

FREE

Jackson Hole Daily



BRADLY J. BONER/JACKSON HOLE DAILY

Arapahoe Elementary School students from the Wind River Reservation make electric circuits out of putty during the Jackson Hole Wild science festival Friday at the Center for the Arts. The hands-on festival, where students of all ages will be immersed in the world of science, continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the center.

Tract provides access

By MIKE KOSHML
JACKSON HOLE DAILY

With support from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and inspiration from a Jackson Hole teenager, Wyoming now owns a tract of land that sportsmen say is a gateway to a vast area along the west slope of the Tetons.

The 44-acre parcel, located southeast of Alta, is accessed from State Line Road and abuts a large chunk of Bureau of Land Management property that leads into the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

"We realized it would be a great addition," Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Land Program Manager Leah Burgess said. "We got a bargain sale

contribution from the landowner as well, and we were highly interested."

A number of parties contributed to the \$500,000 needed to buy the plot from the former landowner, Ben Van Meeren-donk, who held the land as an investment property.

In addition to the foundation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Jackson Hole Land Trust, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition and others chipped in funds.

The deed is now in the possession of Game and Fish.

Doug Brimeyer, Game and Fish's regional wildlife management coordinator, said in a statement that the acquisition is a boon for sportsmen

and wildlife.

"Sportsmen and the public had a difficult time accessing BLM and national forest land south of Teton Creek unless they knew a property owner in the area," Brimeyer said.

The parcel provides egress to 6,400 acres of BLM land.

"The partnership that developed from this acquisition was spearheaded by several [elk foundation] members and is a great example of how local members and sportsmen can get involved and make a difference," he said.

The land includes wetlands, woodlands, meadows and foothills — all of it habitat used by elk, moose, mule deer, grizzly and black bear, mountain lions and other wildlife, according to

the foundation.

Father-daughter Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation members Jeff and Lexi Daugherty were the ones to first bring the property to the organization's attention.

Seventeen-year-old Lexi Daugherty, who has hunted the property with Van Meeren-donk's permission since she was 12, recalled advocating for the acquisition to the Game and Fish Commission.

"It was a 9-0 vote against me and I gave them my little speech and turned it into a 9-0 vote for me," she said. "I have so many great memories on the land, and I'd hate to see it go."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the property has been scheduled for noon Oct. 18.

■ International

Nobel lifts hope for 'peace in Colombia'

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — By winning the Nobel Peace Prize, President Juan Manuel Santos got a big boost Friday in his efforts to save an agreement seeking to end Colombia's half-century conflict.

The prize, announced by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, puts pressure on both conservative critics and leftist rebels to find a way forward after the shocking defeat of the accord in an Oct. 2 referendum.

Santos dedicated the prize to his fellow Colombians, especially the victims of the bloody conflict, saying it would redouble his commitment to end hostilities that have left 220,000 dead and almost 8 million displaced.

"I invite everyone to bring together our strength, our minds and our hearts in this great national endeavor so that we can win the most important prize of all: peace in Colombia," Santos said alongside his wife in his first public appearance after being notified he had won in a predawn phone call from their son.

Colombians are split on their support for the peace deal.

Some see it as the best chance in a generation to halt the conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC; others are outraged that rebels behind scores of atrocities, from kidnappings to attacks on civilian targets, probably will never spend a day in prison and instead be reserved seats in congress to smooth their transition into a political movement.

The accord's defeat in the referendum by the narrowest

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