

Stunned residents return after Colorado wildfire

BY IVAN MORENO
 Associated Press Writer

ORDWAY, COLO. | Oscar Martinez says the handful of bones he found behind the black and smoking ruins of his home were the remains of his Shar-Pei, Kika.

"It's a lot to absorb right now," a stunned Martinez said Wednesday, a day after wind pushed a wildfire across the southeast Colorado plains, killing two firefighters and destroying eight homes on the fringes of Ordway, a remote farm town of 1,200 people.

Martinez clutched the bones, gazing about, speechless.

The fire about 120 miles southeast of Denver blackened 14 square miles of grassland and forced the town's residents to flee to neighboring communities.

It was fully contained Wednesday, but a 15-square-mile blaze raged nearly out of control on a remote part of the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A shell of a house and garage is all that remains at this Ordway, Colo., residence after a fire swept through the small eastern Colorado town on Tuesday leaving two firefighters dead.

Army's Fort Carson after killing a firefighting pilot. And in the mountains of western Colorado near Carbondale, a

third fire burned about 1 1/2 square miles, damaged two buildings and slightly injured a fisherman.

MASSA

Continued from 1A

Massa also rejects calls to tap into the country's strategic petroleum reserves, which politicians call for frequently when oil prices spike.

"Neither one of those is cutting into the real issue," Massa said. "The real issue is the obscene profits being made by Exxon Mobil and other companies at the pump. These companies have consistently, over the past year, had the highest profits in the history of the industry. It's time to stop that."

Massa said suspending the federal gas tax for the summer would drain needed funds away from highway and bridge repair.

"I disagree with John

McCain," Massa said. "His policy is borrow and spend, and make our children pay for his inability to put a true economic policy in place. I don't want more bridges collapsing. We don't need more potholes. That's what his solution is. Who's going to maintain our roads and bridges? Exxon Mobil will not."

U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport – Massa's opponent in the race for the 29th Congressional District seat in this fall's election – said it's the Democrats who are playing politics with the issue of gas prices.

In a speech Kuhl will give today on the House floor, he will call for Congress to pass the GREEN Technology Act

of 2007, which creates and extends tax credits for investments in alternative energy sources.

Kuhl co-sponsored the bill. "I am sure that I am not the only member of Congress listening to their constituents worry about the consequences of not taking up legislation to ease gas prices," according to an excerpt from Kuhl's speech provided to The Leader.

"While our constituents cannot afford to drive to work, take their children to school, or pay for their groceries, Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes in the 110th Congress. Higher energy taxes mean higher gas prices, something that is not needed nor wanted by my constituents."

CONSTRUCTION

Continued from 1A

The project is expected to cost more than \$3 million, Dawson said.

The contractor will be G. DeVincentis and Son, from the Binghamton area. They have worked with the city before, notably on the "big dig" on Market Street in 2002.

Dawson said the Southside project, which will take most of the summer, will be done in phases. He hopes to keep traffic moving along Wall and Chemung streets as much as possible during the project, with short detours.

However, Dawson cautioned, the schedule for block closures will be fluid due to the logistics involved.

"But we'll try to keep everybody informed as best we can, as we go along," he said.

Dawson hopes to have the uppermost portion of Chemung Street finished by the time classes start at Corning Community College in late August. The entire project should be done by mid-October, he said.

City Manager Mark Ryckman said his office will be sending out letters to residents of Wall and Chemung

streets, giving details on the project.

Also, plans are posted in the city council chambers at Nasser Civic Center. Residents with further questions may contact the Department of Public Works at 962-0340.

"It's a significant project. There will be disruptions to parking and traffic, along with some noise and dust," said City Manager Mark Ryckman. "As always, we ask for the public's patience. But hopefully when we're done this season, people will see a big improvement."

TAG'S

Continued from 1A

and country rocker Dierks Bentley will play on June 21.

Boston and STYX, two rock bands who rose to prominence with a string of smash hits in the 1970's and 80's,

will perform on Aug. 1.

Ted Nugent, another grizzled rock veteran, will appear on Aug. 22 with Nazareth, and Southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd will perform Sept. 19 with Foghat.

Tag's may add a few shows

to the lineup, according to its Web site.

Tickets will go on sale online April 23, and by phone and in person on April 24. For ticket information and band biographies, go to www.tags.com or call 562-7500.

FUND

Continued from 1A

\$565,000 in his war chest for the November election. Kuhl has amassed \$365,000.



KUHL

"The numbers speak for themselves," said Massa for Congress Campaign Manager Dave Marion. "Grass-roots supporters in New York have stepped up to fund this campaign. \$200,000 is a lot of money, and the fact that Eric Massa holds this much of an advantage speaks volumes about his viability. We are in a great position to continue moving forward so that Eric can continue his service to America."

According to the FEC,

\$223,493 of the money raised by the Massa campaign this quarter came from individuals. He also received \$54,000 from political action committees (PACS).

Massa has vowed not to take donations from corporate PACs, but does accept donations from interest groups such as labor unions.

"My contributors are all individually accountable," Massa said. "Even those who contribute through labor are individual working Americans who made a decision to fund a voice for change. The reality is, there's a clear difference where campaign money is coming from in the 29th District."

According to the FEC, Kuhl received more than \$46,000

from individual contributors and \$60,000 from PACs.

One possible explanation for the discrepancy in fund raising numbers is the length of time the two candidates have been officially in the race. While it was widely speculated Kuhl would run for reelection, he did not officially kick off his re-election campaign until March.

Massa, on the other hand, announced his candidacy a year earlier.

"I was glad to have recently announced my intention to run for reelection," Kuhl said in an e-mail. "I'm confident we'll have the resources necessary to communicate my message with the people of the 29th District."

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



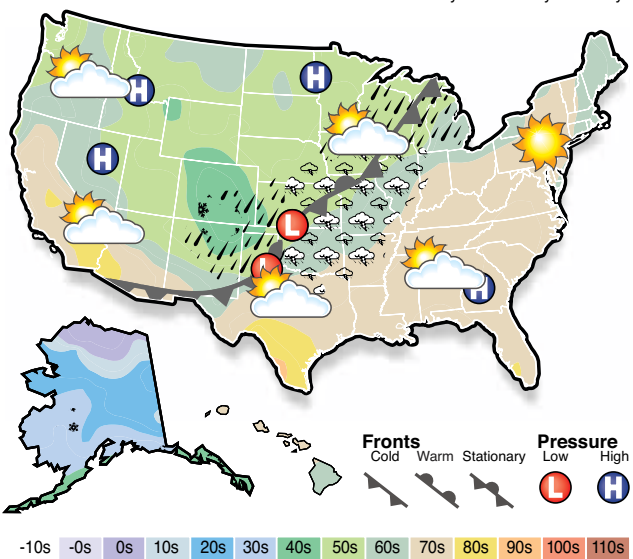
WETM 18 Storm Team
 Meteorologist Scott Mayer
 Meteorologist Jbe Pasquarelli



Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Inc. clouds, showers late	P. sunny with iso. afternoon t-storms	P. sunny with iso. afternoon t-storms	Partly cloudy	P. sunny with sct. showers or t-storms
High 74 Low 27	High 73 Low 36	High 75 Low 40	High 66 Low 48	High 69 Low 45	High 70 Low 43	High 72 Low 44

National forecast

Forecast highs for Thursday, April 17



NEW YORK

Today will be sunny with highs in the mid-70s.

Tonight will be clear with lows in the lower 40s.

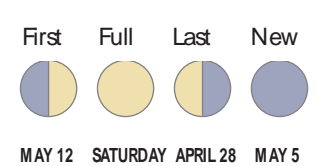
Friday will be partly sunny with highs in the mid-70s.

Friday night will be partly cloudy with lows in the mid-40s.

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1965, the Mississippi River reached a flood crest at Saint Paul, Minn., four feet higher than any previous mark. During the next two weeks record levels were reached along the Mississippi between Saint Paul and Hannibal, Mo.

MOON PHASES



SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	6:24
Sunset today	7:52
Sunrise Friday	6:22
Sunset Friday	7:53

	YESTERDAY			TODAY			TOMORROW		
	H	Lo	Ptc	H	Lo	Okl	H	Lo	Okl
Albany	66	31		73	36	Okl	75	43	Clr
Boston	58	37		55	41	Clr	70	43	Clr
Brownsville	83	66		85	70	Clr	82	71	Clr
Buffalo	63	36		68	42	Clr	70	46	PCldy
Chicago	73	45		64	50	Oldy	59	48	Rain
Cincinnati	68	36		73	45	Clr	75	50	Clr
Cleveland	68	36		70	45	Clr	72	51	PCldy
Denver	52	34		49	25	Snow	64	26	Clr
Detroit	69	40		69	46	PCldy	69	48	PCldy
Houston	77	48		77	61	Oldy	71	62	Rain
Los Angeles	68	53		62	60	Clr	89	57	Clr
Louisville	72	40		75	47	Clr	76	53	PCldy
Memphis	73	43		76	54	PCldy	72	59	Rain
New Orleans	70	45		77	58	PCldy	76	62	Clr
New York City	68	45		73	43	Clr	77	50	Clr
Orlando	71	51		79	49	Clr	81	56	Clr
Philadelphia	67	39		74	36	Clr	78	47	Clr
Phoenix	65	36		62	60	Clr	89	57	Clr
Pittsburgh	67	31		72	40	Clr	75	48	Clr
Portland, Ore.	53	44	.05	58	41	Oldy	52	40	Oldy
Providence	64	32		66	36	Clr	72	42	Clr
Richmond	70	32		75	36	Clr	81	47	Clr
Sacramento	77	42		78	42	Clr	73	47	PCldy
St. Louis	73	48		72	54	PCldy	63	56	Rain
St. Petersburg	65	57		72	54	Clr	80	62	Clr
Salt Lake City	45	30	.01	55	28	Clr	70	38	PCldy
San Antonio	82	58		81	64	Oldy	78	57	PCldy
San Diego	63	55		74	55	Clr	68	53	Clr
San Francisco	67	45		71	46	Clr	64	47	PCldy
San Juan, P.R.	89	74		88	76	PCldy	85	74	Clr
Santa Fe	74	47		47	31	Oldy	66	25	Clr
St. Ste Marie	85	66		81	41	Oldy	54	36	Clr
Seattle	57	42	.01	54	42	PCldy	48	39	Rain
Shreveport	76	43		76	58	Clr	70	59	Rain
Spokane	63	50		55	38	Oldy	58	34	PCldy
Syracuse	54	29		57	33	Clr	46	33	PCldy
Syracuse	67	30		74	40	Clr	76	45	PCldy

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