

## Winter study shows declining use

Backcountry data defy perceptions

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Winter trailheads get busier each year. COVID led to a surge in backcountry use. Both of these notions are wrong, according to a study presented this week by Western Colorado University.

Since 2017 Western faculty and  
Winter use **A6**



Sam Liebl

## A feast for those with the least

Mashed potatoes for 80 people were on the menu at Crested Butte Personal Chefs this week. The business joined other valley restaurants in preparing meals for food-insecure families in partnership with Mountain Roots Food Project. Dana Zobs, center, dialed in the perfect amount of butter and salt while she and her crew debated the perennial mashed potato question: chunky or smooth?

## Teetering on the edge

Third wave threatens hospital capacities

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

Public health officials urge Gunnison County residents to limit travel and gatherings this Thanksgiving to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent what could be a disastrous winter.

Gunnison County has seen its biggest spike in cases this month with 216 positive cases reported since Nov. 1. Those figures account

COVID-19 **A6**



Kate Gienapp

## Ski season starts at CBMR

With a few inches of recent snow and more in the forecast, Crested Butte Mountain Resort welcomed skiers and riders for the first day of the 2020-21 winter season on Wednesday. In a first this year, all riders must wear masks and social distance, even on the lift.

## Young hunter survives lion standoff

Aggressive cat confronts 23-year-old woman

Kate Gienapp  
Times Staff Writer

A female hunter shot a mountain lion in self defense during a rare encounter in Gunnison County earlier this month.

Mountain lion **A11**



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