

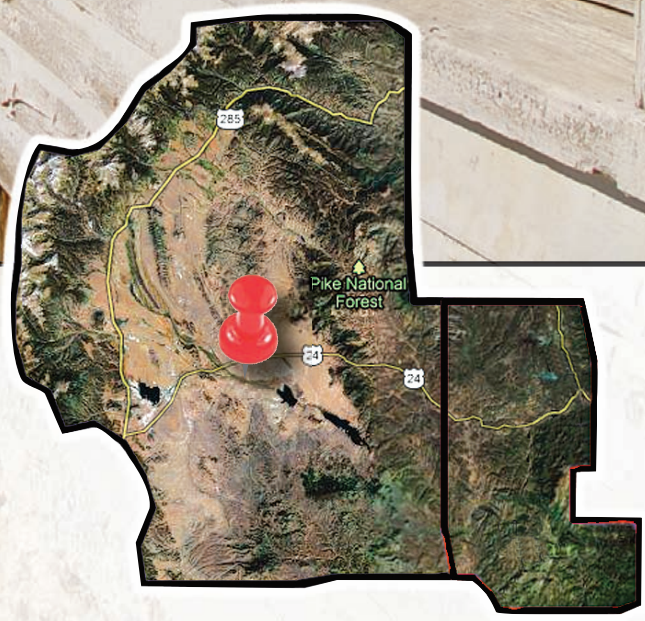
Welcome to Ute Country

"The law of harvest is to reap more than you sow. Sow an act, and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny."

— James Allen

INSIDE

Steam power comes to Lake George	2	A Leafy Existence.....	7
When I vote.....	2	SPCFPD gets grant.....	8
Book signing with Laura Moncrief.....	2	Pronghorn poaching discovered in Falcon.....	8
4-H kids.....	3	HPP offers habitat improvement grants.....	8
It works! – Drafting truck.....	3	Rampart Library District news	8
2012 Christmas in Divide Craft Fair to be held November 10th	4	Hazel & Hunter TCRAS.....	9
Holiday open house weekend at abaTina Boutique	4	The Bug Guy presents at WP Library.....	9
Summit Elementary School celebrates 20 years.....	5	“One Day” destination – Ouray.....	10
“The Sexualization of Girls and Girlhood”	5	Meet Carol Ekarius: Coalition for the Upper South Platte.....	12
Teller County burn restriction.....	5	Best time for big trout.....	12
Critter Corner.....	6	For the love of dogs – the story of Trilby.....	13
Happy National Fossil Day!	6	Old school building continues to educate	14
Pumpkins: Tasty & good for you!.....	6	Stacey Mae passes away	14



A Ute arrow straightener is made of Jurassic dinosaur bone ..	15
Out and About.....	16
Benefits of gratitude.....	17
Obituaries of old	18
Still time to set up owner-only 401(k) for 2012.....	19

Howdy!

We are honored to print an article co-authored by Gavin Noller and Steven Veatch. Gavin is 12 years old, a member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups. He has an innovative writing style. Gavin has a way of transporting the reader through time and then gently returning the reader back to the present. Please see page 15 for the story, “A Ute Arrow Straightener is Made of Jurassic Dinosaur Bone”. This well written article is a pleasure to read on so many levels. Please join us in wishing Gavin the best of luck for his incredibly bright future!

Here are a few words from Mr. Spaz, Photo Editor:

Hello to all of my indoor and outdoor friends of all species. The leaves have fallen, the snow is coming, and so is the holiday season. How about we get festive, add some extra color by finding red or green blankets to lie on? The daring pranksters might even sport a Santa hat or reindeer ears. I'll tell you what – I'll show you mine if you show me yours. OK? Please send me your holiday pet pics:

Mr. Spaz, Photo Editor
c/o UCN
POB 753
Divide, CO 80814
utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

We are introducing a new section that just might appear now and again. One-Day Destination is intended for the explorer in each of us because it involves a destination about a day away from Teller/Park Counties. Colorado is a great state to travel through because you never know what's around the next bend or behind that foothill.

The second intention is the reality that there are more places to explore than time generally allows. How often have you said, “One day, we're going to...” You are not alone. This section will be the place we can share that experience.

Do you have that hard to buy for person on your holiday shopping list? How about a subscription to Ute Country News? It is only \$36 for 1st class delivery for 12 issues. We'll even do the wrapping for you!

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A special thanks to all listed here for their professional work and time to make this issue possible.



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First Class subscriptions are available for \$36 a year.

Steam power comes to Lake George

by Maurice Wells

photo by Maurice Wells

Recently Bob Gilley, local business man and antique tractor collector, returned from Graham, Texas where he purchased a Russell steam tractor. As the owner of several petroleum powered units, he has had a dream of obtaining a steam tractor. Due to the limited number of steam powered tractors still available he had just about given up.

Through networking, Bob became aware of this 3000 lb scale reproduction of a full sized model. Full sized steam tractors can weigh upwards of 7500 pounds. The unit is wood fired with a water boiler that provides steam to one cylinder for propulsion and the necessary steam whistle.

The first steam engine powered farm tractors were introduced 1868. Prior to that the steam engine was mounted on skids or wheels and hauled to the work site using horses. Once capable of moving from place to place under their own power the steam tractor found its niche as belt power to drive threshing machines.

On threshing day the family and neighbors would gather and work to complete the job in one or two days. Tasks were assigned to workers based on age and gender. The threshing rig would then move to the next farm with neighbors going along to help.

The threshing rig of tractor and thresher



Russell steam tractor

may have been owned by a contractor who hired out to do the work or may have been a cooperative purchase by multiple farmers. By the mid-1920's the steam engine was gradually phased out. Over the years steam tractors were scrapped for their metal value, especially during time

of war, making them very rare.

Gilley hopes to have the tractor cleaned and operational for the 2013 Antique Tractor Pull in August of that year. Mark your calendar for the third week of August so you can come and appreciate this piece of history.

CLERK'S CLUES

When I vote

by “JJ” Jamison

Teller County Clerk & Recorder

When I vote I hear Taps bugling in my mind and heart. A musical reminder of the sacrifices made protecting my privilege to vote. I believe voting is not just a right. Voting is a privilege and responsibility that I take seriously. While completing my ballot this General Election I thought of the stories I've heard over the years of the origin of Taps.

The first one I heard originated in 1862. Robert Ellicombe, a Union Army officer heard the moans of a wounded soldier. He found the soldier in the dark and with the dawn discovered it was his son. That young Ellicombe had a musical writing in his pocket, Taps. Although that story tugs at my heart I fear it may be legend.

The more practical version is the one told by Oliver Wilcox Norton a bugler also in July of 1862. Our military had borrowed a bugle tune from the French that called “lights out”. After a bloody battle General Daniel Adams Butterfield requested the tune altered from the formal version to something to honor his men. He wanted notes lengthened and some shortened, retaining the melody and making it

more emotive and adding power. In 1874 the Taps as we now know it was officially recognized by the U. S. Army. For me, by the playing of the second note a well of tears is evoked. I thought you might like to be made aware of the words:

Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh—Falls the night.

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh,

Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright;
God is near, do not fear—Friend, good night.

The above information is Courtesy of the United States Army Center for Military History. Election Day is Tuesday November 6th, 2012. We have made it even more convenient for you to vote early. So, do exercise your privilege and VOTE. Thank you.

Book signing with Laura Moncrief

by Ute Pass Historical Society

Join the Ute Pass Historical Society for a book signing on Saturday, Nov. 3. Laura Moncrief will be in our gift shop to sign and answer questions about her latest book “Pioneers in Woodland Park, Colorado Cemeteries.”



This book is a collection of family histories for the early pioneers that followed their dreams and now rest in the Woodland Park Cemeteries. The signing will be from 11 am to 1 pm. Ute Pass Historical Society is located at 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, Woodland Park, CO. 80863 (next to the Woodland Park Public Library). Please contact us at 719.686.7512, or e mail uphs@peakinter.net for further information.

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4-H kids

by Flip Boettcher

Guffey and the Guffey-area were well represented by 4-H'ers at the local county fairs. Early August brought them to Fairplay, then Teller County's fair in Cripple Creek. The State Fair in Pueblo welcomed them in mid-August.

State Fair competition is extremely tough; to be in the top ten is quite a feat. It means that these 4-Hers are "at the top of their game for the projects and events that they displayed and exhibited", according to a letter written by Deborah Lester, County Director of Extension with Colorado State University, in the September Park County 4-H Newsletter. Lester is in charge of the 4-H program in Park County. 4-H is one of Extension's programs, along with its Agriculture/Nature Resources and Family and Consumer Science programs, said Lester in an email.

Local Guffey resident 11 year old Ryan Mason, a Guffey Community Charter School student, competed in the Dog Rally at the State Fair after qualifying at the county level. Mason competed in the Junior-Novice class, being a first year member with a first year dog, with his Heeler/Border Collie mix named "Didge".

The competition was stiff according to Lester, with almost sixty dogs competing. Unfortunately, Mason did not place at the State Fair. Just being a State Fair qualifier is quite an achievement for a first timer!

Mason competed at the Fairplay County Fair in archery, along with his two sisters: Jessica, 18 years old, graduate of the GCCS, and going to Community College in Denver; and Emily, 14 years old, and a GCCS student. "None of them qualified for the State Fair in the event but had a good time," said their mother, Dr. Amy Mason, Guffey Vet Clinic. It might be in their blood. Jessica uses her grandmother's

archery glove when she practices.

Guffey-area resident Ricky Larsen, 10 years old and attending the Cresson Elementary School in Cripple Creek, took Grand Champion at the Teller County Fair with his woodworking project. His bat habitat house qualified for the State Fair in Pueblo where he took 6th place according to his mother Brandie Larsen. Ricky also took a blue ribbon for his chicken eggs and a red ribbon for his chicken sign. The Larsen's live about 15 miles east of Guffey near the Teller County line and are closer to Cripple Creek.



Dillon Clark of Fairplay takes aim.

Ricky's younger sister Brenna Larsen, a first grader at the Cresson Elementary School, was a Cloverbud this year. She competed in the Fashion Review where she took Grand Champion in the Open Class Youth Division. She also took a blue ribbon with her decorated tote bag.

Tanner Watkins, a senior at Cripple

Creek-Victor High School, who also lives near the Teller County line, took Grand Champion Steer and Grand Champion Carcass at the Teller County Fair. His steer sold for a record breaking \$7,250.00 at the livestock auction, said Brandie Larsen.

Guffey-Hartsel resident, Soryn Wands, senior at Fairplay High School took 36th place (out of 84) in archery at the State Fair.

Dillon Clark, Fairplay resident and senior at Fairplay High School, took 9th (out of 84) in the archery event.

"4-H is an organization which is geared toward teaching youth how to be leaders in their community," said Larsen.

They also gain self confidence by completing projects, as well as competing at county and state fair levels.



Jessica, Emily and Ryan Mason of Guffey.



Tanner Watkins of Cripple Creek with his prize-winning steer.

"Congratulations to all who participated in our county fairs and great State fair!" said Lester in the 4-H newsletter.

It works! - Drafting truck

by Flip Boettcher



The Southern Park County Fire Protection District personnel test the ir drafting truck.

On Saturday, September 15, the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District had a successful test run of its super water drafting truck. The test took place at satellite station number 3 located in the Pike Trails Ranches subdivision west of Guffey which has a permanent pond and a dry hydrant hook up.

All previous tests of the truck had failed because of too much pressure blowing out the right angle joints and pressure relief valves. After each failed test, modifications were made to the right angle joints to make them stronger, but nothing seemed to work and so the drafting truck has just sat at the fire station unused.

With the recent structure fire in the Old Kathleen Ranch subdivision northeast of Guffey last month, interest in the super drafting truck was renewed as demand for water for the fire stressed the department's available water supply.

The idea for a powerful water drafting truck was first proposed about 12 years ago by then fire Chief Gene Stanley. He engineered the truck and started building it.

Stanley's goal was to draft 2000 gallons

of water per minute in order to fill the fire department's 4000 gallon water tenders in two to three minutes. Filling the water tenders from the well at the fire station in Guffey takes just about an hour according to present fire Chief Don Felton.

The powerful drafting mechanism sits on an old army heavy duty truck called "a deuce and a half" and uses a powerful truck engine to draft, or suck, water from a pond, which then flows into the 4000 gallon water tenders.

This time for the test, a pressure relief hose was attached to the truck which helped bleed off excess pressure and divert some of the water back into the pond, as well as only keeping the motor at idle speed rather than revving it up higher, and it worked!

With the lower engine speed and the pressure relief hose, the drafting time is lower than the 2000 gallons per minute goal Stanley had, but it should still fill one of the tenders in perhaps five to ten minutes according to Felton, which will help the fire department deliver water to a fire much faster.



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REAL ESTATE NEWS

October 2012

Year to date residential sales in Teller County have jumped considerably from 2011 - not only the number of sales for many parts of the county but also the median sales price. Woodland Park, for example, with the highest number of sales annually compared to Divide, Florissant, Lake George and Cripple Creek/Victor, is up 11%. For quick statistics on all areas of the county, please see my website at www.LenoreHotchkiss.com.

I've been fortunate to broker a large number of properties this year, from \$865,000 to under \$200,000 - with more on the way. I've had an increase in sales with off-the-grid homes, ranches, second homes and land.

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2012 Christmas in Divide Craft Fair to be held November 10th

by David Martinek
photo by David Martinek

For the 21st year, the Divide Chamber of Commerce will sponsor their annual Christmas in Divide craft fair at Summit Elementary School in Divide on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Since 1991, the Chamber has been sponsoring a craft fair during the week of Veteran's Day in November. The Christmas in Divide event provides a welcome forum for folks to get into the spirit of the season, see Santa Claus, and participate in an annual fund-raiser that supports the Divide Chamber – who in turn supports the Divide community.

More accurately, the event is called the "21st Annual Christmas in Divide Craft Fair/Bake Sale and Silent Auction." The fun will take place in the Summit Elementary School gymnasium located at 490 Meadow Park Drive in Divide.

Vendors interested in participating have three options for registration. They can download the registration packet from the Chamber website (www.dividechamber.org), print out the forms and mail their registration and payment to the Divide Chamber, P.O. Box 101, Divide, CO 80914. Or second, they can stop by Ancestral Arts, located next door to the Divide Venture Foods, and register that way. Or finally, they can call Joe Kain at Ancestral Arts (719.687.2278), and Joe will mail out a registration packet.

Tables, spaces and electricity are limited in the gymnasium and are reserved upon receipt of full payment and application only. Vendors who have questions or have special needs should contact Joe directly. In addition to vendors offering lots of neat craft items for sale, the Chamber will



Patrons survey the crafts available at the 2011 Christmas in Divide.

sponsor a silent auction and offer parents and children the option of having their pictures taken with Santa (arranged by Chambers Photography). In cooperation with school organizations, a bake sale and other food items will also be available. Christmas in Divide has become an annual family-friendly event where parents and grandparents can see their children and grand children perform, sing Christmas songs and entertain the crowd. Other entertain is also usually available. When Santa makes his dramatic appearance, all will know that the Christmas season is upon us.



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Holiday open house weekend at abaTina Boutique

The abaTina Boutique Holiday Open House Weekend is set for Saturday, Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Shoppers can browse the store for a variety of gift ideas including jewelry and accessories, clothing, books, home decor, gourmet food and a huge selection of children's gifts, educational games and books. Refreshments will be served and shoppers can enter to win one of five gift certificates to be given away. abaTina Boutique is located at 1713 S. 8th St. in the Cheyenne Center. Call 471-2290 for more information.

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Summit Elementary School celebrates 20 years

by David Martinek

photos by David Martinek

When construction of the Summit Elementary School complex in Divide was finished in mid 1993, there were no houses nearby as there are today in the surrounding Meadow Park subdivision. A painting on the wall of the administrative office depicts that scene twenty years ago when the school opened its doors to the first set of students in August. Built less than a half mile north of U.S. Highway 24, the school must have looked like a red brick fortress in a meadow.

A lot has changed. Two decades and over 4,000 students later, the school is celebrating twenty years of teaching and learning.

"We have the largest enrollment in the Woodland Park School District," said Eric Owen, the current school principal. Owen was a fourth grade teacher at Summit Elementary in 2000 and came back in 2008 to assume the leadership role. "We've had as high as 528 students in one year," he added. "That was our enrollment in 2001

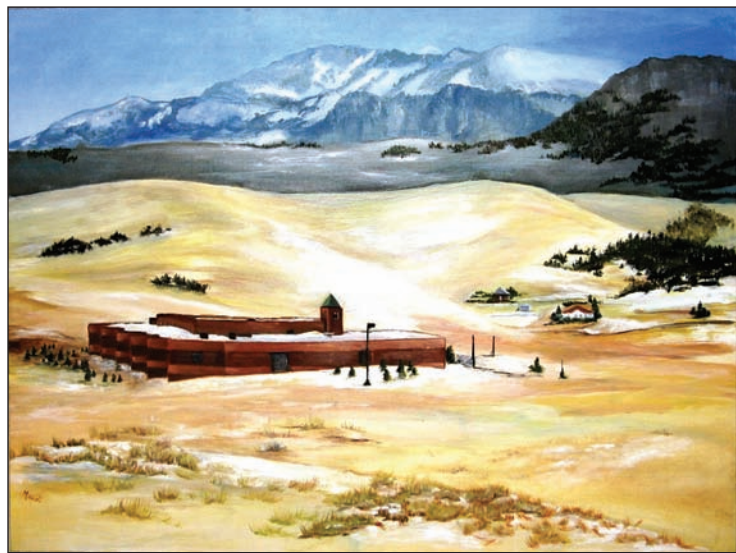
in grades pre-school through K-5."

On September 20, 2012, the school invited all past administrators, teachers and former students to join the kickoff of a year-long celebration. Their plans are to honor their anniversary throughout the 2012/2013 year on the 20th of every month in some way, "provided it's a school day," added Owen.

"And on May 20th next year, we plan to install a time capsule in one of the corners of the school building so that folks in 2033, twenty years from now, will know that we were here," said principal Owen with a smile.

From day one in 1993 under the leadership of Dr. Andrea Kutinski, followed 12 years later by principal Hollister DeMotts, the Summit Elementary School in Divide has watched as the neighborhood around it grew and as Divide became a rural community of nearly 5000 residents.

The school is, indeed, an integral part of Divide. Its facilities are often used for community events, meetings and regional necessities. For example, the gym served as an evacuation center in July for people displaced during the recent Waldo Canyon wildfire. In August, the school parking lot became a Divide-wide yard sale, and the gym will host another Christmas in Divide craft fair



When the school was constructed, there were no houses nearby as there are today in Meadow Park.



The Summit Elementary School first opened its doors in August 1993.

in November, sponsored by the Divide Chamber of Commerce.

The school gym has also been a regular polling place. In fact, the gym will once again be where folks come to vote in the 2012 national election.

"We are definitely part of the Divide community," concluded Owen. "And we always hope to be."

The Summit Elementary School is located at 490 Meadow Park Drive in Divide. Their administrative telephone number is 719.686.2401 (fax: 719.686.8469).



Eric Owen, Principal, stands before a banner marking two decades of teaching and learning.

Teller County burn restriction

Teller County-Red Flag Warning. Burn Restriction effective 10/03/12 at noon. No burn permit use allowed until further notice. If you have any questions, you may visit our website at co.teller.co.us or call the Teller County Sheriff's Office at 719-687-9652. Thank you.

For full details, view this message on the web.

"The Sexualization of Girls and Girlhood"

For the past several years, child advocates, parents, and educators have expressed concern over the sexualization of girls. Has the cultural sexual objectification of girls and women increased? Are younger and younger girls sold a "sexed-up" version of femininity, and are adult women sold a girlish sexuality?

CC Psychology Professor Tomi-Ann Roberts's new book, "The Sexualization of Girls and Girlhood: Causes, Consequences, and Resistance," brings a much-needed academic voice to the conversation. The book includes the best empirical research, theory, and practice stemming from the report of the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls.

"Clearly there is cultural concern about the sexualization of girls these days. But so much of the treatment of this problem in the popular press has been sensational and anecdotal, even reinforcing their sexualization," says Roberts, who served on the APA's task force. "I firmly believe that changing how we treat girls and how girls come to view and treat

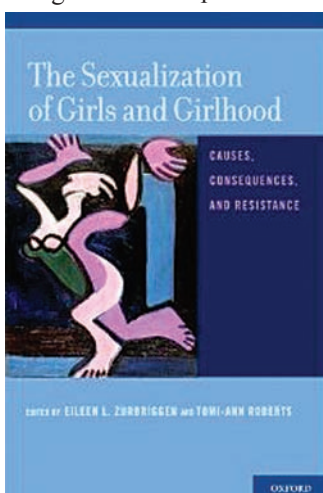


Author Tomi-Ann Roberts

themselves is good for all of us."

Contributors discuss evidence for this phenomenon from media and marketing, to interpersonal interaction, to girls' own efforts to fashion themselves after sexualized role models around them.

The book, which Roberts co-edited with Eileen L. Zurbriggen of University of California, Santa Cruz, not only documents the scope of the problem and its consequences for girls' well-being, but also provides positive alternatives and suggestions for resistance. Published by Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0199731657



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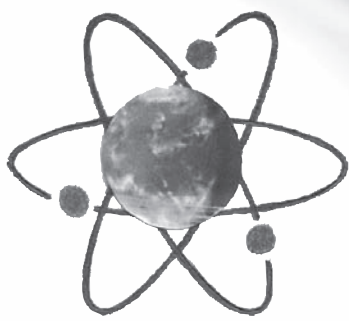
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Critter

*Misty, by Sherry Sayers,
Woodland Park*





*Albert's squirrel
by Sherry Sayers, Woodland Park*

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Happy National Fossil Day!

by Steven Veatch

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups were well represented in the National Park Service art contest to celebrate the third National Fossil Day. Here are the winners:

- Ciena Higginbotham First Place 14-18 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Lake George Gem and Mineral Club)
- Jack Shimon Third Place 5-8 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society)

Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars (teens) were invited via the Pikes Peak Pebble Pup website to participate in the contest. We received several entries. Here is the pebble pup website about the contest and the invitation to participate in the contest: <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/2012/07/pikes-peak-pebble-pups-prepare-to.html>

The winners were posted on the following National Park Service Website: http://nature.nps.gov/geology/national-fossilday/art_contest_2012_results.cfm

You can double-click the art to see a complete rendering of the artwork. A celebration and reception is now being planned at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to recognize these young paleo artists. The local press and broadcast media will be invited to this event at the fossil beds. A formal and more detailed press release will be forthcoming.

Pumpkins: Tasty & good for you!

by Kathy Hansen

It is important to eat seasonal foods in order to have a healthy diet throughout the year. One food of the season is the pumpkin. Pumpkin is a fruit and a member of the Cucurbitaceae family like cucumbers, squash and cantelope.

Most every part of the pumpkin is edible: leaves, fruit, flowers, and seeds. Pumpkin can be transformed into delicious breads, pies, smoothies, and soups.

Pumpkin is inexpensive and very low in calories as well as high in fiber. Pumpkin has no saturated fats and no cholesterol. In fact, it is often included in diets intended for cholesterol control and weight reduction.

Pumpkins grow on every continent except Antarctica. A fruit this widely available just has to be good for you, right? It was once prescribed for freckle removal and curing snake bites. While today, you may wish to visit your doctor or emergency room for these needs let's see what nutrients are in pumpkin and pumpkin seeds.

Pumpkin (fruit or flesh part) is an excellent source of the following:

- Rich in antioxidants
- Rich in Vitamins A, C, & E – Vitamin A is important to maintain the integrity of skin and mucus membranes, promotes good vision, and protects against lung and oral cavity cancers.

- Pumpkin is an excellent source of natural polyphenolic flavonoid compounds, like beta carotene, cryptoxanthin, lutein, and zeta-xanthin. Carotenes convert to vitamin A inside the body. (The vitamins that are created inside our bodies are immediately available for absorption.)
- Rich in minerals like copper, calcium, potassium, and phosphorus
- B complexes are abundant, like folates, niacin, vitamin B6, thiamin and pantothenic acid.

Pumpkin seeds are an excellent source of:

- Protein
- Zinc, copper, iron
- Phosphorus, magnesium, and manganese
- Omega 3 fatty acids
- Tryptophan
- Antioxidants
- Vitamin E – due to the various forms. We need various forms of vitamin E over time and pumpkin seeds have 5 different forms of vitamin E.



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A Leafy Existence

by Danielle Dellinger

The smell of warm pine trees and sweet sap perfumed the air. Goldleaf stood on his branch and looked out at the expanse of aspen trees that were beginning to get a golden hue. It was his job as a tree guardian to ready the leaves for the Leaves Fall Event that would begin on the first blustery day of autumn. It was a glorious occasion that celebrated the completion of the trees' life cycle. The death of the leaves meant self-preservation for the trees.

Goldleaf himself could fit on an aspen leaf with plenty of room to spare, so it was important for him to be anchored to the tree properly using blades of grass. The Leaves Fall Event was essentially the world's longest skydiving event and the aspen trees competed against all the other types of trees that drop their leaves for the winter months. The first type of tree without any leaves left, won. The days when the wind really blew was when each skydiving event would officially take place, though leaves would still drop in the meantime. The leaves themselves controlled when they dropped, but Goldleaf had to help them get their golden color before then. Time was running out already.

He radioed his right-hand guardian, Aphid. "We still have mostly green leaves in quadrant six. See what you can do to speed up the process."

"Yessir! Quadrant two is ready for drop," Aphid radioed back.

"Good." Goldleaf hopped onto a passing beetle and steered it over to quadrant two, hopping off onto the largest aspen of the group. He looked up at the sky and put his four arms into the air to check the wind speed. "We'll start the event after this air current blows out. The wind will be blowing nicely by then," he radioed to Aphid. "How many other quadrants are good to go?"

"Looks to be 12 out of 80, Sir. Maybe 13, if we push number four," came the response.

Goldleaf sighed and looked toward quadrant four, which could barely be seen from where he stood. A crow landed beside him and he took the opportunity to jump on its back and fly off to quadrant four. He landed on a smaller aspen this time that still had mostly green leaves. Since aspen trees are all connected together by a shared root system to form groves, he only need touch one to help all the others. A shimmering but gloopy brown substance appeared around all four of his hands, which harshly contrasted with the chalky whiteness of his skin, an exterior similar to the chalky dust found on the aspen trees. He put his hands against the aspen's trunk and watched as the leaves around him began to pale until they eventually turned a nice golden color.

Exhausted, he sat down on the branch

and contacted Aphid. "Quadrant four is a go," he wheezed.

"Roger that," Aphid replied. "You okay, Sir?"

"Yeah. Just really winded. I'll be good in a bit," Goldleaf replied.

The tree guardians never liked to force the leaves to change so quickly like that because they always ended up extremely worn out and they usually made them too gold, making that section stand out more to the humans and possibly raising questions. Unfortunately, they had a schedule to keep, so they sometimes had to take the risk. Luckily, the temperature, the sunlight, and the moisture had been perfect this year, so they had only taken that risk just a couple of times. Goldleaf stared out at the field that was almost completely covered with aspen trees. It was a breathtaking sight to see, even more so since a good majority of them had red-orange leaves this year. A warm breeze blew

across him and he watched some white dust rise from his arms. He had been around for over

a century and it was starting to show by the amount of dust that blew off of him each time the wind

picked up.

Before he knew it, his fellow guardians were radioing in that they and their quadrant were ready for the drop. Goldleaf had not realized that he had been sitting there, staring off into nature-filled space for that long period of time. It was easy to do when one enjoyed nature. He caught a ride over to his station on a chickadee and strapped himself into his grass harness.

"All systems go," he radioed to everyone as the wind started to increase to a nice windy level.

Within the next few minutes, as the forest life fell silent with anticipation, the soft pattering sound of golden, crisp leaves falling to the browning grass below grew louder and louder, almost rivaling the sound of a gentle summer's rain. Sitting near the middle of a large, old aspen tree, Goldleaf took in the glorious sight as leaves fluttered past him, turning his vision yellow and sometimes red-orange. If the world were to end soon, he hoped that this is how it would happen, with grace and beauty. The white dust on his arms mixed in with the swirling leaves, and it reminded him of what he imagined a tornado to look like. He had never seen one, and he was okay with that. Natural forces that damaged his purpose in life scared him, along with sudden, drastic changes. He enjoyed the life cycle, even if it meant that his end was coming as well.

He watched two nuthatches zigzag

through the rainstorm of leaves, listening to their chattering and calls of elation to each other. The amount of leaves falling together reminded him of a school of fish, or a flock of birds, moving together as one large entity. The sunlight flickered and became distorted as even more leaves began to fall. Grey clouds were on the fringes of the sky, and Goldleaf was hit with a sudden realization. This would most likely be his last Leaves Fall Event, and then Aphid would take his place. He wanted to enjoy it for as long as possible, to cling to that sense of purpose for as long as he could. To complete his life cycle, he would become the chalky dust on the aspen tree he sat on.

So many leaves now blanketed the ground, occasionally swirling up into the air as the strong winds continued. The voices of multiple humans approaching caught his attention and he turned to peer down at them. He could tell they were in awe and loving the sight of the falling leaves as they began to talk more excitedly, a couple of them pointing to where the shower of leaves was most intense. Goldleaf felt a sense of accomplishment just by seeing how happy the humans looked. They were the only other species that could get enjoyment out of watching leaves tumble from trees.

Goldleaf noticed more and more white dust blowing off of his arms and he looked down out of concern and discovered that he was slowly disintegrating. He supposed that if he was going to die in this moment, his death would be even more beautiful because it was raining gold leaves and sunlight still glittered, but in a darker hue. Even the white dust was sparkling in the light. He chuckled at the irony of there being beauty in death, but that was what autumn was all about. That was what the Leaves Fall Event was all about. He knew that beauty in death helped those left behind in the living world be more at peace with the life cycle. He hoped that the humans that were watching felt peace, and that they carried the feeling with them for a long, long while.

The weeks passed and soon every tree was bare. There had been a tie between the aspen trees and the oak trees for who dropped their leaves the fastest. Aphid stood on the branch of the aspen tree where Goldleaf had sat to watch the event time after time. The blades of grass had dried out and become stringy, swaying gently in the breeze that rattled through the bare branches. Aphid had found a perfectly formed aspen leaf that still held most of its bright, golden color. He put the leaf under a rock on the branch as a memorial to Goldleaf. He looked out across the aspen grove as snow started to gently fall, then put two out of his four hands on the trunk of the tree as a silent salute to Goldleaf. The life cycle would complete another revolution soon and Aphid hoped that Goldleaf would be working from the other side to create new life.

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SPCFPD gets grant

by Flip Boettcher

photo by Flip Boettcher

The Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD) recently received a grant from the Colorado Fire Relief Fund, a Denver Foundation.

The grant of \$3,329 will be used to replenish supplies, make repairs and do regular maintenance to one of the district's type-6 wildland fire trucks, #952, which was used to help fight fires in Colorado during this year's wildfire season.

The grants were made available through The Colorado Fire Relief Fund to help volunteer fire departments across Colorado to replenish depleted supplies and small equipment to help insure that the fire districts are prepared to fight future fires, said Sam Calanni, chairman of the SPCFPD board of directors.

The SPCFPD wildfire program has one type-6 engine and crew who go out to help fight wildfires throughout the state and out



Fire Chief Don Felton with type-6 brush truck #952 in front of the fire station in Guffey.

of state as well during fire season.

The SPCFPD helped with suppressing the High Park, Little Sand, Springer, Lower North Fork, and the Arkansas wild fires in Colorado this season.

The "SPCFPD extends its thanks to the Colorado Fire Relief fund and to those who contributed to the fund for this generous grant" said Calanni.

Pronghorn poaching discovered in Falcon

by Michael Seraphin

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

FALCON, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking for help solving a poaching crime. Wildlife officers found three pronghorn antelope in a construction dumpster on Torreys Peak Way in Falcon on Tuesday, Oct. 9.

Portions of the animals were missing, but large amounts of meat were wasted.

Anyone who saw any suspicious activity or has information should call Parks and Wildlife Officer Steve Cooley at 719-227-5284 or call a toll-free poaching tip line 1-877-265-6648. Verizon cell phone users can dial #OGT, or tips can be e-mailed to game.thief@state.co.us.

Anyone who comes forward with information that leads to a citation is eligible for a cash reward from the Operation Game Thief fund. In some cases, people who turn in poachers are eligible for preference points or a free hunting license for a future season.

For more news about Division of Wildlife go to: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>

HPP offers habitat improvement grants

by Mike Porras

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. - Colorado Parks and Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program is now accepting applications from any agency, entity, organization or individual interested in receiving financial assistance for large-scale habitat improvements projects.

The Colorado General Assembly and the Colorado Wildlife Commission established the Habitat Partnership Program in 1990 as a creative way to reduce conflicts between wildlife and agricultural operators by facilitating and encouraging cooperation between landowners, land managers, sportsmen and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

HPP is offering up to \$500,000 for this grant opportunity with \$100,000 being the minimum awarded for large-scale habitat improvements including shrub/tree cutting, water developments, weed control and reseeding. When completed, the projects will reduce conflicts and improve habitat and range conditions.

"This program works," said Pat Tucker, HPP coordinator for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "Through HPP, we can see how a successful, working partnership between our agency and other stakeholders im-

proves communication and effectively reduces game damage claims and conflicts."

The HPP State Council will evaluate each application using various criteria, including the size and scale of treatments and the type of improvements proposed. One critical component the council will use to evaluate applicants is the extent of the recipient's partnerships that can be used to leverage limited funds and increase total project accomplishments.

Anyone interested should submit an application by February 1, 2013. Applications should number 12 copies and include all pertinent information necessary for the State Council to understand the project.

Work on approved projects can begin July 1, 2013, and must be completed by June 30, 2014. Extensions will not be granted.

For additional details and to print the application, please visit: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/LandWater/PrivateLandProgram/HPP/Pages/HPP.aspx>

For more information, contact Pat Tucker, HPP State Coordinator; at (970) 255-6188 or at pat.tucker@state.co.us

Rampart Library District news

It's Lego Time! Every Friday afternoon! Woodland Park Public Library, 3-5 p.m. Bring the kids for 2 hours of building fun with Legos. Call 687-9281 x137. We are still accepting Lego donations!

AARP is offering a free Driver Safety course for veterans and their families on November 8 from 9-11 at the Woodland Park Library. Non-veterans are welcome at \$12 for AARP members (with card) and \$14 for non AARP members. Call 687-9281 x 113 to pre-register.

On Friday November 16, the Woodland Park Library is offering a delightful movie

about senior citizens finding an off-beat, inexpensive hotel in India for their retirement home. The matinee movie will be shown at 1 p.m., so bring your lunch or a snack!

If you are looking for a book club, there are two offered at the Rampart Library District. The Book Club @ WP is on the first Tuesday of every month (November 6) at 6:30 p.m. November's selection is "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. Book Worms at the Florissant Library will be discussing "The Things They Carried," by Tim O'Brien, on November 21 at 10:30 a.m.

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Hunter, a German Shorthair Pointer, and Hazel, A Rot-tweiler mix, have been raised together their whole lives. Both are 6 years young and full of life and energy. They love to play together and are very happy entertaining each other. Both love to hike, play ball or just hang out! They would love to stay together, so their adoption fee is two for one at \$120.00 for the pair. If you have room in your heart and home for this wonderful duo come and meet them!! Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! www.tcrascolorado.com.



The Bug Guy presents at WP Library

Robert Younghanz

Nov. 29th Woodland Park Library guest lecturer Robert Younghanz will be presenting a program on: Aquatic Entomology and Fly Selection for the Fly Fisher.

If you fly fish or are interested in learning, join renown Professional Fly Fisherman and Aquatic Entomologist Robert Younghanz, "The Bug Guy" for his lecture on trout foods and the fly patterns that imitate them.

One of the biggest blind spots for the fly fisher is a having a fundamental understanding of aquatic insects and their life cycles, which is the key catching more fish and having more confidence on the water.

Robert's scientific, yet lighthearted approach to the subject will help you to become the "amateur entomologist" you've always wanted to become. Within no time, you'll be able to walk up to a river and be able to decipher the difference between the most important aquatic orders as well as the flies that mimic them.



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2004 BMW X3 3.0i

Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 3.00L I624V
Transmission: 6-speed manual
Ext. Color: Jet Black
Int. Color: Black
Mileage: 111,327
Price: \$13,995

2004 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500

Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.30L V816V
Transmission: 4-speed automatic
Ext. Color: Dark Gray
Int. Color: Dark Charcoal
Mileage: 130,870
Price: \$12,495



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Drivetrain: AWD
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Ext. Color: Diamond Gray
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“One Day” destination - Ouray

by Kathy Hansen
photos by Jeff Hansen

Are you feeling tired or drained? Are you no longer motivated to pursue interests you enjoy? Do you have frequent headaches or body aches? Is every day starting to feel the same? You may need to relieve your stress. A great way to relieve stress or de-bunk the funk is to have a little get-away vacation. Sometimes a little change of scenery can change your attitude. How many times have traveled through this gorgeous state and thought, “One day I’m going to spend more time here”? One day can arrive as quickly as you set the intention and choose the destination.

We decided to go to Ouray. We had been twice before, but only as a place to stay on our way to and from other destinations. We hadn’t had time to really experience or explore. Here was our “One Day” destination opportunity.

We set out on schedule. Early enough to enjoy watching the rain evaporate off the road. The day had the promise of sunshine and did not disappoint. We took Hwy 50 over Monarch Pass, then onto the Gunnison Valley. There is something about driving through the mountains that releases stress. It is as though the tension drops off each downward sloping ridge. Climbing each new peak brings clearer views both visually as well as spiritually. The vastness of the mountain ranges helps the bothersome irks in life seems so small and insignificant. The mind’s eye gets a new perspective on life!

The Gunnison Valley is beautiful and rich with wildlife despite the severe drought conditions our state is going through. The water levels were quite low. However, that did not stop the wildlife of taking a moment to stop and drink of the reservoir. We saw a Golden Eagle fly past very quickly on the way. She was magnificent! I wished I could see her again.

We moved onward and made our first stop in Ridgeway. It is only 10 miles from Ouray. They had a farmer’s market in the park. I enjoy farmer’s markets. I find no two are alike and really enjoy exploring their differences. Each vendor proudly displays their crops or wares. Their hard work comes to fruition. We picked up some fresh beans, apples, and some of the best tomatoes I’d tasted all year. I also found a beautiful blue necklace, so handy since I had forgotten to wear one that day. There is nothing like a little keepsake to remind us of our trip.

There is a beautiful little valley that leads into Ouray. There are ranches on either side of the highway. Ridgeway reservoir had been impacted by the drought. There were boats in the middle of the reservoir which appeared to be hung up on sandbars as though they were toy boats circling a draining tub. I am reminded of the irrigation system set up in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison River. This system over 100 years old continues to provide irrigation from Montrose though Ridgeway and has helped to maintain the agriculture of the area.

Onward to Ouray! As we were approaching, the mountains almost seemed to slowly separate offering us secret access. It seems to build anticipation wondering what is around that next bend. Ouray is nestled between Ridgeway and Silverton, in the heart of Box Canyon. It is often referred to as “Switzerland of America” due to the high mountain peaks in every direction. There is some sense of safety and feeling protected by those spiraling peaks. Something says, “Stop. Rest. Stay a while and take in this incredible view!” We were glad we did!

We stayed at the Beaumont Hotel, established in 1886 during the height of the gold boom. The Beaumont has welcomed famous guests such as Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Herbert Hoover, King Leopold of Belgium, Chipeta (then widow of Chief Ouray), actress Angie Dickenson, Oprah Winfrey, Jewel, and Ralph Lauren. The building had lain dormant for over 30 years until 1998 when Dan & Mary King purchased the Beaumont at an auction. They began the process of historical restoration which completed in 2003. The Beaumont has since received at least three awards for preservation.

The current owners, Chad and Jennifer Leaver, purchased it about two years ago. They are the perfect proprietors for this incredible building. Their finesse and grace enhance the charm of this luxurious hotel. Ready to listen to their guests’ plans for their vacation, Chad and Jennifer assure every need is met to perfection. The Beaumont’s Grill offers some of the finest food in the state! Seated in the Bistro Courtyard, the gentle rippling of the fountain was perfect to set the mood for a relaxing dinner. If you enjoy bison, you’ll have to try the Colorado raised buffalo rib eye w/the shallot confit butter sauce. The salad was fresh and properly dressed. The shrimp was cooked to perfection. Yum! They also have a wide variety of gluten free options.

The Beaumont is equipped with a spa offering pampering of your choice; perfect for after a day of exploring. See their website for what suits your needs best www.beaumonthotel.com. Just one note of caution: you might easily become accustomed to being

pampered and need to return. We understand they are ready to serve a fine Thanksgiving meal and available to host your holiday gathering. For more information call 888-447-3255. Ouray has some incredible architecture. It is as though each of the early settlers knew others would come and have the same feeling about needing to stop, rest, and take in the view, so they constructed their buildings with pride to last lifetimes. There are at least 25 sites listed on the “Walking Tour”. Anyone who enjoys Victorian architecture needs to see what Ouray has to offer. There are many activities to choose from in Ouray. We had decided to go horseback riding. We found Bachel’lers Stable was able to accommodate our timing. Our guide was Post, quite the character to say the least. Post went by a slightly different calendar than most. He commented as he was shoeing the horses that he’d only been doing this for about a week, which was clearly a bit of sarcasm. You could tell by how he handled his horses, by how he rode, and by how glanced across the vista that he’d been doing this all of his life. Post could assess a situation in a glance and his experience lent immediate guidance. Another couple had joined us at the last minute. No problem for Post. He found two additional horses to accommodate. He chatted with our new guests for a few moments, gleaned their experience so he could select a good fit. He gave us each a quick lesson.



Maybel

My horse was named, Spring and Jeff was on MahBel, or it could have been Maybel, hard to say for sure with Post’s accent. In any case, he knew who they were, the horses quickly got to know who we were, and eventually we got to know them. Spring is reign trained; once Post let me know which end of my “ice cream” (how to hold the reigns) was up, we were good to go! I found Spring was quite aware of the slightest of move-



The fountain in the courtyard at the Beaumont Hotel.

ment of the reigns and responded in kind. Post let the horses know it was their time to step up to the command, “You pot lickin’, pot-bellied, ol’mare, bush wackin’ belly hopper, now GIT!” It didn’t take long to sink in that it was actually my mis-use of the reigns that directed the circles we were going in or why Spring was not moving. It was kind of the horses to endure Post’s comments, but I trust they knew on some level as we did, they were just doing what we directed. Post knew the humor helped us to relax, which gave us a moment to regroup and better “drive” the horse. We were glad for his expertise. He’d only been doing this for a week. There is nothing like appreciating how the settlers navigated this land than by being on horseback. What an amazing ride! To feel the strength of the horses’ haunches climb effortlessly and steadily up the mountain was an incredible experience. As we approached an edge of a cliff, Post reminded me that the horses all know better than to fall off the edge. I found it best to simply sit back, trust Spring and enjoy the ride. We were able to see Lake Lenore from about 50ft above then again as we climbed further up the mountain from maybe 1,500 ft. What a sight! We continued on the trail for a bit, and then Post thought we might appreciate a view just slightly off the beaten path. He pointed to the direction we were going, reminded us to keep our toe down on the stirrup, and led the way. At first, I was concerned about going down the mountain. Soon I realized Spring knew exactly how to navigate the slope. I have a better understanding of switchbacks. For a short time, Jeff and Maybel were in front of us. I noticed how occasionally Maybel’s hind foot slipped as the rocks beneath her hoof crumbled downward. Maybel’s other three feet caught her balance without the slightest jolt. Witnessing this



Lake Lenore

process gave new meaning to “sure-footed”. Later, Jeff said that happened to all the horses, including Spring. Yet I never once felt her falter! I trusted her balance and strength, allowing me to look across the beautiful vistas before me. The layers of mountains appeared endless. I could barely imagine doing the same with a buggy holding all my worldly belongings following behind. I have a new respect for the pioneers and for horses. I plan to ride again “one day” in the Colorado Mountains. We returned to the Beaumont for a quick change of clothes and to refresh. Then we took a leisurely walk through the quaint town. We came upon a trail to Cascade Falls. It is a very short, yet vertical hike to the rushing waters. The water level is down this year. As I spotted several signs throughout the town that Ouray is a 10-20 year flood plain. This was not a year of flood. I wondered how much greater the force of the rushing water would be in a flood year. We will have to return to find out. Some things are good to return to like The Outlaw, a restaurant we went to the first time we came to Ouray and one that gives reason to come back again. It is the legendary home of John Wayne’s hat (from True Grit). They have excellent steaks and seafood options. The staff is friendly and efficient. The atmosphere is western with that ambiance of family history. The Bonatti family bought the building in 1937. It became a restaurant in the 1940’s and was dubbed “The Outlaw” in 1968. The Bonatti family history seems to have woven its way through The Outlaw’s history. We understand at the time of our visit a family member continues to work there.

There are lots of activities we just didn’t get to: hiking, biking, and jeep trails. There are several museums, rich with history. Opportunities for hot springs, hot air balloons, golf, zip lines, and train rides are available. We have a saying about those things we simply didn’t have time for – it gives us a reason to come back!

The ride back home was just as lovely as the ride there, yet richer with wildlife. We were approaching Blue Mesa Lake between Black Canyon and Cimarron and that is when time stopped. We had the privilege of driving toward the path of a male Golden Eagle. There was no sound. There was no smell. There was no time. There was only this graceful creature swooping before us, seeking his prey. He circled to the canyon below as if he knew we needed to watch his concentric circles zone in on his next meal. Silently, from above, he zoomed in then just disappeared. I had to remind myself to breath.

We continued our way back through Cottonwood Pass. It is a lovely way to go. The colors were still changing; the Aspens and cotton wood were golden surrounded by various hues of orange and red of the scrub oak. The sky was traditional Colorado Blue. There was a bit of sadness knowing our journey was coming to an end, just as when you’ve begun the last chapter of the best book you’ve ever read.

We approached Cottonwood Pass with the magnificence of Mt. Princeton (she is my favorite mountain) towering to our right; we again were breathless – there was a moose! How lucky that there was a side road 150 ft ahead. We pulled over and watched her as she grazed. Time stopped again. No sound. No smell. Everything just stopped so that we could take in this phenomenal site of this majestic



Looking down at the grand staircase at the Beaumont.



Moose near Cottonwood Pass.

animal, so seldom seen. I thought elk were big until I saw this stunning creature. We watched her graze in the shallows of the creek. She appeared content with the sun warming her skin. She took her fill of grasses as we took in her beauty. We had never before had the opportunity to watch a moose graze. We truly felt honored to be in her presence. Sometimes it is the memory of a magnificent moment that can refresh our attitude. We need to experience nature to regain our focus and our priorities. When the job you love becomes the daily grind, we need a little time in nature to renew our perspective and cleanse the soul. Where will your next “One Day” destination take you?



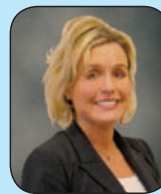
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Meet Carol Ekarius: Coalition for the Upper South Platte

by Bani Kurth

Carol Ekarius, environmental angel of the of the Upper South Platte Watershed, has been in Colorado for over three decades. The mission: To protect water quality and ecologic health of the Upper South Platte Watershed through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders with emphasis on community values and economic sustainability. Her mantra: “A healthy watershed, now, and in the future.”

From the Jersey shore, to the shores of Lake George, Carol and husband Ken, have settled into our area, to share clear air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

Carol and Ken studied together in New Mexico with Alan Savory, advocate for the Concept of Holistic Management. Alan emphasizes the notion that most people have the same ideals for a good life. We need to sit down together, define our needs, and the rate of their importance. Goals can then be established by the members of the group and agreed upon.

Arriving in Summit County, Co., after college, Carol camped in her car, biked, and skied for a year at Breckenridge, and then moved to Kremmling.

From 1981-1989, Carol was District manager at the Frisco County Sanitation Department. The Frisco plant won EPA’s National operation and maintenance award under her management.

1989-1998 Ken and Carol owned and operated an organic grass-based farm in Central Minnesota. Her business provided tech support to public and non-profits. She also worked as a civil engineer in Wadena, Minnesota.

Since 1989 as a self-employed writer and consultant, Carol has eight books in print and one in production. Topics include: water pollution control, sustaining the family farm, raising livestock including: sheep, goats, chickens and pigs. Publisher: Storey Books, North Adams, MA. A “Pocketful of Poultry,” will be my next read.

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) was operated out of Carol’s home in a spare bedroom for several years. In 2005, piles of papers became a problem. A home near Lake George Park was purchased, then converted to offices and garage storage. The paid staff now numbers 25.

CUSP is a “mission driven organization” which survives on grants, donations, and volunteers. Thousands of volunteer workers arrived from across the U.S. to help restore the ground cover of crispy ash after the 2002 Hayman Fire, which burned over 137,000 acres. This summer the South Platte River, Happy Meadows campground got a makeover. The work continues.

Carol stated, “America is a special place. The wealth of our natural resources is a critical component to our country’s success. When we work on our mission driven purpose we work for everyone.”



Carol Ekarius

Fun facts about Colorado & CUSP

DID YOU KNOW?

- Average Colorado precipitation is 16 inches per year.
- CUSP coordinates projects with US Forest Service, Local Fire Depts., Co. State Forest Service, NRCS, Park/Teller/Jefferson/Douglas Counties, area Conservation Districts, also private entities.
- Where ever you are, you live in a Watershed. The ground water is fed from rivers and streams. The Upper South Platte is included in the Co/Wy/ Neb watershed which covers 86,000 sq. miles.
- The Happy Meadows Campground/ South Platte River project, west of Lake George on the Hayman burn scar, was completed this summer. This will help to preserve Colorado’s precious water supply by reducing sediment, aid in clean water, and promote healthy fish migration.
- Nationwide wildfires in USA, in 1997, burned 2,000,000 acres. In 2007, burned 9,278,731 acres.
- The best time to prepare for a wildfire is BEFORE it happens.
- Since the 2002 Hayman Fire, CUSP has grown from 3 employees and a portable building in the Lake George Park, furnished with a table, folding chair and phone, to a permanent office center across from the LG post office near the park with 25 employees.
- To sign up for a local emergency alert go to: <http://www.nixle.com/>
- For Active wildfire info: <http://www.incweb.org>
- For CUSP newsletter, to be added to mailing list, contact CUSP at www.uttersouthplatte.org.
- Cusp video available on UTUBE @ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>
- To volunteer or donate: CUSP, P.O. Box 726, Lake George, Co. 80827, phone 719.748.0033

Best time for big trout

by Jeff Tacy

With the shortening of the days and the coming of winter, the fish at the South Park reservoirs are really putting on the feedbag. This is one of the best times of the year to go fishing for big trout. We’ll concentrate on 11 Mile and Antero Reservoirs.

The reservoirs usually freeze between mid-November and mid-December. Be careful though, on first ice. I consider at least six inches of ice safe. Have a partner with you. Also have a rope and ice picks with you just in case.

You don’t need to be far from shore to catch fish. Just use an underwater lake map and fish the structure. Often 6-15 feet of water is the best depth. There are mainly rainbow and cutthroat trout at both reservoirs.

Trout at Antero Reservoir will be near the open areas in the weed beds. The reservoir is pretty shallow with the deepest water at 15-16 feet. Jig with one ice rod and let the other sit (deadstick) not that far away from you. The jigging pole will draw fish in and often they’ll hit the still pole.

Use small pink, orange, green, or yellow Rat-Finkees, Swedish Pimples, and Scud Bugs with Power Bait or Wax Worms. Nightcrawlers and salmon eggs will work as bait too. Glow lures also work.

At 11 Mile Reservoir the inlet area is the first part of the lake to freeze and the best area to fish. The bonus at 11 Mile Reservoir is the northern pike which will also hit the trout lures. Use the same lures, bait, and techniques at 11 Mile as Antero.

Check the 2012 Colorado Fishing Rules and Regulations booklet for bag limits and all other fishing information. Good luck and good fishing!

For the love of dogs - the story of Trilby

b y David Martinek

Introduction: Will Rogers once said, “If there are no dogs in heaven, I don’t want to go there.” Every dog lover understands that sentiment. I remember in my youth reading the books of Albert Payson Terhune and the stories about his beloved collies at Sunnybank Kennels. It was in those stories that I began to wonder about the unbreakable bond that has existed between man and dog for eons, ever since the wolf was domesticated back in the cave. I strayed away from dogs as I grew up and moved to the opposite end of the spectrum entirely – to cats! But later in life the pull on the heartstrings that erupted into a shower of joy every time I looked into the forlorn face and brown eyes of a loving dog returned at last. For all dog lovers, and I include myself, here is the story of Trilby. – Dave Martinek



Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1895 was a rippin’ and roarin’ town. Gold had been rediscovered in Poverty Gulch only three years before and by July in ’95 the first railroad would reach the camp. The town folk celebrated two 4th of July’s that year: one when the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad arrived to a flurry of band music and celebration; the other on the real fourth. It wasn’t until December 1895 that the Midland Terminal Railroad also arrived in Cripple Creek. With the trains came a more efficient way to haul gold ore down to the smelters in Florence and Colorado City, as well as provide a conduit for transporting all kinds of new people into the district.

In 1895, so reports the Cripple Creek Morning Times, the fire and police departments were a common agency, or at least they were housed in the same building. Policeman walked their beats and fireman waited for the call to rush to burning buildings. It wouldn’t be long before two great fires would almost totally destroy the wooden town and result in a new community of brick (but that happened the next year). This is a story about a dog.

To a policeman sitting on office duty in a booming wild-west mining town, nothing could be more boring. But as (I’ll call him) Officer Jack looked down from his chair on the front stoop of the jail at the limping little black Scottish Terrier in front of him, his morning got brighter. The way the little dog was walking, holding its right front paw out in front, it looked like she was asking Jack for some help. So he helped her. “Bet a wagon ran over your foot here, little girl” said Jack. The dog waited patiently, almost expectedly, as Jack saw that the paw was badly crushed. He bandaged it as best he could, then found a box for the dog near the wall to rest for the night with a bowl of water.

The next morning the little black ball of fur was still there, and hungry. The boys in the firehouse fed her, the wound soon

healed and she refused to leave. Since no one objected, the dog became a fixture for the police and fire boys. They named her Trilby and she became their pet.

After that, Trilby slept in the firehouse, walked a beat with the policemen and the city timekeeper, and was always on deck ready to ride whenever there was a fire. Everyone was kind to her and her presence added a touch of grace to the otherwise hard duties of the men. There was always a lap for Trilby, a gentle pat or a morsel of food. In a town growing daily with all kinds of people, some of them unsavory, where life was filled with hardships, rough work, temptations and violence, the little black dog won the hearts of every man in the police and fire department, and soon became a town mascot.

But on the last day of December, 1895, the Cripple Creek Morning Times ran a story that brought tears to the roughest miner’s eyes on Myers Avenue and broke the hearts of every reader.

“Yesterday afternoon,” reported the Times, “as she was skipping along with the city timekeeper, a team of horses came dashing down the street. Trilby saw them coming and in making an effort to get out of their way fell and the heavy wheels passed over her.”

The sobbing timekeeper carried Trilby tenderly back to the station and laid her in her bed, but there was nothing they could do for her. Her back was broken. The only task left was to put her out of her misery. One of the boys got a big revolver, but Officer Jack stopped him. “Let me do it,” he said quietly. With big policeman tears welling up in his eyes, Jack aimed the gun at the poor little dog, closed his eyes... and pulled the trigger. With a loud blast, the bullet found its target. She quivered once and was still.

They buried her solemnly in a vacant lot behind the jail and erected a simple stone marker with the inscription, Trilby.

Epilogue: Sometimes, losing a pet can be one of the saddest experiences of life. At least, that’s what I thought one cold January day when I buried our favorite Yorkie, Nyx, in the frozen ground in back of our cabin in Divide. It’s hard to dig a hole with tears in your eyes. Perhaps the sadness is so intense because the love they gave us while alive was just as intense – unconditional, joyful, without judgment or prejudice. I do believe, though, that Will Rogers would have been glad, because there are dogs in heaven - as dog lovers say: the Rainbow Bridge. I’m sure of it. And I believe it because the love they show us is the closest thing to the way it ought to be.

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Old school building continues to educate

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

The former Lake George Charter School building continues to provide educational opportunities through a new business, Quality Science Labs. John Eshelman, company president, purchased the building after deciding it was the perfect location for his science lab kit assembly operation.

Quality Science Labs provides educational science kits for home schools and regular school classrooms. Kits are available for all areas of scientific study: physics, physical science, earth science, chemistry, biology and life science. They can be used by individual students or by small groups.

Each kit contains an instructional/experiment manual and whatever supplies or

equipment may be needed to perform the activities. Chemical reagents are supplied in microscale amounts in dropper bottles for safety purposes. Eshelman describes the lab experiments as "rigorous" requiring students to work hard to complete each task.

Presently employees are packaging kits for a shipment to Kenya, Africa where the program is the only approved science kit activity in the country. Eshelman expects neighboring countries will soon adopt the program. He projects a 30% growth in requests from U.S. locations and foreign countries for 2012.

Quality Science Labs also offers a program, Logos Science Kits, which is

a science curriculum with strong Christian emphasis. This program includes the full range of science subjects.

Eshelman expects that even with expansion of the assembly process, the building may have additional space. He plans on converting some of this space into meeting rooms and rentable office units.

Detailed information may be ob-



John Eshelman (standing right) and staff assemble kits for Kenya

tained from the web site, www.quality-sciencelabs.com or by calling 719-302-4874 or 866-700-1884.

Stacey Mae passes away

by Flip Boettcher

Stacey Mae, a five year old Swiss Mountain dog, who lived in the Pike Trails subdivision west of Guffey choked to death on a dog biscuit suddenly on October 6. Stacey Mae was the 2011 American Humane Association's Hero Dog award winner in the Therapy Dog category. Ironically, October 6th was the evening of the 2012 Hero Dog Awards. Maria Mandel, one of Stacey's owners, tried to help Stacey Mae but was unable to. Stacey Mae belonged to Richard Mandel, his wife Pam, and daughter Maria. Stacey Mae started visiting nursing homes in the area several years ago according to Richard Mandel.

In the fall of 2010, Maria decided to start a Facebook page about Stacey May describing her visits to the nursing homes. Maria started a Teddy Bear project as well. Maria collected the donated Teddy

Bears to take to children in hospitals they visited as well as taking Teddy Bears to the nursing homes. Stacey Mae and the Mandel's have given out over 2,000 Teddy Bears on their visits in Canon City, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs.

According to the AHA website, www.american-humaneassociation.com, Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is the use of animals as part of a therapeutic plan and is a "significant part of treatment for many people who are physically, socially, emotionally or cognitively challenged." Those in hospitals and nursing homes often



Richard and Maria Mandel enjoy an afternoon with Stacey Mae.

benefit from AAT especially children and the elderly said the AHA website. Stacey Mae helped brighten the lives of those who are often forgotten about.

According to the North Country Gazette website, actress and animal advocate Betty White will match donations at this link, <http://bit.ly/RedCarpetDress-Fundraiser>, up to \$25,000 at her Red Dress Fundraiser to benefit the American Humane Association and White's Humane Heroes Club.

Maria and Stacey Mae were already preparing for this year's Christmas visits when the tragedy struck. Stacey Mae's memory and inspiration will live on.

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A Ute arrow straightener is made of Jurassic dinosaur bone

by Gavin Noller and Steven Wade Veatch

I am currently studying an arrow straightening tool left behind by the Ute Indians long ago in Teller County. The artifact is made of an unusual material—a Jurassic dinosaur bone, most likely from the Morrison Formation near Garden Park, Colorado. As I work with this artifact that is more than 13 decades old, I imagine a scene when it was used.

A group of Ute braves are sitting on a forested mountain slope that overlooks the plains where the braves and their families have camped. The braves are manufacturing arrowheads and straightening the shafts of their arrows for hunting. The day is quite peaceful. The sun is shining—showering the landscape with its blissful, gratifying warmth and light. In the distance, the dark silhouette of a herd of grazing bison is visible.

One brave, called Leaf Who Rides on the Wind, has a tool for straightening the shafts of arrows. It is made of a peculiar material that is like bone, but it is hard as rock, and all the other braves believe it contains great medicine.

The arrow straightener that Leaf Who Rides on the Wind uses is part of a large dinosaur bone, only he does not know it. The bone was smoothed so it would fit in his hand. A single long groove was put in to the bone to straighten the shafts of arrows, so they would hit their intended target straight and true.

After Leaf Who Rides on the Wind completes making and straightening an arrow, he wonders about how well the arrow will shoot. Ten quivers worth of arrows are finished, and with more to make, Leaf Who Rides on the Wind takes a moment to observe his surroundings in closer detail. Across the clearing in which he and the other braves sit, a couple of chipmunks are chasing each other. His thoughts are interrupted by a hunting call from a Shoshone hunting party from the west. Not wanting conflict, Leaf Who Rides on the Wind and the other braves quickly gather their things and then hastily make their way down the mountain slope and into their camp. They recount the events of the afternoon to their families late into the night around their campfire,



View of arrow shaft straightener made of dinosaur bone from a Jurassic bone bed. The notch can be plainly seen on top of the artifact.

Artifact dimensions: L 8.89cm; W 6.89cm; H 5.08cm.

Artifact weight: 242 grams.

Groove dimensions: L 5.08 mm; W 5.08 mm; Depth 1.27 mm

G. Noller collection.

tool of untold magic and power is missing and he is afraid that he has misplaced it. He is desperate to find it as he feared he would not hunt well. He looks everywhere and asks his friends if they have seen it. Several days later, he finds it behind a thriving mountain mahogany bush, where he had dropped it earlier on his way from coming down the mountain slope. Eventually Leaf Who Rides on the Wind lost his arrow straightener one last time.

More than 13 decades later it was found again, this time by a fossil hunter. Arrow straighteners are not that common, and are not always seen in museums. But when they are, they will probably not be made of dinosaur bone from a prehistoric time that has long faded away. Now that the artifact has been recovered it is currently being studied.

Continued research will reveal more of the archeological secrets of this arrowhead straightener made of a Jurassic dinosaur bone.

and as the moon climbs into the night sky they head for their tepees and soon fall asleep.

Leaf Who Rides on the Wind wakes up the next morning to find that his special

Meet the author

Gavin Noller is a 12-year-old middle school student in 6th grade. His favorite subject in school is science, and he loves finding rocks and fossils in his free time. Gavin also has a strong interest in archaeology. He is a member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups, a group of interested students who are members of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club. Gavin has worked on day-long outreach projects at the Colorado City Founder's Day celebration and the Cool Science Festival at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs



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Benefits of gratitude

by Kathy Hansen

It seems appropriate at this time of year to discuss gratitude. Many families have a Thanksgiving tradition of stating something they are grateful for this year prior to digging into the turkey and fixings. Instead of an article on what to be thankful for, it seemed appropriate to explore the benefits of gratitude. Boy, was I surprised at what I found!

The amount of information on gratitude is incredible. In fact, there is a new branch of psychology referred to as “positive psychology” which studies health promoting behaviors and the pleasurable aspects of life instead of pathology and problems. It’s about time! After all, how much can we learn about wellness from studying illness? It turns out; they really are two separate things or at least two separate ends of the continuum.

Let’s start with the basics. The word gratitude has its roots in the Latin gratia meaning grace, graciousness or gratefulness. Gratitude is acknowledgement of receipt of something of value from another. It tends to occur when:

- A benefit is evaluated positively.
- The benefit is not attributed to one’s own effort.
- The benefit was rendered intentionally by the benefactor.

Research is abundant and growing. There are numerous calls for papers regarding gratitude, many of which are follow-up studies to preliminary studies. One thing is clear from the tip of the iceberg I was able to uncover: dedicating yourself to a minimum of 5 minutes a day on a gratitude journal can increase your long term well-being by more than 10%. The journal can happen any time of day you choose or can fit into your lifestyle. The important part is that you continue to dedicate that minimum of 5 minutes a day.

Some suggest surrounding yourself with reminders. This could be as simple as placing a photo of someone you are grateful to have in your life on your desk. Perhaps you prefer photos of gratitude as your computer background. You may choose to set your pda, Outlook, or calendar to remind you of a moment of gratitude as a recurring appointment.

Did you say you aren’t into technology? How about placing post-it notes around or tape a note onto your mirror.

It can be helpful for some people to choose a “gratitude partner” much like you might have an exercise buddy, a quite smoking buddy, or a self-breast exam buddy. Likewise, making a public statement of your intention can help some folks be true to their word.

A piece of advice that was frequently found in current research and has been for decades is to be aware of your “self-talk” which is the running commentary many of us keep running through our heads. When we become aware that our self-talk is taking on a negative tone, it’s time for a change. By simply repeating an affirmative statement, while focusing on that statement 10 times can be enough to steer the stream of consciousness onto a more positive path.

Did you know that simply choosing to smile can benefit your body and mind? Research suggests simply smiling helps you bounce back from stress. The more genuine the smile is the more beneficial the results. Studies from the assertiveness training field have shown that choosing to impact your body position, like standing up straight and smiling, can help move your mental posture. For example, choosing to maintain a smile for at least 3 minutes can help change negative thought patterns into positive thought patterns. It is simple: our cerebral cortex is designed to solve the problem so it naturally goes in that direction. Once we solve a problem we have a choice to hold that celebration or positive accomplishment in our mind. The longer we maintain positive patterns, the more frequently we visit them; the expressways of our mind are smoother to drive than the dirt roads.

One thing statistics teaches us is there are many ways to make a mistake. So since each decision has the potential to be wrong, consider which decision has consequences you can live with. Below are 31 ways an attitude of gratitude can change our lives for the better. Read and consider the consequence you can live with best.

- 31 ways an attitude of gratitude can change our lives for the better:
- Makes us happier.
 - Makes people like us.
 - Makes us healthier.
 - Boosts our careers.
 - Strengthens our emotions.
 - Develops our personality.
 - Makes us more optimistic.
 - Reduces our materialism.
 - Increases our spiritualism.
 - Makes us less self-centered.
 - Increases self-esteem.
 - Improves sleep.
 - Keeps us away from the doctor.
 - Let’s us live longer.
 - Increases energy levels.
 - Makes us more likely to exercise.
 - Helps us bounce back from stress.
 - Makes us feel good.
 - Makes our memories happier.
 - Reduces feelings of envy.
 - Helps us to relax.
 - Makes us feel friendlier.
 - Helps our marriages.
 - Makes us look good.
 - Helps us make friends.
 - Deepens friendships.
 - Makes us more effective managers.
 - Helps us network.
 - Increases goal achievement.
 - Improves decision making skills.
 - Increases productivity.

For additional reading see:
Thanks!: How the New Science of Gratitude Can Make You Happier by Robert Emmons.

Helpful websites to get you started:
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www.gratefulness.org
www.actionforhappiness.org

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Obituaries of old

by David Martinek

Since most, if not all, of the aspen leaves have fallen to their earthly graves, it just seems natural to recall earlier times when lives were often snuffed out a little more quickly, or prematurely, in the rough and ready mining days of the Cripple Creek and Victor gold mining district. I am speaking specifically of obituaries and death notices.

In modern-day obituaries you expect to learn certain things about the deceased: when and where born, parents, school, marriage, profession, children, survivors, etc. Sometimes, the writer will slip in a phrase or two about how the deceased is now “in a better place” or is “nestled in the arms of Jesus.” But a detailed cause and circumstances of death are not as readily revealed now-a-days. Not true back in gold district times.

The obituary and death notice pages in the newspapers of the late 1890s and early 1900s were stories unto themselves and full of very graphic descriptions telling not only that a certain person was dead, along with some customary information, but how they died. In fact, the obituary pages were one of the most popular sections of the paper.

Here are just a few examples:
May 20, 1898: GILLET. Fainted on the bucket. A. De Lancy fell 100 feet down the shaft of the Bolivia mine at Gillett last evening and was instantly killed. De Lancy was a machine drill man employed on the Bolivia mine located south of the town of Gillett. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the day shift had come off duty, and the night shift was going on. Three men got on the bucket to be lowered into the mine, among them De Lancy. The three were standing on the rim of the bucket, holding on to the cable, ready to be let down. The signal to the engineer had not yet been given. Suddenly De Lancy let go the cable, and before any of his companions had any intimation that anything was wrong he toppled backward off the bucket and was gone. The Bolivia shaft is 100 feet deep, and when the bucket was lowered with the other men, only a mass of crushed and disfigured bone and flesh was found. NO cause is known for the tragedy. De Lancy was well liked, and was of a cheerful disposition. The supposition among his fellow workmen is that he fainted. Deceased had been employed on the Bolivia for about three months. He was a single man, about 28 years of age. His only known relative is a brother at Corning, N.Y. who has been notified by wire of the tragedy.

May 27, 1898: GILLET. Ran over by a train. In an old warehouse in Gillett four men lie dead, another is nursing a bruised head at his room, and half a dozen men are slightly hurt, as a result of a catastrophe on the Midland Terminal road just beyond Gillett yesterday morning. Twelve

men on a handcar were overtaken by a train on a high trestle and the dead are the ones who lost their self-possession and jumped from the trestle to the ground, sixty-five feet below. The dead: Ben Eberly., Ed Flynn, James Hanrahan and William Flynn.

June 12, 1898: VICTOR. Felled by a rock. J. C. Holt, a miner in the Gold Coin, was killed last night by having a heavy rock fall on him while at work in the second level of the mine. He was working at the breast of the drift when a heavy rock, weighing several hundred pounds, fell from the roof a distance of four feet above his head, and crushed him to the floor. His companion removed the rock alone, and then gave the alarm. The wounded man was hoisted to the surface, but after gasping a few times he died. The doctors could find no broken bones, but said his injuries were internal. Holt was one of the best known and most popular men of the city. He was a member of the Miners' union, the A.O.U.W. and the Woodmen. He was



married only three months ago in Pueblo, his wife now residing in Victor. His parents live in St. Charles, Mich. He has a brother in Leadville, and a sister in Aspen.

June 15, 1898: VICTOR. Committed suicide. W. J. Flowers committed suicide yesterday at Independence by shooting himself in the head. No reason is known for the deed, but his friends say he has often threatened it. The weapon used was one seldom carried in this section. It was a derringer, carrying a 38-caliber ball. He placed the muzzle to his head just above the right eye, and fell dead instantly. This was at 2:30 p.m. Flowers used to work on the Strong mine, and has a brother now employed on that property. He was a single man, about 38 years old. The body was taken to Hunt's at Victor, and Coroner Hallett summoned to hold an inquest.

October 28, 1899: VICTOR. Accident in Joe Dandy Mine. An accident occurred at the Joe Dandy mine about 2 o'clock this morning, by which two men lost their



lives. The names of the dead men are: W. L. Lambert, aged 40 years. William Van Why, aged 33, married, of Cripple Creek. The men were being hoisted from the bottom of the shaft, which is down about 130 feet. They had just finished drilling and four shots were burning in the bottom. When the men had been hoisted a distance of about sixty feet, the pin which holds the gear of the drum in some unaccountable manner became detached, and the drum was immediately reversed, and the men were let down into the shaft toward the burning fuses. The shots exploded and they were both instantly killed. The bodies of the unfortunate men were badly torn and mangled by the explosion and one of the men was nearly covered by the debris caused by the explosion. It was one of those unaccountable accidents which no one can explain, with no blame to be attached to either the engineer or man-

her lover and this is the cause assigned for her rash act. She procured the drug from a night clerk at one of the drug stores about 1 o'clock, and when it was discovered what she had done it was too late to save her life. Dr. Funk was called, who did everything possible but to no avail. She died at 1:50. The deceased was about 20 years of age and has been working in the dance halls in this city for some time. She has a sister living in Victor and her parents reside at Crystal near Aspen. The remains were taken to the morgue where they will await the disposal of relatives. Her maiden name was Suexee, she having been married about two years ago to Wm. Garland. When the Spanish-American war broke out her husband enlisted and went to Cuba. He received a bullet through the lungs and died from the effects at Aspen last winter. And finally.....

February 13, 1900: CRIPPLE CREEK. The Woman Who Killed Williford Chief Mourner. The sounding of taps and the ring of the triple salute over a new made grave closed another scene in the tragedy in which the life of E. E. Williford is taken by his wife. The body of the man who last Thursday

evening was shot to death by the woman who claimed to love him was yesterday afternoon buried with military honors, the deceased having served in the Philippines with Company B, First Colorado volunteers. The funeral was under the auspices of Outpost No. 1 Colorado volunteers, the new organization of returned Philippines soldiers. The remains were escorted from the White undertaking rooms to the First Baptist church, where a large crowd had assembled to do honor to the murdered man. After a simple but impressive service conducted by Rev. T. T. Martin, the cortege marched to Mt. Pisgah cemetery, where the burial took place with the usual military ceremonies.

Note: The Cripple Creek Morning Times (i.e., The Morning Times), from which these obituaries were gleaned, was published from 1891 to 1900; and then as the Cripple Creek Times from 1902 to 1913. Excerpts from the newspaper appear online at <http://files.usgwarchives.org/co/teller/newspapers/>.

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Still time to set up owner-only 401(k) for 2012

If you're a small-business owner, with no full-time employees (except possibly your spouse or business partner), you're probably used to taking care of just about everything on your own. So, if you're thinking of establishing a retirement plan — and you should — you might also be attracted to “going solo” with an “Owner-only” 401(k).

An Owner-only 401(k), sometimes known as an Individual 401(k), has been around for a few years now, and has proven quite popular — and with good reason. This plan is easy to establish, easy to administer and, most importantly, gives you many of the same benefits enjoyed by employees of a company that offers a traditional 401(k) plan.

These benefits include the following:

- Tax deferred earnings — Your earnings aren't taxed as they accumulate.

- Tax deductible contributions — An Owner-only 401(k) consists of two components — salary deferral and profit sharing contributions, both of which are generally 100 percent tax deductible. If you choose to make Roth salary deferrals to your Owner-only 401(k), your contributions aren't deductible, but you won't pay taxes on your earnings, provided you don't take withdrawals until you're 59-1/2 and it's been five years since your first year of Roth deferral.

- Variety of investment choices — You can choose to fund your Owner-only 401(k) with a wide range of investments. And you can construct an investment mix that's appropriate for your risk tolerance and long-term goals.

Furthermore, an Owner-only 401(k) can potentially allow you to make greater contributions, at an identical income level,

than other small-business retirement plans, such as a SEP IRA. In 2012, you can defer up to \$17,000, or \$22,500 if you're 50 or older (as long as you don't exceed 100 percent of your income). Then, in addition, you can make a profit-sharing contribution equal to 25 percent of your income (slightly less if you are unincorporated). So, by combining the salary deferral and profit-sharing components, you can potentially contribute up to \$50,000 to your Owner-only 401(k) in 2012, or \$55,000 if you're 50 or older. And these figures are doubled if your spouse also contributes to the Owner-only 401(k).

However, you're not obligated to contribute anything to your plan. So, if your business is slow one year, you might scale back your contributions, or put in nothing at all. Then, when business picks up again, you can get back toward contributing what-

ever you can afford, up to the maximum.

Clearly, the Owner-only 401(k) can offer you some key advantages in building resources for retirement. But it's not the only small-business retirement plan on the market, so, before you make a decision, you may want to consult with your tax and financial advisors to determine if an Owner-only 401(k) is indeed the right plan for you.

But don't wait too long. You'll have to establish your Owner-only 401(k) by Dec. 31 if you want to receive any tax deductions for 2012. And in any case, the sooner you start putting money away, the faster the progress you will make toward the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

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

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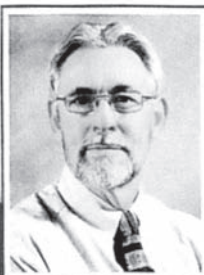
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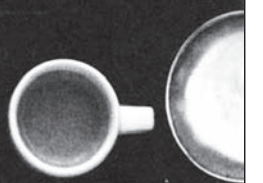
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