

Convention center/resort planned for airport

by Cindy Glasson

Last week in the Independent Record we touched on the airport re-use alternatives as presented by GDA Engineers during a recent public meeting.

Each of those alternatives were judged by the steering committee before selecting a two-phase final plan that includes a convention center/resort concept as well as re-purposing of the apron, hangars and hangar areas.

By combining the two ideas, the committee realized the community could capitalize on short-term efforts to fill immediate community needs, but not restrict the maximum benefit, best use of the property in the long term.

“The consensus of the steering committee and our (GDA) recommendation is to pursue a dual focus, two stage plan,” said Dusty Spomer with GDA.

The two-stage plan would look something like this: in the short term, say the next 0-5 years, the focus would be on re-purposing the apron area facilities and eliminating any ongoing liabilities to the county.

To that end, there will be demolition to remove all airport buildings with the exception of the two largest hangars and the northern most hangar. All fueling systems formerly used by the airport would also be removed per state and federal requirements.

In addition, all remaining airport navigational items will be removed and all utilities on the property disconnected, as well as reclamation of all disturbed ground back to its natural vegetation. That would include removal of the airstrip with the asphalt recycled to use in patching or paving county roads, saving the county money in the short term. The recycled material could also be sold to others to recoup some costs.

New fencing will also be built to coincide with the property lines to keep unwanted activities from occurring on the property.

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Saving the baby

DeAnna Myers is very serious as she learns about fire safety from Thermopolis Volunteer Fireman, Forrest Coleman-Weisz. While celebrating National Fire Safety Week, the firemen stopped in at each of the schools in the area, including a visit to Amy Ready's Moms and Tots on Tuesday.

Special Olympians bring home several medals

by Cindy Glasson

Seven Special Olympics ‘Olympians’ traveled to the fall Area 1 games in Lander the end of September and came home with plenty of medals.

During the games, Xander Getzfried and Spencer Luce brought home gold, David Hansen, Ruth Litizzette and Shaylynn Luce picked up silver, and

Allen Harsha and Allyssa Simons came home with bronze medals.

The team then went on to the Wyoming State Fall Games in Casper, coached by Lauri Olsen and advised by Tom Olsen.

At the state games, Hansen brought home the gold while Getzfried and Spencer Luce picked up silver medals. Simons, Harsha and Litizzette were bronze winners and Shaylynn Luce took fourth place.

With no bowling alley in Thermopolis, the team had to travel to Worland for their practices at Hurricane Lanes for six weeks before the competition.

While at state, the team attended a ceremonial banquet, and Hansen, an Olympian for 33 years, was chosen to give the opening speech to the athletes in attendance and served as the chairman for the state’s Athlete Input Council as well.

The athletes, their coach and advisors send out many thanks to the Hot Springs County School District and the community for their gracious donations throughout the year that makes it possible for these athletes to participate, especially during their Jackalope Jump fundraiser.



Special Olympians from Thermopolis are, l-r, Ruth Litizzette and Allyssa Simons. Back row, coach Lauri Olsen, Spencer Luce, Shaylynn Luce, Xander Getzfried, Allen Harsha, David Hansen and advisor, Tom Olsen.



photo by Cindy Glasson

Recipe for success

The epitome of service with a smile, the cooks from the school district are, l-r, front, Holly Love, Chica, Hannah Brooks, Tammy Redland and Faith Jensen. Back row, Aidan Ozmon, Rachel Hubele, Jan Sharp, Chris Slagle, Jean Anderson and Ashley Muller.

Here’s to the lunch crew

by Cindy Glasson

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed National School Lunch Week to celebrate the school lunch program throughout the country.

This week, Hot Springs County School District and the nation are celebrating School Lunch: Recipes for Success.

On Monday morning, students at Thermopolis Middle School learned the new name for their cafeteria after putting in suggestions. They held an unveiling first thing in the morning, announcing

“Catateria” as the new name.

The lunch crew got a little break at Ralph Witters Elementary when the firemen came in to serve lunch on Monday, too.

Thirty-million students are served school lunches nationwide, and our dietary staff goes above and beyond to ensure our students are getting not only healthy meals, but tasty ones as well.

Our district is fortunate, too, that we have access to the freshest vegetables around, pulling items from the middle school garden to use in various recipes.