TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy
January 11, 2018

It's All Fun and Games Until Someone Gets *Giardia*

The trendiest among us have already ditched millennial pink for graylac, have replaced their poke bowls with giant plates of Dak Galbi, and have known how to spell and say Saoirse Ronan's name long before the SNL song. However, at the risk of sounding like an evening news anchor warning parents about their children smoking smarties, it should be noted that trends can also be dangerous. The trend of Raw Water, for example, has encouraged the drinking of unfiltered, untreated, unsterilized spring water. Live Water, one company offering this product, claims that their "water is from an ancient aquifer that (they) have extensively tested." A 2.5 gallon glass orb of their raw water retails for $36.99 which is a great way to stick it to The Man AND the Plebes and much more sensible than paying a small fraction of this price for the safe, filtered water coming out of the tap. Maybe this one "ancient aquifer" is very special, or maybe this is another phase in our species' search for mystical magical water that started hundreds of years ago with the search for the Fountain of Youth. Either way, this seems like a good time to echo the CDC by saying that "all backcountry water (sourced from a spring or otherwise) should be properly filtered, disinfected, or boiled before consumption."

Day Zero

On April 22, 2018, referred to as "Day Zero," the tap water of the 4 million residents of Cape Town will be turned off because there will be no more water to deliver. This would make Cape Town the first major city in the world to run out of water. The city is working to avoid Day Zero with widespread rationing, asking residents to restrict water use to about 23 gallons a day which is the equivalent of an eight-minute low-flow shower. Cape Town has suffered from a multi-year drought that was expected to occur as rarely as once in a millennium. However climate models are showing that the Western Cape of South Africa now has lower chances of wet years and higher chances of dry years as the century progresses. Professors from the University of Cape Town note that while Cape Town's water system wasn't built to withstand a multi-year drought, neither was any city's water system.

Something in the Water

For the first time, researches have calculated the cost associated with waterborne illnesses contracted during recreational activities in the U.S and it is not an insignificant number. Gastrointestinal, respiratory, ear, eye and skin-related illnesses from swimming, paddling, boating and fishing amount to an annual cost of $2.9 billion. With $2.9 billion dollars, you could build 34 lazy rivers that spell out LSU. Or, you could invest in projects that aim to make our recreational

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

January 11, 2018
Green Drinks
New Orleans

Deadline: January 25, 2018
Propeller's Growth Accelerator Program
New Orleans, LA

Deadline: February 2, 2018
Water Challenge Pitch Competition
New Orleans, LA

March 1-2, 2018
Coastal Law in Louisiana
New Orleans, LA

March 9-10, 2018
23rd Annual Environmental Law and Policy Summit
Tulane Law School
New Orleans

Water jobs:

Vice President, National Advocacy Center
National Wildlife Federation
Washington DC

Research Associate
The Pacific Institute
Oakland, CA

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waterways cleaner and safer. Researchers are hoping that this information will help policymakers put the costs of water quality monitoring and water quality improvement projects into context.

Cool. Cool Cool Cool.

The myth that it is impossible for paper to be folded more than seven times has been busted, the myth that drinking soda and eating pop rocks will cause your stomach to explode has been busted and now, the myth that liquid water cannot exist below 0° C has been busted. Researchers have been able to cool micrometer-sized water fast enough that it remains in its liquid state at temperatures as cold as -42.55° C. This is called supercooled water and it can exist naturally in the upper regions of the planet's atmosphere. It turns out that when water is this cold, it exists in two different liquid states. Further, the researchers demonstrated that at such extreme temperatures, water acts like it can't make up its mind about what to be, shifting back and forth from a high density form to a lower one. The strange behavior is what's known in mathematics as a singularity, a point at which the exact state of something can't be defined. However, don't confuse this study with the internet myth that Aquafina bottled water just doesn't freeze which has also been busted.

Do all Puerto Ricans have clean water yet?

Nope.