

Create your own gourd Friday

If you are thinking about sprucing up your patio for spring, why not create your own hand-painted gourd decoration?

The hands-on activity is part of this month's Second Friday Art Stroll in downtown Thermopolis. Bring the whole family to Wesaw Studio above Re/Max Real Estate, to paint a gourd on Friday, April 10, 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come early to pick out your gourd.

The Art Stroll features a number of artists with outdoor and yard art, including Belinda Daughtery, Ten

Sleep and Cindy Clancy, Mona Wilson and Barb Rice, all of Thermopolis. Kelli Wesaw, Fort Washakie, is featuring handmade yard stepping stones.

Other artists include Sallie Wesaw, Thermopolis, multi-media; Audrey Philips, Thermopolis, Photography; Timothy Wesaw, Fort Washakie, silver jewelry; Deb Stewart, Thermopolis, multimedia, and Joyce Fletcher, Andrea Linn and Jane, Thermopolis, textiles.

Flying Eagle Gallery will host an open house for Deb Stewart, Friday

evening from 5-8 p.m. Stewart's work will be on exhibit through the end of April. Deb will be showing watercolor, oil and art tile pieces.

On Friday evening at 6 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., strollers will have an opportunity to give feedback on a piece of her work using a simple, brief model for critique that she will demonstrate.

Musicians playing at various locations include Mike Howland, Rick Phipps, Shawn McWilliams, Jacky Wright and Michael Wright plus other local jammers.

Maps of all activities and open businesses are available at downtown business locations during the Friday Evening Stroll.

Many artists will give demonstrations throughout the business day on Saturday.

Second Friday ArtStrolls and Still Strolling Saturdays are sponsored by Hot Springs Greater Learning Foundation, Smoking Waters Art Guild, and Mainstreet Thermopolis with financial support from Wyoming Arts Council and Hot Springs Travel & Tourism.

Fireworks pass Town Council on first reading

by Zachary White

The Thermopolis Town Council passed an ordinance on first reading that would allow for the sale of fireworks in town during designated times.

According to the ordinance currently being reviewed, sale of fireworks would be allowed by a licensed retailer for no more than 14 consecutive days around the time of the 4th of July holiday and for no more than seven consecutive days during the New Years holiday.

The use of fireworks would also be allowed in areas, on days, and during hours which the town council allows for.

For example, the town council could allow the use of fireworks from July 4 to July 5 on Broadway Street from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The town council could also decide that fireworks would not be permitted on a certain year if there is a higher risk of a hazard.

The ordinance needs to be approved two more times before it is adopted into law.

Council member Mark Nelson pointed out that if community members have a problem with the change, they should come to town council meetings to voice their concerns so that the whole council can hear and understand how the community feels about the change.

"Don't (just) ask your council members to speak for you," he said.

Mayor Mike Mortimore said he prefers having a vendor in Thermopolis selling to the people of Thermopolis, rather than people buying their fireworks outside of town.

Under this ordinance, the detonation of fireworks would not be allowed within one-half mile of Thermopolis. The previous ordinance did not allow use within five miles of the town limits.

Furthermore, the town approved the addition of Thermopolis as a member of Tree City USA.

According to Ron Raile of Central Wyoming Tree Service, in order to be a part of Tree City USA, members must meet three criteria. They must maintain a tree board or department, have a community tree ordinance and celebrate Arbor Day.

However, the town council has given approval to create a tree board in the past, but nothing has ever happened.

"They've come to us three other times, I just hope it happens this time," council member Tony Larson said.

Raile said in the past the board has lacked an arborist, but he is one and will act in that role to get the program up and running.

Town engineer Heath Overfield said that construction on Second Street of a sewer line will likely cross Broadway Street next week. Minimal delays are expected as one lane of traffic should stay open at all times.

The town council also approved Hot Springs County Weed and Pest Control District to include the town in their mosquito spraying program for 2015.

Additionally, the council approved a liquor license for the One Eyed Buffalo Brewing Company.

The town council also approved road closures for a parade route for the Rendezvous Rodeo this summer. The parade route will run from Pizza Hut down Sixth Street to Broadway, and from there to the VFW.



Pretty in purple

Rhiannon Goffena chases after Easter eggs during the Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt on a beautiful day in Hot Springs State Park on Sunday. Bike winners were Zade Enis, Zaden Scheel, Harley Shafer and Kasen McConnaughey. - Dennis Nierzwicki photo

HSSP Master Plan

by Zachary White

The Hot Springs State Park Master Plan Steering Committee met last week to discuss the future of Hot Springs State Park.

State parks officials say even though great progress has been made, nothing definitive has been done.

"These aren't even draft plans yet, these are concepts," state parks spokesman Todd Thibodeau said.

The master plan is still in the early stages of development, with community members working with park officials to figure out what type of plan will be best for the community during the next 20 years.

Coordinators from Wyoming State Parks have created three outlines for a state park plan. There is a limited action plan, which aims to do maintenance to the park and to keep things at a status quo; an adaptation plan, which aims to make conservative

changes; a legacy plan, which has a wide range of possible changes, upgrades, and updates to the park.

Currently none of these possibilities are any further along than the initial stages.

"Right now we have very, very draft recommendations," state parks spokeswoman Mabel Jones said.

However, State Park Superintendent Kevin Skates said he sees the master plan moving in a particular direction.

"The feedback we've gotten is that people want change," he said.

Among the ideas for change are plans for an overnight camping area, increased parking on state park land near the armory and trails within the park.

"One of the things we're hearing a need for is more trails in the park," Jones said.

She went on to point out that the trails, if added, would loop around and through each other in order to give visitors more miles of trails

within the same amount of space.

But these ideas are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to the final master plan document, which won't be finished until some time in 2016.

But irrespective of what changes in particular take place, both state and local officials are hearing from community members who are looking for new ways of attracting tourists to visit the park and community.

"I think that everyone kind of agrees that there needs to be some new curb appeal," Skates said.

Community members are being asked to voice their opinions about the future of the state park during a community meeting May 11 in the Thermopolis Middle School commons. There will be an open house forum from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., but times are subject to change.

Community members can also give their input by visiting HotSpringsMasterPlan.com and clicking on the Community Forum tab.

