

FRIDAY'S
FORECAST



▶▶ LAST WEEK'S
WEATHER
INSIDE, C8

50¢

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Printing all the news we know about for more than 130 years

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This year's town Christmas tree came from the neighborhood on S. Colorado Street. City crews went to work Monday morning, and the tree was situated in its traditional S. Main Street location by noon. It'll be decorated by local school children Friday afternoon and lit up that evening.

Photo by Matt Smith

CB sees budding business

Revenues from medical pot shops climbing

Will Shoemaker
Times Staff Writer

While sales tax receipts from three medical marijuana dispensaries in the Town of Crested Butte are still only a fraction of the town's total revenues, they've increased every month since the businesses hung their shingles this past summer.

Based on the most recent sales tax figures available, total sales taxes paid by the dispensaries comprised about 4 percent of

Pot shops ▶▶ A5

Night of Lights ushers in the Christmas season Friday

Gunnison formally ushers in the Christmas season with its Night of Lights on Main Street tomorrow, Dec. 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Expect many bright moments with competitions for best lighted displays, bonfires for roasting marshmallows and warming up, booths for hot cocoa and free treats, and local entertainment groups at various downtown venues. There will also be light sculptures, the Gunnison High School Choir, Gunnison Arts Center

Dancers, a KBUT remote and more.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. Santa will arrive at 6:30 p.m., escort the crowd to the community tree lighting and then greet children at the Elks Lodge.

The Gunnison County Chamber of Commerce asks that all who are planning on entering a "light sculpture" in the event contact them at 641.1501 to register. There is no cost to do so, it only assists organizers in accommodating those who require

electrical outlets or have other special needs.

Holiday open houses will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5, at downtown Gunnison merchants, complete with shopping specials and refreshments. They take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information about Night of Lights and the open houses, call 641-1501.

Elk hunt changes on target?

After first year, businesses offer mixed report on local impact

Will Shoemaker
Times Staff Writer

The first fall archery, muzzle-loader and major rifle seasons with a new licensing scheme in effect have come and gone in the Gunnison Basin. The changes were aimed at better managing local elk herds.

How did it fare?

It may be too early to tell if the intent of the structure — namely, keeping elk off private lands and bringing the population into check — is working. But local business leaders — some of whom decried the changes for the potential impact to the local economy — now have a taste of life under the new rules.

Responses are mixed among many of those local shops, lodging and eating establishments for how they fared this fall.

In early 2009, the Gunnison

Elk ▶▶ A6

Cycling groups team up

Pushing for alternative to Hidden Gems

Times Staff Report

On the heels of the latest round of debate over the Hidden Gems proposal — and specifically the portion of the plan concerning Whetstone Mountain outside of Crested Butte — local mountain biking organizations have announced a new partnership to "protect land and trails in Gunnison County."

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) will use funds raised through its public lands initiative (PLI) to examine lands and

trails potentially impacted by the Hidden Gems plan. IMBA joined the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association (CBMBA) and Gunnison Trails in this effort.

In a press release, the three groups said they agree with the Hidden Gems proponents that additional legislation is needed to protect critical ecosystems and irreplaceable landscapes. Where the groups diverge from the Hidden Gems proposal is when it comes to wilderness designation for Whetstone.

Gems ▶▶ A5

Commissioners split over CBO funding

\$150K doled out among 43 entities

Will Shoemaker
Times Staff Writer

In the race this year for which local groups get money from Gunnison County's general fund, the battle was largely between interests in the north end of the valley versus those to the south.

Specifically, outgoing Crested Butte-area Commissioner Jim

CBO ▶▶ A8

"I'm just looking for a little more parity here, north to south end."

Jim Starr
County Commissioner

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

▶ from page A1

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

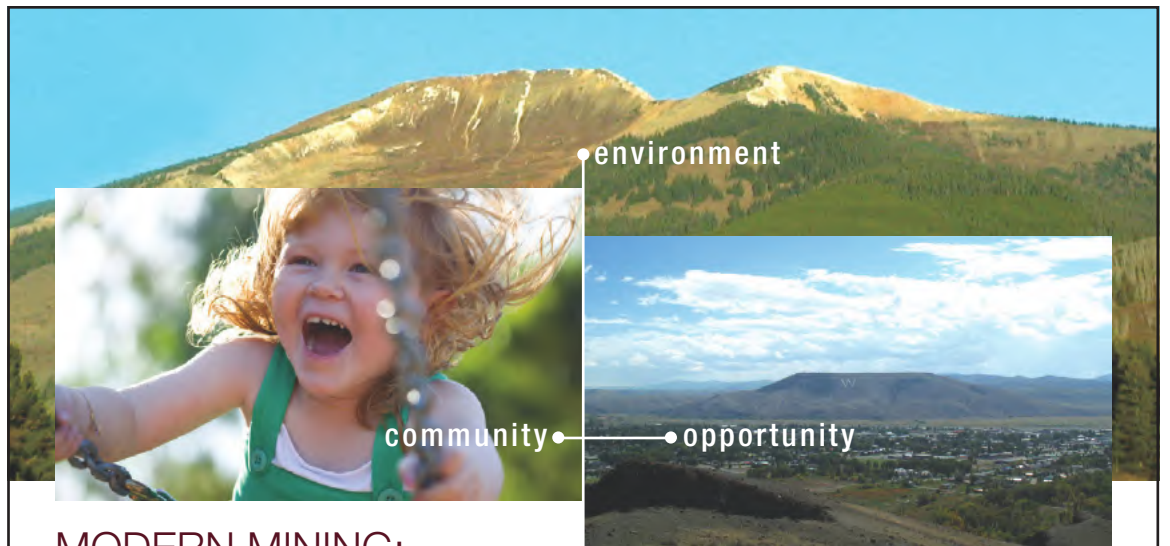
COSTUME CONTEST! \$50 Gift Certificate for Best Costume & Best Pet Costume

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.

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