



Deadline nears to comment on HSSP plan

by April S. Kelley

The Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails is continuing to accept comments through June 6, on the Draft Master Plan for Hot Springs State Park.

The Master Plan is available for review and comment at Hot Springs State Park Headquarters, Hot Springs County Library, Fremont County Library in Riverton and on the project website at hotspringsmasterplan.com.

Comments can be submitted until June 6, through the project website, on comment cards available at park headquarters and the libraries or by email to info@hotspringsmasterplan.com.

Hot Springs State Park is the most visited Wyoming State Park. The plan was initiated to

help guide management and decision-making in response to several issues. These include a natural decline in the output of thermal water from the big spring; working with the 19 lease holders in the park, including concessionaires, and community and government entities; traffic flow and parking.

Director of the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Milward Simpson said this is a really exciting master plan that needs public input.

"It is crucially important that the community feels like they have some input on the park," he said. "In a sense, they are part owners of the park for helping to envision its future."

Simpson said he would love to see great in-

put from passionate community leaders and residents.

"The master plan for the state park plays a major role in the future of Hot Springs County, both economically and recreationally," he said.

The plan includes provisions for investigating policy modifications to improve mineral water flow, as well as balancing the use of thermal water to ensure the viability of the natural geological feature of travertine terraces, as well as availability for soaking and therapeutic pools.

Other elements of the plan include trail development to provide connections to downtown and natural areas along with improvements along the river's edge.



photo by April S. Kelley

Fun at Field Day

Ralph Witters Elementary held their end-of-the-year Field Day on Friday at the Hot Springs County High School track. First grader Zayden Winters enjoys hopping across the football field.

Town prepares to use nearly \$900,000 in savings

by Mark Dykes

The Thermopolis Town Council is currently working in the process of approving its budget for the fiscal year 2016-17, having already approved the budget on the first reading.

Looking at the General Fund itself, there is \$2,596,160 total revenue, with \$3,491,642 in expenditures. This results in a net loss of \$895,482; that same amount must be used from savings in order to balance the budget.

Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby explained typically Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule tries to be a bit on the conservative side when it comes to totaling revenue. Around December or January, he said, if it looks like "the rug might be pulled out from underneath us," there are efforts to be a bit more judicious on expenditures.

Van Heule noted in any given year the combination of sales tax and one cent taxes might vary over \$200,000 one way or the other. Crosby commended Van Heule on the work she does for the budget, but said it can be an estimate on both the expenditures and the revenue, but there is more control when it comes to expenditures.

Regarding the Enterprise Fund, which covers Water, Sewer and Sanitation, the estimated Water Depreciation Reserve Fund balance as of June 2016 is \$600,000. Anticipated water revenues are \$904,950, bringing the total estimated balance to \$1,504,950. Expenditures are estimated at \$1,076,400, meaning the remainder as Water cash reserve would be \$428,550.

The Sewer Depreciation Reserve Fund balance as of June is \$700,000. Anticipated revenues are \$270,000, with the total estimated balance at \$970,000. Estimated expenditures are \$95,250, leaving \$874,750 as reserve.

Sanitation and Landfill Depreciation Fund balance as of June is \$250,000. Anticipated revenues are \$141,600, with a total estimated balance of \$391,600. Estimated expenditures are \$36,000, leaving \$355,600 as reserve.

Crosby noted the Enterprise Fund is a bit easier to predict, based on the current year. He further explained there are fixed costs when it comes to water, such as personnel and the chemicals used. However, there are also variables like how much water is used. Depending on the moisture received, water use could fluctuate greatly.

Also taken into consideration are the federal regulations. If they should suddenly change — say, to allow only a specific number of particulates per mil-

See Savings on page A7

Federal lands discussion

by Mark Dykes

On May 19, there was some heavy discussion regarding the pros and cons of different governmental entities being in charge of Wyoming's lands. State Representative Nathan Winters spoke on transferring title of public lands from the federal government to state control at the Big Horn Federal Meeting Room. The Thermopolis Gun Club hosted the event.

Winters expressed gratitude for those who attended the presentation, as it is his intention to foster discussion on the topic, and what is needed is information.

Among the points raised during the discussion were the ease and difficulty of access to federal lands compared to state lands, budget issues should lands transfer to the state, handling of wildfires and responsibilities of ownership.

What evokes the imagery of Wyoming, as well as adjectives such as "wild" and "wonderful," Winters said, are the open spaces that set it apart from the rest of the world. These lands set aside for multiple use, he noted, are part of Wyoming's heritage.

Winters questioned whether people believed in the Constitution, and if they believed a government closest to the people is best.

"I think that is where the answer lies," he said. "The whole system of government we have in the United States of America places power in the hands of the people. The problem is over time that power has been taken out of the hands of the people and placed in the hands of federal bureaucracies." He stressed he believes there are good people working in such agencies, but there is a power structure that is not conducive to the

types of freedoms people are supposed to inherit as Americans.

From a historical perspective, Winters said, the Constitution has limited provision for the federal government to own any land. Article I, he noted, states the federal government can have a district not exceeding 10 square miles to become the seat of government for the U.S. They can buy land for erection of forts, magazines, arsenals and other necessary buildings.

Outside of those lands mentioned in Article I, Article IV states Congress has power to dispose of and make needful rules regarding other property of the U.S. — the 10 square miles mentioned in Article I.

As to the amount of detail into what the federal government can and cannot own, Winters said he believes they knew the lands should be given to the states.

Winters further pointed out this is not the first time the federal control of lands has been questioned. In the 19th century, he said, the federal government controlled, for decades, as much as 90 percent of the then western states. This includes Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

The states "banded together and compelled Congress to transfer title to their lands," Winters said. For almost 30 years, Senator Thomas Hart Benton worked for the transfer of those lands. "Benton's tenacity secured those public lands."

Congress eventually transferred title of those lands, which today have less than five percent federally controlled lands.

Contrasting that fact is the federal

See Federal lands on page A7

Former resident named to Wyoming Aviation Hall of Fame

photo and story courtesy of WYDOT

James C. "Jim" Good, who represented Wyoming at the prestigious National Championship Air Races in Reno for decades, is the 2016 inductee into the Wyoming Aviation Hall of Fame.

Good, who served as an ambassador for aviation in the state for half a century, died in Casper on April 24 at the age of 83.

An induction ceremony in his honor is scheduled June 14 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Casper-Natrona County International Airport hangar that houses his Good Warbirds Museum, where he gave tours to school groups and other organizations interested in the vintage aircraft he gathered there, including a Korean War-era Russian MiG-15 jetfighter.

Good began racing in the National Championship Air Races in the early 1980s, piloting a North American T-6, a World War II-era advanced trainer he christened "Wyoming Wildcatter."

He used his understanding of flight and airframes to make numerous modifications to the T-6 to increase speed and efficiency. He also developed numerous race standards that were adopted to ensure a safer racing environment, and he advised and assisted other racers with specialized aircraft modifications and repairs.

The Fremont, Neb., native came to Wyoming in 1952 following his discharge from the Army after a four-year tour in which he served in Germany during the Berlin Airlift.

He settled in Thermopolis, where he worked in the oil fields, learned the blacksmith trade, and became an auto mechanic. At the same time, he pursued his fascination with aeronautics and began taking flight instruction, earning his private pilot's license in 1965.

His natural inclination toward innovation and design



Pilot James C. "Jim" Good

and the mechanical abilities he developed in his previous trades led him to join Christler Flying Service in Greybull in the mid-1960s, where he earned certifications in airframe and power plant mechanics and multiple engines.

He assisted in the design and installation of spraying systems for the company's Lockheed Constellations and Douglas DC-3s. He served as flight engineer on the four-engine Constellations, and piloted the DC-3s on aerial spraying, firefighting and disaster relief flights.

After earning his airline transport pilot license in 1972, Good became a full-time pipeline patrol pilot for Amoco Oil Corp. in Casper, logging more than 34,000 hours flying various types of aircraft at low levels and often under extreme conditions. He retired in 1995.

Good's passion for bringing aviation to the public was evident in his ongoing efforts to organize fly-ins of vintage aircraft. He was a major organizer of the 1989 Flying Cowboy Air Show & Air Races in Casper.

A highly respected airframe inspector, Federal Aviation Administration written test examiner, and flight instructor, Good was in great demand around the area for many years, even assisting a local Boy Scout with a project to preserve Casper's airport history through installation of interpretive signs.

The Wyoming Aviation Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization operating under the auspices of the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission. It honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development and/or advancement of aviation in Wyoming.

For more information, or to nominate an individual for induction, contact board chairman John Waggener in Laramie at 307-766-2563.