

Haire decision reversed, remanded for new trial

by Mark Dykes

A verdict in a case against Anthony Haire was reversed, and the case itself remanded for a new trial, following a decision by the Wyoming Supreme Court on Monday. Haire was sentenced about a year ago to 8-10 years with the Wyoming Department of Corrections, on a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He was also given a one-year probation sentence on a reckless endangerment charge.

The charge itself states on April 13, 2015 Hair shot and killed his stepfather-in-law, Jamey Don SoRelle, following an argument. He was found guilty Dec. 10 in Washakie County District Court. Both Haire and SoRelle had

previously lived in Hot Springs County.

According to statements of facts related to the incident, Haire was grilling in front of his trailer for his family and a friend. When the friend attempted to leave, she found her vehicle was blocked by a truck owned by SoRelle. Attempts were made to get SoRelle to move the truck, and in a phone conversation SoRelle seemed upset the friend's vehicle was blocking one he typically used and he retaliated by moving another to prevent her leaving. When SoRelle appeared in person he had a handgun and fired a shot between Haire's wife and friend.

Haire moved the two women inside his resi-

dence, retrieved a pistol from his vehicle and took a position behind a truck. Haire claims he saw SoRelle raise his arm and the glimmer of a gun. Haire fired a couple times, SoRelle squared up and raised his gun and Haire emptied his clip at SoRelle. A neighbor testified to hearing one shot followed by the sound of someone emptying a clip. Nine of 12 shots hit SoRelle, who died of those wounds.

Haire contended that he shot SoRelle in self-defense after SoRelle initially fired at him while Haire was in front of his residence. However, it was determined SoRelle was shot

See Haire on page A6

Plan in the works for alternate route around slide



Rough road

A landslide last week closed a portion of Black Mountain Road and cut off access to nine oil wells. Work is currently being done to create an alternate route around the slide.

photo courtesy of Breitburn Operating

by Mark Dykes

A slide on Thursday afternoon closed a portion of the Black Mountain Oil and Gas Field on public land on the Washakie/Hot Springs county line.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimates the landslide to be approximately 10 acres with a depth of 20-30 feet. It destroyed the road to nine wells at the eastern end of the oilfield in Section 31. Approximately the last mile of the Black Mountain Road, from the landslide to the top of Black Mountain, is signed and closed until further notice.

Due to the quick thinking of Breitburn Operating employees who witnessed the beginning of the slide, the wells were shut-in immediately to avoid oil spilling from any broken pipelines.

Sarah Beckwith, who works in public affairs for the BLM, said the exact cause of the slide isn't known because a geologist hasn't looked at it yet, though it's safe to say to tremendous amount of precipitation in the area is a likely culprit.

The BLM will work with Breitburn Operating to determine a path forward. Beckwith said the company will submit a plan to the BLM on how to get to the wells, and the BLM will help in any way it can.

Tom Faulkner, a petroleum engineer with Breitburn, said they are in the middle of making plans. A civil engineer has visited the site and will draw up a plan for providing road access to the site, though nothing is available yet.

Faulkner noted they have 150 barrels of oil a day shut in due to the slide.

Search finds man alive at Anchor Dam

Located halfway through canyon below the spillway

by Mark Dykes

According to information from Hot Springs County Deputy Sheriff Jeremie Kraushaar, a call was received about 11 p.m. Saturday from a business owner, who was concerned she had not seen a regular customer, 50-year-old James Michael Pigott of Texas, for a couple days. She also noted his vehicle was located by Anchor Dam.

The hotel Pigott was staying at had not heard from him either for a few days.

Pigott's vehicle was located in the parking lot by the gates at Anchor Dam, Kraushaar said, and its location prompted a call to Hot Springs County Search and Rescue as well as Guardian Flight out of Riverton.

Due to the initial call about Pigott coming in at night, those involved with the search did not begin until around 7 a.m. Sunday.

Both agencies and Kraushaar first searched the east side of Anchor Dam, along the spillway. The deputy noted the area is rocky, with loose flagstone and shale.

After Guardian flew over the area for about an hour with no success, and men on the ground had not found him, a search began along the South Fork of Owl Creek and ended when they located Pigott — exhausted, dehydrated and hungry, but alive — about halfway through the canyon.

Kraushaar said in his condition Pigott might not have been able to get out on his own. The deputy pointed out he had been out there for a few days, and likely would not have survived another, though the weather was to his benefit, with warm days



photo courtesy of Hot Springs County Sheriff's office

Seek and find

The Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office teamed up with Search and Rescue and Guardian Flight to search for James Michael Pigott, who was found alive after having gone missing for a couple days.

and not overly cold nights.

Guardian assisted in Pigott's extraction, as well as some medical treatment, before he was transported by ambulance to Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital.



photo by Mark Dykes

Royal couple

Kaili Johnson and Caleb DeCroo were named Prom King and Queen on Saturday night. For more photos of prom see page A7.