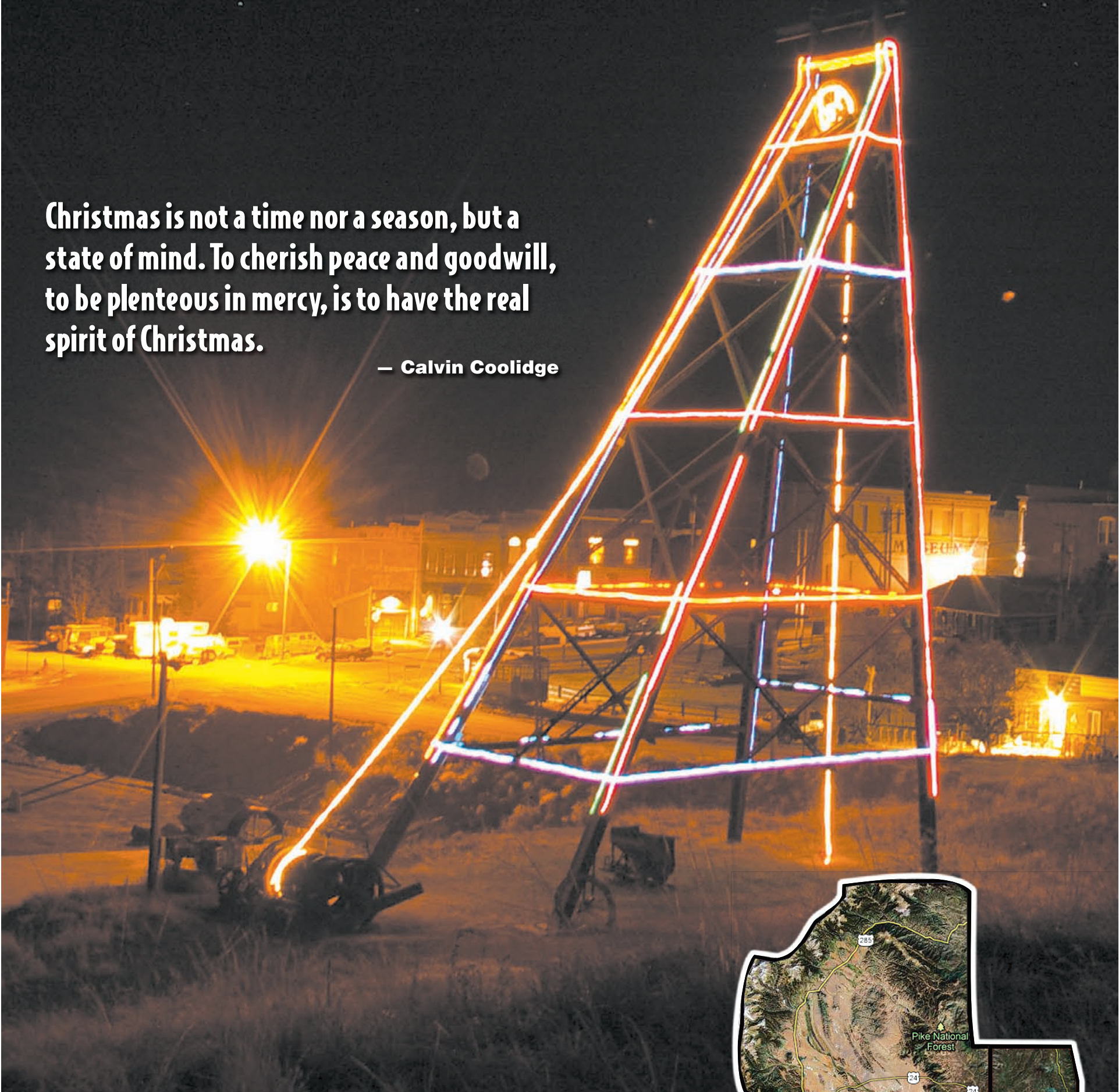


Welcome to Ute Country

Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

— Calvin Coolidge



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Howdy!

We are grateful in this holiday season to have this opportunity to keep you posted on events, happenings, and people of Teller/Park Counties, as well as bringing news about our parks and wildlife. Thanks again to Carmon & Beverly Stiles for this opportunity!

This month we feature an article by Luke Sattler and Steven Wade Veach of the Pebble Pubs. Please enjoy the story on page 9. To learn more about Pebble Pubs see <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/2012/11/november-2012-meeting-nets-awards.html>. I must admit we were quite surprised! We have many talented youth in our communities and are pleased to support them!

Another way we'd like to support youth writing in Teller & Park Counties is to sponsor a Monthly Writing Contest for seniors and juniors from Woodland Park, Cripple Creek/Victor, Guffey, and Lake George Schools. So if you are reading this before getting my email, let us know how we can include your school in our monthly contest. Topics can include history, science, creative writing, or biographical stories of the area.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish Bani Kurth the best of luck on her venture to write the Great American Novel! Her dedication to the Ute Country News has been much appreciated and welcome back any time her schedule allows. She passes on the torch to Rainey Hall. Please help us to welcome Rainey who has already scheduled several interviews for January in addition to the article submitted for December.

Mr. Spaz had a busy month choosing bobcats, Round Man Chew (shaped just like brother, Shadow), and Poncho (have fun riding in cars). Let's not forget Santa! Meowrry Christmas from Mr. Spaz, Frosty & Shadow!

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Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

The Anchoria-Leland Mine

by David Martinek

The mining operations in the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company's Main Cresson Mine project, just north of Victor, often uncovers relics from an earlier time, like old shovels, picks, drills, handguns, scraps of metal and sometimes even an ore car, or parts of one, picked out of the crusher conveyor mechanism by huge magnets. As the operation widens and expands to extract the precious gold ore, many of the shafts and drifts of the older underground mines are reduced to nothingness. Only the old tools and other artifacts remain, left behind by nameless miners and over 500 mines of long ago, testifying to their presence. That's why it's important to preserve as many artifacts from those days whenever possible, like the surface buildings and head frame of the Anchoria-Leland Mine.

Opened in 1892 by the Anchoria-Leland Mining and Milling Company, with Irving Howbert as its president (a name well known in local railroad history circles), by 1900 the mine had produced over \$1,000,000 in gold, and that was at turn-of-the-century prices (about \$20 per ounce). The mine opened and closed several times in the early years, due to either reducing ore values or labor troubles. But generally, it continued to ship ore off and on into the 1920s, either through direct or leased operations. For example, in May 1908 the Mines and Minerals magazine reported that over a thousand men were leasing in the district, the majority operating in mines of established reputation, like the Anchoria-Leland. The mine was purchased by the Golden Cycle Corporation in 1935 and continued to produce into the 1940s. It closed on May 1, 1948 due to a shortage of lessees. Total production during its lifetime reached \$3,000,000 – easily worth over a billion dollars at today's market value (around \$1700 an ounce).

Sitting between Squaw Gulch and Poverty Gulch, Gold Hill was one of the first areas to be developed on the Cripple Creek side of the district. Overlooking a rapidly growing city, the mining company owned a series of claims, including the

Anchor, Anchor No. 2, Conundrum, Midland, Lillian Leland, Chance, City View and the Cottontail. But it was not alone on the hill. Lofty buildings like great corn elevators told of other mining operations: the Volcano, Yellow Bird, Half Moon and the Moon-Anchor. The Geneva, a Stratton Estate property, along with the Lexington, the Jefferson and the International site were also the scene of much activity. The Grace Greenwood mine produced ore as late as 1959.

It was the Anchoria-Leland that caught the eye of city folks walking Bennett Avenue, though. With its tall ore sorting building, huge head frame and column of smoke belching from the boilers powering

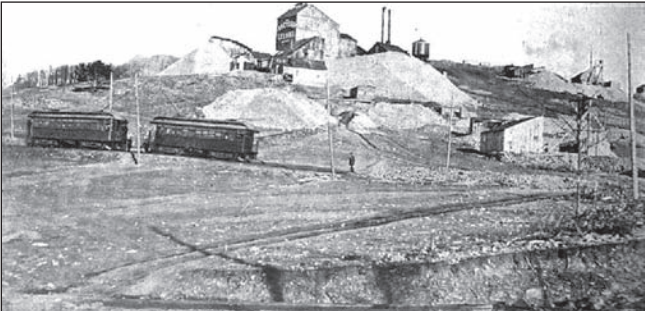


The tall, tilting, timbers of the Anchoria-Leland head frame tower over a 1,000 foot shaft. Photo by David Martinek.

to stand, then mucking the ore into carts which were rolled to the vertical shaft and hoisted up to the surface. Sometimes, the work was impaired by water flows and particularly troublesome gases that collected at the lower depths. Several deaths were attributed to the gases. Tunnels working under Gold Hill helped lower the water table enough to mine deeper.

Surface improvements for the Anchoria-Leland complex consisted of a shaft house, the huge head frame, a hoist engine good for a 1000 foot shaft, two 100-horse power boilers (later the steam boilers were replaced by electric power), an office building, the tall ore sorting house, essay house, boiler house and blacksmith shop, as well as air compressors and a water tank.

Interurban railroad lines ran from mine to mine in the district, collecting the ore and bringing it to a central point (Bull Hill for the Midland Terminal Railroad) where it was loaded on a train of ore cars headed down Ute Pass to the Colorado City smelters, or in earlier days down



The Anchoria-Leland complex on Gold Hill from the early 1900s. The head frame and hoist house can be seen in the middle right of the picture. Photo courtesy of the Denver Public Library.

the hoisting engine, the Anchoria-Leland was the prominent view that turned heads in Cripple Creek and lined pocketbooks.

Most of the ore under the mine was comparatively slight of depth, only 100 to 300 feet below the surface (although in the Lexington Mine, located just south of the Anchoria-Leland, the ore was said to have extended much deeper). Even so, the main shaft was over 1000 feet deep, above which towered a huge head frame made from timbers brought all the way from the Pacific coast. These beams measure 16 x 16 inches or greater and the back braces are over 65 feet in length. In fact the timbers were so long that they had to be unloaded and reloaded on railroad flatbed cars whenever the train bringing them to the district cornered a turn sharper than the timbers could navigate.

Several shafts were sunk in the other mining claims, as well. Down in the shafts, drifts ran laterally for some distance and the miners practiced a method called "staging" to extract the ore – building platforms and reinforcements out of wooden timbers to shore up the drift walls and ceilings and provide a place



A rusting ore shed sits to the south of the head frame. Photo by David Martinek.

Phantom Canyon to Florence and Canon City. Sometimes the interurban lines bored tunnels through mounds of tailing materials rising 60 or 70 feet in height. A couple street/trolley car lines also served the mines for people transportation.

Today, the head frame of the Anchoria-Leland stands as a monument to an earlier time, though it is leaning dramatically, as well as the hoist house, a rusting blacksmith shop and ore house.

Dismantling of the head frame has already begun. Soon it will be moved to a safe location farther down Gold Hill, at the Cripple and Victor Gold Mining Company's expense, and erected there as a temporary landmark. The future of the rest of the buildings is still being contemplated. Later, folks in Cripple Creek will look up at parts of Gold Hill and see a ring of overburdened rock. While the new mining expansion will bring continued economic benefits to the region for years to come, the Anchoria-Leland site will change, its physical presence altered by an expanded effort to extract the "halo" of gold still left in the district. Once the mining is over, Gold Hill will be reclaimed and the head frame from one of the highest producing mines in the area will be re-erected where it once stood to honor the site of a once great enterprise, and of all the men who worked there.

Sources: Mines and Minerals – Aug 1898; The Official Manual of the Cripple Creek District by Fred Hills – 1900; Guide to the Mines of the Cripple Creek District by Bill Munn; USGS – 1906, Geology and Gold Deposits of the Cripple Creek District, CO; Denver Public Library.



Inside the metal hoist house is one of the electric-powered hoist motors. Photo by David Martinek.

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Turkey talk

by Michael Seraphin

There are a lot of people talking turkey this time of year. Roasted or deep-fried? White meat or dark? Do you want stuffing with that?

But ask a Colorado bird hunter about turkeys, and you are more likely to hear them debate the Rio Grande versus Merriam's turkey. East Slope versus West Slope? Spring season or fall?

Once nearly wiped out in Colorado, there are more wild turkeys in the state now than ever before. According to biologists at Colorado Parks and Wildlife, that makes it easier to find places to see America's largest game bird.

"The increase of wild turkeys in Colorado is due to their adaptability, high reproductive capability and careful management of hunting," said Brian Dreher, a senior terrestrial biologist for CPW.

Dreher said that Colorado wildlife managers began developing strategies to increase the wild turkey population in the early 1980s. Over the ensuing years, the agency successfully transplanted wild turkeys into most of the available habitat in the state.

Turkeys were plentiful in the North America at the time the Pilgrims landed, but as the colonists spread west, turkey populations plummeted to around 30,000 birds by 1900.

According to Dreher, wild turkeys faced a double whammy in the early years of our country. "There were no regulations to prevent over-hunting, and forests in the eastern U.S. were cut down for farmland and firewood. Without trees and suitable habitat, the birds became scarce."

Today, wild turkeys are once again abundant across the nation due to modern turkey-management programs by state wildlife agencies and conservation groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Wild turkeys are cunning, wary birds. They have excellent eyesight and can run at speeds up to 25 mph to escape predators. Some people think turkeys are too big to fly. That may be true of domestic birds, but wild turkeys are capable of flying for short distances at speeds up to 50 mph. These characteristics make wild turkeys a chal-

lenging quarry for hunters.

"In 2013, there will be additional hunting opportunities in GMU 30 just north of Grand Junction," said Brad Petch, a senior terrestrial biologist for the Northwest Region. "There will still be a youth-only hunt, but we've added additional hunting licenses available to adult hunters."

Colorado is home to two subspecies of wild turkey: the native Merriam's and the Rio Grande, which was introduced to the state in 1980.

The Merriam's wild turkey lives primarily in open meadows and in ponderosa, oak brush and piñon juniper stands in mountainous zones west of Interstate 25. The Rio Grande species inhabit cottonwood and riparian areas adjacent to agricultural lands in the eastern portion of the state.

Wild turkeys mate in the early spring. Courtship usually begins while turkeys are still flocked together in wintering areas. Males attract females through a variety of calls, struts and displays including fanning their tail feathers.

After mating, the hens begin searching for a nest site to lay eggs. Wild turkeys build nests in shallow dirt depressions surrounded by moderately woody vegetation to conceal it.

Hens lay a clutch of 10 to 12 eggs during a two-week period, usually laying one egg per day. She will incubate her eggs for about 28 days, occasionally turning and rearranging them until they are ready to hatch.

A newly-hatched flock must be ready to leave the nest within 12 to 24 hours to feed. Young turkeys, known as poults, eat insects, berries and seeds, while adults will eat anything from acorns and berries to insects and small reptiles. Turkeys usually feed in early morning and in the afternoon.

Wildlife officials seek info in deaths of three moose

by Mike Porras

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are asking for the public's help in identifying the person or persons responsible for killing a cow moose and her two calves in an empty lot within Mountain Shadows Estates, a subdivision located on County Road 6421 between Granby and Grand Lake.

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, between 8 am and 10 am, a witness hunting near the subdivision reported to wildlife officials that he heard several shots fired in rapid succession. Upon investigating, the witness says he found the cow and a calf dead, the other calf dying, and that no one immediately approached the carcasses to claim responsibility.

"This is an outrageous incident," said Northwest Regional Manager Ron Velarde. "My officers are preparing an all-out effort to find the person or persons responsible and bring them to justice."

Anyone with information can call Colorado Parks and Wildlife in Hot Sulphur Springs at 970-725-6200, or Operation Game Thief at 877-265-6648 if they wish to remain anonymous. OGT is offering a \$2500 reward for information that leads to the suspect. Officials from Safari Club International have offered to match this amount, bringing the current reward to \$5000.

Wildlife officials remind the public that even a seemingly insignificant detail may be the missing piece in a larger puzzle and urge anyone with information to provide it as soon as possible.

"So far, we have a description of a suspicious vehicle, and our investigation turned up important evidence at the scene," said Area Wildlife Manager Lyle Sidener. "With

the public's continued help, we are confident that we can find who did this."

In recent years, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has conducted extensive public outreach to ensure that hunters properly identify moose while hunting elk. However, wildlife officials do not believe this incident was a misidentification of an animal by a legitimate hunter.

"At this point, we have no reason to believe this was an accident," continued Velarde. "The case is being investigated as a malicious, poaching incident."

Individuals who illegally kill a big game animal and abandon the carcass face a permanent loss of their hunting and fishing privileges, significant fines, felony charges and a possible prison sentence.

"The responsible party still has time to do the right thing and turn themselves in," continued Sidener. "But if they continue to evade authorities, we will do what we can to make sure they face the full consequences of this egregious act."

Poaching continues to be a concern for wildlife officials. The public is reminded that poachers are criminals who take away opportunity from legal and responsible hunters, and steal wildlife from the citizens of the state.

Anyone who sees suspicious wildlife activity should contact a local District Wildlife Manager, or Operation Game Thief toll-free at 877-COLO-OGT (877-265-6648). Callers contacting the tip line remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information leads to a citation.

For more information, please visit: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/RulesRegs/LawEnforcement/OperationGameThief/Pages/OGT.aspx>

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In advance, thank you for helping IREA help others who are hurting in our community. We are grateful that you are part of our giving team!





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Landowner of the Year nominations sought

by Theo Stein

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is seeking nominations for its Wildlife Landowner of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions made by private landowners to conserving wildlife, enhancing wildlife habitat and providing public access for hunting and fishing.

The winner will be honored at a banquet and an awards ceremony during the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo competition at the National Western Stock Show in Denver on Jan. 22. Nominations for the Wildlife Landowner of the year are due by close of business on Dec. 14.

“More than four of every 10 acres in Colorado is in agricultural production,” said Ken Morgan, Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Private Lands Program Manager. “The management and stewardship of important habitat by farming and ranching families through the generations has been vital to supporting the remarkable wildlife abundance that many Coloradans take for granted today.”

The Wildlife Landowner of the Year Award is part of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Landowner Recognition Program, which has worked to highlight the role of private land management and recognize landowners who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in wildlife conservation and sound management principles since 1982.

While Colorado is known for its 23 million acres of public lands, private lands are critical to maintaining populations of mule deer, pronghorn, elk, sage-grouse, prairie falcons and a host of grassland species including the lark bunting, Colorado’s

state bird. Privately held water rights, held in reservoirs and released into streams, supports both warm- and cold-water sport fishing across the state.

“Farming and ranching families experience a connection to the landscape that many of us have lost,” Morgan said. “They understand that the sound soil, water and vegetative management practices which benefit their agricultural operations also benefits wildlife. The health of the land is not an abstract concept to them and that’s worth celebrating.”

Nominees for the Wildlife Landowner of the Year must be a resident of Colorado or own at least 160 acres in the state, and be actively engaged in farming or ranching business as an owner, lessor, lessee, or manager. Winners will be selected by Colorado Parks and Wildlife based on a range of criteria, including current land management practices, wildlife habitat improvements, accommodations for public hunting and fishing access and leadership in the promotion of sound wildlife practices on private lands.

The nomination form and guidelines for submissions may be found on Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s website at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/Private-LandProgram/Pages/LandownerRecognitionProgram.aspx>.

Nominations must be received by Colorado Parks and Wildlife no later than the close of business on Dec. 14. Award winners will be notified by January 11, 2013. Attendance by the winner at the award banquet on Jan. 22 is required.

Florissant Grange says Thank You!

by Alan & Renee Caldwell, Master & Secretary, Florissant Grange

“Thank you” to our Community for supporting all our fundraising events these past few years. The Grange raised enough money to get our Old Florissant School House painted. Denard/Bloss Painting, out of Divide, was contracted to prep and paint the exteriors of the School House and the Coal House out back. They did a wonderful job. Drive by and see how nice the Old School House looks. The Grange also has had great support from Teller County Public Works (CR3 Paving Project), County Sheriff’s Office & Jail (Picnic Tables), & Kiewitt Construction (Driveway & Parking Lot Grading)

Please take the time to come inside the building - everyone is welcome! You will notice that we are painting the interior. “THANK YOU” to the wonderful volunteers from our Grange, our Community, and the VFW who showed up on Nov 9th and 10th to help us get started. It took all of one day to prep the two rooms for painting and all of the next to get the two main rooms painted. We are far from finished. It was quite the mad house, and a ton of fun. We are still painting trim and adding second coats here

and there. We still have the kitchen, bathrooms and entry ways to paint. There are a lot of other little projects around the property.

Thanks to our community, Florissant Grange is now the largest Membership Grange, and the second largest Events Grange of the 52 Granges in the State of Colorado. Our Grange will continue to hold more fundraising events in the years to come, so please continue to support us. All our funding comes in the form of donations, a dollar at a time. We have no government or other sources of funds. We rely 100% on our communities’ involvement.

Our major projects for the next couple of years are a new roof, refinishing the floors, and a new kitchen. We can’t do any of these things without your support. Please continue to support us as we offer the community wonderful classes, the best breakfast in town, music, craft shows and much more.

Keeping up the Old Florissant School House is a huge undertaking, but thanks to you we are accomplishing this monstrous task. Thank you to all who helped us these past years and “thanks in advance” for your continued support!

Drought will complicate pheasant and quail hunting in eastern Colorado

by Jennifer Churchill

Bird hunters will continue to work hard in 2012, as the pheasant and quail seasons open Nov. 10. Due to widespread drought, many brood areas were negatively affected, while those close to irrigated cropland succeeded, creating a complicated season for those looking for wing-shooting opportunity.

“Populations across the region are much lower than in 2011,” said Ed Gorman, small game manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “This area was stricken by a dry winter in 2011-12, and extreme heat and drought during the primary nesting and brood rearing season in the summer of 2012. Hunters in northeast Colorado will see impacts of drought in the fields this season, in terms of bird numbers and cover availability, but may find better populations of pheasants in the irrigated croplands of the South Platte River valley in 2012.”

Northeast Colorado (including Yuma, Phillips, Sedgwick, Logan, Washington, Morgan and SE Weld Counties) experienced a very early spring, yielding good nesting conditions. However, brood habitat was nearly non-existent except in areas with irrigated cropland. Reports of hens with no broods or only one or two chicks were common during an early wheat harvest. The severe drought condition resulted in Emergency Haying and Grazing authorization by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands in mid July, further reducing habitat on the landscape. Drought conditions did not recede during the late summer period, resulting in little re-growth of CRP and scarce weed growth in wheat stubble fields.

The South Platte River corridor (eastern Morgan, Washington, Logan, Sedgwick Counties) appears to have improved bobwhite quail populations over 2011. This year is the second season since flooding, which generally improves quail habitat. Hunters should expect less cover within the river itself due to drought, but there are some indications that quail numbers are better than the last few years.

Hunters in east central Colorado (Southern Yuma, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Kiowa Counties) face much lower populations than in 2011, due to the scorching dryness and vast amounts of haying and grazing of CRP, severely reducing the amount of available habitat. Pheasant densities will increase within the

areas that provide sprinkler irrigation fields. Expect populations to be at least 50 percent lower, at a minimum, than in 2011.

It’s important to note that many WIA areas in Kiowa County are enrolled primarily for light goose hunting, including some fields that offer little cover for pheasants and quail. Quail populations are present within the extreme southern reaches of this area, whereas few bobwhites or scaled quail exist in the northern counties of Kit Carson and Cheyenne.

Finally, hunting in the extreme southeast Colorado counties (Baca & Prowers Counties) could provide opportunity due to nearly normal precipitation in some areas. Haying and grazing of CRP lands within the area was very common during the summer of 2012. Expect that pheasant populations to be higher in areas with sprinkler irrigation systems.

Quail populations in the extreme southeast may be slightly higher than in 2011, although both bobwhites and scaled quail were reduced by the severe winter of 2006-07 and by a drastically dry 2008 and 2010. The degree of recovery is difficult to assess at this point, although the general feeling is that quail populations are still low in the area, with very small areas that are better than expected.

Colorado’s pheasant and quail seasons opened one-half hour before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 10. The seasons run through Jan. 31, 2013 east of I-25. Hunters must have a Colorado small game license and must have completed hunter education to participate in the seasons.

Small-game hunters in Colorado are also required to register for the Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting. Hunters can register and receive a HIP number by going on-line to <http://www.colohip.com> or by calling toll-free at 866-COLO-HIP (866-265-6447).

Hunters take note:

Due to the severe drought, wildfire danger is very high. Please do not park on or drive through vegetation. Refrain from smoking while in the field. Also note that WIA sprinkler corners are closed to WIA hunting when the landowner is harvesting the associated crop. This closure is in effect to allow harvesters to work efficiently, and to minimize safety concerns for hunters and harvesters. Corners are posted with closure signs in addition to WIA boundary signs.

Changes at the Post Office

by Maurice Wells

photos by Maurice Wells

On November 7 a meeting was held at the Lake George library to enable Postal Service representatives to gain community reaction to proposed changes at the Lake George post office. Linda Knight and Yvette Trujillo from the Postal Service shared proposed changes with 40+ residents. The proposed changes were a reduction in window service hours from 8 to 6, with Saturday hours remaining unchanged. The purpose for the change is an effort to save operating costs.

Many at the meeting wanted the hours to remain the same. Ms. Knight explained that according to Postal Service policy an 8 hour window operation mandated a Post Master assignment. If the hours were reduced to 6, a person with lesser job classification and salary could be assigned, thus saving money. A recent mail-back survey regarding the changes revealed most residents, if changes were to be made, preferred the 6 hour window service option to the many other less desirable ones.

Ms. Knight and Ms. Trujillo graciously accepted the sometimes heated reactions



Linda Knight addresses the attendees



Audience members listen to the options

and promised to forward the concerns to regional supervisors.



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A Stranger's Gift

by Danielle Dellinger

The moon rested high in the sky and the snow twinkled dully as it fell to the ground. The wind occasionally swirled the tiny flakes about, doing a dance only nature knew how to do. I was in a deep sleep, but the sound of desperate pounding on the door roused me. I listened intently, hoping that a threat to my kids and myself wasn't standing on the other side of that flimsy piece of wood. Moving slowly and as quietly as I could, I slid out of bed and grabbed my rifle, then inched toward the door. The pounding continued. I reached the door and slid the bar up that laid across it to keep it shut and locked. I cocked the rifle . . . Took a deep breath . . . Then yanked the door open and aimed the rifle at hopefully what was chest level.

"Whoa, ma'am!" the stranger exclaimed with his hands up as he took a couple steps back. "I apologize for calling you out of bed at this hour, but I need a place to stay."

I studied him down the length of my rifle, though there wasn't much to see since the darkness hid most of him. He didn't even have a dull glow about him from the moon the way the snow did. I opened my mouth to speak, but my two little girls came to the door, grumbling sleepily.

"What's wrong, Ma?" Natalia asked calmly. Nothing frightened her and she was always fiercely protective of her loved ones.

"Nothing's wrong. This gentleman was just leavin'," I replied, keeping the rifle pointed at his chest.

"Please, ma'am," he interjected. "I've come from Cripple Creek. I'm a miner there. I'm just passin' through on my way to Colorado Springs. Promise."

I raised an eyebrow, looking at him like he was completely off his rocker. "The pass is snowed shut. You'll never get through." I could see him shivering. He was a tall, lanky man, and his thin clothes hung loosely on him.

"Come on, Mama, tomorrow's Christmas Day," Rosey, my youngest, piped up. "Let him stay. Santa Claus would want you to let him in." My girl had such a sweet, innocent soul.

"Santa Claus doesn't have an obligation to keep you girls safe," I retorted.

"I don't mean no harm. Honest," the man said, his hands still in the air. "Just would like a place to stay until I can continue on my way."

"Here in Divide that may be a while, sir. The snow just keeps dumpin' until you think you're gonna be buried alive." I lowered my rifle slowly as the girls started begging me to let him in. I finally relented and stepped aside. "Fine. Come in. Do you have a horse you need to put in away?"

The man grabbed his duffel bag from by the door. "He's already in the barn," he replied, stepping into the cabin.

"Oh? So you assumed that I'd let you stay?"

"Well, ma'am, I mean no disrespect, but I was gonna stay out there if I could stand it. Then I figured I should ask your permission and see if you'd let me inside." He made his way to the hearth and started building the fire up to a fierce blaze.

I sighed and uncocked my rifle, leaning it in its proper place as my girls brought him a blanket made out of buffalo hide. He wrapped it around himself and sat as close as he could

to the fire. He looked around the room.

"Where's your husband?" he finally asked.

"Dead," I deadpanned, going and sitting in the rocking chair next to the puny Christmas tree tucked into the corner beside the fireplace.

"Sorry to hear that," was all he said as he looked back to the fire.

Natalia approached with a glare on her face, upset with my callous response, and I gave her a stern look.

"Girls, it's late. Please go back to bed." They immediately started whining, but after a few more stern looks, they finally headed off to their corner of the cabin and went back to bed. I looked back to the man before me, taking the time to study him now that I could see him.

"I'm Jacob, by the way," he said a few minutes later, looking at me. "Jacob Forester. I apologize for my lack of manners. What's your name, ma'am?"

"Meredith Rivers," I said with a smile. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Forester."

"Same to you, Ms. Rivers." His eyes drifted to the Christmas tree. "I see there aren't any gifts under the tree."

I sighed. "It's been a tough year."

He nodded. "Yes it has. I really need to get down the pass to my mother in Colorado Springs. She's at Glockner Sanitarium being treated for tuberculosis. I'm all she has, and I was hoping to spend Christmas with her since my job has kept me from her for a good while."

I listened, my heart feeling heavy for this poor man. "That's just awful . . ."

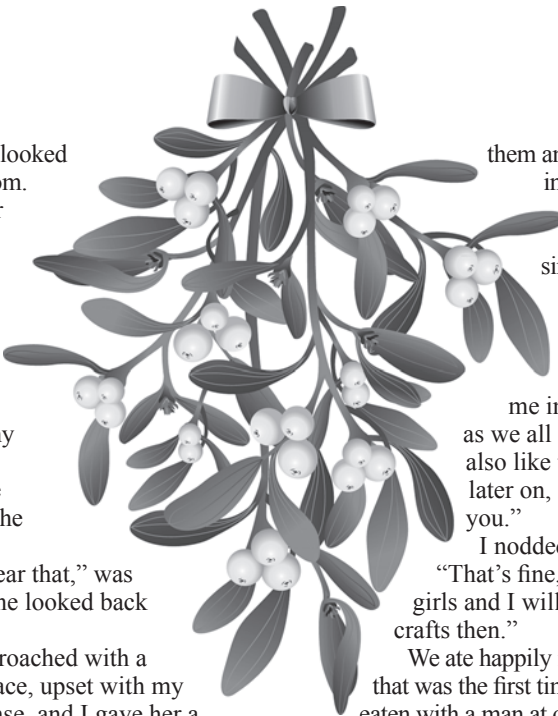
He shrugged. "We came here a few years ago in 1891 to get her treatment, then the gold rush in Cripple Creek started, so I got in on that with the help of a friend who knew Mr. Ed De LaVergne, the guy who created the Cripple Creek Mining District, hoping I could make enough money to get her the best kind of treatment. It ain't been easy."

I moved and knelt beside him, feeling drawn to him for some reason, though it could be because of my maternal instincts. "You're welcome to stay as long as you like. There's no sense in makin' life harder for yourself by trying to brave a snowstorm," I said, putting a hand on his shoulder. "Let me fix you a drink."

He shook his head. "No thanks, ma'am. I think I'll just turn in and sleep off the chill in my bones."

"If you're sure . . ." I said, but he nodded, so I stood. "Well, goodnight." I went to my bed and got under the covers, falling into a light sleep quickly.

I awoke the next morning to the voices of my girls and Mr. Forester. I looked at them and saw Mr. Forester making breakfast as they chatted. I smiled and got up. "Merry Christmas, everyone," I said as I approached



them and they all responded in kind. Mr. Forester smiled warmly and I was struck by how simple, yet so handsome he looked.

"Ma'am, I'll do the chores today as payment for welcoming me into your home," he said as we all sat down to eat. "I'd also like to show you something later on, if that'd be okay with you."

I nodded and smiled at him. "That's fine, and thank you. The girls and I will be able to do some crafts then."

We ate happily in silence, and I realized that was the first time the girls and I had eaten with a man at our table in the last four years since their daddy passed. Tucker, my husband, hadn't been the best kind of man, but he loved his little girls more than anything. Life had been surprisingly easier when he was alive.

We finished eating and Mr. Forester went outside to start the chores while the girls and I started making angels out of pine cones and extra cloths. A couple hours later Mr. Forester came back inside, asking me to accompany him to the barn to show me something. I followed him out, walking quickly through the snow with my arms folded to keep warm. We stopped inside near the back of the barn where there was a low-lying beam. I looked around, unsure what to look for. Mr. Forester stood a foot in front of me, smiling. He then gestured up and that's when I saw the mistletoe.

"It's found in this region," he explained, gazing up at it with a small smile. "But that's not important." He looked back to me. "You know the tradition, right?"

I felt myself blushing and I nodded slowly. "I do," I said guardedly, my throat suddenly very dry. I hadn't kissed a man in four years. I wasn't sure if I still knew how!

Mr. Forester smiled calmly and put a finger under my chin, tilting my head back as he slowly leaned down and kissed me. The kiss was so gentle it was surreal. My rib cage could barely withstand the pounding of my heart. He eventually pulled back, still smiling. "Merry Christmas, Ms. Rivers," he said softly. "I'm sorry if I'm being too forward, but a wonderful woman like you has my knees weak and shaky. I find myself inexplicably drawn to you."

I couldn't seem to catch my breath. "Same here," I finally said, feeling shy and like a teenager again. He leaned down and kissed me again for another few minutes. We then returned to the cabin and helped the girls with the angels. I gave one to Mr. Forester to keep with him. He gave one to me.

After that, the four of us spent the holiday, and several days after that, together. But all too soon he had to leave to try to make it down the pass to see his mother. Our goodbye was quite intimate and I didn't want it to end. But for years to come, we spent every Christmas together and enjoyed each other's company. His companionship was the best gift I'd ever received.

Mistletoe

by Kathy Hansen

Mistletoe is commonly thought of this time of year. It is actually a plant parasite. The word mistletoe comes from "Mistel" the Anglo-Saxon word for dung, and "tan" the word for twig; put together this becomes "dung-on-a-twig". It has very sticky seeds which are often transmitted to a tree via bird feces.

The sticky seed first consumes nutrients from the bird feces and then a few days later it grows a tiny tendril into the tree bark. This tendril is used to suck nutrients from the tree bark. While the mistletoe goes through the photosynthesis process as any other plant, it maintains its connection to the host for the rest of its life. Sometimes this connection may harm the tree, especially of the tree is already weakened by drought.

Mistletoe is known in various cultures, from Greek mythology, Roman folklore and Norse legends, where it had been the name of a sword, known to protect against evil, and known for its masculine features of romance, fertility, and vitality.

The ancient Celtic Druids had very specific rituals around mistletoe. It was to be harvested with a golden sickle on the 6th night of the moon of winter and summer solstice, carefully so that it would not touch the ground. The harvest represented emasculating the old king in preparation of the coming of the new king. Mistletoe was hung over doorways to protect against evil, witches, lighting and fire (do not depend on this today).

Kissing under the mistletoe is an interesting tradition believed to be of Scandinavian origin. A ball of mistletoe imaginatively decorated was hung at a doorway. A gentleman could pick one berry for each kiss he would get. The kiss could not be refused under proper mistletoe etiquette. When the berries were gone, so were the opportunities for kisses.

The Vikings believed mistletoe had the power to raise people from the dead. This probably relates to the legend of Baldar who had a dream he died. His mother, Frigga, was troubled by his dream. She went to air, earth, water, fire, every animal and plant on earth to have them promise no harm would come to her son. She thought mistletoe was too young, so excluded it from the promise. An arrow or dart was made out of mistletoe by Baldar's rival, Loki, who shot and killed Baldar with the poisonous mistletoe. Frigga was beside herself with grief. For three days the elements tried to bring Baldar back to life to no avail. Finally, Frigga's tears turned pearly white like mistletoe and as they fell on Baldar they brought him back to life. In her joy, Frigga kissed everyone in the village.

Mistletoe grows many places around the world. It grows in Colorado, New Jersey and down through Florida. Mistletoe is the state flower of Oklahoma.

There had been claims that mistletoe or Isador can cure cancer, just ask Susan Sommers who used Isodor instead of chemotherapy. The American Cancer Society disagrees with these claims.

Whether you are seeking kisses, preparing for a mistletoe decoration to bring luck for the New Year, or simply enjoying a hike in the high country, you are likely to see mistletoe this holiday season. Perhaps you will see this plant parasite in a new way.

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Medical helicopter pilot cited for harassing wildlife

by Mike Porras

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has cited a medical helicopter pilot from Arizona for harassing wildlife after a group of hunters observed him flying his ship very low over an elk herd in a canyon near the headwaters of Granite Creek, southwest of Grand Junction.

Owen Park, 35, of Page, Ariz., a pilot for Classic Lifeguard Air Medical in Page, was assessed 10 penalty points against his hunting and fishing privileges and issued a fine of \$200.00, which he has paid. A medical crew was also on board but only Park received a citation. The aircraft was not carrying a patient at the time of the incident.

On Sept. 23, Park and the ship’s crew were returning to their home base in Arizona after delivering a patient to a hospital in Grand Junction. It was during the return trip that the witnesses say they observed the helicopter drop into the canyon and begin harassing the elk.

“The people that saw this told me that the pilot ruined their hunt,” said Ty Smith, District Wildlife Officer in Grand Junction. “When I mentioned this to Park, he agreed that his actions may have done that.”

According to the witnesses, Park flew erratically, making several passes below the rim of the canyon and at treetop level, causing several groups of elk to scatter in multiple directions. At times, it appeared Park was herding the elk, the witnesses said.

Because the witnesses were able to provide Smith with the ship’s tail numbers, he was able to trace the helicopter to a company in Utah. With assistance from a Utah Wildlife Conservation officer, Smith contacted representatives of M & J Leisure L.C. of Ogden, Utah, the company that owns Classic Lifeguard Air Medical.

Company officials were cooperative with Smith, and told him that the pilot would contact him immediately. Park called

Smith approximately 15 minutes later and explained that he did not feel his actions harassed the elk, but did admit that he was trying to get a better look at the herds.

“We understand that observing wildlife from aircraft can provide great views, but it is very harmful to wildlife and can lead to a citation, or in some cases, the confiscation of the aircraft,” said Smith. “For anyone who thinks this is a good idea, they should think again and consider the ethical and legal consequences of their actions.”

Agency officials regularly receive reports of low-flying aircraft that appears to be harassing wildlife. In some cases, spotters in aircraft will assist hunters in finding their game, which is illegal.

In addition, the public is reminded that during critical, late-winter months when big game is surviving almost exclusively on fat reserves, or during calving and fawning seasons in early spring, human-caused pressure from any motorized vehicle or aircraft can lead to higher than normal mortality.

“I believe that most pilots may not realize the extent of the harm they can cause when they fly low over wildlife,” continued Smith. “We remind everyone that the best way to observe wildlife is to do it from the ground, from a safe distance, and with a good pair of binoculars or a camera.”

Anyone who sees suspicious activity should contact a local District Wildlife Manager, or Operation Game Thief toll-free at 877-COLO-OGT (877-265-6648). Callers contacting the tip line remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward if the information leads to a citation.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages 42 state parks, all of Colorado’s wildlife, more than 300 state wildlife areas and a host of recreational programs. To learn more, please visit cpw.state.co.us

What did working girls do at Christmas in the Cripple Creek Tenderloin District?

by David Martinek

Soiled doves, working girls, hookers, floosies or ‘nymph de pave’ – the list of seedy titles is much lengthier than those five, but they all describe women who sold sex as a profession. They came to the World’s Greatest Gold Camp from all walks of life, many from prominent and educated families back east.

In the 1998 issue of Trail’s End Magazine an 1859 survey of 2000 prostitutes asked why they took up the trade. 525 said they were destitute. 258 claimed they were seduced or abandoned, and another 164 revealed that they were abused by parents, relatives or husbands (a subtotal of 947 pretty stark reasons). The rest (more than half) succumbed to various vices at hand, including 71 who were persuaded (or lured) into the life by other prostitutes. Rebelling against a Victorian age, these women chose to party, dance, throw up their heels (literally) and make money by selling the most personal commodity a woman owns – her sex. For the majority, it was a serious business.

In the Cripple Creek census records, prostitutes were called “sporting women.” The first sporting woman reportedly came to Cripple Creek in 1891, not surprisingly at the request of Bob Womack. Blanche Barton, later known as French Blanche LeCoq, journeyed up Ute Pass from Colorado City and opened for business in Poverty Gulch in a striped tent. Womack was a frequent visitor and carouser in Colorado City and probably knew Blanche well. She was immediately successful. Blanche often took partial shares in mining claims instead of cash for her services and eventually acquired enough mine ownership to be quite the entrepreneur. It has been written that on one occasion, she realized that she had 22 one-eight shares in the same mine!

But within a year or two Blanche had competition. In fact, there were so many prostitutes arriving and plying their trade in the district that men could scarcely go into downtown Cripple Creek without being propositioned. So fierce was the rivalry among this small army of sporting women that it led City marshal Hi Wilson to move all the girls and dance halls to Myers Avenue. The ‘ladies’ were allowed to shop downtown on Mondays but were fined if they were caught there on any other day of the week.

Many of the brothels and saloons were already located on Myers, so the move just completed the migration. But the act concentrated a “red light district” that was one of the bawdiest anywhere. Blanche and her peers, including the famous madam, Pearl DeVere, existed along a string of over twenty brothels, dozens of cribs, several opium dens and a host of dance halls and saloons stretching from the railroad tracks at the top of Bennett Avenue south all along Myers, an area commonly called the “Tenderloin District” of Cripple Creek. Over time, such notorious establishments as The Bon Ton, The Library, The Parisian, The Old Homestead and the Homestead’s chief rival, the Mikado (just to name a few), provided the ultimate in intimate entertainment for the mostly male and rowdy population of the gold camp.

Mixed in with the parlor houses and brothels were the saloons and dance halls, as well as the all-night pharmacies providing the drug of choice, morphine. For twenty-five cents a miner could dance with a pretty girl at the Red Light Dance Hall, just down the street from The Bon Ton, and have a glass of beer. At Crapper Jack’s Saloon, the girls made 12 ½ cents for every 60-cent bottle of beer they sold.

Maybe some would go upstairs for more personal entertainment.

If a three-dollar-a-day miner couldn’t afford a parlor house girl or a tussle upstairs at one of the saloons, he could find the cheapest girls in the cribs for as low as a quarter. Cribs were located near the railroad tracks and other locations. They were typically one to two room shacks, sometimes built as “row” houses with adjoining walls. The girls worked by themselves and were usually older than their parlor house counterparts - the ‘faded ladies’ of Cripple Creek. Of course, “old” for an ‘easy woman’ was only 25 or 30 years. The crib girls kept an oil cloth at the end of their beds



The Old Homestead located at 353 Myers Avenue in Cripple Creek. File Photo

because their customers weren’t expected to remove much more than their hats. The cloth prevented the bed linens from being soiled by dirty or muddy boots or shoes. Payday was always a busy time.

Just about every nationality of girl was available, depending upon a miner’s money and fancy. In 1900 the 500 block of Myers Avenue included a variety of ethnic and foreign choices: French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, American, African American, Mexican and Native American - a sexual smorgasbord. The Parisian, for example, specialized in only French ladies. It sat on the corner of Myers Avenue and Fifth Street.

After 1900, the dance halls and cribs began to disappear in favor of gentlemen’s membership clubs. It was about that time that the City of Cripple Creek began taxing prostitutes - \$6 per month per person; \$16 per month per madam. Since public gambling had been outlawed, the clubs afforded patrons privacy to both gamble and indulge in the sex trade.

Organized prostituted faded out slowly. Lowell Thomas, who grew up in Victor and delivered papers to several brothels, guessed that there were still over 300 prostitutes practicing along Myer’s Avenue in 1904. Census records show that some painted ladies, or former ones, were still residing (and maybe practicing) in Cripple Creek until the 1930s.

So that’s a little history of prostitution in the gold camp. But there is still one question left unanswered: “what did working girls do at Christmastime?” According to local historians, they worked. In days of the gentlemen’s clubs, holiday parties were regularly held by the Old Homestead and other brothels during the Christmas season. But the sporting woman crowd was not without their own brand of charity; it is also told that the madams and girls would often gather gift baskets at Christmas and distributed them to the widows in the community.

For more enlightenment on the subject of early prostitution in Colorado, read: *The Working Girls of Cripple Creek* by Susan Roach; *Ladies of the Tenderloin* by Linda Womack; and *Brothels, Bordellos and Bad Girls – Prostitution in Colorado, 1860-1930* by Jan McKell.

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Lake George Halloween Carnival

by Denise Kelly
photo by Denise Kelly

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A BIG thank you to the following businesses or individuals that sponsored or donated to this years carnival: Silvercloud Automotive, Jeff & Lona Moreland, Travel Port Campground, Alpine Towing, Linda Lively, Mule Creek Outfitters, Mr. Pots, Lake George Pizza, Leonard & Tammi Fuhrmann, Wanda Bauder, Heather Goninan, Eleven Mile Marina, Florissant Sinclair, Florissant Conoco, Thunderbird Inn, Mountain High Properties, Cathy's Native and Natural, Ponderosa, Costello Street Coffee House, Outpost Feed Store, American Pro Health, Matt & Ariella Rogge, Evergreen Station, Tile Masters & Remodeling, Cal's Trucking & Excavating, Five Elephants Decking, Morse Ferrin Concrete, Freed Construction, Teller Park Vet, Colorado Adventure Specialists, PB&J Building, HooRay Home Improvement, Community Partnership, BTR Interiors, Black Mountain Drilling, Colette & Mick Bates, Divide Collision, ProClean, The Smokin' Q, Mueller State Park, Divide Car Wash, Divide Feed, Golden Bell, McGinty's, Big Sky Automotive, Shipping Plus, Russ' Place, Divide Venture, Nancy Holmes Massage Therapy, Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, A Wild Hair, Peak Vista Community Health Center, Divide Liquor, Big Horn Printing, Peak Antler, Aspen Massage Therapy, Stop & Save, Pikes Peak Polaris, O'Keefe Ceramics, Patricia Ooman, Nuts & Bolts Needleworks, Service Funding, Dave Brown Team, Frank W. Gundy Insurance, IREA, Images at the Plaza, Starbucks, Dinosaur



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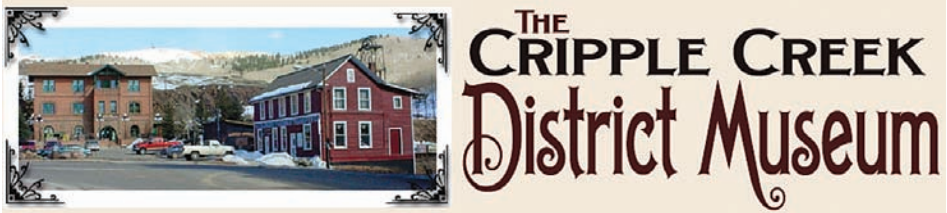
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Information to be discussed:

Independence Center Programs and Services

Independence Center Social Security Benefits Coordinator

The Independence Center Community Organizing Grant

The Independence Center Home Modifications Grant

Information from Dream Catchers, a division of Ariel Clinical Services.

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Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please notify Donald DeAngelis 7 days in advance of the public meeting.

For more information please contact Donald DeAngelis, Outreach Coordinator, 719-471-8181 x105

Local woman wins 2012 Rider of the Year

by Maurice Wells
photos by Maurice Wells

If you have stopped by the Lake George Café and Pizza Shop for breakfast or lunch on a weekday, you server was probably Glad Limbaugh. On the weekends, though, you will find Glad, Terry, her husband, and “Fast and Furious” Frankie the family Chihuahua headed for a motocross venue for a series of races. Motocross motorcycle racing occurs outside on natural terrain with jumps on a track from 2 to 4 miles in length.

Glad grew up around racing as her father was an amateur motorcycle racer until he had an accident that ended his career. She, of course, had a small motorcycle and became very proficient at a young age. Glad was introduced to racing some 12 years ago by a friend who had a male friend who he felt, to quote Glad, “needed humbling”. She doesn’t remember in what place she finished that race, but that didn’t matter. She was hooked!

Glad and her husband, Terry Graber, belong to the Sports Riders Association of Colorado and they participate in 30 or more racing events per year. Glad races in classes other women and also in classes with men. This means that she often competes with Terry on the track. “Fast and Furious” Frankie, the Chihuahua, stays in the racing trailer until Mom and Dad have completed the day’s activities.

Races are organized into classes based on gender, age and experience. There may

Glad gets some “air” time (top). Some of her many trophies (bottom).

be as many as 40 riders starting a race at the same time. Glad says it’s exciting getting to that first turn.

Racers in the “Pro” class receive prize money with trophies and “bragging rights” going to winners in the amateur groups.

At the end of the season, members of the racing organization vote by secret ballot for outstanding riders. Glad was honored to be selected by her peers as “2012 Rider of the Year”

Stop by the Lake George Café and Pizza Shop and, between orders, Glad will be happy to talk about her motocross career.

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Park County tax sale lots yield a treasure trove of chalcedony, petrified wood, and other specimens

by Luke Sattler and Steven Wade Veatch

I recently took a field trip to the Hartsel and South Park area of Colorado with my brother, grandparents, Steven Veatch (the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups Leader), and his wife Shelly to check on two pieces of property Steven Veatch received by paying the back taxes through the Park County Treasurer's Office in Fairplay.

My grandmother, within seconds, found some beautiful blue chalcedony and some large, very smooth, jet black nodules that may be chalcedony as well. Other colors of chalcedony were found as well as petrified wood.

Chalcedony is a cryptocrystalline form of silica, its chemical structure or composition is SiO₂ or (silicon dioxide). Chalcedony forms in lower temperature solutions unlike crystalline quartz, which forms in high temperature solutions.

Chalcedony's luster is dull to waxy, the hardness of chalcedony is 6 to 7, and has a fracture of uneven to conchoidal. The streak of chalcedony is white. There are many forms of chalcedony that include: carnelian, chrysoprase (green chalcedony), heliotrope (bloodstone), onyx, agate, and moss agate.

The specimens of chalcedony—some with agate banding—are from a site near Hartsel in the South Park Ranches Subdivision. The material at this site occurred in veins and over time, weathered free that now allows for easy. This sort of material is called "float".

Chalcedony at this site also formed into a crystalline habit known as botryoidal. Botryoidal's name refers to its Greek name meaning grape-like. The grape formation occurs when thick mineral fluids form around a particle into a "jelly" like substance inside a void and solidify—leaving a bubbly surface outside of the specimen.

Some of the material had small vugs or cavities from where small drusy (tiny) quartz crystals grew to form small, very attractive geodes.

Exploring the property obtained through the tax sale process not only yielded a great afternoon and



Image of one of the chalcedony specimens found near Hartsel, Colorado.
Photo October, 2012 by © Luke Sattler . A Luke Sattler specimen.

fantastic views but provided us a great collecting opportunity where we found within hours various kinds of chalcedony and even some beautiful petrified wood.

Meet the author

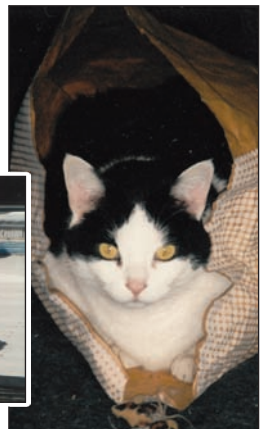
Luke is an avid rock, mineral, and fossil collector. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and participates in the youth division. He has written a number of papers on the geosciences and has been published throughout the nation. He is in 9th grade and lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.



Luke Sattler: photo by Bev Tyacke

Critter Corner

Round Man Chew
by Don & Gerald,
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Daniel K. Odell, Divide



Pancho by Linda
& Dave Karlin,
Florissant



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Meet the author

by Kathy Hansen

Every now and again a good children’s book comes along. So when Willie Hyde called to ask if we were interested in featuring a local author who had recently moved to our area, we decided to explore. What we found was that the story of how his first children’s book came to be is just as interesting as the book itself.

Willie had been married to Shirley McLain, (not the actress/writer) for only a few months when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She was facing chemotherapy. There was not much hope. Shirley needed something to take her mind off her fears. She believed that if she had someone she could nurture and take her mind to a more peaceful place that she would have a better chance of survival. She decided to get a rabbit.

Willie was very supportive in spite of his concerns. Shirley decided the rabbit should have a little friend and it didn’t take long for that friendship to multiply. Soon, they had many rabbits. Willie did his best to build habitats and incorporate help from their friends, just in case Shirley needed help. About six months and 36 rabbits later, one of the rabbits caught Willie’s eye. They named him “Paddles” because he had really big feet.

“Paddles” was a lop-eared rabbit. Paddles seemed almost human in many ways. Willie soon noticed that Paddles was a ham – bring out a camera and Paddles will pose for you. Willie began having fun noticing how Paddles would become the center of attention each time a camera would be aimed in his direction. No doubt, Paddles had fun noticing Willie pointing cameras at him! It was as though Paddles considered various poses for the next opportunity.

Needless to say, Paddles need to become the center of attention had fulfilled the first goal of taking their minds off the cancer. Shirley courageously battled the

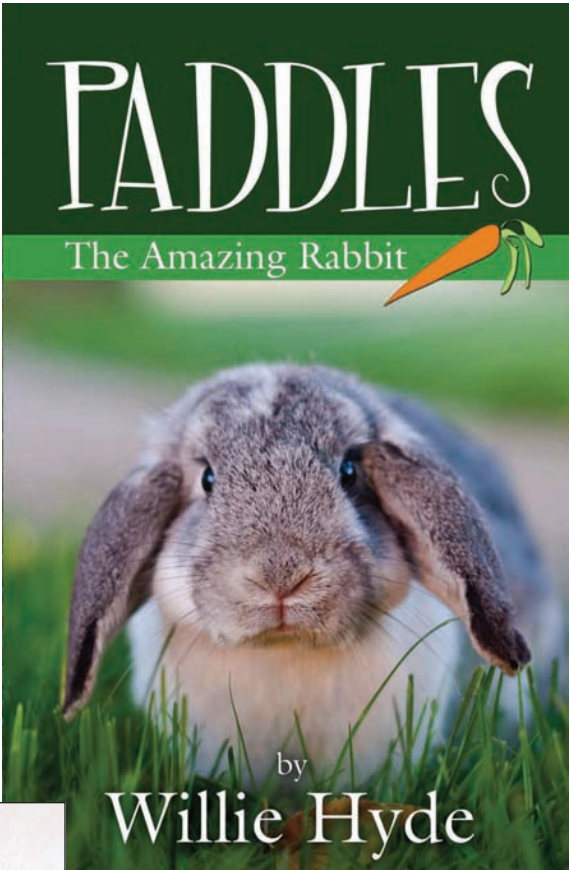
disease for over 15 years before it took its toll. Their friends and family were close because they wanted to support Shirley but also because they were helping with what ultimately became over 200 rabbits.

One might wonder what conditions were like. As the word broke in Yucaipa, CA of their situation, news crews came expecting to find horrendous conditions. Instead, they found very well cared for rabbits. In fact, they were so touched by the care given to these rabbits that they helped to find new homes for them.

It was several years that Paddles memory stirred in Willie’s mind before he decided to write a children’s book about Paddles. Willie struggled with the first potential publisher before he came upon Infinity Publishing. The book is expected to be available this December.



Willie is now married to Donna Read (the optician, not the actress). Willie and Donna moved to Lake George just a few months ago after being married in January of this year. Willie is happy to have Donna’s innate editorial skills. Donna states, “Mother insisted we learned proper English” as she looks forward to assisting Willie with his future endeavors. Willie has “Paddles Looks for Love” which he began to consider as a sequel at a time he himself was considering another romance and



caption

ultimately found Donna. Willie also has “Twiddles” another story in the works.

We believe that adults as well as children will enjoy “Paddles the Amazing Rabbit”. For those of you who are familiar with the “read it again!” response after completing that bedtime book, it is important for adults to appreciate the underlying lessons of the story. But don’t take our word for it, check it out for yourself! Please check www.infinitypublishing.com or www.bbotw.com for their bookstore. Willie also expects to have “Paddles the Amazing Rabbit” available through amazon and Barnes & Noble. Be sure to welcome Willie Hyde and Donna Read to our community!

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PPRH Senior Circle Program expands to over 150 members!

PRESS RELEASE

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital understands that needs and interests of seniors are unique and that education about healthy living, early detection of conditions and knowledge about your health care options will help to improve your lifestyle.

To this end, PPRH has created a program specifically for seniors. “Senior Circle” has been designed for people age 55+ to offer a wide variety of activities, medical screenings and other services to enhance your wellbeing plus provide you with a chance to meet new friends. Joining Senior Circle is easy and inexpensive – the cost for an individual, lifetime membership is \$5. Currently we have more than 150 members and we’d like you to enjoy the benefits, too!

Such as:

- **Cafeteria Discount.** A 20% off discount in the PPRH Café, to be enjoyed at breakfast or lunch.

- **Health Screenings and Services.** Periodic health screenings, such as a “Balance Clinic,” medication checks, etc.
- **Educational Seminars.** Quarterly seminars covering a wide variety of topics on aging and healthy living.
- **Roundtable discussion groups with Medical professionals**
- **VIP (Very Important Patient Program)** When Senior Circle members are hospitalized at PPRH, they receive a visit from a Senior Circle representative, a small welcome gift, and a cafeteria coupon to pass along to a visiting friend or family member.

For more information please contact Karen Earley at 686-5802 and view some of the Senior Circle happenings on Facebook.

Poaching alert: Teller County

by Michael Seraphin

Colorado Parks and Wildlife would like the public’s help solving a poaching crime. On Nov 14, a mule deer buck was shot and left in the Dome Rock State Wildlife Area.

Information is needed on any vehicles that may have been seen in the main parking lot at Dome Rock or if someone may have accessed Dome Rock through Cripple Creek Mountain Estates.

Wildlife officers hope someone may have heard or seen something that may

shed light on the incident. There is a \$500 reward if a tip results in a citation.

Anyone with information can call Tonya Sharp at 719-227-5281 or contact Operation Game Thief at 877-265-6648. Verizon cell phone users can dial #OGT. Tips can be e-mailed to game.thief@state.co.us.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife urges people to call their local wildlife office whenever they have information about illegal hunting or fishing activities. Callers may remain anonymous if they wish.

Time change means more wildlife collisions

by Michael Seraphin

Nightfall comes early after the annual change from daylight savings time to standard time and that means the chances increase for motorists to hit a deer on the road.

“November is a dangerous month for motorists and wildlife,” said Colorado Parks and Wildlife Watchable Wildlife Coordinator John Koshak. “Commuters will be driving at dusk when visibility is poor and when wildlife is most active.”

Besides reduced visibility for drivers, deer are extremely vulnerable to getting hit because November is the peak of their mating season. “They are more mobile, easily distracted, and more likely to be chasing one another across roadways,” said Koshak.

Many animals, especially deer and elk, travel in groups. “If you see one animal on the road, generally there’s another one coming,” said Koshak.

If an animal is hit, wildlife officials advise drivers to immediately report the incident to the police and call 911 if there are any human injuries.

While some collisions may be unavoidable, motorists can reduce the likelihood of an accident by taking the following precautions:

- Slow down! Driving more slowly increases reaction time and reduces the chance of a collision.
- Stay alert while driving at dusk and dawn. This is when many of Colorado’s wildlife species are the most active and are likely to be crossing roadways.
- Scan ahead and watch for movement along roadsides. When driving at night, watch for shining eyes reflecting in headlights. Always look and be prepared for more than one animal.
- Obey traffic signs and watch for wildlife warning signs.



Wildlife-related accidents can happen anywhere in Colorado including city streets; however, drivers should be especially cautious when traveling through forests and agricultural land, as well as the following “high-risk” areas:

- Colo. Highway 115, Colorado Springs to Penrose
- Colo. Highway 13, Rifle to Meeker
- Colo. Highway 82, Glenwood Springs to Aspen
- Colo. Highway 9, Silverthorne to Kremmling
- Colo. Highway 93, Golden to Boulder
- I-25, Colorado Springs to Monument
- I-25, Trinidad to New Mexico state line
- I-70, Floyd Hill, Mt. Vernon Canyon and Eagle
- I-76, Sterling to the Nebraska state line
- U. S. Highway 287, Fort Collins to the Wyoming state line
- U.S. Highway 160, Pagosa Springs to Cortez
- U.S. Highway 285, Antero Junction to Fairplay
- U.S. Highway 285, Morrison
- U.S. Highway 34, Loveland into the Big Thompson River canyon
- U.S. Highway 36, Boulder to Lyons
- U.S. Highway 50, Monarch Pass to Montrose
- U.S. Highway 550, north of Durango to Delta

Colorado Parks and Wildlife requires that people who wish to salvage road kill apply for a permit within 48 hours.

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~OUT AND ABOUT~

Check out these activities going on right here in this area. If you know of an activity we should include, please call one of our reporters or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

COLORADO SPRINGS

8 & 9 Santa Claws Program – Lend a hand to save a paw at Petsmart in Southgate from 1am-4pm. Pet photos with Santa. \$5 of every package to TCRAS!

CRIPPLE CREEK

6 Opening reception at Aspen Mine Center at 6pm.
7 “Soup For the Soul” lunch 11:30-1:30pm at Aspen Mine Center; leave for headframe tour 5:30pm,
8 Gift Shop, Decorated tree auction, Fundraiser lunch at Aspen Mine Center.
Parade on Bennett Avenue at noon, Santa after parade, Church in the Wildwood Bell Choir at Butte Opera House at 11am, Colorado Springs Chorale at Baptist Church at 3 pm, Bazaar at Park and Rec. 9-5pm, call Kathi Pilcher 659-3599 for more info.

CRIPPLE CREEK – MUSEUM

8 Christmas Village grounds open 10am-8pm; food, fun, refreshments, parade, music and Santa from 5pm-8pm
9 Christmas Village grounds open from 10am-4pm; food, fun, refreshments, parade, and music.

FLORISSANT

9 Thunderbird Inn hosts a fun afternoon of music featuring the Charlie Milo Trio from 1-5pm. Enjoy red or green chili. Proceeds support Indigo Mountain Center and Coalition for Upper South Platte (CUSP).
13 Mrs Claus Story Time – Stories, puppets, crafts & fun at Florissant Public Library from 10:30am-11:30am. Call Julie 687-9281x137 for more info.
15 December Birthday Party pot luck with Bruce Hayes and the Allstars at the Thunderbird Inn 7pm.
19 Mrs Claus Story Time – Stories, puppets, crafts & fun at Florissant Public Library from 10:30am-11:30am. Call Julie 687-9281x137 for more info.

FLORISSANT GRANGE

1 Country Breakfast from 7am-11am. Proceeds benefit the Old School House renovation project. Call 748-0358 for more info.
8 Christmas with Santa & Mrs Claus Open House from 1pm-3pm. Call 748-0358 for more info.
22 Last Minute Christmas Craft Show & Sale from 9am-3pm. Call Renee for more info 748-0358.
Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck.

Yoga - classes are held each Monday evening at 5:30 and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Call Debbie at 748-3678 for more information.

GUFFEY

1 Holiday Bazaar at the Bull Moose from 9am-4pm then Ivory Blue performs from 6pm-9pm. Call 689-4199 for more info.
8 Gunny Blue Plus Two performs at the Bull Moose from 7pm-10pm. Call 689-4199 for more info.
15 Lissa Hanner and Chuck Binkowski perform at Rita's Place dinner at 6pm and show at 7pm. Call for reservations 689-2501.
31 New Year's Eve Party at the Bull Moose, featuring Alibi from 8pm-midnight. Call 689-4199 for more info.

LAKE GEORGE

8 Candy Houses at Lake George Library 11am Call or stop by to sign up 748-3812.
18 Gem Club Youth Program 6pm at Lake George Community Center.
24 through Jan 3 Lake George Charter School Holiday Break. Students return Jan 7th.
Lake George Library – Ongoing Wed: 9am Low Impact Exercise 1st & 3rd Fri: Lake George Quilters Square 9:30-1:30pm 4th Fri: 9:15 Friends of the Library – Book Clubs “Tainted Tea” and “Titles” meet afterward.
Help U Club: We have our meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake George Community Center, starting with potluck at noon and our meeting at 1:00 pm. We are all “Good Cooks.” We are seeking new members. This would be a good place for new members to the community to meet people while helping out their community.

WOODLAND PARK

1 Ute Pass Kiwanis free pancake breakfast at the Ute Pass Cultural Center from 8am-11am. Santa will be there for the kids. Call Rita 687-9281 x132 for more info.
1 Lighter Side of Christmas Parade 6pm-7pm along Hwy 24 Taco Bell to Tweeds. Call Tracie Bennitt for more info 687-7375.
5 The Independence Center holds a public meeting at Woodland Park Library from 5:30pm-7pm to provide information for anyone with a disability, caretakers, and agencies who help people with disabilities. Call Don DeAngelis 471-8181x105 for more info.
6 Mountain Top Cycling Club begins spin classes at Woodland Park Middle School. Call Debbie at 687-2489 for more info.
6 24th Annual Lights of Love sponsored by Prospect Home Care & Hospice at the Ute Pass Cultural Center from 6pm – 8pm. Call Janet 687-0549

for more info.

8 WP Farmers Market from 9am-2pm at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.
9 Sounds of Christmas Concert by Woodland Park Wind Symphony & Swing Factory free concert at Ute Pass Cultural Center from 7pm-8:30pm. Call Craig 687-2210 for more info.
20 Woodland Park Community Singers perform at the Woodland Park Library from 6:30pm-7pm. Call Rita 687-9281x132 for more info.
27 Winter Break Movie at Woodland Park Library from noon -2pm. Bring lunch or a snack and we provide lemonade and coffee. Call Julie 687-9281x137 for more info.

Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center

16 Santa Claus will be coming to the Dinosaur Resource Center from 11am-3pm. We have our craft table available for the children to make an ornament for our Christmas tree as well as one for themselves. So come and see Santa and help us decorate our Christmas tree!
21 Santa Claus will be coming to the Dinosaur Resource Center from 11am-3pm. We have our craft table available for the children to make an ornament for our Christmas tree as well as one for themselves. So come and see Santa and help us decorate our Christmas tree!
22 A Cherry Christmas Time “Ho, Ho, Ho”, it's time once again for Santa and Mrs. Claus to visit the Dinosaur Resource Center in Woodland Park. Mrs. Claus will “wrap you up” in warm winter fun with her Christmas stories and songs, and the best part is everyone gets to be part of the show. She will give everyone “jingle bells” to call Santa to join the fun. So hop aboard your sleighs and ride on down December 22nd for a jolly good time. Performances are at 1:00pm and 2:30pm.
27 Kids Free Day at Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center. The 7th Annual Kids Free Day will begin at 9am. Two kids age 12 and under will be admitted FREE with each paid regular adult admission.

VICTOR

6 Bonfire followed by Head-frame Tour call Kathi Pilcher 659-3599 for more info.
7 Parade & Bonfire at 6pm. Elf Emporium at Vicci Center all day. call Kathi Pilcher 659-3599.
9 Breakfast with Santa at the Victor Elks, Elf Emporium at Vicci Center, Skate Around the Christmas tree at Brian's Park. Call Kathi Pilcher 659-3599 for more info.

Time for year-end review of your financial strategy?

Now that 2012 is drawing to a close, you may want to review the progress you've made this past year in many areas of your life — including your financial situation. By going over your investment portfolio and other key areas related to your finances, you can learn what moves you may need to make in 2013 to stay on track toward your important objectives, such as college for your children, a comfortable retirement and the ability to leave the type of legacy you desire.

To get a clear picture of where you are, consider asking yourself these questions:

- **Am I taking on too much risk?** Although 2012 has generally been a pretty good year for investors, we've certainly seen periods of considerable volatility. During these times, did you find yourself constantly fretting about big drops in your portfolio value? In fact, have you consistently experienced this type of worry throughout your years as an investor? If so, you might be taking on too much risk for your individual risk tolerance. Review your holdings to determine if you can lower your risk level without jeopardizing your overall investment strategy.
- **Am I investing too conservatively?** Just as you can take on too much investment risk, you can also go to the other extreme by investing too conservatively. If your portfolio contains a preponderance of investments that offer significant preservation of principal but very little in the way of growth potential, you may be endangering your chances of accumulating the resources you'll need to achieve your long-term goals.
- **Am I contributing as much as I can afford to my retirement plans?** If you have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b), consider yourself fortunate. Your plan has

the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis, and you typically contribute pre-tax dollars — the more you put in, the lower your annual taxable income. Plus, your employer may match part of your contributions. So if you've been under-funding your retirement plan, ratchet up your funding in 2013. At the same time, you may still be eligible to contribute to an IRA; if so, try to “max out” on it. A traditional IRA grows tax deferred while a Roth IRA can grow tax free, provided you meet certain conditions.

- **Am I adequately protecting my income — and my family?** Over time, you'll experience many changes in your life — marriage, children, new job, new home, etc. Most, if not all, of these changes will require you to make sure you have adequate life insurance in place to help guard your family's future, should anything happen to you. Furthermore, to help replace your income should you become disabled, you may well need to purchase an adequate amount of disability income insurance.
- **Do I need professional help?** As the above questions indicate, maintaining control of your financial situation can be challenging — especially if you try to do it all on your own. You might benefit from working with a financial professional — someone who can analyze your situation objectively and make recommendations based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and specific goals.

Before the clock runs out on 2012, take the time to ask yourself the above questions. The answers may well spur you to take positive action in 2013.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Tracy E Barber IV, AAMS, your Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

PWC approves 2013 fishing regs; begins work on 2013 big-game hunting regs

by Randy Hampton

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission gave final approval to fishing regulations for the 2013 fishing season at the Commission's November meeting in Yuma on Thursday and Friday. In addition, Commissioners started review of big-game hunting regulations and received informational updates on wildlife research projects, financial issues, an agency marketing plan and the Colorado Archery in the Schools Program. Commissioners received a briefing on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Strategic Plan, which is being rewritten to fulfill requirements of legislation that merged the Colorado Division of Wildlife and Colorado State Parks last year.

The fishing regulations for the 2013 fishing season, which begins April 1 of next year, were widely unchanged. Anglers will see new regulations extending walleye and saugeye regulations upstream of Lake Pueblo State Park, standardizing regulations below Kenny Reservoir near Rangely and allowing the take of carp at Switzer Lake in Delta County. Commissioners also extended a full fishing closure on Bear Creek in El Paso County. The closure is designed to protect the unique, native population of greenback cutthroat trout found in the creek. Fishing regulations will be updated with production of the 2013 Colorado Fishing brochure, which should be available statewide in February.

Commissioners also began the process of reviewing changes to the big-game regulations for 2013 seasons. Commissioners are considering modifications to the popular late youth elk hunt program. The successful program has put thousands of young hunters into the field since its inception. Originally developed to help address overpopulations of elk on agricultural, private lands in western Colorado, the program is transitioning to continue offering hunting opportunity at a time when elk populations have been reduced to desired long-term levels. If approved by the Commission, late youth elk hunters in 2013 will be able to hunt late seasons in the general

area and method of take where their unfilled limited cow or either-sex elk licenses are valid, instead of three large quadrants defined for the 2012 seasons. As part of the changes, Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff is working to develop proposals to expand youth opportunity in the state by looking at hunting of species beyond just elk.

“This is an issue hunters will want to be aware of as they prepare for next year's license draw,” said Rick Cables, Director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “Hunters planning to hunt with youth hunters next year should check the Big Game Brochure when it comes out in February for a synopsis of any changes the Commission might approve.”

The Parks and Wildlife Commission received an update on efforts undertaken by Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff to move water around in parts of the state this past summer. Several agency projects leased unused water to agricultural producers for crop and forage irrigation and to recharge local aquifers.

“We use our water resources to assure that fish and wildlife populations are protected in the state,” said Steve Yamashita, Northeast Region Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “In this drought year we were able to help our neighbors by providing access to much needed resources in a way that helped maintain wildlife but also filled gaps for the agricultural community.”

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is an 11-member group appointed by the governor to provide public oversight for state parks, wildlife and outdoor recreation in Colorado. The Commission meets monthly and travels to communities around the state to facilitate public participation in its processes. The Commission will meet in Colorado Springs in December and Denver in January. For more information on the upcoming meeting schedule or how to listen to live online broadcasts of meetings, please see the Commission web page: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ParksWildlifeCommission/Pages/Commission.aspx>.

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News from the Rampart Library District

by Rita Randolph

Happy Holidays to all from the Rampart Library District. For a more satisfying and less stressful season, why not stop into the Woodland Park Library or the Florissant branch? Not only can you do some shopping in our book boutiques for gently used books, audios and videos, but you can find peace and relaxation in our quiet reading rooms. Check out some holiday books to read to the children or some holiday craft books for projects you can make with the children or for

gifts. Take a look at the large selection of DVDs and magazines you can check out. If you haven't been in one of the district's libraries, then you are missing a wonderful resource!

There will be a special Mrs. Claus story time for the kids at 10:30 a.m. on Dec 13th at the Florissant Public Library (FPL) and at the Woodland Park Public Library (WPPL) on December 20 at 10:15. The newly reorganized Woodland Park Community Singers will perform your favorite

holiday music on December 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the WPPL.

A new slate of free computer classes begins in January at WPPL with Beginning Computer, Internet Basics, Microsoft Word I and II, Publisher, PowerPoint and Excel. The Book-a-Librarian program has become quite popular and patrons may schedule one-on-one session to get help with setting up email accounts and downloading eBooks to their eReaders or PCs. We have just added digital photo manage-

ment assistance through Book-a-Librarian.

You can now learn HeritageQuest (our online database for ancestry research) through a recorded webinar in our Resource Center. Looking for a job? Check out the Pikes Peak Workforce on-site at WPPL the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. The Resource Center is also where you can create and print your resume, and apply online for jobs. The Resource Center is also the home of our collection of homeschooling materials.

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Christmas in Divide kicks off the holiday season

by David Martinek
photos by David Martinek

It doesn't matter how old you are or how long ago you learned not to believe in Santa Claus, when the jolly 'ole elf makes an entrance anywhere, it's a smile-on-your-face moment.

It has been a recent tradition that the Summit Singers, a choir comprised of students attending Summit Elementary School in Divide, would sing "Here Comes Santa Claus" when old St. Nick makes his appearance at the Christmas in Divide Craft Fair, held every year around Veteran's Day. That tradition lived on Saturday, November 10th at the school when the Divide Chamber of Commerce held its 21st annual event.

Coming through the gymnasium door as the young group sang that old holiday favorite, the merry faced fellow with the snowy white beard and hair, those rosy cheeks and the red plumb outfit trimmed in fur, brought a twinkle in every eye and a good feeling in every heart. Making the rounds among all the vendors, Santa posed for pictures, hugged the kids who came up to him and shook the hands of just about everybody before finding his favorite overstuffed chair in the corner beside the Christmas tree, where he would sit for a spell welcoming children and adults alike on his knee as Charlie Chambers, of CR Chambers Photography, took their picture.

The Christmas in Divide Craft Fair is an annual fund-raiser and community event for the chamber. The nearly day-long fair features local crafters and plenty of entertainment provided by school children from the school and the area. Their parents line up to sit in the front rows of chairs just beyond the gym stage to watch them sing, perform ballet or Celtic dance, or just jump rope.

Afterwards, the vendors entice them to begin their Christmas shopping. There is always a cup of coffee available, or some pastry, cookies, pie or cake provided by the chamber at their bake sale table. Around noon the local PTSO serves some scrumptious childdogs. It's all a good-natured conspiracy to bring buyers (the parents) and sellers (the vendors) together for a little holiday business.

This year, out on the gym floor, a variety of vendors displayed their craftsmanship, selling everything from homemade jewelry to Native American snapping turtle rattles. Along the south wall the chamber also held a silent auction stocked with all kinds of gifts ideas.

While the day progressed and ended nicely, it didn't begin that way. In the morning, around 7:30 a.m., when the vendors were setting up, the heavy snow and wind made the start of the day seem like a torrent. But by noon the school parking lot was full of cars and the sun had reappeared to melt the snow, just like you would expect on a November Fall day along Ute Pass in Colorado.

At 1:00 p.m. Santa made ready for his departure to another venue to spread joy and the holiday spirit to other children. With yet another round of hugs and well wishes, he proclaimed a robust "Merry Christmas" to the assembled crowd and left the way he came – jolly and full of good cheer.

The Christmas in Divide event is not just a craft fair. No, it is the local community signal that the time for peace and goodwill toward all mankind is upon on us once again. What better place is there to start the holiday season than in a small elementary school gym among good friends and neighbors?



Santa makes his rounds of all the vendor stations before taking his seat beside the Christmas tree to the left of the stage for photos.



The Summit Singers, a regular feature at the Christmas in Divide event, sing "Here Comes Santa Claus" as the jolly elf enters the building.



Vendors, students and shoppers look on as the Summit Singers perform. The Divide Chamber bake sale table is at the rear of the stage area.

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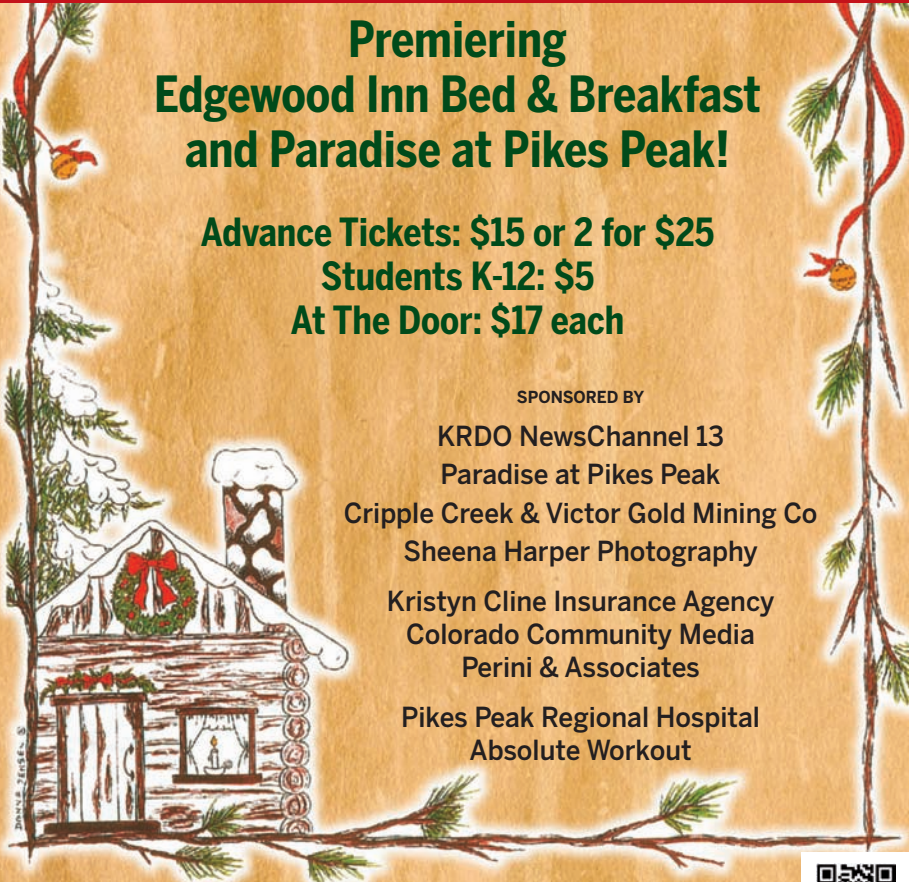
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