

20 YEARS AGO today

BY NEL BURKETT

The following stories appeared in this publication 20 years ago this week.

Crested Butte Search and Rescue passes the test by Forrest Leas

The Crested Butte Search and Rescue (SAR) team received a call early Saturday morning from a bystander at Harmel's Ranch Resort. Two climbers rappelling a buttress were stranded more than 100 feet above approach. The more experienced climber had been knocked unconscious by a falling rock, and the other climber was left holding himself and his unconscious partner by the same rope. The only thing between life and death for the climbers was a single rope tied off with a figure eight knot being held by an inexperienced climber. The conscious climber held on with rope-burned hands as his unconscious partner hung bleeding just feet

above him. The scene seemed surreal to the bystander watching in terror from below, and he felt helpless to stop it.

Luckily for the climbers and the bystander, everything was under control. This was a scenario set up by the Mountain Rescue Association to test rescue teams such as the Crested Butte SAR team for certification or, in the case of the local team, recertification.

The Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education. The MRA was established in 1958 at the Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, OR, and there are now more than 91 units in the United States, Canada and other countries. More than 60 of these are regular units, which provide unpaid professional mountain search and rescue at no direct cost to taxpayers.

The Crested Butte SAR



Ben Somrak and Corey Tibljas are feeling good about the premiere of their first film Downtime at the Center for the Arts this past Saturday. PHOTO BY SCOTT MEYERS

team was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1988 but has existed in various forms since the early 1980s. The Crested Butte SAR team operates entirely on donations and holds a 38-member roster with 23 active members. The roster is impressive, with levels ranging from Wilderness Responders to doctors.

The group has a strong core that includes mostly backcountry enthusiasts who feel comfortable responding to many types of rescue situations in remote and dangerous areas. These rescuers gain their own experience by climbing, skiing and generally using and enjoying the area's backcountry. Who better to respond to wilderness rescue situations than those who spend most of their time in the wilderness? The Crested Butte SAR team brings all these talented people together to provide a solid team able to respond to any search and rescue situation that may occur.

The Crested Butte SAR demonstrated the skill level and depth of its team on Saturday when it recertified with the Mountain Rescue Association. Each rescue team must recertify every five years to keep with current regulations. The team

has been in intensive training since June, training at least two Saturdays and two to four Wednesday nights a month - more than twice as much as usual. "It has been a very intensive period; cross-training people has been our main objective," says Crested Butte SAR secretary Pete Davis. "To get more people to know more, that will give us more depth. I personally feel we have a much stronger team than we've ever had."

Going into the MRA test, the team members have only a general idea of what they will be tested on, and they train to be ready for anything. They know they will need to perform a high-angle rescue and scree evacuation, a search of some sort and an avalanche rescue all to be performed over two days of field work. As part of Saturday's test, the team traveled to Harmel's climbing area in Taylor Canyon, where they set up to rescue the two stranded climbers. The team was split into groups, each working on a different task to safely rappel down to the stranded climbers and bring them down safely.

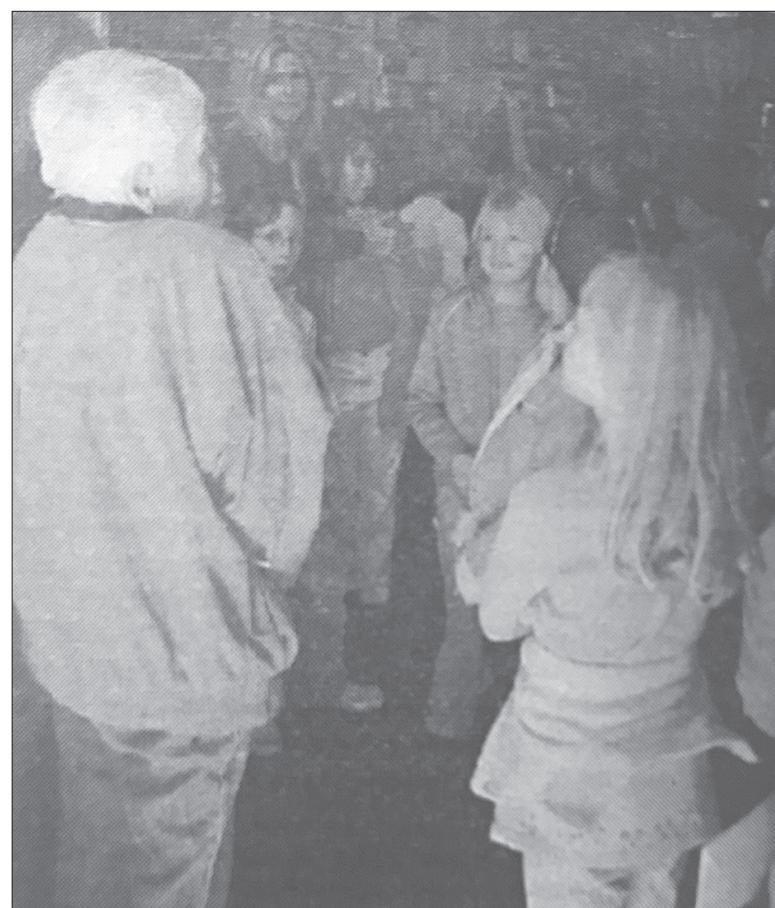
Also carefully watching was Jim Koegel with the Summit County Rescue Group and

lead evaluator for the MRA. Koegel stated that the MRA was standardizing testing to emphasize cross-training team members to higher levels. Thirty volunteers who help evaluate teams all over the region assisted Koegel.

After the team was informed that it had passed with flying colors and was complimented for their teamwork, Crested Butte SAR president Jeff Isaac proudly said, "It is a huge feather in our cap. We passed everything the first time; this is a huge credit to this team." Further reiterating the importance of the MRA and his team's certification, Isaac said he felt confident to put his team into action.

Isaac and the Crested Butte SAR team thank the Western State College Search and Rescue team, which helped the Crested Butte team train by evaluating them on a mock scenario to practice with the pressure of being observed. The Western State SAR was on call last weekend while the Crested Butte team was being evaluated.

Nel Burkett is a fan of history and enjoys when the present is put in the context of the past.



Fourth graders listen as Martha Sporcich tells them what life was like in Tony's Conoco. PHOTO BY EDWARD STERN

Legals

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Meeting Information to Connect Remotely:
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312 626 6799
Webinar ID: 832 4234 5378
The times are approximate. The meeting may move faster or slower than expected.

6:00 WORK SESSION
1) Recap of the Summer Parking Program and Presentation of Winter Parking.
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ
6:30 2) Review Elk Avenue One-Way and Summer Patios.
Staff Contact: Community Development Director Troy Russ
7:00 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR OR MAYOR PRO-TEM

7:02 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7:04 CONSENT AGENDA

1) November 1, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford

2) Q3 Financial Summary.

Staff Contact: Finance Director Rob Zilliox

3) Award of Community Grants.

Staff Contact: Finance Director Rob Zilliox

The listing under Consent Agenda is a group of items to be acted on with a single motion. The Consent Agenda is designed to expedite Council business.

The Mayor will ask if any citizen or council member wishes to have any specific item discussed. You may request that an item be removed from Consent Agenda at that time, prior to the Council's vote. Items

—AGENDA— TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021

removed from the Consent Agenda will be considered under New Business.

7:06 SWEARING IN OF THE NEW COUNCIL

7:12 A PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN OF CRESTED BUTTE, COLORADO IN HONOR OF OUTGOING MAYOR JIM SCHMIDT.

7:20 CELEBRATION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

7:35 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM

7:45 PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens may make comments on item not scheduled on the agenda. Those commenting should state their name and physical address for the record. Comments may be limited to five minutes.

7:50 STAFF UPDATES

7:55 LEGAL MATTERS

8:00 PRESENTATION

1) Alex Stach: Presentation of the Results of the 2020-2021 Upper Gunnison

Valley Winter Visitor Use Report.

8:10 PUBLIC HEARING

1) Tomcat Enterprises Inc DBA Mountain Spirits Liquors Application for a New Location Permit for a New Location at 301 6th Street.

Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford

8:20 NEW BUSINESS

1) Discussion on Upcoming Meetings, Including the Community Compass and Council Business Retreats.

Staff Contact: Town Manager Dara MacDonald

2) Appointments to Boards and Committees.

Staff Contact: Town Clerk Lynelle Stanford

8:55 COUNCIL REPORTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

9:00 OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

9:05 DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULING

FUTURE WORK SESSION TOPICS AND COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

• Monday, November 29, 2021 - 6:00PM Work Session - Sam Light from CIRSA

• Monday, December 6, 2021 - 6:00PM Work Session - 7:00PM Regular Council

• Monday, December 20, 2021 - 6:00PM Work Session - 7:00PM Regular Council

• Monday, January 3, 2021 - 6:00PM Work Session - 7:00PM Regular Council

9:07 EXECUTIVE SESSION
For a conference with the Town Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding Verzuh Open Space.

9:37 ADJOURNMENT

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