

NEWS BRIEFS

Town Manager contract approved

Crested Butte town leaders have approved the contract with new town manager Dara MacDonald.

MacDonald will receive an annual salary of \$110,000, health care coverage and the use of the town manager's home, worth \$18,000 yearly. Also contracted is the use of a vehicle, compensation for cell phone usage, a \$400 bicycle and moving expenses up to \$4,000.

A severance package of three months salary is also detailed in the contract.

MacDonald previously served as the Salida city administrator. She replaces former Town Manager Todd Crossett who resigned after three years of service to Crested Butte.

Death near McClure Pass closes highway

An investigation into the death of a man near the top of McClure Pass closed Hwy. 133 for several hours Monday. The man has been identified as Matthew Barz, 49, of Longmont. A prepared statement from the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office indicated that Barz appeared to have been using a short-term campsite in the area.

The location of the scene is divided by the Gunnison Pitkin county line. Sheriff's offices from both counties are working on the investigation. Apparent cause and manner of death were not disclosed as of press time. According to the Pitkin County Coroner's Office, additional information will be released pending further investigation and autopsy.

Black Canyon winter fees proposed

The National Park Service is seeking comment on a proposal to collect entrance fees during the winter season at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park — \$15 per vehicle, \$7 for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcycles. Black Canyon annual passes remain \$30 and are valid year round.

The comment period closes Sept. 30. Please send comments to Superintendent, 102 Elk Creek, Gunnison, CO 81230.

Skate Park lighting to get thumbs up

Gunnison City Council is expected to approve a bid by EC Electric to install lights at the city skatepark.

Parks and Recreation Director Dan Ampietro said the new design for the lighting system will include five poles which are 39 feet high. The 600-watt LED sport lights will come on at dark and have a set time for shutoff.

The cost for the project is \$78,510. Ampietro said the poles, and crane used for installation, will require Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval as a result of the nearby airport.

Ampietro estimated the project to take six to eight weeks with lighting to be available by Thanksgiving.

Crowding target of Tin Cup meeting

Forest ranger promises to use 'tools in the tool box'

Chris Rourke
Times Staff Writer

U.S. Forest Service leaders are promising solutions for the troubled Taylor Park and Tin Cup areas, some of which could be implemented as early as next summer. But residents there want more assurances that off-highway vehicle (OHV) traffic and dispersed camping problems will be solved.

About 60 people gathered in the small, one-room Tin Cup Town Hall Friday afternoon to meet with Forest Service representatives. Gunnison District Ranger John Murphy was joined by recreation staff officer Aaron Drendel and wildlife biologist Matt Vasquez to address the group. In the audience were both county leaders and representatives from Sen. Cory Gardner's office. During the meeting the roar of OHVs could be heard from outside, sometimes drowning out what speakers had to say.

Residents of the small town had asked for the meeting because of the impacts from dispersed camping and the increased recreational activity they say is spilling into Tin Cup. Among the concerns are speeding by off-highway vehicles (OHV), and illegal, user-created trails. Residents have complained of trash left at campsites and unattended fires left to burn.

One area of chief concern is along Mirror Lake Road — or Forest Service Road 267 — where residents say people are camping too close to a nearby stream. The sheer numbers of campers is especially worrisome given planned paving of Cottonwood Pass, scheduled to



About 60 people gathered to meet with Gunnison District Ranger John Murphy Friday afternoon.



A line of ATVs travels through Tin Cup Friday.

begin next summer.

Murphy said many of the issues related to dispersed camping are occurring forest-wide. Murphy said Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest Supervisor Scott Armentrout is considering alternative management of the area.

"It's something definitely on our radar. It's a priority for my boss to start to address these concerns," Murphy said. "What that means is it will probably give us resources to do that — that means money and people and it will be a focal area for us."

Access to dispersed camping in the Gunnison Basin is controlled through a Travel Management Plan adopted in 2010 which dictates motor-

ized use. The 2010 plan identifies 12 corridors in need of more intense management. Rather than allowing dispersed camping 300 feet from the centerline of a road in those areas, spurs were created to appropriate camping sites. However, Taylor Park and Tin Cup did not warrant such restrictions at the time.

"Since our 2010 Travel Management decision we certainly have a change of conditions up here in Taylor Park," said Vasquez. "It's pretty amazing to see the explosion of recreation use in the past five years — you guys know that better than us."

Murphy offered potential solutions which could be implemented in the area — what he



Campsites within 100 feet of East Willow Creek could be seen Friday. Forest Service leaders say the sites were not a violation of law, but do not meet "desired conditions" as outlined by the agency.

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John Murphy

called "tools in the tool box." First, he said, the closing of Cottonwood Pass would give the Forest Service time to recommend management changes. That could include closures, similar to what was done this year in the Gothic area.

A seasonal closure to dis-

on A3

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FEATURED PROPERTY

BUY OF THE WEEK: 3 bdrm/3 bath furnished home includes 3700sf of quality construction, ranch style with walk-out basement on 6.8 acres with spectacular views just 15 minutes north of Gunnison at 100 Mountainside Dr; **\$569,000**

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT 5,000sf building would be great for retail, restaurant, office, or other uses. Hwy 135/Main Street visibility with lots of vehicle & pedestrian traffic. Call Cathie for details; 317 N. Main; **\$350,000**

ANTELOPE MESA RANCH includes "green" features such as windmill & solar system. Energy efficient features, on-grid home just 10 minutes from Gunnison at 2833 CR 17 for **\$760,000**. Includes pasture, water rights, 121 fenced acres, creek frontage, barn, & beautiful 3251sf home.

HUNTING/FISHING cabin close to Blue Mesa & in the heart of hunting country. This 2 bdrm/1 bath off-grid cabin is furnished & on 40 acres bordering public lands; 12250 CR 26; **\$99,900**.

CONVENIENT IN-TOWN LOCATION

5 bdrm/3 bath home on 6 lots with 3 car garage, close to hiking/biking trails. Additional 6+ adjacent lots plus garage for sale at discount pricing; 621 N. 11th; **\$395,000**

ONE OF GUNNISON'S FINEST HOMES is for sale at 919 CR 17 for **\$485,000**. Take an online virtual tour at www.clarkeagency.net This 2668sf home includes a 2 car attached garage & 2 car detached garage, all on 2.192 acres just 5 minutes west of Gunnison.

THIS 1905 HOUSE comes with handcrafted hickory cabinets, hardwood floors, & a claw footed bathtub at 3283 CR 771 for **\$189,000**. Power is provided by solar array with generator back-up. Call Josh for more information.

COUNTRY CABIN on 103 acres in Colorado Mtn Ranches/CR 42 for **\$349,900**. Open kitchen/living/dining area. Garage has a large work bench with outdoor hoist for hanging game. Great hunting country. Get directions at www.clarkeagency.net

PRICE REDUCED to \$49,000 on this 34.95 acre building site across from Neversink on Prosper Lane. Excellent for solar home. Top notch views.

NEW LISTING: Well-cared for Curecanti Townhome with large main floor mstr bdrm suite w/ sliding glass doors to the patio. Fenced yard, sprinkler system, 3 bdrm/3 bath, 2 car garage; 68 Bambi Ln; **\$243,000**

SHOP BUILDING w/ 12' overhead door, office/reception area, floor drain, & 220 electric at 600 S. 11th#101 for **\$180,000**. Located in the industrial zone close to the airport with plenty of off street parking.

PRICE REDUCED to \$27,000 on this 18 acre cabin site in White Pine, located in Hunting Unit 551. Check out the property map at www.clarkeagency.net Call Josh for details.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING SITES for sale close to the airport on S. 12th with prices starting as low as **\$49,900** for 2 lots. Give Cathie a call for more information.

LOCATED AT THE BASE of Carbon Peak, 20 minutes north of Gunnison in the prestigious Star Mtn Ranch. 35+ acres, gated access, hunt & fish out your door. Includes engineered house & road plans; **\$259,000**

ACREAGE WITH YEAR-ROUND ACCESS just 5 minutes west of Gunnison on CR 17 for **\$144,000**. 35 acres 2 miles up Antelope Rd.

LAND BUY OF THE WEEK: 5 acre building site off Hwy 149 less than 20 minutes from town. Electric & phone to the property. Borders BLM lands. Modular homes allowed; **\$39,000**.

Visit other realtor listings at: www.clarkeagency.net