

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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WEDNESDAY

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Don't quote me but...

"Thank you to the Telluride community for your incredible generosity in selling out 'Macbeth' before it even opened! Magic and possibility surrounds us in this box canyon."

— Colin Sullivan, *Macbeth* director, Executive Director, Telluride Theatre

Calendar

Wednesday

- Telluride Baseball Festival: Town Park, through July 25
- Toddler Chef Kit: Pick-up a free kit at the Wilkinson Public Library
- Market on the Plaza: Heritage Plaza, Mountain Village, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Spanish Storytime: Wilkinson Public Library, 11 a.m.
- AA: Christ Church (and via Zoom), 5:30 p.m., Zoom code 861-3188-5369
- Telluride Rotary Club Meeting: La Cocina de Luz (and via Zoom), 5:30 p.m.
- Artist Meet & Greet: Cheri Isgreen, 610 Arts Collective, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Songwriter Series with Gabrielle Louise and Alex Paul: Transfer Warehouse, 7-9 p.m.

Weather

Forecast: Rain is in the forecast Wednesday, with a high of 75.

Muse: "I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."—David Bowie

IN ORBIT:

Wednesday focus: Arts, Lifestyles & Nonprofits

Telluride's first family of karate

Thursday: A closer look

PUBLIC HEALTH

Officials stress vaccinations

By SUZANNE CHEAVENS
Associate Editor

The banner strung across Colorado Avenue reminds the downtown throngs that despite the newfound freedom of largely mask-less life, the COVID pandemic hasn't reached the finish line. "We're not out of the woods yet. Get vaccinated," it reads, undulating in the breeze. It's a message county public health officials felt impor-

Regional hospitals seeing COVID admissions rise

tant enough to make an appeal to Telluride's Commission for Community Assistance, the Arts and Special Events (CCAASE), the body responsible for banner approvals, to hang the message as often as space in between previously approved banners would allow. The message has

backing from numbers health officials are seeing globally and locally — COVID-19, particularly its natural variants, is tearing through unvaccinated populations.

While San Miguel County boasts a respectable vaccination rate of 77.6 percent overall, that

number is bolstered by residents in the east end of the county who took advantage of county-run vaccine clinics, private practice physicians, regional health care facilities, or even out-of-county pharmacies, as soon as one's eligibility was announced. Enticed by the desire to attend live music concerts, dine out, go to in-person events, or visit family after

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Winners, all

George Gage's retirement from the softball diamond Sunday afternoon was a showdown between "Back in the Day" Billy Ball players and today's team. The so-called old guys came from behind to take the game by two runs, 27-25. The irrepressible Gage, 81, was the star of the show while bowing out of the game he loves. "I ended up hitting in the last inning, a gapper, and recorded the last out defensively on a come-backer up the middle." (Courtesy photo)

BUSINESS

Making people happy with food

Mobile kitchen adds new dimension to Backcountry Catering

By ERIN SPILLANE
Planet Contributor

Backcountry Catering's Jeff Donaldson and Stefanie Moscufo have added a new dimension to their business with the addition of a custom-made mobile kitchen that includes a Chicago Brick Oven wood-fired pizza oven and an Ole Hickory CTO Smoker.

"It means we can go anywhere and do anything," said private chef and caterer Donaldson of

the new acquisition. "It's great for catering weddings and large events and gives us a lot of flexibility. The pizza oven is something I am particularly excited about. I can use it for pizzas, of course, but I also love cooking anything over wood coals. The flavor the wood provides is like nothing else."

Donaldson added that the hickory smoker, which sits beside the pizza oven on the trailer's "back porch," means he can

serve clients some amazing barbecue as well.

Any other bells and whistles? "We have a TV screen next to the serving window, so we can do slideshows for a bride and groom — for any event really — or display our menu," explained Donaldson, who lives in Norwood. "Overall, it adds a whole new dimension to what I can do as a caterer and private chef. It also means I can spend a little more

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OUTDOORS

A CHECK IN: ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

Sheep Mountain Alliance works to increase wildlife vitality

By SKYLAR SCHOEMIG
Planet Contributor

Sheep Mountain Alliance (SMA), a local grassroots organization, has proved its commitment to environmental stewardship in the Telluride region and the larger southwest Colorado time and time again over the years. The organization continues to coordinate with local land agencies, as well as state and federal partners, to learn the best regional environmental management practices and how to best maintain wildlife vitality with increased recreation.

In February, SMA partnered with Telluride Institute's Watershed Education Program and Mountain Studies Institute to create a successful "citizen science wildlife monitoring program on the Valley Floor," SMA community outreach coordinator Mason Osgood said.

He added that with increased "recreational pressures," maintaining "healthy wildlife habitat corridors" are essential.

"Forest health and wildlife protection are at the core of maintaining a healthy ecosystem in our community public lands," Osgood said. "We are not the only species that inhabit this landscape and it is important to ensure our wildlife populations enjoy protections

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Thank you to everyone keeping our community healthy. Together we will come out of this stronger!

Telluride Local Media

