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YEAR 134

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

NO. 19

OCTOBER 6-12, 2011

WILDERNESS

Tipton holds "listening session"

Wilderness bill discussed in Ouray

BY BEECHER THREATT
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The youngest person to speak at Rep. Scott Tipton's "listening session" on Wilderness designation gave the adults some advice. "We need to compromise. We can't all get what we want," Morgan Wright, Ouray School eighth-grader, told Tipton and the standing room only crowd.

Citizens began arriving at the Ouray Community Center well before 4:00 p.m. last Friday, even though the meeting was not set to begin until 5:30. When the doors opened, attendees could sign up to speak either for or against the bill filed by Sen. Mark Udall to designate 33,000 acres as wilderness in expansions of existing Lizard Head and Mt. Sneffels wilderness areas, establish a new area called McKenna Peak, designate 22,000 acres as a special management area and withdraw 6,000 acres in Naturita Canyon from mineral entry.

Outside, members of the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council set up maps on easels and handed out small signs that said "Yes to Wilderness Expansion," which supporters held up during the meeting.

Easily 400 people filled the community center, which had 330 chairs set up. Rep. Tipton said, "We had to change the venue because of all the interest in this." He recognized staff members from the offices of Sens. Udall and Michael Bennet and said he was recording the meeting for the Senators.

Dave Ubell, head of Club 20's Public Lands and Natural Resources Committee,

served as moderator. Each speaker had two minutes to get a point across to Tipton, who listened attentively all night. Ubell called out names from the "pro" list, then from the "con" list, alternating until only "cons" were left. The meeting was supposed to end at 7:30, but when that hour arrived and many names remained, Tipton said, "I'll sit here." Everyone who signed up got to speak, and the meeting ended at 8:30.

Most of those who spoke against the bill had a relationship to the mining community. Supporters of the bill urged Tipton to carry it in the House, where it does not yet have a sponsor. Both the "pros" and the "cons" said they were defending freedom and national interests. Many of the quotes heard at the meeting are set out below.

State Representative Don Coram told the Plaindealer that the Bureau of Land Management says it does not have the resources to manage this much more wilderness. In his remarks to Tipton and the crowd, Coram said, "Thank you all for your civility tonight. We can solve a lot if we'll just sit down and talk to each other."

Tipton addressed the audience at the close of the meeting. He said he took lots of notes, and the input from the mining community was valuable. He added that the next meeting would have more advance notice, as that seemed to be an issue.

In a press session following the meeting, Tipton was asked if he would carry the bill in the House. "I will continue the listening sessions and discovery," he replied. He also

TIPTON A6



Rep. Scott Tipton (top) gets an earful from a capacity crowd Friday evening at the Ouray Community Center. Attendees were on hand to speak their minds on a bill filed by Sen. Mark Udall that would affect 61,000 acres. Plaindealer photo by Jessi Marlatt

Tire junk still in the Unc

BY JESSI MARLATT
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The Ouray Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met on Tuesday, Oct. 4 and discussed the tires that washed from the property of Laurence "Butch" Gunn on July 26 of this year. A flash flood washed over 1,000 tires from the property, where Gunn claims they were being used for erosion control. The tires were supplied by Keith Maynes, owner of Maynes Tire in

Montrose. Maynes and Gunn told representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) at a site visit conducted in early August that they had been transporting tires to the property for roughly 15 years.

For the past two months the CDPHE has been conducting an investigation and compiling a report that requested removal of the tires that flowed from the Gunn property into Burro Creek, then on to Cow Creek

TIRES A2

Brewery wins bronze for Red

BY JESSI MARLATT
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The Colorado Boy Brewery won a Bronze Medal at the 2011 Great American Beer Fest for its Irish Red.

According to Tom Hennessy, owner of Colorado Boy, this year he entered five beers into various categories: IPA, ESB, Best Bitter, English Brown and the award winning Irish Red.

The Colorado Boy has won three medals

at the annual Great American Beer Fest since it opened. Hennessy has won seven medals since 1994. Colorado Boy is Hennessy's third brewery; he also started Il Vicino, in Salida, Colo., and the Palisade Brewery in Palisade, Colo. Hennessy is currently vice president of the Colorado Brewer's Board.

Hennessy and his brewer, Elliot Dell, have been making beer together for three years. "We saw each other across the room

MEDAL A10

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Food bank closes

By ALAN TODD
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Calvary Assembly of God Church in Ouray will not be reopening the Ouray County Food bank that was housed in the bottom floor of the church, according to its pastor, Randy Stanko. Fortunately, the food bank in Ridgway came and emptied the food bank last week on the 27th; they are stocked and open for business. All unused funds will transfer over to the Ridgway food bank. Calvary Church thanks all those who have been supportive in this effort.

Stanko said that the supply of food to the needy in Ouray County became split when Ridgway opened a food pantry last year. Donors didn't know which one to give to, he said, and it became apparent to his church that it was better to consolidate.

Having one food bank in the county will reduce abuse, although the temptation for abuse will always remain.

"Abuse is 20 rolls of toilet paper," Stanko said. "Or, having more than one person represent a family at any one address."

The Ouray food bank's rule was to allow three bags of food per address in a seven

day period. Stanko said it was difficult to control abuses of multiple families living at the same address. Another conflict that consolidation will remedy will be family members who would visit the Ouray food bank on Tuesday and Ridgway food bank on Thursday.

One food bank representing the county makes it "easier to manage abuses and easier to manage donations," according to Stanko.

"The compassion is still there," he said, "it's just the judgment of the church that consolidating is better."

When Ridgway opened its food pantry last year, donations at the Ouray food bank dropped by 40%. Yet usage remained essentially the same. Consolidation and the fact that Ridgway tends to have more volunteer help at its food bank that Ouray's food bank had, according to Stanko, will help better serve the needy in the county.

The Ridgway Food Pantry is open Thursdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and is located at Trail Town east of Highway 550 on 276 Palomino Trail. To donate, call Linda Fulton (626-5692) or Brenda Hernandez (901-1380).

Cannon AFB to hold forum on low altitude training

PLAINDEALER STAFF REPORT
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U.S. Air Force officials held four community forums in New Mexico on the Draft Environmental Assessment on the proposal to establish a low altitude training area in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. The meetings were held Sept. 19-22.

Thirteen more meetings are scheduled, including one in Montrose on Oct. 12, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Montrose

Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Dr. Meetings follow an open house format, with time for one-on-one questions and a formal public comment period for those who wish to make spoken remarks.

"We take our mission very seriously and want to complete it safely while minimizing impact to both the environment and people of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. We recognize that there are many differing opinions about the proposed training area, and documenting these is a crucial part of the NEPA process. We appreciate

public involvement and welcome their comments," said Col. Kirk Smith, 27th Special Operations Wing vice commander.

TIRES State report a baseline

FROM A1

and eventually into the Uncompahgre River.

"We have a problem with the language in the CDPHE report; it seems like a request rather than an order. Our question today is whether or not we, as the county, should issue our own order," said Heidi Albritton, BOCC chair.

The BOCC issued a Notice and Order for Removal of Rubbish pursuant to Ordinance 95-1, which requires property owners to remove rubbish from their property. "The problem is that it only applies to the owner's property," said Albritton. The property owner will have 20 days to comply; if they do not, the county can remove the rubbish and charge the property owner for the labor.

Commissioner Mike Fedel was absent from that portion of the BOCC meeting but spoke with Albritton beforehand, stating that he was in favor of passing an enforcement order.

The BOCC decided to use the state report as a baseline for their order, to cut down on staff costs of conducting a preliminary site visit for the new order. They also scheduled a "Show Cause" public hearing for Oct. 25 at 1:30 p.m., where Gunn and Maynes must appear and the affected property owners will be invited to speak. The BOCC hopes to learn how much each property owner spent on removal before Gunn and Maynes contacted them or removed tires from their property, as well as to find out if other people are affected that have not yet come forward.

Karan Lomax of Montrose County was present Tuesday and stated that her property, which is located roughly two miles north of the Trout Road diversion dam, has over 30 tires on the banks as of Oct. 4. She has called the Montrose Sheriff, the Montrose Police Department and the County of Montrose, but has not had any response or cooperation for the removal of the tires. "I don't know where to go, so I came to this meeting, outside of my county," said Lomax.

Padgett stated that she had the rough estimate that the diversion dam is located 16 miles from the Gunn property, meaning

that some tires traveled as far as 17 miles downstream.

Lomax told the commissioners that she has at least two neighbors in Montrose County that also have tires on their prop-

erty. She stated that there could be more tires on the banks or caught in the willows but that she would like them removed in the cleanup efforts.

According to Connie Hunt, Ouray County Administrator, Maynes contacted her at 3 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 3 and stated that the cleanup was 99.9 percent completed and that all property owners contacted allowed access for the cleanup except the Department of Wildlife (DOW). The DOW owns the land surrounding the Billy Creek convergence.

The tires that were removed were taken to Maynes Tire, and he plans to hire a registered waste tire hauler to take them to a registered disposal site.

The Compliance Advisory issued by the CDPHE requires that all tires which resulted from the July 26 flash flood be removed from properties downstream from the Gunn property. It does not specify how far downstream, as the true extent of the damage

has yet to be determined.

According to Padgett, Maynes and Gunn will meet with representatives from the CDPHE on Oct. 11 for a compliance meeting. According to Jeannine Natterman, public health officer for the CDPHE, the purpose of the compliance meeting will be to determine whether Gunn and Maynes have adequately met the required actions to correct the deficiencies cited in the report. If Maynes and Gunn have not complied, further action may be taken by the state.

According to Albritton, since the completion of the CDPHE investigation and report, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has begun their own investigation into the damage to the waterways. ACE's office in Grand Junction will be the headquarters for the investigation.

The BOCC plans to contact the Montrose County Commissioners to notify them that there are, in fact, tires that traveled into that county. Albritton and Padgett agreed that the Ouray BOCC has no jurisdiction to contact the Montrose property owners but would like to invite them to the show cause hearing scheduled for Oct. 25. They plan to send a draft letter to the Montrose commissioners that can be sent on to the Montrose County property owners on the banks of the Uncompahgre River.

Padgett stated that she did receive an anonymous call, which she forwarded on to the CDPHE, stating that there were tires near the Ute Indian Museum, located at US 550 and Chipeta Road. "I am not sure if they were tires that originated from the Gunn property, or if people are just more aware of tires in the waterways after this event," Padgett said.

According to Albritton, the county's desire is to have all tires and other foreign objects that originated from the Gunn property be removed from all properties downstream. She did acknowledge that some objects may not be visible until the water levels decrease.

"I am not sure if... people are just more aware of tires in the waterways after this event."

Lynn Padgett
Ouray County Commissioner

The Senior Scoop

October 2011

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 10:30 AM:

Fall Color Trip, Lunch provided

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 6 PM:

Oktoberfest, Ouray Community Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 5:30 PM \$7.00:

Feast for Others, 4H Center, Ridgway

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 12 NOON:

Lunch, United Church of the San Juans

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2:00 - N/C:

Movie Matinee - "Because of Winn Dixie"
Ouray Community Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 12 NOON:

Lunch, First Presbyterian Church, Ouray

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:30 PM:

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