

The Valley News

CCBA News

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By Donna Griesel, CCBA President

The Annual Meeting of the Community Building Association in Coaldale was held Saturday, April 14. We held a Pot Luck Supper before the meeting — yum — followed by the general meeting of the Association. This Association exists "...to preserve, enhance, protect and improve the Coaldale Community Building..., and the business meetings reflect the efforts toward that end.

A review of the past year's activities was made: the granting of non-profit status for the CCBA, the Historic Structure Assessment, fund raising events that were held, Newsletter update, sales tax exemption. Under New Business, we discussed which of the building needs to target for grant application in October. The Board of Directors had previously identified adding insulation in the ceiling, repairing the sliding room divider doors, and correcting electrical problems. After some discussion, and realizing the building has many needs, the community members voted to address those three items in our first grant application.

We talked a bit about fund raising and additional uses of the building. Some suggestions came in from the box that had been placed in the Coaldale Post Office. Watch for more events coming your way.

This year's election of Directors included Vice President and Treasurer. The incumbents were re-elected: Bill Parks

as Vice President, Julia Michel as Treasurer. In addition, three people stepped up as Members At Large: Suzy Patterson, Ray Edwards, and Ken Klco. Thank you and welcome aboard.

Reports were also made by the Fire Department, Valley Health Clinic, Coaldale Cemetery Association and TV Club. Fire mitigation efforts are continuing on Trail Ridge Road above Hamilton Creek. Trees have been cut or trimmed and chipping has begun. Also there may be some changes in the Deer Mtn. Fire Protection District with the Deer Mtn, Fire Dept. becoming an independent service. Much work is to be done toward that end, and you will be kept informed.

The Health Clinic is looking at property sites for a new facility, the Cemetery Assoc. has been very busy (see their article below), and the TV Club still exists. Leon Golden maintains the TV translator facility, but with digital TV looming on the horizon, this analog translator may have a limited future. Stay tuned.

If you have not joined the Association, I urge you to consider joining us to preserve and protect our historic building by investing in its future. Dues are only \$20 per household per year, payable to the CCBA, c/o Julia Michel, PO Box 156, Coaldale CO, 81222. Thank you.

Local Web Site

Check out <http://howardcolorado.com> - it's a site maintained by Sherree Vancil, and she has opened it up to items of interest to the whole Pleasant Valley area, **including a link to the latest edition of this newsletter** (Click on the link for Area News), which will be available even **before the print copies are available**. If you are willing to read the Newsletter online, we can save money by printing fewer copies. And, be sure to contact Sherree with any items you think should/could be posted on the site. Contact information is on the site.

Coaldale Valley Club

By Becky Olson

On May 4th we will be having a Plant Sale. Plants are donated by club members. Please come join us for lunch and the sale. Our meetings are held at the Coaldale Community Building on the first Friday of every month at noon. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Becky Olson, president, 942-3071, or Sharon Clifton, secretary, 942-4397.

Coaldale Quilters

By Shar Faison

Coaldale Quilters said good-bye to a faithful quilter and wonderful friend. Wilda Collins moved to San Antonio with her spouse, Mike, at the first of the month of March. Wilda will be missed by the Quilters and both of the Collins will be missed by the whole communities of Coaldale and Howard.

A farewell lunch was held at the Chili Bears (Wilda's favorite restaurant) in Silvercliffe and enjoyed by all. A table covering was

made by all the Quilters contributing a square and signed by each Quilter. Linda Alexander and Nancy Moore finished the covering by putting it together --- Linda did the front and Nancy finished the back.

The ladies continue to meet each Tuesday, 9:00 AM, at the Community Center and will be dismissing for the summer at the end of May. There are still plenty of Tuesdays to enjoy the fellowship

and to either start a project or complete one --- just remember to bring your lunch. The fellowship will resume in the fall --- usually the first Tuesday after Labor Day. Come join the Quilters for a day of good humor, good fellowship, and a chance to learn a valuable skill, the art of quilt making.

Pleasant Valley Get-Together Club

By Sherree Vancil

The Women of the "Pleasant Valley Get-Together Club" invite you to join us at the Howard Hall on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (except June, July and August which are on the 2nd Tuesday only) at 12:00 noon for lunch. Please bring a covered dish and your own table service-- dessert and drink is furnished. Although this is a women's organization, we invite the men to join us for the meal (a donation of \$5 is suggested for the men).

The "Pleasant Valley Get-Together Club" was started in 1928. The purpose was to try to stimulate the feeling of good will and friendship among our neighbors and friends.

Over three-quarters of a century later--- we still strive to unify the community by service projects and by supporting the community in times of need.

Help may come in a time of need or just by a smile and a kind word given to a fellow member at meetings. We donate money to help the Howard Volunteer Fire Department and the Arkansas Valley Ambulance Service. We also donate money to soften the burden of losing everything in a disaster or serve an appreciative dinner to a family in a time of sorrow due to the loss of a loved one. Annually, we award at least one scholarship to a graduating student of Cotopaxi or Salida High School. We have

several "Community Night" events that we sponsor, such as an Ice Cream Social in August and a Halloween Party for ALL ages in October, and others.

Our Club Goal is: "Do A Good Deed For Someone"

Our Club Motto is: "Unity In Purpose"

As members--- we can be proud of what the Club stands for and for what it has accomplished.

We Invite Everyone From The Community To Join Us In Our Endeavors.

For more information contact: Jackie Corey 942-3362.

Christian Women's Connection

By Celeste Strid, Chair

What's happening at the Coaldale Building at Christian Women's Connection?

All ladies are invited to the Howard/Cotopaxi Christian Women's Connection for a fun afternoon that includes a delicious hot catered lunch and an entertaining program of interest to all. The luncheon takes place every third Wednesday of the month at the Coaldale Community Building, from noon until 1:45 PM, for only \$7.00. Attendance runs from 50 to 75 ladies who come from miles around.

Spring included some wonderful programs:

* In March, clogging instructors J.D. and Nona Teague demonstrated their

wonderful step-dancing, plus talented Gwen Chermack, of Salida, sang.

* April was as wild as our theme, "Game Show Mania!" We did our own zany version of "The Price is Right", "Name That Tune" and "Trivial Pursuit." Some great prizes were awarded along with much laughter.

In contrast, looking forward to May 16th, the program will be more 'refined', with a theme of "Springtime Tea time" and featuring the "Tea Time" Tea Room in Westcliffe. There will also be highbrow solos from trained vocalist Leanara Hubbard, from

Canon City.

Everyone loves a fashion show, so come on June 20th to see fabulous second-time fashions from 'Glad Rags' clothing in Salida.

Each month a selected non-denominational inspirational speaker closes our program with uplifting thoughts for all. Please come and invite your friends. Reservations are required so that adequate seating and enough meals will be provided. Please call Georgia Bennett at 942-4319 by the Monday prior to the Wednesday luncheon.

Personal Stories

This issue, we continue our series of columns with a story from Howard and Ruth Eggleston, currently of the Hillside area.

We moved into Coaldale, from Hillside, in 1958. At that time, there was a General Store where the Gallery Artpost is now. It also included a gas station and Post Office, and was owned by Frank Cooper. This lasted until some time in the late '60s, after which the Post Office was in the building next to the current Post Office. Chick and Monie Ashlock ran the P.O. and a rock shop there.

The Lazy J Café had a fountain, and made great malts and banana splits (among other things), but it burned to the ground in '73 or '74.

It was a windy night, and it was gone quickly. It was rebuilt, though, and is now the Bighorn RV Park.

In the fall of '64, Labor Day weekend was forecast to have beautiful weather. But, it rained all day Saturday, and on Sunday the rain turned to snow. We ended up with four feet of snow! The weatherman who predicted great weather was among the people who had to be rescued from the Hayden Creek campground.

We had a big hay barn across the driveway from our house. One afternoon, in about 1963, I (Ruth) looked out the window and saw it on fire. The quarry was in operation at the time, and the

foreman brought 2 or 3 pumps down. Also, the principal let the boys out of school, and they formed a bucket brigade. They managed to slow the fire until the Howard and Cotopaxi Fire Departments could arrive. That was before Coaldale had a Fire Department. Even with all the firefighting, we lost the barn, shop tools, and our rabbits. They figured the cause was spontaneous combustion in the hay.

Not long after that, the Forest Service offered a truck, and I (Howard) went to Cañon City to look at it, and signed the papers for it. That was Coaldale's first Fire Truck.

In Memoriam

Louise Nelson

Virginia Beaton

"Good friends and neighbors will always be missed."

Coaldale Community Cemetery Association

By Shar Faison

The Cemetery Committee has been very active this winter. The sale of spaces continues and several areas of possible fund raising have been identified. The funds will be used to develop the new area (right across the street) that was donated by Georgia Pacific to the Community of Coaldale for the expansion of the cemetery.

The first project that will be started in the very near future will be the road around the perimeter of the new area. Mr. Clint Baese donated his time and equipment to remove the trees that were in the area designated to become the road. Volunteers to make the road are being solicited and a couple of individuals have come forward to see what needs to be done. Hopefully the County will donate gravel to be put on the roadway after it is completed. Gridding the area will be a major task and several suggestions for getting it done have been made to the Board, including asking some of the area colleges for volunteers from the students that are studying surveying, etc. Lex Johnson at the Iron Shop in Howard, is working on row signs that will

be installed in the old cemetery. The signs are anticipated to be ready by the end of May and when installed, should make finding the proper row in which people are buried much easier.

Other projects include: more signage in the old cemetery, a map of burials in the old cemetery, fencing improvements in both areas, parking area for the new development

We have reorganized the Board and added two new positions to accommodate the growing needs of the cemeteries. The two positions are: Property Manager, Marlene Cooper and Grant/Budget/Project Manager, Carol McNew. Diana Van Dyke has assumed the role of Treasurer with the move of Marlene to the Property Manager. Bill Parks is the President; Suzanne Tonnesen, Vice President; Shar Faison, Secretary/Sexton.

. A very generous gift has been given to help with the fencing improvement in the old cemetery fence along the County Road and the Board

is looking into various types of fencing that will keep the rural look, yet be cost effective for the cemetery. The Board holds meetings every other month at the Community Building and the meetings are posted on the chalkboard at the Post Office. We urge the Community of Coaldale to become involved in YOUR CEMETERY and attend these meetings (next meeting will be June 3).

Donations of money are certainly welcomed, will be needed for projects, and are tax deductible because of the Non-Profit designation of the Cemetery Association.

Volunteers are also welcomed as we proceed to develop the new area and continue to take care of the resting place of many who are buried in the old cemetery. The next clean-up date of the old cemetery will be Saturday, May 5th at 9:00 AM; flags will be placed at the gravesites of the Veterans that are buried in the cemetery after the clean-up. Please mark your calendars for this important date in the life of YOUR CEMETERY and participate with other volunteers

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About the CCBA Newsletter...

The CCBA Newsletter is published quarterly at the end of July, October, January, and April, and is available at the P.O.s in Howard, Coaldale, and Cotopaxi, plus the Cotopaxi Store and Sugarbush.

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If you have any ideas, comments, etc., regarding this newsletter, please contact either one of us. Especially if you would like to contribute a story!

Attachment to the Valley News

Proposed Reopening of the Coaldale Quarry/Mine

A meeting was held Tuesday, April 10th, at 7:00 PM, to discuss the proposed reopening of the Coaldale Quarry/Mine (both terms will be used interchangeably in this article). Both the company proposing to reopen the mine, Holcim, US, Inc., and the community were well represented, with over 50 local people attending. Attending the meeting for Holcim were Messrs. Mike Toelle, Quarry/Raw Materials Manager for the Mountain region; Tom Newman, Chief Geologist; Shane Allen, Production Supervisor in Florence; Joel Bolduc, Environmental Manager; and Ken Klco, who will be the Coaldale Site Manager, if the mine does reopen. Several times during the meeting, Shane was identified as a contact person, so he gave us his contact information. His landline is 719-784-1314, his cell number is 719-429-4121, and his email is shane.allen@holcim.com. Ken Klco lives in Cotopaxi, and is listed in the phone book at 942-4178. Holcim is Swiss-owned, has U.S. headquarters in Boston, and has been in Florence since 1897. They sell concrete mainly in Colorado, but also sell to some surrounding states. Gypsum is added to concrete to provide workability. Currently, they buy gypsum from mines in Oklahoma, which is expensive. If they are allowed to obtain gypsum locally, they say they can keep their prices lower than if they have to continue getting it from out of state.

There were a wide range of opinions expressed from the community, from outright disbelief and hostility, to stated concerns, to stated neutrality, to statements in support of the mine and its operation, by long-term residents who lived here when the mine was previously in operation. Concerns included possible damage to wells, structures, and roads, and noise, water, and air pollution.

Information discussed included the scope of proposed operations, being approximately 1.6M tons of gypsum expected, over the next 32 years, starting this August. This will be achieved by removing approximately 50K tons per year, plus handling about that much more in overlay, waste, etc. Blasting would take place only at the bottom of part of the current site, and would only be needed once or twice a month, for 4-6 months each year. A portable unit to crush, sort, and prepare the gypsum for transport would also be run during these times. Holcim proposes to work with the community to determine the time schedules that would cause the least impacts to the community, including the months in which blasting occurs. They will not be blasting in the night, and will be willing to adjust which months they blast to try to accommodate community needs and desires. They are willing to use a call list to notify residents of imminent blasting. They are also willing to have one-on-one interviews with adjacent residents to address specific concerns, like asthma, physical baseline assessment of structures, etc. Loading and hauling will be year-round, with 8 (25-ton) trucks per day, 5 days per week. The trucks will be covered and clean.

Holcim is planning to upgrade County Road 6 (Hayden Creek Road). The actual upgrade will be determined by a thorough inspection of the road, and may consist of crack-sealing or repaving. Either way, they will also apply a surfactant and water when they are running the trucks, to minimize the amount of dust generated. They will be using ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate and Fuel Oil) for the explosive, and will be blasting in a manner that will result in larger dust particles than if they were removing material from the vertical face of the quarry. It will also be less noisy than surface blasting. For this reason, they expect most of the dust will fall back onto Holcim property. They will also halt blasting if the wind gets above 30 mph. A suggestion was made to use dexpan, which is non-explosive. Holcim will check on this, but they believe it is used to crack large rocks/boulders, and would not work for their needs.

Concerns were raised about the local wells. Holcim stated they currently have a well near the West end of their property, which is rated at 10 GPM, and is in a deeper (bed rock) aquifer than the Hayden Creek aquifer/alluvium, which residential wells use. They are permitted to pump up to 3 acre-ft per year, and they believe that will be sufficient for their proposed operations. They agreed to look into the possibility of having well baseline measurements done, and will let the community know the results of that investigation in a future meeting.

Holcim plans to use subcontractors to perform the operations. They will have contracts that will specify actions to be used to mitigate any negative impacts on the community. They will have a "third-party" company, Matheson Mining Consultants of Colorado Springs, place and monitor seismic equipment between the blasting operations and adjacent residents. They stated several times that they wish to be a "good neighbor." The property is currently in a status of "under reclamation" and is "nearly done." The proposed operations will affect about 10% of the reclaimed areas, and will be fully reclaimed during and after operations cease. They said about 50,000 seedling trees and several native grasses have been planted over the years.

Possible benefits to the community were stated as possible jobs (depending on the needs of the subcontractors and the existing skill sets of residents), increased taxes paid to Fremont County and Colorado, support of the local Fire Department, and some local purchases (workers have to eat, and may buy other products or services provided locally).

They hope to file their request for a special-use permit with the County in the next couple of weeks. Residents will then have a specified amount of time to send letters of opposition or support to the county. There will also be public meetings held. They stated they have had open houses for the Penrose/Florence community. If anyone wishes to observe blasting in the existing location, they should call Shane. While his office number is not a local call, his cell phone is a local call.