



New ordinance cleans up town code

by Mark Dykes

The Thermopolis Town Council has approved the first two readings of an ordinance to make all operating hours and days uniform for all liquor licenses. The ordinance repeals town code sections 3-105 and 3-106.

Section 3-105 reads, "Any club holding a limited retail liquor license shall be subject to the schedule of operating hours provided in Wyoming statutes, except that said club may extend its hours of operation to 12:00 midnight on Sundays."

Section 3-106 reads, "On all days except Sunday, a licensee may open the dispensing room no earlier than 6:00 a.m. and shall close the dispensing room and cease the sale

of alcoholic and malt beverages no later than 2:00 a.m. the following day, and the licensee shall clear the dispensing room of all persons other than employees no later than 2:30 a.m."

"On Sundays, licensees may open the dispensing room no earlier than 10:00 a.m., and shall close the dispensing room and cease the sale of alcoholic and malt beverages no later than 10:00 p.m., and the licensee shall clear the dispensing room of all persons other than employees no later than 10:30 p.m."

Amended code section 3-106(a) now reads, "Any licensee may open a dispensing room no earlier than 6:00 a.m. and shall close the room and cease sale of alcoholic beverages

no later than 2:00 a.m. the next day; and the licensee shall clear the dispensing room and the permitted premises of all persons other than employees no later than 2:30 a.m."

The new code doesn't really make any big changes, according to Mayor's Assistant Fred Crosby. Rather, it establishes uniform hours of 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day; Sundays now fall under the hours as well.

The code doesn't require businesses holding liquor licenses to open at 6 a.m., though owners can certainly choose to do so. It will also allow businesses that are open 24 hours to dispense earlier on Sundays.

A third reading of the ordinance is expected at the June 5 council meeting.



photo by Cindy Glasson

Final fun and games

Makayla George joined the other seniors from the class of 2017 for a night of fun, food and games at the middle school Sunday night. The annual senior party features giveaways of all kinds of gifts for the seniors to start college with like dorm refrigerators, microwaves and more, all donated by local businesses.

Rock cleanup, slope repairs begin in Canyon

Travelers should expect delays of up to 40 minutes

by Mark Dykes

Two contractors began cleaning up May rockfall inside Wind River Canyon on Monday, including stability and rockfall emergency repairs of existing canyon walls about 10 miles south of Thermopolis in the area of Big Windy Curve.

The estimated cost of the cleanup effort by Wilson Brothers Construction of Cowley and GeoStabilization International of Grand Junction, Colo., is \$653,000.

Wilson and GSI are scheduled to begin work on the rockslide cleanup effort and slope stabilization beginning Monday between mileposts 121.7 and 122.2 – also known as Big Windy Curve – about 10 miles south of Thermopolis.

"The work at Big Windy Curve will include scaling, breaking up large rocks and cleaning the ditches," according to Wyoming Department of Transportation resident engineer Kaia Tharp of Thermopolis. "Rocks and other debris will be

hauled south about 13 miles to WYDOT's Birdseye Pit between Wind River Canyon and Shoshoni, and also south seven miles to the Upper Wind



photo courtesy of WYDOT

WYDOT Thermopolis resident engineer Kaia Tharp inspects a rockfall area inside Wind River Canyon.

River Campground."

Citizens should expect traffic delays of up to 40 minutes, six days a week, during the rock/mud cleanup and emergency repair project, which carries

a completion date of July 14.

Wilson Brothers Construction of Cowley was nearly finished with a rock-scaling project started last fall, with the goal of cleaning up the area after the 2015 Memorial Day flooding and mudslides. Wilson Brothers was finishing up its work in early May when the rocks started rolling, sliding and falling again in Wind River Canyon, thanks to near record-breaking moisture in the Owl Creek Mountains.

WYDOT maintenance employees are continuing to monitor and clear the roadway of falling rock, mud and additional cracking in the highway's driving surface, which began to appear in mid-May.

Releases from Boysen Dam into the Wind River were recently increased to 7,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Gordon recently noted the flows could be up to 8,000 cfs or more, depending on how fast the reservoir fills; inflow into the reservoir from April through July is forecasted to be 1.5 million acre-feet.

Gordon further noted the walls in the canyon could be at a point of saturation where any significant rain or snowfall could cause additional slides.

Flags to fly on Memorial Day

by Mark Dykes

Monument Hill Cemetery will once again be home to Hawk's Avenue of Flags this Memorial Day. The memorial was created in 2016 in memory of Airman First Class Donald L. "Hawk" Hawkins by his wife Betty Hawkins and daughter Julie Lehman, but it is for all veterans.

The flags flown are the casket flags used at funerals for servicemen and women, but those who want to keep their casket flags can order a 9'x5' flag. Each flag is displayed on a 15-foot pole, and each pole has a plaque engraved with the name, rank and branch of the deceased soldier.

Monday's ceremony will begin with a speech and prayer from Senate District 20 representative Wyatt Agar, and members of the Wyoming Highway Patrol, Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office and Thermopolis Police Department have volunteered to set up the poles.

Lehman noted several high school students dug holes for the poles on Friday, and they are quickly approaching the end of the cemetery.

Lehman said there are over 90 poles going up this year, compared to an estimated 65 during the 2016 Memorial Day ceremony. It will be the third ceremony for the flags, as they were also flown on Veterans Day last year.

Hospital district board approves property offer

by Mark Dykes

Following a 21-minute executive session on May 12, the Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital District Board of Directors approved an offer

to purchase property across from the hospital and contiguous to existing hospital property.

Acceptance of the offer is contingent upon splitting of the closing

costs.

There was no information available as to the purchaser's name or how much was paid for the property, which consists of four lots and a

mobile home.

The next Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on May 30, in the hospital board room.