

Green River remains high



Trees on Expedition Island stand in the high water from the river. Star photo by C.L. Dillon

By KATHY GILBERT Editor

Published: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 6:07 PM MDT
Water levels continue to be extremely high on the Green River and with Flaming Gorge Days starting tomorrow, residents are being advised to take extra care.

The amount of water being released from Fontenelle Reservoir this morning was 8,760 cfs, up several feet from last week.

Due to the high water level, some Flaming Gorge Days events have been moved.

The Word of Fist cage fights will be at Stratton-Myers Park and 3-on-3 basketball will be on the street in front of Evers Park instead of Expedition Island.

The river is a concern to the Green River Fire Department.

"The swift moving water is an attraction to kids and adults alike, said Lisa Botham, public information officer for the GRFD. "Practice water safety whenever you are near the river. Life jackets are not only useful, they are required by law. Cold water can affect an unsuspecting swimmer or boater much faster than one might realize and you could suddenly find yourself in a dangerous, perhaps even life-threatening situation."

Another concern is that the unusually wet weather has caused plants, weeds and flowers around the city to grow at an incredible rate.

"The rapid growth on hillsides is beautiful, but it has caused some concern for the Green River Fire Department," Botham said.

She said high vegetation levels increase the fuel load and should a fire occur, it makes for a larger, hotter and more dangerous situation to control.

"It is always important to be careful with campfires and lit cigarettes, but with the upcoming Fourth of July holiday, it is critical that everyone take extra precautions, Botham said.

"A grass fire can result in devastating losses of life and property in our community. Wildlife and delicate plant life is lost, and the scars left are visible for years," she added.