

Poudre River is an indispensable asset for recreation in Fort Collins

At a debate a few nights ago at the Harmony Public Library between representatives from the Save Poudre Coalition and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, I was appalled to hear Brian Werner of Northern Water state that Glade Reservoir would actually benefit local recreation. He also stated that all recreation on the Poudre River takes part upstream of the canyon mouth. This is above the area that, if Glade is built, will suffer greatly from a tremendous amount of its water being diverted to fill the reservoir. How many thousands of Fort Collins and Colorado residents have spent time in, on or near the Poudre River as it flows through Fort Collins?

As a lifetime resident of Fort Collins, and a fly fisherman, I have spent hundreds of days catching beautiful, wild brown trout throughout the city, all the way from Timberline to College and upstream to Overland Trail. As founder of the Cache la Poudre River Foundation, a conservation organization based on the protection and enhancement of fishing on the Poudre River as it flows through Fort Collins, I am saddened that Werner would show such ignorance about our river. The people at the NCWCD aren't aware of all that the river means to the people of the region.

To prove the importance of this fishery through town, the Poudre River Foundation is contributing on a Creel Census, in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife. But those of us who fish the Poudre, or who swim it, tube or walk along its beautiful and natural banks, already know that it is an indispensable recreational asset to our community.

Rico Moore, Fort Collins, Cache la Poudre River Foundation

My mother is a criminal -- but whom did she victimize? No one

My mother is a criminal. It's embarrassing to admit, but she did the unthinkable last week. She blatantly broke the law by bringing her dog to my son's soccer game at Monfort Park. It's hard to imagine what possessed her to do such a thing. Nevertheless, she brought Sheila along to sit on her lap while she watched his game.

Not 10 minutes into her arrival, she was issued a \$90 ticket for bringing her leashed dog to the park with a poop bag, just in case. A \$90 ticket! Fifty dollars for the ticket and then a \$20 victim's fee and a \$20 "just cause we can" fee. When I asked the officer issuing the ticket who the victim of this "crime" was and to explain the additional \$20 fee, he of course, didn't have any answers. How hard is it to explain what these charges are and who they benefit?

Police Chief Jerry Garner writes in the The Tribune on April 11 that "there is no such thing as a 'victimless' crime." If there is no such thing as a victimless crime, then my question to the police chief is: Who was the victim of this crime?

I would argue that the only crime committed was my mother getting a \$90 ticket. It could also be argued that the other crime committed is wasting our police resources on tracking down pet owners in city parks and issuing \$90 tickets.

Don't the Greeley police have better things to do with their time? After all, Mayor Clark claims Greeley desperately needs more police officers. For what, issuing more animal ordinance tickets?

Next time you catch my mom in a park with her dog, maybe you should jail her and her little dog, too.

Valerie Grube, Greeley

Economic stimulus is a rebate and won't cost you at tax time next year

In response to the Thursday letter to the editor about the hidden cost of the stimulus package: According to the IRS Web site, the payment you receive will not reduce your refund or increase the amount you owe when you file your 2008 return.

I would encourage anyone with questions pertaining to the stimulus payments most of us will receive to visit the FAQs at the IRS Web site. The Web address is www.irs.gov. You will find this information on the "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions" page toward the bottom under "Other Questions..."

Please remember that in 2001 the payments we received were called "advances." The payments we are receiving this year are called "rebates." Please don't be alarmed about filing taxes next year because of this. Although we will pay for this stimulus package somewhere somehow in the future, it will not be when we file our 2008 taxes next year.

Kim Lefever, Platteville