

Ex-GJ firm tops list of consumer complaints

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A former Grand Junction man's company led in the number of consumer complaints received by the Colorado Attorney General's Office in 2009 and the first two months of this year; the office announced Monday.

The office attributed the top complaints — 631 in 2009 — to rebate offers in general, but the Grand Junction-based National Energy Rebate Fund drew the almost all of them with 627.

That fund was owned by Tim Stubbs, formerly of 265 Red Rim Drive, who was fined \$100,000 by Attorney General John Suthers in January for defrauding customers for rebates they were promised after purchasing energy-efficient housing mate-

rials. Stubbs was ordered to return \$4.2 million he collected from more than 14,000 customers in Colorado, Wisconsin and elsewhere in the nation.

Suthers' spokesman, Mike Saccone, said the state also is seeking a judgment against Stubbs' personal funds, but he is believed to have fled the country and may be living in Costa Rica.

Last year, Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen obtained a \$5.5 million judgment against Stubbs and similar funds he was associated with there.

According to that judgment, 320 Wisconsin households had received rebate vouchers worth about \$3.8 million, but the fund had set aside only about \$309,000

to pay them. Van Hollen said the fund had issued about \$60 million in vouchers nationwide.

Neither Stubbs nor any other worker with the fund could be reached, but the following message was posted on its Web page at www.nationalrebatefund.com:

"Due to ongoing legal issues we are unable to continue processing. You do not need to mail your claims, unless you want to, but they will most likely be returned as the FA (fund administrator) has resigned and is not accepting mail. Our plan is to make payment to ALL voucher holders from April 1, 2004 through Oct. 31, 2008, claim pools. We are working to gain the states' cooperation in this matter to allow us to make payment to all these consum-

ers with outstanding vouchers. The escrow does remain in tact (sic)."

Suthers' office also fielded 185 rebate complaints in January and February of this year; 130 of them specifically on the rebate fund with more expected.

In 2009, the fund received more than twice the number of complaints than the second-largest category, utility complaints on cable and satellite television services. Most of those complaints were lodged against Englewood-based DirecTV, which regularly leads Suthers' list.

Saccone said the investigation against the fund began with complaints first lodged in June 2009, meaning it quickly took the lead on the complaint list from reports that came in

the last half of the year.

Under Suthers' judgment order, money in the fund's escrow account will be redistributed to defrauded consumers based on their level of participation. Stubbs had placed \$4.6 million into the account. About \$4.4 million remains.

How much individual consumers get back compared to what they were defrauded will depend on how many file claims and how many more rebate complaints are received, he said.

Stubbs misrepresented the likelihood that consumers actually would receive a rebate, and the scheme was not a way to promote energy efficiency but for Stubbs to sell higher-priced items from other companies he was associated with, Saccone said.

Top 10 complaints, by place of business

1. Rebate offers, 631
2. Utility complaints (cable and satellite television), 254
3. Roofing and gutter contractors, 193
4. Health food and nutritional supplements, 145
5. Timeshare resales and vacant lot resales, 129
6. Computer training, 113
7. Magazine subscriptions, 110
8. Tanning salons, 109
9. Personal care products, 108
10. Telephone (cell phones and equipment), 75

Services Friday for man killed in police call

By PAUL SHOCKLEY
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A funeral service has been scheduled for Friday for a man who was shot and killed by police.

Services for 39-year-old Brent Ingram will be at 7 p.m. at Mesa Funeral Service, 832 S. Seventh St., according to a death notice in today's Daily Sentinel.

Ingram's widow, Nancy, said on Thursday she hoped to raise \$1,400 to pay for services and cremation of her husband's body.

Rhonda Nelson, funeral director with Mesa Funeral Service, said representatives from three local construction companies, all former employers of Brent Ingram, contacted her on Friday and paid the bill.

Brent Ingram died after he was shot twice in the chest Feb. 28 following a confrontation with a pair of Grand Junction police officers inside a room at Timbers Motel, 1810 North Ave.

Nancy Ingram has said her husband was intoxicated at the time of the incident. Authorities have said he brandished a knife at the officers. The officers remain on paid leave from the department, which is standard procedure while officer-involved shootings are investigated.

Police spokeswoman Kate Porras said the District Attorney's Office has received the case for review, which could take several weeks.

SHELTER FROM THE STORM



DEAN HUMPHREY/The Daily Sentinel

Amanda Helms and Brady Bledsoe of Grand Junction find a place to enjoy a snowstorm without getting wet at Evan's Downtown Deli on Monday. The rain and snow that fell in Grand Junction on Monday amounted to 0.52 inch of water, a one-day moisture record for March 8.

WEATHER

Here's what's in store today. High 45, Low 30 Rain or snow

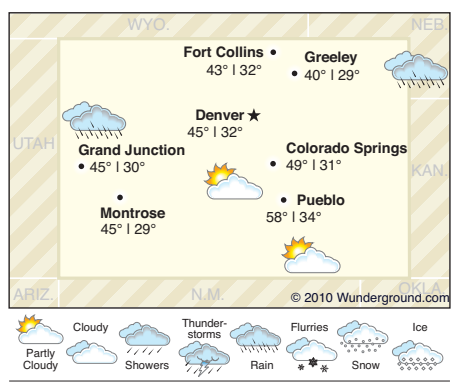
THE GRAND VALLEY'S 4-DAY OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
High 40, Low 27	High 42, Low 24	High 48, Low 28	High 49, Low 30

AREA FORECAST

Delta/Montrose	High 45, Low 29, showers
Rifle	High 40, Low 26, showers
Glenwood Springs	High 40, Low 26, showers
Grand Mesa	High 45, Low 30, showers
Southeastern Utah	High 46, Low 31, showers
Denver area	High 45, Low 32, partly cloudy

COLORADO TODAY



COLORADO TEMPERATURES

City	High	Low	Prc	Snow	Gunnison	Hayden	La Junta	Lamar	Leadville	Limon	Meeker	Montrose	Pueblo	Rifle	Springfield	Telluride	Trinidad
Akron	45	38	0.47	M	34	30	M	M	31	19	0.16	M	30	28	M	M	50
Alamosa	38	30	0.24	1	51	40	0.84	M	31	19	0.16	M	30	28	M	M	50
Aspen	31	25	0.07	M	51	40	0.84	M	31	19	0.16	M	30	28	M	M	50
Burlington	48	43	0.55	M	44	35	0.09	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Colorado Springs	49	33	T	0	44	35	0.09	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Cortez	40	32	0.21	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Craig	37	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Denver	45	34	0.01	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Durango	35	29	0.20	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Eagle	43	30	M	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Englewood	43	35	0.01	M	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54
Grand Junction	42	32	0.52	0	40	25	T	M	40	25	T	M	39	33	0.52	M	54

Get instant weather information at **GJSentinel.com**

Fireplace advisory
 It's OK to burn today.
 — Mesa County Health Dept.

Sunset today
 6:15 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday
 6:33 a.m.

UV index: 4 (moderate)
 Full moon Last qtr. New moon First qtr.
 March 30 April 6 March 15 March 23

MONDAY IN GRAND JUNCTION

Temperature
 High 42 at 3:59 p.m.
 Low 32 at 9:48 a.m.
 Average high 53
 Average low 29
 Record high 73 in 1904
 Record low 14 in 1998
 High this date last year 55
 Low this date last year 29

Precipitation
 For the period ending at 5 p.m. 0.52 in.
 Total this month 0.62 in.
 Average month to date 0.24 in.
 Total for year 1.63 in.
 Average year to date 1.34 in.

Relative humidity
 High 100% at 3 a.m.
 Low 76% at 4 p.m.

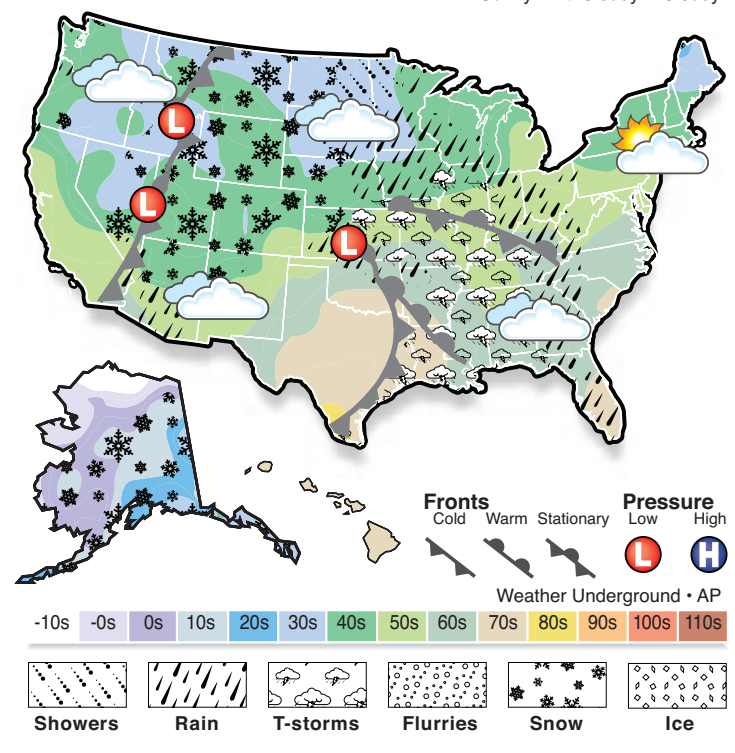
WATER LEVELS AND FLOWS

Lake Powell	3,620 ft.	Gunnison River in Grand Jct.	1,320 cfs
Blue Mesa Reservoir	7,485 ft.	Gunnison River below Gunnison tunnel	512 cfs
Colorado River at Cameo	1,700 cfs		

NATIONAL FORECAST AND TEMPERATURES

City	High	Low	Prc.	Othk.
Albuquerque	51	36	.24	PCldy
Anchorage	29	11		Snow
Atlanta	73	39		Cldy
Baltimore	59	30		Clr
Birmingham	73	36		Rain
Boise	52	40	.05	Cldy
Boston	59	42		Clr
Charlotte, N.C.	70	28		PCldy
Cheyenne	45	30		Cldy
Chicago	44	34		Rain
Cincinnati	61	36	.07	Cldy
Cleveland	51	29		PCldy
Columbia, S.C.	71	29		PCldy
Dallas-Fort Worth	60	51	.31	Clr
Detroit	55	28		Clr
Fairbanks	20	-24		Cldy
Flagstaff	37	25	.03	Snow
Great Falls	60	31		Snow
Honolulu	78	66	.08	Clr
Houston	66	56	.29	Cldy
Indianapolis	60	34	.07	Rain
Kansas City	65	38		Rain
Las Vegas	58	45	.10	Rain
Los Angeles	66	55		PCldy
Miami Beach	76	55		Cldy
Milwaukee	50	26		Cldy
Minneapolis-St. Paul	37	35		Cldy
Nashville	73	44		Rain
New Orleans	66	50	.02	Rain
New York City	61	41		Clr
Oklahoma City	55	48	.50	Clr
Omaha	49	36		Rain
Orlando	73	46		Cldy
Philadelphia	60	36		Clr
Phoenix	58	47	.24	Clr
Pittsburgh	51	23		PCldy
Portland, Maine	56	29		Clr
Portland, Ore.	51	41	.09	Cldy
Reno	52	33		Cldy
Richmond	64	33		Clr
Sacramento	59	47		PCldy
St. Louis	59	38		Rain

FORECAST for 10 a.m. today



Salt Lake City	53	33		Snow	Seattle	41	38	.14	Cldy
San Antonio	70	61	.36	Clr	Tampa	69	44		Cldy
San Diego	61	56		Clr	Tucson	52	45	MM	Clr
San Francisco	56	51		Clr	Tulsa	56	48	.54	Cldy
Santa Fe	44	33	.31	Cldy	Washington, D.C.	62	37		Cldy

WEATHER HELPLINES

Current Grand Junction conditions243-0914 then press 1
 Air quality advisory
 Five-day forecast.....243-0914 then press 2
 Time & local temperature242-2550
 Road conditions877-315-7623
 Mesa County.....248-6990
 Montrose/Delta counties874-2172