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TASTE, A10

SIERRA VISTA HERALD



WEDNESDAY JUNE 28, 2017 — \$1.00



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SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

Stephen Tywerould sits near a mural while visiting Benson on Friday. Tywerould is the CEO of Excelsior Mine. A significant amount of Excelsior's investors have environmental portfolios.

Mining of the future

Gunnison Copper Project draws international attention

BY ERIC PETERMANN
eric.petermann@svherald.com

BENSON — While attending a conference in Perth, Australia, Stephen Tywerould, president and CEO of the Excelsior Mining Company, was surprised to learn that his Gunnison Copper Project outside of Willcox was a familiar topic.

"The event was about in situ mining, and they were calling it the 'mining of the future,'" Tywerould said last week.

Excelsior has attracted international attention for its application of in situ mining at the former Johnson Camp Mine, a 9,560-acre operation east

of Benson that is expected to render 2.2 billion pounds of copper oxide during the next 20 years.

In situ injects a "weak" acid into porous bedrock, located some 600 feet below the surface. As the solution leaches copper deposits off the rock, it is extracted through surrounding recovery wells and transported to a processing plant, where the solution is separated from the metal.

The project has attracted environmentally-conscious investors who recognize that the extraction process, while not as effective as open pit mining in gathering all of the copper underground, is both less invasive and

less costly. "When we're done, the landscape will look just as it does now, undisturbed," Tywerould said.

The Excelsior president made two presentations during the conference, highlighting why the in situ process is ideal for the local project.

"There is a lot of attention internationally to what's happening here," Tywerould said. "Topics at the conference focused on some of the issues that we don't have that need to be addressed to make in situ more effective."

Twyerould said the geology of the area where the Gunnison Mining Project is being developed is ideal for the pro-

cess. It's one of just a few places around the world that has permeable bedrock, surrounded by limestone, with a groundwater flow that slopes toward the Willcox Playa, not the populated and environmentally-sensitive Dragons and San Pedro Subwatershed.

Twyerould said Excelsior has not experienced significant delays in obtaining permits from state and federal agencies, despite concerns voiced by some when plans for the Gunnison project were under review.

"We've found everyone to be highly professional

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Trash talkin'

Bisbee OKs garbage fee increase

BY MONIQUE BRAND
monique.brand@svherald.com

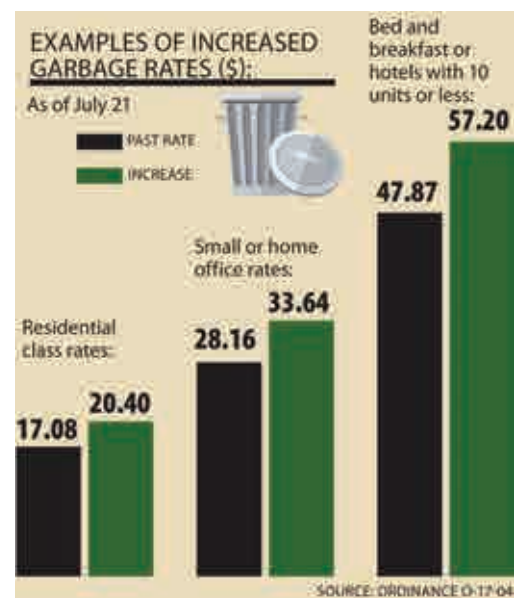
BISBEE — The city of Bisbee increased its garbage fees by 16 percent following a discussion during Bisbee City Council's regular meeting on June 20. The increase, however, won't take effect until late July.

Finance Director Keri Bagley said the rate increase was solely due to county tipping fees raised from \$55 per ton of commercial garbage to \$64 per ton.

The following rates will take effect in residents' and businesses' statements starting July 21:

- Single family residence, within the corporate city limits will be raised from \$17.08 to \$20.40 per month;
- Small businesses, for example small offices and home business: \$28.16 to \$33.64 per month;
- Small intermediate businesses, like small cafes, duplex, triplex or fourplex housing; bed and breakfasts, motel and hotels with 10 units or less: \$47.87 to \$57.20 per month;
- Intermediate businesses: restaurants, bars, apartment houses; bed and breakfasts, hotel and motels with more than 10 but less than 26 units: \$137.14 to \$163.85 per month;
- Large businesses such as apartment complexes; bed and breakfasts, hotels and motels with more than 25 units: \$270.90 to \$323.67 per month; and
- Minimum commercial such as part-time businesses located in commercial buildings not occupied for more than 30 hours per week, maximum of one em-

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Local legend receives a final farewell

Longtime Huachuca City police chief laid to rest

BY DANA COLE
dana.cole@svherald.com

HUACHUCA CITY — "He was the perfect small-town cop, doing what he loved most."

These were the words shared by Patsy Grey of her late husband Dennis.

The retired Huachuca City Police Chief was laid to rest at Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Monday.

A procession of law enforcement from all over Cochise County, representing multiple agencies, stretched along Highway 90 as far as the eye could see Monday morning in honor of Grey, who died

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SIERRA VISTA HERALD PHOTO BY DANA COLE

A long procession of enforcement from around Cochise County extends as far as the eye can see Monday on Highway 90 in memory of former Huachuca City Police Chief Dennis Grey. He died on June 19.

Taking a proactive approach

ALICE empowers the public in an active shooter situation

BY LAUREN RENTERIA
editorial.intern@svherald.com

SIERRA VISTA — When it comes to preparing for an active shooter, "one size does not fit all," said Allison Hadfield, a deputy with the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

That's why 26 students — some traveling from across county lines — gathered at the Rothery Educational Service Center in Sierra Vista on Monday and Tuesday to earn an Alert Lockdown Inform Counter and Evacuate (ALICE) instructor certification.

The ALICE Training Institute is a national organization dedicated to training civilians and law enforcement officers alike to respond to an active shooter situation. The organization was established in the early 2000s by a law enforcement officer and a school principal following the 1999 Columbine High School mass shooting that left 13 people dead.



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate (ALICE) National Trainer Joe Chavalia talks to attendees during Tuesday's final day of a two-day instructor developmental course hosted by the Cochise County Sheriff's Office.

The training is much different than the traditional lockdown method that's commonly taught in school settings, Hadfield said.

ALICE teaches its students to be proactive instead of reactive.

Hadfield and her colleague Sgt. Tod Linendoll took the course in 2015 and then spread the training to school districts across Cochise County. Now — with the exception of a few schools — nearly all of the county's public schools are ALICE-certified. The training has reached nearly 8,000 students and 2,700 faculty members, Linendoll said.

"We wanted to transition to a more proactive approach, to do something rather than nothing," said Hadfield who feels the traditional lockdown method is "outdated," because of its limited approach. The old "hiding under a desk" method is no longer considered the best option.

With ALICE training, there are three options to choose from: evacuate the premises, barricade the room or counter the attacker.

"They [the students] feel knowl-

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This paper is published for valued subscriber Candace Hatfield of Sierra Vista and the rest of Cochise County.



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ALICE

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edgeable and they feel empowered in order to save their own lives, as opposed to following a school policy that's only going to lead them into a situation where they are much more likely to die or to sustain a significant injury," Hadfield said.

Traditional lockdown methods were used during the Columbine, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Sandy Hook Elementary shootings, Linendoll said. As part of the training, participants studied each shooting and discussed different techniques that could have been used to change those tragic outcomes and saved more lives.

"We understand that hindsight is 20/20, but a lot of those schools, all they did was standard lockdown things," Linendoll said. "So, the choices that they made only really increased their chances of getting hurt."

While other programs consist of a powerpoint and short video, Linendoll and Hadfield said the in-person training helps prepare students in how to handle an active shooter with a simulated scenario. In one demonstration, a student acted as the shooter while the others barricaded themselves in a classroom or evacuated the building.

"See, only two of you got shot running down the hall," Joe Chavalia, the lead instructor of the course, said to his students after a simulation. He's also a national trainer with the ALICE institute.

"It's a hard shot to make," he said, encouraging students to run and evacuate if possible.

In another scenario, students gathered in a dark room and armed themselves with red balls as simulated weapons. When the mock shooter opened the door nearly all 26 students swarmed and ultimately subdued him within seconds.

It's important for civilians to have a game plan when it comes to active shooter situations, Hadfield said. Being prepared not only increases chances



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

Tucson's Northwest Fire Department Paramedic Bruce Whitney makes a comment at this week's ALICE training course at the Rothery Educational Service Center.

of survival but also acts as a safeguard when law enforcement can't get there fast enough.

"Traditional lockdown doesn't work because 60 percent of the time law enforcement doesn't make it there in time," she said. "A lot of the time, civilians are first responders and we [law enforcement] are like second responders."

Neal Wegner, a retired Army veteran and a contractor who works at Fort Huachuca, said this is the first time he's taken an active shooter training course. As a former member of the military, Wegner has always been proactive in hostile situations, but said that going through the demonstrations gave him peace of mind and a better idea of what to do.

"Doing nothing doesn't help," Wegner said. "It basically pointed out that you have to do something. That really made an impact on me."

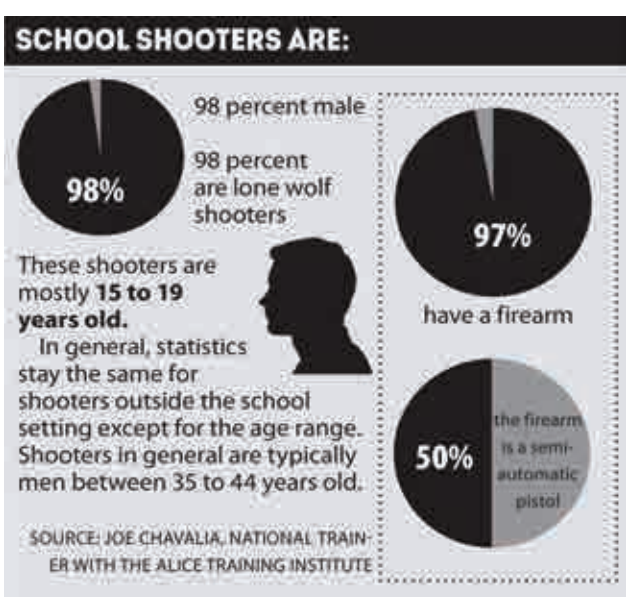
For Renee Irlmeier, a

**THAT'S NOT THE REAL WORLD ANYMORE,
THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S GOING TO WORK.**

— RENEE IRLMEIER,
SCHOOL NURSE TOWN AND COUNTRY ELEMENTARY

school nurse at Town and Country Elementary, the course helped her better understand how to deal with active shooters along with giving her the ability to teach other faculty members what she learned.

"I'm going to try and get them out of that whole mind set of 'we'll just run and hide and lock the door and pretend all is well,'" Irlmeier said. "That's not the real world anymore. That's not how it's going to work."



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TWYEROULD

FROM PAGE A1

and very reasonable," Twyerould said.

He said the permitting process has taken a little over a year so far and the mine is scheduled to begin increased activity at its site by the end of 2017, with operations scheduled to get underway in mid-2018. That schedule is dependent on final approvals from state and federal agencies, which Twyerould said he expects later this year.

"This was our first experience in the United States and we were told it would be really tough, that we would encounter delays and other frustrations, but that really hasn't been the case."

Twyerould said unlike Australia, which depends on recovering metals and other resources as an export for its economy, the United States has fewer mining operations and less familiarity with the industry.

"If you look at what this country considers important to its economy, mining isn't among the first things that come to mind," Twyerould said.

The significance of the Gunnison Copper Project is the limited



SIERRA VISTA HERALD STAFF PHOTO BY MARK LEVY

Excelsior Mine CEO Stephen Twyerould talks about his company's mining operations on Friday in Benson. Twyerould's company uses an environmentally friendly method of extracting copper.

impact it will have on the environment, recapturing 100 percent of the acid solution that will be used to recover copper oxide while still generating a net economic impact in Arizona estimated at \$2.4 billion over the next two decades.

Twyerould said permits from state and federal agencies for the mine require that 100 percent of the acid be recovered in the process.

He said the company is confident it will accomplish total recovery of the solution.

"Much of the conference was about what

can be done in places where Mother Nature hasn't provided the perfect conditions for this process," Twyerould said. "The question is can we find a way to access minerals in a more sustainable way."

Twyerould said Excelsior has about 24 people working at the Gunnison Copper Project now and when production begins that number will grow to about 108 employees.

The project is also "scaleable," which will allow Excelsior to expand the operation in small increments when the price for copper is

low, or expand the operation if copper prices increase.

"Our average operating costs are well below a dollar-per-pound of copper, so compared to open-pit mining, we won't be incurring nearly as much overhead cost during the life of the project," Twyerould said.

Excelsior has also taken an interest in local communities, working with schools in Benson and Willcox to develop STEM programs — science, technology, engineering and math — and contributing to civic campaigns, including donating funds to support painting more murals depicting local history and working with the Dragon Women's Club.

"We're here and we're committed to making our community better," Twyerould said.

Twyerould, born in Australia, holds a doctorate in Philosophy in Geology and Geochemistry from the University of Oregon. With more than 29 years of experience in the mining industry, he was instrumental in the growth of Reliance Mining Limited from a \$3 million company to a \$100 million company, in four years. Reliance has since been acquired by Consolidated Resources, CSM.

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