

# TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

SINCE 1898, INCORPORATING THE TELLURIDE TIMES AND TELLURIDE JOURNAL

**Inside Today:** The View, p3; News, p4; Voices, p14; Sport, p17; Life, p23; Orbit, the back page

## SUNDAY

MARCH 20, 2011  
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### Don't quote me but...

"We love it. We'll be back."  
—Haley Moffitt and Jake, from  
Ripley, Miss.

## Calendar

### Sunday

- Headband Class: 12-5 p.m., Needle Rock
- The Infamous Stringdusters: 8 p.m., Sheridan Opera House
- Latin Night: 9 p.m., Steaming Bean, delicious drink specials
- Latin Night: 9 p.m., Moon, with DJ Picante
- Movie: "Gnomeo and Juliet" (G) 5:30 p.m., "Black Swan" (R) 7:30 p.m., Nugget

### Monday

- Protecting your Non-Profit Organization: 12-2 p.m., library, offered by UCSM, a primer on tax exempt compliance and financial management for non-profit organizations, free, lunch provided
- Aromaspa Community Wellness Clinic: 4-7 p.m., 191 S. Pine
- The Best of British Theatre on the Big Screen "Frankenstein": 6 p.m., Palm Theatre
- Introduction to Apple Computers: today and March 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., offered by UCSM, call 369-5255 to register
- Movie: "Gnomeo and Juliet" (G) 5:30 p.m., "Black Swan" (R) 7:30 p.m., Nugget

## Weather

**Muse:** There was a fork in the road, and by chance I found my ticket to the promise land and I've now got my milk and honey, right here, in this box canyon. [Thanks for the inspiration Dusters.]

**Weather:** Partly sunny, breezy Sunday. Chance of rain and snow Monday. Highs in the 50s.

## IN ORBIT:

**Sunday Focus:**  
Business & Real Estate

**Home on the range**

**Coming Tuesday:**  
Sports & Recreation



Dan Fulton, who sustained a traumatic brain injury last winter on Lift 9, came back to Telluride for the first time this week. He got to snowboard three days with the Telluride Adaptive Sports Program and got faster with each run. [Photo by Matthew Beaudin]

TASP

## 'To feel the wind on my face'

*After a severe brain injury off Lift 9,  
Dan Fulton makes it back to the ski hill*

By MATTHEW BEAUDIN  
Editor

Daniel Fulton's brain remembers who he was.

It remembers the way he could streak through the trees of Lift 9 on a powder morning, a flourish of color amid a galaxy of snow.

It's his body, though, that's forgotten.

Fulton, 23, sustained a major brain injury early last winter when he hit a tree off Lift 9 that blacked him into a coma and had doctors wondering if he

would survive. Since then, he's fought to gain enough strength to get back to Telluride to snowboard again.

He's stayed up late — long after his mother had thought he'd gone to sleep — working on his balance. Just to get a chance to come back here. Just... "To feel the wind on my face," he says while sitting in the Telluride Adaptive Sports office Thursday morning.

Since his injury, Fulton's dreams have been rays of hope as he's wandered the darkness

of a recovery that's measured in dragging his foot during a step an inch less. His brain injury was so severe it's akin to violently shaking an infant.

"I want to be able to go into the trees on a powder day," he says. "I'm going to get better. It's not a matter of 'will I', it's a matter of 'when I.'"

\*\*\*

On the mountain, Fulton is free.

See FULTON, Page 13

BEAR CREEK

## FOREST SERVICE OPENS BACKCOUNTRY ACCESS POINT ON PALMYRA

*Will allow skiers into Lena Basin, Bear Creek*

By KATIE KLINGSPORN  
Associate Editor

The U.S. Forest Service has opened a backcountry access point high on Palmyra Peak, offering skiers entrance to the big, rowdy terrain off the backside of the 13,000-foot mountain — including the Bear Creek basin.

The move comes at the end of a ski season that started with a whole different kind of backcountry announcement: the closure of access gates on Gold Hill that skiers had used for years to enter Upper Bear Creek. The Forest Service announced that closure in December, citing requests from landowners who were concerned with skiers trespassing across their property. The conflict between private property owners and backcountry access has grown since Thomas Chapman, a controversial developer, purchased mining claims in the basin a year ago.

See CREEK, Page 12

## Brown Dog's award-winning pie

*Jeff Smokevitch takes sixth place in World Pizza Competition with his Detroit square pizza*

By CELINE WRIGHT  
Planet Contributor

It's been popping up occasionally on the special's board at Brown Dog Pizza: Detroit square pizza with pepperoni and mushrooms. But little would the average diner know, this pizza recently took the sixth at the World Pizza Championships at the International Pizza Expo in Las Vegas.

Detroit square pizza: sounds unfamiliar. Sure, there's Chicago deep dish, and New York style pizza, but Detroit? It's a square pizza, topped first with the toppings, then the cheese, and fin-

ished off with two stripes of tomato sauce running the length of the pie. Who knew?

"The taste is crispy, airy in the middle, but with a definite chew to it," said Jeff Smokevitch, co-owner of Brown Dog Pizza and the man behind the award-winning pizza.

It all started with an idea: to make the pizza at Brown Dog into something excellent.

Smokevitch attended the International School of Pizza in San Francisco last summer where he graduated certified in both Italian and Neopolitan

See PIZZA, Page 12



Jeff Smokevitch tosses dough for the camera in front of the Brown Dog Friday afternoon. Smokevitch has been invited to pizza competitions in Italy this May.

[Photo by Kevin Ludwig]



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# Detroit square pizza?

**PIZZA**, from page 1  
 style pizzas. He won the best pizza award at the end of the session and the school's owner, Tony Gemignani, invited Smokevitch to come back last fall to assist him in teaching another course.

"I saw our pizza at Brown Dog go from OK to really good with Tony's help," Smokevitch said.

At the competition in Las Vegas, which took place in the beginning of March, Smokevitch competed against 65 other pizza makers and placed sixth. He missed continuing to the finals by 3/10 of a point, as only the top five pizzas make it. This is quite a feat considering the fifth place winner was the grandson of Gus Guerra, the original founder of the Detroit-style square pizza.

Competing in the traditional style pizza category, competitors have 10 toppings to choose from, but can only put two on their pizza. Points are awarded based on both appearance and taste.

Smokevitch loaded up his car and headed to Vegas with a cooler filled with all the necessary ingredients, even a taste of home.

"I brought Telluride water with me with some snow mixed in, for that little bit of extra flare

for the judges," Smokevitch said.

He made the dough the day before, let it sit in the special Detroit-style blue-steel pan for hours to season and let it come up to room temperature. He carefully followed the recipe that has taken him months create.

Secret to a successful pie? "It's really in the way you put it together and the attention to detail when you make your dough," Smokevitch said.

It's not necessarily in the quality of the ingredients, but more how one puts them together.

Gemignani has invited Smokevitch to competitions in Naples, Italy in the upcoming months and has also invited Smokevitch to be part of his team, the World Pizza Champions.

And soon, Detroit-style pizza will be available regularly at Brown Dog. The delay is only because the special blue-steel pans, classically used to make Detroit-style pizza, are only available from one source, and as the company recently moved to Mexico, getting production running again has been slow.

"Shawn Randazzo [the fifth place winner] has an inside

source to get the pans, and he's going to send me some. Within two or three weeks it should be on the menu," Smokevitch said.

Don't think that all this pizza knowledge will drastically change the menu at Brown Dog, however.

"Our customers really appreciate the menu we've had for the past seven years. Someone can come in multiple days and get, a sandwich one day, a salad and then a pizza the next: all different things. This menu fits our concept in Telluride," he said.

Expansion is on the horizon, though.

Brown Dog Pizza is going to the Front Range. This summer, Smokevitch is opening up a Neopolitan style pizza restaurant near Denver's Washington Park. It will be pizza and salads — a simpler concept than Telluride's extensive menu, and it will still bear the name Brown Dog Pizza.

As far as competition goes, "My goal is to win. I want our name and style of pizza to really get out there," Smokevitch said. "It's the same in the restaurant and in competition. I try and beat my score from last time just like I constantly try and improve the product."

# Backcountry access

**CREEK**, from page 1  
 Norwood District Ranger Judy Schutza said the Forest Service decided to establish the Palmyra access point in an effort to restore public access to National Forest System lands adjacent to the Telluride Ski Area.

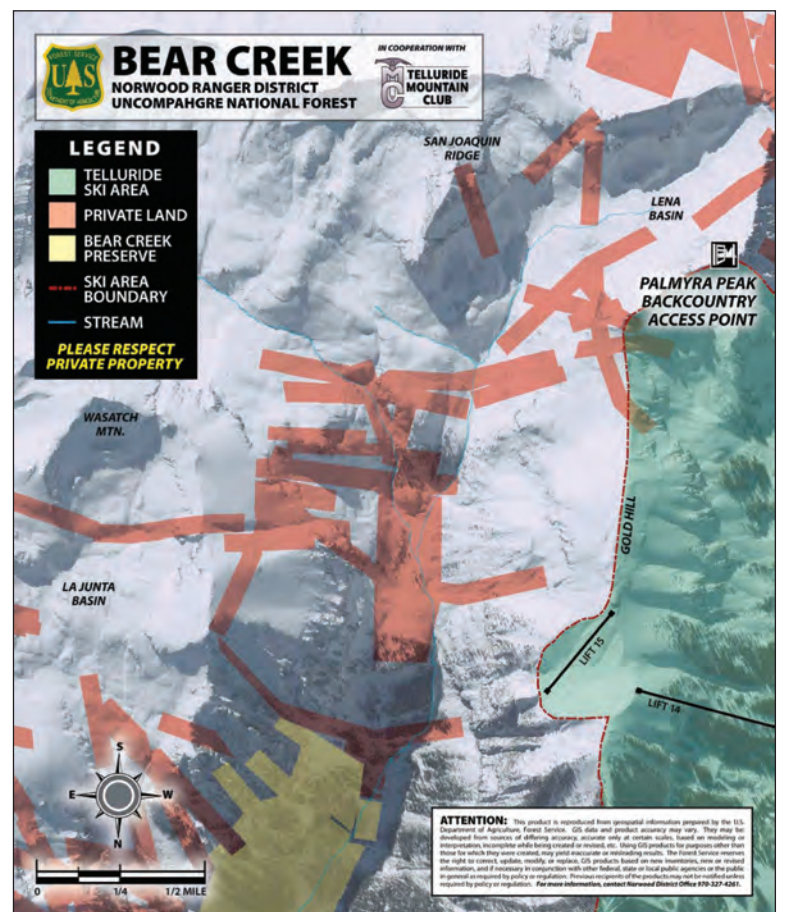
The Forest Service worked with Telluride Mountain Club — an organization that advocates for access to public lands — over the course of the winter on various proposals to restore access while reducing the potential for trespass across private lands, and this was the first to stick.

"We really started working with Telluride Mountain Club because they had some good on-the-ground knowledge," Schutza said.

The idea is to try this out for the remainder of the season, and continue talks with skiers, backcountry enthusiasts, government officials and more over the course of the summer, she said.

Since it sits high on the peak, reaching the access point requires a fairly strenuous hike by skiers (accessed by Lift 12.) But the point offers access to Alta Lakes Basin, Lena Basin and Bear Creek. It could, of course, be used by skiers to ski into Upper Bear Creek — which is home to the areas of private property that owners want skiers to stay off.

But the higher point aims at giving skiers more options for contouring around private property. To that end, the Forest Service has developed a map that shows landmarks and depicts private lands in the basin. Copies of the maps will be available from Ski Patrol and on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests website. Skiers are encouraged to use the maps to guide them to



This map provided by the U.S. Forest Service shows Bear Creek, highlighting private land in red and Telski land in green. [Courtesy image]

areas that are not privately owned or to terrain that doesn't affect private land.

"Backcountry skiers and snowboarders need to be respectful of private land and reference the map developed with the TMC to avoid private property," Schutza said in a release.

A look at the map, however, shows that avoiding private property poses a difficult task, as private lands form what appears to be a wall between the high terrain of Upper Bear Creek and the exit points below.

Nevertheless, the gate comes as a victory for Telluride Mountain Club, which worked

hard over the winter to restore access for backcountry skiers.

Tor Anderson, president of TMC, said he is pleased that something was accomplished from the efforts and looks forward to further collaboration with the USFS. He credited Lance McDonald and other backcountry skiers for providing extensive knowledge of the terrain and good ideas.

"We talked about some different ways to manage the gates a little better so they didn't pour people right down on private lands," he said.

Although there is still a lot of work to be done, Anderson said, "it's a good start."