

Snowball fights now legal in Colorado town after boy's quest

By Associated Press on 12.13.18

Word Count **349**

Level **MAX**



Image 1. Range View Elementary School third-grader Dane Best throws the first legal snowball in the parking lot of the Town Hall of Severance, Colorado, December 3, 2018. A short time earlier, he had presented his argument to town board trustees to change a law that bans snowball fights. Photo by: Timothy Hurst/The Coloradoan via AP

SEVERANCE, Colorado — A 9-year-old boy has convinced the leaders of a small northern Colorado town to overturn a nearly century-old ban on snowball fights, and he already knows who his first target will be — his little brother.

Dane Best, who lives in the often snow-swept town of Severance, presented his arguments at a town board meeting Monday night, and members voted unanimously to lift the ban.

"I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting. "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."

Dane's mother, Brooke Best, told The Greeley Tribune her son had been talking about snowballs since he found out about a month and a half ago that it was illegal to throw them within town limits. The last time it snowed, Dane said he and his friends looked around for police and joked about breaking the law.

Kyle Rietkerk, assistant to the Severance town administrator, said the rule was part of a larger ordinance that made it illegal to throw or shoot stones or missiles at people, animals, buildings, trees, any other public or private property or vehicles. Snowballs fell under the town's definition of "missiles."



"All of the kids always get blown away that it's illegal to have snowball fights in Severance," Rietkerk said before the meeting. "So, what ends up happening is (town leaders) always encourage the kids with, 'You have the power you can change the law.' No one has."

Then Dane took up the cause, writing letters with his classmates in support of overturning the ban.

And after Monday night's success, his 4-year-old brother Dax had better watch out. When board members asked Dane during a meeting in November who he wants to hit, he pointed at his little brother.

Dane and his family have researched other Severance ordinances, including one that defines pets only as cats and dogs.

Dane has a guinea pig, which is illegal in Severance, too.

Quiz

1 Read the inference below.

Dane may find it necessary to speak at a town board meeting a second time.

Which sentence from the article provides the BEST support for the statement above?

- (A) "I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting.
- (B) "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."
- (C) "So, what ends up happening is (town leaders) always encourage the kids with, 'You have the power, you can change the law.'"
- (D) Dane has a guinea pig, which is illegal in Severance, too.

2 Select the paragraph from the article that suggests town leaders agreed that the century-old law was outdated.

- (A) Dane Best, who lives in the often snow-swept town of Severance, presented his arguments at a town board meeting Monday night, and members voted unanimously to lift the ban.
- (B) "I think it's an outdated law," Dane said in the lead-up to the meeting. "I want to be able to throw a snowball without getting in trouble."
- (C) Kyle Rietkerk, assistant to the Severance town administrator, said the rule was part of a larger ordinance that made it illegal to throw or shoot stones or missiles at people, animals, buildings, trees, any other public or private property or vehicles. Snowballs fell under the town's definition of "missiles."
- (D) And after Monday night's success, his 4-year-old brother Dax had better watch out. When board members asked Dane during a meeting in November who he wants to hit, he pointed at his little brother.

- 3 Read the paragraph from the article.

Dane's mother, Brooke Best, told The Greeley Tribune her son had been talking about snowballs since he found out about a month and a half ago that it was illegal to throw them within town limits. The last time it snowed, Dane said he and his friends looked around for police and joked about breaking the law.

How does this paragraph contribute to the development of the main ideas of the article?

- (A) It suggests that the local paper supported Dane's position.
 - (B) It shows how Dane and his friends threw snowballs illegally.
 - (C) It illustrates how Dane's mother encouraged her son.
 - (D) It highlights Dane's thinking prior to his presentation.
- 4 What is one reason why the author includes information about the larger ordinance that bans throwing or shooting stones or missiles?
- (A) It highlights the administrator's position on the ordinance.
 - (B) It explains how a snowball could be perceived as a weapon.
 - (C) It illustrates how the law was meant to keep kids safe.
 - (D) It provides the legal language used in the ordinance.