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TIRES

19 down 100 to go



Volunteers organized by the Uncompahgre Watershed Project pulled tires from the river near the Billy Creek Bridge on Tuesday, Nov. 15. Six volunteers arrived for the initial clean up of the Uncompahgre on state land. Pictured here is Ben Tisdell removing the first of 19 tires from the river. Clean up efforts will continue each day until the next snow storm. Dave Hale of the DOW estimates there are over 100 tires remaining on state land. Volunteers are invited to meet at 10 a.m. on the east side of 550 just a little bit to the North of Pacochupuk, in between Pacochupuk and the Billy Creek DPW station on County Road 2. Park near the stream gauge at the north access gate. Volunteers are asked to bring a lunch, gloves, waders and day-glow orange. For more information contact Matthew Jurjonas at UWPVista@gmail.com or visit the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership website <http://uncompahgrewatershed.org> Plaindealer photo by Jessi Marlatt

OURAY COUNTY

BOCC offers county attorney position to Boulder attorney

PLAINDEALER STAFF REPORT
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After an executive session Tuesday, the Board of County Commissioners announced that the county has made an offer to Timothy J. O'Neill to fill the vacant county attorney position. Negotiations are underway, and County Administrator Connie Hunt said the board should know something by the end of the week. O'Neill is cur-

rently a litigation attorney with the Caplan and Earnest law firm in Boulder. According to the firm's website, he graduated from University of Colorado School of Law in 2006, after obtaining his undergraduate degree at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Ouray County Attorney position became vacant in August when Mary Deganhart was appointed district judge for the Seventh Judicial District of Colorado.

CITY OF OURAY

Bears feasting downtown

BY SANDY BARNES
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A bear broke into a garage at a Ouray residence on Fifth Street Sunday night and started eating an elk carcass that a hunter had hung there, Police Chief Leo Rasmusson reported. This latest incident is one of several recent bear sightings in Ouray.

In the past couple weeks, bears have been coming into town to pick fruit off trees and search for whatever other food they can find while bulking up for winter hibernation.

Among the sightings were five bears on the 400 block of Sixth Avenue eating apples out of trees on Nov. 8. "The bears are coming around due to there still being an abundance of fruit in the fruit trees," Rasmusson said.

The previous week, there were six different bears spotted at several locations around town, including one that broke into a shed at the Ouray RV Park on North Main Street and stole cat food. Other bears sightings have been reported on Third Avenue, Oak Street and Ninth Avenue.

"We still have the bears," said Rasmusson.

Ouray police are chasing the bears away by yelling at them and making noise, Rasmusson said. If that technique doesn't work, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has supplied police with non-lethal ammunition, which they are authorized to use.

Because all the recent bear activity has occurred at night, Rasmusson is advising residents to take flashlights with them when walking after dark. He also cautioned residents to secure garbage and place it outside as close to the pick up time as possible.

Another defense measure is carrying bear spray. However, if a person aims at a bear when the wind is blowing in his direction, he may get the spray in his face, rather than the animal, Rasmusson cautioned.

"We are communicating frequently with the division of wildlife," Rasmusson said while discussing bear activity in town.

In the case of the bear eating the elk carcass, Rasmusson said he encouraged the resident to contact the division of wildlife and file a report. The state agency based in Montrose handles cases of aggressive behavior in wildlife.

EDUCATION

RHS beats GJHS with brains

BY JESSI MARLATT
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Ridgway High School seniors beat Grand Junction High School this weekend in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution project hosted by Colorado Mesa University. Ridgway will be representing the Third Congressional District at the state competition on Dec. 12 in Denver.

Jason Gunning teaches History and Government to the students of the second-

ary school.

This is the first year Ridgway has competed in We the People, which was established in 1987 to help students understand the principles of constitutional government and civic education.

"It is one thing to get a good grade in a class, it is something entirely different for these kids to prove to a complete stranger that they fully understand these concepts,"

RHS A4



The Ridgway High School College Government class, taught by Jason Gunning, competed against Grand Junction High School on Saturday and won with a score of 839 to 717 in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. The students will be competing at the State Capitol on Dec. 12. Kolton Kyne is also in the class but did not compete in Grand Junction. He will be going with his class to Denver. Plaindealer courtesy photo by Josh Zaugg

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