

'The Pink Unicorn'

Thunder River presents final play of season virtually. **PAGE A8**

On 'The Hill'

Kirk Blaszyk is the new assistant superintendent at the Glenwood Golf Course. **PAGE A13**

Mitch Mulhall

Racism is what's for breakfast in America. **PAGE A6**



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KYLE MILLS / POST INDEPENDENT

Cadets take their positions as they prepare to attack a fully engulfed car fire during last Sunday's burn day in Glenwood.

An academy in fire

Nine cadets complete CMC Rifle Fire Academy despite pandemic challenges

Kyle Mills
Post Independent

The acrid smell of smoldering fire wafts into the brisk morning air just south of the Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport as Lt. Denny Hostetler, with the Glenwood Springs Fire Department, fuels an intentionally set fire inside an old minivan.

While Lt. Hostetler ignites the fires, Battalion Chief Scott Van Slyke, with Colorado River Fire Rescue, talks with the nine cadets enrolled in Colorado Mountain College Rifle Fire Academy 1, as they prepare to suit up and learn how to safely extinguish car fires during Sunday's burn day.

"Historically in Garfield County people in this class have already been hired as a volunteer or are part time with an organization," Van Slyke said. "Starting this year we were able to open that up to people that don't have any experience. They can come take the class with us, and hopefully it's a stepping stone into a fire service career."

Now in its second year, the 12-week spring program had to condense the academy after a nearly two-month shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After they restricted us because of COVID we talked it over with the class and decided to do a condensed

program, and we've done 80 hours in the last two weeks," Lt. Hostetler said. "It's been really intensive."

A typical academy, which takes over 200 hours to complete, meets three days a week. Typically the classes meet for five hours both Tuesday and Thursday, and 10 hours on Saturdays.

"With COVID we had about a month-and-a-half to two-month hiatus where we couldn't do anything," Van Slyke said.

Cadets must complete the firefighter 1 skill set, and another 45 contact hours for HazMat Operations and Awareness.

ACADEMY, A4

SD8 campaign finance complaint being rectified, candidate says

Hanlon says missed advertising expense was an honest mistake

John Stroud
Post Independent

A campaign finance complaint filed earlier this week against Colorado Senate District 8 Democratic candidate Karl Hanlon should be cleared up by the next filing deadline on Monday, he said.

"My finance person missed a receipt, and we have amended the report," said Hanlon, a Carbonale resident and Glenwood Springs municipal and water attorney who is running for the state Senate seat now held by Republican Bob Rankin, also of Carbonale.

Hanlon is in a June 30 primary race for the Democratic nomination with former Eagle County commissioner Arn Menconi.

"It is frustrating, and it's disappointing, and ultimately it's on me as a candidate that it happened," Hanlon said.

The complaint was filed by Kyle Feuer of Snowmass Village, who worked on the 2018 congressional campaign of Diane Mitsch Bush. Hanlon was a primary candidate for the 3rd District Democratic nomination that year against Mitsch Bush and Menconi.

Feuer alleged in his June 8 complaint that Hanlon did not properly report \$1,510 in Facebook ads and, based on Facebook's reporting, "\$182 worth of advertisements ran without a disclaimer," Feuer wrote in his complaint.

Feuer said in a phone interview Thursday that similar issues came up with Hanlon's congressional campaign in 2018, but when confronted about it the candidate "brushed it off."

"The law is pretty clear that campaigns have to document all fundraising and spending ... it's about transparency," Feuer said. "The law does not have a difference of opinion on this. He's a lawyer, and he knows this is illegal, but he continues to do it."

Hanlon countered that it was an honest mistake, and

COMPLAINT, A11

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