

by Cindy Glasson

At some point during the last year, nearly everyone has heard about the water issues in Flint, Michigan. The contamination levels in their water has rendered it undrinkable by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards.

Hot Springs County residents receiving their water through the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District (STWSD) were recently appraised of a situation with their drinking water that, while not undrinkable, it is above EPA standards for levels of disinfection byproducts.

Specifically, the water exceeds the standards, or maximum contamination level, for total trihalomethenes (TTHM).

While not an emergency warranting alternate drinking water sources at this time, some people who drink water with high TTHM over years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

TTHM comes from disinfectants used in the treatment of drinking water, which react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in the water, to create the issue of high levels of disinfection byproducts.

The STWSD has been fighting this progressively since they started up their system a couple of years ago. Total organic carbons are compounding the problem, but they are almost impossible to eliminate.

EPA standards call for no more than .080 milligrams TTHM per liter of water. The levels with the STWSD are currently 81.025 mg/l. In addition, Haloacetic Acids are not to exceed .060 mg/l, but the water at the district currently shows 24.75 mg/l.

The water at STWSD is tested every quarter and according to the EPA report, the average

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photo by Cindy Glasson

Hawk's Avenue of Flags

The early morning sun was just touching the red dirt of Round Top Saturday morning as folks gathered to put the flags in place for Hawk's Avenue of Flags. The beautiful display of Old Glory was in honor of Veterans Day and remained in place until sunset.

Veterans in agriculture honored

Thermopolis FFA Alumni gathered on Saturday for their annual Harvest Moon Ball at the Hot Springs County fairgrounds.

In the past, they have honored families and individuals in the AG community for the length of time spent farming and ranching in the county, but this year, with the event being held on Veterans Day, they broke tradition and honored Vets in Agriculture instead.

Sergeant Joe Campbell

Joe Campbell was born and raised in Thermopolis. He has lived here all his life except for his time at the University of Wyoming and his military service.

Joe received his degree in Animal Production from the University of Wyoming in December, 1955. He had been a member of the Wyoming National Guard and was discharged Oct. 15, 1956. On Oct. 16, 1956, he began service in the regular Army; traveled to Butte, Mont. and went by train to Fort Ord, California for processing.

From there he was dispatched to Fort Carson, Colo. for basic training. Then came a furlough and home for Christmas. He received orders to report to Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In 1957 at Fort Knox he received 15 weeks training as a Track Vehicle Mechanic. Following this course he and one other GI were kept at Knox at the Armor School as Track Vehicle Maintenance Instructors.

Joe was quite chagrined that some of his group received orders for Hawaii!

At Knox he met Barbara Alvey who was in Civil Service working as a secretary/ste-

nographer. To make the story short, Joe and Barbara were married in Prichard

there and for neighbors.

After his Army service Joe became manager of the ranch. He innovated with crossbreeding Hereford and Simmental cattle, artificial insemination, choosing topline bulls for AI, and bought extra acreage. Joe also became a private pilot, cutting time and expense checking irrigation, location of cattle, dropping salt, and even dropping lunches for the children when they were riding. Joe still enjoys flying for work and pleasure.

Joe found time to serve his community by serving as president of Hot Springs Farm Bureau and president of the Northwest District Farm Bureau; serving on the Weed and Pest Board and membership in Wyoming Stock Growers Association, president of Hot Springs County School board for several years; director of Tri County Telecommunications approximately

12 years. He was also a realtor for a number of years.

Joe was inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame in September, 2016.

He still has an active role on the ranch,



Donna Penoyer shakes the hand of veteran Sergeant Joe Campbell at the annual Harvest Moon Ball on Saturday night.

Place Chapel at Knox in June 1958. Joe was honorably discharged from the Army in July, 1962 and returned to the ranch with his bride.

Joe worked summers for Durward Jones growing up. Then his family bought the Whetstone Ranch in 1947 and he worked

Discovery center project moving forward

by Mark Dykes

Friday afternoon, the Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center Joint Powers Board hosted a public forum regarding the Children's Nature Discovery Area of the center. The meeting was designed to bring together interested parties to discuss the project's future.

Toddi Darlington said the forum had 12 people attending, but those people represented the Children's Resources Center, Chamber of Commerce, Hot Springs County Commission, Smoking Waters Art Guild and, of course, the Joint Powers Board.

During the meeting, Darlington presented the benefits of the discovery center, including building upon who we are and where we live to create a hub for regional growth, strengthening arts and crafts, providing educational opportunities and adding to our tourism opportunities.

Darlington said those attending were asked what they would want in the discovery area — dubbed an outdoor learning area, as it is for all ages — and they all agreed it needed strong arts and science components, and that the area needed to represent water. She further explained one of the water features they discussed was possibly something explaining how the terraces are formed. As the area is planned for the parcel of land northeast of the Chamber of Commerce, it also provides a good view of the terraces.

Another water feature, Darlington said, would be the story of a spring turning into Wind River and its collection in Boysen Reservoir. This would lead to teaching kids about how dams work and generate electricity, as well as what happens when the water is released and how those flows support agriculture, wildlife and recreation.

"So then," Darlington said, "your hands on learning water feature would have a water course that maybe