



These magical creatures and local talent posed for a photo during a costume check for *The Tempest*, playing at the Wright Opera House July 28-31. Back row, left to right: Mica Hart, Morgan Clark and Abbie Link. Front: Natasha and Ariel Hessler. For the full story, see page 8.

Courtesy photo

efforts.”
Whitmore was a leader in formation of the Ouray County Water Users Association in 2013.

She also acted as public information officer for the county in emergencies and spearheaded national and local media communications during the 2014 private plane crash in Ridgway Reservoir that killed five people.

“We are sorry to see her go,” Ben Tisdell, chair of the Board of County Commissioners, said. “Marti has done excellent work for the county. She was recruited away by Montrose County.”

Tisdell said the county will not have a gap in legal
WHITMORE P8

OURAY COUNTY

Fire consumes structure on County Road 7

One fatality results from evening blaze

BY DALTON CARVER
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A fire the evening of July 24 completely consumed a residence on County Road 7, resulting in one fatality and an ongoing investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Terry Adams, the resident of the CR 7 home, died in the incident, according to Ouray County Coroner Colleen Hollenbeck. Adams was employed by San Miguel County. Hollenbeck said next of kin have

been notified and an autopsy report will be available in the near future.

Ridgway Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire called in just after 9:00 p.m. by a neighbor of the burning residence. Arriving on scene, the RFD also called in the Ouray Fire and Log Hill volunteer fire departments for aid.

According to Chris Miller, RFD fire chief, the two-story structure was almost completely engulfed by the time the department arrived, and it burned for another half hour before being subdued.

At the most intense point of the fire, Miller said, about 25 firefighters from the three agencies were on-scene. The LHFD stayed on-scene until about 1:30 a.m. and OFD left shortly after at around 3 a.m. RFD was on the scene through the night and returned the next day following the CBI scene size-up.

Prior to CBI taking over, the fire departments reduced the fire to a controllable level.

“We got the fire down and we had to remain on-scene and keep every-

FIRE P8



The chimney was all that was left standing from a fire that consumed a residence on County Road 7 Monday evening. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Plaindealer photo by Dalton Carver

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FIRE on CR 7

FROM P1

thing as preserved as we possibly could until CBI investigated," Miller said Wednesday morning. "After (CBI) gave the scene back to us, we completely extinguished the fire from that point."

Driving on CR 7 late afternoon Tuesday, one could still see smoke rising from the location of the former blaze.

CBI has not completed its report. At this time, the cause of the blaze hasn't been released. Ouray County Sheriff Junior Mattivi said the department is partnering with CBI and a report will be available when completed.

Miller said this level of response happens only once or twice a year and that this was the first instance for 2017. "Maybe one, sometimes two (a year)," he said. "Sometimes it goes a couple years before we have another (such) incident."

WHITMORE resigns

FROM P1

representation, as the board anticipates hiring or contracting with an interim county attorney while the search for a permanent replacement takes place.

Whitmore has been Ouray County Attorney for a little more than five years. She was hired after the previous attorney, Mary Deganhart, resigned to take a district judge position with the Seventh Judicial District.

Whitmore's legal experience is extensive and diverse. She served as General Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; as executive director for Take Pride in America for the Department of the Interior; as special assistant to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and as chair of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force; and, as Chief Deputy Attorney General for the State of Colorado. Prior to working for Ouray County, she worked for a Denver law firm representing clients in

OURAY COUNTY

Lightning strike on Log Hill mesa torches tree

BY MARY MENZ
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A smoke report received by 911 at approximately 2:45 p.m. last Friday was investigated by the sheriff's department, which immediately called in Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department. Firefighters located two Ponderosa pines that had been hit by lightning.

"It was a little fire, but it took longer to extinguish than it should have, just because of the logistics involved in getting to it," said Tom Austin, assistant chief of LHVFD.

The torched tree was found on the south side of the escarpment near the ess curve at County Road 1 and Yucca Drive on Log Hill.

"We got an ATV back there and it

was an old, rotten tree on fire, about 30 feet tall," said Austin.

He said there were eight firefighters on scene and another crew on standby at the station during the three-hour call. The tree was felled and extinguished. The other tree that was hit was a healthy tree that didn't ignite, said Austin.

Summer monsoons arrived last week to relieve dry conditions, but lightning strikes associated with the rainstorms can create fire like this one did.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, there are an average of 10,000 lightning-caused fires nationally each year.



A Ponderosa pine tree on Log Hill Mesa was torched by lightning during a storm last Friday.

Plaindealer photo by Mary Menz

CITY OF OURAY

The Tempest on stage at the Wright Opera House this weekend

Shakespeare play features amateurs, professionals

BY MARY MENZ
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years earlier.

In this version, Prospero (played by Kate Kissingford) respectfully lets go of Ariel (played by Kate and John's