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Chattin' with Sal: Wayne Heili, Five Trails Rotary Club

Mar 5, 2017 Updated Mar 5, 2017



Shurmur



Dan Cepeda. Star-Tribune

Wayne Heili is a member of Five Trails Rotary Club, one of four Rotary clubs in Casper. In celebration of The Casper Rotary Foundation's 100th year, the clubs have come together to purchase and erect a clock in the Old Yellowstone District as a centennial year community service project.

Tell us about the clock project. It will be directly across the street from the Lyric on the street front of David Street Station. It's 17 feet tall, has four faces, will be illuminated at night. It's going to be gorgeous.

How did you decide on the project? We've been keeping an eye on the development in the Old Yellowstone District and thinking about how Rotary could contribute to the improvements of the area. It came to us that Casper really doesn't have a landmark

post clock since Ayres Jewelry went out of business. The styling of these post clocks is so complementary to the Old Yellowstone District stylings. Five Trails probably kicked the project off last year in July, and we've been doing planning and fundraising since. Until now, it's not really been a high-profile thing but we've worked to get everybody involved, including the city because ultimately it will be deeded over to the city. We want it to be sustainable.

What is the cost? It's more than just a clock. We are building a brick planter fashioned like the other brick planters down there and the clock will be based in the planter. We're also bringing in bike racks and park benches. It will be a little area, a gathering space. We can envision people saying "meet me at the clock," for generations to come. The total project will exceed \$50,000.

How about the fundraising? Our efforts have brought us to 90 to 95 percent of what we need. We are looking for the last \$5,000. This is a go; it will happen. We've raised over \$45,000. We sure would love any opportunity for people to make a small contribution. That would make my day. We are so close.

What is your timeline? The goal is to have it up for the beginning of June. The clock is American-made and has been ordered from a foundry in Ohio. We're set for delivery at the end of April. We're now at that stage finishing up preparations for construction. We see construction occurring in April and May.

What are the donor incentives? For \$500, you can get your name on the base plate of the clock, your own name or your business or in memory of someone, and you get a little miniature replica clock. They stand about 8 inches tall, four-faced, four working watch styles, they are really a great desktop showpiece. We have room to accommodate a few more \$500 sponsors. The \$1,000 level has been the most popular. If we surpass the amount for the clock project, we will definitely turn it back to a community-related project, maybe through the Lyric or the David Street Station.

How should people contact you? Contact me at 267-7900 or find us on Facebook by searching "Five Trails Rotary" for more information.

Follow community news editor Sally Ann Shurmur on Twitter @WYOSAS

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