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Casper Star-Tribune

Monday, April 29, 1991 · Wyoming's Statewide Newspaper · Founded in 1891 · Casper, Wyoming

N. Casper trailer well has related chemical

By EMILY HARRISON
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — A trailer court in north Casper is contaminated with a similar kind of toxic chemical like that found in other parts of the neighborhood, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Both chemicals are frequently associated with dry cleaning — suspected by the city of Casper to be the source of the other contamination focused on in recent public reports. The EPA, still awaiting test results, has not said where it believes the source of the contamination might be.

The Riverside Mobile Home Park, however, is located at the north end of Center Street, west of the area thought to be within the likely path of any plume of contamination coming from the old drycleaners at 342 K St. that is thought by the city to be causing contamination in the neighborhood.

The contaminated well at the trailer park serves about 60 residences with water for drinking, bathing and other uses.

The chemical found in water from the trailer park well is Trichloroethylene (TCE). The chemical reported earlier found in water from wells closer to the K Street 'cleaners' site is perchlorethene (PCE). PCE is also known as tetrachloroethene and tetrachloroethylene.

PCE and TCE are very closely related chemical compounds. The major use for both is as a solvent in dry cleaning and for some industrial uses.

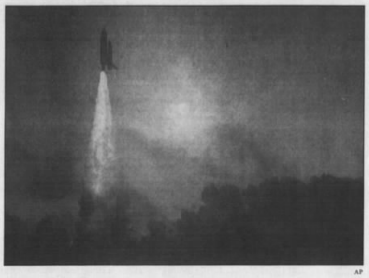
Melanie Abell, an EPA environmental scientist and coordinator of the drinking water program for Wyoming, said, "All we know is that there is (perchlorethene) in the groundwater (in north Casper) and we have detected TCE over the maximum contaminant level at Riverside Mobile Home Park.

"As far as where these contaminants are coming from, I have no idea."

Abell also said it is possible that perchlorethene, which has been found in groundwater east of the trailer court, can break down and become TCE as it is filtered through the ground.

When the first test for TCE was

Please see NORTH CASPER, A10



AP

Lift off

The space shuttle Discovery rises from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida Sunday in the 40th shuttle launch. Its 8-day mission will test Star Wars technology. See story A3.

Economic powers rebuff Bush plea to cut interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush personally appealed on Sunday for foreign allies to cut interest rates to help lift the United States out of a recession.

But his appeal did not win any immediate public support from the two countries it was primarily aimed at — Germany and Japan. Finance officials from those nations said inflationary pressures limited their ability to cut rates.

Bush made his pitch for global rate cuts at an unusual White House lobbying session with finance ministers and central bank presidents of the world's seven largest industrial countries.

After the brief meeting with Bush, the finance leaders moved across the street for six hours of discussion and then late Sunday issued a joint statement that essentially papered over policy differences that existed between the United States and Japan and Germany.

GEORGE BUSH
No support from Japan, Germany

The communique was filed with vague promises — but no specific commitments for action such as coordinated global interest rate cuts.

The statement said the seven na-

Please see BUSH, A10

Wallop proposal aids natural gas producers

But bill faces consumer questions

By DAVID HACKETT
Star-Tribune Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Natural gas suppliers are pleased by provisions included in proposed national energy policy legislation co-sponsored by Wyoming Republican Sen. Malcolm Wallop, but environmentalists and a consumer group are wary of the measures.

A number of provisions approved so far would particularly benefit small producers in Wyoming, Senate staff say.

Natural gas provisions in the bill were approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee this week. Though complex in detail, the provisions are generally intended to simplify the regulatory process for building new gas pipelines and to promote greater use of natural gas.

Wallop and Sen. Bennett Johnston, D-La., the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, introduced their massive energy bill early this year. The bill is already under final consideration by the committee as Johnston and Wallop try to speed the bill to the Senate floor for a vote, but some critics of the bill say other committees may demand to hold their own hearings.

Natural gas, a relatively clean burning energy resource, is plentiful in the U.S. and is viewed as an alternative to imported oil. Wyoming, which has huge reserves of gas, would reap significant economic benefits from increased demand.

Howard Useem, a staff spokesman for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said members have so far agreed to waive anti-trust law to allow small natural gas producers to form cooperatives for marketing their product.

Under the bill, he said, Wyoming natural gas producers could cooperate to establish a single entity for marketing their gas

MALCOLM WALLOP
Bill could go to vote by mid-summer

to customers in California and the Midwest.

Useem said the committee agreed to a "mandatory interconnection" provision that would require operators of large, interstate natural gas pipelines to accept and transport gas from smaller connecting lines.

The committee also provided for a streamlined pipeline licensing procedure, he said, under what's known as the optional cer-

Please see WALLOP, A10

State regs could delay mace company start

By HUGH JACKSON
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — State environmental regulations could delay the new mace and tear gas company in Casper in its plan to begin manufacturing within three weeks, according to a Department of Environmental Quality official.

Defense Technology Corporation's process of manufacturing aerosol products is a potential source of pollution, and so Def-Tec must apply for permits from the DEQ, said Chuck Collins, administrator of the DEQ's Air Quality Division.

In an interview earlier this week, Bruce English, plant manager at Def-Tec, said that the company had already received its DEQ permit.

English said Friday that he had intended to say that the permitting process was nearly complete. He added that DEQ has handled the permitting process in a timely manner, and that if anyone is to blame for the delay, it is the company.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which have been linked to ozone depletion in the atmosphere, are used in Def-Tec products, Collins noted. English said Def-Tec will turn to a new solvent-based "carrier" for the mace which will be lower in CFCs as soon as the company that is developing the carrier makes it available.

DEQ, meanwhile, could decide that Def-Tec doesn't need a permit, Collins said, because information gathered so far suggests the manufacturing process will not emit pollutants in significant amounts.

But until either that determination is made or a permit is granted, Def-Tec can't begin manufacturing, he said.

Collins explained that the DEQ received a permit application from Def-Tec in February. The DEQ felt that application was incomplete, and on March 13, requested additional information from Def-Tec.

Def-Tec delivered, but the DEQ still felt the application was incomplete, and only last week made another request to the firm to provide more information, including data sheets on materials used at the plant and a copy of environmental permits the company received from

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Old Grouch

I think 91% of those folks lied to the surveyors.

RESULTS

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Letter writers oppose M-44 killing of coyotes

By CAROLE LEGG
Star-Tribune correspondent

WORLAND — Most of the 700 letter-writers who commented on a Bureau of Land Management proposal to use "M-44" cyanide devices to kill coyotes, skunks and foxes in the Worland area opposed the idea, according to BLM officials.

The letters were received from Feb. 20 through an extended deadline of April 15 on an Environmental Assessment of Animal Damage Control in the Worland District, said Jim Roseberry, BLM Worland District environmental coordinator.

He said that in the 60-day comment period for the EA, the proposal the majority of respondents objected to most strenuously appeared to be use of the M-44 devices.

Many also opposed other aspects of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service proposal, made to the BLM in an annual plan for 1991, he said.

The proposal is now under environmental analysis by the bureau, which is hoping for a final EA and a decision on the plan by June, Roseberry said.

Environmental groups object to the proposal because they fear the use of poison on public lands and dislike destruction of predators, which they say are a necessary part of the ecosystem.

Proponents of the plan say the poison device is safe and effective, and only one of several tools to control predators that deplete domestic livestock.

Roseberry said that the BLM is neutral on the proposal, and is merely taking input from the public as part of the EA process.

The Animal Damage Control proposal allows: the use of M-44 devices as well as aerial and ground shooting; trapping and snaring using leghold traps and leg and neck snares; use of a "denning cartridge" of sodium nitrite and charcoal that suffocates pups; and use of trained domestic dogs to locate dens, retrieve pups and lure adults to be shot.

"The majority of respondents did not favor ADC," — any of the proposal — according to Roseberry, who said the public "has the misconception that we are proposing or even endorsing this (plan)."

"We (BLM) are objective," said Roseberry, who added that the proposal came from the federal level, and is among the first, but likely not the last, such control suggestions that will be offered nationwide.

"I suspect they (federal agency officials) would propose very similar actions in other BLM districts,"

Please see COYOTES, A10

AP

A Kuwaiti soldier guards a group of Iraqi refugees

U.S. airlifting some Iraqi refugees to Saudi Arabia

ZAKHO, Iraq (AP) — In a change of plans, allied forces have more than doubled the size of their security zone for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq and are scouting a site for a second settlement, U.S. officers said Sunday.

In southern Iraq, meanwhile, the U.S. Army began an airlift to Saudi Arabia of refugees who fear reprisals from Iraqi security forces if they remain. That was seen as a major step toward the U.S. troops' own departure.

Many Iraqis were displaced by the Shiite Muslim revolt in the south and the Kurdish uprising in the north, which broke out after the Persian Gulf War. The insurgencies failed to dislodge Saddam, who marked his 54th birthday on Sunday.

But renewed clashes were reported between Shiites and Iraqi forces near the southern city of Basra.

The fighting caused heavy casu-

Please see REFUGEES, A10

Poll finds Americans don't always tell the truth

NEW YORK (AP) — Only 13 percent of Americans believe in all Ten Commandments. Most workers admit to goofing off for about seven hours a week, and almost half say they regularly call in sick when they're not. Ninety-one percent of us lie regularly, at work and at home.

But Americans can still tell the truth when no one's watching or listening. That, at least, is the assumption of "The Day America Told the Truth," a new book based on an extensive opinion survey that gave participants a guarantee of anonymity.

According to the survey, one in five Americans say they lost their virginity before they were 13. One in six adults say they were physically abused as children, and one in seven say they were sexually abused. Twenty percent of women say they were raped by their dates. A third of AIDS carriers have not told their spouses or lovers.

"There's a lot of bad news," says James Patterson, who wrote the book with Peter Kim, a fellow executive at the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency.

Please see TRUTH, A10

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