



# THE MOUNTAIN MAIL

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Photo by Brian McCabe

Salida High School freshman A.J. Abbott drives down the first hole at Salida Golf Club Thursday during the Butch Braswell Invitational, while freshman Ethan Fast looks on. The tournament was named for Salida's first golf coach.

## Butch Braswell Demons shoot 243, take home trophy

by Brian McCabe  
Mail News Editor

Close only counts in horse-shoes and hand grenades, as the Salida High School boys' golf team found out Thursday during the Butch Braswell Invitational at Salida Golf Club,

when they lost to the Buena Vista Demons by 2 points.

The Demons took home the Braswell trophy after shooting a 243 as a team, while Salida came so close with a 245.

"It's just golf, and it's all about consistency," junior Aiden Hadley, who took the

first spot in a three-way tie for third place with an 81, said. "I had a couple of good holes, but I also had a couple of double bogies. Take those away and we probably would have won."

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## 5 months later Most choose to pay for recycling

by Terri Fleming  
Special to The Mail

When Angel of Shavano went out of business in April and hauled away the free recycling containers at the Centennial Park parking lot, longtime Salida resident Michael Kunkel was especially worried. Kunkel, 61, is an environmentalist, local business owner and member of Chaffee County Citizens for Recycling.

With the shutdown of Angel of Shavano, area residents were left without free recycling for the first time in 20 years. That left two options: Don't recycle or pay for curbside pickup.

The area's three trash collectors – Chaffee County Waste, Waste Management and Shamrock Disposal Services – all offer every-other-week residential curbside recycling pickup for a fee (Chaffee County Waste and Waste Management also offer commercial recycling). The main difference, aside from cost, is that these services are single-stream, meaning that all recyclables – and each provider has their

own list – can go unsorted in the provided containers.

For residential recycling, Chaffee County Waste charges an extra \$15 a month, Waste Management charges about \$14 a month extra and Shamrock Disposal charges an additional \$18 a month over their trash pickup fees.

Kunkel was worried that the loss of Angel of Shavano, run by Mickey Barry, a trusted community partner, meant there was a chance the county's recyclables were going into landfills somewhere. He heard from a lot of skeptics.

"People were asking me, is this stuff really getting recycled?" he said.

Kunkel decided to do some sleuthing. He toured and photographed the Green for Life material recycling facility (MRF) in Colorado Springs used by Chaffee County Waste and Shamrock Disposal Services. What he saw surprised him.

"It was an impeccably clean and well-managed facility," Kunkel said, adding that in his experience recycling facilities look more

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# GARNA turns 25

by D.J DeJong  
Mail Staff Writer

The Greater Arkansas River Nature Association has been a force in the Upper Arkansas Valley for 25 years and will celebrate the milestone at a sold-out "birthday bash" Sunday.

The organization was the brainchild of Steve Reese, the first Colorado State Parks manager of Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area.

Current board member J.W. Wilder was the first river ranger hired by AHRA in 1989 and worked with Reese.

Wilder said Reese had the idea of creating GARNA in 1995.

At that point Wilder was a full-time ranger law enforcement officer with Colorado State Parks.

"About 12 percent of our time was supposed to be dedicated to interpretation and education. With the kind of hours we were putting in trying to get the park going and establishing everything, we didn't have time to do that," Wilder said.

Reese came up with the idea of creating a nonprofit that would focus on education and stewardship.

"He passed the torch to Kathryn Wadsworth, who became the first director and creator," Wilder said.

"I remember that I had a few educational things I really enjoyed just prior to that," Wilder said. River safety lessons included demonstrations to explain hypothermia and why wearing a personal flotation device was important.

Wilder spent 16 years with AHRA and retired from state parks 11 years ago. He was later approached about being on the GARNA board.

He wants to ensure the educational and stewardship aspects continue and said he is glad sustainability has been added.

Wilder said GARNA has probably been one of the more successful nonprofits in the

valley over its 25 years with its focus on educating youth and getting them outdoors.

"In my personal opinion if you can reach youth you can change actions of human beings down the road and into the future," he said.

Wilder said Dominique Naccarato, GARNA's current director, attended some of those early GARNA classes when she was a student.

"So it's going around full circle," he said.

GARNA is a cooperating association, an official term recognized through natural resource agencies such as Colorado State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Division of Wildlife. (Colorado State Parks and Division of Wildlife later merged into Colorado Parks and Wildlife.)

Upon development of the AHRA, it was recognized early on that it would benefit by having a formal cooperating association that allows for assistance through volunteerism and funding to flow both ways.

"So GARNA could write a grant and provide grant assistance and volunteers under that, to help the natural resource agencies and projects that they were working on and vice versa," Wadsworth said.

Cooperating associations have been around for a long time, Wadsworth said.

Recognizing the benefits, early managers of AHRA like Reese and Charlie Medina came together and started GARNA.

Initially they worked with a woman in Denver to do the paperwork: articles of incorporation, bylaws, establishment of the organization and writing the 501(c)(3) paperwork to receive that nonprofit designation.

"When I came on board as the first formal executive director, I was the only staff person. They had \$600 in the budget and a cardboard box,

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# No current plan to reinstate free recycling

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like giant trash piles. “The Colorado Springs MRF uses pneumatics, lasers, computer viewing screens and robotic arms. There was semi after semi loading up and taking away the sorted materials.”

Chaffee County public affairs officer Beth Helmke said there’s no current plan to reinstate free recycling drop-off sites in the county. There were a lot of problems with the free drop-offs, she said, including containers contaminated with nonrecyclable items. “It just created more issues that (the free drop-offs) were intended to solve,” she said.

Helmke said the county, in partnership with Greater Arkansas River Nature Association, is considering some

### Electronics recycling event

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Chaffee County Fairgrounds  
Free to Chaffee County residents

Accepting:

Any small electronic device that plugs in or uses batteries, including computers, cathode ray tube monitors, tablets and accessories; cellphones; printers; microwaves; hair dryers; and small lawn care electronics. TVs accepted for a \$25 fee.

Not accepting:

Large appliances and large electronics such as ovens, refrigerators, water heaters, freezers, dryers and washing machines.

Questions? Email [sustainablesalida@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablesalida@gmail.com)

### What’s the deal with plastic?

Michael Kunkel of Chaffee County Citizens for Recycling said the Green for Life materials recycling facility used by Chaffee County Waste and Shamrock Disposal Services is only processing plastics numbered 1, 2 and 5 and throwing away plastics numbered 3, 4, 6 and 7. (The number appears on the bottom of the plastic container in a rounded triangle.)

Both Shamrock and Chaffee County Waste are accepting plastics numbered 1 through 7 in their curbside recycling services.

“So that means for people using and recycling plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7, Chaffee County Waste and Shamrock are collecting them, hauling them all the way to the Springs, where they are sorted out and thrown away,” Kunkel said.

“Green for Life wants to keep collecting 1 through 7 (they charge per ton) since the markets can change; however, I don’t see that happening anytime soon if ever,” Kunkel said.

Waste Management hauls Chaffee County recyclables to its Colorado Springs material recovery facility. They accept clean, food-free plastic numbers 1, 2, 4 and 5, all of which are being recycled at their facility, said Mark Snedcor, Waste Management’s area director of recycling operations.

alternatives.

GARNA Executive Director Dominique Naccarato said the organization just finished a survey of residential customers and is getting those results together for a report to the county. GARNA is preparing a second survey for commercial

customers.

Naccarato said it appears most county residents have opted to pay for curbside recycling pickup. She said, however, they’ve identified three “outlier” groups: persons in neighborhoods that pay for and monitor a communal recycling bin (such as the Four Elk neighborhood in Buena Vista), people who live in areas where curbside pickup is not available, and those who generate so little trash they don’t want to pay for weekly trash services.

She said one alternative under discussion is adding fee-based recycling drop-off containers at the Chaffee County Landfill. Naccarato said the fees would help pay for a staff

person who would make sure the right materials are going into the bins. She agreed with Helmke – contaminated materials hampered the free recycling system.

GARNA is going to gauge interest in adding communal recycling bins at other neighborhoods, Naccarato said. They’ll reach out to areas like apartment complexes and trailer parks, where commu-

nication to tenants is relatively easy.

One effort to restore free recycling has stalled. John Armstrong, owner of B1 Energy in Salida, was interested in buying Angel of Shavano, but financing didn’t come together. As of May, Armstrong said he was still committed to finding a way to provide recycling services to the county.

### Household hazardous waste recycling event

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 25 at Chaffee County Fairgrounds  
Free for Chaffee County residents

Accepting:

Used oil, antifreeze, solvents, paints (including aerosol) and thinners, batteries, light bulbs, fire extinguishers, pesticides/herbicides and empty propane cylinders (valves removed).

Not accepting:

Explosives, ammunition, firearms, radioactive waste, commercial waste, appliances or electronics.

Questions? Contact GARNA at [info@garna.org](mailto:info@garna.org) or 719-539-5106.

## LAND FOR SALE

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**DIRECTIONS:** From Salida, take Highway 50 east approximately 2.4 miles to County Road 101 and Bear Creek Ranch.

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