

# Grasses

mentally affect grazing patterns for both wildlife and livestock production." Each year, Mealor says, invasive weed species cause Wyoming to incur some \$32 million in lost agricultural value, and lost economic activity.

The spread of cheatgrass in the Basin has increased over the past thirty or more years, and in that same time, native perennial grass production has correspondingly decreased in the area. The invasive annual grasses take up space, resources and nutrients, which negatively affect both the growth of native grasses, and native sagebrush habitat. About one-half of the core sagebrush habitat in Wyoming has been lost to the spread of invasive annual grasses. Degradation of sagebrush habitat directly affects sage grouse, who use the sagebrush for habitat, and also affects mule deer, who rely on the sagebrush to get through tough Wyoming winters.

## Hot Springs County

Here in Hot Springs County, the fire danger from these invasive species was experienced first-hand in 2025. On August 13 of that year, a lightning caused fire consumed over 124,000 acres in the Red Canyon Fire. The fire started on ranchlands owned by Jim and Terry Wil-

son, along the Kirby Creek Road area, off Black Mountain Road, north and east of Thermopolis.

Jim Wilson described the fire as moving very quickly, pushed on by dry conditions, and gusting winds. Efforts to fight the fire were hampered by several days of lightning storms, which followed after the day the fire first started. Lightning storms are no strangers to the area, as there have been some 74 fires in the immediate vicinity over the past 20 years - leading to the area being dubbed "Lightning Alley."

As the fire grew with each passing day, five or six days elapsed before firefighters could begin to actively fight the fire - being restrained up to that point with being merely able to focus their efforts on containment. Although it was just one of many fires burning in the United States, the Red Canyon Fire was the largest such fire burning at that time.

All told, the Wilsons lost some 30,000 acres to the fire and some 30 miles of fence line. As she reflects on the experience, perhaps there is a bit of sadness, but a great deal more determination, which shows on the face of Terry Willson. "There have been a lot of changes after the fire. Our goal is to be able to leave the ranch to another generation, and we are going

to have to make a lot of adjustments to see that happen." Husband Jim Wilson added, "We are making a living doing what we love to do, and we take pride in working with our government partners in rebuilding and repairing what the fire took away. It takes all of us."

Efforts to manage the cheatgrass infestations take the form of the spraying of herbicides. On-going studies by the University of Wyoming have helped to ascertain which herbicides, or combinations of herbicides; which relative strengths of the mixtures; and the relative timing of applications are best suited to battle these invasive grasses. Chemical applications even take place after a fire has occurred, and the post-burn applications sometimes garner the best results at extending the period of time in which cheatgrass can be kept out of a particular rangeland. Long-term, however, these invasive grasses will continue to inhabit both treated and untreated rangelands.

It's an expensive battle. One which requires contribution from many federal, state and local governmental agencies, and from those who own and work the impacted rangelands. Federally, the USDA Farm Services Agency, has programs, which are available to land owners, like the Emergency Conservation Program

(ECP), which "provides emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who rehabilitate farmland and conservation structures damaged by natural disasters." On the state and local level, County Weed & Pest programs encourage land owners to become involved in local spraying efforts, and provide assistance to see that the work is undertaken each summer.

Without a landowner's willingness to become invested in the process of managing the invasive grasses, however, there really is not a "team" to face the problem. "We need a collective action" says Mealor, "there are just too many variables for one person, or one organization, to tackle. What is vital, is that we have good quality rangeland access in the Western U.S., and we all must continue to work to manage those rangelands for the future."

While the battle against invasive annual grasses appears to be both costly and endless, Wyomingites can take comfort from the dogged determination of people like Jim and Terry Wilson, and Brian Mealor. With the investment in time, money, energy and education of folks like that, Wyoming will continue to have quality rangelands for livestock operations and wildlife habitat for generations to come.

# Public notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE - SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is given that a **Special Public Meeting** will be held **June 23, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.**, in the Commissioner Meeting Room at the Hot Springs County Government Annex located at 117N 4th Street, Thermopolis, Wyoming. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and/or act upon the following items:

- Financing for the county-owned airport hangar,
- The bid award for the county-owned hangar, and
- Request for Proposals for development at the Overlook at Roundtop.

Any questions regarding this meeting should be directed to Kim Lindseth, County Commissioners Administrative Assistant, 307-864-8040 or Becky Kersten, Hot Springs County Clerk, 307-864-3515.

/s/ Becky Kersten  
Clerk to the Board

Pub, June 11 & 18, 2026 No. 2112

There is a 2012 Nissan Armada, black VIN#5N1AA0NC7CN612428 that will be sold at Sheriff's public auction on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse on June 23, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. This sale is to satisfy abandoned vehicle costs against Morgan Grant Floyd on the above listed vehicle by Smith Oil Field Service in the amount of \$1000.00.

Pub. June 11 & 18, 2026 No. 2113

## PUBLIC NOTICE: Hot Spring County Commissioners Budget Hearing & Rescheduled 6-16-26 Meeting

A public hearing regarding year-end budget amendments (if any) for Hot Springs County's 2025-2026 fiscal year-end will be held June 30, 2026 at 1:05 p.m. at the Government Annex Building meeting room, 117 North 4th, Thermopolis, Wyoming. All interested persons may appear and be heard regarding such budget amendments.

Immediately following the public hearing, the County Commissioners will consider and approve 2025-2026 year-end warrants, followed by regular business rescheduled from the canceled June 16, 2026 meeting.

Becky Kersten  
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. June 18, 2026 No. 2114

## Warrants List

The following list of warrants approved June 18, 2026, by HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT is hereby published as required by the Wyoming Education Code of 2005, as amended, Chapter 3, Section 21-3-110 (a)(ii).

BIR, LLC	\$500.00
WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATIO	\$500.00
SENIOR CLASS PARENTS	\$527.60
AIRGAS USA, LLC	\$604.12
DAVID WHITE	\$626.00
BOCES 5	\$650.00
CHRISTIE FRITZ	\$660.40
SHAILEE HARVEY	\$665.00
UNIVERSAL ATHLETIC INC	\$697.49
JOSTENS	\$720.00
CURRENT ELECTRIC	\$772.00
BOBCAT OF THE BIGHORN BASIN LLC	\$809.17
THERMOPOLIS INDEPENDENT RECORD INC	\$858.50
NICOLE GOODRICH	\$1,000.00
LASERS EDGE DESIGN &	

ENGRAVING	\$1,040.00
CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	\$1,088.88
SHELLY BURROWS	\$1,189.50
WYOMING FFA LEADERSHIP CAMP	\$1,200.00
LARSEN'S BICYCLES	\$1,262.88
WYOMING FFA ASSOCIATION	\$1,350.00
OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF CODY	\$1,416.55
HEIDI HUNT	\$1,750.00
OFFICE SHOP LEASING	\$2,170.86
ANGELTRAX	\$2,300.00
CLINTON WENN	\$2,390.00
MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION OF WYO	\$2,500.00
TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION	\$2,625.00
GUSTO LLC	\$2,750.00
EBOARDSOLUTIONS, INC	\$3,000.00
THE OFFICE SHOP	\$3,300.54
BEST WESTERN PLUS - CASPER	\$3,520.00
BIG HORN ENTERPRISES INC	\$3,659.76
KISTLER TENT & AWNING	\$3,745.00
EMS LINQ INC	\$3,940.50
WYOMING SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION	\$5,504.57
ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES	\$8,200.00
TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS	\$8,516.00
RYTE REHABILITATION	\$9,012.15
PEAK BEHAVIORAL SERVICES	\$10,120.00
ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER	\$19,264.41
HOMAX OIL SALES, INC	\$43,683.65
NORTHWEST WYOMING BOCES	\$45,775.00
LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES INC	\$54,281.64
BANK OF MONTREAL	\$65,615.11
REGION V BOARD OF COOP. ED.	\$87,856.00
BIG HORN FEDERAL	\$126,550.37

Pub. June 18, 2026 No. 2116

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Thermopolis will be holding a meeting on June 25th, 2026 at 4:00 pm to consider and approve 2025-26 year end bills, at Town Hall 420 Broadway St, Thermopolis, Wyoming. Any interested persons may appear and be heard.

The regular July 7th, 2026 Council meeting is canceled.

Connie Guntly  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Pub. July 18, 2026 No. 2117

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on June 2, 2026, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Tony Larson, Rachel Hughes, Dusty Lewis, and John Dorman Sr. Also present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Jim Jeunehomme, Clerk/Treasurer Connie Guntly, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett and Town Attorney Marshall Keller.

**AGENDA:** Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:** Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the Council meeting minutes from May 5 and May 19, 2026.

**BILLS:** Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the General, Enterprise and Special Fund bills for May 2026.

**PAY BILLS SEMIMONTHLY:** After discussion regarding bill pay, the Council was in agreeance for bills to be presented at each Council meeting.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

1. 7 LAZYS CAFE: CATERING PER-

MIT: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve catering permit for 7 Lazy S Cafe. The permit is for Trailblazer days June 12th at the Fairgrounds. Permission was received from the Fair Board.

2. **KIM BARTLETT:** a. **Communities over Cuts:** Bartlett presented the nonpartisan political action committee called Communities over Cuts to the Council. b. **Farmers Market:** Bartlett requested approval for the Farmers Market and sign placement. Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the signage.

3. **OEB SALOON: CATERING PERMITS:** Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve three catering permits for OEB Saloon. Permit 1, Trailblazer days June 13th at the Fairgrounds, permission was received. Permit 2, Parking Lot Party June 27th at 500 S. 6th St. Permit 3, Horse Sale June 20th at the Fairgrounds, permission was received.

4. **OEB SALOON STREET CLOSURE:** Jennifer Fisher requested permission to close the street from Town Hall to the stop light for their street dance on September 5, 2026, and will keep Council informed of any updates. Lewis made a motion, seconded Hughes and carried to approve the street closure.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** The following reports were available for review: police, engineering, streets and alleys, water, wastewater, sanitation and landfill.

**TOWN ENGINEER:** Anthony Barnett updated the Council on the Tank and Clarifier painting project.

**TOWN ATTORNEY: EXECUTIVE SESSION W.S. 16-4-405 (a)(iii):** At 7:20 pm, Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to go into executive session as allowed by state statute 16-4-405 (a)(iii). The Mayor and Council returned to regular session at 7:40 pm, with no action taken during Executive Session.

## ADMINISTRATION:

1. **SECOND DRAFT OF THE 2026-27 BUDGET:** Following discussion, Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson to approve the budget as presented. Hughes made a motion to amend the original motion to remove the police department hiring incentive, gong back to \$415,000 for the salaries for PD, motion fails for a lack of second. Chief Cornwell pointed out this year's budget should only be \$5,000 increase for salaries, the \$10,000 is spread out over three years, Clerk Guntly will make the correction. The original motion is called to question, the motion carried with Estenson, Dorman, Lewis and Larson voting yes and Hughes voting no.

2. **FINAL BILLS PAYMENT:** Larson made motion, seconded Lewis and carried to have a meeting June 25th at 4:00 pm for Fiscal Year 2025-26 final bills. The July 7th meeting will be cancelled.

3. **SPRING CLEAN UP RECAP:** Jeunehomme reported to the Council the Spring Cleanup cost the Town \$12,780.

4. **GOVERNOR'S MATCHING FUNDS FOR SAFE STREETS 4 ALL (SS4A):** The Town received \$41,250 to match the SS4A grant funds, which was added to the budget.

5. **ELECTRONIC BILLING:** Guntly informed the Council electronic bill pay has been implemented on a few bills and reporting is being worked on.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL: OTHER: TRIATHLON:** The triathlon is scheduled for July 17 and 18, the route is still being configured, and Police assistance may be needed.

At 8:35 pm, Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to adjourn. The next council meeting is June 16, 2026, at 7pm.

**BILLS:** Adam Estenson, Mileage, \$638.00; AFLAC, Insurance, \$370.26; American Welding, Cylinder rental, \$80.33; Applied Concep, Radar Units,

\$3,363.00; Axon Enterprises, Subscription, \$1,905.00; BCN, Phone, \$93.51; Big Horn Water, Service, \$131.50; BNSF Railway, Contract, \$1,083.67; Brenntag, Supplies, \$10,691.60; Brooks, Hannah, Mileage, \$261.00; Bureau of Reclamation, Water Contract, \$4,372.00; Carquest, Supplies \$562.30; Caselle, Support, Software \$972; D & A Construction, Demo, \$18,875.00; Discover Thermopolis, Supplies, \$1,224.00 ; Empower, Retirement, \$1,000; Energy Labs, Service, \$730.00; Engineering Assoc., Services, \$26,255.52; Fisher, Casey, Fuel, \$47.00; Frandson Safety, Service, \$50.00; Hach, Supplies, \$145.00; Hawkins, Chlorine Cylinder, \$2,567.20; High Plains Power, Service, \$132.33; Hopper Disposal, Spring Clean, \$6,300.00; HSC CPR Chapt., CPR Class, \$45.00; HS Vet Clinic, Contract, \$955; HSC Weed and Pest, Supplies, \$88.29; HSCSD#1, Fuel, \$4,098.67; HSC Treasurer, Tax Commission, \$93.22; IDI, Services, \$3.00; Imperial Pump, Service, \$4,120.00; IR, Legal Ads, \$1,638.75; Insurance Trust, Premiums, \$41,896.00; Jadeco, Service, \$538.37; JH Computer, Services, \$5,539.41; Joe Johnson Equip, Parts, \$868.87; Keller Law, Service, \$4,400; Laird Sanitation, Service, \$100; Limb Walkers, Services, \$2,725.00; LGLP, Insurance, \$15,622.00; Merchant McIntyre, Service, \$5,000; Miller Construction, \$14,300.00; Murdoch Oil Inc, Fuel, \$4,295.38; Napa, Parts, \$531.58; Napa Motor Supply, Supplies, \$245.93; NCPERS, Life Ins., \$192; Normont, Supplies, \$4,250.88; One Call, Locates, \$24.15; O'Reilly, Parts, \$7.09; Postmaster, Postage, \$479.09; Range, Service, \$1,029.33; Rocky Mt. Power, Service, \$20,587.41; Stehlin, Robert, Services, \$1,175.00; Thermopolis Hardware, Supplies, \$182.85; Police Dept., Petty Cash, \$1.90; T-Mobile, Phone, \$473.45; TOT, Depreciation, Utilities, \$152,441.00; USPS, Postage, \$412.40; Unum, Insurance, \$114.50; USA Bluebook, Supplies, \$2,309.95; Visa, Supplies, \$4,503.95; VSP, Insurance, \$315.32; WAM, Convention fees, \$270.00; Williams Law Office, Service, \$900; WY Law Enforcement, Academy, \$1,645.00; Workforce Services, Workers Comp, \$6,039.16; WY Gas, Service, \$1,677.65; WY Retirement, Retirement, \$28,142.60; WY.Com, Service, \$45; Youth Alternatives, Services, \$500; Payroll, \$110,133.63; Payroll Taxes, \$35,950.93.

ATTEST:

Connie Guntly Adam R. Estenson,  
Clerk/ Treasurer Mayor

Pub. June 18, 2026 No. 2118

## NOTICE OF RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2026 the Thermopolis Lodging Group, LLC, dba Fairbridge Thermopolis, filed an application in the office of the Clerk of the County of Hot Springs for transfer of ownership of a County Retail Liquor License from THE LLL Company for the following described place and premises to wit: a 24'X 14' Room on the north east of a building in, Lot 1, Section 11, T42N, R95W PM and protests, if there be, against the issuance of such license will be heard at the hour of 9:05 a.m. on the 7th day of July 2026. The Hearing will be in the Meeting Room of the Governmental Annex Building 117 North 4th Street, Thermopolis, WY 82443.

Becky Kersten  
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. June 18 & 25, 2026 No. 2115