

TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

Inside Today: The View, p3; News, p4; Voices, p12; Business, p16; Sports, p17; Orbit, the back page

FRIDAY

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Don't quote me but...

"Telluride, community and alumni come out for homecoming weekend at Friday night's volleyball game or Saturday's soccer match."

—THS student council

Calendar

Friday

- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- Friends of the Montrose Library Used Book Sale: Library Meeting Room, 8 a.m.-noon (members only) and noon-6 p.m.
- Adult Craft Night: Wilkinson Public Library, 6 p.m.
- Film: "Venom," Nugget Theatre, 7 p.m.

Saturday

- Telluride Education Foundation Fall Festival and 5K Fun Run: Registration, 9 a.m., games/raffle/food, 10 a.m., Judy Long Field at THMS
- AA: Christ Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m.
- Telluride Boys Soccer and Community Barbecue: Judy Long Field, 11 a.m.
- Friends of the Montrose Library Used Book Sale: Library Meeting Room, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Scarecrow Festival, Kids' Crafts, Library Story Walk and Book Mobile: Montrose Botanic Gardens, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Firkin Fest West 2018: Sherbino Theater

Weather

Forecast: Friday and Saturday are predicted to be sunny with highs of 53 and 56, respectively.

Muse: "Expose yourself to your deepest fear; after that, fear has no power, and the fear of freedom shrinks and vanishes. You are free." —Jim Morrison

IN ORBIT:

Friday Focus:
Nonprofits

SMRC awards

Sunday: Business

MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

To fly or not to fly?

Town Council, citing unregulated drones, adopts new ordinance

By **ROB STORY**
Staff Reporter

Drone usage has likely been on the minds of local governments since 2016, when the popular travel website Matador Network released a video from a low-flying drone that caused a herd of elk to break into a run on the Valley Floor. Not only is harassment of wildlife a crime, the Matador video appeared to

have been shot in early summer, during calving season, and showed young elk attempting to run with the herd.

Such incidents — along with the explosive growth in drone usage — persuaded

Mountain Village Town Attorney James Mahoney to monitor the status of drone regulations by local governments. He noted that airspace is a federal matter governed by the FAA, which regulates the operation

and registration of drones.

As Mahoney wrote in an Oct. 10 memo to Mountain Village Town Council, "A decision was handed down by a U.S. district court in Singer V. City of Newton, which struck down a municipal ordinance regulating drone usage. In that case there was language that indicated there was room for municipalities to regulate drones if done

See **DRONES**, Page 9



The 2018 Regional Behavioral Health Summit sponsored by Tri-County Health Network took place Thursday at The Peaks. Panelist Doug Hanshaw, the Problem Solving Court Coordinator for the 7th Judicial District, spoke to an audience of educators, health care professionals, elected officials and parents. (Photo by Suzanne Cheavens/Telluride Daily Planet)

EVENTS

Sue Klebold talks mental health awareness

Mother of Columbine shooter believes there's been progress since 1999 incident, but there's still more that can be done

By **JUSTIN CRIADO**
Editor

Sue Klebold, mother of Columbine High School shooter Dylan Klebold, said there were no signs that her youngest son was planning what eventually transpired on April 20, 1999, before taking his own life.

"From what I could see, he was doing OK," she said.

She explained how a month before the incident, Dylan visited the University of Arizona, the school he planned to attend, with his fam-

ily and was excited to get the largest freshman dorm room possible. Three nights before he and friend Eric Harris murdered 13 people and wounded 24 others before the pair died by suicide, Dylan attended the school's prom, which he said was "the best time of my life," according to his mother. That was all a "smokescreen," Klebold said.

"Since then, it has been my own journey to help me understand his death," she said.

Klebold, author of the 2016 book "A Mother's Reckoning" about the

incident, was the keynote speaker Wednesday night during a Tri-County Health Network-organized event regarding mental health awareness, intervention and prevention at the Palm Theatre.

The 69-year-old school counselor explained only after the incident did she find notes that Dylan wrote two years prior to the shooting detailing his "agony" and suicidal thoughts.

"About half of us know that our

See **KLEBOLD**, Page 11

TRANSPORTATION

A CONTEST TO SAVE LIVES

"RoadX Safety Challenge" aims to help reduce collisions on Route 550

By **LESLIE VREELAND**
Contributing Editor

The highway between Montrose and Ridgway is notorious for collisions.

On a single, 9-mile stretch of U.S. 550 between Otter Road, south of Montrose, and the Ouray County line, there were 194 crashes between 2011-15, according to Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) statistics. Five of the accidents were fatal; 63 percent involved wildlife.

To help reduce dangerous, costly collisions between animals (most of them mule deer) and cars, 8 foot-high fencing has been placed along sections of 550, and a wildlife underpass near Colona has been installed.

Seasonal speed limits, from 60 to 55 mph, were imposed at nighttime during fall and winter, when wildlife was most likely to be moving back and forth across the road.

If CDOT receives much-needed funding from voters next month — if propositions 109 and 110 pass on Nov. 8, respectively — more improvements await. Additional deer fencing and escape ramps will go up. Another underpass will go in.

And if voters turn CDOT down, there is still the RoadX Rural Road Safety Challenge.

See **CONTEST**, Page 10

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Sue Klebold, left, mother of Columbine shooter Dylan Klebold, talks with Tri-County Health Network Executive Director Lynn Borup during a mental health awareness event Wednesday night at the Palm Theatre. (Photo by Justin Criado/Telluride Daily Planet)

Mental health awareness

KLEBOLD, from page 1

loved ones are struggling," she said.

Colorado has the ninth highest suicide rate in the country at 20.5 people per 100,000 residents, according to the Colorado Health Institute. Suicide also is the leading causes of death in Colorado for ages 10-24, according to the most recent statistics. In 2017, San Miguel, Montrose and Ouray counties all had an identical suicide rate of 26.6, the numbers show.

Sarah Davidon, Mental Health Colorado research director, called mental wellness "a community issue," adding that one in five adolescents experience a mental health crisis, typically before age 14.

"We need to do better," she said during Wednesday's event. "... Schools can't do anything without the communities in which they are."

She explained her life has been "touched by suicide" four times, and mental health and suicide are usually "intimately connected."

It's important, though, she added, to realize that mental health, mental illness and violence aren't interconnected.

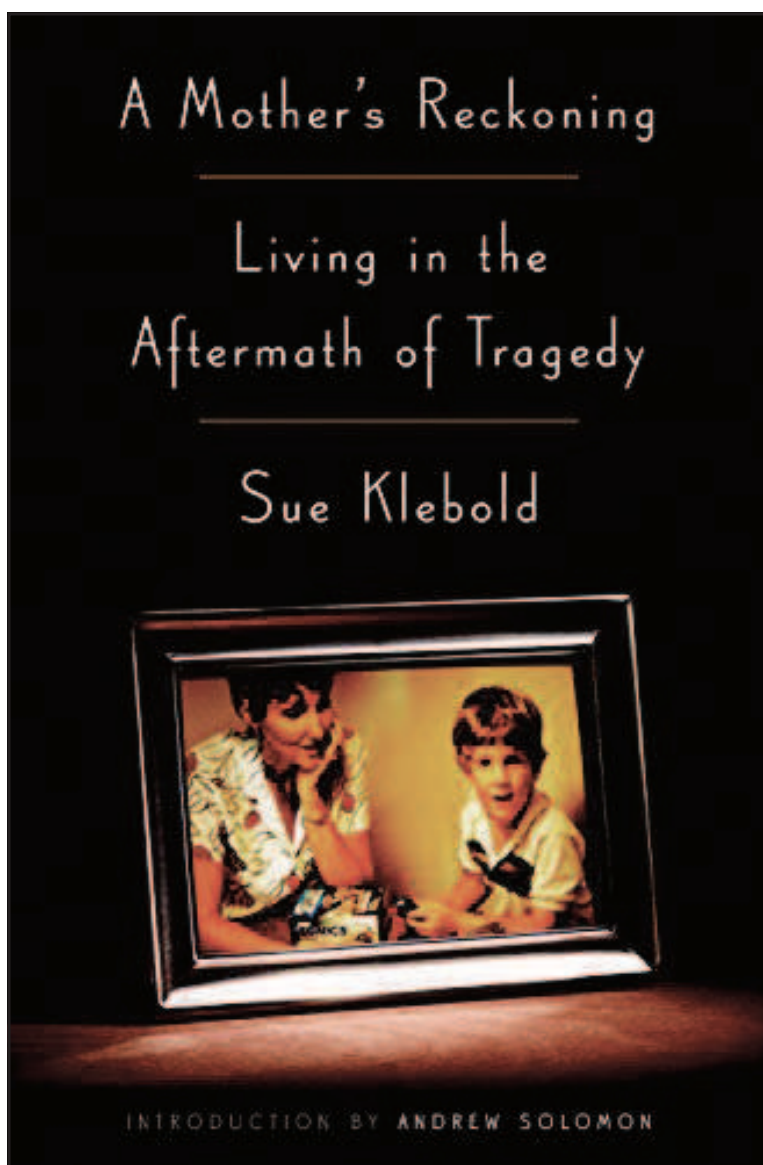
"Mental health is about relationships and resilience," she said.

How to differentiate between mental wellness and mental illness is part of Mental Health First Aid Colorado's mission, including classes throughout the state. To learn more, visit mhfacolorado.org. Mental Health Colorado also offers a School Mental Health Toolkit, which Davidon said will be available in every district in the state. A printable version can be found online at mentalhealthcolorado.org under the Resources tab.

The Attorney General's Office recently announced a \$2.8 million grant to support Partners for Children's Mental Health, a Children's Hospital Colorado program, in an effort to increase resources for pediatric mental health resources.

"Bold action is needed to save lives and get mental health treatment to Colorado's children," Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman said in a news release. "It isn't a lack of caring that's at issue, it is an unconscionable lack of resources devoted to the mental health of children."

Kathy Morris, the Durango



(Courtesy image)

School District's safety and security coordinator, talked Wednesday about another Attorney General Office program, Safe2Tell program, which is an anonymous way for students, parents, school staff and community members to report concerns regarding their safety or the safety of others. Since 2011, suicide has been the No. 1 most reported concern to Safe2Tell, she explained. For more information, visit safe2tell.org. The program, which was launched in 2004, is a direct result of the Columbine shooting.

Klebold said the resources that are available now show how much progress has been made in youth mental health awareness.

Nearly 20 years after the incident, Klebold was asked what she would do differently as a parent, knowing what she does now. Her

voice quivered in answering.

"I did an inadequate job," she said. "... I feel, always, the same ache, the same regret. I think there is certainly one thing I wish I had done differently, and this is why I talk to people and share his story."

"If I had to do it over and I were raising my child again, I would try to do one thing better and that is I would shut up and listen. I don't think we as adults are very good at that."

If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health issues, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Locally, contact Tri-County Health Network (970-708-7096 or info@tchnetwork.org) or the San Miguel Resource Center (844-816-3915 or info@smrcco.org).

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