

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Report scores to Shelby Reardon, sports editor, at 970-871-4253 or sreardon@SteamboatPilot.com

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SUMMER SWINGS



Andrew Rettig, 12, returns a shot while playing tennis with his family at Howelsen Hill on Tuesday.

JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

‘Backside’ of Emerald

The Bureau of Land Management manages only a small percentage of the public lands within Routt County. Most of these parcels are very small and are landlocked, meaning they are surrounded by private land with no public access.

Thanks to the years of hard work by multiple partners including the city of Steamboat Springs, Routt County Board of Commissioners, State Land Board, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Emerald Mountain Partnership and many willing private landowners, the Emerald Mountain land exchange was finalized in 2007, placing a large block of land into public ownership.

This exchange consolidated a 4,404-acre parcel of land that was previously owned by the State Land Board and off-limits to the public, and placed the parcel under the management of the BLM. This effort consolidated public and private land ownership patterns, increased public recreational opportunities in Routt

SPOKE TALK



County and enabled BLM to acquire and protect important wildlife habitats, critical elk calving habitat.

In the years following the exchange, a flurry of activity ensued to enhance the public's recreational opportunities on the parcel:

■ **2008/09:** Ridge Trail was constructed.

■ **2010:** Rotary Trail was built and the Beall Trail was completed.

■ **2015:** Cow Creek parking area, kiosk and vault toilet were installed.

■ **2019:** New buck and rail fence was built around the trailhead parking area and the old, dilapidated barbed wire fence along the length of

SPOKE TALK, 16

CU Buffs coach considers fall

Kyle Fredrickson
The Denver Post

DENVER — First-year Colorado football coach Karl Dorrell had considered nearly every scenario for how the season will be played when Buffs' athletic director Rick George offered a new alternative.

College football in the spring?

It's entirely possible.

"That first came across my radar last night," Dorrell said. "(George) mentioned that from some of the discussion that they've had from an athletic director's standpoint."

Dorrell joined college football coaches from across the state — Steve Addazio (CSU), Troy Calhoun (Air Force), Ed McCaffrey (UNC) and John Wristen (CSU-Pueblo) — on Tuesday for a virtual roundtable discussion as part of the Colorado Springs Sports

Corporations' annual college football kickoff event. Among the most discussed topics on the Zoom video call were scenarios for potential schedule changes this season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

One idea appearing to gain national traction is to delay the start of college football for several months and play in the spring, allowing for safer game travel and campus environments compared to this fall. The Ivy League is expected to announce this week that it will postpone all of its upcoming fall sports to start in the spring, according to Forbes.

"What happens if we really don't kick off until February?" Calhoun said. "We may reach a point where that is best, and quite frankly, where that is best educationally, too."

Another radical scheduling

FOOTBALL, 16



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SPORTS

SPOKE TALK

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Routt County Road 45 was removed.

More work is to come. On the horizon, the BLM has plans to construct a 10-car parking area at the south end of the parcel, near the Beall Trailhead. In addition to the parking area, a picnic table and shade structure is planned, as well as a short connector trail to get users to the Beall Trail without having to backtrack down C.R. 45. This work is slated for late summer, and we hope to complete much of the work during a National Public Lands Day event.

Improvements to the existing Ridge Trail are still in the works. A re-route is needed around the big, steep hill that parallels the fence. A trail system for nonmechanized users in the beautiful Kemry Draw area is being discussed, an area teeming with a wide variety of birds.

The BLM is also partnering with the Colorado State Forest Service to put together a long-term, multi-year plan to improve forest health on the Emerald Mountain Parcel. As users know, the amount of deadfall in the vicinity of the Beall Trail is huge, and it's only thanks to the hard work of dedicated volunteers each year that the Beall Trail is cleared of these fallen trees. It is the goal of the forest health project to remove a large buffer of dead and dying trees to improve user safety on the trails and enhance wildlife habitat.

The BLM welcomes ideas, comments, questions and concerns from the public, and we can be reached at 970-826-5000.

Kathy McKinstry is the assistant field manager with the Bureau of Land Management and an important partner to Routt County Riders.

FOOTBALL

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idea is eliminating non-conference games to keep games more regional. And, for Power Five schools, to ensure opponents have the same financial resources to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

However, within Colorado, that plan doesn't have universal support. Addazio stressed the importance of CSU hosting rival CU in the Rams' on-campus stadium this season.

"Proposing this 10-game conference only deal, I don't want to see any of

that," Addazio said. "Let's go play them all."

All five coaches stressed the importance of student-athlete health and welfare being the first concern and discussions on scheduling coming later. Schedules aren't expected to be finalized until at least late July. For now, area coaches are optimistic that games will be played this fall.

"We can't predict how things are going to go," Dorrell said. "We're hoping that the season starts on time. That's what everybody is planning to do right now."

65+ years young?

You're at higher risk.

If you're 65 or older, you are at higher risk of getting very sick from the coronavirus. You must take extra care of yourself.

Stay home if you can.

Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Avoid touching your face.

Disinfect frequently touched objects.

Wash up after being in public spaces.

Stay about six feet away from others.

If you're sick, stay home and away from others.

If you have symptoms of fever, dry cough and shortness of breath, call your health care provider before going to their office.

We are all at risk, and some more than others. In challenging times, the choices you make are critical. And their impact is significant. Help slow the spread of coronavirus.

Visit [Coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) for the latest tips and information from the CDC.

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More info at MindSpringsHealth.org

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