

CHRONICLE & PILOT
Crested Butte News

VOL.51 | NO.49 | DECEMBER 3, 2010 | 50¢

the news never sleeps | www.crestedbuttenews.com



NIFTY FIFTY! Crested Butte dignitaries turned out for a snowy opening day on Wednesday, November 24. PHOTO BY ALEX FENLON

Mt. Emmons prospecting permit set for hearing

New rules allow for more public comment

[BY MARK REAMAN]

Is a proposed tunnel in Mt. Emmons the start of ramped-up mining activity or is it just a way to conduct further prospecting and gather more information?

A local environmental group thinks it obviously falls under the mining category. The company hoping to build the tunnel maintains it will be used for prospecting and gathering firsthand information.

An appeal of the state approval for a prospecting permit for the Mt. Emmons Moly Company (MEMCO) was filed on November 19 in Denver. High Country Citizens' Alliance says the state's Mined Land Reclamation Board will hear its case at its next meeting, scheduled for December 15.

HCCA's appeal essentially contends that the prospecting permit issued by Colorado's Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS) is inappropriate since the prospecting of the mountain has been done. HCCA feels this permit, which will allow for a "drift" or mine tunnel in Mt. Emmons, is part of the actual mining phase and should be considered under the more tightly regulated development phase of the project.

DRMS issued a Notice of Intent to Conduct Prospecting on November 15. It had been looking at the application from the mining company since last January.

"This is definitely prospecting," said MEMCO director of community relations Perry Anderson. "We are delineating the deposit. We've never made any secret that that's our intention. We feel the division made an appropriate decision. We have always said that we need to gather our own data, given the scope of this project."

The town of Crested Butte had written DRMS a letter asking that before authorizing the permit, the DRMS require that any mining company receive a watershed permit from the town before commencing. A letter from DRMS director Loretta Pineda to town attorney John Belkin said that while DRMS acknowledges the town's regulating authority, "prospectors are subject to zoning and land use authority and regulation... DRMS will not enforce compliance with requirements of other federal, state or local agencies. Thus, DRMS cannot make its administration of a Prospecting Notice contingent on permits or licenses that might be required by such other agencies, such as the town."

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Hidden Gems plan gets positive response from commissioners

Disagreement over Whetstone not enough to sway county

[BY SETH MENSING]

With changes coming to Colorado's congressional delegation, organizers of the Hidden Gems Wilderness campaign went to the Gunnison Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, November 23 to make sure nothing had changed in the commissioners' support of the plan to set aside some 35,000 acres of the county's public lands as permanent designated Wilderness.

While the commissioners heard a few people voice concerns, the board was happy to again extend its support of the proposal, as it relates to lands in the county.

The Hidden Gems plan is to set aside more than 340,000 acres in mid-elevation areas, below the land of rock and ice that currently makes up the majority of Colorado's Wilderness.

If the proposal finds a sponsor in congress and gets approval, it would add 14 new Wilderness areas to the state and add area to 26 more in the White River and Gunnison National Forests.

Gunnison County Gems campaign organizers Laura Yale and Will Roush went to the commissioners to pitch Hidden Gems 2.0, the "reworked" version of the original plan that raised the hackles of mountain bikers and motorized users throughout the four-county proposal area.

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Powder advisory: La Niña favors Colorado this winter

"La Niña means good, good things"

[BY MIKE HORN]

Does La Niña equal "The Big One?" Are we headed for another epic winter? The forecasters are predicting, at the very least, that we won't get skunked. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), La Niña is in full effect, and in the northern hemisphere is expected to last into spring 2011—possibly one of the strongest La Niñas in 50 years. Not to get everyone's hopes up, but the last La Niña winter was 2007-08, a record-breaking winter in the

valley.

And NOAA's Climate Prediction Center's November La Niña advisory stated: "La Niña continued during October 2010, as indicated by below-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean."

Likely impacts in the United States include an enhanced chance of above-average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies (along with a concomitant increase in snowfall), and Ohio Valley, while below-average precipitation is most likely across the south-central and southeastern states.

Powder Forecast

As for the outlook in Colorado, Joel Gratz, founder of Coloradopowderforecast.com, said to expect a solid winter. "La Niña means good, good things for Colorado. From about Crested Butte and north, this season's snowfall should total 100 percent to 125 percent of average."



The last La Niña. PHOTO BY ALEX FENLON

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A Lasting Impression



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Chodounsky on Fire

[Overheard]

"Crested Butte is so beautiful because we're closer to heaven."

-Dorothy Sporcich

Pot shop tax revenue

Month	Dispensaries	Retail	Total sales tax
June	\$114	\$46,135	\$167,523
July	\$1,526	\$105,309	\$309,010
August	\$1,771	\$87,787	\$245,412
September	\$1,891	\$52,468	\$188,336

Above is sales tax revenue reported by three medical marijuana dispensaries in the Town of Crested Butte, as compared to tax revenue from retail sales and total sales taxes collected.

Pot shops

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retail tax revenues in the town in September.

Dispensary operators chalk the growth they're experiencing up to more patients obtaining Colorado medical marijuana registry cards locally, as well as more visits from patrons who live outside of the area.

Crested Butte Alternative Medicine owner Stephen Hattendorf noted visits the shop receives every few weeks from a couple who lives in Lake City.

"Between Grand Junction, Delta and here, there's really not a whole lot (in the way of dispensaries)," he said.

The amount of money reported by the dispensaries may seem a drop in the bucket compared to total sales tax revenue collected among all businesses in the town — amounting to about 1 percent. However, in comparison with other municipalities throughout the state that have dispensaries, Crested Butte appears to be booming.

A recent report in the *Denver Post* noted that sales tax revenue from dispensaries accounted for just .5 percent of October sales taxes in Colorado Springs, and .7 percent in Denver. So far this year, the state has collected more than \$2.2 million in sales tax from dispensaries, according to that report.

The Town of Crested Butte's sales tax rate is 4 percent, and the town has about 250 sales tax accounts within its boundaries, said Finance Director Lois Rozman.

The town passed an ordinance earlier this year that allows the operation of dispensaries — which sell the drug via a retail sales model. No other

municipality in the county has decided yet whether dispensaries will be allowed within their jurisdiction.

Molly Mugglestone, director of the Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project (GCSAPP), said the group is continuing to encourage parents, especially in the Crested Butte area, to have conversations with their kids about marijuana, given the introduction of dispensaries to the town.

She also said that GCSAPP has encouraged — and plans to continue urging — town leaders to adopt a surcharge on medical marijuana sales in the town that could fund prevention and intervention efforts.

Crested Butte Wellness Center manager Grant Belcher believes that dispensaries are simply taking business away from the black market.

"We get a new person in every day and we rarely have a one-visit customer," he said. "I think it's because we're more convenient, have more to offer and a lot more people are getting their cards."

As with other up-valley businesses, dispensary operators acknowledged that sales were slow through the off-season. But business is picking up lately — especially with the onset of ski season.

"I think in the long run, skiers in general are open to this kind of pain relief, this kind of medicine," said Craig Burbank, an employee at Acme Dispensary. "Having the ski resort here, I think (the dispensaries) will be great for the tourists."

(Will Shoemaker can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or will@gunnisontimes.com)

Gems

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Bicycling is not allowed in wilderness areas. Cycling proponents have advocated for alternative forms of land use regulations — including one called "companion designation" — where certain types of mechanized, even motorized, recreation could be allowed.

Recreationists argue that there are existing and future trail opportunities in the Whetstone area that would be impacted by Hidden Gems.

"We believe well-placed boundaries and the addition of companion designations could result in protecting even more land than that in the current Hidden Gems proposal," said Ashley Korenblat, director of IMBA's public lands initiative. "We are committed to protecting these lands and maintaining important bicycle trail access. Through mountain biking, people around the world have come

to love Gunnison County."

As a result, Gunnison County has been chosen as a "PLI focus area," according to the release.

David Ochs, a club officer with CBMBA, touched on another motive behind the effort.

"Because we do not currently know all the places where access roads and tailings ponds might be if the Red Lady mine goes forward, we must work diligently to find a way to protect all of Crested Butte's treasured landscapes and trails," he said.

IMBA recently endorsed the Eagle and Summit County Wilderness Preservation Act, introduced by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO).

"Our goal is to work with CBMBA and the Hidden Gems coalition to get a similar bill introduced in Gunnison County, with solid input from mountain bikers," Korenblat said.

Light Up Night Parade

Santa Claus • Caroling • Tyler Hansen • Bell Choir • Tree Lighting
December 4th, 5PM • 4-Way Stop Crested Butte

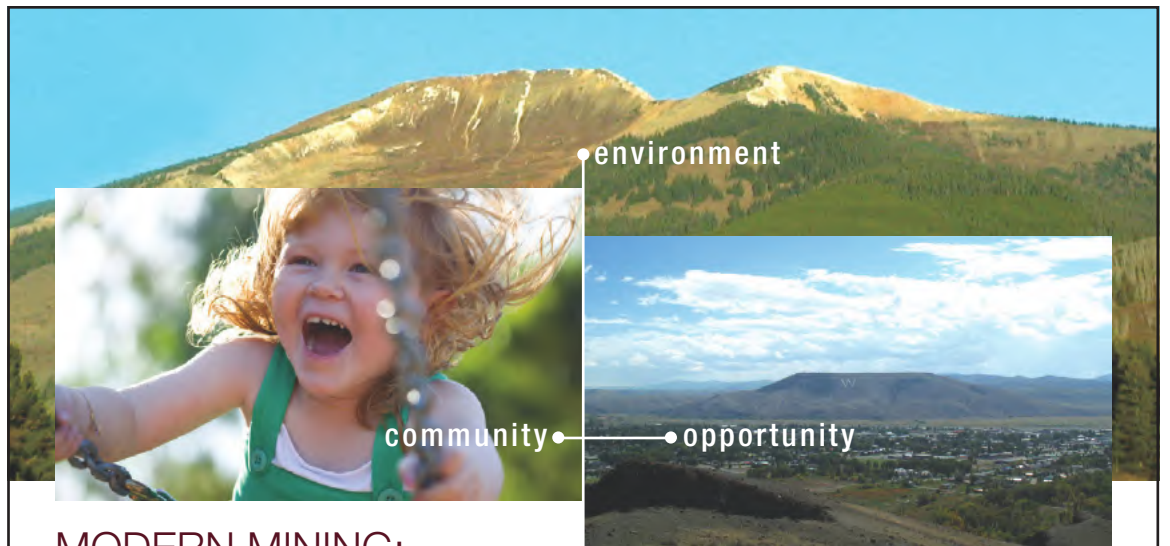
COSTUME CONTEST! \$50 Gift Certificate for Best Costume & Best Pet Costume

10% Off Butte Bucks Specials on the 4th:

Action Adventures Snowmobile Tours * The Air Up There * Alley Hats * Avalanche Bar & Grill * Black Tie Ski Rentals * Butte & Co. Ski & Snowboard Rentals * Colorado Boarder * Colorado Freeskier * Crested Butte True Value * The Slope * Electronic Solutions - Radio Shack * The Cut Above Salon * Four Eighteen * Interiors With Oohs and Aahs * The Last Steep * Lavish & Petite Lavish * Le Bosquet / Why Cook? * Studio West * Maxwells Steakhouse * McGill's (breakfast only) * Milky Way * Mountain Colors Paint & Design * The Mountain Store * Mountain Tops * Paradise Café * Whetstone Garden Supply * Pitas in Paradise * Shades of Crested Butte * Sunflower Deli * Pfisters Handworks

Also on the 4th:

- 9am-4pm Annual CBCS Holiday Bazaar
- 4pm Story Time & Treats at the Library



MODERN MINING: MOLY TO MARKET

Recent installments of *Modern Mining* have described the long journey that molybdenum takes from an underground mine through a series of crushing, grinding, flotation and roasting processes before being converted into a market-ready steel alloy. So, who are the customers that shop at this "market," and what exactly do they do with the molybdenum they buy?



Adding molybdenum improves the strength-to-weight ratio of steel, so less metal is needed in each application and fewer overall resources need to be spent in manufacturing. Thanks to their moly content, products made of steel can be lighter without sacrificing strength and durability. These are important features for the auto industry — there is approximately one pound of moly in the average-sized car — and for manufacturers of bulldozers and other large pieces of industrial equipment.

Moly is also found in everything from ball bearings to jet engines to mountain bike frames. It contributes to the clean energy industry by serving as an ingredient in solar panels, wind turbines and nuclear power plants. Because it helps make steel less corrosive, it is used to manufacture pipelines and tanker trucks and used to build architectural structures in punishing marine environments.

Thanks to these and other applications, world demand for molybdenum has grown at a 4% average annual rate over the past 50 years. This has created a reliably solid marketplace for the world's top suppliers. As the United States' leading producer of moly, Colorado can boost its own economy and help the U.S. chip away at its record \$8 billion foreign trade deficit by ensuring the world has a steady supply of this valuable element.

The Mount Emmons ore body is one of the largest and highest grade molybdenum deposits in the world. Should we elect to mine this ore, we will be tapping a natural resource that can provide significant economic benefits and support modern global commerce. Additional information about molybdenum can be found on our project website at www.mountemmonsproject.com.

Please look to this space over the coming weeks and months as the *Modern Mining* series continues to share information about the Mount Emmons Project and increase understanding of modern mining operations. And please help us learn from you by submitting your questions and comments to us in person, by phone or online.

Mt. Emmons Moly Company
www.mountemmonsproject.com

GUNNISON CRESTED BUTTE
(970) 641-4996 (970) 349-7525
info@mountemmonsproject.com

