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TOWN OF RIDGWAY

Partnership cleans up park



From left: Richard Niemeier, Tanya Ishikawa, Judi Chamberlain, JoAnne Williams, Jen Parker, Dave Jones and Gayle Veum stand on the pile of brush collected during Saturday morning's Rollans Park clean up efforts. Trash and other debris were also collected on the rainy weekend morning. The clean-up was put on by the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership.

Plaindealer photo by Dalton Carver

TOWN OF RIDGWAY

Ingram resigns

BY DALTON CARVER
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Gale Ingram has stepped down from her position as Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce director as of last Monday.

Ingram said she wasn't ready to make a statement on her resignation.

With the resignation, the remaining chamber board officers include Judi Snelling, president; Scott Kennett, secretary; and Caroline Lescroart, treasurer. Adam Corcutt, friend of the chamber, and Tim Patterson, owner of RIGS, are members at large. Stephen Barnes is the town council liaison.

Snelling, on behalf of the board, offered a statement in regard to chamber operation going forward.

"The Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce Board has unanimously voted to restructure the Chamber business management model and the Chamber's marketing focus going forward. We would like to share the staffing update that Gale Ingram will be transitioning out of her current role with the Ridgway Chamber. The Chamber Board would like to thank Gale Ingram for her many years of service for the Ridgway Chamber and wish her well in her future endeavors. The Chamber is beginning a search process for a new administrator. The job opportunity qualifications and pay scale can be found on our website in the coming weeks and will be advertised in various publications. The Chamber Board and officers will be operating the Chamber business and the Visitors Center in the interim until a new Chamber Administrator can be hired." (See "Chamber restructures operations" in the Letter to the Editor section.)

Last November, the chamber successfully pushed through a ballot issue increasing the town's lodging tax from \$2 a night to 3.5 percent of the total cost of lodging. About

INGRAM P17

OURAY COUNTY

Residents raise concerns about new tax

BY TORI SHEETS
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Citizens attempting to chip seal County Road 1 faced several rounds of opposition from residents at the informational meeting in Colona on Thursday. This meeting was more one-sided against the proposition than the meeting in Ridgway last Tuesday to discuss the same issue.

A group of residents who live in the CR 1 area formed a Citizens Action Committee to explore the possibility of creating a Public Improvement District with authority to levy and collect property taxes from CR 1 residents. The proposed PID would cover residents on CR 1 from Yucca Drive on the south end of CR 1 to Asters Lane on the north end.

Ouray County unsuccessfully applied for a TIGER grant four times to fund improving the road. The CAC decided they must take responsibility for paving the troubled road into their own hands.

If the CAC gets enough signatures on the petition it is circulating, it will ask the Board of County Commissioners to place formation of the PID and a mill levy to finance it on the November general election ballot. Organizer Dick Kreutzen said he hopes to get 300-400 signatures in favor of the PID to use as leverage for the cause, but only 200 are necessary to go before the BOCC.

The main objection several people raised is that residents near CR 22 should not be involved in the PID. CR 22 is already paved and residents

can exit north on CR 1 to Colona on the two-mile section that is already hard surfaced. Some residents on CR 22 say they do not want to be forced to pay for a road they will not use.

Several residents blamed speed for the poor condition of CR 1.

"The speed issue on CR 1 is the problem," Rick Skoumal, resident, said. "It's not gravel and poor road conditions, it's the fact that people are driving 55 miles per hour at the top of the hill all the way down and back up. You moved here out of the city because you didn't like the crap that was going on in the city. You moved into the country because you think it's so beautiful, and then you want to bring all the city crap here."

If the road is chip sealed, Skoumal

ROAD P17

OURAY COUNTY

RMP blasting to begin

BY TORI SHEETS
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Blasting began in the construction area of Red Mountain Pass on Wednesday.

For about two and a half weeks travelers can expect delays of about 30 minutes, the Colorado Department of Transportation said in a statement. Blasting is expected to take place from about 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. during this time.

The blasting is part of construction on retaining walls at mile markers 79.5 to 79.4, nine miles north of Silverton.

When blasting is completed wait times will shorten, but US 550 will still be limited to single-lane, alternating traffic 24 hours a day. Traffic will be controlled by flaggers or portable traffic signals and work hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. During non-work hours delays will be about 6 minutes.

Construction work in this area began April 13 and should be complete by Aug. 31. This is the second season of work on the pass to construct retaining walls. Last year four walls were installed, and this year three more will be completed.

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