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MAKING WAVES



A seismic survey crew ducks beneath the spinning rotor blades of a Hughes 500D helicopter as they unload at the landing zone. The smaller helicopter is used to ferry crews to and from drilling sites.

Sonic seismic testing helping WPX size up shale project

By DENNIS WEBB
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PARACHUTE — Contractors for an energy company are heading to great heights this winter to help it better understand what's going on deep underground where it's been starting to drill in shale for natural gas.

WPX Energy is using seismic testing to better size up and characterize the Niobrara shale formation as it tries to expand on its initial success drilling there. Much of that work is requiring the use of helicopters to ferry crews and equipment to steep, inaccessible mountain terrain to drill holes in which explosives are placed for use in the testing.

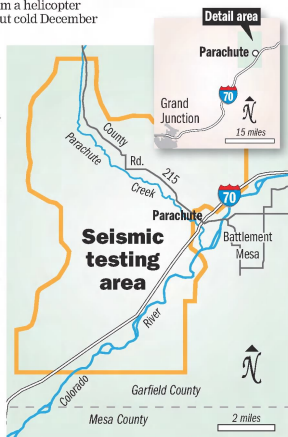
Viewed from a helicopter on a sunny but cold December day, crews with WPX contractor Green River Energy, based in Columbia Falls, Mont., were perched on narrow ridges high up cliff sides west of Parachute, where the 42-square-mile project area is centered. On steep, snow-covered terrain marked by the infrequent tracks of intrepid animals, the presence of humans seemed improbable, much less humans firing up diesel-fueled air compressors powering 1,600-pound drill rigs.

Then again, the entire concept of seismic testing seems improbable — the idea of sending down a shuddering shout from the earth's surface with the expectation of getting back echoes that help describe geology thousands of feet below. But the concept

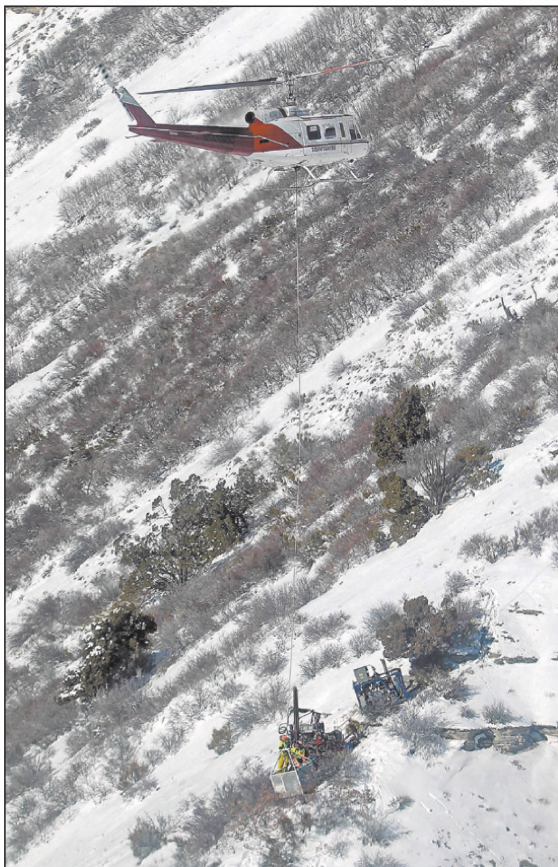
isn't all that novel, with counterparts to be found in the use of the echolocation navigation employed by everything from bats to submarines, and in the employment of ultrasound in medicine.

"It's kind of like ultrasound because it's sound waves we work with," said Bret Gunne-

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ROBERT GARCÍA/The Daily Sentinel



Photos by GRETEL DAUGHERTY/The Daily Sentinel

High on a cliffside, a seismic survey crew detaches from the long line a piece of equipment slung loaded to them by the Hughes 205 helicopter hovering overhead. The equipment will be used to drill 60 feet down, after which explosives will be detonated in an effort to map subsurface geology.

BY THE NUMBERS

A numerical look at WPX Energy's seismic exploration project, located mostly west of Parachute:

42 Square miles — project area

2,600

1,600-2,600

3-1/4 INCHES

LESS THAN 3 PERCENT

Surface disturbance over that acreage

Drill points to be reached via helicopter, with the remainder involving skid-mounted drills. The helicopter sites each require multiple trips to deliver and retrieve crews, the drill rig, the air compressor and other equipment

Pounds of air-powered drills delivered to sites by helicopter

Width of drill holes

4,000

ABOUT 8,000

40 MINUTES TO ALL DAY

Time it can take to drill individual holes

20 POUNDS

Weight of explosives used in each hole, deployed in the form of four, 5-pound sticks

Source vibration points; about 1,000 will involve vibrator trucks and 3,000 will consist of explosions in drill holes

Receiver points laid out in a grid to record underground echoes originating from the source points

60 FEET

Drill-hole depths

30 MEMBERS

Rough number of workers on job during drilling component of work

See **FLESH**, page 4A

Flesh biz alive, well just under our noses

Colorado team saved 59 teenagers this year

By TOM MCGHEE
The Denver Post

DENVER — The FBI's Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force rescued 59 teen prostitutes from flesh peddlers in Colorado this year, up from 49 in 2012.

In July, Operation Cross Country, a nationwide sweep that targeted victims of underage prostitution and their pimps, recovered 105 juveniles and bagged 160 pimps in 76 cities.

Denver ranked fourth in the number of teens rescued, with nine juveniles, fewer than only San Francisco, Milwaukee and Detroit.

These are chilling statistics that indicate modern-day slavers continue to ply their trade in Colorado. "It's not that this is a brand-new problem, FBI spokesman Dave Joly said.

"However, because we are focusing resources, we are addressing the problem directly and are finding more of it."

The market for forced labor isn't confined to the sex trade, and the Internet has made it

ONE GIRL'S STORY

A 17-year-old girl who spoke to The Post was a 14-year-old runaway when an older girl turned her over to a 41-year-old pimp as payment for crack cocaine.

The pimp, who had three other girls turning tricks for him, offered her a place to stay. He bought her clothes and kept her intoxicated with sedatives commonly used in date rape, marijuana and other drugs. The pimp moved the girls from motel to motel every few days to evade detection.

"The market for forced labor isn't confined to the sex trade, and the Internet has made it

Online posts show ugly side of humankind

By BARBARA ORTUYA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mix blatant bigotry with poor spelling. Add a dash of ALL CAPS. Top it off with a violent threat. And there you have it: A recipe for the worst of online comments, scourge of the Internet.

Blame anonymity, blame politicians, blame human nature. But a growing number of websites are reining in the Wild West of online commentary. Companies including Google and the Huffington Post are trying everything from deploying moderators to forcing people to use their real names in order to restore civil discourse. Some sites, such as Popular Science, are banning comments altogether.

The efforts put sites in a delicate position. User comments add a lively, fresh feel to videos, stories and music. And, of

See **UGLY**, page 4A

FLESH: Traffickers lure unsuspecting immigrants with promises of legitimate employment

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easier to ensnare unwary workers anywhere in the world. Trafficked workers, many of them immigrants with little command of English, can be found laboring even in health care and other legitimate jobs.

Human trafficking — for sex or labor — involves servitude, force, coercion or fear, and it is difficult to prove, said FBI Special Agent Stephanie Benitez, who investigates labor-trafficking cases.

"People think whips, chains, but they don't need that," Benitez said. "They can say, 'We know where your family is, and if you leave, they are going to get hurt.'"

Under U.S. and international law, anyone under age 18 found in the sex trade is considered a victim of trafficking, whether or not coercion is present, according to a report from the project, which advocates for victims and lobbies for legislation to fight the problem.

Kids snared by traffickers often are runaways spotted soon after they hit the streets, said Kendall Rames, deputy director of Urban Peak, a Denver nonprofit that provides services to

homeless kids. "These folks are experts at focusing on young people who are vulnerable," Rames said. "They will find a vulnerable young person who has just arrived in Denver. Within 48 hours they are contacted by someone for the sex trade."

One 17-year-old girl who spoke to The Post was 14 when an older girl turned her over to a 41-year-old pimp as payment for crack cocaine. She is not being named because she is the victim of a sex crime.

"I had run away from home that night because my grandma said I can't go to this party, and I said, 'Whatever.' I got completely drunk, and I guess I ended up in their hands. When they asked me where I lived, I said 'I'm on the run,'" she said.

The pimp, who had three other girls turning tricks for him, offered her a place to stay. He discriminated her because she was intoxicated with sedatives commonly used in date rape, marijuana and other drugs, the girl said.

Young people trapped in prostitution see little, or no cash, for their participation, and a combination of fear and the brainwashing they are subject

to, leaves them loath to turn in their abusers, Rames said. The girl said her pimp was selling drugs and they moved from motel to motel, leaving after a few days to avoid the attention a string of men coming was sure to bring.

It was the drug sales that brought the operation to a close. An undercover FBI agent came to buy drugs at a room where she was staying. "They were like, there is a really young girl in there, she is with all these men, and all they see around me is drugs," the girl said.

The man and several women who helped run the operation had planned to take the prostitutes on a road trip to Mississippi. The girl told a cousin she was leaving the state. "She ended up calling my Nanna."

After talking to police, the girl's grandmother contacted her. She told the girl her mom — who was awaiting release from prison for theft — was at a halfway house and wanted to see her.

The girl grabbed her packed bags and ran down the street. Cops were waiting. They arrested her and then busted the other members of the ring.

After the arrest, the girl spent

time in juvenile detention and then a rehab facility before moving back with her grandmother. She was back on the street last year after she and some friends went partying with men they met at a liquor store.

At the end of the night, the friends told her to go with the older men, and the strangers took her home to her grandmother's. Before she got out of the car, they said, "It was fun, let's kick it again."

When she met them the next day, she said, they told her that she was going to help make money. The Crips-affiliated ring knew where her grandmother lived and told her if she didn't see her body, they would harm her family.

Eight people involved in that ring were busted in December 2012, along with four juveniles.

Angela Jeanine Ryan, 43, a minor player, on Dec. 5 received a four-year suspended prison sentence with four years of intensive supervised probation, followed by three years of parole. Other prosecutions are still underway, Colorado Attorney General spokeswoman Carolyn Tyler said.

Trafficking in children for the sex trade is increasingly the do-

main of street gangs, said Sgt. Daniel Steele, a Denver police officer who heads the FBI task force for the Front Range.

Sixty-three percent of those arrested for trafficking and pimping offenses by the task force since January 2012 are documented gang members or associates. "We are starting to see a larger influx of gang members," Steele said. "A lot of guys are getting out of jail saying there is a lot less risk in trafficking than slinging drugs."

The girl has since earned her general equivalency diploma and plans to go to college and study criminology.

"I want to help get nasty, perverted, not only men, but women," she said. "I want to help young girls out of that."

In July, a U.S. District Court jury in Denver convicted Highlands Ranch businessman, Kizzy Kalu, on 89 counts of human trafficking for luring Filipino nurses here with promises of high-paying jobs.

Kalu's Internet ads said Adam University — a school in name only — needed nursing instructor/supervisors. Unlike visas for other businesses, which are limited in number, there is no cap on the number

granted to institutes of higher education.

The ads included pictures of Teikyo Loreto Heights University — which has a large foreign-student population — and claimed they were photos of the fictional Adam University.

He arranged for 25 foreign nationals to receive H-1B visas, charging them \$6,500 each for obtaining them.

Kalu promised the women jobs as nurse instructors/supervisors, then sent them to work for much less, as nurses in long-term care facilities.

The facilities paid the nurses, but Kalu took \$1,200 per month from each of them, threatening to send a letter to the Department of Homeland Security that would cause them to lose their visas.

Some of the traffickers head traveling crews made up of young, generally not underage, people who sell magazines and products. "They are told that they get paid to travel the country and earn money and meet people," Laffrere said. "They are not told they have to pay food and rent and that they will have to pay off either real or inflated debt to their boss."

UGLY: Some require identity

► Continued from Page One

course, the longer visitors stay to read the posts, and the more they come back, the more a site can charge for advertising.

What websites don't want is the kind of off-putting nastiness that has spread forth under a recent CNN.com article about the Affordable Care Act.

"If it were up to me, you progressive libs destroying this country would be hanging from the gallows for treason. People are awaking though. If I were you, I'd be very afraid," wrote someone using the name "JBlaze."

YouTube, which is owned by Google, has long been home to some of the Internet's most juvenile and grammatically incorrect comments. The site caused a stir last month when it began requiring people to log into Google Plus to write a comment. Besides herding users to Google's unified network, the company says the move is designed to raise the level of discourse in the conversations that play out under YouTube videos.

One such video, a Cheerios commercial featuring an interracial family, met with such a barrage of racist responses on YouTube in May that General Mills shut down comments in altogether.

"Starting this week, when you're watching a video on YouTube, you'll see comments sorted by people you care about first," wrote YouTube product manager Nundu Janakiram and principal engineer Yonatan Zunger in a blog post announcing the changes. "If you post videos on your channel, you also have more tools to moderate welcome and unwelcome conversations. This way, YouTube comments will become conversations that matter to you."

Anonymity has always been a major appeal of the new life. Two decades ago, The New Yorker magazine ran a cartoon with a dog sitting in front of a computer, one paw on the keyboard. The caption read: "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog." At its best, anonymity allows people to speak freely without repercussions. It allows whistle blowers and protesters to espouse unpopular opinions. At its worst, it allows people to spout off without repercussions. It gives trolls and bullies license to pick arguments, threaten and abuse.

But anonymity has been eroding in recent years. On the Internet, many people may know not only your name, but also your latest musings, the songs you've listened to, your job history, who your friends are and even the brand of soap you prefer.

"It's not so much that our off-line lives are going online, it's our off-line and online lives are more integrated," says Mark Lashley, a professor of communications at La Salle University in Philadelphia. Facebook, which requires people to use their real names, played a big part in the seismic shift.

"The way the Web was developed, it was unique in that the avatar and the handle were always these things people used to get by. It did develop into a Wild West situation," he says, adding that it's no surprise that Google

and other companies are going this route. "As more people go online and we put more of our lives online, we should be held accountable for things we say."

Nearly three-quarters of teens and young adults think people are more likely to use discriminatory language online or in text messages than in face-to-face conversations, according to a recent poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV.

The poll didn't distinguish between anonymous comments and those with real identities attached.

The Huffington Post is also clamping down on vicious comments. In addition to employing 40 human moderators who sift through readers' posts for racism, homophobia, hate speech and the like, the AOL-owned news site is also chipping away at anonymous commenting. Previously, anyone could respond to an article posted on the site by creating an account, without tying it to an email address. This fall, HuffPo began requiring people to verify their identity by connecting their accounts to an email address, but that didn't appear to be enough and the site now also asks commenters to log in using a verified Facebook account.

"We are reaching a place where the Internet is growing up," says Jimmy Soni, managing editor of HuffPo. "These changes represent a maturing (online) environment."

Soni says the changes have already made a difference in the quality of the comments. The lack of total anonymity, while not a failsafe method, offers people a "gut check moment," he says. There have been "significantly fewer things that we would not be able to share with our mothers," in the HuffPo comments section since the change, Soni says.

Newspapers are also turning toward regulated comments. Of the largest 137 U.S. newspapers — those with daily circulation above 50,000 — nearly 49 percent ban anonymous commenting, according to Arthur Santana, assistant communications professor at the University of Houston. Nearly 42 percent allow anonymity, while 9 percent do not have comments at all.

Curbing anonymity doesn't always help. Plenty of people are fine attaching their names and Facebook profiles to poorly spelled outbursts that live on long after their fury has passed.

In some cases, sites have gone further. Popular Science, the 141-year-old science and technology magazine, stopped allowing comments of any kind on its news articles in September.

While highlighting responses to articles about climate change and abortion, Popular Science online editor Suzanne LaBarre announced the change and explained in a blog post that comments can be "bad for science."

Because "comments sections tend to be a grotesque reflection of the media culture surrounding them, the cynical work of undermining bedrock scientific doctrine is now being done beneath our own stories," wrote LaBarre.

But she says she waits to see the response to this story.



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