



Algae bloom discovered at Boysen

by Cindy Glasson

Boaters, fishermen and those who swim in Boysen Reservoir are asked to be aware the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has discovered a potentially harmful blue-green algae bloom on the northeast portion of the reservoir.

On August 24, the DEQ visited the area to investigate and collect samples to determine whether the bloom exceeded the cell density and/or toxin concentrations identified in the Wyoming DEQ's action plan.

Using an Abraxis test strip, a sample was collected at the northeast corner of swimming

beach. The sample results showed microcystil levels exceeded the 10 microgram per liter threshold.

Samples were shipped off for additional study.

The preliminary results of that study show extremely high densities of the blue-green algae at the northeast swimming beach in an amount greater than 40 million cells per milliliter. The threshold is 20,000 cells per milliliter.

The algae is predominantly Aphanizomenon flos-aquae and Pseudanabaena.

Aphanizomenon flos-aquae can be either toxic or non-toxic, however, most sources world-

wide are of the toxic variety.

BMAA, a neurotoxin amino acid produced by Aphanizomenon has been implicated in ALS/Parkinson's Disease. It can release toxins that damage the liver and nerve tissue. Dogs have been reported to become ill or die after swimming in water containing Aphanizomenon flos-aquae.

As for Pseudanabaena, exposure to it can cause a rash or flu-like symptoms including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and upper respiratory issues. On the neurological side it may

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Fun and games, till it's time to pick up bullets

If you own a Nerf gun, chances are you were attending Saturday's Nerf War at the Hot Springs State Park. Dallan Basse, Carter Mascorro and Jessen Basse take cover during the opening team death match event where two teams face off until time runs out.

Hall found guilty of aggravated assault, interference

by Mark Dykes

Friday afternoon, following about an hour of deliberation, a jury returned verdicts of guilty for aggravated assault with a drawn deadly weapon and interference with a peace officer, in a case against Hanes Hall Jr.

According to charges, on Jan. 15 Hall drew a firearm — later identified in the trial as a fully loaded high standard nine-shot .22 Magnum — on Hot Springs Sheriff's Office Sergeant Jeremie Kraushaar, and fought the sergeant while being arrested.

The trial began Thursday afternoon with prosecuting attorney Marcia Bean stating the incident began when Thermopolis Police Sergeant Pat Cornwell investigated a hit and run accident. During that accident, the suspect vehicle left behind its front bumper and license plate.

A run of the plate number revealed it belonged to a red Mitsubishi that Cornwell knew belonged to a female subject who was dating Hall. Upon further investigation, it was found the woman gave the vehicle to a dealership, and the dealership said Hall was allowed to drive it.

Knowing Hall lived outside of town, Cornwell contacted Deputy Kraushaar for assistance. Cornwell later heard Kraushaar was headed to the Law Enforcement Center. Cornwell met Kraushaar, and observed Hall to be very belligerent.

Bean also spoke of a Dec. 14, 2016 incident during which Kraushaar assisted Probation and Parole with a subject living with Hall. At that in-

cident, Kraushaar was granted permission to look around the home and found a room had several guns, which Hall said were his.

Returning to the Jan. 15 incident, Bean said Kraushaar noticed a vehicle at Hall's residence matching the description of one involved in the hit and run. Prior to knocking on the door, he activated his body camera; the video taken was later presented. Bean said Hall answered the door in nothing but a towel and appeared to be intoxicated though it was never confirmed to what level.

Hall would argue with Kraushaar, Bean said, until the deputy decided he would not be getting any information from him. On his return to his patrol vehicle a dog belonging to Hall began to growl and snap at Kraushaar so he took out his sidearm and pointed it at the animal. Hall pleaded with the deputy to not shoot his dog, and went back inside.

Bean said Kraushaar heard a commotion inside and chose not to leave, and Hall later came out with a gun. At this point Kraushaar pointed his own gun at Hall and ordered him to drop his.

Two other subjects at the residence attempted to get the gun away from Hall, which they eventually did, and got him back inside. However, Bean said, Hall still continued to fight as the sergeant affected an arrest and got him into his patrol vehicle.

Defense attorney Dan Caldwell said everything Bean presented did happen but it was up to the jury to decide, when

presented with the evidence, whether Hall presented a threat to Kraushaar.

Caldwell said there was a firearm there, and Hall was intoxicated and did stupid things that night but did not pose a threat to the sergeant.

He asked the jury pay attention to the video, as they would be able to hear the dogs, hear Kraushaar accuse Hall of the hit and run, and hear Hall call for one of his dogs that got out. What they wouldn't hear, he said, was any growling or snapping by the dog.

They would see also Kraushaar pull his gun and hear Hall plead for his dog, Caldwell said, and though Hall had a gun they would not see him raise it toward Kraushaar or make threats to the officer in any way.

During the trial, Cornwell spoke of the initial hit and run accident, stating he visited with a female subject who said her car was struck by a red Mitsubishi and the bumper was left behind. Cornwell got the plate number and ran it, discovering the owner, who stated she had traded the vehicle at a dealership and Hall was a potential owner.

After requesting Kraushaar go to Hall's residence, Cornwell later heard Kraushaar over the radio saying he was on his way to the detention center and met the sergeant there. Kraushaar was later called away, so Cornwell assisted in getting Hall to the "drunk tank." Though Hall kept stating he wanted a drink of water and attempted to get to the fountain, he eventually

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Meeting provides look at eclipse impact

by Cindy Glasson

Cheering crowds at the peak of totality marked the end of the 2017 solar eclipse, but not the end of all the preparation that went into making it a wonderful event in Hot Springs County for all the visitors.

A final eclipse "wrap up" meeting was held last Thursday to go over the final outcome of months of planning and preparation.

"We really had no accurate information on how many people were coming to Wyoming and certainly no information on which directions they were coming to get here," Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon said. "Now, we're getting data from WYDOT and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) on the numbers of cars and which roads they used to get here."

According to WYDOT, the largest traffic impacts for the eclipse were seen in Goshen, Niobrara and Hot Springs Counties.

This may sound like it's a little late, but it will help in the future when preparing for any type of large event. Knowing which roads visitors used to get here for the eclipse will give planners a better idea of which roads were used and use that information appropriately.

Captain Steve Sanders with the Wyoming Highway Patrol (WHP) expressed his appreciation for all the help, good planning and cooperation that went into the eclipse by the committee.

According to Sanders, things went very well. "We didn't have a single fender bender, the traffic moved smoothly both in and out of Hot Springs County. It was

slow at times, but it was smooth. I would call it very successful."

The only downside Sanders could see was that parking for the eclipse was an issue.

"We could work on better markings to direct people off the road," he said. "We're thinking something like football field paint to mark where they are able to park along the roadside."

Now that his department has access to traffic studies from the event, changes will be made for future incidents.

For example, traffic was severely underestimated in certain areas like the amount of traffic coming in from Washakie County. Now, with the studies, they can adjust their base plan of action to account for that.

Gordon said we really had no idea how the people were going to move.

"They just wanted to get to Wyoming to get under the path of totality," he said. "We need to think about directing people to free or cheap parking to maybe get more of them off the sides of the roads."

It was noted, especially around the Shoshoni area, a number of parking lots and open areas were roped off with signs charging to park there. Those places were virtually empty since visitors simply parked by the side of the road for free.

Things went well at the Chamber of Commerce, too, according to Chamber Director Meri Ann Rush.

"We started to see an increase in visitors on Wednesday," she said. "In the summer, we usually have about 40 visi-

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