

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 7:00 PM**

Call to Order

Mayor Art Riddile called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Mariscal
Councilor Leifeld
Councilor Carey
Mayor Hazelton
Councilor Copeland
Councilor Sampley
Councilor G Riddile

Absent none

Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Planner Paul Smith, Attorney Mike Sawyer and members of the public.

Meeting Notice

Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2026-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no Citizen Comments

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – present for agenda items

Consultant Engineer – not present

Items for Consideration

Oaths of Office – Councilor Daniel Leifeld

Clerk Andis swore in the newly appointed Councilor Daniel Leifeld.

Update – Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District

Kathryn Kuhlenberg Transitional Executive, gave an update on Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District. She said it has been 6 months since the tax measure had passed and there's been a lot happening behind the scenes. For the first 3 months, the

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board has established itself, making sure to file the right paperwork, get things running to collect the tax. She said she was hired as a part time executive and currently the board is trying to find a full-time executive director. Ms. Kuhlenberg said this is a whole new government agency, so a lot of work that she has been doing has been supporting their board to get up and running, so they have conducted board training and been building out internal board policies. Ms. Kuhlenberg said there has been some tax already collected and they didn't anticipate it to be collected until after the first quarter. Currently the tax revenue is being held in a trust. Ms. Kuhlenberg said the work that she is doing with the board right now is building up their knowledge around early childhood. The tax district runs from Parachute to Aspen. She said the foundation within the district varies greatly from Aspen to Parachute. Ms. Kuhlenberg said they are also working on renaming the special district. Right now, it is Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District (CECDS). The board did approve a name change to Every Child Colloquially. She said the name change is not official until it has been approved by district court in all three counties. Once the district courts approve the name changed then it will be official and they will make it public. Ms. Kuhlenberg said the board has adopted a mission and vision statement. The mission is: We ensure every child from Parachute to Aspen has a strong foundation for success by investing in accessible, high-quality early childhood education. And the long-term vision is we envision a bright future where children flourish, families thrive, and local economies prosper within our sustainable and livable communities. She said the board wants the district to do right, to do it well and not to take shortcuts. Ms. Kuhlenberg said she is the only employee of the government district and she is working creatively to build out a first-year funding scheme that, hopefully, can get off the ground and be ready to get some money out. She said they are also working on a long-term data project. So hopefully getting out some data gathering mechanisms this fall to help the district to truly understand what the needs are of families and providers. The district has some general information, but that was really focused on a campaign, and that's different than the information that you need when you're building out a program of support. And early childhood is complex. Early childhood is very personal, and the notion that it can just be an extension of K-12. The 0-5 years are very different, and families have a much greater interest in the care for their child in those 0-5 years and so building out a mixed delivery system that hits that and accounts for all of that is a complex task. Ms. Kuhlenberg said this type of district is the first of its kind in our state and in the country. It's been construction something from the ground up.

Councilor Leifeld asked if there was anything the council could do to help Ms. Kuhlenberg. Ms. Kuhlenberg said the best thing that council could do was to support the elected board as they step into their role.

Councilor Carey thanked Ms. Kuhlenberg for work on getting the groundwork started.

Mayor Hazelton said he would like to have another update as the program starts to move forward.

Councilor Riddle asked when there would be some programming be available to the public. Ms. Kuhlenberg said hopefully in the next 60 days would be ideal. It would be for the first-year funding not long-term. Councilor Riddle asked if the district is picking a priority or a full court press. Ms. Kuhlenberg said full court press and trying to come up

with one mechanism that hits a lot of them, and again, in a way that isn't overly burdensome, because there is no staff.

Update – CPW Zebra Mussels

Robert Walters, Invasive Species Program Manager, reviewed the presentation with council (**Exhibit A**).

Councilor Sampley asked if the cleaning stations were in along the Colorado River or will be putting in. Mr. Walters said both. There are already some at the busier boat launches in the Grand Junction area. He said their top priority is to place the cleaning stations at all the boat launches that are infested which runs from Eagle to the state line.

Councilor Leifeld asked if CPW has done any testing or monitoring for Elk Creek. Mr. Walters said not at this time.

Councilor Carey said one of her concerns is safeguarding the town's river pumps for when the town has to pull water from the Colorado River from getting the Zebra Mussels into the pumps and up to the water treatment plant and what can the town do. Mr. Walters said it's a challenging scenario that the town faces there, because his recommendation would be to try to limit the amount of water that the town is pulling from the river at the times that have the highest probability that Zebra Mussels are passing through the system. Unfortunately, that's when the water temperatures and the air temperatures are really warm, which is probably when the town needs the water the most for irrigation purposes, so there's not a great solution to offer there. He said could try to fill the pond earlier in the season and then limit the amount you're taking in during the heart of the summer, it would reduce the likelihood, but certainly not needed.

Administrator Reynolds said the Grand River Park is a standalone park. There is an inlet that comes off the river, feeds the pond and the question is can it be eradicated from the pond. He said what happens at the pond is it will drain from the pond into a pump house that's over there, and there's a pit over there that will hold the water. And that's where Administrator Reynolds believes the town is most susceptible. Administrator Reynolds explained from there water is pumped out into the irrigation, so those lines pretty much stay dry until such time as we pick up from the pit. So, there's a weak link there between the pond and the internal pit in that pump house building. Administrator Reynolds there are auxiliary pumps that can pull out of the river and pump over a mile uphill to the water treatment plant, where it becomes filtered. Administrator Reynolds explained there are still spots down by the river where there might be water being held. For example, we pull of the head gate that will be pumped out of and then force it uphill. With the water being stagnant the town will need to watch that. Once the water is picked up from there and is flushed up the hill at a great velocity. Administrator Reynolds said the likelihood of infestation along those lines and into the water treatment plant are slim, and the filtering system, the chlorination system, will kill them at that point. So, our weakest spots are the standalone irrigation in the park. Mr. Walters said it's the settling areas before the flowing parts of the system that are at the highest level of risk, and certainly we would be more than willing to come to help sample or survey those settling ponds if they were identified within your respective system. He said it's really the flowing water is really not the concern. The Bureau of Reclamation has done a lot of work on this in their systems, and if

you're seeing 60 CFS through the system, it's very likely that they're not going to attach, but if that shuts off for an extended period of time. That's when you start to see some risk. Mayor Hazelton asked if there was something that the town could do from the pump system to the water treatment plant. Administrator Reynolds said the distance from the water treatment plant back down to the pumps at the river don't have standing water in it. The only time those pipes are charged is when we turn on the pumps, and then when we turn them off and they're not used, the pipes are empty as well as the pumps empty out. Administrator Reynolds said believes there could be a spot in the inlet, in the pickup that's got the potential to have standing water there, and that would be our weak spot. Mr. Walters said chemical treatment and any sort of remaining water is an option. Another option is heating; mussels don't like water over 120-140 degrees. He said if the town could dewater over the winter, that is another really effective measure. Mr. Walters said the town might consider the same thing at the pond at Grand River Park. He said lowering the water level would expose a lot of the mussels that were in there and killed them, so that alone is going to help kind of limit the population expansion out of that pond. He said if it's possible to completely dewater the pond in the winter would be a very effective way to potentially kill them. Mr. Walters said if the town would use a chemical such as Molluscicide treatment in the pond but then it could accidentally get released back into the Colorado River and could have significant impacts on the fish population. Councilor Leifeld asked how long it would take the mussels to die once they are out of the water. Mr. Walters said about 30 days they can survive without water.

Consider Water Lease Agreement

Administrator Reynolds said at the last council work session Attorney Mike Sawyer gave an update to the council on the town's water rights, various water rights seniorities, water delivery systems, and possible scenarios that may play out during extreme drought year. He said one of the recommendations which was discussed the work session was Attorney Sawyer suggested the possibility of temporarily leasing Coryell Ditch water rights from TC Midwest to further secure additional Elk Creek water for the next several months. Following work session, staff and attorney Sawyer contacted TC Midwest representatives to discuss such a lease agreement. As a result of these discussions, council now has the opportunity to consider a six-month lease agreement for use of Coryell Ditch Water Rights that are currently owned by TC Midwest. Attorney Sawyer reviewed the lease with the council. He said he was able to contact the attorney for TC Midwest, who then coordinated with his client. TC Midwest has agreed to lease the full amount of water rights that TC Midwest owns in the Coryell Ditch which is senior priority to the town of the 2026 water year. Attorney Sawyer said TC Midwest have the town's form of lease that we've previously used and made a few minor edits to the lease agreement. He said staff is seeking the council's authority to have Administrator Reynolds sign the agreement. The amount to lease the water rights is \$500.00 for the summer. Attorney Sawyer said he was waiting for a couple of deeds to confirm how much TC Midwest obtained from CVR Investors, who was their predecessor and interest, and unfortunately, the deed that was used in the conveyance from CVR investors to TC Midwest was not specific to the amount. Once he has received the information then Administrator Reynolds could

sign the lease if council approves the lease agreement. Attorney Sawyer said that it would take the town's ownership in the senior Coryell water rights from about 1.6 CFS to around 2.1, 2.2 CFS. He said the Coryell Ditch Water Right, are senior rights, therefore they can be used interchangeably, both at the water plant and at the Red Rocks Ditch, to divert water for irrigation purposes.

Councilor Riddile asked what the seniority of the water rights from TC Midwest were. Are the rights senior to Ware and Hinds and the Cameo. Attorney Sawyer said the water rights are senior to Cameo but not to all of Ware and Hinds. The water rights are more senior than the town's existing water rights.

Councilor Riddile asked once Castle Valley Ranch is built out and the town would eventually take possession of all the water rights, do we know the amount of water the would eventually end up with. Attorney Sawyer said there are two parts to the question. The annexation agreement with Castle Valley Ranch contemplates that the full believes it's 2.7 CFS in the senior Coryell Ditch water right would ultimately come to the town's ownership, and that would be sufficient to serve 1400 units in Castle Valley Ranch. He believes includes the current anticipated build-out, including the land on the west side of, the county road that Eric Williams still owns, which is part of the Castle Valley PUD. Attorney Sawyer said the second part to the question is a couple years ago, the town undertook an audit of water rights dedications that had been made by previous developers, previous filings to ensure that the town had received the appropriate amount of water, and what we found is that the formula had been applied, correctly in previous donations. He said assuming Castle Valley develops to its full potential of 1,400 units the full amount of the senior water right would come to the town. Attorney Sawyer said for some reason the density at Castle Valley ended up being less than 1400 units. Then, the town would negotiate with Eric Williams to buy whatever the remainder of that water right is available.

MOTION: Mayor Hazelton made a motion to Authorize Town Administrator Dave Reynolds to Sign the Water Lease Agreement. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Presentation –The Ripple Effect - Staff

Assistant Rochelle Firth and Clerk Mindy Andis reviewed their presentation with council (**Exhibit B**).

Assistant Firth said she and Clerk Andis had attend a CMC Leadership course called the Ripple Effect for the past 5 weeks. Assistant Firth said the class focused on leadership styles, different styles of communication and how to be leaders in your organizations. Clerk Andis said as part of the course they were required to create a group community project that would create a Ripple Effect in their communities. Clerk Andis said her group chose to install Wind Phones in Silt and New Castle.

Assistant Firth explained what a Wind Phone was. She said Planner Smith had received a call from a New Castle resident about a Wind Phone. The resident said she had lost her husband and her children were unable to say goodbye to their father. Assistant Firth said that was how the team got the idea for a Wind Phone. She said the Wind Phone began in Japan in 2010 as a deeply personal way to cope with grief, created by Itaru Sasaki after losing his cousin to cancer. The purpose of the Wind Phone was to carry words on the wind to loved ones. Assistant Firth explained in 2011 there was a devastating earthquake and tsunami that killed nearly 20,000 people. Survivors began hearing about the phone and asked to talk to loved ones they had lost.

Clerk Andis said you can't simply install a phone and call it a Wind Phone. There are specific conditions that would need to be met. Clerk Andis explained the phone would need to be in a serene spot that gives visitors a sense of privacy for reflection, allowing them to express their emotions without feeling exposed, such as parks, gardens and natural preserves.

Assistant Firth said the project needed to be completed in a short amount of time, the team had decided to install the phones in the cemetery at Silt and New Castle. Since the class is over there, she said her and Clerk Andis have had some time to rethink the location of the phone. Some of the ideas they came up with was at Frank Breslin Park along the river and Rollie Gordon Trail along the creek. Clerk Andis said people in the community suffer from different emotional disconnects such as heartbreaks, divorce and passing of a loved one. Assistant Firth said the team had reached out to medical providers about the project. The feedback that was received was to include information about crisis resources.

Councilor Riddile asked to explain what the class was about. Assistant Firth said it was to teach us the different leadership styles, communication styles and give a better understanding about how to deal with coworkers.

Councilor Leifeld asked once the phone is installed who would be responsible to the upkeep. Assistant Firth said she and Clerk Andis would keep an eye on it. There really is nothing for upkeep, just making sure there is no vandalism and possibly stain it once a year.

Mayor Hazelton said it was a great idea, and it screams New Castle.

Council agreed for Assistant Firth and Clerk Andis to move forward with the project.

Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority

MOTION: Councilor Riddile made a motion to recess the Town Council Meeting and Convene the Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Chamber of Commerce for a Special Event Liquor License for their Block Party Event on June 12, 2026

Clerk Mindy Andis said her office had received the special event liquor license on May 2, 2026. The event is for the Chamber of Commerce Block Party. The event will be held on June 12, 2026, from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. The license is from 9:00am – 11:00pm which would give the Chamber of Commerce enough time to set up and tear down. Staff is

recommending the last call to be half an hour before the end of the event. New Castle Chamber of Commerce has legal possession of the intended premises through a rental agreement. The event includes one food truck, The Rolling Fork has been approved by Garfield County Health Department. There are chamber staff members who are Safe serve (TIPS) certified and will oversee the alcohol service. If the Authority's consensus is to approve the attached application for a special event liquor permit for the New Castle Chamber of Commerce, the Clerk's Office staff recommends that Authority consider the following conditions:

- That a 100% ID check be conducted because only individuals that meet the eligible drinking age of 21 should be served alcohol.
- That 'last call' for service of alcoholic beverages be a half-hour prior to the end of the event to allow patrons to finish their beverages before leaving the venue.

The Clerk's Office staff recommends approval of the application.

MOTION: Councilor Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Event Liquor License from the New Castle Chamber of Commerce for their Block Party Event on June 12, 2026. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Adjourn the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilor Riddile made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing Authority and Convene the Town Council Meeting. Mayor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance TC2026-5 – Amending Chapter 15.25 of the New Castle Municipal Code with the Adoption of the 2025 Edition of the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code with Amendments (1st reading)

Administrator Reynolds said a few years ago the town had adopted a version of the WUI code. He said there is a state mandate that needs to be fulfilled. Administrator Reynolds said Planner Smith has been working with CRFR for the mapping.

Planner Smith reviewed his staff report with the council. He said now the town needs to adopt the state version of the WUI code which is now called the 2025 Edition of the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code. Planner Smith said the WUI Code requires structure hardening to make sure that if there was a wildland fire that the structure doesn't ignite. He said there is also part of the code that addresses mitigation of trees and vegetation that would be flammable around the structure. Planner Smith said in recognition of the increasing threat of wildland fire to the community, Town Council adopted the 2021 ICC Wildland Urban Interface Code with amendments to improve ignition resistance and fuel reduction for new structures. At the beginning of 2026, Council further codified more stringent ignition resistance requirements (Class A flame spread) for new structures. In both instances, requirements for *existing* structures were not considered. He said

recently, the state of Colorado has mandated the adoption of its Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC) statewide. After reviewing, Staff concludes that the Town's WUI code and the CWRC are quite compatible. One notable difference is that the CWRC does require resiliency upgrades with additions and alterations for existing structures beyond certain square footage thresholds. These thresholds and requirements include (CWRC Section 101.5):

- * When the work increases the building footprint by 500sf or more, the increased footprint of the structure must comply with CWRC – Only the increased area shall comply.
- * When 25% or more of the surface area of a roof is replaced – The entire roof shall comply.
- * When 25% or more of the total exterior wall surface area is replaced or reconstructed – The entire wall surface area shall comply & the defensible space with 5' must comply.

Planner Smith said Town permitting records demonstrate that very few existing properties would have been affected by these provisions had the code been in effect over the past 10 years. Staff anticipates that approximately one existing home a year may be affected by the CWRC. The state board for the CWRC has also performed a baseline risk assessment (see mapping below) which projects varying levels of fire intensity throughout the Town and prescribes treatments for structure hardening and defensible space commensurate with those projections. Based on the CWRC mapping alone, different areas of New Castle have different levels of risk (sometimes even on the same street) and thus different levels of mitigation standards. However, upon review of the mapping, Colorado River Fire Rescue (CRFR) maintains that due to the surrounding topography, fuel sources, and evacuation constraints, New Castle in its **entirety** should be classified uniformly at the highest hazard level and therefore governed by CRWC's most stringent structure hardening. Since the provisions of the CWRC allow for local customization of the mapping, staff recommends amending the following section of the CWRC to read:

Section 303.1.2 shall read: "The AHJ may develop and adopt local maps designating wildfire hazard and fire intensity classifications within its jurisdiction boundaries in accordance with Sections 303.1 through 303.3. The AJI shall adopt intensity classifications no less severe than those recommended by CRFR and/or other local fire authorities. Local maps shall be updated accordingly."

Planner Smith said in New Castle there is traditional siding. In Castle Valley Ranch there are smart siding which is synthetic engineered type of material. That runs roughly about \$10 a square foot. Hardy plank are fire-resistant and are used on the newer homes in Castle Valley Ranch. He said the installation takes a little bit longer, takes a little more

specialty. Planner Smith said in Lakota Canyon Ranch the HOA requires wood siding and in those cases, they do have to typically find fire-retardant treated wood, which bumps the price up considerably. So, it's probably about 50%, that is driven by the design review.

Councilor Riddile asked if the fire-retardant would need to be reapplied. Planner Smith said no, it is infused into the wood. The code specifically says the fire retardant can't be painted on or stained it has been infused wood. Planner Smith explained the fire hazard map (**Exhibit C**). He said the mapping that's provided by the state shows the classifies of where the various hazards are in the community based on technology. There are some areas in New Castle where there is no color, specifically downtown. Planner Smith Said Mt. Medearis, Castle Valley Ranch and Lakota Canyon Ranch does have yellow coloring which is a higher hazard, and the BLM is red which is the highest hazard. He said the new code, uses as its assessment; and it's the same data that we collected back to 2012. Planner Smith said the recommendation from the fire department surrounding hilly topography the types of fuel sources surrounding the town, within town, the open spaces within town, and then also the evacuation routes, and some of the constraints there was the history of the area based in small towns, that the threat to New Castle was more significant than what the map really suggests. He said back in 2023 or 2024, the council wanted to go with a higher risk assessment, and therefore more rigorous standard for fire protection than what was being found.

Fire Marshal Orrin Moon said there's some similarities that CRFR has seen in the area for example the Coal Seam Fire. He said the hillside of the Coal Seam Fire is similar to the Burning Mountain hillside The area is unmapped. Fire Marshal Moon said if there was a wildfire in the west and come up over the ridge, or come around from Appletree Park, the town would get embers and have the same thing happen as it did with Coal Seam Fire. He said the embers from the fire crossed the river and crossed the interstate and burning on the other side of Highway 6 in Glenwood Springs. He said there is the same potential here. Fire Marshal said Moon said there is a coal seam that's about 5 miles out of town up Count Road 245. He said we get prevailing winds in the evening are coming from the west and the northwest and the concern is the sending embers into the town. Fire Marshal Moon said there's been a number of subdivisions where the fire didn't impinge on the town, but the embers impinged on the town and started the fires in the homes, and then there were wood fences around the homes and the fences kept the fire going. He said we need to be as vigilant as we can about what our concerns are around here and what we can do. Planner Smith said one of the peculiarities of the map is in Lakota Canyon Ranch is some of the neighboring properties will be color, high hazard, and then across the street is no hazard. He said Fire Marshal Moon has been in meetings with the state and fortunately have provided a provision in the code that allows you to amend the map. Planner Smith said staff is looking at moving forward with what we already have, increasing the risk hazard for New Castle to a higher-level risk of resiliency than what shows on the current map. Planner Smith said there are two levels Class 1 and Class 2 He

said the difference between Class 1 and Class 2 is the exterior siding.

Fire Chief Leif Sackett said it makes a difference, and it's a lot easier when we're consistent across the board for this mapping for everyone.

Councilor Carey thanked Planner Smith and CRFR for being proactive with the code.

Councilor Liefeld asked if there was any data that shows the impacts of the fire resistance. He said one thing he keeps hearing is it's too hard and too expensive to building in New Castle. Councilor Liefeld said if it impacts the cost to build, he wants to make sure the material would actually stop the spread of fire. Fire Marshal Moon said fire is funny. It does weird things. It goes down through neighborhoods, and it takes out 4 or 5 houses and will leave one or two, because just the way the wind went, or the way the separation was, or maybe one had cottonwood tree in the yard. He said it depends on what's around there because of the moisture in the cottonwood trees. Fire Marshal Moon said yes, there have been homes have been saved that have done the ignition-resistant construction. Fire Chief Sackett said it's not just the ignition-resistant material, it also has to do with mitigation of the property. He said having wooded fences against the home will make a difference if it's five feet away or having zeroscape right around your house for that first 5 feet. Fire Chief Sackett reiterated it's not just the ignition-resistant materials, it's also that mitigation that goes along with it.

MOTION: Councilor Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC2026-5 – 2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (1st reading). Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote with one No vote. Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Carey: yes; Mayor Hazelton; Councilor Liefeld: no; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor Sampley: yes; Councilor Riddile: yes.

Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests it, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda.

Councilor Carey asked for the minutes to be removed for further review

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May bills \$909,587.81

MOTION: Councilor Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the minutes. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator –Administrator Reynolds said Moo LLC was approved through a CUP

process to have two food trucks. He said there are two food trucks with an ice cream parlor inside of the building along with a commercial kitchen. During the process there was discussion about having any outdoor music at the time there would be no music. Now since they are set up and had time to think about. They asking what it would look like to have live music. Administrator Reynolds said staff agreed it would be an amendment to the CUP because they were not approved for live music and be specific. Planner Smith said there was also an issue with MOO, LLC not having a public restroom. The Garfield County Health Department doesn't allow for a port-a-potty and that was part of the CUP approval. Council agreed to bring MOO, LLC back for an amendment to the CUP if they want to move forward with the live music.

Administrator Reynolds said last year for the staff review for the appoint staff, council and staff did a 360 review for himself, Treasurer Ehlers and Clerk Andis. Reviews are coming up again soon. He asked council how they would like to proceed with the reviews. Council agreed to do the reviews as they were done in the past, there was no need to do the 360 reviews every year.

Administrator Reynolds said he has met with Jeanne Golay with LoVa Trail about building a trail from the new pedestrian bridge over to Elek Creek Elementary School. He has also spoken with school about the trail. He said the town would be happy to partner with them and help with a grant but not to take responsibility of the project. LoVa Trail is hoping to apply for the Fall FMLD grant. He said the town is looking at partnering with the middle school for a Fall FMLD grant. He said if for some reason the town doesn't partner with the middle school in the fall, then the town would be happy to partner with LoVa Trail.

Administrator Reynolds said we have put CEC in charge of spending the bag fee money, however it is not being spent out. Staff has been looking at ways to spend the money. He said one idea was to use part of the money for the annual dump days.

Administrator Reynolds said he has been working on the council retreat on September 19, 2026. He has been looking at locations and in the past council has struggled with the Lakota Rec Center because of the noise. He suggested the retreat could be at the community center, in the council chambers or at the Redstone Inn. He said he has had managers meetings at the Redstone Inn and it is very quiet.

Administrator Reynolds said Lazy Bear is now open for dinner.

Administrator Reynolds said there will be longer delays at the bridge on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9-10, 2026. The girders for the bridge will be here and being placed. The delays could be up to one hour.

Administrator Reynolds said he had received a call from Russell Talbott about the town possible leasing Elk Creek water rights from the Talbott's. Administrator Reynolds said he has spoken with Attorney Mike Sawyer about the water rights and Attorney Sawyer is looking into it.

Administrator Reynolds said Attorney David McConaughy normally does the council orientation. This year the town has received an offer from the DOLA Rep Dana to come and do the presentation. He said Dana wouldn't be able to present until July 7, 2026,

meeting. Administrator Reynolds said CIRSA also does a presentation video. Councilor Leifeld, Councilor Riddile and Councilor Sampley said they would not be at the July 7, 2026, council meeting. Administrator Reynolds said he will try to reschedule Dana for July 21, 2026, meeting.

Administrator Reynolds said the CML Spring District meeting last Thursday, which New Castle hosted at the Lakota Clubhouse, was great attendance. He said the CML Conference is at the end of June.

Administrator Reynolds said he has a meeting with New Castle Trails and RFMBA tomorrow about another bike event they would like to do. The event would be sponsored by Sunlight Mountain.

Administrator Reynolds said the annual Christmas Party will be at Vaudeville.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said about 9 months ago she had reported that her department was moving forward with a new agenda, packet and meetings platform due to ADA compliance. She said she had some concerns and was going back and forth with the company. She said the concerns and issues have been resolved and will be going live starting either June 29 or 30, 2026. As part of the platform there is an option to create a mailing list for when agendas and packets are published. She said she would continue to email council as normal.

Clerk Andis said at a prior meeting Mayor Hazelton had mentioned having a proclamation for Jackie Davis who was retiring from Coal Ridge High School Principal. She asked Mayor Hazelton if he was able to get information about Ms. Davis. Mayor Hazelton said he had spoken with the family and with the new principal and they were going to get information to Mayor Hazelton. Councilor Carey said she would like to recognize the track teams and she will get me the information and would like to do the recognition after school starts.

Town Treasurer – not present

Town Planner – Planner Smith gave an update on the R2 project. He said they are working on paving the connection of North Wild Horse Drive and planning on opening the road up in the next week. The parking will probably not be stripped.

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – have not met

Historic Preservation Commission – Councilor Sampley said they worked on the cemetery dedication ceremony and they are also working with CMC for videography project.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Carey said they didn't have a quorum.

Senior Program – Clerk Andis said they did meet. There are concerns about the ridership of the Traveler is down and they are trying to find out why and how to increase the numbers.

RFTA – have not met

AGNC –Mayor Hazelton said there’s nothing to report.

GCE – have not met.

EAB – have not met

POSTR – have not met

Council Comments

Councilor Copeland asked to have a conversation about having a public restrooms in the downtown.

Councilor Leifeld said in the last couple weeks, asked a lot of people what they are concerned about. He said first was they wanted the community to stay family friendly, more amenities such as a rec center, splash pad and such. He said we need the residents to shop locally and to allow for business development and help make it easier for a business to start up. He said there are a lot of areas for expansion. He said t-ball and softball season is starting soon and asked for everyone to attend and to support the teams.

Councilor Carey said she would like to have a Hot Topics section on the website for resources on wildfire mitigation, best practices for watering and lawn maintenance during a drought.

Administrator Reynolds said he would be more than happy to meet with any councilor especially with Councilor Sampley and Councilor Leifeld and he would be more than happy to answer any questions or do a tour of the town.

Councilor Carey asked about the July 7, 2026, meeting if it was going to be canceled.

Clerk Andis said at this time there is a presentation regarding the regional housing needs. Administrator said we will need to have the July 7, 2026, meeting because of the regional housing needs. He said the presentation is required to make the housing study legitimate for DOLA.

Mayor Hazelton said the Memorial Day event at the cemetery was well done and Assistant Michelle Huster did a great job. He said the PD Bike Rodeo went well and had a great turn out. He said Councilor Sampley was awarded the Classified Staff Person of the Year at Elk Creek Elementary.

Items for Future Council Agenda

There were no items for future council agenda

Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Hazelton made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mindy Andis
Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Grady Hazelton
Mayor Grady Hazelton

Zebra Mussels on the Western Slope : An Update

New Castle Town Council Meeting – 06/02/2026



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Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

Robert Walters
Invasive Species Program Manager
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

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ANS Program Overview

- To Protect Wildlife, Recreation, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and the Economy by Preventing the Introduction of Zebra & Quagga Mussels, and Other Invasive Species, by Containing Current Infestations and Stopping the Spread into New Waters.
- Prevention focused
- WID, Sampling, Education



Zebra and Quagga Mussels

- Freshwater bivalve mollusks
- Highly variable color patterns
- Triangular (Z) Rounded (Q)



Dreissena rostriformis bugensis

Dreissena polymorpha



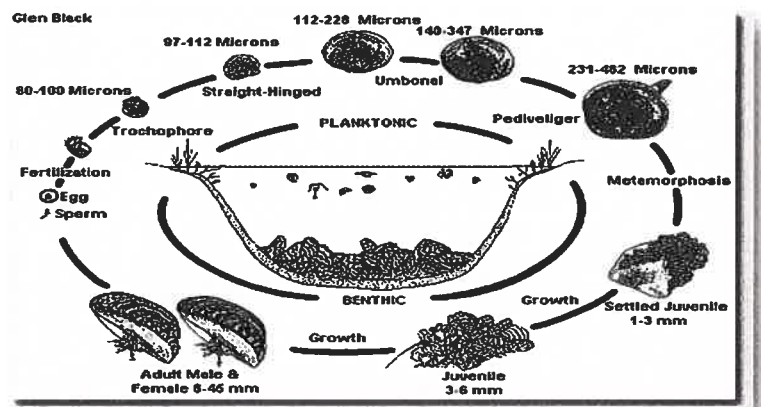
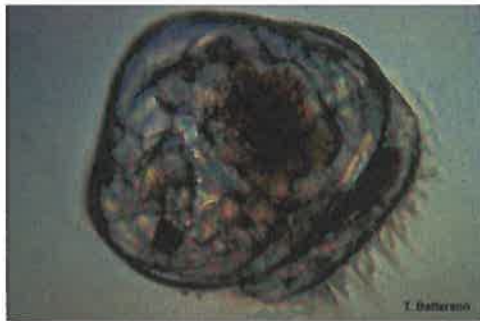
Invasive Characteristics:

- Rapid Reproduction
- Attach with Byssal Threads
- Filter Feeding



Life Cycle

- Planktonic Larval Stage (veliger)
- Settler Juvenile Stage
- Sessile as Adults

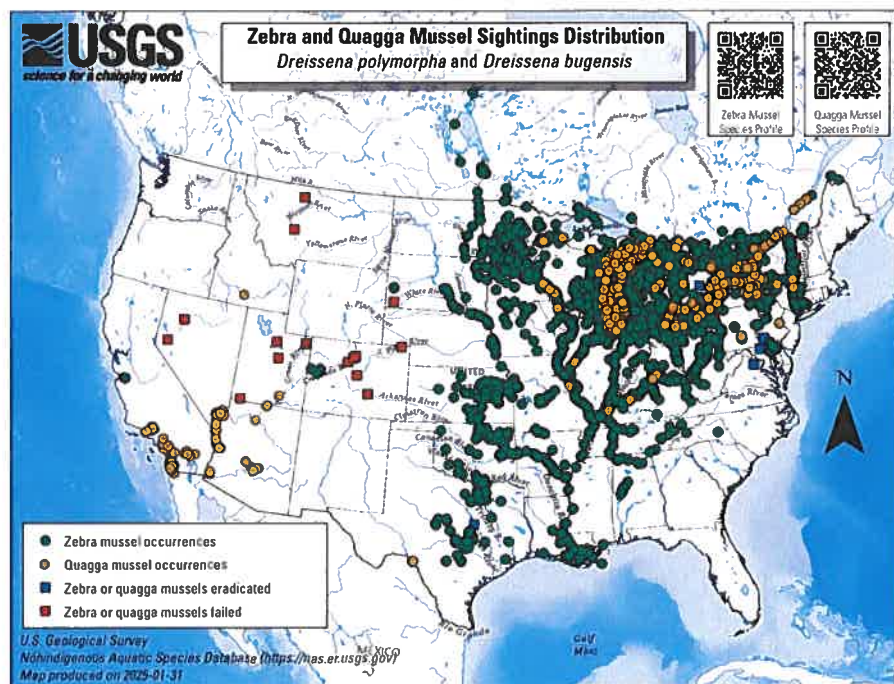


History of Introduction to the U

- Originated in Russia/Ukraine
- International cargo ships
- Ground Zero in the USA: Lake St. Clair- 1989
- Widespread in eastern USA
- Fun fact: In lakes populated with both zebra and quagga mussels, quagga mussels outcompete zebra mussels



2025



Detrimental Effects

- Alter native food web by filtering out phytoplankton and zooplankton
 - HABs
 - Benthification
- Infrastructure damage including clogging raw water systems (irrigation, hydropower, watercraft)
- Recreational impacts
 - Loss of recreational opportunity
- Economic impacts
 - Loss of tourism revenue, infrastructure damage, agricultural loss



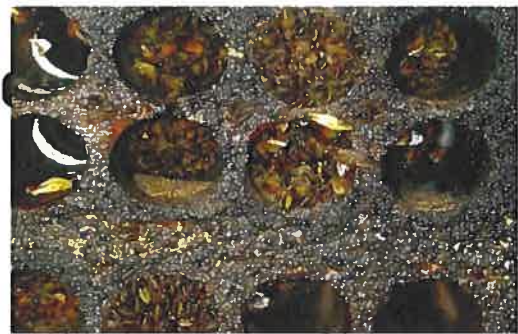
Cost of Mussel Invasions

- Golden Mussels in Brazil
 - **\$120 million lost ANNUALLY** by power plants with infestations (SPIC Brazil, 2021)
- Cost of Unexpected Outages @ Hydropower Facilities (BOR)
 - Glen Canyon Dam(Quagga Mussels) : **\$45,278-\$61,465/day**
 - Hoover Dam (Quagga Mussels): **\$18,211-\$24,544 /day**
- Zebra Mussels in the Great Lakes
 - **\$300-500 million annually** lost by power plants, water systems, and industrial water intakes (Great Lakes Commission 2012)



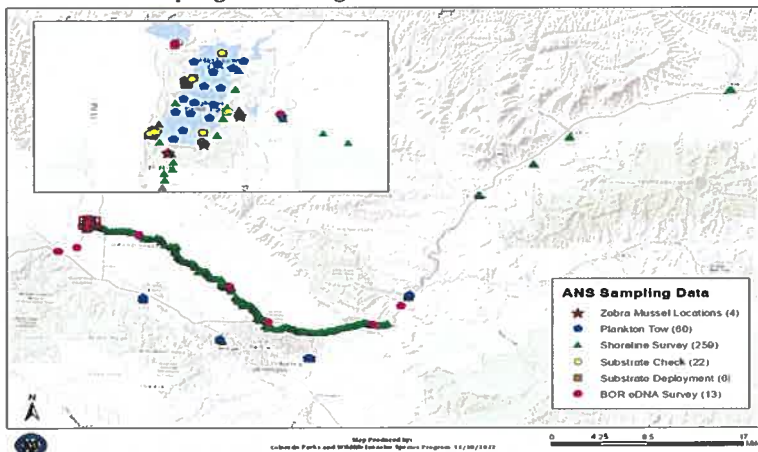
Potential Landowner Impact

- Agricultural loss
 - Water delivery shortfalls during drought
 - Palisade agrotourism
 - Livestock and crop loss
- Cost of Infrastructure Repair
 - Sprinkler/irrigation systems
 - Fountains
 - Underground pipes
 - Head gates





2022 ANS Sampling Around Highline Lake Post Zebra Mussel Detection

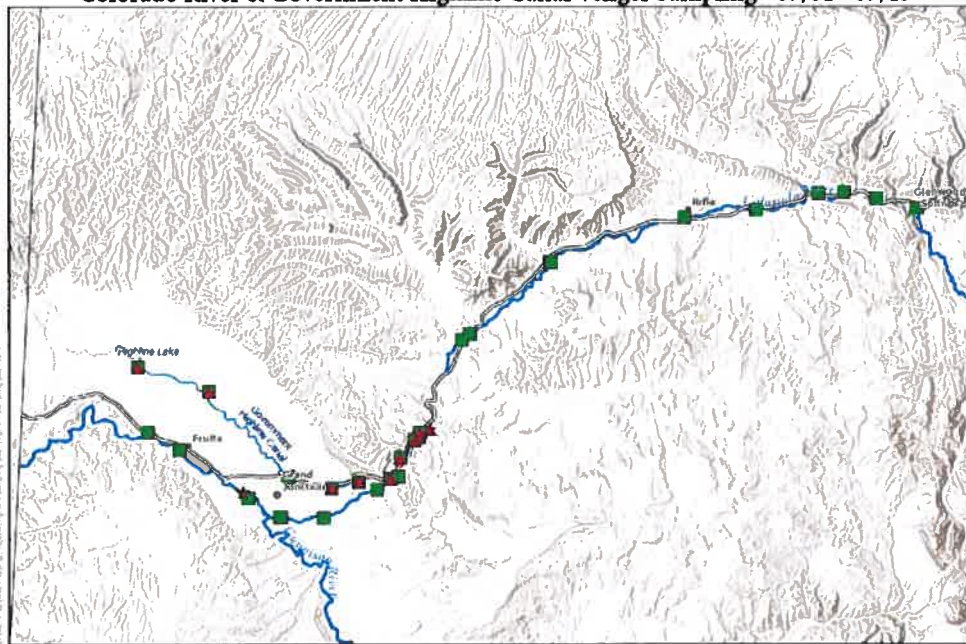


Zebra Mussels At Highline Lake

- Adult zebra mussels detected in Highline Lake in Fall of 2022
- Eradication effort attempted Winter 2022/2023
- Additional adult mussels detected in Fall of 2023
- Eradication efforts attempted Winter 2023 – Spring 2025



Colorado River & Government Highline Canal Veliger Sampling - 07/01 - 07/15



Map Produced by:
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Invasive Species Program 10/17/2014



★ Veliger Locations (1)
▲ eDNA Positive (15)
■ Average Sampling Results (AQ)

2024 Overall Veliger Findings

Government Highline Canal

- Train Tracks – 07/01
- Distributing Co. - 07/01
- 35 Rd – 07/08

Colorado River

- Beaver Tail Pull-Off – 07/08
- Canal Diversion Upstream – 07/08
- Blue Heron Boat Ramp – 07/14
- Beaver Tail Pull-Off – 07/15

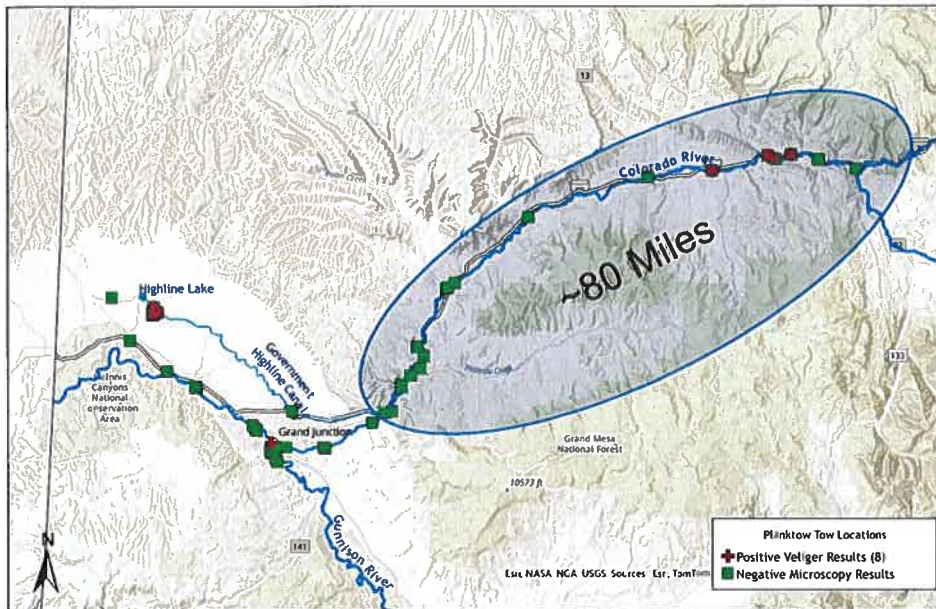
Government Highline Canal & Colorado River are considered "Positive"

- No adult mussels found



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2025 Colorado River Sampling Locations



Colorado River Findings April – June 2025

Suspect eDNA results @ New Castle Boat Ramp in late April – May

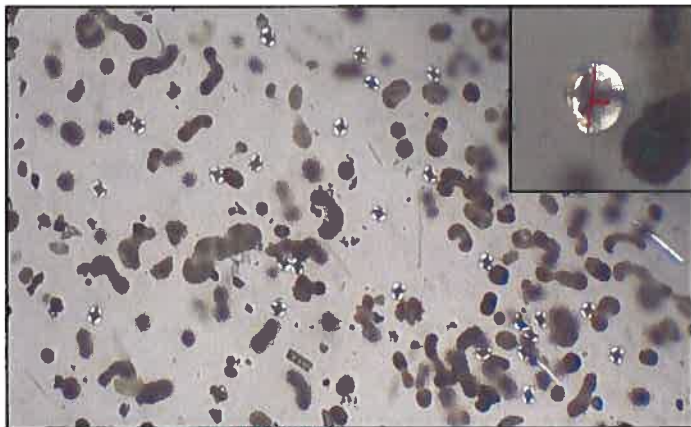
Colorado River Veligers

- Grand River Park - 06/09
- New Castle Boat Ramp - 06/16
- Silt Boat Ramp - 06/16
- Dinosaur Boat Ramp - 06/16
- Dike Road Island - 06/18
- Butterfly Pond Inlet - 06/18

Colorado River from Glenwood Springs to state line considered "Positive"



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Private Lake Findings

Large population of adult mussels found in Private Lake in Eagle County - 07/03

- Farthest upstream detection
- Significant risk to downstream water users

2 culverts that were potentially allowing outflow were removed from the lake - 07/06

- Cooperation w/ landowner is critical



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Private Lake Treatment

Treatment began on 08/25

- Utilizing Earthtec QZ
 - 0.2 - 0.4 mg/L Cu
 - Maintained concentrations for 30+ days
- Water temperatures ranged between 20°C and 21°C
- Initial results very promising
 - 5 years of ongoing monitoring required to delist this water



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Zebra Mussel Distribution in Western Colorado



Map Produced by:
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Invasive Species Program, 11/17/2025

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Current Distribution of Zebra Mussels in Colorado

- Highline Lake (2022)
- Grand Valley Water Users Canal (Positive - 2024)
- Mack Mesa Lake (2025)
- West and East Lake (2025)
- Private Body of Water in Eagle County (2025)
- Red Rocks Lake (2025)
- Mesa County Fairgrounds Irrigation Pond (2025)
- Private Bodies of Water in Grand Junction (2025)
- Colorado River From Confluence of Eagle River -> Stateline (2025)
- Grand River Park Pond (2026)



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Zebra Mussel Local Concern

- Infrastructure Damage
 - Attach to surfaces with byssal threads
 - Impede water flow
 - May require replacement of extensive underground irrigation infrastructure or complex hydroelectrical infrastructure
 - Specialized equipment required to remove mussels
- Harm to fisheries, tourism revenue loss
- Agricultural loss
- Closure of recreational areas





Mesa County Fairgrounds Irrigation Pond

Small (0.07 Acre) Irrigation Pond

- Sampling requested by Mesa County
- No public access
- Serves over 100 irrigation zones

Adult and veliger stage zebra mussels identified by CPW

Treatment of the pond was implemented in partnership with Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, Mesa County & CPW

- Goal = Minimize Impact on Irrigation



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What is CPW Doing?

- CPW is adapting in the face of increased risk factors and the need for containment
 - Improved infrastructure at Highline Lake State Park
 - Pursuing a dip tank- first ever in Colorado
 - Robust nonmotorized user outreach program in the Grand Valley
 - Increasing roadside inspection locations throughout the state
 - More cleaning stations deployed statewide
 - Adding fulltime positions to allow for increased protections in vulnerable areas
 - Improving early detection technology and capacity to process samples
 - **The cost of prevention pales in comparison to cost of infestation**





Oh, Shell No! Information Campaigns

Oh, Shell No!

- ANS impacts aren't limited to recreation / recreationists
- Campaign targets potential impacts to all citizens of Colorado.
- Produced in both English and Spanish
- Help us spread the word!
 - Toolkit available on our website.

How Can You Help?

- Be A Pain In The ANS!

- **CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!**
 - Clean: Remove any plant or mud material from boots and equipment BEFORE leaving
 - Drain: Drain ALL water from buckets, etc
 - Dry: Allow equipment to dry before using at a new location
- **Inspect & Report**
 - Any water delivery or storage system interacting with the Colorado River could harbor invasive mussels.
- **Consider Mitigation In Infested Waters**



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Thank You!

Robert Walters
Invasive Species Program Manager
303-291-7833
Robert.Walters@state.co.us



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THE RIPPLE EFFECT



INTRODUCTION

THE RIPPLE EFFECT COMMUNITY PROJECT: THE WIND PHONE

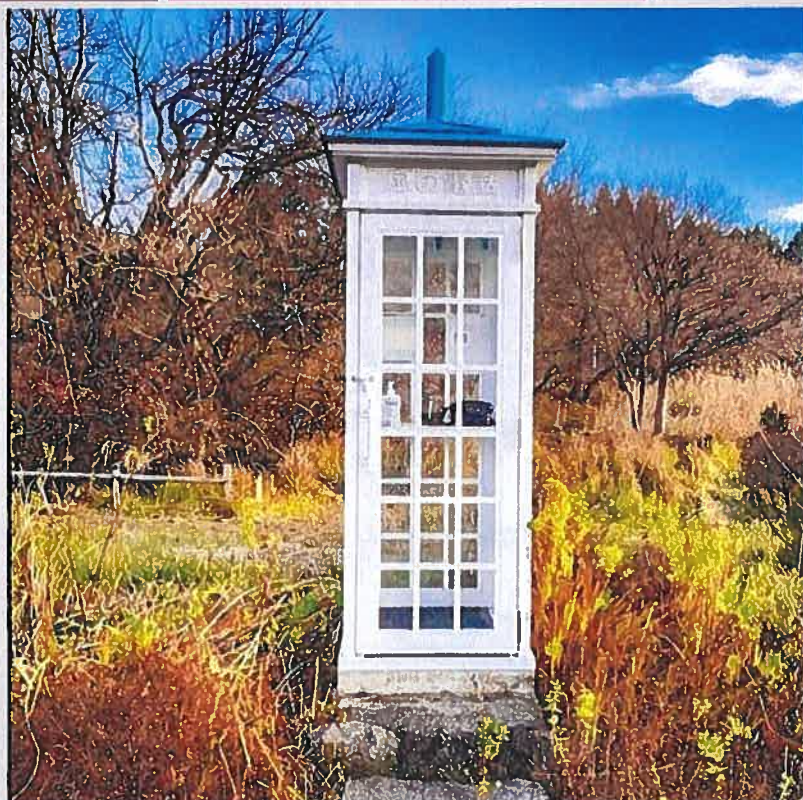
- The Ripple Effect: The Wind Phone
- Helping create spaces for grief, reflection, and connection in our small towns.

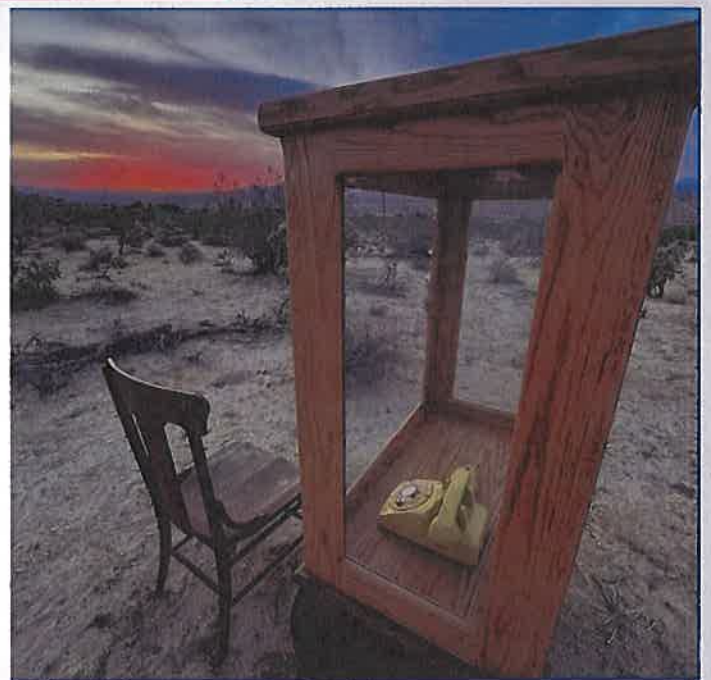


HISTORY OF THE WIND PHONE

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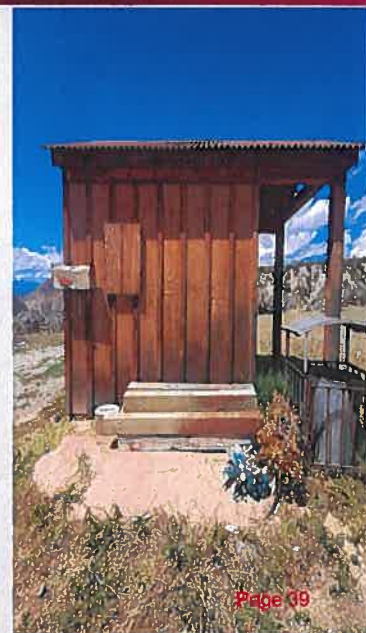
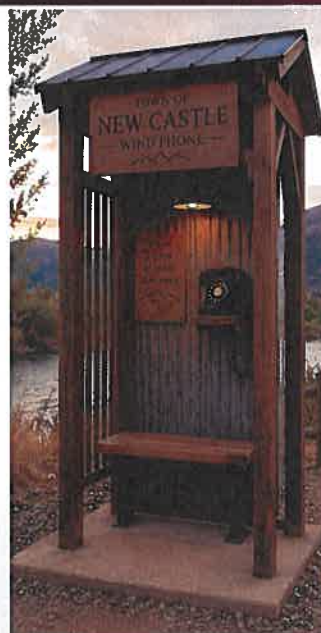






OUR RIPPLE EFFECT PROJECT

Installing Wind Phones in New Castle & Silt's Cemetery's



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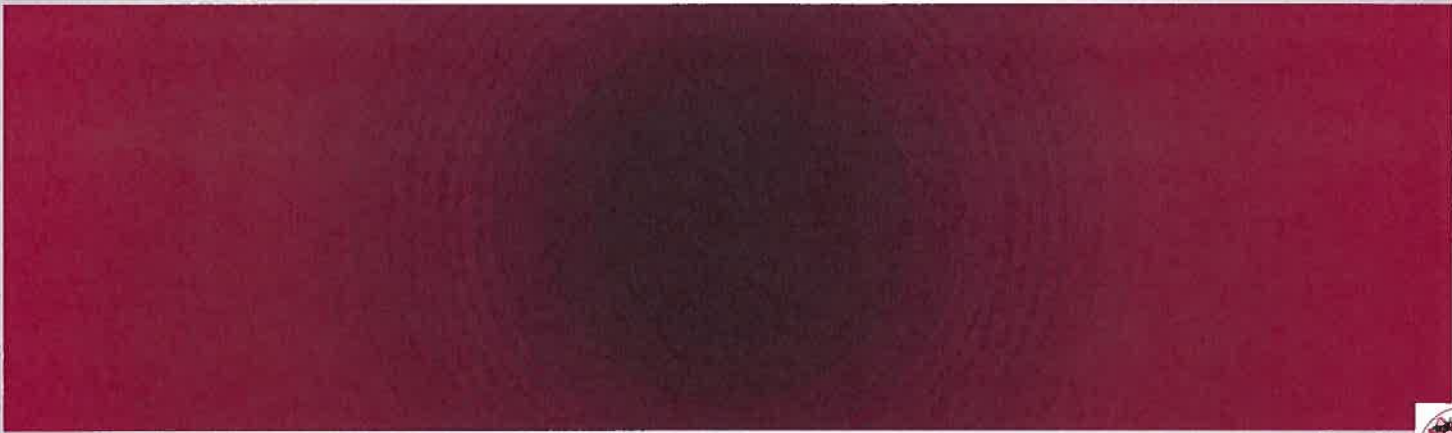


WHY DOES THIS MATTER HERE?

- Mental health in small towns
- Grief, loss and isolation
- Limited places dedicated to emotional healing



IF GRIEF TOUCHES EVERYONE, SHOULD HEALING SPACES BE PUBLIC TOO?



2025 Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Risk Hazard for New Castle Area

Exhibit C
to
6.2.2026 Council Minutes

