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Agency: PAWS content unclear

CHEYENNE (AP) — The state Education Department is trying to clarify whether changes are needed in next year's state-wide student assessment while at the same time planning for a revamped 2013 exam.

State Superintendent Cindy Hill said her agency is unclear whether the 2012 Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students, or PAWS, should retain a writing component.

The exam is given yearly to public school students in certain grades to measure their knowledge in English, math, reading and science.

The state Legislature last winter approved major education reforms that aim to improve the performance of Wyoming's public schools, teachers and students. One of their changes involved removing the writing component of PAWS and replacing it with a writing test to be done separately.

However, the language in the new law doesn't clearly state whether writing should be part of the 2012 test, Hill said.

"We just need some more clarification there," she said.

Her agency is working with lawmakers on how to address the situation, Hill said. A solution is needed soon because next year's test is set to be given in about six months, she said.

Meantime, the Education Department is holding public meetings on what the 2013 version of the test will look like. The first of three such meetings this month was held Thursday in Casper.

The state is currently seeking bids from testing companies to administer the 2013 test and two subsequent tests.



Frederick Prescott's massive steel flamingo stands like a sentinel among his other metal wildlife sculptures Friday at the Art Association's Art Fair in Miller Park. The fair continues Saturday and Sunday. For more, see page 26.

PRICE CHAMBERS/JACKSON HOLE DAILY

Developer strikes deal

By KEVIN HUELSMANN
JACKSON HOLE DAILY

Under the terms of a settlement agreement presented to Teton County commissioners Thursday, developer Jamie Mackay could dodge about half a million dollars in fines and still be allowed to bring seven more trailers onto his west bank campground.

The settlement, which commissioners will review this week, would require Mackay to pay \$45,000 in fines, acknowledge that he did not follow county land-use rules and comply with requests for regular monitoring and reporting about how the campsite is being used.

If accepted, the settlement would end the ongoing feud between county planning staff and Mackay about whether Mackay is allowed to bring recreational park trailers onto his property without any kind of special permission from

county officials.

Both sides of the case said Thursday that the settlement would help avoid years of litigation while still achieving the same end result, if not a better one.

"This spares the county from years of litigation that might not have met the conditions that this does," Planning Director Jeff Daugherty said during the meeting Thursday.

Daugherty began to take formal action against Mackay in early June after Mackay began rolling the park model units onto the Jackson Hole Campground, which sits along the road to Teton Village. Mackay ignored Daugherty's abatement letter, as well as subsequent entreaties from county staff, and continued bringing the trailers onto his property.

In previous letters and meetings, county staff members have said they plan to seek the full penalty against Mackay, which is \$750 per day, per trailer. Daugherty said

the full fine against Mackay could have been in the range of \$500,000.

Commissioners did not vote on the settlement Thursday, as they only received the document that morning. They are expected to take up the settlement during a meeting scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Several residents who attended the meeting Thursday urged commissioners to reject the settlement, saying that it could be seen as rewarding Mackay for ignoring county land-use regulations.

"The applicant thumbed his nose at you and got a reward," Save Historic Jackson Hole Executive Director Armond Acri told commissioners.

Other residents called Mackay's approach a "brute force attack" on the county's land-use rules and told commissioners they had "no confidence" county staff would enforce the terms of the agreement.

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