

THE DAILY SENTINEL

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County quiet on state tax ballot issue

By EMILY ANDERSON
Emily.Anderson@gsentinel.com

A stack of Proposition 103 support signs are available at the offices of Mesa Valley Education Association.

So far, only two or three have been plucked from the pile, according to association President Jim Smyth. One is outside the local teacher representation group's office at 720 Glenwood Ave. But that doesn't mean the association endorses the ballot measure.

"As an organization we decided not to be outspoken on it," Smyth said of Proposition 103. "If people add on 103 after (voting for 3B), that's great."

Smyth isn't the only local shying away from Proposition 103 or even the only person worried some voters may choose between the proposition and 3B in the Nov. 1 election because they are both tax measures related to education. Proposition 103 has been rejected by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, left unendorsed by Colorado Mesa University and the District 51 school board, and panned by District 51 School Board candidates Jeff Leany and Ann Tissue. Candidate Cindy Enos-Martinez is on the fence about the issue and called 3B her "first choice" if she had to decide between the two.

If passed, 3B would increase property tax mills within School District 51 boundaries to raise about \$12.5 million a year for six years to fund District 51 education. Proposition 103 would increase state sales tax by a tenth of a percent and increase income tax from 4.63 percent to 5 percent for five years. That money would also be used for schools throughout the state.

Proposition 103 author Sen. Rollie Heath, D-Boulder, supports both measures passing in Mesa County but said he has received more push-back from certain Mesa County groups than he has in other communities voting on an override. He said District 51's override alone will not make up for state budget cuts the district has made or may make in the next few years. "It's complementary. I truly believe that," Heath said of his measure and 3B.

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TRAIN HITS CAR



CHRISTOPHER TOMLINSON/The Daily Sentinel

Members of the Clifton Fire Department take two passengers to the hospital after their car was hit by a train at 3:15 p.m. Thursday at 31 1/2 Road and Interstate 70 Business Loop in Grand Junction. The Mesa County Sheriff's Department and the Colorado State Patrol also were at the scene.

Gadhafi's life ends in violence

By THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

MISRATA, Libya — Moammar Gadhafi's last moments Thursday were as violent as the uprising that overthrew him.

In a cellphone video that went viral on the Internet, the deposed Libyan leader is seen splayed on the hood of a truck and then stumbling amid a frenzied crowd, seemingly begging for mercy. He is next seen on the ground, with fighters grabbing his hair. Blood pours down his head, drenching his golden brown pants, as the crowd shouts, "God is great!"

Gadhafi's body was shown in later photographs, with bullet holes apparently fired into his head at what forensic experts said was close range, raising the possibility that he was

executed at the hands of anti-Gadhafi fighters.

The official version of events offered by Libya's new leaders — that Gadhafi was killed in a cross-fire — was not supported

by the photographs and videos that streamed over the Internet all day, raising questions about the government's control of the militias in a country that has been divided into competing regions and factions.

The conflicting accounts about how he was killed seemed to reflect an instability that could consume Libya long after the euphoria fades about the demise of Gadhafi.

For weeks, as the fight for

See **GADHAFI**, page 8A ➤

U.S. now must guide Libya toward credible elections, state senators say

By GARY HARMON
Gary.Harmon@gsentinel.com

Colorado's senators commended the Obama administration Thursday for working to bring down Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The dictator, who had reigned for 42 years, died after he was captured by rebels and shot in the head.

"U.S. leadership helped bring about regime change, and I

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Cellphones and cancer: No link found

By THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

A major study of nearly 360,000 cellphone users in Denmark found no increased risk of brain tumors with long-term use.

Although the data, collected from one of the largest-ever studies of cellphone use, are reassuring, the investigators noted that the design of the study focused on cellphone subscriptions rather than actual use, so it is unlikely to settle the debate about cellphone safety. A small to moderate increase in the risk of cancer among heavy users of cellphones for 10 to 15 years or

longer still "cannot be ruled out," the investigators wrote.

The findings, published in the British medical journal BMJ as an update of a 2007 report, come nearly five months after a World Health Organization panel concluded that cellphones are "possibly carcinogenic." Last year, a 13-country study called Interphone also found no overall increased risk but reported that participants with the highest level of cellphone use had a 40 percent higher risk of glioma, an aggressive type of brain tumor. (Even if the elevated risk of glioma is confirmed,

the tumors are relatively rare, and thus individual risk remains minimal.)

The Danish study is important because it matches data from a national cancer registry with mobile phone contracts beginning in 1982, the year the phones were introduced in Denmark, until 1995.

An accompanying editorial noted that although the results were reassuring, they must be viewed in the context of about 15 previous studies on cellphones and cancer risk, including those that did detect an association between heavy cellphone use and certain brain tumors.

Douglas Pass Junction men

By PAUL SHOCKLEY
Paul.Shockley@gsentinel.com

Alcohol is a suspected factor in a crash that killed three Grand Junction men early Thursday on Douglas Pass, according to the Colorado State Patrol.

Troopers were called about 6 a.m. by a passer-by who came across a green Ford F350 pickup off the road at mile post 45 on Colorado Highway 139 in Rio Blanco County, Trooper Heather Cobler said.

Investigators believe the crash could have happened as early as 12:15 a.m., Cobler said.

A reconstruction showed the truck was headed south on Highway 139 when it went off the right side while taking a left curve, she said.

The truck over-corrected and rolled at least twice before coming to a stop off the right side of the road. All of those inside were thrown from the pickup, and none was wearing a seat belt, Cobler said.

Names had not been released by the State Patrol as of 5 p.m. because next of kin for the three men had not all been notified, according to Cobler.

Cops working overtime to monitor Occupy Grand Junction protesters

By AMY HAMILTON
Amy.Hamilton@gsentinel.com

Supporters of an Occupy Grand Junction movement that started last Saturday will celebrate their first week of protests with a march through the city this Saturday.

Anyone is invited to attend a "Funeral Procession for the American Middle Class" that starts at 12:30 p.m. at the old Mesa County Courthouse. Marchers are asked to wear black.

About a dozen people held signs and milled about Rood

Avenue's old Mesa County courthouse lawn Thursday afternoon, a substantial dip in the numbers of supporters — more than 100 people — who had spilled into the public area attending the event's first day.

Grand Junction Police Department officers maintained a 24-hour presence among the amicable crowd at first, but pulled out of the park by 9 p.m. Wednesday night.

Officers working the event mostly had been earning

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GRETEL DAUGHERTY/The Daily Sentinel

SURROUNDED BY HANDMADE SIGNS, Jason Solomon, left, listens to Roni Russell challenge his views about overthrowing government as both protest at Occupy Grand Junction on Thursday outside the old Mesa County Courthouse. Russell, a college student, says her primary focus is on jobs and the economy.

COMING UP

■ Marchers are encouraged to wear black and meet at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the old Mesa County Courthouse for a "Funeral Procession for the American Middle Class." Marchers will wind through Grand Junction.

■ Text occupygj@443322 on your cellphone to stay updated on local events.

■ View the Occupy Grand Junction website, which has a link to its Facebook page at www.occupygj.com.

