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## Cutting edge

*After decades of work, barbershop closes its doors*

By **KALEN MCCAIN**  
kalen.mccain@gsentinel.com

A Grand Junction barber had a line out the door on his final day of business on Feb. 27, packing his morning with regulars seeking one last haircut from Greg Freeman before he shut his doors and started his retirement at 3 p.m.

Despite Freeman's Barbershop's long history, it changed little over the years, and its customers came for its consistency. The old-fashioned, unassuming storefront nestled between a tattoo parlor and a pizza place on North Avenue had one chair, one barber, no credit card reader and no desire to accept payment through an app.

It took almost exclusively walk-ins, accepting appointments only for customers with certain disabilities, and its owner had a reputation for holding conversations with every client, during their brief time in the chair.

"When I first met



Greg Freeman, owner of Freeman's Barber Shop on North Avenue, smiles while talking with Harry Naugle during a hair cut on Freeman's final day on the job, Feb. 27, before retirement. Naugle has been coming to Freeman from the Rifle area for nearly 10 years, joking that he'd have to start the hunt for a new barber now. Freeman has been cutting men's hair in the Grand Valley since 2003.

him, I walked in, and everybody asks you how you want your hair cut. I told Greg, 'I just want a regular old haircut,

man, I don't want nothing fancy,'" said Jacob Holder, a customer of Freeman's since 2004, and the barbershop's go-

to mechanic. "And ever since that first time, I walk in, I sit in his chair, and he's never asked me again. You can just sit down and know how your hair's going to get cut.

"It's like coming home."  
The shop underwent only a few changes during its time in Grand

Junction. The store briefly offered beer to its customers, until the ATF showed up and informed Freeman that he needed a license to serve alcohol. It also had a second barber, for a stint — a woman, notable because her work reached a different demographic.

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Greg Freeman, owner of Freeman's Barber Shop on North Avenue, poses for a photo in between hair cuts on his last day on the job before retirement on Feb. 27. "I've got a few tears coming to my eyes, saying goodbye. A lot of them I won't see ever again," Freeman said. "A barber's kind of like a priest. A barber will give you information, sometimes when you don't always want to get that information."



Greg Freeman, owner of Freeman's Barber Shop on North Avenue, smiles on Feb. 27 while saying goodbye to clients after cutting their hair on his last day on the job before retirement.

## Cow culprit

Volunteer suffers major injuries in bizarre Delta incident

By **SENTINEL STAFF**

A bizarre incident on Friday, Feb. 27, left a board member of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Association severely hurt, and he remains in ICU with multiple fractures and internal damage.

The culprit? A cow. Dan Wegelin was work-

ing on trails in Delta's Confluence Park on Feb. 27 when a cow reportedly escaped from a nearby sale yard and entered the park, which has a large lake and multiple wooded trails. Wegelin's sister said he later relayed to her that he spotted the animal right about the same time that he saw a friend with young children nearby. Wegelin called out to warn the man to get the children away; the cow reportedly turned her attention to him.

"The cow locked eyes on him, was basically like 'I'm gonna kill ya.' My brother hit it as hard as he could with a shovel," Paula Feeback said on Monday. "The cow charged him then, and threw him down a 10-foot embankment." Feeback said the animal then lost her footing and fell too, landing on top of her brother. The cow remained there for a few minutes, then stepped on him as she stood.

"My brother somehow pulled himself up the embankment and then collapsed at his truck. People just walked by and didn't do anything. Then his friend came back. He had called an ambulance," Feeback said.

Police arrived as the ambulance was ready to depart, Feeback said. An incident report had not been completed, but Interim Chief Jesse Cox said it appeared that when the cow was being loaded at the sale yard near the park, it jumped the rails and ran down to road to Confluence Park. There, he said, a man, presumably Wegelin, tried to stop it by waving a shovel and was injured. Cox said animal control later located and roped the cow.

A person who answered the phone at the Delta sale yard where the cow is said to have come said she was not able to discuss anything about the matter at this time.

See **COW**, page 10A



DAN WEGELIN

## Four arrested, including D51 teacher, on child sex charges

By **SENTINEL STAFF**

An investigation involving multiple agencies led to the arrest of four individuals on charges of soliciting sex from minors in Mesa County.

Between Feb. 27 and March 2, investigators with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and Homeland Security Investigations Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce conducted an operation to identify suspects believed to be soliciting sex from minors.

Law enforcement officers posed as underage minors on social media to get the suspects to agree

to meet up, ostensibly for sex, according to the arrest affidavits. The cases originated from different sites and apps, and are unrelated to each other.

The four-day undercover operation concluded with arrests of the four suspects, which included a Mesa County Valley School District teacher, who were booked into the Mesa County Detention Facility on various charges.

Max Jones, 45, Grand Junction, was charged with internet luring of a child/intent of sexual contact/exploitation, felony criminal attempt, sex assault on a child.

Jose Suarez-Tavera, 42, Grand Junction, was charged with sex assault



ANGELLA GARCIA

on a child, felony criminal attempt.

Angella Garcia, 28, Grand Junction, was charged with internet luring of a child/intent of sexual contact/exploitation, enticement of child, felony criminal attempt, sexual assault — internet sexual exploitation of a child, sexual assault on a child/victim — at least 4 years age difference.

James Kellerby, 66, Clifton, was charged with internet luring of a child/intent of sexual contact/exploitation, enticement of child, felony criminal

attempt, sexual assault — internet sexual exploitation of a child, sexual assault on a child/victim — at least 4 years age

difference. District 51 confirmed that Suarez-Tavera is a Dual Immersion teacher.

In a statement to the media, D51 provided information about what it has confirmed.

"Based on the information available at this time, this situation did not occur on school grounds or during contract hours, and we do not have any confirmed District 51 student victims. The individual has been placed on paid administrative leave, and the district is fully cooperating with law enforcement."

D51 also acknowledged the sensitive nature of the arrest and are providing support services to those



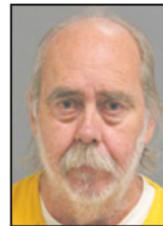
JOSE SUAREZ-TAVERA

who would like any help.

"We recognize that this situation is concerning for families and staff, and we share in that concern," the statement said. "Our priority is ensuring a safe and supportive environment for those impacted. Support services are being made available to students and employees."

In its statement, D51 also encouraged anyone with information related to this case to please contact non-emergency dispatch at 970-242-6707 and reference MCSO case #26-7845.

"The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority," the statement said.



JAMES KELLERBY



MAX JONES