

A tale of two baseball fields

Salida, Buena Vista seek money for diamonds

by **Brian McCabe**
Mail News Editor

As government entities draw up their final budgets for 2017, it appears that, judging by Monday's county commissioners work session, baseball is on the minds of many.

Rusty Granzella, Salida Babe Ruth Baseball League president and a Salida city councilman, asked the county for \$10,000 to resurface the Marvin Park T-ball field, a project estimated to cost \$48,500.

Granzella said the league would put in \$6,000, the Salida Rotary Club said it would donate at least \$5,000 with more possible through grants, and Salida has budgeted \$20,000 for the project.

The remaining \$7,500, Granzella said, would hopefully be made up through fundraising and private donations, or if necessary, increased player fees.

When asked if he had looked at the option of getting a grant for the project, Granzella said,



Granzella

"For this project, I have not. We are saving that for bigger projects down the road."

The project would replace the infield, which currently is thick grass, with a non-maintenance turf similar to the Salida High School football field.

Granzella said the grass is a hindrance for the younger players, as its heaviness stops the ball's movement.

"We want the ball to move, to bounce around," he said. "It helps to teach the kids teamwork. This will also save the city a ton of money on watering and maintenance."

Brandi Reitter, Buena Vista town administrator, also asked for money to help rebuild a

baseball field.

Buena Vista recently reached an agreement with Urban Inc., a housing development company, to develop 48 affordable housing rental units.

The deal included a land swap with the Buena Vista School District, exchanging the current baseball field, a 4.52-acre property where affordable housing is to be built, for a similar-sized lot at the north end of the river park. The town agreed to upgrade that currently neglected baseball field.

Reitter reported the new field would be a combined baseball and soccer sports complex, and she estimated the project will cost about \$800,000.

She requested the county to donate \$130,000 from its Conservation Trust Fund, along with a letter of support for future grant requests.

Because the Monday meeting was a work session, the commissioners could not vote, but they agreed to put together Reitter's request for the letter of support and consider the two requests.

Leadville closes firewood cutting

The Leadville Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, San Isabel National Forest, announced it has closed all firewood cutting areas with the exception of Bluebird Cutting Area.

Due to the lack of firewood in other Leadville

areas, firewood cutters are asked to harvest wood from the Salida Ranger District firewood cutting areas. Firewood permits purchased from the Leadville office are valid for the Salida Ranger District, according to a press release.

The Leadville Ranger District will continue to sell firewood permits through today. Salida District firewood cutting areas will stay open until Nov. 30.

For more information, call the Leadville Ranger District at 486-0749.

Entry fees would cost about \$30

Continued from FRONT page

Faass.

On race day, which would take place every summer, an entry fee of around \$30 would be required, said Faass.

Over the years Faass has continued to sponsor derby cars, and twice they have qualified for national competitions where the racing is very competitive.

Just passing pre-race inspection at nationals is a big deal, she said.

Faass hopes a derby in Salida would give many of the

Track specifications at a glance:

To hold a Soap Box Derby, a suitable race venue must first be found. Judy Faass, race organizer, hopes to find one before a planned informational meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at The Bounty Restaurant. An official track must meet the following requirements:

- Paved surface;
- 900 feet long;
- 20 feet wide;
- 300-500 feet of extra stopping distance;
- 9- to 11-degree slope at the top that eases to 2 degrees or less at the bottom.

area's young racers that same opportunity.

More information about

derby racing can be obtained at the kickoff meeting or at soapboxderby.org.

Surveys indicate 30% report use

Continued from FRONT page

ed, anonymous surveys, only 30 percent report substance use.

"The difference between perceived use versus actual use is major. Just telling people the truth would be good. Kids think it's cool, everyone's

doing it, when in actuality they are not."

One good source of information for parents and teens, said Olson, is the National Institute on Drug Abuse, nida.gov. "It has a lot of good factual information, it's got a teen page, a parent section —

it's a good place to start," said Olson.

"And we'll have a lot of information and resources at the events as well. Our speakers are excellent, smart, well-versed in local and state trends as well as the brain effects of substance abuse."

Recycle RECYCLING BINS ARE LOCATED BEHIND THE SALIDA HOT SPRINGS POOL.

BACK AT THE RANCH HOME FURNISHINGS

- MATTRESSES
- SOFAS
- BEDROOM SETS
- DINING SETS
- LAMPS
- RUGS

FALL CLEARANCE SALE

Up to **50% OFF** SELECT FURNITURE

Up to **\$200 OFF** MATTRESSES

Sale ends November 30, 2016

325 West Hwy 50, Salida • 719-207-4171
BackAtTheRanchFurniture.com
Mon - Fri, 10am-6pm • Sat 10am - 5pm • Sun 11am-5pm

WEDNESDAY IS Fried Chicken Night AFTER 3PM

50 BURGER
Fresh Food SHAKES & BEER

Who else has half a chicken with mashed potatoes, redeye gravy, slaw, baked beans and a biscuit for \$15.00??

445 E. Highway 50, Salida
719-207-4950 FOR TAKEOUT

The Reasons for the Season!

Holiday Parade

from 5th Street to Riverside Park
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 • 6:00pm

ENTER TODAY - Deadline is Nov. 18 - CASH PRIZES

PICK UP YOUR ENTRY FORM AT:
The Chamber of Commerce - 406 W. Hwy 50 • The Mountain Mail - 125 E. 2nd Street
or call Dan Sack 221-6974 • Vickie Sue 539-6691