cody, and ending in Yellowstone National Park. The second route, Rockies to Tetons, is a similar route that starts in Pine Bluffs and continues through Rawlins, Riverton, Jackson Hole, and ends in Yellowstone. The third and fourth routes travel along the western and northern edges of the state,

respectively, and both end in Yellowstone as well. All of the mapped routes highlight state parks, landmarks, and visitor centers and entice tourists to stop for a chance to pick up their next collectable sticker – similar to a treasure hunt. The hope is that while they're there, these treasure seekers will also stop and explore the locations they have been led to.

Wyoming Office of Tourism Media and Public Relations Manager, Chris Mickey

described the program as going incredibly well and growing. Every year more and more Wyoming towns are getting involved, more stickers are being designed by artist John Bell, and even more stickers are being printed and given out to the masses.

Not only can tourists collect stickers, but they can also show them off on social media by taking a picture and sharing it using #WY125 or #Foreverwest. The state tourism board has seen sticker pictures on water bottles and car bumpers as well as kids showing off their sticker stash – highlighting the overall goal of the program which is to get



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