

## The Rockies Town, AMAX renew water tiff

**Associated Press**  
**CRESTED BUTTE** — AMAX Corp. and the town of Crested Butte are at odds again, this time over water claims in the Coal Creek basin above the ski resort town in Gunnison County.

The town is arguing in state water court that the mining company should not be issued a conditional water right to build a small reservoir about 4 miles upstream from Crested Butte on Coal Creek.

AMAX wants the reservoir for eventual use if mining should begin in the rich molybdenum deposit

in Mount Emmons.

Five years ago the town and the company were battling over AMAX's plans to build a large mine. The fight drew national attention, but AMAX wrote off its losses as an expense declined and has put off plans to develop a mine.

This month two smaller mining companies decided not to exercise an option to buy half interest in Mount Emmons.

AMAX is asking the water court for rights to some of Coal Creek's water, and says the 1,000 acre-foot proposed reservoir poses no threat

to water quality.

However, town attorney W. Light says the burden is on AMAX to demonstrate there will be no damage to senior water rights on the creek.

The town builds senior water rights for drinking water, he said, "so they will have to demonstrate their withdrawal won't damage the quality or quantity of the town's water."

The town has "no clear knowledge" of what AMAX plans for the water in the reservoir, he said, so it is impossible to predict what ef-

fects on water quality could result.

A water court referee has asked AMAX to provide additional engineering information to help the town decide if a plan can be agreed upon to protect water quality.

"It's their burden of proving beneficial use and non-interference with existing senior right-holders," Light said.

In a previous AMAX town fight, the town passed a controversial watershed ordinance, under which it claims some jurisdiction outside the town's boundaries, when water can be affected.

## Wire check

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### Pueblo

#### Most lottery winners don't change

Colorado has a growing list of millionaires due to the state lottery, but random checks on the winners have found that most have not made major changes in their lifestyles.

Beatrice Bars of Center, who won \$4 million in March, but says she and her husband still have the same friends.

The money, she added, has "bought us some good vehicles" and allowed some traveling but the family plans to remain in Center "when they own I-70."

Bars said she has invested some of the money in stocks and bonds but added that the family has not decided on a major change in their lives.

### Longmont

#### Norton will seek Wirth's House seat

Mike Norton, a 47-year-old lawyer and Republican activist announced on Wednesday he is seeking the party's nomination for Congress in the 2nd District.

Norton is the first candidate in either party to announce for the seat now held by five-term incumbent Tim Wirth. Wirth is expected to run for the U.S. Senate if incumbent Gary Hart does not seek re-election.

### Denver

#### Police link chase suspects, theft ring

Denver police say two suspects who led police on a car chase last weekend that left another driver dead probably are part of a bold car-theft and burglary ring.

The two apparently fled on foot early Sunday after abandoning their stolen car two blocks from where a Denver police cruiser smashed into another car, killing a Denver man and seriously injuring his wife. A police officer also was seriously injured in the wreck.

"The problem with these guys is that they are young and very active, and a lot of what they do is for the thrill and excitement," said Denver police Sgt. Bill Wiedergan. "This is why we're having problems with the chase," he said. "These people are not afraid to hurt someone... and they are not afraid to break their own necks doing it."

## Warning about Lane went unheeded, report claims

**Associated Press**  
**DENVER** — Denver police are evaluating their intelligence procedures following the disclosure in a federal report that an informant had told them of alleged Order member David Lane's propensity for violence before the shooting death in 1984 of Denver radio talk show host Alan Berg.

Denver television station KCHL said in a copyright report Wednesday that an informant whose identity was being kept secret by police and the station, had told Denver intelligence officers of Lane's leanings toward violence.

Lane and nine other alleged members of the neo-Nazi sect called The Order now are on trial in Seattle on federal racketeering counts that allege they killed Berg and another person, robbed armored cars and passed counterfeit money in their pursuit of an Arabian homeland.

Denver Police Chief Tom Goggin said in a written statement supplied to the station that he discovered pertinent documents in the intelligence bureau related to David Lane, his potential for violence and his connection to Alan Berg.

"It appears that a member of the

intelligence bureau made a unilateral decision not to share these documents with Division Chief Donn Malina and those detectives who were responsible for the home-escape investigation," he said. "This individual also chose not to make me or the manager of safety JJ McFarlane aware of these documents."

Goggin said changes might be made because of the snafu.

"All records in the intelligence bureau relating to this subject now being reviewed and their contents made available to the Denver district attorney and the U.S. at-



Alan Berg  
Berg's office, he said, "I am exploring the possibility of action in this matter."

## Few jobs, few people mean low unemployment

**Associated Press**  
**LAKE CITY** — Hinsdale County has lots of mountains, wilderness, fishing and vacationing Texans.

About 400 people live in Hinsdale County, in southwest Colorado, and most of them live in Lake City.

Although the county has few jobs, it also has no measurable unemployment.

For September the last month for which state unemployment figures are available, Hinsdale County reported 0 percent unemployment.

The August figure was 0.9 percent, which means one person was unemployed, according to officials.

May through July also were 0.0 percent months.

"It means no one has filed a claim of any kind or exhausted a claim," said Ken Anderson, of the state Labor Department in Denver.

County Commissioner John Benvenuto said he has no idea why the state figures there is no unemployment in Hinsdale County.

"I know people who aren't working," he said. "I have an idea why the state says this but I can't tell you there are people looking for work here."

Anderson said the unemployment rate measures only those who have filed claims for compensation or are officially registered as looking for work.

Since Lake City doesn't have a state Job Service office, people would have to register in Gunnison, 60 miles away, to be counted as unemployed.

In Hinsdale County, he said many people are seasonal employees who work in the tourist industry during the summer months and then move away.

"There are lots of part-year residents," he said.

Other workers, after the tourists have left, often find work on ranches, he said, "so you have a workforce used to temporary work."

At the same time, it doesn't take much to drop up the county's unemployment rate.

Last January, the rate was 3.2 percent, Anderson said.

"That means there were 11 people out of work," he said. "In March it was 3.4 percent, with seven people unemployed," and in April it was 1.5 percent, because there were three people "without jobs."



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