

Bighorn River flows to fluctuate

by Zachary White
The U.S. Department of the Interior is cautioning sportsmen to be aware of sizeable increases in water flows in the Bighorn River south of Boysen Dam.
Starting March 24 at 2 a.m. the water release from Boysen will start to increase towards 5,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Boysen usually releases water at a rate of 925 cfs.
The increase comes as part of a flushing flow effort by the Bureau of Reclamation, at the request of Wy-

oming Game and Fish. Wyoming Area Manager Carlie Ronca said the purpose is to improve conditions for fish in the river.
"The purpose of the flushing flow is to improve trout reproduction by flushing fine sediments from spawning gravels in the river," Ronca said.
By 7 a.m. there will be approximately 5,000 cfs flowing downstream, which will last approximately 10 hours. The river flow will be reduced back to 925 cfs by approximately 11 a.m. on March 25.

This schedule may be modified based on ice conditions on the river.
Those using the river during the flushing flow should be aware of the fluctuating water levels and also that while some areas can be waded easily at 925 cfs, they may not be safe at 5,000 cfs.
The public is urged to use extreme caution during this period of rapid fluctuation.
The flushing flow is generally welcomed by anglers because it provides for easier wading conditions and cre-

ates a reduction in floating algae.
Worland meeting
There will be an informational meeting about the Boysen Reservoir in Worland.
The meeting will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 24, at the Elks Lodge in Worland.
Topics of discussion at the meeting will be current water supply conditions, 2015 projected reservoir operations and the snowmelt runoff forecast.



Tourism Board OKs stickers, faces concerns

by Zachary White
During the Travel and Tourism meeting Tuesday, members approved the expenditure of \$4,000 to be a part of the Wyoming Department of Tourism sticker program.
The goal of the sticker program is to get people to collect stickers from locations all around the state, thus getting people to visit towns and locations they otherwise may not have visited.
Among the locations stickers are available are Yellowstone, Flaming Gorge, Devils Tower, Casper and Cody.
The board also discussed pushing to get business owners to look at their reviews on TripAdvisor.com and make appropriate changes to their businesses in order to improve the atmosphere for tourists visiting Thermopolis.
Amanda Moeller, who recently returned from a conference that dealt heavily with hospitality, said one of the main focuses was customer service.
However, some board members said asking business owners to look at reviews may not help.
"Some people don't give a shit, they don't care, they're going to operate their business how they want to operate their business," Angie Guyon said.
But some other members felt that a push to do better could be a step in the right direction.
"Acknowledging good and bad reviews increases the credibility of the (business)," regional board representative Sandy Newsome said.
The board also discussed needing new bylaws, as their old bylaws are out of date and possibly not legitimate.
This irked some bored members because of the possible illegitimacy of some of their recent actions.
"So officially we're not a board," Ernest Cummings both asked and stated.
However, other members felt that the actions they had taken wouldn't cause any problems.
"I think it's still in good faith," Moeller said.
Also, the board is still looking for a billboard on which to place ads leading travelers to Thermopolis during the summer tourism months.

Happy heel-clickin' leprechaun

Dusty Lewis clicks his heels before the start of the Shamrock Shuffle 3k race Friday. Tahja Hunt won the race, Brenna Culliton won the dessert contest, Jarron Mortimore won the costume contest and Leif and Jacqueline Polson's baby won the littlest leprechaun award.
-Zachary White photo



by Zachary White
Flying back from a trip with his wife to Sheridan, Jerry Umbdenstock made a runway landing without the help of landing gear.
"I made a belly-up landing," Umbdenstock said, explaining that he had forgotten to put down his landing gear before trying to land.
"My wife and I had just

flown over to Sheridan," Umbdenstock said. "We headed back and (when landing,) that's when the fun began."
The result was significant damage to his four-seat Bellanca Viking aircraft.
However, Umbdenstock and his wife were both fine following the accident.
Officials at the airport said that landing without gear

down is dangerous, but also a mistake that anyone could make with a simple lapse.
The plane in question has the capacity to move at speeds up to 180 mph. Upon descent the plane was traveling at around 70 mph.
"I would like to praise the fire department and police for their quick response," Umbdenstock said.

CRASH

Landing gear mishap

Above, firefighters inspect the aircraft following its rocky landing at the Hot Springs County Regional Airport.
-Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office photo