



Meeting addresses hospital undertaking

by Mark Dykes

It was standing room only Tuesday evening at the Hot Springs County Government Annex, for a town hall meeting hosted by Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital to discuss the hospital addition and renovation.

The start of the meeting saw hospital CEO, Margie Molitor, speaking to the guiding principles of the project, which include building for the future, using existing walls, being ever aware of the budget, involvement of staff in the design so it functions well, phasing the project to minimize patient care interruptions and resolve facility issues and getting as much done in the first phase as possible

to minimize loss of patient services and revenue. Molitor noted the first phase is all new build, and once it's completed they can move services into it, which will allow for the remodeling to commence.

Dan Odasz with Taylor Lee from Plan1 Architects presented slideshows of the overall schematic, as well as renderings of what the new hospital entrance, patient rooms and operating areas could look like. Odasz said the entire design is intended to be very needs-based and specific to this community as to what services would be most appropriate. Most of the construction, he noted is very frugal and common sense, with a focus on as much us-

able square feet for their money.

With regard to the adjoining Gottsche facility, Odasz noted they've been working collaboratively with the architect for Gottsche's proposed project – including a new parking area and handicap accessible entrance – to come to a common agreement on how the two projects fit together.

The process for the hospital project is a bit of a “shell game,” Odasz said, with new construction starting on the east side of the current hospital. As new construction finishes, services are moved into it. This frees up

See Hospital on page 8



photo by Cindy Glasson

Fun at the fair

Jillian Kyle, Adriana Rivera, Dazzlyn Hunt and Chase Herring had a 'ball' at the Student Health Fair last Friday at Thermopolis Middle School.

GOP party addresses misconduct

The Wyoming Republican Party met in Casper on Saturday, March 24 to address alleged misconduct by party secretary Charles Curley.

Curley was originally suspended as the party secretary earlier in the month following an allegation of assault which apparently happened after the Laramie County Republican Party's Lincoln Day Dinner on Feb. 23.

At that time, it is alleged Curley and Wyoming GOP Executive Director Kristi Wallin had a disagreement after the dinner with Curley allegedly grabbing Wallin, shaking her and tearing or dislodging her shirt from her shoulder.

During the course of Saturday's meeting, Curley tendered his resignation effective immediately.

Following party rules, Leigh Vosler of Laramie County has been chosen to serve as the party's interim secretary.

“I look forward to serving on the State Central Committee again and to help elect Republican candidates at all levels across Wyoming,” Vosler said.

Vosler lives in Cheyenne where she was born and raised, graduating from Cheyenne East High School. She earned her degree at Wheaton College in Illinois and pursued graduate studies at the University of Wyoming.

A past chair of the Laramie County Republican Party and past State Committeewoman, Vosler has served as an elected delegate as well as an alternate to two Republican National Conventions and has been active in Republican activities in Wyoming for three decades.

Honors at chamber banquet

A good crowd attended the 97th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Saturday night at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.

“An Evening with the Stars” included dinner, entertainment by local musician Eric Kay, a raffle, guest speaker and the awards for Business of the Year, Non-profit of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Chamber Director MeriAnn Rush said they sold 163 tickets for the banquet, but at press time they were still compiling figures to come up with final numbers on how much was raised. However, the 18 auction items did raise \$4,130.

Service awards were presented to Tracy Linko and Dennis Nierzwicki along with Volunteer of the Year awards to Kay Bjorklund, Martin Andreen, Jackie Manning and Barbara Moeller for their service as Chamber Ambassadors.

Senator Mike Enzi was in attendance, speaking about his time in Thermopolis and keeping folks up to date on a few things going on in Washington, D.C.

VJ Smith, author of the book “The Richest Man in Town,” was the speaker for the evening, something the chamber had not tried before. Smith's presentation was not only thoughtful but funny, keeping the crowd entertained during his presentation.

RT Communications was named Business of the Year, but there was a tie for Non-Profit of the Year, with the award going to both the H Diamond W Youth Camp and Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Bill Williams was named the 2017 Citizen of the Year.



photo by Cindy Glasson

Award winners

Chamber banquet award winners were, above, Bill Williams, Citizen of the Year; right, Ray Shaffer for H Diamond W, Non-profit of the Year; below, left, Margie Molitor, HSCMH Non-profit of the Year and bottom right, Becky Dooley, general manager, RT Communications, Business of the Year.



Winters running for state auditor

State Representative Nathan Winters has announced his candidacy for the position of Wyoming State Auditor.

Winters said he is running for the office because he can bring vision and a plan for action to the office that will help Wyoming's taxpayers while keeping government small and close to the people.

“The auditor's office should promote transparency and government accountability while increasing efficiency and constituent service,” he said. “That is where I intend to focus my attention.”

Winters has been the representative for House District 28 for the past six years and feels that representation has given him a clear view of the challenges facing our state.

“I am so thankful to have had the honor to serve everyone in House District 28,” Winters said. “During my time in the legislature, I have worked consistently to advance a conservative budget, keep taxes low and support wise fiscal policy for the state.”

“As a member of the Management Audit Committee, I understand how programs can be efficiently run and where and how they drift from their original mission.”

Winters added that in working on the government efficiency study they found ways to save \$200 million in the first phase and double that this year by auditing all the offices, not just the top four.

“That is what drove me,” he said. “The citizens have a right to see how their money is spent and I've spent a lot of time studying it.”

One of the big items Winters will be involved in if elected is the State Lands and Investment Board, or SLIB. Those funds are divided throughout the state to counties and municipalities for various projects.

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“We need to focus on the people who really need the help,” Winters said. “Core infrastructure and sustainability need to come first.”

He has named Ron Micheli, former legislator, Director of Agriculture and former candidate for Governor as his campaign chairman.

“It is a privilege and honor to support Nathan in his run for Auditor,” said Micheli. “Wyoming needs true conservative leadership at all levels and Nathan will bring accountability, transparency and conservative principles to this important office.”

Former Wyoming State Auditor and Secretary of State Max Maxfield has thrown his support behind the Winters' campaign as well.

“I'm pleased to endorse Nathan Winters in his bid to be-

See Winters on page 8