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February 2013

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Vol. 5, No. 2

Welcome to Ute Country

No winter lasts forever;
no spring skips its turn.

Hal Borland



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What used to be “Howdy!” is now “On Deck”. We agreed it is a more appropriate name for the intention of having a little space for touching base with our readers. We’ll highlight special topics in the current issue as well as providing teasers for upcoming issues. We have great news to begin the New Year of 2013. We now have two distribution boxes located in Fairplay! One is at Prather’s Grocery and the other is at the Brown Burro Café. Feel free to grab a copy and enjoy the read.

We wish to thank Rainey Hall for her willingness to venture to the other end of Park County and help us get connected. Rainey already has a few leads on some interesting stories from the Fairplay area. We look forward to learning more about the area and are grateful for her efforts. We have gotten wonderful feedback on her stories so far.

We are also grateful for Carol Grieve who continues to share words of wisdom regarding our food choices. Carol is willing to research the current information that most of us are too busy to learn about. Carol does an excellent job of helping us understand the studies. She is great at encouraging us to make small changes and offering guidance. We have gotten wonderful feedback on Carol’s contributions!

Speaking of feedback, we are beginning to see a trend. The most common comment we receive is that our paper is read, “cover to cover”. Our goal is to continue to provide interesting articles in a well laid out format that encourages readers of every age to read “cover to cover”. Thanks for the feedback and keep it coming!

Mr. Spaz was delighted to receive several photos to choose from this month. He is still learning about his feline cousins who are native to the area and many that he has not yet met. So for him to be able to see photos of his neighbors helps him feel more at home. Please continue to submit photos of your indoor and outdoor friends.

Please feel free to contact us with your events, happenings, or whatever topic you may feel is newsworthy for the Teller and Park County areas. We love hearing from you! Please call 719-686-7393 or email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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Fire in the sky - the devastating fires of Cripple Creek and Victor

by David Martinek

At one o’clock on a Saturday afternoon, April 25, 1896, six pistol shots rang out in succession across the hills of Cripple Creek, the camp’s dreaded fire alarm signal. On that day, fire roared through several blocks of the city’s business district. The wooden buildings, tender boxes waiting for a match, were quickly consumed. Four days later a second inferno destroyed the reconstruction that had already begun and much of the rest of the city.

Fire was always a major threat in early mining camps and towns, and the same was true of the Greatest Gold Camps in Cripple Creek and Victor. Candles, wood and coal stoves, lanterns and oil lamps, all provided a constant risk.

The Cripple Creek fires burned more than buildings, businesses and homes. They burned up the idea that adequate fire protection was at hand - proving that complacency can be just as big a danger. In an interview published by the Cripple Creek Morning Times just prior to the fires, Mayor George Pierce was quoted saying, “Our splendid system of water works and well-disciplined firemen makes it possible to control and extinguish the most serious conflagrations; henceforth, our citizens can be free of this terror.” According to some sources, the Mayor’s confidence may have been inspired by recent public works to install new fire hydrants around the city.

The first fire started in the Tenderloin District. The exact cause was unknown but some suspected arson initially, a view that was later discarded. Other tales say the fire was caused by a lover’s spat in one of the upstairs rooms of a saloon or dance hall where a kerosene lantern was overturned. Whatever the reason, when the big engine rolled out of the firehouse to combat the blaze, it’s been said that the fireman discovered that their hose nozzles did not fit the spigots on the new hydrants. By the time they were able to make compatible connections, the fire was a raging inferno and the water coming out of the hoses had no more effect than a lawn sprinkler.

The long, searing tongues licked roofs and dropped sparks, shifting first eastward than reversing. In no time, Crapper Jacks, the Ole’ Homestead and the Topics were destroyed. The “Morning Times” building was one of the first to burn, but not completely, and the printing press was saved. The newspaper set up shop in a hotel the next day. It was not so fortunate after the second fire.

The hysteria was rampant. The efforts of exhausted fireman, breathing through wet sponges, had little effect. The fire was just too intense. Local men helping fight the blaze eventually gave up and went home to protect their families. Horses bolted and ran wild down the streets, sometimes pulling wagons; women were screaming; men stood helpless; people were watching in fear, wondering how they were going to save their homes. Black and gray smoke billowed high above the valley. There was fire in the sky.

Prisoners from the jail escaped in the confusion and began looting the stores on Bennett Avenue. Most of them were

re-captured later and housed in the basement of the Midland Depot. If that wasn’t frightening enough, men with sticks of dynamite, appropriated from mine supplies stored in the depot, roamed the streets ahead of the flames in an attempt to blow up potential fuel before the blaze consumed it, including houses and businesses. Some were confronted and turned back by homeowners at gun point.

When the day ended, the middle of the Cripple Creek business district was in ruins. People were in shock. But reconstruction began immediately. Mayor Pierce was arrogantly optimistic, saying, “It will take more than a destructive conflagration [he must have loved that word] to crush a city that is founded on gold; for as everyone knows, gold is purified by fire.”

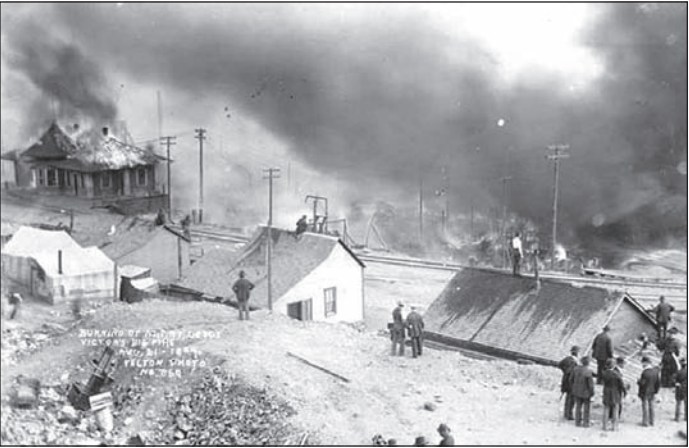
Four days later, on April 29, the rhetoric changed to silence when a grease fire at the Portland Hotel got out of control and again engulfed what remained of the city. By that time, the water in the reservoir used to quench the first fire was gone, leaving only a muddy pond. Residents could only watch it burn. As mine whistles shrieked from every hill in the district, crowds of people gathered by the reservoir or stood in the mud thinking that it might be the only safe place for them to go.

The second fire was worse than the first. It burned the central business district to the ground, including the remainder of the “Morning Times” office. Bennett Avenue was gone, totally destroyed. The only wooden structure in downtown Cripple Creek left standing was the Colorado Trading and Transfer Company building just adjacent to the Midland Depot. In all, 40 acres of Cripple Creek were reduced to rubble and smoldering ashes. There was no newspaper for awhile after the second fire.

The two railroad depots were saved. Soon, special relief trains from Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and other towns along the Front Range rushed to assist Cripple Creek survive the devastation and rebuild. Carloads of food stuff, clothing, bedding, building supplies and tools began to arrive. Medical people hurried to the scene. Saw mills in the region started up and worked day and night to turn out enough lumber; the railroads picked it up and delivered it to the city. Brick from Ohio was also shipped



View from Myers and “A” streets across rooftops during Cripple Creek’s second fire on April 29, 1896 (photo by Edgar A. Yelton, Denver Public Library).



View of the roof of the Midland Terminal Depot ablaze while the city lies in ashes in the background during Victor’s fire on August 21, 1899 (photo by Edgar A. Yelton, Denver Public Library).

in by rail. The city fathers were determined to prevent another such tragedy and quickly passed an ordinance requiring that all future commercial buildings would be made of brick. Donations were collected. Once more rebuilding began; this time for good.

The railroads benefited from Cripple Creek’s devastation in more ways than one. They offered a free trip to anywhere within 500 miles to anyone wanting to leave the district. More than few took advantage.

Three years later, on August 21, 1899, Victor also burned. The downtown area was devoured in a roaring crimson holocaust. Mines located in the heart of town were damaged. The Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad depot was in embers, and the Midland Terminal Depot building was gutted, its roof partially consumed. Even cars standing in the yards burned.

The relief effort for Victor fell short of that which had helped restore Cripple Creek; but Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Denver pitched in and the relief trains came. Rebuilding began in Victor, as well.

The words of Mayor Pierce of Cripple Creek rang true; the World’s Greatest Gold Camps had been refined by fire.

Sources: The 1999 issue of the Divide Dispatch; a very comprehensive account of the 1896 fires in Cripple Creek may be read in the book, Cripple Creek Days by Mabel Barbee Lee.

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HWY 24, the band practice at the Grange

What is a Grange?

by Rainey Hall

It is a fraternal organization officially referred to as “The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.” The Grange exists today in 37 states. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., in facilities built by the organization in 1960. Beginning post-Civil War in 1867, it is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group. It was created to lobby power for farmers and ranchers.

Having once been referred to as a “Secret Society” with symbolic names of offices, levels of degrees, and regalia, there is nothing clandestine about it. Non-members are welcome to attend any meeting, as long as respect is shown for the symbols of nature and all individuals.

The Grange was seen as a means to raise farmers from their position in the American economy and their cultural niche in society. It is quite opposite from today, when people from all walks of life want to ride horses, and wear western boots. From www.NationalGrange.org: “The Grange has been instrumental in bringing about avenues for rural area access including mail delivery to electricity, and supporting social reform including women’s suffrage.”

The Grange is still a means of lobbying for farming and ranching.

The first Grange in Florissant began in 1934. Meetings are believed to have been held in the building behind Costello St. Coffee House at that time. The present building located at 2009 Teller County Road 31 was built in 1886, the west half added in approximately 1887. The white and green building, originally the school house, was later sold to a private individual. In 1984 the building was purchased from the then current owner for \$1 on the following conditions: “No smoking, no drinking, no drugs, and no whores.”

A coal stove heated the building, now replaced with natural gas. Pieces of the original chalkboard line the west half of the north wall. The kitchen was created in the early nineties. In 2012 the interior and exterior was painted, and a keen curtain added on the stage. The building is complete, no outhouses needed.

Today, Grange #420 is used for meetings, family reunions, and community events. From their website: “The Grange is dedicated to improving the economic well-being and quality of life of the American Agriculture producer and his urban neighbors.” Every Thursday night, except for Thanksgiving, is “Jammers” night. The Jammers are a group of musicians that let anyone “jam” one or two songs with them, more if you’re good. Country and classic rock “n’ roll ring out from the stage as soon as the musicians are done with dinner.

Membership dues are still only \$30, compared to that of \$80 of most other Granges. Of the \$30, only \$4 goes to the Florissant Grange, the rest to the State. The Grange is run by donations. Due to rate increases in gas, electricity, and water, rental prices increased in 2013.

While many have held various offices through the years, currently Alan Caldwell is the Master, (President) and Renee Caldwell is the Secretary. Both are also officers for the State Grange.

Renee, whose relative was Ralph Carr, was born in Colorado, moving to Arizona in her teens. Originally she went to college for a degree in elementary education, but instead gained her “MRS” degree when she met Alan. At age 40, she got that teaching degree. She is a multi-talented individual:

a seamstress, (once having made many of Alan’s clothes), quilts, sings, writes, and plays guitar. (She took guitar lessons from Cari Dell, often referring to Cari as her “adopted daughter.”) Renee’s duties as Grange Secretary range from taking and distributing meeting minutes, creating newsletters, and assuring announcements get in the newspapers. She is an organizer extraordinaire, loving to take the lead for all events held at the Grange. She found she was good



Jamming at the Grange

at event planning after arranging weddings for all three of her and Alan’s daughters. “It was easy for me,” Renee says. She has won two Colorado State Grange Entertainment awards for her writing. If that’s not enough, another of her claims to fame is that she was kissed by Waylon Jennings. She also works full-time at her “day job.” Her smile lights up a room, making all feel welcome. According to Alan, “She can do it all.”

Born an army brat in Michigan, Alan was drafted into the Viet Nam war. After fulfill-



Renee and Alan at Grange w/Jammers – Renee is in red

ing his duty, he began work at Motorola. For thirty years Alan was the Quality Assurance Manager traveling the world, including Europe, the Far East, and Mexico. During this time, he earned a Masters in Agricultural Engineering. Alan plays drums, guitar and sings, and sometime all three at once. He gave up “stardom” by refusing to play drums for an international band, and stayed home with his growing family. He confesses he has written a song or two. He gives drum and guitar lessons weekly. Currently, he is a member of the Jammers and Hwy. 24, the band. He often works with horses, creating a calm and trusting environment for them.

Both Renee and Alan have overcome many challenges, don’t claim to be perfect, and continue to better themselves.

You won’t regret stopping by the Grange for dinner, music, dancing, and to meet your neighbors.

“Dinner begins at six.”

Be sure to read the Ute Country News for upcoming Grange events, and visit <http://www.florissantgrange420.org> for detailed information.



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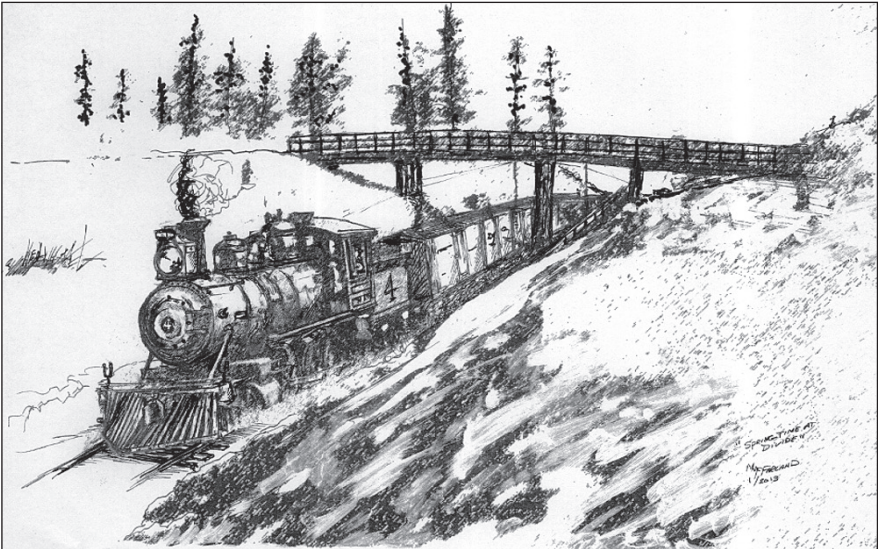
Springtime in Divide - the 4th Annual “Midland Days” Symposium

by David Martinek

“The Colorado Midland has a special quality that keeps you hoping that history will change, somehow.” Those final lines written by Mel McFarland in his 1980 book, “Midland Route, A Colorado Midland Guide and Data Book” laments the sentiments still strong among diverse railroad historians and enthusiasts from all over the world about the Colorado Midland Railway and the Midland Terminal Railroad. The Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition (T.H.E. Coalition) and the Divide Chamber of Commerce proudly announce their co-sponsorship of the 4th Annual “Midland Days” symposium coming up on March 30th – a continuing celebration of that hope for history’s change, at least in our imagination.

The 2013 version of “Midland Days” will be held again at the historic John Wesley Ranch just south of Divide on that Saturday just before Easter, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. It will include conversations about both the Colorado Midland Railway and the Midland Terminal Railroad. Plenty of historical photos will be shared charting the overall route of both railroads. An overview of the history and recent foundation renovation of the Midland Depot in Divide will also be presented. In addition, other presentations will focus on special aspects of railroad operation.

A social time will begin at 9:00 am followed by introductions and announcements. A light continental breakfast and lunch are planned. Presentations and conversations about “Midland” railroad history will occur between local author and historian, Mel McFarland, and local historians, Art Crawford and Tom VanWormer. David Martinek, Chair of the T.H.E. Coalition, will moderate the discussions and present, as well. Special “guest” presenters are also planned. Questions from the audience are always invited. Seating is limited. The “Midland Days”



“Springtime in Divide” – an original drawing by Mel McFarland especially for the 2013 “Midland Days” Symposium.

symposium has become a very popular event for many “Midland” railroad enthusiasts. Therefore, **only advance reservations will be accepted** for a contribution of \$45.00 per person. Reservations should be made on or before March 22, 2013 by calling 719-687-1516 or 213-9335, or by email to MidlandDays@yahoo.com. The cost of attendance may be paid in advance by mail or upon arrival. All contributions are tax deductible and help support the Midland Depot at Divide Preservation Project, sponsored by T.H.E. Coalition.

All reservation contributors will receive a limited-edition railroad print (pictured) drawn especially by and courtesy of Mel McFarland for the 2013 “Midland Days” Symposium. Additional copies of the print, and prints from past symposiums, as well as a number of other railroad-oriented items will also be available for sale.

The John Wesley Ranch, operated by the

First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, has graciously opened their lodge facilities to host the symposium – for the fourth year in a row. The ranch is located south of Divide at 21285 Highway 67 just before the entrance to Mueller State Park, and just a few yards from the old Midland Terminal railroad grade. Plenty of parking is available adjacent to the lodge.

The Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation formed in 2000. T.H.E. Coalition’s mission is to facilitate preservation of the historic, environmental, recreational and scenic resources in and around Teller County, and to broaden public understanding regarding the significance of those resources.

The Divide Chamber of Commerce, a partner of T.H.E. Coalition, is a 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation supporting local businesses in the Divide community.

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New discovery of Ute artifacts in El Paso County

by Luke Sattler
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society,
Junior Member: Earth Science Scholar Program

A recent discovery was made in El Paso County, Colorado where a small cache of Ute lithics (stone tools) was buried more than 14 decades—perhaps centuries ago. A number of lithics were carefully buried so that they could be used when the tribe was back in the area. It was like putting valuables in a safety deposit box; however the Ute people used the ground to bury valuables for later use.

Colorado started out originally as an Indian territory and was owned by the Ute people. The Ute used this area as their hunting grounds and traded with pioneers coming through the area and other Native American tribes. When the Utes traded, like most Native Americans, they traded meats and arrowheads for horses, weapons and beads.

The Ute who lived in El Paso county and other parts of the state occupied both tepees (figure 1) and wickiups— small dome-shaped houses made of willow branches stretched into a dome shape and covered with brush. Ute men wore breechcloths that went around their waists, and women wore dresses made of animal hide that were decorated with shells and beads. The Utes’ diet consisted of berries that grew in the area and game, such as rabbit, deer, elk, and some bison.

For purposes of cutting hide and meat of animals such as elk, deer, rabbit, and possibly bison, the Ute made or traded for the moss agate knife in figure 2. The moss agate knife probably is not from Colorado because there is no known source of moss agate in Colorado.

The Ute probably acquired this knife or the material for knapping it (the making of stone tools) by trading with other native tribes, probably in Wyoming or Montana.

Moss agate has a hardness of 7, a conchoidal fracture, and a specific gravity of 2.60. Moss agate forms when gas bubbles trapped in solidifying lava become filled with silica



Figure 1. Ute encampment circa 1873 by W. H. Jackson. In the foreground is a white goat. The other white images are also goats. Darker goats appear in shades of grey. Photo ID: Jackson, W.H., 1173 courtesy of the United States Geological Survey.



Figure 2. Ute knife made of moss agate from Montana. Scale is in millimeters. Photo © S. W. Veatch. Specimen from the Collection of Amanda Adkins.

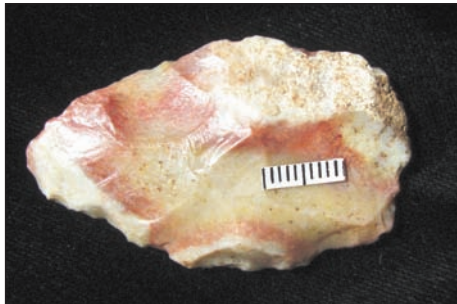


Figure 3. Semiprecious opal spearhead made by Ute Indians. Scale is in millimeters. Found in El Paso County. Photo © S. W. Veatch. Specimen from the Collection of Amanda Adkins.

and alkali rich water, which then turns into a gel. The “moss” in moss agate is from impurities that form during this process.

The semiprecious opal spearhead in figure 3 was also found In El Paso County. It was also made by the Ute people in the area, and the opal may have come from El Paso County. The Ute used it for of stone tools like arrowheads and knives due to its capability of being knapped.

Opal is a gemstone commonly deposited by hydrothermal solutions in volcanic rocks. Opal has a hardness of 5.5-6.5 and a specific gravity of 1.99-2.25. Opal has no cleavage but does have conchoidal fracture, which allows it to be knapped.

Opal forms when water deep in the earth dissolves silica from surrounding rocks. When the water/silicate solution enters a cavity, it starts to form tiny silica spheres. If they arrange themselves into a uniform shape and size, they will refract light (precious opal). If they arrange randomly and are not of the same size, then the material will become common opal.

To conclude, the Ute people used their knowledge of trading, and of the local occurrence of rocks, minerals, and other materials to make tools and decoration. The craftsmanship of their tools allowed the Utes to thrive in mountain areas until they were displaced by the United States government. The two lithic tools recently found in a cache attest to the beauty, craftsmanship, and utility of their tools.



Author bio:

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

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Crispy Thin Crust, Choice of Sauce and two of your favorite toppings

\$8 FAMILY SIZE

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Crispy Thin Crust, Creamy Garlic Sauce, Chicken, Bacon, Artichoke Hearts, Spinach, Parmesan, Zesty Herbs

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Rancher Pizza

Red Sauce, Canadian Bacon, Pepperoni, Ground Beef, Mixed Onions

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Gluten free - why now?

by Carol Grieve

Twenty years ago, most of us had never heard the term “gluten free.” Why is that? A Mayo Clinic study using 50-year-old frozen blood samples taken from Air Force recruits found that intolerance of wheat gluten, a debilitating digestive condition, is four times more common today than it was in the 1950’s (for more information about this study go to <http://discoverysedge.mayo.edu/ceeliac-disease/index.cfm>). These findings contradict the idea that the sharp increase in diagnoses of wheat gluten intolerance and celiac disease has come about simply because of greater awareness and detection. It now seems likely that dramatic changes in the American diet have played a role.

Until the 19th century, wheat was usually mixed with other grains, beans and nuts. During the past 200 years, whole wheat flour has been milled into refined white flour. This high-gluten, refined grain most of us have eaten since infancy was simply not part of the diet of previous generations. Today’s modern wheat is very different from the wheat our ancestors ate. It is no longer the sturdy staple our ancestors ground into their daily bread. The proportion of gluten protein in wheat has increased enormously as a result of hybridization. Today’s wheat has been genetically altered to provide processed food manufacturers the highest yield at the lowest cost. Consequently, it has been transformed into a nutritionally deficient ingredient that can cause blood sugar to spike more rapidly than eating pure cane sugar. It also has addictive qualities that can make you feel more hunger and cause you to overeat.

So what exactly is celiac disease? Celiac disease, as well as the less severe wheat or gluten intolerance, occurs when your body cannot digest gluten, a protein most commonly found in wheat, rye, barley, and spelt. Other grains such as oats are often cross-contaminated with wheat, and gluten can be found in countless processed foods without being labeled as such. “Gluten” comes from the Latin word for glue, and its adhesive properties hold bread and cake together. But those same properties interfere with the breakdown and absorption of nutrients, including the nutrients from other foods in the same meal. The result is a glued-together constipating lump in your gut rather than a nutritious, easily digested meal. The undigested gluten then triggers your immune system to attack the lining of your small intestine, which can cause symptoms like diarrhea or constipation, nausea, and abdominal pain. Over time, your small intestine becomes increasingly damaged and less able to absorb nutrients such as iron and calcium. This in turn can lead to anemia, osteoporosis and other health problems. The rapid increase in celiac disease and milder forms of gluten intolerance is no surprise considering the modern Western diet, which contains large quantities of grain carbohydrates.

The treatment for celiac disease or gluten intolerance is a gluten-free diet, which means abstaining from any food that



contains gluten. A blood test can verify whether or not you actually have the condition. Check with your doctor to get a test. I believe the percentage of people in the United States that have some level of gluten intolerance could be as high as 80 percent. If that is the case, most people would benefit from avoiding these grains. Processed grains quickly break down to sugar, which can cause a sharp rise in insulin that may exacerbate health issues such as high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, weight problems, and cancer. There is a wonderful book called “Wheat Belly” written by Dr. William Davis in which he exposes the truth about modern-day wheat, deconstructing its role in the human diet. I will be interviewing Dr. Davis on February 12 on Food Integrity Now. To listen to this interview, go to www.foodintegritynow.com and subscribe.

There are many hidden ingredients in processed foods that contain gluten. Gluten may be hiding in ready-made soups, soy sauce, candies, cold cuts, and various low-fat and no-fat products, just to name a few. Further, gluten can be concealed in ingredients such as malts, starches, hydrolyzed vegetable protein (HVP), texturized vegetable protein (TVP), and natural flavoring.



For a complete list of hidden ingredients that may contain gluten, go to celiac.com.

One of my biggest concerns for people who are choosing to go gluten free is that they may be trading in their gluten for genetically engineered ingredients, or GMO’s (to learn

more about GMOs or genetically modified ingredients go to www.responsibletechnology.com). Many gluten-free products contain GMO ingredients--thus making label reading of utmost importance. Gluten-free products often contain corn and we now know that about 85 percent of all corn is genetically engineered. Also, checking to see if the product contains corn syrup or Maltodextrin is important, as these are corn derivatives. Again if they’re not USDA organic, or even better, Non-GMO certified, they’re likely to be genetically modified. Don’t get discouraged though--there are products out there that do not contain GMOs. I like using quinoa (pronounced “keen-wah”), which is a high altitude grain and widely available in many grocery stores. Also, organic brown rice pastas are an excellent way to enjoy your pasta--I will say that some brands are better than others so you will need to experiment. In buying your bread, choose one that is organic and non-gmo certified.

As I have said before, navigating your way through our current food system can be somewhat tricky, but if you do your own research, I think you will find there is always a way to eat healthy. Staying educated on these important issues is a key to taking back your health.

Do you have questions? Please feel free to contact me directly at carol@foodintegritynow.org or visit our website www.foodintegritynow.org.

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JWR in 1963 – An early photo of the ranch prior to construction of the chapel, barn and other improvements. (contributed by the FUMC).



The New House at JWR - Construction of a new residence for the director of the John Wesley Ranch was begun in the fall of 2012. Completion is expected in May 2013 (photo by David Martinek).

A house grows in Midland

by David Martinek

Actually, the house is growing quite rapidly near Midland just south of Divide on Highway 67 at the John Wesley Ranch. The First United Methodist Church (“FUMC”) in Colorado Springs, owners of the ranch retreat, is building a very substantial four-bedroom raised ranch for Director Kenny Funk and his family.

“The house should be finished in May, according to the contractor,” said Funk. “We are very excited and hope to be able to dispose of the manufactured home we’re living in now in short order.”

Following up on a story about the John Wesley Ranch that appeared in the August 2012 issue, the addition of the new house adds a degree of permanency to the property and its management as a religious retreat and social meeting place for the Divide area. The Divide Chamber of Commerce regularly meets there in the winter and several other organizations and groups have met there on

occasion. In summer, the retreat is always hosting one group or another.

A recent search of the church’s files has also turned up more information about the history of the John Wesley Ranch. An abstract of title has shed new light on the beginning development of the property, perhaps first as a homesteading adventure and then later as part of a couple of mining districts.

For example, in January of 1892 the area in and around the ranch as well as Mueller State Park were included in the organization of the Florissant Mining District. Later in 1896 the same area became part of the Pikes Peak Mining District. By 1903, the property reverted back to Teller County in a tax sale and 160 acres (the original parcel around the ranch) of it was sold to Edward R. Hall in June of 1904, complete with all water and mineral rights.

Records indicate that the main lodge of

John Wesley Ranch was built in 1904, probably by Hall, and was most likely some kind of bar and brothel, although there’s no written evidence confirming that. The Midland Terminal and Colorado Midland railroads were in active operation during that time and the town of Midland, just down the road near today’s entrance to the Craggs trail and camp ground, was very much alive. There would have been plenty of folks available to frequent such an establishment.

The abstract also shows that Hall mortgaged the property in 1919 to secure payment of \$4,000 within five years. More improvements may have been added as a result of that financing.

“The church will have owned the ranch for 50 years on May 29th of this year,” added Funk. “It was first incorporated as The First Methodist Youth Ranch. We’re planning a celebration this summer to commemorate that half a century of ownership.”

A change of power in Teller County

by David Martinek

photos by David Martinek

Thomas P. (Tipp) O’Neill, long-time Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives famously said that “All politics is local.” He also said that “It’s easier to run for office than to run the office.” After eight years in office, retiring Teller County Commissioners, William (Buck) Buckhanan and James A. Ignatius, might well agree with both of O’Neill’s witticisms.

On Tuesday, January 8, at 9:15 am, a crowd of well-wishes gathered at the Teller County Board of County Commissioners chambers in the Centennial Building in Cripple Creek to witness the local friendly transfer of responsibility, accountability and hopefully transparency, i.e., the local power, between two veteran county legislators,

Buckhanan and Ignatius, and two new commissioners-elect, Marc Dettenrieder and Norm Steen.

“I know you haven’t always agreed with me,” said Buckhanan in his farewell remarks. “But I have always put Teller County first.” Ignatius echoed similar thoughts in his prepared words, and afterwards a number of people from the audience came forward to praise and thank both men for their efforts and accomplishments during their two terms of service. Each was presented with a plaque by Commission Dave Paul in commemoration of their time in office. The atmosphere was one of appreciation and congratulations for a job well done.

Following that, with raised hands the oath of office were administered to both Dettenrieder and Steen by the Honorable Linda Billings-Bela, Teller County Court Judge. Afterwards, the new commissioners, the retiring commissioners and the whole crowd retired to the lobby for cake and punch. That evening, a public reception for Buckhanan and Ignatius was held at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park.

Once the new Teller County Board of County Commissioners re-convened, their first order of business was to elect new board officers. Accordingly, Dave Paul, the commissioner remaining on the board, was elected chair and Norm Steen vice-chair. The rest of the business of the BOCC that morning consisted of administrative decisions – setting the meeting dates for the rest of the year, re-confirming the employment of certain county staff and dealing with other routine first-of-the-year issues.

To the casual observer, the goings-on and protocol of the retiring and swearing in of old and new commissioners might have seemed a traditional formality. But underlying the proceedings is a more serious contemplation.

Of Buckhanan and Ignatius, these are men who were duly elected and



Buckhanan and Ignatius – Dave Paul presents both commissioners with commemorative plaques.



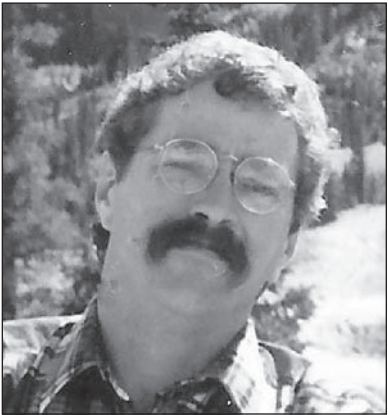
Norm Steen – The Honorable Linda Billings-Bela swears in Commissioner Norm Steen.

re-confirmed by their constituency twice over the past eight years; men who have, in committee with Paul, held the reins of power in Teller County, and who have dealt with serious and important issues during their terms to the benefit of all citizens.

Of Dettenrieder and Steen, those same citizens should expect that their tenure in office will measure up or exceed the accomplishments of their predecessors, and that they would find the courage and determination to face equally challenging issues in their four years to come.

One may also hope, like John Quincy Adams who refused to acknowledge any party affiliation during his presidency or as a congressman in the House of Representatives, service to the entire citizenry of Teller County will continue to be the primary focus of all three.

Obituary



Richard James Drake

Richard James “Duck” Drake, age 58, passed away October 10, 2012 at his residence in Florissant Colorado. He was born July 28, 1954 in Brighton, NY to the late Thomas William Drake and Alice Lewella Frost.

Richard Drake was a veteran of the US Armed Forces and an American patriot. He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brother, Thomas Drake and his two living step children, Vicki Loomis and Christi Loomis. Richard will be missed by all those that knew him. Cremation has taken place, services were held Saturday, January 26, 2013 at The Church in the Wild Wood, Green Mountain Falls, CO. Rev. David Shaw officiated.



Joy Andrea Seidel Drake

Joy Andrea Seidel Drake, 68, of Florissant, Colorado, passed away in her home, surrounded by her loving family, on the morning of December 17, 2012. Joy was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, and spent most of her childhood growing up in Canterbury Village, a quaint family community designed and constructed by her father, a renowned American architect. Joy graduated from Upper Arlington in 1962, and graduated from Marjorie Webster finishing school, in Washington D.C. Joy’s employment began with the FBI, where she worked directly under the supervision of J Edgar Hoover in the mid 1960’s. Joy went on to her lifetime career as a Sales Rep for William Wrigley Jr. Co. and retired from there in 2004. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Richard James Drake. She raised two wonderful children; Vicki Loomis and Christi Loomis. Joy is survived by her younger brother, John Andrew Seidel, brother Bill Seidel, sister Lisa Seidel, brother Scott Ogan and her two grandchildren, Alden and Azalea Spitzer. Joy certainly lived up to her name; she was a beautiful and gracious woman who was loved by many. She will be missed by all those that knew her. Cremation has taken place. A public celebration of her life was held Saturday, January 26, 2013, at The Church in the Wild Wood, Green Mountain Falls, CO. Rev. David Shaw officiated.



Marc Dettenrieder - The Honorable Linda Billings-Bela swears in Commissioner Marc Dettenrieder.



The new BOCC – The new Teller County Board of County Commissioners. Dave Paul (right) was elected chairman, Norm Steen (center) vice-chairman, Marc Dettenrieder (left).



Fossil Lovers

by Danielle Dellinger

I am a fossil looking for what you homosapiens call “love.” Was that a chuckle I just heard? Are you laughing at the thought of a fossil wanting to find love? No, it’s okay. Go ahead and laugh. All the other fossils laugh at me, too. So no worries, my skin is hard as rock. Pun intended, thank you very much. Anyway, as I was saying, I want to find another fossil to spend time with and to “love.” Whatever that means. I hear you homosapiens talking about it often, and I have not quite grasped the meaning of it, other than “an extreme affection for something.” You use it to describe your affection for other homosapiens and funny sounding things such as colors, food, and varying objects. It also sounds like it is something connected with your need to create offspring. Apparently I am the only fossil found of my species, so even if I had the ability to mate now, I would not be able to. I am the only fossil of a female of the *Palaeovespa wilsoni*, or *P. wilsoni*, a species of wasp, but that is just what the card beneath me says. None of that is relevant to me. Nothing is really relevant to me. The only thing relevant to me is that I am the only female left of my kind. I have learned everything I know while in this building at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

If you would not mind, I would like to share some knowledge about this place that I have learned while here. The name Florissant derives from the word for flowering. Geologists first mapped the area during the 1860s and 1870s, and of course the paleontologists followed suit soon after, finding a plethora of fossil, with many more to be unearthed. Ah, yes, I remember the day that I was gently plucked from my spot in the earth. Anyway, the monument itself was not established until 1969 after a long legal kerfuffle--that is a fun word to say--between local landowners and the federal government. Each year, 60,000 homosapiens visit this place to learn about fossils like myself. I wish one of these homosapiens could help me find love. Or at least take an interest in my love life. They keep putting fossils that are hard to get to know beside me. I make an effort, I do! They do not.

Maybe my approach is all wrong. Or, maybe, none of the others have picked up your homosapien speak. Or . . . maybe none of them feel as lonely as I do. I envy them if that is the case. But I have learned that most of us fossils were part of a herd, or colony, or flock, so they must know what it is like to be alone. Though, somehow the loneliness does not seem to bother them. Since I am the only one left of my kind, I am acutely aware of being alone. I do not want to be alone anymore. I have heard rumors that the worker homosapiens will be bringing in a few new fossils by the end of the week. I desperately want to try my luck with them.

Today is the day! The rumors were confirmed just yesterday, and all of the new arrivals will be put with me in my case. I can barely contain my excitement! I could go off on a long monologue about how I have yearned for a day like today. That I thought all hope was lost until now. But no, I will spare you the majority of the sappiness that I am feeling in my fossilized heart. If my wings were not fused to this rock, they would be flapping a great deal faster than their normal speed. Shoot, I hope my withered wings look okay. I mean, true, I cannot do anything about how they look. I just hope that before I took my last breath that I was able to put them in an attractive position. Sigh, I must be a weird fossil because I am concerned about my appearance. I bet the homosapiens’ habits are rubbing off on me. A few of the lady homosapiens stop at my case periodically only to lean down and check the goo on their mouth and the black on their eyes. Yes, homosapiens, fix your appearance while you can before you end up like me. Though, I do not know what happens to you when your life ends. Do you become fossil-

ized like me? Ah, well, that is a discussion for another day.

Right now I see an elderly male homosapien walking toward my case with a cloth balanced in his hand. In the cloth must be the new arrivals. Aha! They are here! He is opening the case . . . Oh, I am being moved more toward the bottom. Hey! Careful! I am fragile, you bumbling fool! Hm, he is placing them around me. One has eight legs, four on each side, all extended out. My, that is a big body. Another one has no legs, only these rounded things on the bottom, top, and at one end of the body. Its mouth is wide open. Probably because it is delightfully surprised at how pretty my brown wings are. The final addition has a fuzziness surrounding its bones, a short stature, with legs almost too long for its body, and a rather pointed thing coming off of what I assume is the head. What strange creatures.

Cards are being placed beneath them now. Luckily, this elderly male homosapien is talking to a few others about these new fossils. Ah, the one with the eight legs is a spider; the creature with the rounded things on its body is a pirate perch fish; and the last one is a shorebird. Again, that means nothing to me, but it does give me a sense of variety to choose from, even if I cannot afford to be picky. I have heard a few homosapiens say that to one another, and it is usually when they are referring to their companion, whom they supposedly “love.” Well, I shall give these three additions some time to adjust before I start seeing if they are “lover” material. I cannot give them too much time because I would like to try this tradition you homosapiens have with this Valentine’s Day. From what I gather, it is the one time a year that you are required to tell your companion that you “love” them. I am not sure if I understand the purpose of it and what it has to do with your “love” for another homosapien. I mean, after all, you say you “love” other things all the time. Are you allowed to tell your companion that you “love” them on other days of the year as well? Your homosapien traditions confuse me. I would much rather tell my companion every day how much they mean to me. That is just me, though.

It has been a couple days since the new fossils moved in, and we have barely spoken with each other. Honestly, the pirate perch fish seems quite dumb and is only able to make gasping, one-word responses. The shorebird speaks a little better, but only in clipped sentences. They both are probably still learning. I can respect that. The spider, however, talks a lot, though a bit arrogantly. We have spoken about our time before we were fossilized, and how much we miss the freedom to move about. We also miss fresh air. The air in this case is stagnant and musty. Hm, that could explain why the fish gasps whenever asked to speak. Poor thing. The spider says that the fish suffered some sort of injury. Of course, this upset the fish, which was expressed by this horrific wheezing sound. It is the same sound that I heard whenever I stung my prey. Terrible days those were. I am glad that I no longer have to hurt others, but back then I was just doing what I had to do.

The spider thinks I am too soft now, and that the hunting days were the best. I think the spider is a bit sadistic, taking joy in the pain and suffering of the victims. I tried to tell the spider that I am a true lady wasp now and have seen the error of my ways. The spider just laughed and said I have been around homosapiens too long; that they are too soft and only remain in their spot on the food chain out of pure luck.

Spider may be a bit too rough around the edges to be my companion. I would like a fossil that is more sympathetic and understanding of what I say. But despite the spider’s faults, I still desire to be cradled in those eight, elegantly long legs. Can you imagine what it would feel like? I think I would feel so secure and protected and . . . loved. That is the feeling I want most of all. Of course, my version of “love”

is most likely different from yours. Since the spider does not seem very impressed with our conversations, maybe I will try sharing information that I have learned about myself while in this case. But, I am being ignored now. All I wanted to say is that the size of my whole body is .59 inches, or 1.5 centimeters; and that the length of my forewing, meaning the two wings in front of the hindwings, is 9 millimeters, or 0.9 centimeters. I may not be very big, but I am not to be taken lightly. That may not mean much to you homosapiens, but it means almost everything to me since it is nearly all that I have left from my former life. Spider may understand, but will probably have some sarcastic remark to respond with. Nevertheless, I will tell the spider.

We are just a couple days away from Valentine’s Day now, and the spider and I had a breakthrough! I told spider everything that I said I would and I did not get a sarcastic remark back like I prepared myself for. Instead, spider told me all about what it was like to be so big and sitting in a huge silk web that was covered in raindrops. I said it must have been hard, waiting for prey to get stuck in the web, in an attempt to appeal to the softer side of the spider, but, apparently, spider’s prey was pretty stupid and either flew or walked right into the web. It really must have been a sight to see as the prey was paralyzed and then wound up in extra silk. I could tell that the spider’s ego grew with the amount of awe I expressed. Spider was not quite ready to understand how I could feel so bad about all the kills that I have made, but there was that understanding that we are two different species allowed to think and feel how we want. The respect from spider is all that I really was after for the moment. I am a step closer to achieving my goal of companionship.

I am asking spider to tell me a story from the present, and I guess it involves you, homosapiens. You and your interesting fear of spiders. Apparently, a lot of the spiders nowadays enjoy jumping or running at you to hear you scream, and to make you question whether you are really in charge of these structures you have built, live in, and call your own. Are all spiders sadistic, I wonder? The spider says that since most of them cannot bite and paralyze you, they hope to paralyze you with fear so they have time to run away and escape the sole of your boot. I tell spider that it is similar with the present-day wasps, though, we usually wander into your structures by accident and it turns into a race against time to get out before we starve, or are killed. I say to the spider that most wasps enjoy being able to listen to the goings-on of homosapiens if they get a chance to rest on the wall, especially if it is a tender moment between two of them. Spider supposes that would be interesting to watch and wonders what it would be like to have a companion in that manner, someone to have a tender moment with.

You just did, I tell spider. Spider does not believe me at first, but slowly starts to see my point of view. I do my best to explain the Valentine’s Day tradition, and that “love” to me is about companionship, that that is what I am looking for. Spider does not quite understand, or is convinced that companionship is a good thing. Spider either ate the mates that proved themselves, or ran away after everything was finished. I encourage the spider to be my companion, saying that no one can tell us how to “love,” or be companions. Spider hesitates and then gives in, albeit reluctantly. I say to just try the process, that we will learn what it is like, and what it means to “love” one another. Spider scoffs while I smile, pleased with myself.

On Valentine’s Day, the elderly homosapien came into the room to find a spider and a wasp fossil partly on top of the other, as if they were trying to hold each other.

New visitor center opens at Florissant Fossil Beds

by Brian Stewart

On December 18, 2012, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Visitor

Center officially moved into the beautiful new Visitor's Center. The building is cutting-edge technology and is LEEDS certified construction (environmentally friendly).

The Visitor Center desk is made of beetle kill wood and is certainly one of a kind and beautiful. The stone walls are made of stone from Colorado and grace the entrance to the building as well as the area going into the exhibits. The room that contains the control center for the building will be controlled by computers is a maze of wires, control panels and pipes. There are 3 bathrooms: men, women and family. The floors are concrete as part of the solar design and are painted with a slight hint of yellow. No picture can



really do justice to the building. It is a "must see" for everyone.

Congratulations to Superintendent Keith Payne and his staff for an outstanding job! The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is open 9am to 5pm all week.

Ute Pass Historical Society winter hours

The Ute Pass Historical Society Museum Center and Gift shop will be open from 10 to 3 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday December 30 through February 27. If you have any questions, please call UPHS at 719.686.7512.

Lake George Charter School – beyond the abc's

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

In an effort to expand and enrich the educational experiences for students at the Lake George Charter School, the staff and administration have developed several programs to accomplish this goal. Some of the programs are integrated within the school day while others are before or after regular classroom hours. Over the next several issues we would to highlight the programs by taking an in-depth look at each one.

The programs to be examined are:

- Friday ski/snowboarding at Breckenridge Ski Resort
- YES Club (Young Environmental Stewards)
- 4 H Club
- School lunches and free breakfast



Lake George Charter School

With each program review we will provide contact names and phone numbers so that parents and community members who have questions may get them answered.

Rampart Library District news

by Rita Randolph

February is Library Lover's Month! If you are 18 or over, visit your library and check out a book, Playaway, audio book, ebook, or library book, read it (or listen to it), then fill out a form letting us know what you thought of it, and enter for prizes at the end of the month. This adult program will be offered in both the Woodland Park Public Library and Florissant Public Libraries. Participants can read as many books as they would like during the month. The more you read, the more chances you have to win. The grand prize at the end of the month is a Kindle!

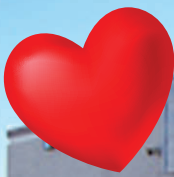
On Saturday, February 9, the Friends of the Florissant Library are sponsoring their annual "Winter Fun Day" from 10-noon with music, valentine making, jewelry making, dinosaurs, legos, checkers, snacks, face decorating and book boutique. This event also kicks off a week-long Open House Feb 9-15 at the Florissant Branch with food, special promotions and drawings for prizes. Drop by and meet the new staff. The library is located

on 334 Circle Drive in Florissant.

Florissant's storytime is Thursdays at 10:30am and the themes are: Feb. 7-Hens, Feb. 14-Hearts, Feb. 21 Hats, and Feb. 28 Hiccups. Woodland Park Library storytimes are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10am.

Two other exciting programs are being offered in February at the Woodland Park Library. On Saturday, February 9 at 10-11:30am, bring the kids to "Touch-a-Dinosaur." There will be skulls, claws, and bones to touch and handle, as well as a fossil board for rubbings. Kids can take home fun handouts and coupons from this drop-in event. This program is sponsored by the Rampart Library District and the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center. Then, at 6:30pm on Wednesday, Feb. 20, come to a slide show and lecture with paleontologist, Anthony Maltese from the Dinosaur Resource Center. He will be talking about the new discoveries RMDRCC is working on. This program is for older dinosaur-loving children and adults.

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Bella keeps a watchfull eye on one of Kent's Banjos.

Wood Creations: Carving a niche through fire and flood

by Kathy Hansen

Most people take decades to decide what they want to be when they grow up. For Kent Bailey it only took seven years to form his dual foundation of carving and music. Kent was about 7 when he received his first Exacto knife kit. Only 24 hours later, a box of Band-Aids was emptied and his stream of ideas began to flow. Throughout his life the ideas have continued to cascade into a steady stream of creative consciousness.

Kent has an incredible portfolio, including everything from animals to 30 ft. totem poles to doors to human statues and let's not forget the musical instruments. Kent's carvings are very realistic and tend to take on a life of their own. He laughed as he showed us the mountain lion he carved which he had placed strategically in his yard when living in Woodland Park. He found passer-byes would stop, point, and apparently believed the chunk of wood to be alive. I must admit, there were several times I commented, "Oh, that's a piece of wood and not alive" as we looked through the portfolio. His work is true-to-life. I can only imagine what the folks felt as they saw the mountain lion statue in his yard. Yes, Kent has a great sense of humor, one of many qualities of this unique and talented individual.

Kent narrowed his geographic preference early. Kent grew up in Kansas but his grandparents lived in Denver so they visited Colorado often. He was a Jewelry and Silver Smith Major at University of Kansas. He took all the carving classes in his first two years and decided not to complete the degree. Kent fell in love with the Evergreen area, choosing it as his home after his service to the army. He has lived in several areas of Colorado and made an impact on each.

Frisco was his home for a few years when he sold art supplies, especially for wood and metal sculpture, while he ran a gallery. In Denver, he managed a retail fabric store. He truly understands what it is to be a starving artist finding creative ways to earn a living. He shared how he sold Kirby vacuums off his Yamaha 125 dirt bike. Back in Evergreen, he learned the construction trade so he could continue his art work. He partnered to build custom homes in the Genesee area. The construction background helped him to eventually design magnificent wooden entry doors carved across the door into the frame.

Woodland Park was his home several times since he first moved to Colorado. He met his wife, Tammy at the Mountain Artist Festival, which he and others founded in 1981. They continue to be a part of the Mountain Artist Festival.

Kent was an integral part of the National Carver's Museum in Monument. He was a staff artist and taught carving for years. He became the editor of "Mallet Magazine" a monthly publication. There were over 25,000 members nationwide. About this time, his commissioned sales were beginning to take off and they decided to move to Westcreek.

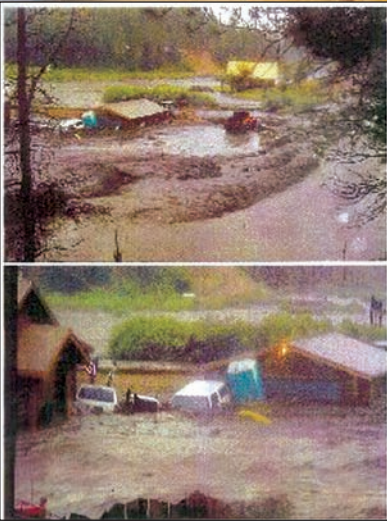
Tammy and Kent built their Westcreek log home from hand pulled and carved logs. It took them three years to complete their home. They lived there for two years prior to the Hayman Fire. It was two years after the Hayman Fire when a flash flood rushed through the canyon. Friends were visiting that day as they raced to the door of their house, which was high enough to keep them safe from the floodwaters powerful enough to transport trees 2ft in diameter. They all watched as the surge of water washed away the shop and all of its contents. What took three years to build took the flash flood only three hours to wash away. Ultimately, everything had been lost, except for their perseverance, creativity and positive attitude.

Tammy and Kent decided to move back to Woodland Park to make their next plan. Tammy continued on with her stained glass projects as a side to being a Water Engineer. Kent continued with his carving and music. "We are both: extremely positive, energetic and confident people. Bad things happen all the time....to everyone. We both tend to move forward to life's next adventure quickly, never afraid to take on new ventures and attempt to learn from our mistakes and misfortunes and don't dwell on them," said Kent.

The next adventure brings them to Florissant. They built a new house, a new shop, and renewed their inspiration. Kent invited us into his shop, a precious peek into his current projects. There is carved furniture to be restored, there are wooden doors in various stages of becoming



Sitting on higher ground now...



...after fire and flood destroyed the shop in Westcreek.

ing lifelike, and there is a multitude of guitars and banjos in various stages of completion. Kent carves these instruments primarily for Ome Banjo Company of Boulder, for whom he has been carving for about 30 years. All are custom, hand carved. No two are ever the same. I asked where he gets his patterns from and Kent points to his head. I ask if he's ever run out of ideas. He smirks, "They just keep coming!" I watch his face and it appears he is watching the flood of ideas flash across the creative canvass in his mind's eye.

Kent shares some of the details of his musical carvings. He informs us that machine made guitars and banjos all have the same sound board. However, a hand carved top piece is carefully "tap tuned" meaning he taps, then carves, taps, then carves until the right resonance is fine-tuned from the inside giving the instrument the capacity for better sound. I ask if he has perfect pitch. Again, he laughs and says, "I was raised by two parents who were each music teachers. Yes, (chuckle), I have perfect pitch." His parents taught him to play the piano at age 7. He was playing brass (French horn, Trumpet, Baritone) in the band by grade 6, picked up guitar in high school, and played brass in the Army Band.

I notice a hole on the top round edge of a guitar he had carved and Kent tells me this is a "sound port" which helps the player hear what is being played (no need for a monitor). He then brings out a guitar with slanted frets. These are called "fan frets" as they are place ergonomically so that as the fingers fly down the neck the frets are placed more naturally where the fingers will lie at an angle (much like the ergonomic keyboards). I had never seen this type of fret before. Kent is quite familiar with how the human body positions itself; both he and Tammy are Triathletes.

"Swim, bike, and run like crazy people!" says Kent. "We both served as President of the Pikes Peak Triathlon Club with a membership of 250. I was also a regional 5 state USA Triathlon Board member for 4 years and a USAT race official. I've done 3 Ironman distance Triathlons (swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and then run a 26.2 marathon to end the days race).

Tammy was injured badly several years ago (vehicle pinned her between vehicles in a parking lot)...crushed her leg and had 2 surgeries and is complimented now with a Titanium Femur. She did her Ironman Triathlon in Louisville, Kentucky 2007 after several years recovering from her horrific injury. That's shows her tenacity."

It seems no matter what is thrown at this couple, they find a way to make it through. "Our main desires are to live healthy, productive, happy lives and enjoy surroundings, friends, family, kids, and grandkids as often as possible. At our age...these things become ALL IMPORTANT." They are grateful for their creativity and enjoy looking forward to the next project. Perhaps that is a very healthy attitude when your passion is creating an incredible piece. After all, to be successful the artist must watch the piece so carefully carved leave one day, it is best not to be too attached. I asked if he felt a void. "Not really. As one piece moves out there are more ideas ready to come to life," Kent answers.

Perhaps you are looking for that specialty carved piece as an addition to your mountain home in 2013. Go to www.kabart.com to see more of his work or just give a call 719-689-9393 to see how your idea can take on the perfect shape.

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New album from Lissa Hanner

by Kathy Hansen

Singers and songwriters come and go. Yet there are times an artist speaks to your soul. Lissa Hanner is such an artist. Her new album “My Colorado” will be released February 5th. Once you hear this CD you will add it to your collection.

Lissa’s interest in music began in second grade when a folk singer came to class one day. She sang “Where have all the flowers gone?” Lissa was enamored. “She was beautiful and confident. I wanted to be like her,” said Lissa of this life changing experience. Music became an emotional outlet. Lissa’s first instrument to master was the autoharp. The dream of becoming a singer/songwriter was born.

One can hear the musical influence of Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, and Carly Simon in Lissa’s voice, which has incredible clarity of tone and perfect pitch. Lissa enunciates the lyrics clearly. Her style is honest and forthright. She prefers to sing songs that have a personal meaning to her and it is that very personal element which makes her music come alive.

There were several songs on her albums I’d heard by other artists and was amazed at how Lissa’s version gave those songs a deeper meaning. It was as if I were hearing it for the first time. A shiver runs through the spine as the notes fill the air. Lissa likes to play to her audience, “I try to understand the kind of music my audience enjoys, then,

I choose songs that have a meaning to me because they just sound different.” The audience is pleased!

Lissa was 15 when her parents and eight siblings moved to Colorado. Shortly after, she began playing in bars. Convinced the best way to develop her singing and songwriting was to move to Nashville. She became part of a folk duo, “Land Ladies,” performed as a solo artist, and joined the Words/Music program by Country Music Hall of Fame where songwriters compose music to accompany lyrics written by students. Lissa always brings the human element to her work.

Lissa met Gary in Nashville. They married and had a daughter. As Lissa was developing her song writing style, she worked as a waitress at a steak house. She was fired for not wearing enough makeup. She laughs as

she relates the story because she recognizes the difference between the face we put on for society and the true person we are beneath. I believe it is her uncanny way of seeing the person beneath that gives her music its soul. There

is no need for facade.

Lissa and Gary watched their daughter, Sage grow as Lissa felt the mountains of Colorado calling. She felt her daughter needed to see the mountains. She recalls how she felt like she fit in when her family first moved here. “I fit right in, you know.

I just fit in. I love the mountains, I love the way I feel when I look at the sky and tress. I was meant to be here, I just knew it.” So in 2000 they moved to Guffey.

Chuck is the only sibling who also plays an instrument, the guitar. Lissa remembers Mr. Trousdale came to their home to give them guitar lessons. It is only recently that Lissa and Chuck began to perform together; they make an incredible duo. Chuck brings a bit of rock ‘n roll with a hint of jazz, which complements Lissa’s Americana/folk style quite well.

Lissa’s first video is “Its My Mother’s Fault” which can be seen on YouTube. This is a satirical song about how we tend to blame everybody in society today for our plight in life instead of taking personal responsibility. Here is Lissa’s honesty coming through once again. If we can comprehend how the events of our past helped us to become the person we are now, then we can also take responsibility to decide what we need to change in order to get to the place we wish to be. Blaming will only keep us stuck.

If you are ready for music with meaning



and a sound that will resonate your inner being then take a listen to “My Colorado”, but beware: Lissa’s music will captivate you and leave you wanting more. She has a voice like Joni Mitchell and the songwriting soul of John Denver.

Lissa’s CD “My Colorado” can be purchased from her website www.lissahanner.com or Amazon or iTunes.

Lissa will be performing at McCabe’s Tavern February 5th in Colorado Springs, Rita’s Place in Guffey on February 14th for a special Champaign Dessert Extravaganza. Call Rita at 719-689-2501 to make reservations. Lissa will perform with Chuck at the Bull Moose in Guffey on February 16th. Call 719-689-4199. Lissa will perform at the Bull Moose February 23rd call 719-689-4199 for more info.



Exostrategies, Inc, contributes to Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

by Perini & Associates

Exostrategies, Inc., one of the nation’s leading small aerospace firms, and its President and CEO, has donated \$30,000 to the Teller County Regional Animal Shelter (TCRAS) no-kill animal shelter in Divide to kick off a new donor and membership program.

TCRAS was founded to serve and protect the region’s lost, unwanted, neglected, or abused companion animals and maintains a no-kill environment. This nonprofit also provides these animals with a temporary home as it works to reunite dogs and cats with their caregivers or places them in other suitable, loving environments. TCRAS endeavors to prevent cruelty to all animals through comprehensive community education and advocacy.

The shelter’s staff provides critical care for neglected and injured companion animals. They have recently nursed back to health, then found caregivers for three dogs: one who was thrown out of moving car, one with a broken back, and one who had been shot three times by its owner.

TCRAS also provides crisis support to the community and recently cared for 170 companion animals during the evacuation of 2012 due to the Waldo Canyon fire.

Dr. Daniel Heimerdinger, President and CEO of Exostrategies, Inc. and his family adopted Sam, an Australian Shepherd/Border Collie mix, from TCRAS. He was a wonderful

companion, a part of their family, and a known fixture as the ‘frisbee dog’ in their neighborhood. “We lost him to cancer, but our eight years together were wonderful,” said Daniel.

“When we adopted Sam, we did not know why he came to TCRAS. All we knew was that he was a healthy, friendly dog, found walking along highway 24. He had no tags and was probably dumped in Teller County - TCRAS rescued him. Over time, I became aware of the services that TCRAS and its staff provide for our rural community in Teller County.”

After Sam died, Exostrategies and the Heimerdinger family decided to make this donation to spearhead a donor and membership drive for TCRAS. As a rural shelter, TCRAS serves a large community spanning portions of five Colorado counties. TCRAS’s services are greatly needed in our community and they wanted to help TCRAS secure its future through long-term funding for operations, medical care, and shelter expansion. “Each year TCRAS finds homes for over 700 dogs and cats but has to turn away over 500 due to space limitations. We need to help TCRAS meet this challenge,” he continued.

“This donation is very important to TCRAS and we are really thrilled by this gift,” says Mary Steinbeiser, TCRAS’s Director of Operations and Development.

This gift is going to help TCRAS concentrate on donor and membership programs that will enable us to build and improve our programs to better support our community. Exostrategies’ generosity will help increase our operational funds to not only provide services during crisis times like the Waldo Canyon Fire, but also provide needed medical care to homeless animals in our community. “It will finally be nice to be able to focus on fundraising efforts as a whole which will in turn help us to continue to provide all the care and services to our community,” Mary said.

“This is a wonderful gift in Sam’s memory because his is a typical TCRAS story: a sweet abandoned dog is taken into our shelter and is found a loving family who he loves in return. This is what we do, and this is why Exostrategies’ gift is so important,” Steinbeiser said.

Exostrategies has corporate offices in Woodland Park, CO and Gainesville, VA.

About the Teller County Regional Animal Shelter (TCRAS): Although TCRAS serves Teller County and beyond, the nonprofit organization is not funded through County taxes. During the Waldo Canyon and Springer fires, TCRAS provided temporary housing for an additional 115 community pets and found resources to support a total of 170 animals at the shelter during those crises; they did this without asking for any funds from those



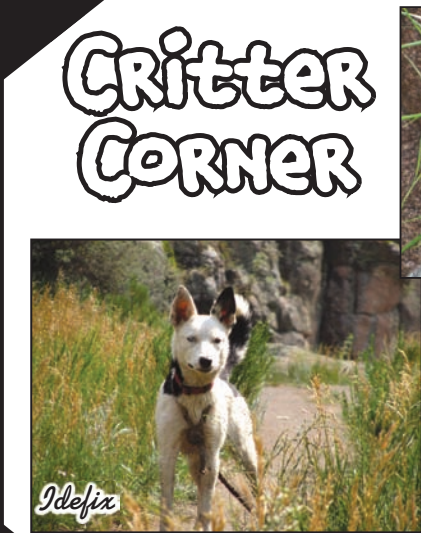
Sam

seeking help.

You can learn more about TCRAS at www.tcrascolorado.com or call them at 719.686.7707.

About Exostrategies: Since 2006 Exostrategies has been a professional services company that works primarily for customers involved in the exploration and utilization of space. The company maintains over 30 years of broad expertise in the fields of space communications, operations, human space systems, and remote sensing technologies.

You can learn more about Exostrategies at www.exostrategies.com or call them at 703.402.2828.



Stefanie Skidmore, Guffey

Have a cute critter? Send us your favorite critter photos and we’ll feature them here in the Critter Corner! Indoor or outdoor pets or wild critters are what we’re looking for. We will not accept any photos depicting cruelty or harming animals in any way. Email your critters to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com. Be sure to include the critter’s name as well as your name.



Bobcat & Squirrel by Kenneth Zant, Ranch Of The Rockies

Junior Achievement returns to the Woodland Park & Divide elementary schools

by Junior Achievement USA



Beginning this May, Junior Achievement (JA) of Southern Colorado will be bringing programs that empower young people to own their economic success back to the Woodland Park and Divide elementary schools through their Junior Achievement in a Day curriculum, also known as JA in a Day.

Guided by classroom volunteers from local businesses, students will have the chance to enjoy learning about financial literacy from interactive programs designed to teach a variety of skills. Students will learn to recognize the difference between wants and needs and understand life outside of their home and school by exploring businesses, the roles of people working in a community and the skills needed to perform certain jobs.

Older elementary school students will have the opportunity to discover entrepreneurship and how entrepreneurs use resources to produce goods and services in a community. Through engaging activities, these students will also learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills and resources.

JA brings the real world to students, opening their minds to their potential and preparing them for the world of work - but they can't do it without your help. JA volunteers make school relevant and fun, which means kids are more likely to become contributing, successful members of their communities. As volunteers share their real-world experiences and present JA materials, they help kids connect what they learn in school with

what they can expect in the world of work. This also allows them to recognize the value of staying in school.

Businesses and community members who contribute financially to JA find the curriculum to be relevant because it inspires kids to succeed and prepares them to be work ready. There is no other organization that can deliver the turnkey, easy-to-implement solutions that will ensure donors' future employees are ready for the workforce.

JA is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. Last year in Southern Colorado, over 1,000 volunteers presented JA programs to about 27,000 students. The classroom program kits are all-inclusive with everything needed for the class presentation, included easy-to-use Lesson Plans.

If you are interested in volunteering with or donating to JA in Teller County, please contact Sherri L. Albertson, Teller County Area Coordinator at (719) 650-4089 or via email to sherri.albertson@ja.org. JA in A Day programs will be held at Summit Elementary on Monday, May 6th; Columbine Elementary on Monday, May 13th and Gateway Elementary on Monday, May 20th.

Whether you donate time or financial resources, your gift will positively influence the future of young people in Teller County and it is certain to be one of the most important investments that you will make all year. Thank you in advance for your support.

Creating safe havens for children

CASA expands Supervised Child Exchanges and Visitations to Teller County

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Pikes Peak Region announced today that it will expand the Supervised Exchange and Parenting Time (SEPT) program into Teller County.

The SEPT program is a court-ordered service that protects children from witnessing parental disputes and keeps them out of the middle of the conflict. Trained volunteers (or facilitators) oversee the transfer of children from one parent to another in conflictive custody or domestic violence cases. Parents ordered into supervised parenting time are able to spend time with their children in a setting managed by CASA staff and volunteers. The program is a family-focused service that provides a safe place for parents and children to build positive relationships.

Unless special circumstances exist, children generally fare best when they have the emotional support and ongoing involvement of both parents. Ongoing parental involvement fosters positive parent-child relationships and healthy emotional and social development. Supervised visitation programs keep adult victims of domestic violence safe as well.

SEPT program services in Teller are scheduled to begin in April, 2013 with two locations: 1) Community Partnership Family Resource Center in Divide and 2) The Aspen Mine Center in Cripple Creek.

CASA is now recruiting volunteers to facilitate the SEPT program in Divide and

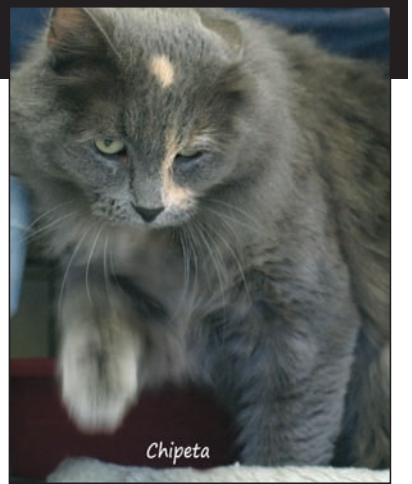
Cripple Creek. No special experience is necessary, all training is provided. Applicants are carefully screened and must be at least 18 with no felony convictions. Volunteer applications are due by February 19, 2013. For more information on becoming a SEPT volunteer contact Tiffany Clark at 447-9898 x1020.

CASA has been providing volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children in Teller and El Paso counties since 1989, but until now the SEPT program was limited to El Paso County. Funding provided by the "Families and Community Together" collaborative in Teller County, enabled CASA's expansion of supervised exchange and visitation services in Teller. The Families and Community Together collaborative was developed out of Colorado House Bill 1451 and includes 14 partner agencies in Teller County. House Bill 1451 supports the development of family-driven wraparound services to youth between the ages of 0-21 years and their families who have involvement with multiple systems.

"This grant has enabled us to extend the reach of our SEPT program services to children and families of Teller County, and to support them in maintaining healthy, positive and conflict-free relationships," said CASA Executive Director Trudy Strewler. "We are proud and honored to work with these dedicated professionals to improve the lives of children."

Adopt Me Chipeta Seeks Forever Home

I am a true love bug. I came to TCRAS with a belly full of babies. They have all grown and been adopted and I am hoping my forever home is out there too. I have been here for almost 3 months now. I am 5 years young with lots of love to share with my new family. If you are looking for a mellow cat, who just wants some love and a warm spot to sleep, I am your gal! I have a habit of giving a gentle bite when I have had enough attention, so I may not do so well in a home with younger children. I promise I am good natured, that is just my special way of letting you know I am ready for some alone time. I was a bit afraid to admit my one shortcoming, but I was reassured that someone will forgive me my nibbles and love me anyway! Is that understanding person you? 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



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Philharmonic Kids concert

The Ute Pass Symphony Guild, which was founded 33 years ago, makes it possible for area 4th graders to experience the Colorado Springs Philharmonic with a free “Philharmonic Kids” concert. The last special concert on October 31, 2012 was a Children’s Opera “Help, Help the Globolinks” by Gian Carlo Menotti and was enjoyed by 4th graders from Gateway, Colorado Springs Christian School, Cresson and Lake George schools. The next event will be May 8 at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs.

Prior to the Philharmonic Kids concert the UPSG through their Docent Program sends volunteers, after receiving docent training from the Colorado Springs Philharmonic docent, Gloria Slayton and Maestro Wilson, into the classrooms to talk about what a symphony is all about and discusses the components of the concert they will actually be experiencing so they come to the concert at the Pikes Peak Center very well prepared. Myra Krider is this year’s Docent Program Coordinator and says, “It is wonderful that the Symphony Guild is able to provide this opportunity to Teller County children who might not otherwise have this cultural experience.”

The UPSG’s annual fund raising campaign begins March 6 and runs through March 21. The money raised is used to sponsor the annual free outdoor concert - Symphony Above the Clouds in Woodland Park on the 5th of July and the Philharmonic Kids Concerts. Contact Karolyn Smith, President at 661-7377 to make a donation.

CORRECTION:

Our January issue printed an incorrect phone number for Help the Needy. Their phone number is 719-687-7273. We apologize for the error.

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What is the Animal Medical Center of Woodland Park doing now?

by Rainey Hall

What is that odd shaped structural addition that has been built at the Animal Medical Center of Woodland Park? (That’s the one on Blue Bird Hill with funny sayings on the marquee.)

The present building was “busting at the seams,” says Dr. Lance Roasa, DVM MS. “The first part of the new construction will be an extension of the small animal hospital.” He continues, “To meet set-back requirements, the building had to be angled.” 1,290 square feet will have been added at completion. “Chris at Six-Point construction has done a good job for us.”

The next section of the addition will be dedicated to a self-service dog wash, complete with a ramp and drying station. It will have its own separate entrance and be open on weekends.

Boarding kennels are still available but have been upgraded to “Luxury Boarding Suites” complete with climate control.

The west end will hold the new equine facility, complete with a foaling stall and several large windows, especially to the south. All AMC veterinarians contributed to the design. Dr. Roasa says, “Having the new facility will provide safer horse care. In some cases, the controlled environment will be more secure for the doctors and staff as well.”

“This facility will be the only one of its kind in Teller and Park Counties. It will be a haul-in equine facility to medically manage equine diseases; a place to perform equine standing surgery and to complete other advanced procedures,” Dr. Roasa explains.

Dr. Abby Obermiller and Dr. Brittany Factor have both completed their internship and are post-doctorate trained in equine colic surgery. Dr. Roasa states, “Although Abby and Britt have worked around colic surgeons, they are not boarded.” (Meaning they are not board certified.) The new facility does not have the capability - yet. Those cases must be referred out.

“We will still be performing ambulatory calls,” affirms Dr. Roasa.

“Digital radiology will be added. “It is important for both small and large animals,” explains Dr. Roasa. (Radiography is used to diagnose disease or injury, is non-invasive, and can provide an image which is more than one-dimensional, the same for humans.)

Is the expansion necessary? A mere four months after the Center opened, business began to boom. Three years later, clientele has doubled demanding the addition. Eleven full-time employees have been added, and trained. Truly, actions speak louder than words.

Who is Dr. Roasa? Obviously he has a good business mind, but what about experience with animals? He grew up farming and ranching, raising mostly Brangus cattle in Texas. At age 15, he began working part-time for veterinarians near his home and has stayed with the field since. He obtained a Masters in Equine Reproduction at Texas A&M. “During that time, we (the students) did advanced equine reproductive procedures; cloning, and Intracytoplasmic sperm injection, (a technique where a single sperm is injected directly into an egg). Dr. Roasa



Inside addition to vets looking south/southwest

states, “We did the first oocyte transfer outside a university setting, in Argentina.” The doctor worked exclusively in the field of horse reproductive practice for five years prior to entering vet school. In addition, he has studied equine medicine in five countries including Mexico and Argentina.

Off the top of his head the most memorable veterinarian experience was as a young boy. Late one night, the vet came to his father’s ranch for a C-section delivery on

This facility will be the only one of its kind in Teller and Park Counties. It will be a haul-in equine facility to medically manage equine diseases; a place to perform equine standing surgery and to complete other advanced procedures.

— Dr. Lance Roasa, DVM MS

a cow with only headlights to see by. Dr. Roasa laughs and says, “I hope I never have to repeat that.” If the occasion arises, he is willing and able to perform it.

Much to the surprise of most, Dr. Roasa’s speech carries no southern accent.

A goal-driven individual, Roasa is still laid back. “You’ve got to be around animals. If you are high strung, they will sense it.” He is calm and confident even in the rush of everyday business.

Dr. Obermiller was born and raised on

a cow calf ranch in central Nebraska and was active showing horses and cattle. In 2004, she obtained a BS in Veterinary and Biomedical Science with a minor in Animal Science from the U of N-Lincoln. In 2008, she graduated with honors from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. If you have any questions how acupuncture can help your animals, contact Dr. Obermiller.

Dr. Roasa and Dr. Obermiller not only work with the American Association of Equine Practitioners, they volunteer to help horses and small animals at the Havasupi Indian Reservation in Mexico. They also enjoy spending time with a growing family.

From background of farmers and businessmen, Dr. Mike Factor specializes in small animal care. He enjoys the physical and mental challenges of science, animal contact, and the development of community relationships.

Dr. Brittany Factor grew up in the St. Louis area showing and training horses up to the Grand Prix circuit level. After veterinary school, she completed two post-doctoral internships specializing in equine lameness.

The mutual goal of the doctors and staff at the Animal Medical Center is to provide a high level of care in veterinary medicine for the Ute Pass community. This includes dependable emergency and after hours service.

An article written by Dr. Roasa for the AAHA states, “Pleasing our clients is our top priority. If a customer is unhappy, we fix it.”

The Animal Medical Center of Woodland will host seminars to help educate and gather the equine community together at the new facility.

You should saddle up and join them and the staff for the grand opening on March 2, 2013!

Please check: wpamc.com for on-line shopping, and information on doggy day care, upcoming seminars, and the open house.

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Proposed legislation from the Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP)

Following the Lower North Fork Wildfire in late March of last year, the Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission was convened and charged with investigating the fire, sharing findings, and providing recommendations, including for legislative action, on matters related to the wildfire. The Lower North Fork Wildfire burned approximately 1,400 acres in Jefferson County south of Conifer, resulting in 3 fatalities, \$11.3 million in private property damage, and \$6.6 million in state resources to extinguish. Embers from a prescribed fire set 4 days earlier are thought to have traveled beyond containment lines with the help of extreme gusts of wind up to 55 miles per hour to ignite the Lower North Fork Wildfire. High winds, dry conditions, and ample fuels enabled the fire to spread quickly throughout the area.

The impacts of the Lower North Fork Wildfire raised questions about the role of prescribed fire in forest health management, how wildfires should be prevented and mitigated, and how emergency response should be conducted. The Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission, comprised of two members of the Senate, two members of the House of Representatives, and the executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Safety, sought to address these questions and provide guidelines as we look toward increased wildfire activity across Colorado as dry conditions persist. The commission released a report with their findings and recommendations at the end of last year. The report can be found on the Colorado Legislative Council website <http://tinyurl.com/ashql2b>. The Colorado General Assembly also held meetings with forest management stakeholders, including CUSP, to discuss future fire and forest health issues. The following summary of recommended legislation can be found in the Lower North Fork Wildfire Commission's report:

Bill A — Prescribed Burn Program in the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

Bill A creates the Colorado Prescribed Burning Act, requiring the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to conduct rule-making and adopt standards for prescribed burning in the state, including the consideration of alternative fuel reduction strategies and the presence of qualified state officials to supervise, and to establish standards for the training and certification of prescribed burn managers. The bill further defines the role of the Division of Fire Prevention and Control in the Department of Public Safety, as created by House Bill 12-1283, including coordination of multiagency initiatives to reduce fuel loads and conduct a formal review following the escape of a prescribed fire.

Bill B — Wildfire Matters Review Committee. Bill B creates an interim committee to review state policies addressing wildfire prevention and mitigation, with sufficient scope to examine forest health, emergency management, and other issues relating to wildfires. Under the bill, 10 members of the General Assembly, five members from the House of Representatives and five members from the Senate, must meet as the Wildfire Matters Review Committee at least once in each legislative interim until 2017. By July 1, 2013, three majority party members and two minority party members are to be appointed from each chamber to serve two-year terms. Existing legislative agency staff must provide assistance to the committee, with cooperation from the Department of Public Safety, the Colorado State Forest Service, and other state and local agencies. The bill contains a five-year sunset provision.

Bill C — Extend Wildfire Mitigation Financial Incentives. Bill C extends the sunset date of two current state statutes that provide financial assistance for wildfire mitigation activities. For tax years 2014 through 2024, Section 1 of the bill provides a deduction from taxable income of one-half the actual

costs of certain wildfire mitigation measures performed on the property of the taxpayer, up to a \$2,500 deduction per year. Eligible wildfire mitigation measures include the creation of a defensible space around structures and fuel reduction. The bill does not require eligible mitigation measures to be preapproved by a community wildfire protection plan, as required under current statute for tax years 2009 through 2013. Section 2 of the bill extends from July 1, 2013, to July 1, 2023, the authorization of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority to issue up to \$50 million in bonds for the watershed protection and forest health projects of government agencies.

Bill D — All-hazards Resource Mobilization and Reimbursement. Bill D requires that the director of the Division of Homeland

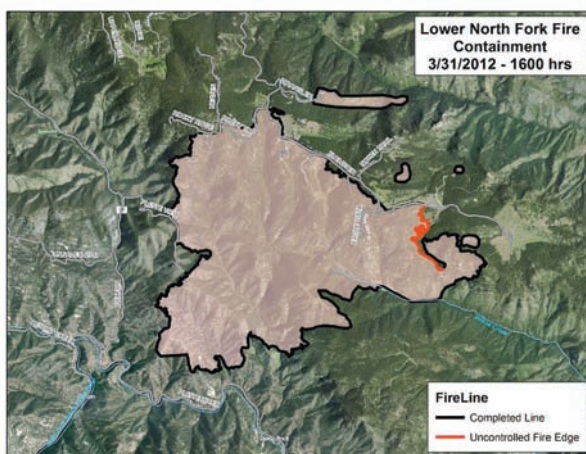
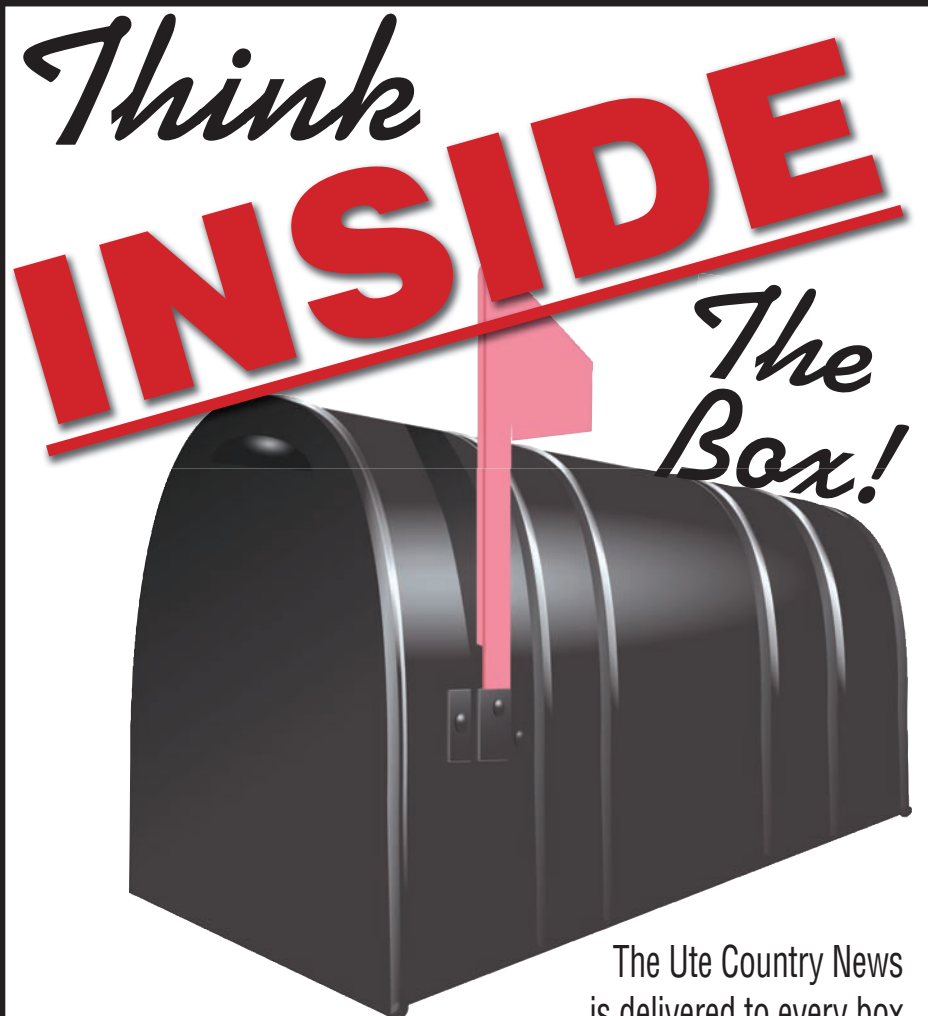


Image from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office <http://jeffcosheriff1.blogspot.com/2012/04/updated-lower-north-fork-fire-map.html>

Security and Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety develop a statewide resource mobilization plan, providing for distribution of funding and allocation of other assets in the event of disasters and other large-scale emergencies and incidents. Under the resource mobilization plan, standard procedures will be established for resource mobilization, allocation, deployment, tracking, accounting, demobilization, and integration with the Colorado state emergency operations plan. The bill provides that the Governor or a local emergency manager may request the mobilization of state resources, and that the state will provide personnel for a unified command in such incidents.

As the drought continues and more Colorado residents move into the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), areas where residential structures and forests meet, destructive wildfires will continue to ignite and pose a threat to communities across the state. The devastation brought on by wildfires, including impacts on human health and life, the environment, natural resources, and property, can be mitigated to some extent if we manage our forests carefully using a variety of methods. Prescribed fire continues to be a cost-effective tool for forest health and wildfire prevention and mitigation, but unintended consequences, like those of the Lower North Fork Wildfire, must be addressed through careful planning. Creating defensible spaces and fuel reduction (clearing some trees and other vegetation) around property, as addressed in proposed Bill C, is another essential measure that can reduce the risk of properties igniting as wildfires spread. Please contact CUSP at 719-748-0033 or cusps@uppersouthplatte.org if you would like to learn more about creating defensible space and reducing fuels on your property or in your neighborhood. CUSP also hosts two slash sites, one in Divide and one in Fairplay, where you can dispose of slash and obtain free mulch. Please check www.divideslashsite.com and www.fairplayslash.com for more information and for operation dates and times for the slash sites.

As we continue to address the consequences from the Lower North Fork Wildfire, the Hayman Fire, and many others, our community must use the lessons learned from those fires to work collaboratively to mitigate negative effects from future wildfires in our area and across the state.



The Ute Country News is delivered to every box holder in Divide, Florissant, Lake George, Guffey and Hartsel. That's OVER 6,200 Teller and Park County residents every month! Plus we now have newspaper boxes on the streets! You can find us at over 50 distribution points from Woodland Park to Fairplay including Cripple Creek and Victor. That's a total distribution of 10,000 papers a month. Call 719-686-7393, 719-351-0549 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com for more info or to reserve your advertising space.

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History and science writing for teachers and learners of all ages

Western Museum of Mining and Industry

Writing about history and science offers exciting opportunities to learn, teach and be published! Magazines, newspapers, bloggers, clubs, associations, schools and organizations are looking for articles to share with their audience. Steven Veatch, geologist and educator, can teach you how. This informative workshop will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013, from 9-1pm at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry. Topics include basic research, writing techniques and tips, using illustrations, science photography and publication issues. Several ideas for publication of writing projects will be provided. A certificate of completion will be awarded upon completion of the workshop. All other course materials will be provided including morning snacks. A Writer's Resource Kit CD will be available for purchase for \$5. The course fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students (21 and under). Advance registration is required. Please call (719) 488-0880 or email at rsvp@wmmi.org. Steven Wade Veatch is a geoscientist and an adjunct professor of Earth Science at Emporia State University in Kansas where he received an MS in Earth Science. Steve has been involved in geoscience education for over 25 years. He has contributed chapters to three books: Field Trips in the Southern Rocky Mountains, USA, Field Guide 5, The Paleontology of the Upper Eocene Florissant Formation, Colorado, and The World's Greatest Gold Camp: An Introduction to the History of the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District. He has written over 100 articles and has attended the Interlochen College for Creative Arts in Michigan to study writing. Steve is from a pioneering family from Cripple Creek. He lives near the Florissant Fossil Beds in Colorado.

Volunteers needed

Prospect Home Care & Hospice needs volunteers to provide comfort and a break for family caregivers while providing a supportive presence. We provide all training; you provide compassion and companionship. Embrace a rewarding, interesting and empowering experience. Be part of the Prospect team for your neighborhood. Openings for Victor, Cripple Creek, North Florissant and Southern Teller County. Contact 687-0549 or e-mail jlareau@prospectch.org for an application.

New library exhibit

photos by Judy Perkins

Ute Pass Historical Society in conjunction with Woodland Park Public Library presents "Scenic Views from the Colorado Midland Railway," an exhibit of noteworthy items from the UPHS collection. The exhibit highlights the sometimes wild and always interesting first-hand experiences of passengers on the Colorado Midland Railway. Among the many vintage objects on display are:

- Passenger Alice Lambert's delightful narration of her excursion as published in The Denver Post on July 26, 1908. Miss Lambert "usurped" an engineer's seat in Cab 201 as she accompanied other adventurers riding the rails on a mission to gather wildflowers.
- "Cascade Cañon – Gem of the Rockies", a booklet published in 1988, vividly describes the "kaleidoscopic views, tall and rugged rocks, and dizzying heights enjoyed by passengers as they are carried through the railroad tunnels of Ute Pass."
- The notorious Hagerman Pass is represented by an annotated postcard of Hell's Gate postmarked 1908 and Fanny Waterman Howard's wry telling of her personal experience as well as that of a young woman in need of rescue by male passengers.

"Scenic Views from the Colorado Midland Railway" is located on the second floor of the Woodland Park Public Library adjacent to the Colorado Room. The Library is located at 218 East Midland Avenue in the heart of Woodland Park. The exhibit can be viewed during regular Library hours (closed on Monday, 10–7pm Tuesday through Thursday, 10–6pm Friday, 10–4pm Saturday, and 1–4pm Sunday). For additional information, contact Karla Schweitzer, UPHS Registrar, at 719.686.7512 or via email at uphs@peak-inter.net. Ute Pass Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and protection of the Ute Pass region's historical heritage.



Displays an original conductor's cap, among other historical artifacts.



Vintage objects on display include a German-made camera and a photographic exposure calculator.

Clothes Closet seeking donations, possible location

One of the many benefits of living in Colorado is the sunshine. Yet once the sun goes down a 10 degree drop in temperature can be noticed almost immediately. Winter mornings can be especially cold after long and clear nights. Dressing in layers can be life-saving, especially with wind chill. Skin exposed to cold temperatures below zero is susceptible to frostbite after only 10 minutes. Does your family have spare layers to share? If so, give Pastor Trish a call. She has been collecting clothing for about two years to open a much needed Cloths Closet in Woodland Park. The coats are mostly gone, yet the need remains. Last month we ran a notice that she was seeking space and continues to collect donations.



Clothes of all sizes are always needed.

This month, the space is a "maybe" as the students at Woodland Park High School

sought Pastor Trish out because of their compassion for their friends who do not have jackets. They are concerned their friends are in danger of frostbite. The students are in the process of seeking approval for space at this time. If you have a space to offer, please give Pastor Trish a call 719-323-0525 or pastortrish@q.com. Here is a brief list of what is especially needed this time of year:

- Coats – especially for children middle school through high school
- Sweaters – cardigans, pullovers, shakers, turtle necks, any kind
- Hoodies
- Sweatshirt jackets
- Volunteers

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~OUT AND ABOUT~

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CRIPPLE CREEK

9-10 Ice Fest. Come watch artists sculpt ice into works of art that will amaze you. This year's theme is Mythological Wonderland. Visit www.visitorcripplecreek.com for more info.

16-17 Ice Fest. Come watch artists sculpt ice into works of art that will amaze you. This year's theme is Mythological Wonderland. Visit www.visitorcripplecreek.com for more info.

FLORISSANT GRANGE

2 Musicians Equipment Sale/ Flea Market. Attention Musicians: if you are looking for some used gear, or have some to sell, join us at the Florissant Grange on Feb 2 from 9:00 to 3:00 or until it is all sold or traded.... For more information, call 748-0358.

9 Pine Needle Basket Making Class. 10:00 to 12:00. Learn to make Beautiful Pine Needle Baskets or just come finish one you are working on and share with us what you have been making. Join us for a fun morning. Call 748-0358 for more information.

23 Glass Painting Class 10 to noon. Learn to paint on Glass. Make beautiful gifts for friends and family. This is a fun relaxing craft/art that you will love. Join us to learn, or work on new projects or just for the fun of being with fun people. If you have taken the class, bring some of your work to share. For more information, call 748-0358

Save the date:

March 2 -- First Fundraising Country Breakfast of 2013. 7:00 to 11:00. Join us for the BEST breakfast in the area and help up continue the restoration of the Old School House (the Florissant Grange Hall). Last year we painted the outside of the School House and the back building (the old coal house), this year we need to raise the funds for a new roof. We have the best biscuits, homemade sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, hash browns and make your own breakfast burritos... come enjoy breakfast with us.

Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck.

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

GUFFEY

14 Enjoy Champaign Dessert Extravaganza at Rita's Place featuring music by Lissa Hanner. Show begins at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 per person - call 719-689-2501 to reserve your seat.

14 Lissa Hanner and Chuck perform at the Bull Moose 7pm. Call 719-689-4199 for

more info.

16 Valentine Private Dinner Show at Rita's Place featuring music by Stilleto Sisterz, Geordi Walston and Karen Miller. Dinner at 6pm and show at 7pm. Tickets are \$15 per person - call 719-689-2501 to reserve your seat.

23 Lissa Hanner performs at the Bull Moose call 719-689-4199 for more info.

Lake George Library Ongoing

Wed: 9am Low Impact Exercise
1st & 3rd Fri: Lake George Quilters Square 9:30-1:30pm

4th Fri: 9:15 Friends of the Library - Book Clubs "Tainted Tea" and "Titles" meet afterward.

Help U Club: We have our meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake George Community Center, starting with potluck at noon and our meeting at 1:00 pm. We are all "Good Cooks." We are seeking new members. This would be a good place for new members to the community to meet people while helping out their community.

WOODLAND PARK

2 S.T.O.P. Spiritually Take Off Pounds Workshop
Are you ready to set yourself free from emotional eating and yo-yo diets? Would you like to gain knowledge and skills to improve your health, weight and life? If so, plan on attending the S.T.O.P. workshop scheduled for January 26; February 2 and February 9 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. each day. Your investment: \$72 for 6 hours training plus guest presenters. Venue: Peoples National Bank 651 Scott Avenue, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Reservations required: 719-687-6823 or click on workshop page IAM PowerPrayer.com. Instructor: Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director.

5 Mountain Top Cycling Club will have its first meeting of 2013 at Mangia Mangia's Restaurant on Tuesday night at 6:30PM. Join us for a great night of informational guest speakers. Ascent Cycling will be on hand to talk about the different social riders that their shop offers. Patrice Cross owner of Ascent Cycling will share his cycling experiences and background. Our door prize will be a Maxxon wireless brake light retail value \$37.99. visit www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com/ or www.mangiamangia.com/ for more information or call Debbie 719-687-2489.

9 Indoor Farmer's Market at Ute Pass Cultural Center from 9am-2pm.

9 S.T.O.P. Spiritually Take Off Pounds Workshop
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weight and life? If so, plan on attending the S.T.O.P. workshop scheduled for January 26; February 2 and February 9 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. each day. Your investment: \$72 for 6 hours training plus guest presenters. Venue: Peoples National Bank 651 Scott Avenue, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Reservations required: 719-687-6823 or click on workshop page IAM PowerPrayer.com. Instructor: Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director.

VICTOR

2 Pet Vaccination Clinic 8am-1pm at Victor Fire Station. All canine and feline vaccinations available. Rabies vaccination is only \$14.00. Victor residents: buy a Victor Dog License and get Rabies vaccination FREE! Call Dr. Jim Wright 719-748-3048.

15-17 Steampunk Festival 2013 - Victor Underground Art Show and Sale. Submissions of all media will be accepted no later than 4pm on February 14th, 2013. Please submit your art to the Kinnikinnik Emporium at 318 Victor Avenue, Victor CO. Categories include Youth, Amateur & Professional. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places ribbons will be awarded to participants in each category. Winners will be announced on February 17th at 12PM. Art must be left on display until 2pm on Sunday, February 17th. For additional information contact Kathryn Chandler at katcando61@yahoo.com or www.victorcolorado.com

• Steampunk Festival 2013 - check at Victor Hotel for times.

16 Steampunk Festival 2013:

- Broomball Challenge at Brian's Park (Spicer and Fourth St) at 4:30pm.
- Emporium at Victor Elks Lodge#367 from 9-9pm. Vendors needed. For more info bparham@victorco.us
- DREAM FUNDRAISER - Costume Ball. Vagabonds and burn barrels, hot cocktails party and weiner roast 11-4pm at the Third St Parking Plaza featuring steam contraptions by Gerry & Bruce. Victor Elks Lodge #367 Pioneer dance lessons 10am. Victorian/pioneer dancing 7pm. Vagabond Minstrels & DJ Nicholas 9pm. Party likes its 1899!
- Tunnel crawl at Marigold Merchandise 10am.
- Steam engine demonstration at Agricultural & Mining Museum 11am.
- Gold Camp Bakery hosts High Tea \$6 from 3-6pm.
- Lasagna Supper at Sue's Fortune Club \$11 from 6-8pm.

17 Steampunk Festival 2013:

- Emporium at Victor Elks Lodge#367 from 9-2pm. Vendors needed. For more info bparham@victorco.us
- Winners of the Art Show will be announced at noon.
- Treasure Hunt Drawing at noon.



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Largest public shooting range in Colorado opens at Fort Carson

by Michael Seraphin

The Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex opened to the public Jan 23 at 1:30 p.m. The public opening was be proceeded by an invitation only” ribbon-shooting” ceremony at 11 a.m.

The shooting complex, which is the largest outdoor shooting range in the State of Colorado, is a joint project between Fort Carson, El Paso County, the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Shooters used the range free of charge from 1:30 - 4 p.m. on Jan. 23. Rates for a daily pass are normally \$10.

The 400-acre site is located on Fort Carson land near Interstate 25 just off mile marker 132. The entrance is just outside Fort Carson’s Gate 20 security perimeter. Because the entrance to the shooting range is outside Gate 20, visitors will not have to

enter the military base or register their weapons with Fort Carson to utilize the range.

The opening marks the completion of the first of a three-phase construction plan. The complex currently consists of seven shooting ranges with approximately 120 covered shooting positions. Three ranges are designated for rifles with distances from 300 to 500 yards. There are also four designated pistol ranges and one multi-position range prioritized for law enforcement and public safety training purposes.

A small archery range will also be on site with plans to expand it as funding becomes available and a five-stand trap range is expected to be available in the spring for shotgun enthusiasts.

The second phase of the project will include the construction of five skeet & trap ranges and a clubhouse. The clubhouse will

include a retail store, classrooms and offices.

El Paso County has established a nonprofit organization called the Soldier’s Friend Foundation to raise funds for the next two phases of the complex. A web site under construction will allow for donations to help fund the two additional phases of the project.

One 1,250-yard-long shooting range will be for the exclusive use of law enforcement, Monday through Friday, but open to the public on weekends.

The range complex will be staffed by military and civilian personnel. Profits from the range will be used to fund the Fort Carson FMWR program, which supports Soldiers and their Families.

For directions and hours of operation, call 719-896-6196 or go to: <http://www.elpa-soco.com/CMSC/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Help your children avoid student debt burden

It’s not so easy being a college kid these days. The job market for recent graduates has been shaky while, at the same time, students are leaving school with more debt than ever before. If you have children who will someday be attending college, should you be worried?

You might indeed have cause for concern. Americans now owe more on student loans than on credit cards, according to the Federal Bank of New York, the U.S. Department of Education and other sources. For the college class of 2011, the most recent year for which figures are available, the average student loan debt was about \$26,500, according to the Institute for College Access and Success’s Project on Student Debt.

This type of debt load, coupled with the struggles to find a well-paying job commensurate with their education, is causing many recent graduates to get off on the wrong foot in terms of developing savings and investment strategies that could help them throughout their lives.

lege, you may want to consider a 529 plan. When you invest in a 529 plan, all withdrawals will be free from federal income taxes, as long as the money is used for qualified college expenses. (However, non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to ordinary income tax plus a 10% penalty on the earnings portion.) Contribution limits are high, and, contributions may be eligible for a tax deduction or credit for residents in certain states.

A 529 plan, while valuable, is not the only college savings vehicle available. You may also want to consider a Coverdell Education Savings Account, which, like a 529 plan, can generate tax-free earnings if the money is used for higher education expenses. However, a Coverdell account’s contribution limits are much lower than those of a 529 plan. You could also establish a custodial account, known as an UGMA or UTMA, which offers some tax benefits and no contribution limits.

Nonetheless, while these vehicles may help you save and invest for college, they may also divert resources that you might have used for other financial goals — such as a comfortable retirement. Of course, it’s not an “either-or” situation — there’s noth-

ing stopping you from contributing to a 529 plan, Coverdell account or custodial account along with your 401(k) and IRA.

Clearly, though, it will take discipline and perseverance on your part to save and invest for both your children’s education and your own retirement. Like everyone else, you don’t have unlimited resources. But you do have another ally — time. The earlier you begin investing for education and retirement, the greater your chances of achieving your goals in these areas. By understanding how your goals interact, you can work to make sure you don’t inadvertently derail one when saving for another.

Avoiding the student loan “debt trap” while still making progress toward your retirement savings will require creative thinking — and both you and your children may have to make some sacrifices along the way. But the ultimate goals — a college degree that isn’t one big IOU and a comfortable retirement — are worth the effort.

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

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Winter wildlife watching

by Jeff Tacey

With the onset of winter and the snow and cold, this is the best time of year to view wildlife. The three best species to watch are rocky mountain elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep. One of the best areas to watch for elk is along Teller County One through the Florissant Fossil Beds. Early morning and last light are the best viewing times. Other good areas to see elk are along State Highway 67 from Divide to Cripple Creek in Mueller State Park. Also County Road 77 from Lake George to Tarryall Reservoir winters a lot of elk. Bring your camera with a good telephoto lens as the elk will be in big winter herds.

You can see mule deer just about anywhere. They'll be in smaller groups than the elk and less wary. A good spot to see a lot of mule deer is High Park Road from Evergreen Station to Canon City. Also drive State Highway 67 north from Woodland Park to Deckers. Again, day break and last light are the best times. Make sure you have a camera as hunting season is closed. Coyotes will be nearby looking for an easy meal.



Big horn sheep

Bighorn sheep are more elusive than deer or elk. Good areas to see bighorns are County Road 77 going towards Tarryall Reservoir. Look by the rocky outcrops along the Tarryall River. Also drive High Park Road, the sheep will be mixed in on the private and BLM land. Another good area is Teller One between Evergreen Station and the old golf course. The sheep will often be out on the road licking up the road salt, so watch out. The sheep also like the old tunnel area on State Highway 67. You'll get great pictures and memories.

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