

chance of rain. 20-percent

special use permit City planners to consider | GARNA sponsors See page 3

greenhouse tour

See page 9



MONDAY, JULY 23, 2007

Vol. 128, No. 35 The Voice of Salida and the Upper Arkansas Valley

50 cents

orrent of mud and muck

by Paul J. Goetz 98 Alpine residents evacuated Saturday following 3-4 inch rain storm



flashlights knocked on doors to door and using reverse 911 uated 98 residents going door About 30 responders with Fire district personnel evac-

trict Chief Jim Wingert said. County Fire Protection Dis-

rain before midnight, Chaffee prediction of another inch of by a National Weather Service munity of Alpine was evacu

ALPINE - The cabin com-

Mail News Editor

ated about 9 p.m. Saturday as

slides made the area danger-

Evacuation was prompted

heavy rain and multiple mud

and attempted to determine

continued to drizzle.

knocked out, but was restored about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Electric power in Alpine was

they reported hearing a loud between 7:15 and 8 p.m. when inches of rain and hail fell Residents estimated 3-

a press conference Sunday butt," Wingert said during said they couldn't see 3 feet afternoon. "Some residents outside their windows when he rain came down. "It came, it saw, it kicked

slides occurred, damaging outarea along CR 292, 15-20 mud buildings, houses, roads and Within 7 miles of the Alpine

Photo by Paul J. Goetz

A heavy mud slide pushed a late model Chevy Suburban about 20 feet sideways from where it was parked at the owner's home in Alpine. The slide knocked outbuildings off foundations and carried away propane tanks.

automobiles.

our house," resident Jack tumbling, and we watched as (3-4 feet of) mud went around We could hear a roaring and spencer, said. "It rained about 45 minutes

I was safe and the mud slide around to the front side where and heard a rumble. I went "I walked back to the cabin

> dent Jack Terry, said. "We've nothing like this." had mud slides before, but went around my cabin," resi-

utility vehicles and station playground puddles, sport Like toy cars immersed in ing courses of least resistance. er roared down the hill followday, stuck in mud which earli-

wagons littered the area Sun-Please see DRAINAGES, back page

Nathrop family moves into new Habitat for Humanity home

Special to The Mail by Jennifer Dempsey

fourth home built by Chaffee County Habitat for Humanity morning for dedication of the gregated in Nathrop Saturday More than 50 people con-

and Renee Wilson and their to build, will be home Rodney of the 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom participated in construction more than 200 volunteers The house, which took a year house on County Road 198. four children. Sixty local business and

told the crowd. "This is defiis this is a handout," Ken Harabout Habitat for Humanity have to do is ask Rodney how nitely not a handout - all you rison, Habitat board member, "The biggest misconception

Habitat families are chosen

many hours he's put in.

on the basis of need, ability to Please see BUILDING, page 3

after coming down the

Hernandez did not stop

embankment and proceeded

Team.

Accident Reconstruction the Colorado State Patrol Troopers reported.

Swinarski, 46, of Woodland bound vehicle driven by Ken CR 300 when the west-

Park hit him, Colorado State

troopers said. The incident

is under investigation by

is suspected in the crash,

Neither alcohol nor drugs

ment toward U.S. 24 near westbound down an embank-

Swinarski and his passen-

trolled stop on the shoulder.

Swinarski drove to a con-

ger were uninjured.

struck and killed by a motor

vehicle at 1:35 p.m. Friday.

Ricardo Hernandez was

riding a bicycle 3 miles south

A 12-year old Leadville boy

Mail Managing Editor

by Christopher Kolomitz

onto the highway on his bicy-

killed riding bike

eadville boy

of Leadville on U.S. 24 was

from the bicycle, received

Hernandez was thrown

nounced dead at the scene. fatal injuries and was prodriving struck Hernandez. stop and the vehicle he was cle. Swinarski was unable to



Photo by Jennifer Dempsey

the dedication. She was at Children's Hospital in Denver with for Humanity on County Road 198 in Nathrop. Wilson's father, their oldest daughter Britney, 6, who has medical problems. and Walter Wilson. Rodney's wife Renee was unable to attend lar, 2, and Sadie, 1, in front of their new home built by Habitat Rodney Wilson holds three of his children - Brianna, 4, Sky-Roger Wilson, stands behind him with grandparents Emma

Drainages clogged with debris, rocks

Continued from FRONT page

said there is some concern as the vehicles - away from and floated by force of the about automobiles and prowhere they were. Wingert slides in the same fashion Propane tanks were pushed

the aquifer," he said. fuel) tanks could contaminate "Fluid leaking from (vehicle

Sunday night, emergency percerned about drainage. sonnel were immediately con-With more rain predicted

"Right now they are filled ral drainages," Wingert said with debris and rocks." "We have to open the natu-

yon and Weldon Creek. area include Coal Camp Can-Natural drainages in the

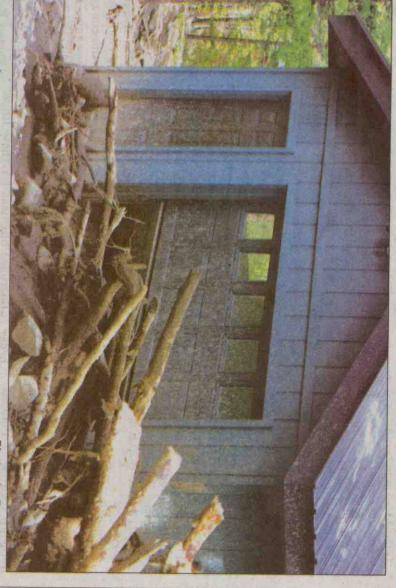
out," Ann Ewing, U.S. Forofficer said Sunday. est Service public information two drainages and spread rent of water come down the "Basically you had this tor-

Wingert said. more damage to property, mud to slide and result in More rain could cause more

School. Red Cross volunteers housed at Buena Vista High Evacuees Saturday were

eceived evacuees.

injury," Wingert said. "It was "There was only one minor Officials will assess damage and what kind of equipm



tion. The torrential mud and debris slide cut a new drainage channel about 30 feet wide and An unidentified garage had its doors pushed in and was moved several inches on its founda-Photos by Paul J. Goetz

which extends beside Chalk to assess damage to CR 292 arrived Saturday night and Alpine. Schroder, timber forester, returned Sunday with Sam Creek from Iron City to from

nel said CR 292 will remain closed until further notice. Forest service person-

feet deep in the foreground.

'steps up in Community a big way

Buena Vista High School. rary Red Cross Shelter at of mud slides Saturday spent the night at a tempoated from Alpine because Almost 80 people evacu-

Sunday said Sunday 15 volunteers gency services director the Buena Vista community helped at the school and the American Red Cross, for Pikes Peak chapter of stepped up in a big way, Jennifer Mariano, emer-

closed today. night Sunday at the school. evacuees to spend the no said the shelter may be Depending on need Mariavolunteers expected fewer Mariano said Red Cross

stay with friends or family," were displaced are going to Mariano said. "A lot of those folks who

A local pharmacy opened tions left behind, Mariano Sunday to replace prescripyouth group made dinner. way and Pizza Hut donated for breakfast Sunday, Subood for lunch and a church City Market donated food

Today Red Cross offic

That individual was taken to the hospital and released." By early Sunday night the

amount of property damage remained undetermined.

"It's unknown how much damage was caused because of possible mud indoors," Wingert said. "The extent to personal property doesn't look bad, but the damage to real

estate is another question."
Bill Schuckert, U.S. Forest Service district ranger,

from Chaffee County Fire Protection District, South Arkansas Fire Protection District, Chaffee County Search and Rescue, Chaffee County Emergency Medical Services. U.S. Forest Service and Chaffee County Sheriff's Office responded.

Chaffee County Commissioners are looking into the possibility of applying for state and federal aid for the community.

Jack Spencer built his Alpine home 24 years ago. He said th

Jack Spencer built his Alpine home 24 years ago. He said the deluge of rain was one of those "100 year floods." He cited a 125-year-old cemetery hit by mud slides for the first time.

ber damaged and to what extent, Mariano said.

An early estimate put the number between 30-40. The level of damage will determine what types of assistance the Red Cross provides, she said.

- C. Kolomitz



Auditions: Wednesday, August 1st at 7:00 pm
Finals: Saturday, August 4th at 10:00 am
Entry Fee: \$5.00 per act

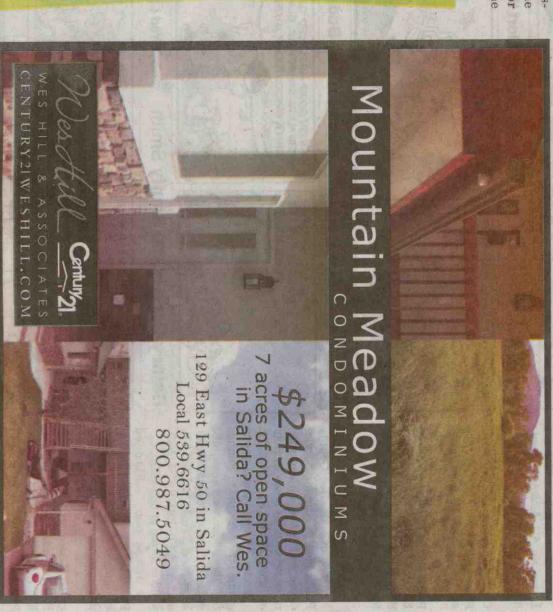
First Prize \$50.00

COME SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF!

Pre-register at the fairgrounds on July 24, 25, or 26 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. See Harriet.

No professional acts accepted.

See fair book for complete rules.



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Continued from FRONT page

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