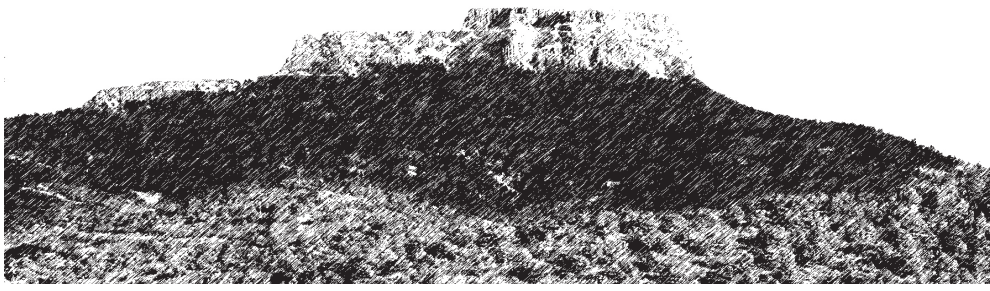


OVER THE PASS



"Probably chocolate syrup, because we never eat it. I don't know why it's there. We usually buy it for ice cream one night, then we never use it again."

— Danny Thompson, TSJC computer technician, Trinidad



Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News

"Milk, eggs, butter, cheese and lettuce. You can never go wrong with butter and cheese. They make everything go better."

— D.J. Warren, "right hand," Fabi's Pizza & Wings, Trinidad

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What is something that's always in your refrigerator?"



"Peanut butter. Chunky. The brand doesn't matter. I grew up making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Still do."

— Joe Smith, TSJC student, Fort Worth, TX



"Butter! It's so awesome. So many things that are delicious, they're delicious because of butter, including toffee, croissants, scones, a scampi sauce and lots of French sauces. Cows are awesome. Cream is awesome. Buttered toast is my go-to snack."

— Ali Weber, pastry chef, Legends Restaurant, Angel Fire Resort, NM

STATE BRIEFS

Associated Press

New Mexico delegation wants EPA to move on compensation

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico's congressional delegation has concerns with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over delays in compensation for expenses and damages caused by the Gold King Mine spill.

The delegation announced Monday that it sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. It asks her agency to process millions of dollars in reimbursement claims submitted by the state and the Navajo Nation and to set up a claims office to begin processing compensation for victims.

The lawmakers also want EPA to adopt a robust, long-term plan for the independent monitoring of the area's water quality.

"We are deeply troubled that these two issues are still far from resolved six months after the spill," the lawmakers wrote.

The delegation also warned that the spring snowmelt will increase water flow in the Animas and San Juan rivers and that could stir up lead, arsenic and other contaminants deposited in the wake of August 2015 spill.

The EPA recently announced that it plans to return to the Gold King Mine in southwestern Colorado this spring

or early summer to resume preliminary cleanup work after it triggered the 3-million-gallon spill of wastewater that fouled rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

The spill forced the shutdown of public water supplies and left farmers in northwestern New Mexico and on the Navajo reservation worried about long-term effects to their irrigation supplies.

"Many are still feeling the economic impacts and health uncertainties of the spill," the delegation wrote.

The EPA is considering Superfund status for the Gold King and 47 other mining sites in the Bonita Peak Mining District north of Silverton, which would free up millions of dollars in federal funds for an extensive cleanup.

The EPA estimates that about 5.4 million gallons of acidic mine waste flows from those sites each day, eventually reaching the Animas River.

Family wins \$175,000 after inmate kills himself in Supermax

DENVER (AP) — The federal government has agreed to pay \$175,000 to the family of an inmate who argued that the prison system failed to treat his obvious mental illness before he killed himself inside the nation's highest-security lockup.

Relatives of Robert Knott, 48, said in a lawsuit that officials at the Supermax prison in southern Colorado allowed him to languish for more than a decade in solitary confine-

ment without proper treatment for his schizophrenia and other problems.

Corrections officers ignored signs that Knott, who was serving a life sentence for a kidnapping spree, was deteriorating in the weeks before he hanged himself in September 2013, according to the lawsuit.

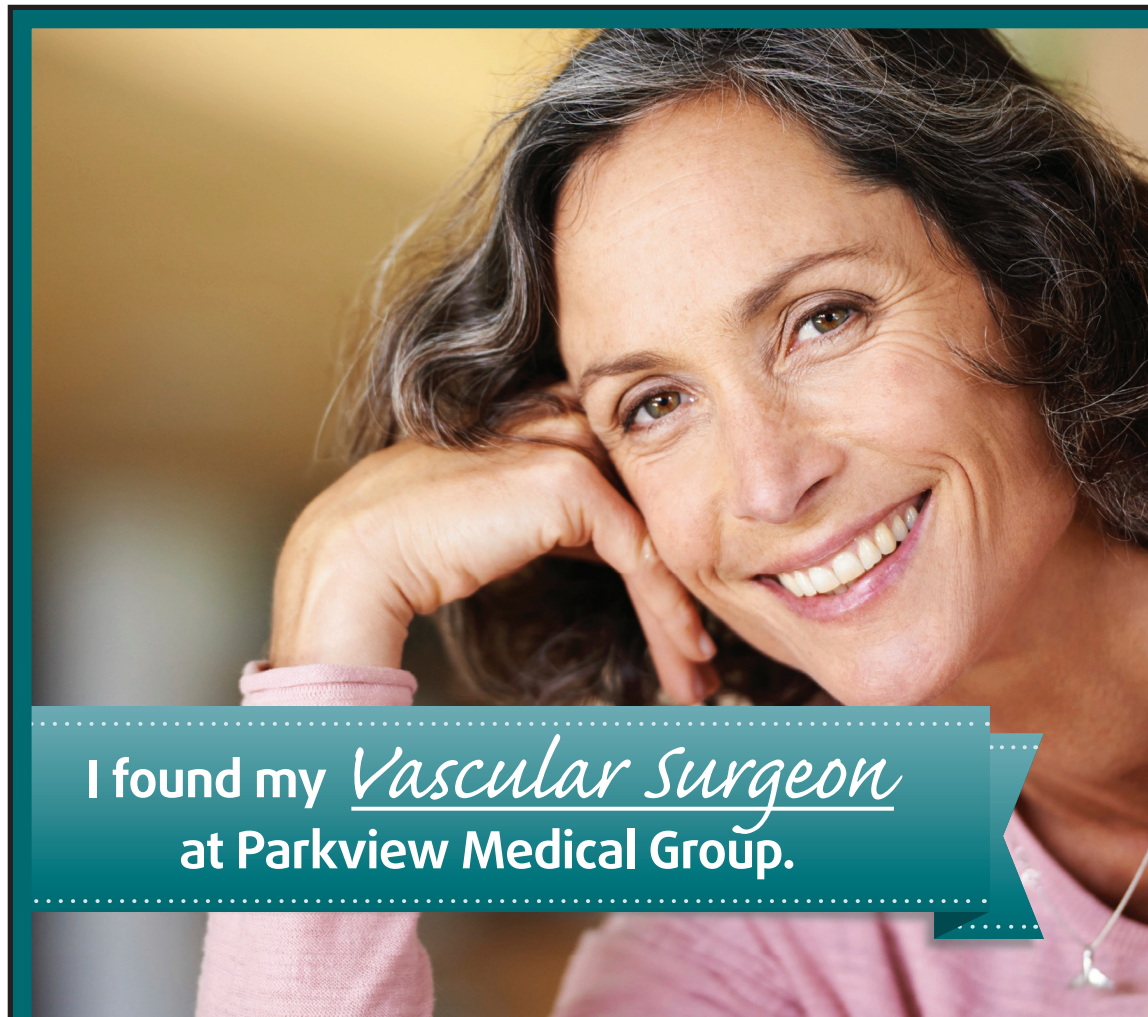
Prison officials did not acknowledge guilt as part of the settlement reached in February, The Denver Post reported Monday. The federal Bureau of Prisons does not comment on litigation or settlements, agency spokesman Justin Long said.

The treatment of mentally ill inmates at Supermax has been highly scrutinized since a group of prisoners sued in 2012, alleging widespread mistreatment. Prison officials made changes following that separate lawsuit.

Knott's suicide came after six other Supermax inmates killed themselves, according to his family's lawsuit. Others had attempted suicide by swallowing razor blades and cutting themselves, it said.

Knott experienced severe anxiety after being told he would be moved to a psychiatric prison in Atlanta where he would be held with other prisoners, his family said. Despite his screaming, refusal to eat and other symptoms, guards did not place him on suicide watch, allowing him to hang himself with a bedsheet, the lawsuit said.

Attorney Kathryn Stimson, who represented Knott's family, called his death "another tragic example of our government's mistreatment of the mentally ill."



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