

There are three things that no one can do to the entire satisfaction of anyone else: make love, poke the fire, and run a newspaper.

William Allen White, 1917

THE DURANGO HERALD

First Published June 30, 1881

Members of the Editorial Board

Morley C. Ballantine (Mrs. Arthur Ballantine), Chairman, Editor

Richard G. Ballantine, Publisher

Bill Roberts, Editorial Page Editor

Thank you, senator

Campbell brings millions in federal funds to area

Even with the big black eye given him last week by his 4½-year-old grandson, Luke Longfellow, Colorado's senior senator, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, looked cheerful in a front-page photo Wednesday.

And well he might. He has certainly given many of his local constituents a reason to be cheerful and they are, and grateful to him.

The current fiscal year budget, even though it is five months late in completion by Congress, is good for this part of the state.

Some \$42.5 million for fiscal 2003 is earmarked for seven varied projects.

The largest, at \$35 million, is the Animas-La Plata water project. This will fund construction that is now under way south of town. "This helps us stay on schedule," says Patrick Schumacher, division manager for the Bureau of Reclamation's Western Colorado office.

Excavation and blasting of the pumping plant, to be located across the Animas River from Santa Rita Park is to begin soon. Water from the river will be pumped into Ridges Basin Reservoir.

The reservoir will have the capacity of 120,000 acre-feet of water and is expected to take seven years to build at a cost of \$343 million.

The A-LP project has been controversial in the past but given last year's extreme drought in the state and the need for greatly expanded water storage, criticism has muted.

With the bulk of Colorado's population clustered in the Denver area and lawmakers debating how to provide the metro area with Western Slope water, it is good to know the Ridges Basin Reservoir will proceed as

The property includes 14,000-foot Kit Carson Peak, grasslands and an underground aquifer important to the valley's sand dune system and vital to its agriculture. The aquifer has been the subject of legal battles in recent years.

Entrepreneurs have tried to sell its water downstream, out of state. Now it will be protected as the property becomes a part of the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Some \$4 million has been set aside to purchase land in the 11,000-acre Red Mountain Historic District. This is a great scenic attraction along the highway at the top of the pass between Silverton and Ouray.

This is land in private hands, held by individuals eager to turn it into cash through development that would destroy its natural and historic beauty. How to prevent this remains to be worked out.

Sen. Wayne Allard and Rep. Scott McInnis have also spearheaded this project, along with Campbell.

Because of its rapid growth, the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis is receiving \$1.6 million, which will be spent on programs and equipment needed to meet its needs. The college also received \$500,000 for its new Mountain Studies Institute in Silverton.

The institute was formed last year to study the mountain environment. Its programs will serve college and universities throughout the nation, according to its director, Ellen Stein.

Mercy Medical Center received a check for \$1 million from the government, money to be a part of the \$7.5 million the institution needs to raise for new programs and equipment for the new facility to be located in