



April 22-28, 2021

50¢

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF RIDGWAY, OURAY, AND OURAY COUNTY

YEAR 143, NO. 47

Ridgway's developing situation



Block 28, North Cora and Charles
6 attached townhouse units
Status: Sketch plan was approved July 2020, Planning Commission expected to review preliminary plat application on April 27.
Units proposed are 2-bed, 2.5 bath, 1,560 square feet on two levels, over a 580 square foot garage



Lena Street Commons
19 townhouse-style units, four commercial units
Status: Final plat approved February 2021, excavation has begun. 8-10 months away from completing the first building, architect estimated. First unit for sale, 1,639 square feet, listed for \$855,000



**Triangle Subdivision/
Riverfront Village**
38 units: 10 townhouse units, 24 multi-family units and 4 mixed-use (commercial) units
Status: Sketch plan approved in March 2020, revised preliminary plat application was submitted in Nov. 2020, slated for Planning Commission on April 27.



Vista Park Commons
23 units, 19 detached single-family homes and two duplex units
Status: Preliminary plat approved and extended in April 2020, infrastructure work started and expected to be completed in late August 2021. Planned units from 500-800 square feet, pricing not yet available.

Projects will bring housing to town, but it's not clear how affordable most will be

By Liz Teitz
liz@ouraynews.com

More than 100 new housing units are in the pipeline in Ridgway, as long-discussed projects start to take shape that could rapidly increase the town's housing stock by about 15 percent in the near future.

But it's not clear yet how many of those new homes are what could be considered "affordable" or "attainable," or if they'll continue to drive up rising housing prices in the area.

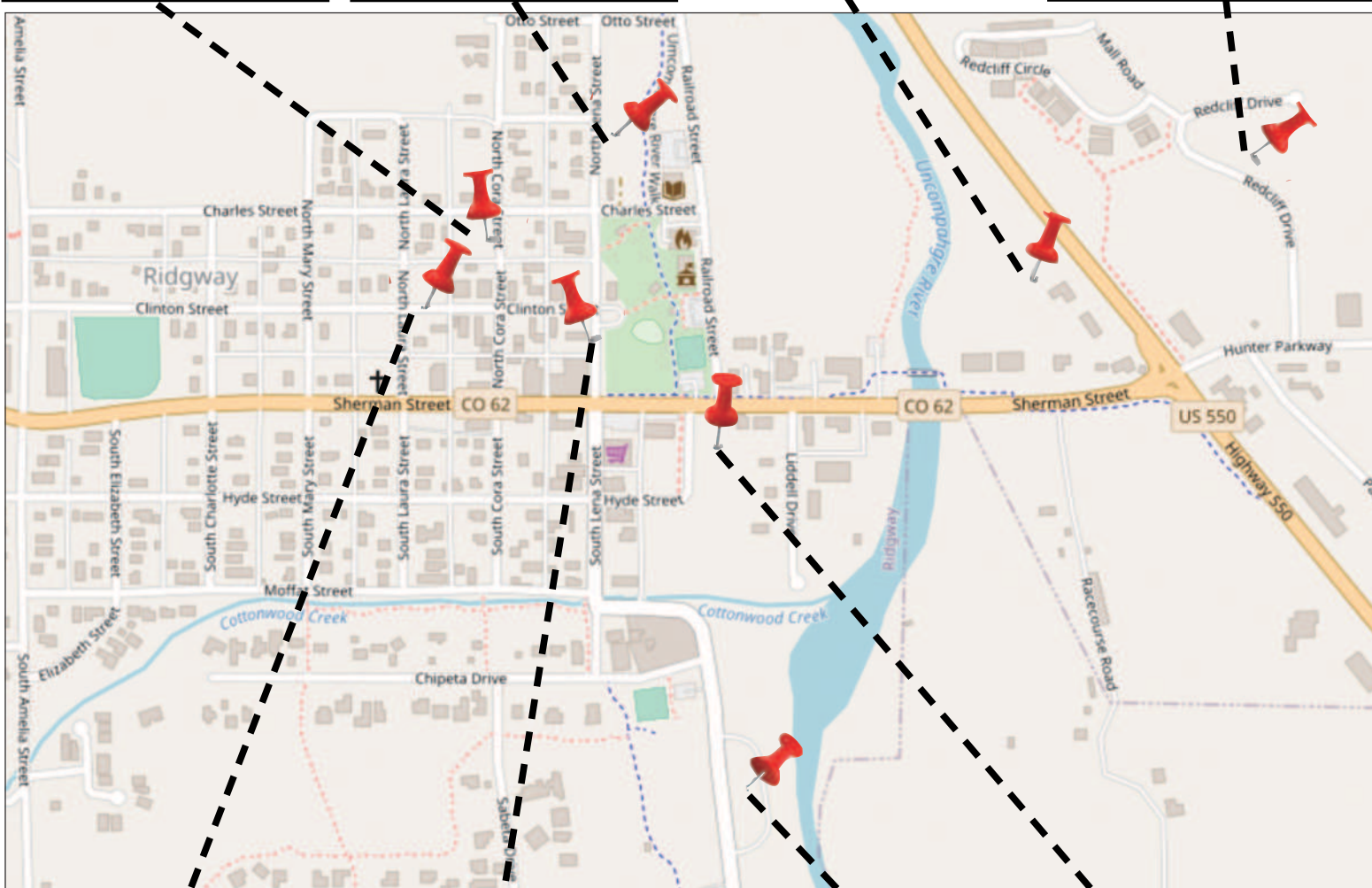
Work is underway on Lena Street Commons, a development with 19 townhouses next to the library, and Vista Park Commons, where another 23 units could be built east of U.S. Highway 550. Alpenglow Housing has spent years preparing to build about two dozen homes south of Hartwell Park, and the town's long-awaited Space to Create project, which has been in the works for five years, is aiming to break ground on 30 apartments this spring at the corner of Clinton and Laura streets.

The development around the historic Ridgway Firehouse, which includes a cooking school and restaurant, also includes a proposed eight housing units, including five for employees in the building. They're expecting to break ground in July.

Two more new developments are slated for discussion at a Planning Commission meeting later this month: a subdivision with nearly three dozen townhouses and multi-family units, and six townhouses proposed at North Cora and Charles Streets.

The town also issued 34 residential building permits last year, the most since 2007. Ridgway is currently working with a planning firm from Silverthorne to handle applications for development and is looking to hire a new full-time planner, after Shay Coburn, the town planner since 2017, left in February to work as the city of

SEE HOUSING ON PAGE 18



Space to Create
30 rental units
Status: Town Council approved the ground lease for the land in Feb. 2021. Building permit application submitted in late 2020 and has not yet been issued. Developer is still finalizing financing before ground-breaking can occur. All units are income-restricted, with rent based on income. Application and selection process for rentals TBD.



Firehouse
Seven or eight housing units, five intended to be apartments for employee housing in the building, which will also include a culinary school, restaurant and art space.
Status: Planning Commission has approved variances for parking, building height and building size. Working towards excavation beginning in mid-July to early August.



The Preserve
Initial plans in 2006 called for about 30 units on the property, but project was put on hold due to the recession. In October 2018, the land was purchased by the Dalwhinnie Group. In March 2020, they received a two-year extension to revise plans.
Status: Preliminary plat approval extended through March 2022. New owners are reviewing prior infrastructure.



Alpenglow Cohousing
26 units
Status: Received extension to resolve stormwater plan issues. First phase of building will be 18 units, hoping to begin this year and be completed next spring or summer. Alpenglow Cohousing owns the land and will build the units, then sell each to members. About half of the units have committed buyers so far.

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Ditch breach floods ranches, roads

County Roads 8, 8A reopened earlier this week

By Mike Wiggins
mike@ouraynews.com

Ty Barger began to get a sense of the unique challenges he faces as the new road and bridge superintendent for Ouray County days before he even clocked in for the first time.

He was one of the first people who rolled up on a ditch that breached northeast of Ridgway on April 15, sending a torrent of water and debris across ranches and closing County Roads 8 and 8A for several days.

Barger started his new job on Monday. But he had arrived in Ouray County last week and figured he'd go for a drive just to check out the roads he's now charged with maintaining. He wasn't entirely sure what he was looking at initially. He just knew it wasn't good.

"I saw what looked to be a pretty large

amount of water surging across the roadway there," Barger said. "It was deep enough I decided not to try to cross it."

Ouray County Sheriff Justin Perry responded as the county issued an emergency alert.

"It appeared to me it was a pretty extensive washout," Perry said.

Barger said the county had been grading County Road 8 in the days leading up to the breach. Road and bridge employees returned with heavy equipment to begin clearing County Roads 8 and 8A and clear several culverts along County Road 8 that were plugged with debris.

He said several employees from the nearby Sleeping Indian Ranch were out immediately on Thursday afternoon trying to clear County Road 8. The 15,000-acre working cattle ranch depends on County Road 8 being open for access.

"It was greatly appreciated," he said



Photo courtesy Justin Perry

The Alkali No. 2 Ditch northeast of Ridgway breached on April 15, flooding nearby ranches and closing County Roads 8 and 8A for several days.

of the ranch employees trying to clear County Road 8. "They did a fine job."

A woman who answered the phone at the ranch on Tuesday took a message, but nobody responded to questions from the Plaindealer.

County Road 8A reopened on Monday, while County Road 8 reopened Tuesday.

Barger said it was too early to know what caused the ditch to breach, but he and Perry both said they thought it had been a problem area for a while.

"It probably was something that was

being degraded over a long period of time and it gave way at that time," Barger said.

The ditch, known as the Alkali No. 2 Ditch, is owned by the Telluray Ranch, according to online records. The 6,200-acre cattle ranch is owned by Charlie Ergen, the billionaire businessman who is the co-founder and chairman of Dish Network and EchoStar.

The Plaindealer was unable to find contact information for the ranch to seek comment.

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TIME TBD
LOCATION Ouray Hot Springs

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Ridgway pushing for full concert lineup

Town planning live music all five Thursdays in July, but virus surge would scale back schedule

By Mike Wiggins
mike@ouraynews.com

Ridgway plans to hold a full lineup of free concerts in July at Hartwell Park, but town leaders warn they'll scale back if there's a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Town councilors didn't take formal action during their April 14 meeting but directed town staff to organize live music each of the five Thursdays in July as part of the Ridgway Concert Series. Last year's series was canceled due to the pandemic.

The schedule in Ridgway contrasts with Ouray, where organizers of the Mountain Air Music Series are currently planning to hold just one concert in Fellin Park at the end of June and potentially a July 3 concert.

Mountain Air's current plans, which Board President David Turner told the Plaindealer earlier this month are likely to change, call for dozens of circles or pods, with 12-foot buffer zones between them. The board may also require masks in some areas, but it's unknown what that will look like.

Before providing direction, Ridgway town councilors debated and listed to resident feedback how many concerts to hold and what sort of COVID-19 protocols to enact and enforce.

Ouray County Commissioner and Ridgway resident Jake Niece said he wants to see the concert series resume this summer and encouraged town leaders to "fall back on fundamentals" to make that happen, such as wearing masks and limiting capacity. The state has lifted limits on outdoor gatherings.

"Wearing masks are a tool to keep us open. They don't restrict activity. They enable activity. If we keep it up a little while longer, that might be the most effective way to get back to normal, whatever that is," he said.

Town officials, though, said there's no way they could enforce restrictions such as social distancing and mask wearing.

"It would be impossible for us to enforce pods or wearing of masks, or to regulate who's coming into the area and how many numbers of people. We can't

do it," Town Clerk Pam Kraft said.

Mayor John Clark questioned whether the concert series would draw as many people as it did in 2019, saying he thinks people will be nervous about gathering in large crowds. Town Manager Preston Neill said he thinks the opposite is true.

"I think people are ready to come out of the woodwork," he said. "There's a pent-up energy, and when you add food vendors and a beer tent and live music, man, I want to be out there too. Sign me up."

"Don't misunderstand us. We want to open back up as much as possible, as soon as possible. We all want the same thing. We all want to return to what we call normal. But we also want to be safe."

RIDGWAY MAYOR JOHN CLARK

A couple of Ridgway residents expressed concern that the town was contemplating restrictions they felt were no longer warranted and accused town leaders of "living in fear."

"I'm not hearing anybody else speaking up and asking how long are we going to think of restricting the things that bring livelihood to our area," said Autumn Lettau.

Town councilors briefly considered hosting concerts every other Thursday in July before unanimously, informally agreeing to pursuing an every-Thursday schedule.

"Don't misunderstand us. We want to open back up as much as possible, as soon as possible," Clark said. "We all want the same thing. We all want to return to what we call normal. But we also want to be safe."

In other business:

- Councilors unanimously awarded a 5 percent pay increase for Neill, who has been the town manager since January 2020. The raise bumps Neill's pay to \$108,150.

"Preston has done just an incredible job in his first year," Clark said. "He has performed with flying colors. He's been rock solid, great town manager, wonderful to have in his position in these difficult times."

All town employees received a 3 percent cost of living increase in January.

- Councilors unanimously awarded an \$88,707 contract to Grand Junction-based Clarke & Co., Inc. to complete the first two phases of a project to spruce up the Ridgway Visitor Center and Heritage Park at the intersection of Highway 550 and Highway 62.

The work primarily consists of landscape and irrigation improvements.

"The site is going to look a whole lot more presentable and a lot less neglected," Clark said.

Neill said Clarke's bid, the least expensive of the three the town received, is about \$14,000 over what the town budgeted for the project. But he said the general fund can cover the extra amount. The town is using a \$30,000 Colorado Department of Local Affairs grant to help pay for the project.

The first two phases of the project should be finished in early July.

- Councilors unanimously awarded a restaurant liquor license to Lazy Dog

Saloon, a new venue that will open in the space formerly occupied by Full Tilt Saloon at 153 Highway 550, Unit 1.

Owner Buddy Young said the menu will include items like pizza, tacos, burgers and "lots of appetizers." He said he hopes to open in mid-May.

- Councilors unanimously agreed to reduce some fees the town charges for private groups to use the performing arts stage at Hartwell Park. Staff has recently received some pushback from various community members and organizations about the fee schedule adopted in 2014.

Councilors agreed to eliminate the \$250 fee for stage preparation and breakdown and give the staff the discretion to reduce the \$50 permit fee for nonprofit organizations. The \$500 damage deposit and \$15-per-day electricity use fee remain intact.

- Councilors informally agreed to return to in-person meetings starting with their May 12 meeting. Members of the public will continue to attend and participate virtually.

- Councilors unanimously agreed to purchase a used street sweeper for \$94,000.

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4. Gives on the first day of each week (1Cor. 16:1-2)
5. Lord's Supper every first day of the week (1 Cor. 11:20, 23-26)
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I John 2:3-6

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OURAY COUNTY OPINION

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"That's the challenge we face for the next decade, is grappling with who we are today and who we're going to be in 10 years, based on all the people who move here and live here in the interim."

RIDGWAY MAYOR JOHN CLARK



LETTERS POLICY

We strive to publish letters that comply with the following terms:

- 400 word limit. Letters should include a local issue important to those living in Ouray County or the region.
- Signed with home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for verification purposes. Anonymous letters or letters signed with pseudonyms will not be accepted.
- Letters with personal attacks, crude or hateful language, inciting violence or disrespectful comments about race, sexual orientation, religion or culture will be rejected.
- Editors will not accept previously published letters, mass mailings or form letters. This includes letters published on social media.
- Authors should be forthcoming and disclose any personal or financial interest in the subject matter of their letters.
- Letters may be edited for clarity, spelling and grammar, without affecting the opinions expressed by the authors. They will be fact-checked.
- To encourage participation by a variety of voices, we reserve the right to limit the frequency letters are published from an individual author. Authors may be limited to contributing once per month, as space allows.
- Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week.

Send all letters to: mike@ouraynews.com or erin@ouraynews.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the name of 'Saving the Blues,' let's forgo the 'Blues'

Dear Editor:

We are fortunate, here in the San Juans, to have a great many non-motorized trails that hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders can choose from. Unfortunately there are some trails and areas accessed by these trails that receive overuse. A prime example is the Blue Lakes trail head area, the Blue Lakes Trail and the area around the first Blue Lake. This Blue Lakes area, which is part of the Sneffels Wilderness, is being "loved to death."

In recent years, the camping

use around the first Blue Lake has greatly increased. It is apparent when examining this area that not all campers are educated in good camping practices. Some people are camping closer than the minimum legal limit of 100 feet from the lake. Others don't pack trowels to bury human waste and ensure the waste hole is at least 200 feet from a water source and trails. The pandemic evidently brought out folks who also don't understand that when you pack it in you pack it out even, ideally, to bag and pack out your toilet paper!

The U.S. Forest Service is very aware of the above problems and this summer they will begin a prescoping process with users along with the National Environmental Policy Act process which, hopefully, will lead to a resolution of these environmental problems.

The Public Lands Committee with the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service in this effort. With Forest Service cooperation, we will have "table teams" present at the Blue Lakes trail head along with other en-

vironmental groups from Friday through Sunday each week from June through September between the hours of 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. The volunteers will be trained by the San Juan Mountains Association. They will engage users in land stewardship, how to dispose trash and human waste, etc. Those engaged users will receive the "Leave No Trace Seven Principles" handouts.

Please help the Forest Service and the environment by enjoying the many less-used trails and camping areas throughout the San Juans. I know lakes are

a special attraction but if you forgo the "Blues" in the name of "Saving the Blues" you will be helping all of us when the area is restored to the beautiful place that it is. In the meantime, ROCC's Public Lands Committee and the other environmental organizations will do our best, in cooperation with the Forest Service, to minimize the human impact in the Blue Lakes area. Have a great Earth Day and do one green thing!

Tom Heffernan
Ridgway

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OURAY COUNTY LOOKING BACK

From the Ouray County Herald, Ouray County Plaindealer and the Ridgway Sun

50 YEARS AGO

April 22, 1971 - Five members of the Ridgway Extension Homemakers Club, President Roberta Dangehart, Minnie Brown, Hazel Weston, Bertha Phillips and Clara Ingo, attended the district meeting at the basement of the First National Bank building in Montrose last Tuesday. They were the group with the most members present thereby earning themselves points as a club. The more than 3 inches of snow that fell in the Ridgway area the first of the week was a million dollar storm for the ranchers and all concerned. Also it put a stop to the extreme fire hazard that had been building during the prolonged dry spell, accented by the daily winds. A grass fire on the John Pouchoulou ranch, formerly the Brandt and Bennet ranches, last Tuesday night created a lot of concern. The Ridgway volunteer firemen and other interested persons used wet sacks to stop it.

40 YEARS AGO

April 23, 1981 - There is a need for dedicated and competent babysitters in the area, so a workshop for potential (and experienced) babysitters will be held this Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m., at the Ridgway School Business Room. This workshop is open to anyone in grade 5 through 10. A certification will be presented to all who successfully complete this workshop. Bring a notebook and pencil if you attend. Everything else will be provided, including some interesting booklets and other printed information. Mothers are also invited to attend.

30 YEARS AGO

April 25, 1991 - Ouray County's gymnastic program is the talk of the town. But the talk is perhaps worrisome — the program is in danger because of lack of a home. Last week, while Ouray's young gymnasts were busy preparing a program of flips and maneuvers for their parents, the Ouray City Council was discussing the need to find a new "home" for the program. The problem has arisen as the result of plans by the Ouray Tourism Board and the city council to begin marketing Ouray for small conferences. The gymnastics program, in its eighth year under the sponsorship of the Ouray Recreation Board, has always used the west room of the Ouray Community Center. But this may no longer be possible as the Tourism Board prepares to remodel the community center for use as a conference center. At last week's meeting of the Ouray City

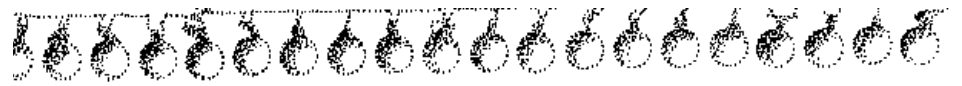
Council, Tourism Board member John Uhles told council members the board has concluded that conferences and gymnastics cannot co-exist in the same facility.

20 YEARS AGO

April 27, 2001 - A car plunged off a steep embankment south of Ouray during a blizzard Sunday, but two people — and a dog — escaped serious injury. "It's pretty miraculous," said Sean Hart, a Ouray Mountain Rescue volunteer. Jeremy Mattingly of Vermont was driving on U.S. Highway 550, in the Ruby Wall area just south of Bear Creek Falls, when he lost control of the vehicle. It tumbled about 100 feet below the road. Mattingly, who suffered minor head injuries, crawled out of the crushed vehicle and up the side of the mountain. A female passenger was ejected from the car. She suffered a broken lower leg and bruising. The dog did not appear to be injured. A bystander took custody of the dog with the intention of returning the pet to the victims at a later time. Dr. Dave Sherwood was first on scene. He provided medical service for the female victim. She was strapped to a backboard and hauled up to the highway with ropes and a wench by Mountain Rescue volunteers.

10 YEARS AGO

April 22, 2011 - In the face of a tough economy and declining sales tax revenues, a philosophical rift seems to have emerged among the City of Ouray's elected leadership. The fault line lies along the issue of whether the city should continue to invest in green initiatives that require moderate up-front expenditures but may pay huge dividends down the road. Two action items on the agenda at Monday's City Council meeting precipitated a terse discussion that exposed the conflict: a proposal for the city to sell green energy to San Miguel Power Association via a micro-hydroelectric generating plant which would be integrated into the city's new water tank, a request from the Western San Juan Community Energy Board for the City of Ouray to contribute \$1,000 in matching funds for a grant funding data in Ouray and San Miguel counties and their municipalities. Mayor Bob Risch advocated for the approval of both items, while outgoing Councilman Betty Wolfe was just as stoutly opposed.



A Wistful Visitor's
OURAY SKETCHBOOK
by *don carlton*

**AN EARLY MORNING
STORY-SHARING CHAT
AMONG OURAY MOUNTAIN
RESCUE TEAM MEMBERS
DURING THE 2012 IMOGENE
RUN.**



The annual Imogene Pass Run from Ouray to Telluride involves a number of volunteers on each side of the pass. Safety of the participant runners is given a high priority, of course. This huddle of Ouray Mountain Team members near the Yellow Rose Mine, circling an early morning campfire is testament to a very chill September San Juan morning at this checkpoint of the race. Nearby is a crossing of Imogene Creek, some nearly 7 hard miles into the run, which recommends a friendly, encouraging presence for the 1200 runners at this point.



Joy of Purpose: Imagine the possibilities

In our work with young people, we often encourage them to live by the mantra: "You either make your future or it will be made for you." Here's an example of a local hero who has made his future and been successful in a variety of interesting endeavors - Eric Funk.

Together with his brother, Ethan, Eric is the co-founder of Red Mountain Radio LLC, which provides technical services for the electronics industry. With a PhD in engineering, Eric designs specialty

components and has written scads of articles with titles like "Ultra-wideband Pulse Generation and Radiation Using a High Tc Superconductor Opening Switch." Whatever that means.

He's also been an educator and served as chairman for Ouray's Community



ALEXANDRA MITCHELL

JEFF PRYOR

Development Committee, which took the pulse of Ouray's public via the Imagine the Possibilities project and culminated in the Ouray 2020 Economic Development Plan. This plan seeks to preserve natural resources while also promoting economic strength, with

core values including affordable housing and the arts.

Eric also co-owns and operates Mountain Chill Radio (KRKQ) based in Ouray, which broadcasts online and over the airwaves in Telluride. This station promotes innovative broadcasting and runs on 100% renewable energy. He's also been a long-time volunteer for Colorado River Watch, which collects data on the

SEE PURPOSE ON PAGE 11

AROUND THE REGION

GUNNISON

Gunnison County leaders may pump the brakes on Kebler Pass traffic this summer with potential weight and length restrictions for vehicles. County commissioners met with Gunnison County Deputy County Manager Marlene Crosby during a work session last week to discuss mitigation measures for the upcoming summer, which is expected to be extra busy for the road with Highway 50 intermittently closed between Gunnison and Montrose. Kebler Pass is located on County Road 12 just west of Crested Butte. "Our chip seal and our asphalt can't keep up with these heavy loads," said Crosby. "That road is not built for commercial activity, it's just not, and we have to be mindful of that."

SILVERTON

The housing crisis and affordable housing has been a hot topic at many of the last meetings. It seems this problem needs to be addressed for the future of Silverton. At a work session prior to Monday's Town Board meeting, the trustees looked at several solutions for affordable housing and how they can combat this issue. Interim Administrator Anthony Edwards brought up the idea of the town purchase land or lots that can be sold to locals. The thought it would be possible to obtain a grant to help cut down on costs both for the town and the buyer. Trustees Tyler George and Molly Barela thought it might be a good idea to do an internal survey to see what the needs of the community really are. Barela thought it would be nice to know who needs to rent and who wants to buy.

LAKE CITY

Lake City town trustees and staff met via Zoom April 7 to discuss several topics, most important of which was a rundown on the process of hiring a new town manager, an update on the Third Street project, and tentative plans from the recreation department concerning summer recreation in Lake City. Trustees discussed individuals to serve on the town manager hiring committee which, after discussion, ultimately concluded that the committee will consist of three town trustees, two town employees and two citizens living within the town's borders. Resigning Town Manager Caroline Mitchell will select the two town employees on the committee. Town trustee representatives on the committee will be Dave Roberts, Jesse Kendall and Doug Hamel.

Sources: Gunnison Country Times, Silverton Standard and the Miner, Lake City Silver World.

POLICE LOG

OURAY SHERIFF

The following is an excerpt of cases handled by the Ouray County Sheriff's Office from April 12-18:

APRIL 12

Deputy conducted three traffic stops in the 400 block of County Road 5.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop in the 1900 block of Main Street.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 116.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Green Street and County Road 5.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 100.
Deputy responded to an animal stray in the 1500 block of County Road 23.
Deputy conducted a VIN inspection at the Ouray County Sheriff's Office.

APRIL 13

Deputy responded to the 700 block of Oak Street to assist the Ouray Police Department with a disturbance.
Deputy responded to a report of a traffic hazard on Highway 62 at mile marker 19.
Deputy responded to the 2300 block of Aspen Drive for a welfare

check.
Deputy responded to Highway 550 at mile marker 86 for a welfare check.
Deputy responded to the 300 block of County Road 7 for a civil standby.

APRIL 14

Deputy responded to a call of an unwanted person in the 900 block of Dave Wood Road.
Deputy took a cold report of an assault on Log Hill.
Deputy attempted a civil process in the 500 block of Main Street.
Deputy assisted the Ouray Police Department in the 600 block of Main Street for a disturbance.
Deputy responded to Highway 550 at mile marker 109 for an accident.
Deputy responded to the 1100 block of Mariposa Drive for a welfare check.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop in the 400 block of County Road 5.
Deputy assisted a motorist on County Road 8.

Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 90.
Deputy responded to a theft report in the 300 block of County Road 7.
Deputy took an Information report in the 20700 block of Highway 550.
Deputy took a theft report in the 2100 block of Dave Wood Road.
Deputy responded to an accident in the 1500 block of County Road 24.

APRIL 15

Deputy responded to a report of threats in the 900 block of Dave Wood Road.
Deputy assisted the Ouray Police Department with a disturbance in the 100 block of Seventh Avenue.
Deputy conducted a VIN inspection in the 10800 block of County Road 1.

APRIL 16

Deputy assisted a motorist in the 1400 block of County Road 17.
Deputy conducted a security check at the Ouray County Land Use Building.
Deputy conducted a field interview on County Road 10 and County Road 10B.
Deputy responded to an accident on Highway 62 at mile marker 17.

APRIL 17

Deputy conduct-

ed a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 112.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 92.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on County Road 1 at mile marker 1.
Deputy responded to a wildlife call on Highway 62 at mile marker 22.
Deputy responded to an alarm in the 6100 block of County Road 23.
Jarred Bowers, 40, of Montrose, was arrested for suspected domestic violence and criminal mischief as well as allegedly failing to appear in court. Deputies had responded to a report of domestic violence in the 5800 block of County Road 1.
Deputy responded to a traffic hazard on Highway 550.

APRIL 18

Deputy responded to a medical call in the 100 block of County Road 24C.
Deputy responded to a report of threats in the 1500 block of County Road 3.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 550 at mile marker 113.
Deputy assisted the Ridgway Marshal's Office in the 200 block of North Laura Street.
Deputy assisted a motorist on Highway 62 at mile marker 15.
Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Highway 62 at mile marker 14.

Deputies conducted 45 directed patrols on Ouray County roads this week.

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HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$2,619
2	\$3,425
3	\$4,231
4	\$5,038
5	\$5,844
6	\$6,650
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8	\$6,952
Each Additional Person	\$151

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Theater 1	Sing! All seats \$3! 6:45 p.m. Fri, Sat & Sun 3:45 p.m. Sat & Sun	PG
Theater 2	Benedict Cumberbatch The Courier 7:25 p.m. Fri, Sat & Sun 4:25 p.m. Sat & Sun	PG-13
Penthouse	Lewis Tan Mortal Combat 7:05 p.m. Fri, Sat & Sun 4:05 p.m. Sat & Sun	R

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Ouray to pitch in for sidewalk repairs

Council may require property owners to bear full costs if trial program doesn't work

By Mike Wiggins
mike@ouraynews.com

The Ouray City Council on Monday formally approved a Main Street sidewalk replacement program, hoping that the city's offer to share in some of the costs will encourage business owners to replace cracked or uplifted panels that are unsightly or create tripping or falling hazards.

City councilors agreed to allocate \$20,000 from lodging tax funds to pay for the city's portion of the trial program that will cover Main Street between Third and 10th avenues. The city will cover 25 percent of the cost of replacing broken sections of the sidewalk this year.

Ouray's municipal code makes adjacent property owners responsible for repairs and maintenance of their sidewalks, but city officials have not strictly enforced those rules.

The cost-sharing program creates an application and permit form which property owners will fill out and submit, along with a professional quote for the total replacement price. A sidewalk replacement policy developed by Public Works Director Joe Coleman identifies sidewalk conditions that are considered in violation of municipal code and will trigger a letter from the city.

Sidewalk replacement work will be performed between now and May and 28 and between Sept. 7 and Oct. 31 — a time frame that avoids the height of tourist season and ensures the work is done before it gets too cold in the fall.

The resolution approved by councilors says the city may extend the program beyond Main Street if it proves successful. On the other hand, if the program is unsuccessful, "the City may move forward with requiring damaged sidewalk panels be repaired or replaced with the property owner bearing all the cost," according to the resolution.

City Administrator Silas Clarke said he has met with three property owners and two private contractors to discuss the program.

The city's plan to pull its portion of funding out of the tourism fund raised concerns among some residents and



Erin McIntyre — Ouray County Plaindealer

The Ouray City Council this week formally approved a trial program this year that will aid Main Street property owners with replacing broken or uplifted sidewalk panels. Using \$20,000 of lodging tax money, the city will pay for up to 25% of the costs.

business owners who thought the money should come partially or solely from the beautification fund. Nearly 87 percent of the city's 3.5 percent lodging tax goes to

the tourism fund, which pays for tourism marketing efforts. Nearly 12 percent of the tax goes to the beautification fund, which pays for things like flowers on

Main Street, landscaping city parks and cleanup efforts along the Uncompahgre River.

City councilors reemphasized Monday that the city's auditor has confirmed the money can come out of the tourism fund because replacing sidewalks in disrepair meets the definition of enhancing visitor experience, which was part of the language included in a 2018 ballot question approved by voters that converted the lodging tax from a flat fee to a percentage.

"If you go for the tourism fund (for the funding), you're going to open yourself up for a problem from lodgers," resident and former Councilor Bette Maurer told councilors. "It's the beautification committee that was supposed to pay for sidewalks."

Mayor Greg Nelson emphasized the program is being offered this year on a trial basis and can be changed in the future.

"We're doing it for this year this way and we'll see how it works. And if we need to make changes for next year, if we even want to continue it next year, we can make changes," he said.

In other business:

- Councilors unanimously approved a request from Six Basins Project to install a kiosk at the parking area known as the "Horseshoe" along U.S. Highway 550 south of town. The kiosk will contain brochures, maps and other information intended for backcountry recreationalists.

Six Basins is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the landscape and heritage of the six basins located within the Yankee Boy and Imogene areas.

- Clarke told councilors he hopes to open the Visitor Center by May 1, even though he acknowledged it was a long shot due to a lack of staffing.

The center, which was staffed solely by volunteers last summer, has been closed the fall. The city has been trying to hire a seasonal, full-time coordinator, but Clarke said he'd like to receive more applications than he has so far before filling the position.

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Ouray ranks in top 10 for fully vaccinated

By Liz Teitz
liz@ouraynews.com

After a slow start to vaccine distribution caused by limited supplies, Ouray County is now among the top-vaccinated counties in Colorado, according to data from the state health department.

Fifty-eight percent of the county's residents who are eligible for a vaccine have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, which ranks 12th out of 64 counties. Ouray County ranks even higher, at seventh in the state, for having 47 percent of residents "fully vaccinated," after receiving either one Johnson & Johnson shot or two Moderna and Pfizer shots. Those numbers are based on the population over 16, as children are not yet autho-

rized to receive any of the three vaccines.

Neighboring San Miguel County leads the state in both categories: three-quarters of eligible residents there have at least one shot, and 55 percent are fully immunized, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's data.

Other Western Slope counties have also ranked highly: San Juan and Gunnison counties are both ahead of Ouray County, along with Eagle, Summit and Routt counties. Some Front Range counties have also had higher numbers of first doses: Boulder, Broomfield and Jefferson counties have all had 60 percent or more of their eligible residents receive one shot, but fewer residents are fully immunized. The Pfizer vaccine requires three weeks between shots, and the two doses of the Moderna vaccine must be given four weeks apart, resulting in a lag between first shots and full immunity.

Public Health Director Tanner Kingery said the success locally is due to both improved supply and high demand. When statewide vaccine distribution began, the county was initially receiving only 100 doses per week despite requesting more, but since mid-February, the shipments have increased, reaching up to 400 doses per week at times. While the exact number hasn't been consistent, with some shipments dropping back to 100 or 200 doses at a time, "getting those large shipments really helped after only getting 100 at a time for a while," he said. "Those big shipments really helped to cut things down and knock those numbers down."

The county also scaled up its operation to give more vaccines, setting up a clinic at the 4-H Center that has made administration more efficient. Kingery praised the "incredible effort" of Public Health Nurse Rebekah Stewart, Administrative Specialist Victoria Durnan and the volunteers who have helped at the vaccine site, making it possible to schedule and administer more shots.

When the first doses arrived, days before Christmas, first responders received their vaccines standing in the snowy parking lot outside the Public Health Department, or sitting in their cars with their exposed arms leaning out the window. By mid-January, they had set up shop at the 4-H Center for the county's oldest residents to get vaccinated, and in the months since, they've fine-tuned the operation, allowing them to schedule more people each day. "There's no way we could have pulled it off in our little public health office," Kingery said.

And unlike other communities, where supply has recently started to outpace demand as the state expanded eligibility to everyone over 16, Ouray County residents have been eager to get their shots.

"Vaccine uptake is pretty good," Kingery said. "I think we've got a pretty good amount of the county interested, and I think that's bearing out with the numbers."

As of Tuesday afternoon, the Public Health Agency had administered 3,205 shots, including both first and

second doses. That includes people who live elsewhere but have come to Ouray County for their shots. There are no residency requirements for vaccines, allowing anyone to travel anywhere for a shot, regardless of where they live.

Ouray County residents have received more than 1,200 shots outside the county, and the availability of vaccines in surrounding counties has also helped reach higher vaccination levels more quickly.

As the county worked its way through the online registration list, calling people to schedule appointments, many have said they already got shots elsewhere, Kingery said. While the Public Health Agency is the only provider in Ouray County, pharmacies, grocery stores, hospitals and medical offices in other counties have also been offering vaccines to residents who decided to look elsewhere rather than wait for a shot here.

There are about 300 people who have signed up to get a vaccine in the county who are still waiting for a first dose, Kingery said Tuesday.

People who haven't signed up yet but decide to later, or part-time summer residents and tourists looking for a vaccine here, will likely still be able to get shots in the county. Logistics will become more difficult when the large-scale clinics slow down.

"It's definitely something we're going to have to be doing throughout the summer," Kingery said. But the Moderna vaccines come in vials of ten doses each, and once a vial is opened, all doses must be used the same day or discarded, so shots will still need to be given to groups of people at the same time to avoid any waste.

"Someone can't just say, 'Can I schedule an appointment Monday for a COVID shot?'" Kingery said. "Well, do you have nine other friends? Because we can't just pop a vial for one person. It still needs to be this mass-scaled effort."

The county will also run a clinic on Friday to provide Pfizer vaccines to 16- and 17-year-olds, who have signed up through their schools. While anyone over 16 is eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine, the county has only been receiving and administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, which are limited to people over 18.

Some parents, including County Commissioner Lynn Padgett, raised concerns about difficulties finding Pfizer vaccines elsewhere or traveling for teenagers to get the vaccines. A parent must be present for the child to get vaccinated, and the drive to Montrose, Delta or Mesa counties may require missing school and work to get a shot.

Ouray County Public Health has arranged to get three vials of the Pfizer vaccine from Delta Hospital this week, Kingery said. Master Sgt. Josh Imeraji, a Colorado National Guard member who has been stationed at the

SEE TOP 10 ON PAGE 15

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THE WEATHER



Compiled By Carolina Brown

LAST WEEK

OURAY					
Date	High	Low	PCP	Snow	S.O.G.
4/13	57	32	0	0	0
4/14	60	39	T	0	0
4/15	54	44	0	0	0
4/16	38	25	.62	0	8
4/17	39	25	.07	8.6	1
4/18	49	23	T	1.4	T
4/19	56	23	0	.2	T

RIDGWAY					
Date	High	Low	PCP	Snow	S.O.G.
4/13	66	23	0	0	0
4/14	59	36	0	0	0
4/15	68	36	0	0	0
4/16	61	28	.46	4.3	0
4/17	43	28	.04	.7	0
4/18	45	18	.02	.2	0
4/19	55	19	0	0	0

Ouray report from NWS weather observer Karen Risch. Ridgway report from weather observer Jennifer Cram. Ridgway data is for 24 hr. period ending at 7 a.m. on the date observed.

AVALANCHE DANGER

LUNAR PHASES

Date	Type	Pct
Apr. 23	Waxing Gibbous	82%
Apr. 29	Waning Gibbous	92%

FORECAST

OURAY				RIDGWAY			
	HI°	LO°		HI°	LO°	HI°	LO°
Fri. Apr. 23	47°	30°	showers	54°	34°	showers	34°
Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.							
Sunset: 7:55 p.m.							
Sat. Apr. 24	56°	38°	sunny	65°	41°	sunny	41°
Sunrise: 6:21 a.m.							
Sunset: 7:56 p.m.							
Sun. Apr. 25	59°	38°	mostly sunny	69°	40°	mostly sunny	40°
Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.							
Sunset: 7:57 p.m.							
Mon. Apr. 26	50°	30°	partly cloudy	60°	37°	partly cloudy	37°
Sunrise: 6:18 a.m.							
Sunset: 7:58 p.m.							
Tues. Apr. 27	44°	34°	possible showers	55°	37°	possible showers	37°
Sunrise: 6:17 a.m.							
Sunset: 7:59 p.m.							
Wed. Apr. 28	52°	39°	sunny	59°	37°	sunny	37°
Sunrise: 6:16 a.m.							
Sunset: 8:00 p.m.							
Thurs. Apr. 29	59°	46°	sunny	65°	43°	sunny	43°
Sunrise: 6:15 a.m.							
Sunset: 8:01 p.m.							

AREA WEEKEND WEATHER

	SAT.		SUN.		PRECIP.	
	HI°	LO°	HI°	LO°	SAT.	SUN.
Grand Junction	76°	49°	79°	55°	10%	0%
Lake City	56°	35°	59°	37°	0%	0%
Gunnison	60°	33°	65°	33°	0%	0%
Durango	69°	37°	71°	39°	0%	0%
Telluride	36°	21°	42°	24°	40%	20%
Dolores	53°	24°	55°	21°	20%	20%
Crested Butte	52°	34°	57°	36°	20%	0%
Denver	68°	44°	75°	46°	10%	0%
Colorado Springs	64°	41°	73°	43°	0%	0%
Moab, UT	79°	56°	81°	57°	0%	0%

WATER FLOWS & SNOWPACK

Location	Flow	Pass	Snowpack
Uncompahgre		Red Mtn. Pass	
Near Ridgway	71.9	11,200 ft.	18.5"
Below Reservoir	34.7	Schofield Pass	
Gunnison		10,700 ft.	22.9"
Below Gunnison Tunnel	702	Upper Taylor	
Near Delta	703	10,640 ft.	9.4"
San Miguel		McClure Pass	
Near Placerville	91.5	9,500 ft.	5.6"
Brooks Bridge Nucla	97.8	Lizard Head Pass	
Cimarron		10,200 ft.	7.7"
Near Cimarron	24.5	Molas Lake	
Dallas Creek		10,500 ft.	10.5"
Near Ridgway	.19	Wolf Creek Summit	
Lake Fork		11,200 ft.	27.5"
Near Gateview	81.8	Lone Cone	
Animas River		9,600 ft.	.5"
Near Durango	256	Upper San Juan	
	In cfs.	10,200 ft.	24.8"
		Idarado	
		9,800 ft.	9.1"

POLICE LOG

OURAY POLICE

The following is an excerpt of cases handled by the Ouray Police Department from April 14-20:

APRIL 14
 Officer conducted a directed patrol at Rotary Park.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Oak Street.
 Officer conducted a traffic stop for speeding in the 800 block of Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol at the school.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Highway 550 mile marker 95.
 Officer responded to two parking violations in the 100 block of Seventh Avenue.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Oak Street.
 Officer responded to a stray animal call on Hinkson Terrace
 Officer completed a certified VIN inspection in the 500 block of Roundhouse Road in Ridgway.
 Officer conducted a field interview in the 1300 block of Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Main Street.
 Officer conducted a security check of the Ouray water tanks.
 Officers responded to a disturbance at a bar in the 600 block of Main Street.

APRIL 15
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol at the school.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Seventh Avenue.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Oak Street.
 Officer conducted a foot patrol of the Ouray School.
 Officer assisted Ouray EMS with a medical call in the 1900 block of Main Street.
 Officer conducted a security check of Alpine Bank.

APRIL 16
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Rotary Park.
 Officer responded to a report of trespassing in the 1500 block of Oak Street.
 Officer responded to the 700 block of Main Street for a public order issue.

Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Seventh Avenue.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a bar check of the Silver Eagle.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer responded to a parking problem in the 700 block of Fifth Street.
 Officer responded to a parking problem in the 800 block of Fourth Avenue.

APRIL 17
 Officer responded to a suspicious call in the 600 block of Fifth Avenue.
 Officer responded to a parking problem in the 100 block of Third Avenue
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Oak Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Seventh Avenue.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Ouray Vista Lane.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer responded to a parking problem in the 100 block of Third Avenue.
 Officer conducted a bar check of the Silver Eagle.

APRIL 18
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Rotary Park.
 Officer conducted a security check of the Ouray Water Tanks.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of the Amphitheater area.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of the west side of Ouray.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of the Ouray Hot Springs Pool.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Oak Street.
 Officer responded to a Civil Matter in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol on Main Street.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of the Amphitheater

area.
 Officer responded to a 911 hang up in the 100 block of Seventh Avenue.

APRIL 19
 Officer completed a certified VIN inspection in the 200 block of Tower Road South.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Main Street.
 Officer initiated a traffic stop for speeding in the 1000 block of Main Street.
 Officer responded to assist other agencies for a single vehicle accident in the area of Highway 550 near mile marker 101.
 Officer conducted a directed patrol of Oak Street.
 Officer responded to a report of vehicles stuck in an avalanche slide on Highway 550 near mile marker 87. Officer was advised the Colorado Department of Transportation had helped get the vehicle cleared of the slide.

APRIL 20
 Officer assisted motorist by explaining traction laws for snow tires and chains. Red Mountain Pass has traction law sign lit.
 Same officer assisted different motorist who had a panic attack after coming down Red Mountain when the traction law sign was lit.

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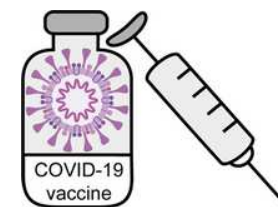
COVID-19 Testing & Vaccine Update



Ouray County Mask Protocols in effect. Please wear a mask when entering, waiting to enter, and when within an indoor public space.

Ouray County Public Health
970-325-4670

Vaccine Phase 2
***General Public**



Current as of 4/16/21

Total doses administered: 3,205
 First dose: 1,463
 FULLY vaccinated: 1,742
 Total tests administered
 7,451

Sign-up for a vaccine: www.ouraycountyco.gov

Colorado Vaccine Hotline 1-877- CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926)

Beck appointed to Ridgway Town Council

By Mike Wiggins
and Erin McIntyre
mike@ouraynews.com
erin@ouraynews.com

The Ridgway Town Council voted unanimously on April 14 to appoint Adam Beck to fill the seat vacated by Eric Johnson.

Four candidates wrote letters to the town expressing interest in filling the position for a year — Beck, Rod Fitzhugh, Michelle Montague and Jay Tunncliff. The opening was created when nobody ran for Johnson's seat. Johnson, the mayor pro tem, announced in December he would not run again after 18 years on the council. This month's election was canceled when the other three councilors whose seats were up for election — Angela

Ferrelli, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer — were unopposed.

This is the second spot filled on council since November, when Tessa Cheek left the board. Ferrelli was appointed to replace her.

Beck, a regional sales manager with a housewares and lighting company, has lived in Ridgway since 2016 and grew up in Eagle County.

He cited concerns about managing growth in the area and upholding the values in the town's master plan, which he said he participated in the development of as a citizen in 2019. He also wrote in his letter that he believes he's a politically moderate voice.

Fitzhugh, a lawyer and resident of Ridgway for 20 years,

served two terms on council from 2004-2008 and has served on the joint planning commission with the county since 2009. He's also been active in trails development. He wrote in his letter that he would approach his work on the council "with a firm belief that policy and planning procedures must serve the entire community."

Montague moved to Ridgway in 2018 after living in Telluride for 32 years. She works as the financial officer for the local nonprofit dZi Foundation and previously served on the Telluride Housing Authority. She applied to fill the seat vacated by Cheek but indicated in her letter of interest for Johnson's seat that she didn't seek a seat in the election because she didn't

want to commit to a two-year term without knowing more about the time commitment involved.

Tunncliff, a 2 1/2-year resident of Ridgway, is a 40-year veteran of the U.S. Army and the California and Alabama national guards. He currently works part-time at Ridgway Hardware and volunteers with the Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department.

"I applied for the job because everybody complains about government but nobody wants to do anything," he told councilors during their meeting.

Councilors narrowed their preference to Montague and Beck.

Ferrelli said she appreciated Montague's expertise on housing issues.

"She can really bring a good breadth of knowledge," Ferrelli said.

Clark, who didn't participate in the vote, said he'd like to see a third woman on the council to join Ferrelli and Lakin.

"I think equity and inclusion is more important than ever these days," he said.

Lakin said she appreciated Beck's commitment to the town's master plan and his desire to use his position on council to get to know people in the community.

Ultimately Meyer moved to appoint Beck.

Later in the meeting councilors appointed Meyer to serve as mayor pro tem.

NEWS BRIEFS

Volunteers needed for Main Street Group

The Town of Ridgway is looking for volunteers for the newly created Ridgway Creative Main Street Group.

The new group merges two town initiatives, Ridgway Creative District and Ridgway Main Street, into one effort to benefit the downtown area. The group will be a standing committee that will report to the Town Council and work on achieving town master plan objectives. Its focus will be on implementing activities that support community development and economic vitality in downtown Ridgway.

To learn more about the group and the application, visit the town's website at townofridgway.colorado.gov and click on "community development" under the "town government" tab.

Completed applications may be emailed to dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us by 5 p.m. April 29. They can also be dropped off at Ridgway Town Hall, marked "Attention:

Preston Neill — Creative Main Street Application."

For more information or questions, email Diedra Silbert, community initiatives facilitator, at dsilbert@town.ridgway.co.us or call 970-626-5308.

Ridgway cleanup day this weekend

The Town of Ridgway will hold its annual cleanup day on Saturday, April 24, in the lot behind the Ridgway Public Library off Railroad Street.

The event, which is open to town residents only, will go from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until Dumpsters are full.

Residents are asked not to dump appliances, furniture or toxic liquids. Electronic items can be recycled at the Ouray County transfer and recycle station, 111 Mall Road.

Citizens invited to apply to serve on forest Resource Advisory Committee

Citizens who want to have a say in managing activities within the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest are invited to apply by the end of the month to serve on the Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee.

The newly formed committee will be composed of 15 citizens with diverse interests. Committee members must reside within Colorado or Wyoming. They serve four-year terms without pay but may be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Resource Advisory Committee members provide recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service on the development and implementation of special projects on federal lands. The projects must improve forest health, fish, wildlife, soils, watersheds or

other resources; maintain, decommission or obliterate roads; improve trails and other infrastructure; or control noxious weeds. The projects must be located on national forest lands or benefit national forest lands. Committee members will also monitor projects, advise on progress and results of monitoring efforts and make recommendations for appropriate changes to the projects.

Forests represented on the Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee and receive funding including the GMUG, Arapaho, Routt, Pike, Roosevelt, San Isabel and White River National Forests in Colorado and the Medicine-Bow, Bighorn and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming.

For more information about the committee, or assistance with the application process, contact Sean Ferrell at sean.ferrell@usda.gov. Written nominations packages must be sent to Sean Ferrell, Grand Mesa, Gunnison and Uncompahgre National Forests, 2250 S. Main St., Delta 81416. Nominations must be received by April 30.

Offer ends
June 30



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PURPOSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Upper Uncompahgre Watershed and plans restoration projects.

Engineering, education, music, business, environment, community development—Eric’s life isn’t exactly linear, unlike what you might expect of an engineer. He is particularly interested in entrepreneurship and social enterprise. These concepts are evolving rapidly and are blurring the lines between the traditional for-profit, nonprofit and government sectors. Organizations that fall under this rubric aim to meet social and environmental needs by using market-driven tactics. Cause-focused work is no longer specific to nonprofits. For-profit companies are also realizing that consumers, clients, governments, and the media increasingly expect business leadership to be committed to more than financial returns. Triple bottom line measures – benefits for people, profit, and planet – are the new business agenda.

“We’ve been taught to believe it’s all segmented – whether you want to go into business, government, or do nonprofit or volunteer work. That’s a lot less distinctly limited these days,” Eric said.

Engineers are swiftly typecast as focused thinkers who are happiest with a plan. “And plans are a good thing,” Eric said. “Particularly when you’re young and you’re thinking about who you want to be and what you want to do with your life.”

Education came first for Funk.

“For myself, I needed to study. I went through six years of grad school before I felt like I was equipped to do what I wanted to do. This was a huge commitment and took a lot of planning. I call it the ‘paying your dues’ aspect of your life. But doing all of that studying first al-

lowed me to fulfill my dreams later. Without having that structure early on, I couldn’t live an organic life now.



Plaindealer photo
Eric Funk, right, stands with his brother Ethan inside the Mountain Chill Radio studio in Ouray.

Planning and structure buy you the flexibility to follow your values and dreams, and do all kinds of things. But it’s a balance, too. You also need to know how to go with the flow and be adaptable to change.”

Eric is particularly inspired by Taoism, which is a philosophy based on paradoxical truths. It

often uses water as a metaphor for life. “Taoism has informed me for the last 20 years and has taught me when to let go of too much structure. Consider an avalanche. Hardwoods don’t survive, but aspens do because they bend while the hardwoods can’t. That flow is very interesting to me. It’s hard to quantify, but I find it innately satisfying to understand that this is life’s nature.”

“Above all, I’m steered by a deep commitment to learning, and by opportunities to invest my knowledge and skills back into our community,” Eric said. “The beauty of this place never fades, but you don’t really feel a part of it until you become involved and develop a deeper sense of community. For any project you become involved with, you have to find some aspect that you really love. Don’t just do it out of obligation, or you’ll quickly run out of energy.”

If you’re feeling inspired, check out River Watch events and volunteer opportunities at www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/activities/river-watch.

Joy of Purpose highlights locals who are making positive contributions to our community and beyond. Jeff Pryor and Alexandra Mitchell are teachers and nonprofit leaders, and are the authors of Compassionate Careers: Making a Living by Making a Difference (Career Press, 2015).

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Some fly to Cortez to get vaccinated, while others can't reach a clinic

At least 60K traveled more than 50 miles for shot

By Ray Ellen Bichell
Kaiser Health News

The airport says a lot about Cortez: The single-engine planes that fly into its one-room airport seat nine passengers at most. The city of about 9,000 is known largely as a gateway to beautiful places like Mesa Verde National Park and the Four Corners Monument. But COVID-19 vaccines have made Cortez a destination in its own right.

"We had a couple fly in to get their vaccine from Denver that couldn't get it in the Denver metro area," said Marc Meyer, director of pharmacy services and infection control for Southwest Health System, which includes clinics and a community hospital in Cortez. Others have come from neighboring states and as far away as California, Florida and the Carolinas.

"They all come back for their second dose," he said. "Because it's so hard to get in the cities."

With vaccines now becoming available to the general public in much of the country, the privilege of easy access is coming into sharper focus. On the most extreme end, vaccine tourists with means can nab inoculations, as Forbes has reported, in places such as Israel, the United Arab Emirates and even Cuba,



Photo courtesy Anthony Nicotera/The Journal

Paramedics with Southwest Health System prepare to administer Tresa Gleeson's second dose of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine at her home near Cortez. The team traveled around the region to vaccinate people unable to leave their homes.

where ads offered "mojitos and vaccine." On the flip side, some people have found it hard to get to a vaccine appointment a few miles away.

In fact, around the same time people were flying into Cortez to get their shots, Meyer said, some locals couldn't get to vaccine locations. That was particularly

true for people who are homebound or homeless.

So Meyer and his colleagues came up with a vaccine SWAT team of sorts, composed of paramedics and a handful of ambulances stocked with vaccine vials. The team visited about 40 homebound people. For 30 or so people who

are homeless in the area, Meyer snagged leftover doses of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine from a nearby county.

But he said he doesn't know if his team got to everyone who wanted vaccines. "The problem with health disparities in rural areas is there's no data," he said. "It would be really helpful to know how many people have transportation issues."

A KHN analysis of Colorado health department data shows that by the end of March about 43% of Coloradans who had received their first doses, and had addresses on file, got those shots outside of their home county. At least 60,000 Coloradans — about as many people as live in Grand Junction, the biggest city in western Colorado — got their first vaccine dose 50 or more miles away, as the crow flies, from their home ZIP codes.

And the state vaccinated more than 20,000 people from out of state — tourists, traveling nurses, cross-border dwellers and others whose primary residence is elsewhere — about 1% of the total number of people who had received first doses by April 1 in Colorado.

Other states have noticed similar migrations. Missouri, for example, saw an exodus of urbanites to rural areas in search of vaccines, leading critics to say doses had been misallocated in a way that neglected cities such as St. Louis.

But traveling for a vaccine requires money, flexibility with one's time and a

SEE FLY ON PAGE 13

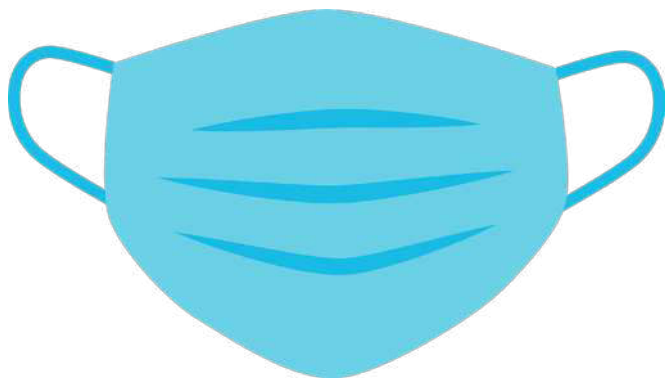
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Pair of bills tighten gun regulations in Colorado

By Jesse Paul
The Colorado Sun

Gov. Jared Polis on Monday signed two bills tightening gun regulations in Colorado into law — the first new firearm restrictions enacted in the state since the red flag bill became law in 2019.

The legislation was introduced before the deadly attack on a Boulder King Soopers in March, though the shootings brought greater urgency to the measures,

which are mainly focused on reducing gun-related suicides.

Other gun control bills are expected to be debated at the legislature later this year.

The legislation signed into law on Monday, which passed the General Assembly without any Republican support, will affect all gun owners in Colorado.

Here's what you need to know about the bills:

House Bill 1106

Starting on July 1, Coloradans who own guns will be required

to store their weapons in a gun safe or with a trigger or cable lock when the owner knows or should reasonably know that a "juvenile or a resident who is ineligible to possess a firearm can gain access to the firearm."

The guns don't have to be stored in a safe or with a trigger or cable lock if the owner is carrying the weapon or if they place it in a "secure container which a reasonable person would believe to be secure." Antique firearms are also exempt from the law.

Violators of the new law could face a Class 2 misdemeanor offense, which carries penalties of fines and, in rare instances, jail time. People charged with the crime can argue that the gun wasn't safely stored because a juvenile needed to gain access to the weapon for the purpose of self defense or to defend livestock.

The new law also requires licensed gun dealers to provide a trigger or cable lock with each firearm

they sell or transfer, except for when it comes to the sale or transfer of antique firearms. They also must post a conspicuous safe-storage notice, to be developed by the state's health department, in their shop.

To meet the notice requirement, gun shops may also post a sign saying: "UNLAWFUL STORAGE OF A FIREARM MAY RESULT IN IMPRISONMENT"

SEE GUN ON PAGE 16

FLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

vehicle. Transportation was a health issue even before the pandemic, said Lori Tremmel Freeman, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. Researchers writing in the American Journal of Public Health found that, in 2017 alone, 5.8 million people in the U.S. delayed medical care because they lacked transportation. This group was disproportionately poor and had chronic health conditions.

Access issues, Freeman said, are likely being mischaracterized as vaccine hesitancy. Even some who live in cities with robust public transportation and ride-hailing services have found themselves jumping through hoops to get to a vaccine appointment.

Bob McIntyre, 81, lives in Denver in an apartment close enough to a major highway that the traffic "sounds like ocean waves in the distance." But he doesn't have a car. "It's just too expensive," he said. Before the pandemic hit, McIntyre could walk or take public transit. With the coronavirus circulating, though, he'd rather not be closed in a box with a bunch of strangers. "So, I've been hermitized."

Ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft have offered free rides to vaccine appointments, but McIntyre doesn't feel safe using those services. He

eventually learned of A Little Help, a nonprofit that offers everything from free yardwork to rides for covid vaccine appointments. Volunteer drivers took him to both of his vaccine slots, which were about 15 minutes from his home but otherwise would have remained out of reach.

Maggie Lea, director of programs at Mile High Connects, worries others may not be as lucky. Her organization believes more affordable and accessible transportation is key to achieving a racially and economically equitable Denver — especially right now.

"There are people who may or may not be motivated already to get the vaccine," she said. "If they don't have access to transport, or it's particularly expensive for them to get over there, or burdensome for them to get to a vaccine site, we're noticing that they just won't go."

Transit systems can use federal covid relief funding to help people get their vaccines, said Amy Conrick, director of the National Center for Mobility Management.

In West Texas, the SPARTAN public transit agency offers free rides to covid vaccine appointments, including many at its headquarters.

In Oxford, Ohio, older adults can get vaccinated by nurses aboard buses that accommodate oxygen tanks and wheelchairs. The city set up a hotline for residents to schedule their vaccine and transportation in one call.

"We live in a rural community where some people just don't have internet," said Assistant City Manager Jessica Greene.

Transit systems need to talk to public health officials, Conrick said. "Now is the time," she said. "Well, actually, yesterday was the time."

But many places lack decent public transit. For them, Freeman of NACCHO imagines covid shots waiting anywhere people congregate, even at NASCAR races, once the supply increases. "You should be able to just turn in any direction and be able to get a vaccine," she said.

For now, demand is so high that vaccines go into arms as soon as they are available, Freeman said, but soon public health officials will have plenty of vaccine but a shrinking group of people who want to bother getting it. "We will hit a hard stop where we're looking full face onto the universe of people that do not want to get the vaccine."

Then, she said, it will be even more important for vaccination to not only be possible, but for it to be easy.

KHN (Kaiser Health News) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. Together with Policy Analysis and Polling, KHN is one of the three major operating programs at KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation). KFF is an endowed nonprofit organization providing information on health issues to the nation.



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The Ouray Brewery is currently accepting resumes and applications for year round full time bartenders and line cooks. Wage DOE. Possible housing stipend for the right candidates. Please drop off resumes or stop by and fill out an application at 607 Main Street in Ouray.

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SEASONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE OPERATOR

The City of Ouray is seeking seasonal, Parks Maintenance Operators. One full time (40hrs/week) and one part time. Work schedule is from May to end of Sept. Duties are listed with job description on our website @ www.cityofouray.com. Pay is 20.43/hr. See cityofouray.com for application form and job description. Application form must accompany resumes and be received by 4pm, May 3, 2021. Please submit by email to hr@cityofouray.com or fax to 970-325-7212. The City of Ouray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

The Uncompahgre BOCES seeks a highly qualified Speech Language Pathologist to serve in the Ouray and Ridgway School Districts. This is a contracted position with an hourly rate and reimbursement for mileage. The contractor has to provide liability insurance. The candidate must hold or be eligible for CDE Licensure. Please send a letter of interest, resume, and references to zdenison@ridgway.k12.co.us or call 970-626-2977. EOE

LOCAL RANCH SEEKS SEASONAL HELP

Local ranch seeking seasonal help in various areas of agriculture and landscape maintenance. Compensation DOE, please inquire at 970-626-5485 for more information.

HELP WANTED

OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL SEASONAL MAINTENANCE OPERATOR

The Ouray Hot Springs Pool is seeking a full time (40hrs/week), seasonal employee for our Pool Maintenance Operator I position. Primary duties include general facility maintenance, grounds keeping, and pool filtration duties. Detailed duties and requirements are listed in the job description on our website at www.cityofouray.com. Weekends required. Pay is \$20.75/hr. Apply directly at www.ourayhotspringspool.com or see www.cityofouray.com for job description and application forms. You may submit by email to hr@cityofouray.com or fax to 970-325-7212. Application form must accompany resumes and be received by 4 pm on April 30, 2021. The City of Ouray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OURAY COUNTY WEED TECHNICIAN SEASONAL

Ouray County Weed Department is seeking motivated and responsible individuals 18 years or older for a seasonal Weed Technician position. Person chosen will report to the County Weed Manager and will perform duties assigned backpack spraying (must be able to carry 50 lbs.), weed pulling, equipment maintenance and record keeping. Must have valid Colorado Driver's license and have no allergies to herbicides. Training will be provided. Preference will be given to those with a Colorado Commercial Applicators license or to those willing to get a license. Approximates dates for season May through September. Please submit letter of interest and resume to Ouray County Human Resource Director, PO Box C, Ouray, Co. 81427, (970-325-7332). Ouray County is an equal opportunity employer.

HOUSEKEEPERS

Box Canyon Lodge and Hot Springs is seeking full- and part-time housekeepers for the summer season. \$15-16/hour. Please apply in person at 45 Third Ave. in Ouray. Ask about end-of-season bonus.

HELP WANTED

SEEKING HIGH VOLUME BARTENDERS, BAR BACKS, FOODRUNNERS/BUSSERS AND COOKS

The Imogene Hotel and rooftop bar is seeking seasonal help for our rooftop bar and restaurant. Good money to be made!!!! Email schwatzie79@gmail.com.

MOTEL FRONT DESK STAFF POSITION

Hiring seasonal front-desk for May-October. Computer and Excellent customer service skills preferred. P.M. shifts from 2:00pm-10:00pm 3 days/week. Competitive pay includes paid lunch and drive time. Send resume to robert.m.leisure@gmail.com. Call 970-708-2190.

TAVERN MANAGER

The Wright Opera House is seeking a manager for The Wright Tavern. Primary duties include bartending, personnel & inventory management. This is a full time position with the opportunity to grow. Email resume to alysa@thewrightoperahouse.org. Please visit our website for full description and more information at www.thewrightoperahouse.org. The Wright Opera House is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CEMETERY CARETAKER

Caretaker for historic Cedar Hill Cemetery, between Ouray & Ridgway. Flexible hours, part time seasonal, \$16.00-\$18.00 an hour based on qualifications and experience. Position requires landscaping, with mowing, weedeating, tree trimming, equipment maintenance (with possible travel to Montrose for repairs), operating and maintaining pump/sprinkler irrigation system and any other duties necessary to maintain the beautiful grounds of the cemetery. Coordinate with Sexton, excavator and funeral home on burial arrangements. Assist with setup, traffic and parking during services. Contact Hannah Hollenbeck at 970-318-1404 for the job description. Send letter of interest & qualifications to CHC, PO Box 1123, Ouray, Colorado 81427 or to Hannahhollenbeck@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED



CHIPETA SOLAR SPRINGS RESORT IN RIDGWAY IS HIRING!

Join our hospitality team! We have openings in the following positions:

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POOL MAINTENANCE OPERATOR I FULL TIME, YEAR ROUND

The Ouray Hot Springs Pool is seeking a full time, year-round, employee for our Pool Maintenance Operator I position. Primary duties include general facility maintenance, grounds keeping, and pool filtration duties. Pay is \$20.75/hr. Benefits package included. Detailed duties and requirements are listed in the job description on our website at www.cityofouray.com. Weekends required. Apply directly at www.ourayhotspringspool.com or see www.cityofouray.com for job description and application forms. You may submit by email to hr@cityofouray.com or fax to 970-325-7212. Application form must accompany resumes and be received by 4 pm on April 28th, 2021. The City of Ouray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MEETINGS

AL-ANON/ALATEEN Meets Monday at United Church of the San Juans, log cabin, 295 N. Lena St., Ridgway. 5:30 p.m., info: 318-6966.

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Second Chance Humane Society is looking for **RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES** at its Ridgway location for 3 to 4 days a week.

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Interested candidates please call Lynda at 970-318-1468 or stop by the Ridgway Thrift store to drop off your resume and meet some of our team members!

OURAY HOT SPRINGS POOL SEASONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

The Ouray Hot Springs Pool is seeking an energetic customer service-oriented individual for part time, seasonal (May-Oct) Customer Service Associate. Knowledge of the area and previous experience with cashing is desirable. Day, evening and weekend shifts required. Pay is \$16.93/hr. See www.cityofouray.com for application form and detailed job duties. Please submit by email to hr@cityofouray.com, or fax to 970-325-7212. Application form must accompany resumes and be received by 4 pm on May 3, 2021. The City of Ouray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BOX CANYON CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

The City of Ouray is seeking an energetic customer service-oriented individual for part-time, seasonal Customer Service Associate at Box Canon Park. Knowledge of the area and previous experience with cashing is desirable. Some weekend and evening shifts required. Pay rate: \$16.93/hr. See www.cityofouray.com for City application form and job description. Application form must accompany resumes and be received at City Hall by 4:00 p.m. on May 3, 2021. You may email to hr@cityofouray.com, or fax to 970-325-7212. The City of Ouray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOP 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Public Health Agency to help with COVID-19 response, will pick them up and bring them back to the office using a vaccine transport cooler. The vials are stored in ultracold freezers, and once they are removed, there is a limited time window for using those doses.

Each Pfizer vial contains six doses of the vaccine, so there will be no extras for anyone who hasn't already signed up to receive one, Kingery said. "We'll be right on the nose, as long as everybody shows up," he said.

"It's a lot of work logistically," he said, including coordinating and transporting the vaccines, and scheduling the shots during after-work hours on Friday for working parents who need to be there with their teens. "We wanted to give it a shot at least once," he said.

Gov. Jared Polis and State Epidemiologist Dr. Rachel Herlihy urged Coloradans to get vaccinated at a press conference Tuesday, citing data showing full vaccination corresponds with a 93 to 95 percent reduction in reported cases.

While cases and hospitalizations have been rising across the state, at levels not seen since late January, they have declined among people 60 and older. "The lowest rates of disease transmission that we're seeing right now are among those 65-plus-year-olds, where we have a highly vaccinated population," Herlihy said. "We

are seeing hospitalizations increasing among younger age groups," she said, referencing people from their 20s to their 50s. On Tuesday, 553 Coloradans were hospitalized due to COVID.

She also addressed "breakthrough cases," or people who have been exposed to and tested positive for COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated. Since late January, there have been 819 breakthrough cases in Colorado, she said, which account for less than 1 percent of the 106,965 total cases in that time. Hospitalizations have also been far lower - ranging from 0 to 1 per day - among breakthrough cases, compared to all other cases, where daily hospital admissions have ranged from 40 to 80 in

the same time.

She cited a comparison of infection rates between vaccinated and unvaccinated people during one week in early April: "Individuals who were fully vaccinated were 94.6 percent less likely to be reported cases than unvaccinated people," she said. A cumulative analysis, looking at cases and breakthrough cases since the beginning of vaccination efforts in the state, found full vaccination "corresponds to approximately 93 percent protection against being reported as a case in Colorado." Those numbers are consistent with clinical trials and studies

SEE TOP 10 ON PAGE 16

AGENDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 27, 2021

This meeting is being held virtually, via Zoom, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Resolution 2020-007.

Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/91683469210>
Meeting ID: 916 8346 9210

Phone Only: 1-346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 916 8346 9210

A. 8:30 The Board of County Commissioners will convene as the Board of Health concerning the following:

1. Public Health Director Update:

B. 9:00 AM Call to the Public:

The "Call to the Public" agenda item is a time when the public may bring forth items of interest or concern. No formal action may be taken on these items during this time due to the open meeting law provision; however, they may be placed on a future posted agenda if action is required.

C. 9:30 The Board of County Commissioners will convene as the Board of Social Services to consider the following items:

1. Request for approval of the following reports and authorization of the Chair's signature on certification page:

- a. Balance Sheet, February 2021:
- b. Earned Revenue and Expenditures, February 2021:
- c. Expenditures through Electronic Benefit Transfers, March 2021:
- d. Check Register for the Month of March 2021:
- e. County Allocation / MOE Report, FEB-21:

2. Caseload Report:

D. 9:45 Ouray County Public Health Agency Fiber / Broadband Update:

1. Doug Seacat, Deeply Digital:

E. 10:00 Mike Berry, Tri County Water:

1. Water and Land Committee Update:

F. 10:30 Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-001 amending regulations concerning the use of off-highway vehicles in Unincorporated Ouray County, and setting penalties for violations:

G. 11:00 The Board of County Commissioners will convene as the Local Licensing Authority to consider the following item:

1. Request for adoption of Resolution 2021-011 granting a Conditional Renewal of an Application for Renewal of a Marijuana Cultivation License and Major Modification issued to MS Support, LLC (licensed entity and lessee/tenant) for a Facility Located at 255 Melody Lane and Owned by Liftreat, LLC: (This application was approved by the Board during the March 23, 2021 meeting.)

H. 11:05 General Business:

1. Request for approval of warrants:
2. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on Fairway Pines Estates Village 3, Lot V301 Final Plat Amendment, as approved by Resolution 2020-050:

3. Request for appointment of BOCC members to serve on the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Board representative and alternate:
4. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Ouray County and Montrose County for Public Road Maintenance of Dave Wood Road located in Ouray County and on the Fiscal Impact Form:
5. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on Participating Agreement between Ouray County and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest for Cooperative Noxious and Invasive Plant Control with Ouray County and on the Fiscal Impact Form:
6. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Ouray County and the Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District concerning Noxious Weed Management and Control Services and on its Fiscal Impact Form:
7. Request for approval and authorization of Chair's signature on Budgetary Transfer Forms:

I. 11:30 Continuation of Public Hearing – Final Plat Amendment: (This item was continued from April 6, 2021)

1. Review a recommendation from Planning Commission and Staff regarding a request by Elk Mountain Resort Partners, LLC, for approval of a 2nd Amendment to the Final Plat of the Elk Mountain Resort, Phase 1A. The purpose of the amendment is to allow the resort to resume limited commercial operations:

J. 12:30 Commissioner/Administrative Reports:

Lunch:

Note: Action may be taken on any or all of these items. All times are approximate. If any given item is finished earlier than anticipated, the Commissioners may move on to the next item. The only exceptions to this are public hearings, which will not begin prior to their advertised time. Agendas and amended agendas will be posted on the Ouray County Website www.ouraycountycolorado.gov no later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting. Agendas may also be posted at the Ouray County Courthouse, 541 4th Street, Ouray, CO 81427.

Work Session Board of County Commissioners April 28, 2021

Video and audio: <https://zoom.us/j/91570735349>
Meeting ID: 915 7073 5349

Phone Only: 1-346-248-7799
Access Code: 915 7073 5349

9:00AM The Board of County Commissioners will meet in a work session for the purpose of conducting Planning Commission Interviews:

9:00 Michael Waters
9:45 Patsy Miller
10:30 Randy Parker
11:15 Rob Ashmead

12:00PM The Board of County Commissioners will meet in a work session to discuss State Legislative Topics:

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LEGAL NOTICES

TOP 10

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Legal Notice No. 1177

DISTRICT COURT, OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

Court Address: 541 4th St., Ouray, CO 81427
Mailing Address: PO Box 643, Ouray, CO 81427

COURT USE ONLY
Case No.: 2021CV30000
Division: 4

Plaintiff: OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF ELK MEADOWS ESTATES, INC., a Colorado nonprofit corporation
v.

Defendant: JANICE L. COPELAND a/k/a JANICE LENORA
Attorneys for Plaintiff
MOELLER GRAF, P.C.
Joshua S. Myers, #53309 - jmyers@moellergraf.com
Bujar Ahmeti, #42373
K. Christian Webert, #43739
385 Inverness Parkway, Suite 200
Englewood, Colorado 80112
Office: (720) 279-2568
FAX: (720) 279-2569
SUMMONS [BY PUBLICATION]

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend against the claims of the complaint filed with the court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this court an answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after the service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your answer or other response to the complaint in writing within thirty-five (35) days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be rendered against you by the court for the relief demanded in the complaint without further notice.

This is an action for judicial foreclosure under C.R.C.P. Rule 105 and damages seeking to foreclose a statutory lien on the following property:

Lot 110, Elk Meadows Estates Subdivision No. 1, County of Ouray, State of Colorado;

Dated March 17, 2021.
Published in the Ouray County Plaindealer.
First Publication: March 25, 2021
Last Publication: April 22, 2021
MOELLER GRAF, P.C.

/s/ Joshua S. Myers
Joshua S. Myers, #53309

Published: Ouray County Plaindealer: March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 2021

Legal Notice No. 1183

NOTICE OF PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE AT TAX SALE AND OF APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF TREASURER'S DEED N004599

To Every Person in Actual Possession or Occupancy of the hereinafter Described Land, Lot or Premises, and to the Person in Whose Name the same was Taxed or Specially Assessed, and to all Persons having an Interest or Title of Record in or to the said Premises and To Whom It May Concern, and more especially to

TRUST OF DORIS E FLURY U/T/D/ 4/10/97

You and each of you are hereby notified that on the 5TH day of November, 2010 the then County Treasurer of the County of Ouray, in the State of Colorado, sold at public tax sale to Big Red Limited Partnership, the following described real estate situated in the County of Ouray, State of Colorado.

S: 8 T: 45 R: 7 2/3 INT. IN MR NW1/4SE1/4 & NE1/4SW1/4

Said County Treasurer issued a certificate of purchase therefore to BIG RED LIMITED PARTNERSHIP.

That said tax sale was made to satisfy the delinquent taxes assessed against said real estate for the year 2009. That said real estate was taxed or specially assessed in the name of Trust of Doris E Flury U/T/D/ 4/10/97, for said year 2009. Big Red Limited Partnership, the present holder of said certificate, who has made request upon the Treasurer of said County for a deed to said real estate; That a Treasurer's Deed will be issued for said real estate to the said Big Red Limited Partnership at 9:00 o'clock A.M., on the 9th day of September, 2021 unless the same has been redeemed. Said property may be redeemed from said sale at any time prior to the actual execution of said Treasurer's Deed.

Witness my hand this 15th day of April, 2021.
Jill Mihelich, Ouray County Treasurer

Published: Ouray County Plaindealer: April 15, 22, 29, 2021

Legal Notice No. 1184

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of VERNON G. HUGHES, aka VERNON HUGHES, aka VERNON GLENN HUGHES, Deceased, Case Number 21PR30005

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court in and for Ouray County, Colorado, on or before August 15, 2021, or the claims may be forever barred.

David E. Rakow
PO Box 302, Fate, TX 75132
Primary Phone: 972-978-6797
Personal Representative

Published: Ouray County Plaindealer: April 15, 22, 29, 2021

Legal Notice No. 1185

CITY OF OURAY
Public Hearing Notice

Please take notice, pursuant to Section 3.5-D of the City of Ouray Home Rule Charter, the City Council will hold a public hearing:

Date: May 3, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: IN-PERSON MEETING – ALL PUBLIC WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK SHOULD ATTEND IN-PERSON
320 6th Ave. – Massard Auditorium

ZOOM MEETING (FOR LISTENING PURPOSES ONLY)
<https://zoom.us/j/9349389230> Meeting ID: 934 938 9230 Passcode: 491878
By phone: +1 408 638 0968 or +1 669 900 6833

Title: ORDINANCE NO. 3, SERIES 2021

Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OURAY, COLORADO, REPEALING NOISE REGULATIONS IN SECTION 10-2-Y OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE OURAY MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING NEW SOUND REGULATIONS IN SECTION 10-6 OF CHAPTER 10; AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

Summary: The summary of a new Section 10-6 to Chapter 10 is added as follows:

10-6 Sounds Regulations

C. Sounds Prohibited

1. It is unlawful for any person within the city to make, create, or permit an unreasonable noise disturbance, whether from a stationary or intermittent sound source, and which can be heard and measured in the manner prescribed herein, except when made in connection with a special event permit where specific terms, limits, and conditions, concerning noise are set forth.
2. It is unlawful for any person within the city to operate, drive, or be in possession of a vehicle which is stopped, standing, parked, or moving, and to make, create, or permit an unreasonable noise disturbance and which can be heard and measured in the manner as would prescribed herein, except for an emergency vehicle used in its official capacity.
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, lease, rent or install any device or modified/alterer muffler or sell, rent, lease or operate any motor vehicle, engine or mechanical device with a device or modified/alterer muffler which when attached to or placed upon such motor vehicle, engine or mechanical device amplifies or increases the noise emitted by it above that emitted by the motor vehicle, engine or mechanical device or muffler in its original factory design.

D. Standards and Measurement. For purposes of determining whether any sound is an unreasonable noise disturbance, different measurement standards shall apply regarding distance on Private Property and Distance on Public Property. Any unreasonable noise disturbance shall be measured on the A-weighted scale using sound level meters. Wind Velocity and Ambient Noise Level shall be considered. When a noise source can be identified and its noise measured in more than one zone or category, the limits of the most restrictive zoning classification shall apply at the boundaries between different zoning classifications.

E. Impermissible Sound Source Levels

1. Any stationary sound source which creates a sound pressure level which exceeds the decibel levels and time limits in the zones set forth in Table 1, measured in the prescribed manner.

Table 1 – Stationary Sound Source Decibel/Time Chart by maximum dB(A).

Zone	7:00AM -8:00PM	8:00PM -7:00AM	FRIDAY/SATURDAY 8:00PM - 11:00PM
Parks Districts			
P1 and P2 Residential District;	70	64	70
R1 Residential District;	70	64	70
R2 Commercial/ Industrial Districts;	76	64	70
C1 and C-2	76	64	76

2. Construction projects shall be subject to the maximum permissible noise levels specified for each zone in Table 1 above from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM during the time frame construction is allowed pursuant to any applicable permit issued by the City, or if no time frame is imposed pursuant to such permit, then for a reasonable period for completion of the construction project, excluding emergency work of public service utilities.
3. Any intermittent sound source which creates a sound pressure level which exceeds the decibel levels and time limits in the zones set forth in Table 2 for any measurement period of no less than thirty (30) seconds, measured in the prescribed manner.

Table 2 – Intermittent Sound Source Decibel/Time Chart by maximum dB(A)s.

Zones	7:00 AM – 8:00 PM	8:00 PM – 7:00 AM
All Zones	80	70

4. Any moving vehicle which emits a sound pressure level more than levels established in Table 3, measured at a distance in accordance with the requirements of subparagraph TBD above.

Table 3 – Vehicle Decibel Limit Per Weight/Vehicle Class.

Vehicle Class	Maximum dB(A) Levels
Motorcycles	80
Any vehicle greater than ten thousand (10,000) lbs. manufacturers gross vehicle weight; other than an interstate motor carrier	88
Other Vehicles	80

G. Affirmative Defenses

- The sound was made by an authorized emergency vehicle when responding to an emergency call or acting in time of emergency.
- The sound was made within the terms of a snow removal, parade, fireworks display, or temporary street closure permit issued by the city, or was made by the rendering of military honors at a funeral by a military funeral honors detail.
- The sound was made by an animal.
- The sound was made by the sounding of the horn of any vehicle as a danger warning signal or by the sounding of any warning device as required by law.
- The sound was made on property belonging to or leased or managed by a governmental body and was made by an activity of the governmental body or permitted by a governmental body.
- The sound was made by certain motorcycles with specific criteria.
- The sound was made within the terms and conditions of a sound level variance granted by the City Administrator or other authorized representative. A variance shall be granted after application is made if the administrator finds that compliance will cause an undue hardship.

The full text of the ordinance, as approved after introduction, is posted at City Hall and copies of the ordinance are available during regular business hours.

Published: Ouray County Plaindealer: April 22, 2021

around the country, which have shown similar results in protecting people from severe COVID-19 and hospitalization.

“Vaccination is going to be our ticket out of this pandemic,” Herlihy said.

Polis encouraged people who have been waiting to get vaccinated to sign up now. “For those of you who have been putting it off, now’s the time to get it. Maybe you’ve thought, ‘Hey, I’m 24, I’m healthy, I want to let my elders get it first,’ well guess what? Now it’s your turn,” he said.

GUN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

OR FINE.”

A licensed gun dealer who does not provide a locking device or post the required notice commits an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

House Bill 1106 also requires the state court administrator for several years to submit annual reports to the General Assembly on the number of charges brought in each judicial district for the new offenses starting on July 31, 2022.

Senate Bill 78

The bill requires gun owners to report a lost or stolen firearm to law enforcement within five days of realizing the weapon is missing.

Failing to report a lost or stolen firearm is a civil offense punishable by a \$25 fine. A second or subsequent infraction is an unclassified misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$500.

Law enforcement agencies that receive a report of a lost or stolen gun must enter available descriptive information about the weapon into the Colorado Bureau of Investigations Crime Information Center Database.

The law takes effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns its 2021 lawmaking term, which is planned for June. That likely means the law goes into effect in mid-September.

★★★★★★★★★

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Michael Pena
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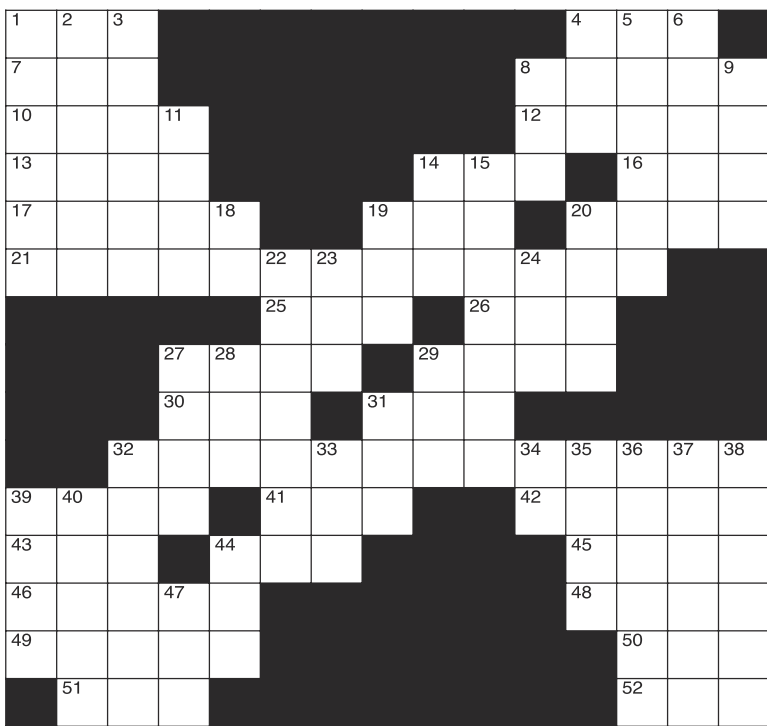
KONG PG-13
Alexander Skarsgard

See the Stars, Under the Stars, At the Star

★★★★★★★★★

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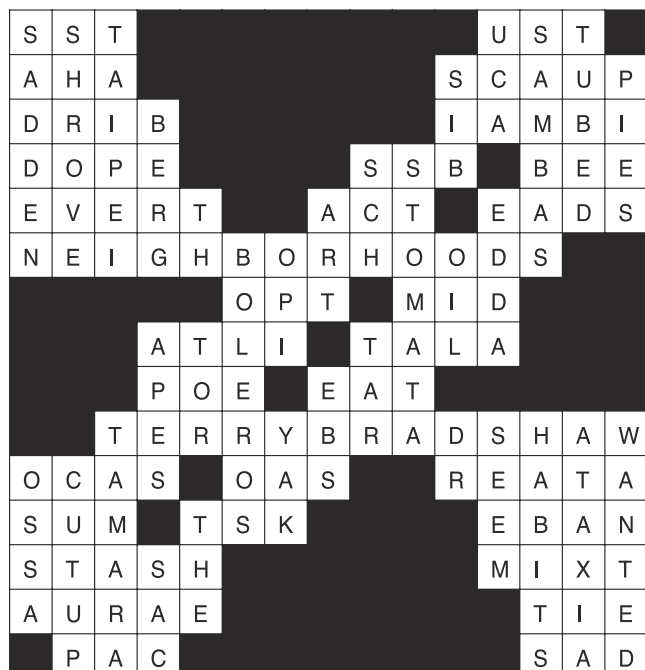
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ocean surface indicator (abbr.)
- 4. American time
- 7. Satisfaction
- 8. Diving duck
- 10. Very small amount
- 12. Metrical units
- 13. An ignorant or foolish person
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 16. It may sting you
- 17. Turn outward
- 19. Perform on stage
- 20. "CSI" actor George
- 21. Localities
- 25. Make a choice
- 26. Indicates position
- 27. One of Thor's names
- 29. Indian musical rhythmic pattern
- 30. "The Raven" author
- 31. Take in solid food
- 32. Legendary QB
- 39. Sorrels
- 41. Organization of nations
- 42. Texas pharmaceutical company
- 43. Mathematical term
- 44. Expression of disappointment
- 45. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 46. Hide away
- 48. Salad restaurant
- 49. Daughters of Boreas (mythology)
- 50. Men's fashion accessory
- 51. Political action committee
- 52. Unhappy

CLUES DOWN

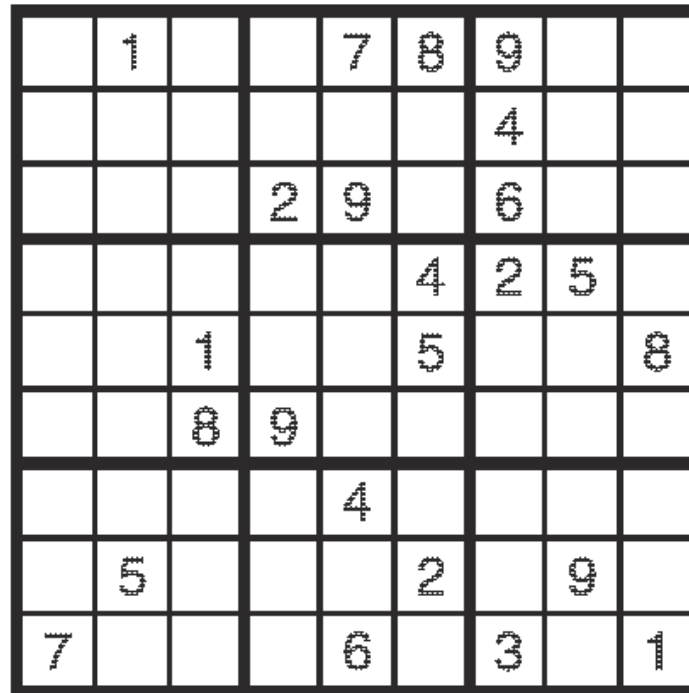
- 1. Make unhappy
- 2. Heard the confession of
- 3. Capital of Taiwan
- 4. Fiddler crab
- 5. Brazilian dances
- 6. Fit with device to assist breathing
- 8. Brother or sister
- 9. Pastries
- 11. "Lone Survivor" director Peter
- 14. Boat type (abbr.)
- 15. Apertures (biology)
- 18. Suffix
- 19. Creative endeavor
- 20. Icelandic poem
- 22. Spanish dances
- 23. Town in Central Italy
- 24. Cars need it
- 27. Mimics
- 28. Rocky peak
- 29. Cigarette (slang)
- 31. One point south of due east
- 32. Soap actress Braun
- 33. Large domesticated wild ox
- 34. Island nation
- 35. Appear
- 36. Addictive practices
- 37. Loss of control of one's body
- 38. Type of poster
- 39. Greek mountain
- 40. Funny person
- 44. One and only
- 47. Pouch

PUZZLE SOLUTION



SUDOKU

SUDOKU



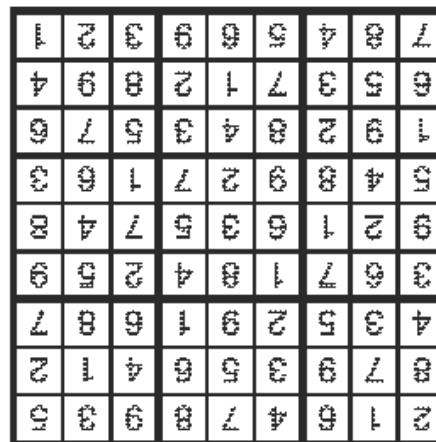
Level: Intermediate

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

HOROSCOPES

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15-21

- ARIES** **March 21 - April 20**
Some things are entirely out of your control, Aries. You may come up against some such obstacles this week. Focus your energy on the things you can control.
- LIBRA** **September 23 - October 23**
Take a break from overthinking, Libra. Involve yourself with pleasurable activities that don't require a lot of forethought. Others can join the fun.
- TAURUS** **April 21 - May 21**
Taurus, if you're seeking new horizons, establish a game plan and then do your homework. This will help determine if it is practical to make a move.
- SCORPIO** **October 24 - November 22**
This is a good week to focus attention on your personal needs, Scorpio. Perhaps you are looking for personal fulfillment. Try volunteer work.
- GEMINI** **May 22 - June 21**
Your expressiveness and affections are drawn out this week, Gemini. It could put you in the mood to push some limits socially or creatively. Chances are things will work out well.
- SAGITTARIUS** **November 23 - December 21**
Others may be elusive this week, Sagittarius. Don't take it as a sign of your relationships being in need of mending. Others are just busy, so enjoy the down time.
- CANCER** **June 22 - July 22**
Cancer, some focus and harmony enables you to find balance in your personal and professional relationships. You will begin to see eye-to-eye with many people.
- CAPRICORN** **December 22 - January 20**
People may demand a little more of your time in the days ahead, Capricorn. If you are not sure you can devote extra effort, tell these people as soon as possible.
- LEO** **July 23 - August 23**
It is a good thing to center yourself emotionally because many decisions are heading your way, Leo. You may find ideas and plans center around domestic issues.
- AQUARIUS** **January 21 - February 18**
Disagreements can arise if others are not reading you well, Aquarius. Focus your efforts on effective communication this week to avoid any confusion.
- VIRGO** **August 24 - September 22**
You are inclined to seek some mental stimulation this week, Virgo. Invest in some puzzles or even a recreational pursuit such as an escape room experience.
- PISCES** **February 19 - March 20**
You don't need to know every detail of an issue to be able to take a side or a stance, Pisces. Your ability to make choices will improve.

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Delta's community development manager. Coburn was the town's first full-time planner.

"It's kind of a perfect storm of development," Ridgway Mayor John Clark said, noting the timing appears to be in some ways coincidental, as projects years in the making seem to be getting underway at the same time.

Clark, who has lived in Ridgway since 1982 and been the mayor for the last decade, is skeptical of the total number of proposed units coming together in the short timeline, estimating that "maybe half of them don't come to fruition, because that's the nature of real estate development." But even if only some of the proposed projects take shape, "it's going to make a huge impact on our look and feel for sure," he said. "In a lot of ways, I'm kind of surprised it took this long."

In conversations with friends and strangers alike, "a lot of people are almost angry about it," Clark said. "I just have to say, you can't move some place and close the gate behind you. And even if you're born and raised here and don't like the changes, change is inevitable."

With space to expand, Ridgway has been seen as the most likely spot for growth and housing development in the county, but the town has maintained a small-town feel even as the population has increased.

The majority of the streets are unpaved, there's no rec center, and you won't find a drive-through fast food restaurant in the county. But this new wave of home construction may bring its own changes in the feel of the community, depending on who can afford to buy them and whether they plan on being a permanent part of the community or part-time residents. And the installation of broadband internet in town, happening now, may help attract a different type of buyer — those who can work remotely from anywhere they choose.

Without knowing who will move in, it's hard to gauge what kind of impact they'll have, Clark said, but how newcomers interact with the town could bring about changes, especially if they're looking for amenities that the town doesn't have.

"That's the challenge we face for the next decade, is grappling with who we are today and who we're going to be in 10 years, based on all the people who move here and live here in the interim," Clark said. "We're going to have discussions where the people involved are newcomers, and they may be asking for things they had where they came from and what we're going to say is 'That's not the reason to move to Ridgway.'"

The price points, and the buyers or renters they'll attract, vary widely, making it hard to gauge how much the new developments will alleviate or

exacerbate the affordable housing shortage in the town and county.

At least 35 of the planned or proposed units are restricted to buyers at certain income levels, in an effort to provide more attainable options.

While the town doesn't require developers to include a certain number of affordable or deed-restricted units, they can incentivize them by negotiating during the approval process, allowing higher density or other concessions, such as waived fees, in exchange for capping the prices of some units. The town currently aims for 10 percent of new developments to be deed-restricted for affordable housing. Three of the 19 units in Lena Street Commons and two of the 23 Vista Park Commons units are set to be deed-restricted.

The restrictions typically limit the initial sale price to no more than 10 percent of the cost of building the unit, and limit sales to residents who work in Ouray County and earn less than a set percentage of the area median income. They must be occupied by the owner, and short-term rentals are prohibited. Unlike some prior deed restrictions in River Park, which expired and could then be sold at market rate, properties can be restricted for longer: the Vista Park Commons restrictions remain in place for 50 years, while the Lena Street Commons units are restricted in perpetuity. The resale value is capped at a

set percentage to allow some appreciation while ensuring the houses remain affordable for that income level.

All 30 rental units in the Space to Create building are restricted to residents earning below area median income, with rent capped at each income level. A selection process for applicants has not been determined.

Clark said he hopes the new developments make Ridgway "a more liveable place," with a diversity of housing options. "Hopefully we will finally make a dent in our affordable housing issue and make it so that more people who are lower on the income scale can afford to live here," he said.

But some of the projects may just increase the number of high-price options on the market. The first Lena Street Commons unit, a 1,600-square-foot condo, has been listed for sale at \$855,000.

Vista Park Commons developer Joe Nelson said it was too early to discuss a pricing structure for the homes he's building on Redcliff Circle, which are expected to be between 600 and 800 square feet. Most are detached, with two duplexes in the development.

The growth in new projects comes at as the region's real estate market is already booming, with prices rising. The median home price in the county has jumped from about \$450,000 last January to more than \$600,000 currently, according to the Colorado Association of

Realtors.

Planning Commission Chairman Doug Canright was hesitant to weigh in on the impact of the developments, noting that most of the houses are still likely a year or more away and it is too early to speculate on what may be actually built.

"Even when we begin to see some scratching in the dirt, it's going to be a while," he said. "The work we've actually got, that I know is going to start moving forward, I don't think it's going to have an adverse impact."

The town's 2019 master plan predicted adding 150 to 700 new residents between 2016 and 2050, and said the combined population of Ouray, Montrose and San Miguel counties is expected to double in that time. It calls for encouraging infill and clustered development, building in existing neighborhoods or areas where infrastructure is already in place, promoting mixed-use developments where possible and managing "growth and development in order to maintain Ridgway's small town character, support a diverse community, and create employment opportunities."

The new developments could fuel the projected population growth, depending on whether they attract full-time residents or second homeowners, and if they're used as short- or long-term rental properties.

Some of the new units could

SEE HOUSING ON PAGE 19



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Wed. May 26 - David Nunn Bluesy Rock

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Thank you for your support!

Ouray County
FOOD PANTRY

HOUSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

be used for short-term rentals, which have also been blamed for driving up long-term housing costs and demand in the county. But other developments explicitly prohibit short-term rentals, including half of the Lena Street units.

In 2017, Ridgway capped the number of short term rental licenses at 50, and required renewals every two years. There are currently 30 licensed units out of about 680 total housing units in Ridgway currently, Town Manager Preston Neill said.

Clark said he worries less about short-term rentals affecting the market, and more about second homeowners or people more interested in owning property than living here.

He sees the “biggest danger” to the town from real estate speculation, but isn’t sure there’s any way for the town to de-incentivize people buying up properties and leaving them empty, or renting them at exorbitant rates to make a profit.

“That’s my worry, is that we’ll see more speculative buying than we will see people who really want and are looking for a place like Ridgway to live,” he said.

While the town is projecting growth and has been for years, the Master Plan also noted that water and wastewater facilities

“will need to be expanded in the near-term before additional growth can occur,” and that most of the undeveloped areas that could be used for housing don’t currently have the water and sewer infrastructure needed for development.

A 2019 assessment of the town’s water treatment and distribution system found that while most components of the water system “have adequate capacity for a 50% growth in demand, to meet the proposed increase that is projected for the next twenty or so years,” improvements and expansions will be necessary in the future and the water supply may not be sufficient to meet future needs.

“In the near term, the Town is likely to need additional water to meet demands of a growing town and will need to encourage more conservation to make the existing water accommodate more users, including charging users at a minimum for the cost of water and charging more for significant water use,” the report said.

A study of the sewer collection and wastewater treatment system, also completed in April 2019, highlighted similar future issues: while the existing treatment plant can “likely continue” to meet needs for the next several years, population growth could require changes. “With population projected to increase by about 50% by 2038, it is anticipated that the Town will need to begin planning for additional capacity in about

2030,” the report said.

In addition to the in-progress developments, others are still earlier in the process and even farther away from groundbreaking, but could add another 40 units to the town’s housing stock. Two are expected to provide more information on their projects to the Planning Commission later this month, Neill said.

“In the near term, the Town is likely to need additional water to meet demands of a growing town and will need to encourage more conservation to make the existing water accommodate more users ...”

TOWN WATER ASSESSMENT FROM 2019

Alpine Homes-Ridgway, LLC, has pitched a 38-unit proposal north of the stoplight. The Riverfront Village planned unit development includes 10 townhouses, 24 multi-family units and four units for commercial use. Four of those units would likely be deed-restricted. The project was previously referred

to as the Triangle Subdivision.

The commission is expected to consider their application for preliminary plat approval on April 27, Neill said. Their sketch plan for the 4.3-acre development, which was approved last March, describes the project as “attainable housing units,” and said the “overriding goal of this project is affordability,” but did not provide any potential pricing information. The initial design calls for parking spaces and commercial units facing the highway and housing units closer to the river.

A staff report to the planning commission in March 2020 for the Triangle Subdivision indicated that development alone could increase the town’s population by 17 percent at maximum occupancy. John Simon, agent for the project’s owner, declined to discuss the project, citing the upcoming Planning Commission hearing.

A much smaller development, six townhouses, will also go to the commission for preliminary plat approval at the same meeting, Neill said. Owner Matt McIsaac has proposed splitting a half-acre lot into seven properties: an existing single-family home and six attached townhouses facing Charles Street. Each townhouse would be about 1,560 square feet over a ground-floor garage, with two bedrooms per unit. He also did not respond to requests for comment on the project.

Another large development could follow on the south side

of town near the athletic fields: more than 12 years ago, the Preserve was proposed as a neighborhood with 32 homes.

“After that, the project was put on hold, likely due to the recession and the Town worked with the owner to essentially close up the project ensuring the site was safe,” former Town Planner Shay Coburn wrote to Town Council members last March. In spring 2018, the property owner reapplied for a preliminary plat approval, and that October, the Dalwhinnie Group purchased the 8-acre property for \$1.3 million. In March 2020, the new owner asked for a two-year extension to revise and develop plans.

Planning consultant Chris Hawkins, who is working with the Dalwhinnie Group on the new development, said they are still assessing the prior infrastructure in place at the site and determining what is needed. He said it was too early to discuss what a potential development might look like, what the prices might be or who might live there. The current focus is addressing technical conditions of the preliminary plat approval “as quickly as possible,” he said.

Liz Teitz is a journalist with Report for America, a nonprofit program focused on supporting journalism in underserved areas. Email erin@ouraynews.com to make a tax-deductible donation to support her work.

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Bill requiring businesses to accept cash headed to governor's desk

By Zach Bright
and Jesse Paul
The Colorado Sun

Colorado businesses could be fined up to \$250 if they refuse to accept cash for goods and services under a bill that cleared the state legislature on Tuesday and is headed to Gov. Jared Polis' desk.

The measure from state Rep. Alex Valdez and state Sen. Robert Rodriguez, who are both Denver Democrats, would make turning down cash a Class 2 petty offense.

Valdez and Rodriguez introduced House Bill 1048 after a constituent came to Rodriguez after struggling to find a business that would accept their cash.

"A large percentage — 19% of the state — is underbanked. Five percent to 7% is unbanked completely," Valdez said. Underbanked refers to people with bank accounts that also tap into alternative financial services like short-term payday lenders and prepaid debit cards. Unbanked refers to people who don't use banks or financial services at all. "And that doesn't even count folks that are undocumented."

Amid bump in digital deals, opponents say policy onerous

Fears early on in the pandemic that COVID-19 could spread via paper money and coins led more Coloradans to shop with credit cards and more businesses to adopt contactless payment. Combined with a shift to digital transactions, some businesses might be reluctant to take paper money and change during a pandemic, Valdez said.

House Bill 1048 passed by a 47-18 vote in the state House and by 21-13 in the state Senate. Some Republican legislators opposed the bill, arguing that the fines are too onerous and that the state shouldn't be interfering in the decisions of private businesses.

State Sen. Larry Liston, R-Colorado Springs, said he initially supported the bill under the "cash is king" mantra. But he changed his mind, pointing to the up to \$250 fine per attempted transaction.

"The fine is too great," Liston said.

Sen. Rob Woodward, R-Larimer County, called the measure "an attack on small business."

"If you are a small business

owner, it should be up to you how you want to take payment," he said. "For some, they may want chicken or eggs or credit cards, what have you."

Woodward added that retailers could incur health risks, pointing to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance saying cash could carry the coronavirus.

Studies have shown that bills and coins in circulation can accumulate hundreds of varieties of microbes, bacteria and viruses. But the CDC has since said the primary mode of coronavirus transmission takes place "through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus."

A handful of groups including the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association and National Federation of Independent Businesses opposed the measure.

"Businesses know which form of payment they want to accept, and they should be able to accept that," said Tony Gagliardi, Colorado's director at the National Federation of Independent Business. "They should not

be dictated by government."

Valdez said the measure is meant to ensure cash remains a viable method of payment. The bill's fiscal note expects very few violations of the new law and resulting fines. He added that he and his fellow legislators worked to reconcile issues that came from hesitant groups.

"We worked it out with the stakeholders that had concerns with the bill, like rental cars and hotels and folks that needed security deposits," Valdez said. "They were really the only folks that had concerns."

The bill allows exemptions for businesses that require that a security deposit be placed on a credit card. Businesses that have a machine that allows consumers to turn cash into a prepaid card are also exempt.

The Colorado Fiscal Institute was one of several organizations that backed the measure. Carol Hedges, who leads the group, testified in support.

"So many Coloradans do not have access to credit cards, debit cards and gift cards," she said.

Hedges added that people who

rely on cash are often younger individuals, many of whom might not be old enough to open a bank account. She also said low-income individuals and people of color tend to use cash more than their white and wealthier counterparts.

It's not clear if Polis will sign the bill into law. "The governor will review the final bill when it reaches his desk," a spokesperson said.

Valdez said he didn't have insight into Polis' decision-making. The governor or his staff will often let lawmakers know if legislation is likely to be vetoed or signed into law.

"I don't know what the governor is going to do, but I don't see any reason for him not to (sign)," Valdez said.

If Polis signs the bill, it would go into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns its 2021 law-making term, a date that would likely fall in early to mid-September.

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