



Multiple issues surround water quality

by Mark Dykes

In November, it was reported that water received in the South Thermopolis Water and Sewer District is above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for levels of disinfection byproducts, specifically for total trihalomethenes (TTHM).

At that time, tests showed the amount of TTHM was .081 micrograms per liter, just .001 micrograms out of compliance with the EPA.

However, according to the EPA's Drinking Water Watch, a collection taken Jan. 2, 2018, indicates the TTHM for the South Thermopolis Water & Sewer District was .0627 micrograms per liter.

A collection taken Oct. 3, 2017, showed the TTHM for the Owl Creek Water District at .0800 micrograms per liter.

A Jan. 10, 2018, collection showed the TTHM for the Town of Thermopolis at .0480.

Though there is concern about consuming trihalomethanes through drinking water, a report from Environmental Health Perspectives has shown that absorption through the skin and inhalation of the byproducts — through activities such as simple hand washing, showers, and washing dishes by hand — could result in significantly higher blood THM concentrations.

Members from both Owl Creek and South

Thermopolis districts are working to create a Hot Springs County Rural Water Joint Powers Board. Monday afternoon, Rose Basko, Devin Bult and Colte Russell of Owl Creek and Neil Miller, Matt Ryan and Phillip Scheel of South Thermopolis Water & Sewer spoke about the issues they're having when it comes to water quality.

Owl Creek has been under an EPA administrative order since Sept. 29, 2016, which shows Owl Creek violated the TTHM Maximum Contaminant Level. For the collection taken July 13, 2016, the TTHM for Owl Creek

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photo by Dennis Nierzwicki

Dancin' the night away

Will Farrell and daughter, Logann, tear up the dance floor Friday night at the Community Hall during the Daddy Daughter Dance fundraiser for Hot Springs Dance, LLC.

Petroglyph site in need of volunteers

by Mark Dykes

Outside the attractions that bring people into Thermopolis, there is also plenty in the surrounding area to see and do. Among those is the Legend Rock petroglyph site, open every day from May 1-Sept. 30, and volunteers are essential.

Hot Springs State Park Superintendent Kevin Skates said, "We're really looking for volunteers that want to camp out there and stay out there." Though the months of July and August are covered by a couple from Texas, volunteers are still needed for May, June and September.

Skates noted there are full hook-ups for water, sewer and electricity at the site, as well as a pad, and he's looking for anyone who wants to camp at the site for a day, week, month or more. Volunteers can use their own campers, but the State Park has a 25-foot trailer available to use as well, with a kitchen area, bed, air conditioning and other amenities. Volunteers must bring their own food, clothing and toiletries.

Volunteers would be responsible for opening and closing the gate to the site, and keeping it open from

8 a.m. to 6 p.m., as well as opening and closing the visitor center and cleaning the restroom and grounds. Last year, there were no volunteers, Skates said, so the visitor center remained closed. "That's not what we like. We want to get the visitor center open and have people enjoy the whole thing out there."

Volunteers also receive orientation on the site, and many volunteers have wanted to do tours as well. "We'll go as far as they want to go," Skates said, "as far as knowledge and tours if they feel comfortable with that."

Site hosts will work five days a week and open and close the site and visitor center.

Day volunteers are also needed to fill in for the camp hosts when they have their days off.

People can volunteer as individuals or as couples if they choose. Anyone interested in helping fill the spots can contact Skates at 307-921-2057 or email kevin.skates@wyo.gov.

Legend Rock can be found by heading out on Highway 120 to Cody about 25 miles out, then follow West Cottonwood Creek Road for about eight miles and take Legend Rock Road down to the site.



Wyoming State Legislature underway

Senator Wyatt Agar to stand by commitment

by Mark Dykes

The 2018 Wyoming State Legislature is underway, and Senate District 20 representative Wyatt Agar said Monday that he plans to keep to his commitment of prime sponsoring one bill and co-sponsoring two. He added he committed to this because of the budget issues across the state.

The bill he will prime sponsor addresses the Federal Electronic Logbook Mandate.

The bill calls for an act relating to commercial vehicles, specifying that federal rules requiring

electronic logging devices are not required under Wyoming law, preventing Wyoming officers from enforcing specified federal requirements and requiring rulemaking.

Agar further noted the bill would impact semis and smaller commercial vehicles.

Agar has also spent some time with the National Delegation, particularly Congresswoman Liz Cheney, and has been working with a coalition of young lawmakers regarding regulations concerning Bitcoin and block chain technology.

Agar noted they are looking to re-

peal the regulations because, at this time, people are unable to use the digital currency in the state.

Wyoming is the first state to do this, Agar said, and it would bring a lot of tech jobs to the state.

Agar is also co-sponsoring, along with several representatives from the Big Horn Basin, a bill to get more funding to local sheriff's offices.

It is the hope that the bill will pay for continual education for the sheriff's offices. As budgets continue to be cut, Agar said, people forget that such offices provide that education and need a way to find funding.

Looking ahead to this session, Agar expects plenty of budgetary issues to come up. As far as committee bills, he's not seen anything shocking.

As the session continues toward addressing prime sponsor bills, Agar will have a better idea of what's forthcoming.



Senator Wyatt Agar

Bighorn River clean up Sunday

With fishing comes responsibility to take care of our waters and demonstrate actions that reduce human impact.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, folks will be gathering to clean up the Bighorn River starting at the Wedding of the Waters.

Adiposse Wyoming Council of Trout Unlimited from Cody will be getting together at 9 a.m. at the Wedding of the Waters to begin the clean up.

If you would like to participate, you can bring along your boat, your waders or work

along the shore in the public access areas.

Trash bags are being supplied and R&C Trucks/Big Horn Reddi Mix is providing a dump truck again this year to collect everything.

The clean up will end

downstream at the Skelton take-out.

Volunteers, supporters and fishermen are encouraged to join together to pick up trash that impacts the river.

For more information, call (307) 349-3331.