

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INDEPENDENT

WEEK IN REVIEW

AUG. 24-28, 2009

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■ MONDAY

The five worst highway bridges in metro Denver

Story and slide show by Kevin Flynn



The five worst state highway bridges in metro Denver are at the top of a list of 128 bridges that would be repaired or replaced with some of the money from Colorado's controversial new hikes in auto registration fees. Even though those fees have just started to roll in, the Colorado Department of Transportation has already moved to get some of the bridges off the list. It has put together part of its annual funding from gas taxes along with a helping of President Obama's stimulus money to start construction on a few projects that already were close to shovel-ready.

■ TUESDAY

Ramblin' wrecks from Mines repaint 'M,' themselves

Story, video and slide show by Andy Piper

Colorado School of Mines' Class of 2013, 885 strong and each carrying a 10-pound rock, climbed a thousand feet up Mount Zion above Golden on Monday morning in the annual "M-Climb" initiation ceremony. The hike from the campus to the "M" along Lariat Loop and Lookout Mountain roads was interrupted at several points by upperclassmen who required the climbers to stop and sing the school's fight song.

■ WEDNESDAY

Greenprint Denver: Expanding natural landscapes

Story by Tillie Fong

Returning parts of Denver back to their original prairie state has been a slow process. As part of Greenprint Denver's Water and Environment goals, the city must designate 1,000 acres of park land as protected natural areas by 2011. So far, only 200 acres at five city parks — Babi Yar, Hentzell, Bear Creek, Bear Valley and Parkfield — have been encouraged to revert back to their original state with native plants and wildlife habitat.

■ THURSDAY

New forest danger: Sophisticated pot farms

Story by Charles Ashby

Lions and tigers and bears ... and drug dealers. The first three things we all knew to avoid while wandering through the great outdoors, but now the U.S. Forest Service says we need to be worried about a new danger in the Colorado mountains. Oh my!

The new message to Dorothy, Toto and the rest of the public is to know what to look for if you happen upon a marijuana-growing operation while hiking yellow-brick roads or trails of any color in the high country. Then, if you find such an operation . . .

"Hike out quickly," said Michael Skinner, special agent-in-charge for the service's Rocky Mountain Region. "Don't stand around."

This summer, the Forest Service has found two fairly large, sophisticated marijuana-growing operations in the hills west of Denver in as many months

■ FRIDAY

Broncos suspend Brandon Marshall for insubordination

Story by Steve Foster

The Brandon Marshall saga finally came to a head Friday as the Denver Broncos suspended the disgruntled wide receiver for at least the rest of the preseason for insubordination at Wednesday's practice. However, if Marshall's attitude doesn't change, the suspension could be extended into the regular season

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