Local briefs: July 2, 2010

Mud Springs campground fees hiked up

The Bureau of Land Management is raising fees at the Mud Springs Campground starting July 9.

Camping fees at the campground will increase for $5/night to $10/night. The fee increase will allow the BLM to meet the operating costs to manage and maintain the campground. For more information, call Vanessa at 244-3097.

Encana making the Red Cross cool

The Red Cross in Grand Junction recently received a $3,500 grant from Encana Oil & Gas to purchase a much-needed cooling system for the training room where classes are held.

For more information about classes and volunteering, contact Allison Shaw at (303) 625-1066.

Campfires cause concern

It is fire season and the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit here in Grand Junction wants people to know that leaving a campfire unattended is not safe and can cause a real fire danger.

With Fourth of July weekend here, the UCR forecasted fire danger to be at or above moderate to very high level. Campfires left unattended should be reported to UCR dispatch center at 257-4800.

Salvation Army updates

The Salvation Army is still taking application for summer kids camp in Estes Park leaving Aug. 4. If interested in sending your child, call 242-7513.

The Salvation Army is holding a book and craft supplies sale July 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at its office at 1235 N. Fourth St. All proceeds will go to The Salvation Army World Services program, which aids people in more than 120 countries.

Grand Mesa Visitor Center reopens

The Visitor Center on the Grand Mesa reopened July 1, just in time for Fourth of July weekend. A Grand Opening Celebration will be held along with several special events and opportunities for visitors July 3-4.

Visitors will enjoy some exciting changes including new educational and interpretive materials available through the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, and A-N-G Fly Fishing Guide Service, a retail outlet for fishing tackle and outdoor supplies.

Festivities start at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 3, with a ribbon-cutting, followed by free hotdogs from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., free casting clinic, a visit with Smokey Bear and more.

On Sunday, July 4, at 1 p.m. there will be an interpretive program, ““Birds - from Monuments to Mesas.”

For more information, contact the Grand Valley Ranger District at 242-8211 or the Grand Mesa Visitor Center at 856-4153. The Visitor center will be open all summer, seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Palisade Christian Church is hosting a demonstration by Paul Daily and the Wild Horse Ministries 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 7, at the church located at 3702 G Road, across the street from Palisade High School.

The public is invited. Bring a lawn chair. Food and beverages provided. For more information, call Wanda Fifield at 216-2297.

Prepare your dog for fireworks

MC Animal Services is expecting many dogs to end up at the shelter over July 4 weekend, because fireworks make most dogs crazy causing them to run away.

Protect your pet on the Fourth of July, take these precautions:

• Resist the urge to take your pet to fireworks displays.

• Never leave your dog outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

• Keep your pets indoors at home in a sheltered, quiet area. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep him company while you're attending Fourth of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations.

• If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.

• Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags and their license so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly.

Mesa County Animal Services will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 3; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, July 4; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday, July 5.