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President Bush stresses values during visit

By JAY GENTILE

President George W. Bush defended his administration's controversial foreign policy while stressing the values of community and character in a speech delivered from the Estes Park Center/YMCA of the Rockies Tuesday afternoon.

After speeding through downtown Estes Park in a 24-car motorcade, Bush spent the morning clearing brush for fire prevention and working on a trail in the Emerald Mountain area that borders the YMCA and Rocky Mountain National Park.

At the urging of the Secret Service, demonstrators who planned on gathering at the YMCA grounds were told to set up camp at Bond Park in downtown Estes Park, where 150 people showed up to protest Bush's environmental policies.

Approximately 2,000 people lined Elkhorn and Moraine Avenues to witness the motorcade cruise by. One man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after witnesses told police that he was encouraging people to throw rolls of toilet paper at the motorcade.

After grabbing some barbecue brisket, corn-on-the-cob and fruit salad from the food line at the YMCA, a smiling Bush made his way past the cameras to one of the picnic tables where he ate lunch with a group of about 150 campers.

Calling Estes Park "this little slice of heaven" from behind the wooden podium's presidential seal, Bush noted his appointments of Interior Secretary Gale Norton and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella — both of whom accompanied him on his trip to Colorado.

"At the very minimum, the maintenance backlog in these (national) parks needs to be taken care of," Bush said, announcing his pledge of \$5 billion over the next five years to end that work backlog.

Bush has been criticized for focusing on roads and buildings at the expense of the environment. According to the National Parks Conservation Association, 98 percent of that \$5 billion is dedicated to roads and facilities.

Bush said he enjoyed talking to staff at Rocky Mountain National Park and seeing "the wise public policy being employed here," most notably the "wise, common sense approach to how we thin out our forests."

Bush then gave a plug for Governor Bill Owens and Colorado's top Republican politicians like Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Wayne Allard.

A fund-raiser Bush later attended in Denver raised \$1.4 million for the GOP.

"We are making some progress in Washington,

See President: Page 2



Photo by Walt Hester

Rocky Mountain National Park's Colorado River District Trails Supervisor Kevin Pellini explains the Park's trail restoration project to President George W. Bush in the Park on Tuesday. The president stopped in the Park and at the Estes Park Center/YMCA as part of his brisk Heartland Tour. The president returned to Denver later Tuesday afternoon where he attended a Republican fund-raising dinner.

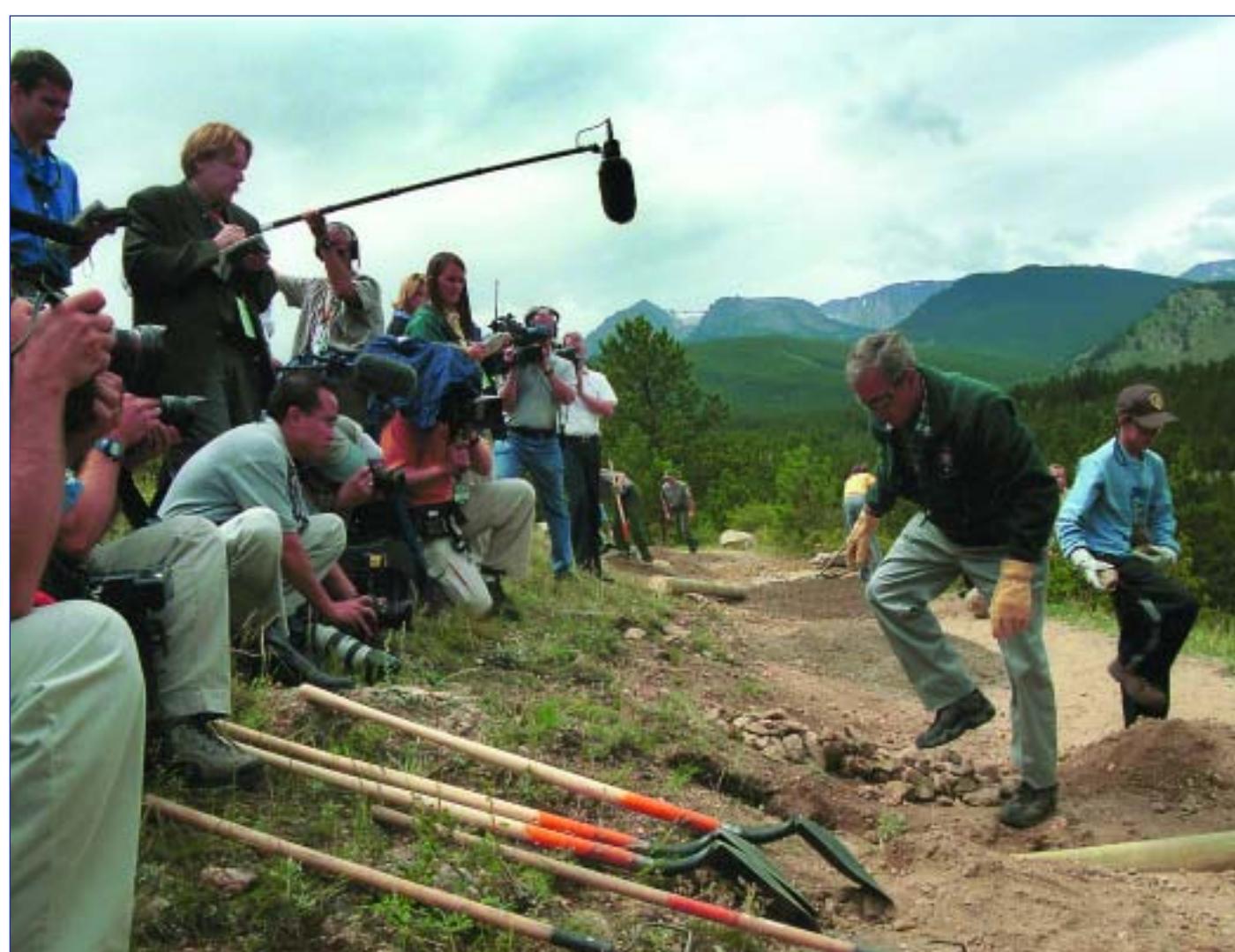


Photo by Walt Hester

The local press pool crowds in to document President Bush helping create a water bar on a trail in Rocky Mountain National Park on Tuesday. The press crowd swelled considerably when the president drove down to the Estes Park Center/YMCA for a picnic lunch.

Voters to decide on proposed multi-purpose facility for Stanley Park

By JAY GENTILE

The new 42,000 square foot multi-purpose ice skating facility being considered in Stanley Park will cost approximately \$6.1 million, local architect Roger Thorp told the Town Board at its meeting Tuesday night.

The facility will be used as an ice rink for six months (October 16 to April 15) while it is operated by the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD). The rest of the year it will be operated by the Town of Estes Park for conferences and events.

The Town will pitch in \$2.8 million for the center, with the EVRPD paying \$3.3 million. The Town has the money for the project, but the Recreation District will have to raise its share through a bond election.

The EVRPD is planning on placing a question on the voting ballot this November asking voters whether or not they are willing to fund the facility.

If it is approved in November, the construction team hopes to secure all construction documents by January and then



Artist's rendering of the proposed multi-purpose facility being considered for Stanley Park. The first phase calls for construction of the ice skating rink located to the right in this rendering.

begin construction. Completion is targeted for Christmas of 2002.

Yet, this facility is only one aspect of a greater 111,000 square foot project that will cost between \$11 and \$12 million.

It has been designed as one project that

includes three major areas. The other two areas will be constructed if the community decides to add onto the ice skating facility in the future.

Those other two areas include an equestrian area for horse shows and a

section for two tennis/basketball courts with a locker room, restroom facility and youth center.

When the ice rink is in place, it will seat approximately 1,200 people. The lower level of bleachers can be pushed back for special events like a musical performance or high school graduation to accommodate a total of 4,000 people.

The equestrian area, if it is built in the future, would add another 2,000 seats.

The facility is envisioned as a one-story building with an upper level of fixed seating and meeting rooms.

The lower level includes offices, a pro shop, skate rental area, concessions, lockers and shower rooms. All three parts of the larger facility would be served through this main entrance area.

"This portion would be designed with a concrete floor," said Thorp. It would have ice on top of it in winter. The ice would be melted off in the summer. "We also have the option of bringing in a layer of dirt for equestrian shows in this area as well," said Thorp.

See Facility: Page 2

Walkway plans move forward

By JAY GENTILE

The Estes Park Urban Renewal Authority is moving forward on what has been identified as Walkway Westward's top three priorities, which are redevelopment of the Bob's Amoco area, Weist Drive parking lot and Performance Park areas.

A deal has been made with gas station owner Bob Howell. He will relocate to a new area on Dunraven Street, once closing is complete by the first of next year. The amount EPURA paid for the property is being kept confidential until then.

In its place, EPURA hopes to attract and put in a major retailer like L.L. Bean or Crispy Creme Doughnuts at the downtown location.

To accommodate the new development, EPURA will need to remove some Town-owned rock to make room for additional parking in the Weist Drive parking lot.

EPURA has talked with rock removal specialist Yenter Companies to get their assessment of the project.

"It looks like we can increase (the lot) by about 50 spaces by removing a modest amount of rock," said EPURA Executive Director Wil Smith. Restriping of the lot will also add another 20 spaces, Smith said.

A ballpark cost estimate for that project is \$100,000, but more detailed estimates will be forthcoming.

At its meeting Wednesday, EPURA authorized \$59,000 to be spent on detailed planning work to show what exactly it would entail and cost to move ahead with the three priority developments.

The gas station plans will cost \$14,000, Weist parking plans will cost \$7,000, and more detailed planning on Performance Park will cost \$38,000.

Performance Park is envisioned as an anchor on the far west end of Walkway Westward. An amphitheater or performance area is being pro-

See Walkway: Page 5

Facility: \$6.1 million needed for first phase of construction

Continued from page 1

The \$6.1 million includes the entrance area and the multi-use ice skating facility.

The lower portion of the building's exterior would be made of stone, the arena made of steel with a stucco finish, and the entrance area "more rusticated" with tall wood piers.

The interior would feature a tall ceiling with large windows to give the place a large sense of scale, Thorp said.

The multi-use ice skating center could be heated, insulated and carpeted so that it can host winter events, like a Valentine's Day dance for example, without melting the ice.

By the end of the month, the design/build team of Thorp Associates and Heath Construction will hand in drawings with more detailed cost estimates. Presentation materials for public inspection will be made available at that time as well.

The Town and EVRPD boards both approved a preliminary design for the new facility in late March and early April.

"On April 5, we got started with formal interviews with user groups," Thorp said. These groups included Scottish Festival, the tennis association, equestrian groups, ice hockey groups, the Youth Center and the Estes Park Conference Center.

The larger plan of the entire three-part facility embodies the uses that these groups said they wanted in the new facility.

The building footprint will overlap 100 feet of the horse racing track at Stanley Park. Thorp said horse racing will no longer be possible as a result, but said that old timers in town don't ever remember it being used for racing.

It is used more for delivery of materials and to haul in horses for events. These uses will continue if the facility is built.

The EVRPD may pay for its share either through a lease agreement, in which the Town pays for it all, and the EVRPD pays it back over 20 years, or through a bond issue.

Thorp added that about

a year ago, the EVRPD looked at an outdoor ice arena in Bond Park. That facility, without the indoor and multi-purpose aspect to it, would have cost \$3.1 million, he said.

Other business

- The Town Board approved the "Police and Businesses in Partnership" program in which the Estes Park Police Department and Chamber Resort Association team up to decrease instances of business theft and fraud.

Once a crime is committed, dispatch will fax the Chamber a description of the suspect, which will be e-mailed to 350 Chamber businesses.

"I don't want it to be perceived as something that is overstepping and creating a police state environment," said Trustee Sue Doylen. "These people are suspects. We have to be very careful about how we share that information."

Doylen suggested that police give a report on the progress of the new program in six months time.

The Board then approved it unanimously.

- Dick Putney was re-appointed chair of the Estes Park Urban Renewal Authority for another term that will last until 2006.

"I think he's done an excellent job for the Authority and an excellent job for the community," said Mayor John Baudek, "and I think he will continue doing so."

- June sales tax numbers are up 6.9 percent over 2000, Town Administrator Rich Widmer said. Year to date from January through June, sales tax is up 5.8 percent.

"That's pretty good news," Widmer said. The grocery, restaurant, and accommodations industries are all up from last year.

"Through May, the retail segment is the only segment that is really lacking," Widmer said. "That's the weak part of the economy, at least through May."

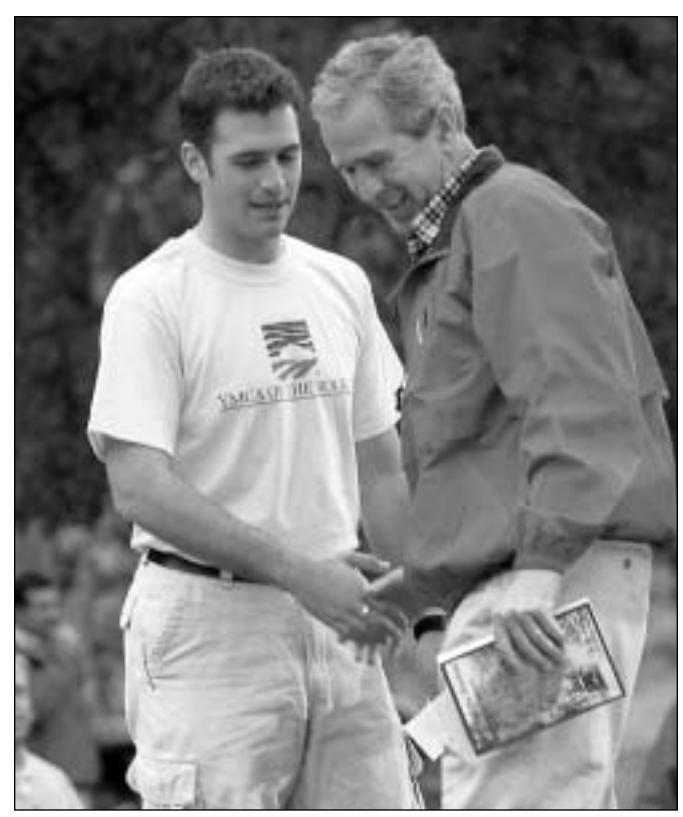


Photo by Walt Hester

Membership has its privileges

President Bush, on right, receives a lifetime membership to the YMCA of the Rockies on Tuesday from camp counselor Joeseph Ardito. George W. Bush was the first U.S. president to visit the camp in its history.

President: Bush touts his administration

Continued from page 1

starting with changing the tone," Bush said against a backdrop of cloud-covered mountain peaks. "Party is important, but it's not paramount. What's more important is country."

"We're sending a clear message overseas that ours is a proud nation that will promote the peace," he said. "But we're not going to sign on to every single agreement that somebody thought might have been good."

Bush has been criticized for his rejection of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming and his steps towards building a missile defense system, which would likely violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty the U.S. signed with the Soviet Union in 1972.

Bush said he has taken steps to befriend Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying that the Cold War is history and "the days of aiming warheads at each other" are over.

"The spirit of America is found in the character of our citizens," he said, launching into the main focus of his speech. "This is a community of character."

He stressed the values of respect — specifically respect of the land, respect of "someone with whom you might not agree," respect of your neighbor, no matter where they are from, and respect for different religious views.

"There's also a place for faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs," Bush said. "We shouldn't fear faith in America. This is a nation of character and values, and I'm so happy to be at a place that teaches values."

"He gave two speeches today," said Governor Owens in a quick interview with the Trail-Gazette after the speech. "One was to the nation and the other was to the campers. It was a good speech to a bunch of youngsters who don't get to hear the president very often."

"I think this is the most amazing thing I've ever seen. I think the president is speaking from his heart," said Republican Tim Fritz, who represents Estes Park's district in Colorado's House of Representatives. "You can tell he really loves the land."

Other views

Back behind the yellow police line tape at Bond Park, demonstrators held signs and photos of Colorado lands they say are in jeopardy due to Bush's policies, as well as a much different point of view.

"No one should be fooled by President Bush's disingenuous photo opportunity," said Harlin Savage of the American Lands Alliance.

"While he clears a few feet of trail for the cameras here," Savage said, "back in

Washington his administration is pushing plans that could lead to bulldozing, chainsawing, and drilling in some of the last wild lands on national forests in Colorado."

Savage said five times more people showed up for the protest than expected, "which I think is a sign about how upset these people are about how upset these people are about the policies this administration is setting."

Demonstrators, some dressed as animals like bears and wolves, hailed from major environmental groups like the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Colorado Mountain Club. They were joined by concerned residents of Estes Park, Denver, Boulder and surrounding communities.

"The fact that we were made to stand in a cordoned off area miles from the event tells me that the president doesn't want to hear from those who question or disapprove of his administration's efforts to hand over some of our most treasured public lands to the timber, oil, gas and mining industries," Savage said.

Specifically, the groups oppose Bush's efforts to weaken a Clinton administration rule that designated 30 percent of America's national forest as roadless, as well as his national energy policy that would open up new U.S. and Colorado lands to drilling.

"The president's energy policies could turn Colorado and the West into a sacrifice zone for panic development of short-term energy supplies," said Steve Smith of the Sierra Club.

Police view

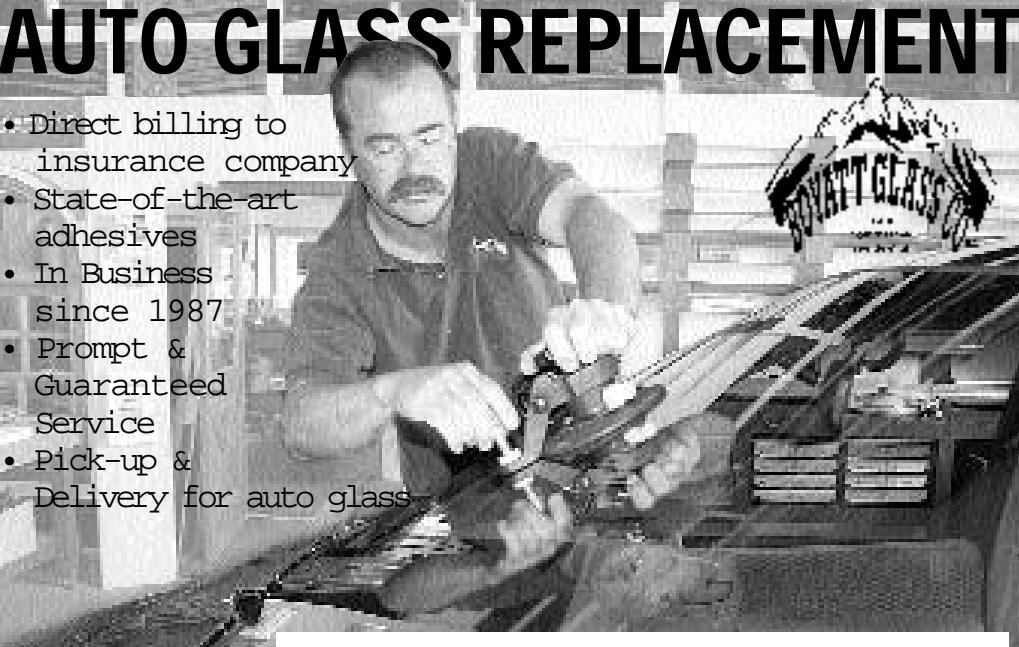
"We were very pleased with the way the crowds reacted," said Corporal Eric Rose of the Estes Park Police Department. "Except for one, everyone had the opportunity to demonstrate and did so in an appropriate manner."

The arrest came at 11:29 a.m., when police took a call from a witness who said John Fischer, 35, of Longmont, was handing out rolls of toilet paper and encouraging people to throw them at the motorcade.

No one actually threw anything at the motorcade, Rose said. The toilet paper rolls featured images of Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney and key members of his administration with words like "Bush Wipe" and "Dick Wipe."

The Town of Estes Park was represented by 47 members of the police and fire departments, parks and recreation and public works departments. Their traffic control efforts were assisted by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Colorado State Patrol, Fort Collins and Loveland Police Departments.

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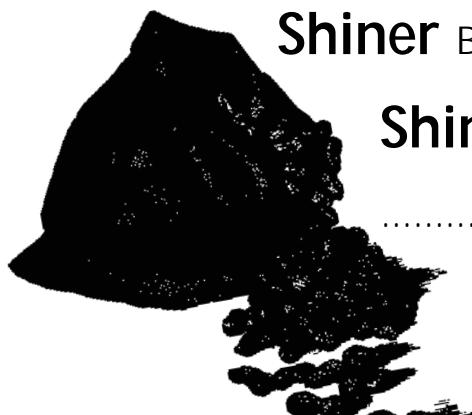
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