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BOCC Redistricting

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YEAR 134

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF RIDGWAY, OURAY AND OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

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CITY OF OURAY

Alpenhof sues after plat denial

By SAMANTHA WRIGHT
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The City of Ouray is being sued by would-be property developers whose plans for a problematic parcel of land in the Ouray Vista subdivision were thwarted by action of the Ouray City Council in June.

The plaintiff, Alpenhof LLC, owns Parcel C of the Ouray Vista Subdivision, the northern 2.2 acres of the Ouray Vista Subdivision, and seeks to subdivide the parcel into 10 single unit residential lots.

In June, the Ouray City Council voted to deny Alpenhof's Preliminary Development Plan, citing concerns

SUED A2

Welcome to the new Plaindealer

Welcome to the new Ouray County Plaindealer. We hope you like our new format.

While the look and style may be new, our devotion to bringing you the most comprehensive news of Ouray County has not changed. We appreciate our responsibility being the newspaper of record for Ouray County, the City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway.

We've heard from many readers these past few weeks, almost as a chorus in support of combining the Plaindealer and The Ridgway Sun.

We've also heard from many because of a miscue in notifying some readers of their expiration dates. Thanks to all who have called and pointed out our error. If you didn't notice the error, feel free to call anyway!

To check your expiration date, just look at the upper left of your mailing label on the paper. There you'll find the date.

Thanks to all the Town, City and County staff for working with us during this transition. There are so many to thank, and I was told never to single anyone out. But I have to give a special thanks to Jeanne Casolari, Ouray County Treasurer & Public Trustee for her assistance with legal notices scheduled through her office, and another special thanks to Jen Coates, Ridgway Town Manager, for her assistance with the Town of Ridgway's legal notices.

Internally, Beecher and I want to thank our staff for all the hard work they have put in: Samantha Wright, Managing Editor; Regina Sowell, account representative; Jeff Reznikoff, graphic artist and Jessi Marlatt, Ridgway reporter. Special thanks to Aaron Montoya for doing much of the redesign work.

And to save the best for last, we thank you, our advertisers and readers for making all of this possible. Enjoy.

MORE PHOTOS
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Clockwise from above: A flash flood on Cow Creek brought hundreds of tires into the Uncompahgre River on July 26. A tractor tire floats under Billy Creek Bridge during the flood. July 27, local rafters pass tires on the banks of the Uncompahgre. Some tires found their resting place on the banks.

Photos courtesy of Hanna Pernefeldt

UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER

Tire junk in the Unc

By JESSI MARLATT
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A flash flood on Cow Creek flowed into the Uncompahgre River after dislodging over 400 tires on Tuesday July 26 around 2 p.m., witnesses say.

According to the water data from the U.S. Geological Survey, at the station on the Uncompahgre River near Ridgway flow reached nearly 700 cubic feet per second (CFS) during the flood. The CFS has measured closer to 300 for the remainder of the week.

Photographer Hanna Pernefeldt said, "The tires kept going under the water and popping back up again. There were so many of them. I am not sure exactly the number but it was a lot."

Rafter Joshua Jacobs said he "counted over 400 tires carried down the river amongst debris."

On Wednesday, the morning following the flood, rafters counted 103 tires resting on sandbars and the banks of the Uncompahgre River between Billy Creek and Uncompahgre Road in Montrose County.

The tires came in all shapes and sizes: backhoe, 4-wheeler, truck, dirt bike, inner-tubes and even a few of the huge commercial fertilizer-spreader tires littered the riverbed.

The tires appeared to be in good repair, minus tread. They were not cracked or full of dirt and a few had wheels inside.

"Maybe someone was building an

Earth Ship," said Elizabeth Roscoe, of Friends of the Uncompahgre River, "but that seems like a lot of tires for that sort of project."

"I have never seen anything like this before," said Chris Miller, of the Ouray County Road and Bridge Department. "It could have been the beginning of a retaining wall or maybe someone ran out of room to dump."

As far as jurisdiction is concerned, these tires are a hot potato within the region.

Jim Prokrandt of the Colorado Water District said, "We deal with the legal side of water rights, so we would not have anything to do with a cleanup. This is not a very good problem to have."

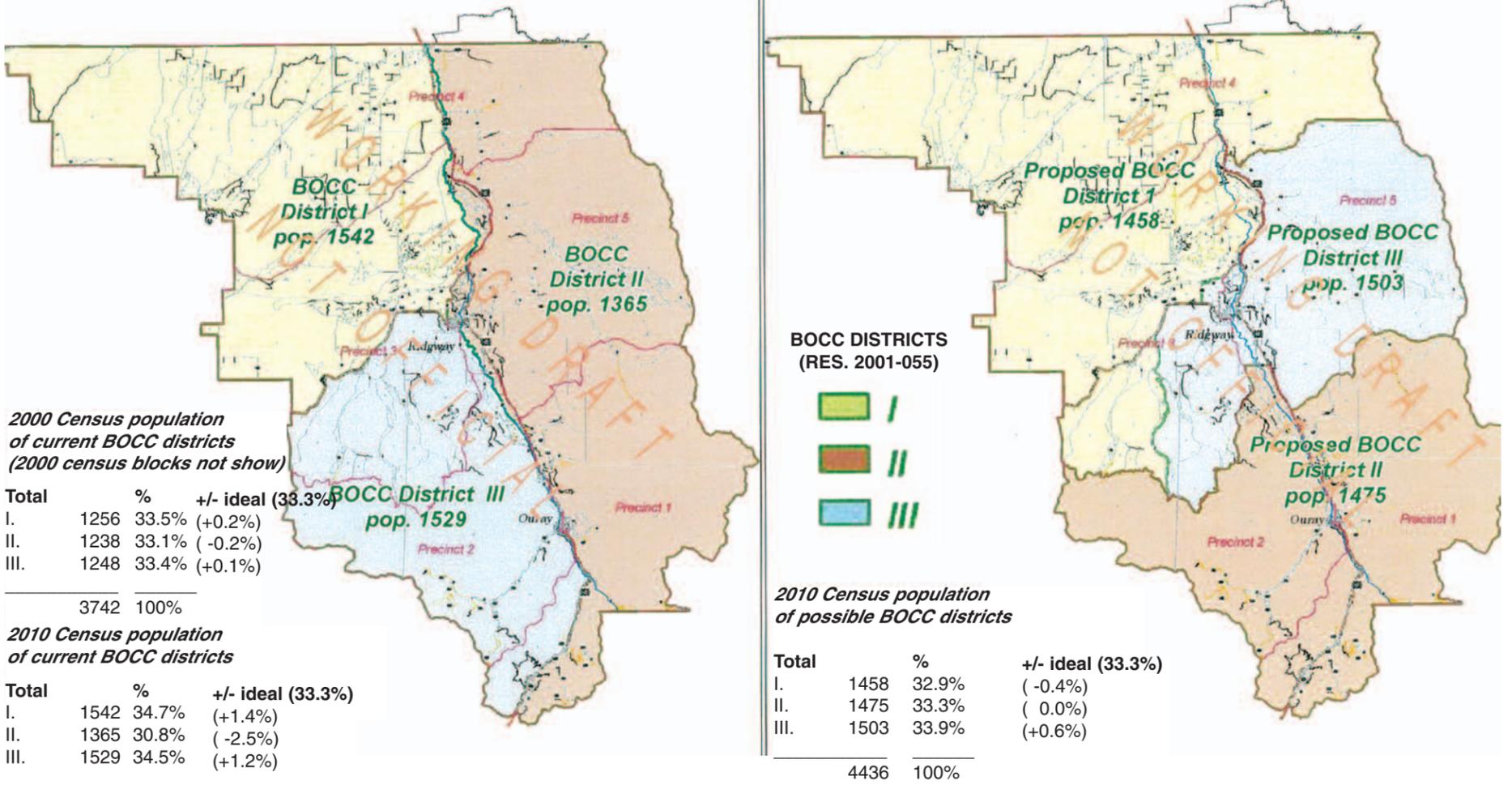
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BOCC to hear from public on redistricting



WORKING DRAFT-----NOT OFFICIAL

The BOCC will convene at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 9 at the 4-H Center in Ridgway to discuss possible redistricting and to hear public comments. The board has encouraged the public to attend and participate in the public hearing process or to send written comments to Linda Munson-Haley, clerk of the board, at lmhaley@ouraycountycogov. The county must complete redistricting by Sept. 30. Above are maps of the current districts and the proposed districts.

Saying Goodbye

Please join the Ouray County Plaindealer for a farewell party for Aaron Montoya on Friday, Aug. 12 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the patio at 133 N. Lena in Ridgway. It is located between the Plaindealer office and True Grit Café.

Aaron, who has worked as a reporter for The Ridgway Sun for a year, is leaving to join his significant other in Eugene, Ore.

The public is invited to come say goodbye to Aaron and have a libation or two.

TIRES Sheriff's investigation underway

CONTINUED FROM A1

Joe Lewandowski of the Department of Wildlife said, "We only investigate if there is a chemical spill or hazardous materials. The DOW does not get involved unless there is a fish kill. Tires are pretty inert, maybe unsightly on the river, but they are not hazardous to the wildlife so we will not be part of a cleanup."

Jerry Sieverson, Public Works Manager for the City of Montrose, said, "Once, and if, they get to the city of Montrose they will be cleaned up from city property by the city, but we need to find out who they belong to and have them clean it up."

Unofficial cleanup efforts have already begun by local rafters who have moved most of the 103 tires from the sandbars onto the river banks to prevent further movement in future flash floods.

"Tires will sink eventually and fill up with silt and stay there," said Tom King, owner of Sunset Automotive, "they need to be picked up and disposed of properly because they don't go away."

According to statements released by the Ouray County Sheriff's Office, it received a report on Aug. 1 that "200-plus tires were currently in the Uncompahgre River just below the Billy Creek area." A full investigation is underway.

The Sheriff's Office is taking the situation very seriously and has begun an investigation to find the origin of the tires and the best way to remove and dispose of them.

"If there are criminal charges filed those individuals will be responsible for the cleanup efforts," Miller said.

The Sheriff's office has contacted other entities to advise and assist in investigating this situation.

One hundred and three tires have been accounted for. If witnesses are correct, there could be up to 300 more below the water's surface.

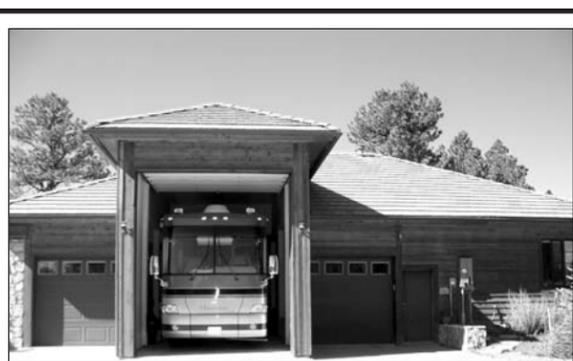
If you have any information please contact the Ouray County Sheriff's office at (970)325-7272.

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