



Flows from Boysen increased again

by Mark Dykes

The past couple weeks have seen some pretty astounding images from Owl Creek and Anchor Dam, with water going up on nearby roads and extremely high flows from the dam. According to Hot Springs County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon, there is still some snowmelt to feed into that area, but it is in a much better place regarding the melt and the lake level so it's off the radar for now.

The Wind River and Bighorn River, however, are another story.

Gordon said with what was left of the snow-

melt runoff, it was fair to say the Bureau of Reclamation was in a good position to continue flows from Boysen Reservoir into the Wind River at 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This would create enough room for the majority of the coming runoff. It was thought that, if the flow were to increase, it would only go to 9,000 cfs for a short time.

However, last Friday saw about 1.5 to two inches of rain across the drainages that feed the Wind River. It came down quickly, Gordon said, and caused some more flooding in Fremont County, and also took away the storage at Boysen for the snowmelt runoff. Now

that it's warming up, the flow was increased to 9,000 cfs to accommodate the runoff.

It is possible the flow could go above 9,000, Gordon said, but stressed there has not been a decision to do so as of Tuesday afternoon. Boysen does have a 7' flood pool that can be utilized above the normal full elevation of 4,725 feet, but efforts are made to minimize use of that pool.

The Corps of Engineers, State Engineers Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Big Horn Recreation Area and Yellowstone Dam are all in on

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photo by **Dennis Nierzwicki**

A Father's Day filled with cars

Jeff Myers and his son Tanner admire one of the many vehicles being shown off during the Hot Spot Car Rally at the Hot Springs State Park on Father's Day.

Car show features 120 entries

by Cindy Glasson

It was all about the food, fun, classic cars and fathers last weekend at the Annual Hot Spot Car Rally in Hot Springs State Park.

Those arriving on Saturday took part in the Ted Spatol Memorial poker run during the day, finishing up with the parade of cars through downtown.

Sunday, Father's Day, was the big event, the Show and Shine, featuring 120 entries. This year, all the entries came from Wyoming.

Winners include:

Off Road – Shawn Franzen of Worland with a 1984 Jeep CJ7

Motorcycle – Lloyd and Joan LaFave of Casper with a 2007 Boss Hoss Trike

Rat Rod – Tim and Susan Bullington of Riverton with a 1935 Rat Rod Dodge pickup

Truck (through 1989) – Noble Bullington of Riverton with a 1958 Chevy Cameo

Truck (1990 to present) – Dale Farley of Worland with a 1991 Chevy pickup

Special Interest – John Brewbaker of Riverton with a 1923 altered Chevy

Classic Muscle (1957-1973) – Steve Cutler of Casper with a 1970 Plymouth Road Runner

Muscle Car (1974-1989) – Roy Parnell of Casper with a 1988 Chevy Monte Carlo

Modern Muscle (1990 to present) – Ben Newburn of Thermopolis with a 2014 Dodge Challenger

Vintage Car (through 1949) – Kenny Page of Thermopolis with a 1929 Model A Ford

Classic Car (1950-1979) – Paul and Linda Steffy of Casper with a 1956 Ford Convertible

Modern Car (1980 to present) – Scott Steiner of Cody with a 2011 Dodge Challenger SRT

People's Choice – Steve Arthur of Centennial with a 1958 Pacer Edsel

Eclipse hotline in the works

by Cindy Glasson

With the total solar eclipse just eight weeks away, things are moving along smoothly with the planning committee.

Hot Springs County Emergency Management coordinator, Bill Gordon, says they have all the preliminary work done on a separate "hotline" number that will be used in conjunction with 9-1-1 services through the week preceding the eclipse.

The hotline number will be staffed by volunteers from the Thursday prior to the eclipse until the Tuesday after to handle any non-emergency questions. If you would like to be a volunteer on the hotline, please contact Gordon at 864-4649.

A list is being compiled of possible questions visitors might ask upon calling the hotline number and a series of answers to those questions so volunteers would have a script to go by when answering questions.

Those manning the hotline will be at the firehall. The firehall has county phone lines coming into it, so if someone calls the hotline with something that is an actual emergency, they can be immediately transferred to 9-1-1. The line can be used the other way, too, if someone calls and doesn't have an actual emergency.

Volunteer fireman, James Coates, is having a communications meeting with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, life flight and other emergency agencies to set up a communications

structure that will include state, local and federal agencies.

Some have wondered how in the world there could be between 4,000 and 6,000 people expected in Hot Springs County for the event.

Chamber Director, MeriAnn Rush said she has been getting lots of phone calls from people that are staying in Cody or Worland, but are driving down to Thermopolis for the day.

The number of people who will actually be here for the eclipse are not all necessarily staying here, but will be "day tripping" to town for the day, meaning they will be looking for meals and other things to do while they're here.

It could also mean congested traffic both inside the town limits and the roads coming into Thermopolis. The canyon, in particular, could be a real issue.

Although there are just a few hotel rooms left in town, people are still looking for somewhere to stay.

Eagle RV made arrangements with an adjoining landowner to create an additional 50 campsites for dry camping and they are already booked solid.

The El Rancho Motel has decided to open up a portion of their property to dry camping as well, and will probably be full before they know it.

A final public meeting for the eclipse will be held at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center on Monday, July 24 at 6 p.m.

Commissioners prep for litigation

by Cindy Glasson

The Hot Springs County Commissioners met on Tuesday afternoon, including an executive session on their agenda.

Once out of executive session, the commissioners voted to begin legal proceedings against Atlas Roofing for replacement of the roof on the multi-purpose building at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds.

The commissioners and the company have been trying for a few years to come to some sort of agreement on the leak-

ing issues in the building, but to date, nothing has been accomplished.

Commission chair John Lumley said this is the last resort.

"At this point our hands are tied and we have to do something," he said.

Chairman of the Hospital District Board, Bill Williams, approached the commissioners regarding a bill the district received from the county for their portion of the costs of elections for the district, special purpose tax and additional levy.

The district's portion amounts to \$7,269 and Williams asked the commissioners if they could get some sort of relief for the bill such as a write off or consider it the county's donation for the year.

The commissioners have the authority to adjust the bill as they see fit.

The unanimous vote by the commissioners was to forgive the bill.

In other business, the commissioners

Funds sought for fireworks show

by Mark Dykes

Something to look forward to every summer — or not, depending on the person — is the bangs, pops, colors and smell of gunpowder from setting off fireworks. And, each year, the Thermopolis Volunteer Fire Department brings a big show from the top of T Hill on the evening of Independence Day. Search and Rescue has also helped put the show on.

The shows have gotten more and more exciting over the years, but the 2017 show is in danger of heading the other direction, as funding has not been what was hoped. Forrest Coleman-Weisz, John Fish and Mark Collins with the fire department recently spoke about the funding situation, noting through fundraisers as well as generous donations from businesses they were able to get about \$9,000; last year's show had a budget of about \$12,000.

Fish said they would like to have the quality shows the community has seen in the past, but the decline in funding results in a decline in quality. Coleman-Weisz said many communities are shutting down their shows due to lack of funding, and he doesn't want to see that happen. The shows are a big draw for our

community and others around us, and people coming are also buying food and fuel here, or staying at the hotels.

The firefighters further explained that, after last year's show, government issues in China caused fireworks production to either slow or stop at the end of 2016. As a result, the distributor for the Thermopolis show had to wait until production and shipping started again. When it did, he ordered five shipping containers. However, the company shipping them went bankrupt and the shipment was cancelled.

The distributor has no new fireworks for the 2017 season, Fish said, so what he's done is pulled his own inventory he has in stock, which is what this year's show will consist of. He has \$12,000 worth of fireworks set back for Thermopolis, which is why it's important to meet that fundraising goal.

If each household in Thermopolis were to donate \$5, the difference would be made up in no time. Those interested in donating can drop their contributions at the red mailbox at the fire hall, or at the Chamber of Commerce. Should the goal be met, Coleman-Weisz noted, any additional funds will be earmarked for the 2018 show.

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