

# TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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## SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 12, 2017  
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### Don't quote me but...

"Chess is cool! Join the Telluride Chess Club on Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at Wilkinson Public Library. All abilities are welcome."

—Jessica Kutz, of Telluride

## Calendar

### Sunday

- "The Addams Family": Palm Theatre, 2 p.m.
- "Cannibal! The Musical": Sherbino Theater, Ridgway, 4 p.m.
- "Goodbye Christopher Robin": Nugget Theatre, 5:30 p.m.

### Monday

- Free Qi Gong Class: Ah Haa School, 8:45 a.m.
- Intergovernmental Work Session: Telluride Fire Station, 1:30 p.m.
- Maker Monday: STEM Lab, THS, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- The Art of Etiquette: Ah Haa School, 3:30 p.m.
- Book Discussion — "1984": Wilkinson Public Library, 5:30 p.m.
- "Goodbye Christopher Robin": Nugget Theatre, 5:30 p.m.
- "1984": Wilkinson Public Library, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday

- Art Tuesday: Ah Haa School, 2-5 p.m.
- Mad Lab — Deconstruction: Pinhead HQ, 2-5 p.m.
- Cyber Clubhouse: Wilkinson Public Library, 2:15-3:15 p.m.
- "Goodbye Christopher Robin": Nugget Theatre, 5:30 p.m.

## Weather

**Muse:** "Don't forget to breathe, very important." —Mr. Miyagi

**Forecast:** Sunday is predicted to be mostly cloudy with a high of 53 and no chance of snow. Monday will be sunny with a high of 57 and no chance of snow, while Tuesday will be mostly sunny with a high of 54 and no chance of snow.

## IN ORBIT:

**Sunday Focus:**  
Sports

**Five karate students**  
to test for black belts

**Wednesday:**  
Arts, Lifestyles  
& Nonprofits

## LEGISLATION

# Forest management bill passes House

By **JESSICA KUTZ**  
Staff Reporter

## Local conservation groups wary of consequences

**T**he Resilient Federal Forests Act, a bill introduced by Congressman Bruce Westerman of Arkansas, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Nov. 1 and is on its way to the Senate.

The bill, which would reform federal forest management laws, passed with 232 votes (222 Republicans and 10 Democrats). U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, who represents Colorado's 3rd District, signed on

as a co-sponsor in June.

According to a House of Representatives news release, the bill would expedite forest management projects by loosening "regulatory roadblocks." Also, it would create a new "arbitration pilot pro-

gram" for court cases against forest management projects and create incentives for agencies to work with state and local governments.

The bill aims to establish a "wildfire sub-account with FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund," and prevent

agencies from "fire borrowing," or the practice of taking funds earmarked for forest health programs in order to fight wildfires.

Tipton said the act will help federal land management agencies focus more on managing forests and reducing the chance of catastrophic fires, rather than fighting forest fires.

The act will streamline "the permitting process for management

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### Goofing around

Telluride ninth-graders (clockwise, from top left) Jimmy Fallon, Christian Betz, Pablo Flores and Jaime Zunzun Egui share Mike and Ike candy and a few laughs during their lunch break outside of Clark's Market on Friday afternoon.

(Photo by Andre Salvail/Telluride Daily Planet)

## HEALTH CARE

# State marketplace not affected by marketing budget cuts

**Open enrollment started Nov. 1**

By **JESSICA KUTZ**  
Staff Reporter

**D**espite an attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the program will continue to provide insurance for Americans for at least another year.

Many in Congress say that Trump is still doing his best to derail the program through other means, including slashing funds

for marketing.

In August, the Trump administration announced that ACA advertising dollars would drop from \$100 million to \$10 million for the 2018 enrollment period, resulting in a 90 percent decrease in monies.

As reported in the Associated Press on Aug. 31, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said she viewed the decision as a "cynical effort to lower enrollment."

While this proves a giant hurdle for any state that uses Healthcare.gov — the federal marketplace — to offer health insurance, there are 16 states that operate on their own state exchanges. These places, including Colorado, are not affected by the cut in funding.

Operating its own exchange has given the state other benefits,

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## DIVERSITY

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

*Workshop, dinner to focus on gaps among youths*

By **VIVIAN RUSSELL**  
Planet Contributor

**W**hat is the culture of our community? What are the ethnic backgrounds of the people who live here? We can make broad generalizations and review demographic statistics, but when one digs beneath the surface, it turns out the story is much more layered and complicated.

How do we celebrate our differences and find common ground? How do we actually break the ice to discuss topics such as economic disparity and implicit bias? What is the culture of our community with regard to race, class, gender and identity?

Community members will have opportunities to openly discuss these issues with a diverse array of friends and neighbors at Wilkinson Public Library.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, a Teen Leadership Workshop addressing these same topics takes place from 1:30-4:30 p.m. in the library's teen room. The workshop will be followed by a community meal and conversation for adults from 5-8 p.m. in the program room.

Tri-County Health Network has been facilitating a Health Equity Learning Series (HELS) program of workshops designed to highlight how social and economic disparities im-

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## Cuts

MARKETPLACE, from page 1

including the ability to extend the open enrollment period until Jan. 12. The federal exchange closes on Dec. 15.

“(The enrollment period) is basically half as long as it was last year” in the federal marketplace, said Linda Gann, the Western Slope’s senior manager for Connect for Health Colorado, the state exchange.

The reason for Colorado’s marketplace comes from a time even before the creation of the Affordable Care Act.

In 2006, former governor Bill Owens and the Colorado General Assembly put together the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform that was tasked with looking at health care models that would work for the state, Gann said.

The commission, which consisted of various stakeholders in the industry, drafted a plan very similar to that of what would later become ACA. When ACA was passed, Colorado had already laid some crucial groundwork through the commission and was able to transition to a state marketplace.

Because Colorado built its own exchange, “we have some flexibility within the federal guidelines in how we bring health insurance to individuals and one of those things that we can do is our own marketing, so our marketing budget has not been cut,” Gann said.

For the 2018 enrollment period, the state exchange is doing “everything we can” to advertise enrollment events,” Gann said, to spread the word that many people qualify for substantial monthly savings in the form of tax credits on their health insurance.



Tri-County Health Network employees Alexis Klein, Stacey Wright and Carol Schutter, along with Amber Elder (not pictured), are helping residents in Ouray and San Miguel counties – as well as the West End of Montrose County – enroll in health insurance plans through the Connect for Health Colorado state exchange. (Courtesy photo)

Individuals who make under \$48,000 or a family of four that makes under \$98,000 qualify for the tax credit.

For example, in San Miguel County, which had the highest percentage of the population enrolled in the exchange last year compared to other Colorado counties, residents on average saved \$585 a month on their health insurance.

### REGIONAL ENROLLMENT

The enrollment period for the state marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado, started on Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 12.

There are advantages to signing up early, as those who wait until Dec. 16 to register will not see their insurance coverage start until February, which results in a one-month lapse in health care, according to Stacey Wright, programs manager for Tri-County Health Network.

For the past five years Tri-County Health Network, a regional nonprofit, has offered community enrollment assistance with the

state marketplace for residents of Ouray, San Miguel and Montrose counties.

“We can complete an application from beginning to end as well as troubleshoot applications that were started by individuals but hit a bump in the process,” Wright said.

The organization will be hosting an enrollment fair in Telluride on Dec. 9 at the County Annex Room (335 West Colorado Ave.) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Ridgway a fair will be held Dec. 2 at the Ridgway Library, also from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We (also) offer regular office hours in Telluride, Ouray and Naturita for one-on-one private enrollment appointments,” Wright said. “Walk-ins are welcome, but our calendars fill up fast, so an appointment is recommended.”

To make an appointment, or to learn more about office hours or open enrollment, contact the organization at 970-708-7096. To locate a local health coverage guide, visit [tchnetwork.org/insurance-assistance](http://tchnetwork.org/insurance-assistance).

## Bill

LEGISLATION, from page 1

activities such as removing dead and owned timber, and allowing agencies to work with local experts to proactively mitigate devastating insect infestations,” Tipton stated in a news release.

However, many environmental groups have denounced the bill as a way to curtail restrictions that protect federal forests from exploitation and commercial interests, such as logging.

San Miguel County Commissioner Joan May, who serves on the Federal Advisory Committee for Forest Planning, said while the bill has a nice name, the act itself “is terrible.”

“It will probably dilute the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review and it will prevent people from making legitimate lawsuits against illegal activities on the forest,” she said.

“So if there is an illegal decision made, it would be hard for anyone to sue because they couldn’t recover their fees” in this new bill, May added. “(It also would) eliminate the Fish and Wildlife service protections and basically gut most environmental protections on the forest.”

She said the NEPA review is a standard that requires public participation for decisions on our public lands “that are owned by all Americans.” It also requires “scientific justification for decisions made on public lands.” Without it, decisions end up “being political, not scientific,” May said.

Lexie Tuddenham, executive director for the Sheep Mountain Alliance, a local nonprofit, said without NEPA, activities such as clear cutting could become more prevalent in our national forests.

Tuddenham said timber production, which is sometime billed as a way to thin forests to promote resiliency, “in theory” is a function of our national forests. But, she said, it can have detrimental environmental impacts.

That’s why when a proposal comes forward for a logging operation, “You have to have a NEPA review that really takes a full look at the impact of those things,” she said.

May said the review is a system of checks and balances. She and Tuddenham agreed that the Forest Service does need a new funding mechanism to prevent “fire borrowing.”

“We just aren’t able to do the planning and implementation of resiliency projects on the forest because there is no money, because it all goes to fighting wildfires,” May said.



*“(The act will streamline) the permitting process for management activities such as removing dead and owned timber, and allowing agencies to work with local experts to proactively mitigate devastating insect infestations.”*

U.S. REP. SCOTT TIPTON  
Colorado House District 3

Tuddenham said another bill, The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, does a better job of accomplishing this goal. The bill, also introduced in June, amends federal budgets to allocate more funding to fighting wildfires.

Tipton also is co-sponsoring the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

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## Thanks for another Great Summer!

The Hotel, Chop House, Parlor  
and Historic Bar are closed  
until Friday November 24th

Think Snow!