

# Jackson Hole News&Guide

Jackson, Wyoming

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One dollar

## ► CENTENARIAN SERENADE



Bill Briggs and John Sidle play music for Inger Koedt on her 105th birthday Thursday afternoon. See the Valley section for more photos from the celebration at Koedt's home in Jackson with friends and family.

## Golf & Tennis housing is OK'd

But nature of approval leaves owner unsure if the employee units will actually be built.

By Billy Arnold

After about three years of back and forth between Jackson Hole Golf and Tennis and the resort's neighbors, county commissioners gave both parties something to work with. But the split decision Tuesday put a plan for employee housing in jeopardy.

Still, a senior executive of the owners, Alex Klein, said that Grand Teton Lodge Company remains "committed to additional housing."

The housing question remained after a 3-to-2 vote, with Commissioners Greg Epstein and Mark Barron dissenting, that gave Golf and Tennis a partial go-ahead on an application to amend its master plan. The resort now has the green light to build up to 11,000 square feet of housing and install six new, naturally screened RV pads. The vote also approved a 15-foot setback for development along a "remnant" channel of the Gros Ventre River.

The Teton County Board of County Commissioners nixed two other proposed amendments.

One would have permitted a cell tower to be built on the Golf and Tennis lot south of Grand Teton National Park. Commissioners wanted any cell tower plans to go through other county channels.

The other amendment would have allowed the resort to use the same parcel to build and share warehouse

See **GOLF AND TENNIS** on 10A

## Lots of interest in Virginian

Realtor with listing for venerable property that's priced at \$60M anticipates 'multiple offers.'

By Mark Huffman

If you have \$60 million to spend on about 13 acres of prime Jackson real estate, join the crowd.

News announced Friday that the venerable Virginian Lodge and RV Park was on the market brought a crush of interest from potential buyers around the country, said Greg Prugh, of Prugh Real Estate.

"I have had phone calls from Florida, from New York, from California, from people who read about it, heard about it," Prugh said.

Prugh said Tuesday that he "didn't know what to expect" when he listed the property Friday.

The parcel bounded by West Broadway, Virginian Lane and Snow King Avenue — a big piece of in-town property that's the opposite of densely developed — is the site of

the Virginian Lodge and its 170 rooms and the adjacent RV park, with 103 spaces. The 5 acres of the RV park had already been hinted at in December as a potential sale for development of much-needed worker housing.

Prugh said that since the land was listed he's had about 20 calls from possible buyers or their agents and had sent out about 40 nondisclosure agreements to people interested enough and well-enough funded to see financial details of the property and its businesses.

"I'll be very surprised if we don't have multiple offers" for the property, Prugh said.

People enquiring have hinted at a variety of options for the land, which is today pretty much as it has been since the 1960s.

"Some people have said they're interested in redoing the hotel, or in redeveloping the whole site," Prugh said. "One said housing for the whole site but with some kind of condominiumized hotel."

Interested parties have also offered various ways to handle the automotive side of the equation because

See **VIRGINIAN** on 10A

## Capt. Bob is gone, but not the memories he inspired

Long-time political gadfly was full of simple wisdom, seemed to make a friend of everyone he met.

By Cody Cottier

Political apathy hung over Brian Charette in 1992, when he moved to Jackson Hole as a 20-year-old ski bum. He'd come of age as the Gulf

War raged, and he "didn't want to be involved with any system."

Then, one day in front of the old log Teton County Library, he met Capt. Bob Morris.

Already familiar with the man, Charette recognized the friendly face from around town and the baritone voice from the radio. But when Morris flagged him down to explain why it was imperative he register to vote, his indifference faltered. The two walked together down the block to the courthouse and Morris stood beside him as



Morris

and the calm smile returned, vivid as ever.

he filled out the paperwork.

Nearly three decades have passed since that day, and Charette hadn't thought of it in years. But when he learned last week of Bob's death, the image of the tall man with the floppy hat

"You can't not remember the guy, it's as simple as that," Charette said. "He stuck in many people's memories."

In the half century he inhabited the valley, Morris left a long trail of such stories. Collectively, his encounters with the people of Jackson Hole left an impression of a magnitude that few — perhaps none — have matched. (See the News&Guide editorial board's salute on page 4A and his friend Jim Stanford's tribute

See **CAPTAIN BOB** on 11A



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**INSIDE**

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2A  
3A  
7A

Sex assault defendant won't be going to Florida  
Chefs say two languages are better than one  
Resor land becomes part of Grand Teton National Park

9A  
12A  
18A

After five years, Lucky's can't live up to its name  
Wasting disease spreads, but not the same everywhere  
Hoback man arrested for assault and baseball battery