



# STOCKING THE SHELVES



Photo by Rose Raab

The Silverton Food Bank has been relocated to the southeast corner room in the basement of the Miners Union Hospital. In addition to making the purchases for the food bank, Patty Dailey (above) and Fred Fasching also got new shelving set up in the room. Patty scrubbed the walls prior to installation. Upcoming distribution dates are to be determined. St. Patrick's Church offers its continued thanks to all for the many generous monetary contributions. Tax-deductible donations, payable to St. Patrick's Church, may be mailed to P.O. Box 331, Silverton, CO 81433. If making food donations, please make sure that the food items are non-perishable and that they do not have expired dates.

## County, USFS plot strategy for Molas, Coal Bank toilets

County and Forest Service officials are trying to work out a deal to keep the restrooms on Coal Bank and Molas passes open when current funding runs out in July.

The Forest Service announced a year ago that it planned to close the restrooms and demolish them unless some other entity agreed to operate them. San Juan County stepped in with some Secure Rural Schools funding last year but that source has now dried up. The restrooms are operated from late April to around the end of September.

County Board Chairman Ernie Kuhlman said the restroom facilities are a high priority given the heavy summer use at Molas and Coal Bank.

"If we take that bathroom out at Molas it will be a public health nightmare," Kuhlman said.

Columbine District Ranger Matt Janowiak told the county commissioners on Monday, Dec. 15, that he'd be willing to enter into a long-term lease for the county to take over operations of the restrooms.

But county officials said the only plan they have come up with is to take up the offer of Erick and Lizzie Loyer of Silverton to maintain the facilities in exchange for operating a food vending service at Molas.

Janowiak said he'd have to check on his authority to allow such an arrangement.

For his part Janowiak suggested the county could sell ad space on a map or list businesses helping to fund the restroom.

"We have the ability to lease the lots and the toilets," Janowiak said. "But I need to research what rights we can kick over to the county in a lease. We need to

take on the issue of commercial activity up there."

And Janowiak questioned whether such an arrangement would be feasible for the contractor.

"It's definitely an issue any time you start a new business," Erick Loyer said. "It's rolling the dice." County Attorney Paul Sunderland pointed out that the county currently pays \$350 a month for porta-potties at Red Mountain Pass during the winter.

He questioned whether that funding would be better directed to summer use at Molas and Coal Bank.

In their meeting with Forest Service officials on Monday, the commissioners also discussed the South Mineral Creek Road.

Janowiak said the Forest Service, facing budget cuts, is "looking at opportunities to turn roads over to counties."

He said the South Mineral Creek Road is one of the roads that could be up for discussion. He pointed out the Forest Service just spent \$600,000 to replace the Mineral Creek Bridge.

He suggested the county could take over the road as far as the South Mineral Creek Campground — and take over the campground too — to provide a revenue stream to maintain it.

But county commissioners were not eager to accept the gift.

"The road base is so deteriorated it will take tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring it back," Kuhlman said.

Janowiak said the Forest Service is also "contemplating a little sprucing up" of the dispersed campsites at the lower end of the road, and possibly adding more toilet facilities and other minor improvements and charging a

\$9 fee for the campsites.

"We are still a ways off from deciding to charge fees for the remainder of the sites," Janowiak said. "I think there would be a lot of resistance to that."

### Commissioners OK first reading of medical marijuana ordinance

The San Juan County commissioners on Monday, Dec. 15, unanimously approved the first reading of an amendment to an existing ordinance that will allow medical marijuana businesses and grow facilities in the county.

The county already passed an ordinance last year allowing recreational marijuana businesses.

See COUNTY, Page 6

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**Merry Christmas**  
To all of my friends  
in Silverton!  
From Catherine Lichliter

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES!**

No STREAM events over  
Christmas break: Dec. 22nd-Jan. 2nd

Tutoring: M-Th 3:30-5:00  
Music Appreciation: Tues. 4:30-6:00  
Pep Squad: Wed. 3:30-5:00  
Cooking Class: Wed. 5-7 pm  
Drama Club: Thurs. 3:30-5:00  
Volleyball: Students and community members welcome! Mon. 5-6:30 pm  
Climbing: Tues. 5-6 pm, Thurs. 3:30-5:00  
Open Gym: Tues 6-7:30, Fri. 4:30-6:00  
High School Basketball: Practice M-Th

**2014-15 GAME SCHEDULE:**

Date	Time	Opponent
Dec. 19	4 pm	@ Ignacio
Jan. 10	Tbd.	@ Dolores/Mancos
Jan. 17	Tbd.	@ Nucla/Dove Creek
Jan. 24	2 pm	Telluride @ Home
Jan. 31	Tbd.	Mancos/Dolores @ Home
Feb. 7	Tbd.	Nucla/Dove Creek @ Home
Feb. 14	Tbd.	Cedaredge @ Home

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A program for Silverton School made possible by a grant from the 21st Century Learning Center.

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD OF THE RED AND BONITA REMOVAL SITE SILVERTON, SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO

The Administrative Record (AR) for the Red and Bonita sites includes all information used during the decision-making process that led to the environmental response at the site, including the selection of the Removal Action. Other documents, including the comments received on the Administrative Record and EPA's response to significant comments, may be added at a later date.

EPA encourages the public to review and comment on the documents. The Administrative Record is available at the Information Repository listed below.

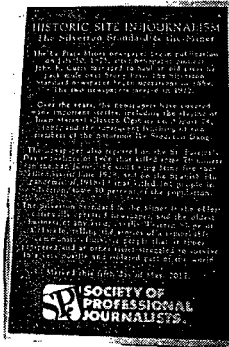
Silverton Library  
1117 Reese Street  
Silverton, CO 81433  
Contact: Jackie Kerwin, (970) 387-5770  
Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 11am - 8pm  
Fri. & Sat., 10am - 5pm  
Closed Sun. & Mon.

In addition, copies of administrative record documents may be requested or reviewed by calling the EPA Superfund Records Center at 303-312-7273 or 800-227-8917 ext. 312-7273 (toll free Region 8 only).

Due to problems with placement of the Administrative Record in the Silverton Library, EPA is allowing an additional thirty days for submission of public comments. Comments on the Administrative Record may be submitted in writing for the next 30 days to:

Steven Way  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1590 Wynkoop Street, 9EPR-SA  
Denver, CO 80220-1129

Silverton Standard & the Miner A National Historic Site in Journalism



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Our goals The Silverton Standard & the Miner is a weekly newspaper written for people interested in the issues and news of Silverton, Colo., and the surrounding San Juan Mountains region. The Standard voices a strong sense of community for Silverton and the San Juans as it brings you the issues, characters, landscapes, and the talent of the region. Stressing in-depth, balanced, and thoughtful writing, news, photography, and topical articles on key issues affecting the region, the Standard keeps the greater San Juan community informed, entertained, provoked, and engaged in dialogue about the community and its future.

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Recreation area a great gift

What better Christmas present for town than for Congress to actually act and establish the Molas Pass Recreation Area adjacent to the town's spectacular Molas Lake Park. This should make things a lot easier for snowmobilers and others wanting to take advantage of the beautiful terrain up there.

EDITOR'S OPINION

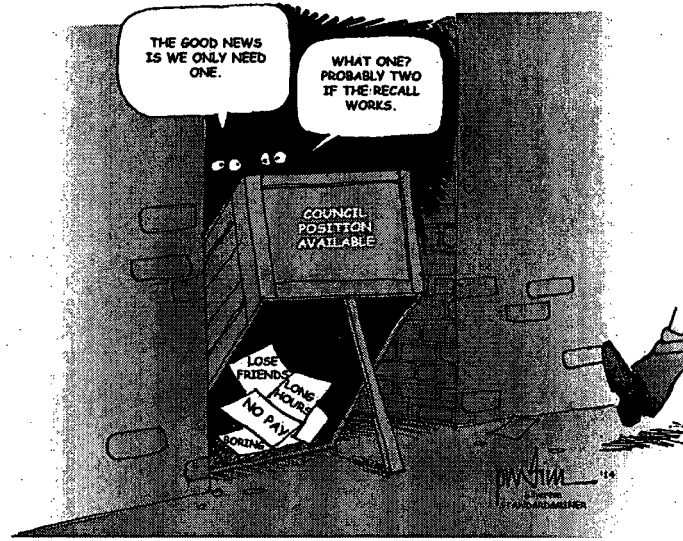
Eureka! resident Elvin Gallagher, now a out 95 or so, called from Boise, Idaho, to wish everyone in Silverton happy holidays and to keep working together as a community like back in the old days. Meanwhile it's looking a lot like Christmas around town with the Town Tree now decorated, many homes and businesses lit up

and plenty of snow on hand.

WINTER PRETTY MUCH officially gets under way in Silverton this weekend with the opening of both Kendall Mountain and Silverton Mountain ski areas.

And the season kickoff party is set for Saturday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Imperial, with live music.

FORMER SILVERTON (and



Keep on keeping on ...

By Freddie Canfield

WEATHER AND OBSERVATIONS

We began our second full weather week this December with our fifth early-morning ice fog in a row at 1.9 above, following a 46.9-degree high, which was as hot as we got this time around.

By Saturday morning, a nice moisture tap off Baja joined in with a huge central Pacific event from our west.

A measurement o 0.1 inches at 7 a.m. was to be followed by nearly continuing snow showers all day. Our heaviest accumulation occurred between roughly 4 to 6 p.m.

Susan Hale reported over six inches in two hours up in the Red Mountain district simultaneously. By 8 p.m. we were cut off from most of the moisture due to a wind shift out of the Northwest.

We got 6.4 inches with .46 inches water content by Sunday morning. Up at 5:30 a.m. for Freddie and another day of mucking snow. Progressive Pacific precipitation continues to come in mostly wee hour waves, 0.1 inch Monday, 0.8 inch Tuesday and another 0.9 inch Wednesday morning. More to follow.

You don't always get what you want but sometimes — If you try so hard — you get what you need. We've heard that song before however this time it really did happen. Thanks to cooperation between all users and interest groups and a bipartisan effort in Congress progress has actually occurred.

May this greatly anticipated miracle be a template for further collaboration in our realm when it comes to diversified, all-inclusive outdoor recreational planning and implementation.

So what is Freddie referring to? Why, none other than Big and Little Molas being opened up in perpetuity for multiple use winter recreation. Grooming, snowmobiling, mushing, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing and sledding. How about kite skiing while we are at it?

The good news is that caring and sharing inclusively instead of plotting and reacting exclusively has trumped once again.

Working together with the willing, whoever they may be, rewards us with positive tangible

Table with 5 columns: Date, High, Low, Precip., conditions. Rows show weather data from Dec 10 to Dec 16.

results. As always we the people are all in this together, so let us keep on keeping on because we have got to make it work — no exceptions, no excuses. No more negativity. Get thyself unstuck!

Over in the Sunny Side of the 1300 block of Greene Street the Westlunds have said it best with the words on four signs on the windows of My Favorite Things: "Hope, love, Peace Joy. For real!

May this be indicative of an ongoing shift in attitude in keeping with our altitude way up here in the highest county in this great land of ours.

Keep going, keep growing, and while we are at it — keep let going. If we can simply get out of our own way, tomorrow will trump yesterday. The best is yet to come. Let' go for it!

As for subscriber Ian Dodd, who is critical of last week's weather report in a letter to the editor on this page, are you possible related to none other than the late, great Phil Dodd?

If so you evidently weren't endowed with our long-time friend and neighbor's outrageous sense of humor. Humor including both ironic and wry references to scientific fundamentalism.

Do you secretly have a crystal ball that gives you clear access to the minds, hearts and souls of your fellow humans' beliefs? Perhaps you are the one who has yet to look deeply in the mirror and examine your own unrecognized emotion-backed opinions. What Freddie says evidently is not for a moment as serious as your supposed attempt at "scoffing." Lighten up and dry out there, Buster.



Freddie's weather from a Ouija board?

Editor; I just finished Freddie Canfield's "The Power of Positive Thinking" in which he implores Silvertonians (and, I suppose, readers further afield) to put the power of their minds to good use and beseech the weather gods (who Freddie seems to believe in) to bring on the El Niño to full effect this winter.

The author wonders whether we might be able to "consciously or unconsciously" affect the weather through our "expectation, prayer, longing or worry" and then offers his own answer, "Your friend Freddie is hardly immune to such notions."

He then goes on to plead with those who may be "asking, prayer (sic), incanting or worse" for a dry winter to cut it out. "We are counting on each of us to do our part with your potentially more powerful powers on the powers that be than we know." It's hard to figure out exactly what that sentence means, but I think he's trying to say that if we all just put our minds to it, we can persuade some meteorological marionette master to take pity on us.

Really? At first, I thought this might have been a piece of Jon Stewart-esque satire, but then I realized the author was being entirely serious: "Yet I am open to the possible possible." (Whatever that means.) Freddie says there will be those who "scoff at such things as 'magic thinking'".

Damn straight I'm scoffing! The notion that we can impact the weather through our thought processes ranks right up there with Ouija boards, reading tea leaves and water witching.

In the 21st century such notions are, in the words of a Nobel-winning scientist, "not only not right, but not even wrong." What's next, Silverton Standard? A weekly astrology forecast?

Go ahead: think wet thoughts, incant or sacrifice virgins all you want, but I'd suggest heeding the words of Mark Twain, "It is better to read the weather forecast before we pray for rain." — Ian Dodd, rain-soaked southern California

EPA extends period for commenting on Red & Bonita project

Editor; The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8 (EPA) recently learned that a copy of the administrative record for the Red and Bonita Removal Action was not available at the Silverton Library as stated in a public notice published Nov. 20, 2014,

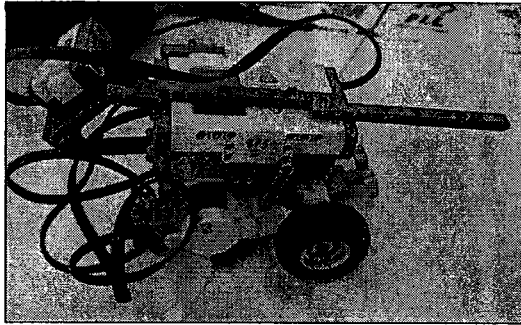
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Write to us The Silverton Standard & the Miner welcomes letters to the editor. Send letters via e-mail to editor@silvertonstandard.com, or via snail mail to, Editor, Silverton Standard & the Miner, P.O. Box 8, Silverton, CO 81433.

# ROBOT BUILDERS



The Silverton School Robotics Team took part in the Lego Robotics competition on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Miller Middle School in Durango, for the second year in a row. The team was awarded a judges choice award (trophy in Erland's hand) for creativity and displaying of Core Values. Team members from Left to Right in photo Jackie Berenyi, Paton Edwards, (coaches Chris Gober and Paul Joyce) Sage Chimner, Erland Rayos, Wyatt Gober, Seamus Garvin, and Galen Chimner.



**LETTERS, from Page 2**

In the *Silverton Standard*.

A compact disk containing copies of all of the documents in the administrative record has now been provided to the library.

Since the administrative record was not available at the local repository at the time of the public notice, EPA is extending

the deadline for public comment by an additional 30 days.

Any written comments should be sent to Steve Way, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1590 Wynkoop Street, 8EPR-SA, Denver, CO 80202-1129.

The EPA sincerely regrets any inconvenience.

—Cynthia Peterson, community involvement coordinator, EPA

**COUNTY, from Page 3**

County officials said one person has expressed an interest in a medical marijuana operation.

The second reading and final approval of the ordinance is scheduled for the commissioners' first meeting in 2015, on Jan. 14.

**Hospital project to get started**

The old Miners Union Hospital will be getting a major overhaul next summer in a \$370,000 project to rejuvenate the 106-year-old building.

David Singer, of Silverton Restoration Services, said he hopes

to award the final construction contract on Jan. 26 and start some work in February.

The county-owned building is due to get an elevator to make it handicapped-accessible, and extensive window, door and masonry work. The building's restrooms will also be made ADA compliant.

The project is being funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Department of Local Affairs, \$200,000 from the State Historical Fund and \$20,000 from San Juan County.

Rehabilitation of the building's interior would be completed in a second phase.

**BRIEFS, from Page 1**

and operated by volunteers. It was started 14 years ago by Andy Gleason and Rose Raab doing the books (which she still does today).

The food bank has a total open-door policy, and everyone is welcome. Last winter it

helped lots of needy people and the food bank is trying to go into the winter with funds to keep the shelves stocked.

Any donation will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. Checks may be made out to St. Patrick's Church and mailed to P.O. Box 331, Silverton, CO 81433.

## The Silverton Standard & the Miner's

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