



NEWS

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Potential site for lineworker program and forensic center identified

Grand Junction – Mesa State College has identified a potential site for the Western Colorado Community College’s Electric Lineworker program and Mesa State’s Forensic Anthropology Research Center. The 35-acre parcel is south of US Highway 50 near the intersection with 32 Road and is zoned industrial.

“We believe this location to be very suitable for both programs,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “After we announced we were closing the temporary forensic center at 29 and D roads, the community stepped up and suggested more than 10 possible locations. This one appears to be the best choice.”

The temporary forensic center at 29 and D roads was closed after neighbors expressed concerns about its proximity to their homes though many said they appreciated the importance and value of having such a center in the Grand Valley. The Lineworker program is currently at that site but will need to move as the property is earmarked for future development. The property is owned by the Mesa State College Real Estate Foundation, which also plans to buy the proposed new site.

Foster and other Mesa State administrators went door-to-door in the subdivision nearest the proposed site on Thursday, June 25, to let residents know about the plan and invited them to a neighborhood open house on July 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the new Mesa County Animal Services building, 971A Coffman Road, Whitewater. The Elk Run subdivision is a mile away from the parcel. Foster encouraged neighbors to attend to have any questions answered by experts in both programs.

The lineworker program prepares students to work for power line construction companies and utility companies. Forensic centers are highly controlled, secure facilities that provide an opportunity for law enforcement professionals, students and researchers to better understand the decomposition of human remains.

“The lineworker program is one of WCCC’s most popular programs and is well supported by the industries it serves,” Foster said. “The forensic center will be the fifth in the country and the first in an arid climate. It will provide our Criminal Justice and Criminal Forensics students an unparalleled learning opportunity.”

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