

Students give fire dept. digital duds

When you think of a rescue situation that involves a bunch of high school kids and a volunteer fire department, you might picture a school on fire, but in this case, you'd be wrong.

Ridgway Secondary School sophomores came to the aid of the Log Hill Fire Department recently when it was looking for help with building a digital domain, something it's never had before.

After an exhausting and ultimately fruitless search of local web developers who might take the project on for free and with a deadline set by the Fire Board looming, Charlie Carson, the Log Hill firefighter charged with the task, turned to the Ridgway students, taking advice from a friend. Lucky for him, Tim Lyons, the RSS technology teacher, thought the project would be perfect for his computer science class.

The students were divided into 14 teams of 2-3 each. Their assignment: develop a concept and design for the Log Hill Volunteer Fire Department website and compete to have it published. After taking a field trip to the fire station, which is located at 434 Ponderosa Dr. in Log Hill Village, to gather source material and experience some inspiration (read playing with fire hoses and running around in firefighter gear), the students set to work on their spring semester project. Students were able to correspond with Carson while they designed and built their websites via an online forum in which they could ask questions and send and receive files.

The winning team of Natasha Hill, Quinn Strickler and Chris Williams was announced at the Ridgway Secondary School Awards Banquet on May 25.

"Our team put in a lot of time and effort, and we're really glad it's been chosen for the public to view," Chris Williams said.

Williams, who lives on Log Hill with his family, said the real world aspect of the project Mr. Lyons assigned is not all that uncommon at RSS, saying he's done similar things in other classes. Williams said he appreciated the chance to hone his web skills, but the project didn't necessarily spark an interest for him.

"I'm really glad I have the skills," he said. "I'm not so tech savvy, so I'd rather be outside working or something."

The situation was positive for everyone involved, it seems.

"This website collaboration between the Ridgway Secondary School and the fire department was really great for the students in giving them the opportunity to produce something for the community while developing some real world experience," Fire Board Chair Bob Mitton said. "For the fire department, it was so beneficial since the dollars that a commercially developed website would have cost can instead be spent on firefighter training and equipment."

You can pull up the website by typing loghillfire.org into your web browser. It's got a load of information for Log Hill Mesa residents who want to stay up to date on the latest fire prevention tips and emergency preparedness information, including evacuation plans. You can even sign up to get emergency notifications sent to your cell phone.

The collaboration isn't dead now, either. Carson said that Mr. Lyons plans to have an advanced class take on the task of programming a backend to the website which the firefighters could log into to check the status of their training, read department procedures and review internal messages.

A proud Carson described the collaboration as "a real positive community endeavor."

"We got something much more out of it than simply a free website," Carson said. "We got a real appreciation for the school and the spirit of the school."

—Story by Aaron Montoya, staff reporter



► Elk cow and calves follow behind a calf near Bailey, Colo. in this 2009 file photograph.

Colorado Division of Wildlife photo: David Hannigan

Over-the-counter big game licenses ready

DENVER—With the start of the 2011 big game hunting seasons now less than two months away, Colorado Parks and Wildlife reminds hunters that they can begin purchasing unlimited over-the-counter big game licenses for elk beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 12. A capped number of over-the-counter licenses for black bear will also go on sale at that time.

Hunters can pick up their over-the-counter licenses starting July 12 at more than 730 authorized license sales agents around the state, at Colorado Parks and Wildlife service centers, by phone or on-line.

For elk hunters who missed the draw or failed to draw their first choice, over-the-counter elk licenses offer the opportunity to hunt bull or cow elk during the archery season or bull elk during the second and third rifle seasons in many game management units in Colorado. Unlimited over-the-counter bull elk licenses may be purchased at any time before the season begins or at Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices during the applicable elk season.

Colorado's elk population is larger than any other herd in North America. With roughly 283,000 elk, 23 million acres of public land and elk seasons that run from August through January, Colorado offers a tremendous variety of hunting opportunity. Last year, more than half of the bull elk harvested in Colorado were taken by archery and rifle hunters with over-the-counter tags.

Colorado is the only state that offers non-residents and residents the opportunity to purchase unlimited over-the-counter licenses for bull elk. In a select number of units, archery hunters can purchase both an unlimited over-the-counter bull tag and an over-the-counter antlerless elk tag.

Hunters with questions about what licenses they can purchase and where licenses are valid can find more information online or by phone with one of the new Colorado Parks and Wildlife Hunt Planners at (303) 297-PLAN or (303) 297-7526. Hunt planners are hunters themselves and well versed in the opportunities available around the state.

A small number of antlerless, or cow, over-the-counter rifle licenses are also available for game management units 25 and 26, which are located north of I-70, approximately between Gypsum and Yampa. The number of these licens-

es is capped, so they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Archery, muzzleloader and some rifle bear licenses are also sold over-the-counter with a cap. That means that there are a preset number of these either-sex licenses available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters who wish to obtain one of these licenses are advised that they generally sell out within days. Some bear units sell out in minutes.

Anyone who wants to hunt bears during the regular rifle season must hold a deer or an elk tag for the same manner of take, the same season and the same unit in which bear will be hunted. To properly manage bear harvest, all bear licenses for Colorado are area specific and limited in quantity.

Availability of over-the-counter licenses that have limited cap numbers can be viewed online at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunt/BigGame/pdf/otccap.pdf>. Once sales begin, the "OTC Cap License List" will be updated every 15 minutes in an effort to continually inform hunters and license agents how many are left during the rush.

Information about season dates and license application requirements can be found in the "2011 Colorado Big Game" brochure. The brochure features include easy-to-read tables, a detailed list of new hunt opportunities in the state and a reference page with important information about Colorado hunting regulations.

Printed copies of the brochure are available at license agents and Colorado Parks and Wildlife offices. An online interactive brochure can be found at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/RegulationsBrochures/BigGame.htm>.

For more information about OTC licenses, to purchase a license on line, or locate a license agent, please go to <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Hunting/>.

For more news about Division of Wildlife go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/news/index.asp?DivisionID=3>

For more information about Division of Wildlife go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>.

—Special to The Sun



TEACHING TEACHERS

► Teachers and administrators from the Ridgway School District attended two-day Summer Learning Symposia in Grand Junction, collectively called Leveraging Opportunities for Students: Unifying Colorado's Education Reforms, June 27 and 28. The conference was created and facilitated by the Colorado Department of Education. The goal of the various conversations was to assist schools and districts in unifying their work around Colorado's education reform agenda. Participants contributed by sharing current practices and opportunities for improvement they've noticed in their own districts. Around the state, schools are busily implementing new standards, assessments, educator effectiveness measurements and an accountability system, created by the legislature and passed two sessions ago. The changes are meant to bolster schools' abilities to serve students and get them ready for college or the workforce. Ridgway faculty learned various strategies from the CDE for: creating collaboration among districts and between the districts and CDE; developing a coherent vision around Colorado's education reform agenda; and, developing district-specific plans for implementing that agenda. The Friends of Ridgway Schools — Parent Teacher Association paid for some of the trip.

From left, back row: Ted Donahue; Jenny Burdick; Nancy Randall; Jim Unruh; Bonnie Bowmer; Jim Bob Hobbs; Mallory Clarke; Robyn Cascade; and Rita Elliott. From left, front row: Rick Williams; Jason Gunning; Kelly Cavallo; Jim Benny; Justine Wilson; Tamara Richard; Julie Furstenfeld; Cheryl Gomez; and Nancy Donegan.

Courtesy photo