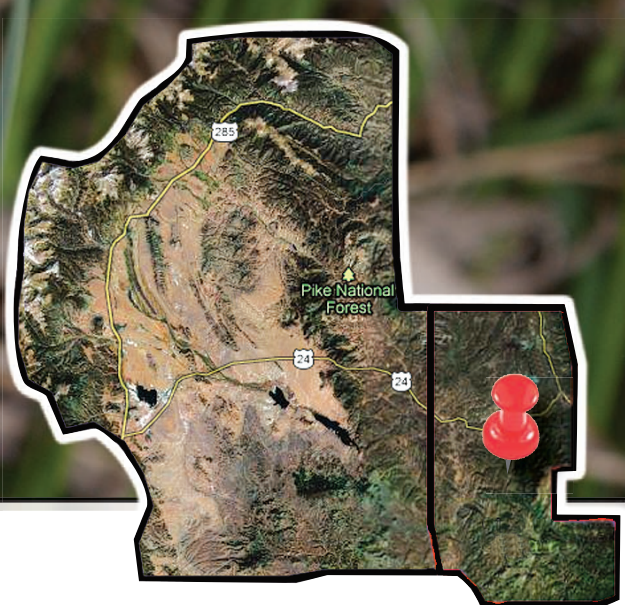


# Welcome to Ute Country



"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May."  
Edwin Way Teale



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## On Deck

Welcome to May! April left us with a little bit of water and perhaps more will be on the way. We are happy to continue to present water wise tips for readers who have something new to suggest. Please feel free to email your water saving tips to [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com) or send through our website [www.utecountrynews.com](http://www.utecountrynews.com).

That's right! Our website is finally up and running! We will always update the website after our hard copy is distributed. At that point we will archive the prior month. Check out the "Archives" tab directly to the right of "Home." That way, if you wanted to reread one of our articles and the hard copy has already burned in the woodstove or been hauled out for recycling you can always access your favorite read.

Please feel free to continue to submit your photos to Mr. Spaz either via email [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com) or the website [www.utecountrynews.com](http://www.utecountrynews.com). He loves getting new photos to look through. We like to keep Mr. Spaz happy, so send them in!

We would like to thank Michael for all of his input and guidance in helping us get the website going. We are grateful for your expertise, Michael!

We continue to expand our distribution area. Last month, Rainey helped us get a box in Alma. The morning we brought it in, the proprietor said, "I'm glad you're here; they are already asking for it!" Thanks, Rainey, for helping us get to the west end of Park County.

Another expansion we have this month is to deliver to each box holder in Jefferson. It only makes sense to be available to these residents given we cover Teller and Park Counties. Please feel free to let us know what you think of our paper and be sure to send a photo of your indoor or outdoor critter to Mr. Spaz, Photo Editor.

Last but certainly not least. We are gaining interest in a youth writing contest we would like to launch next school year. Those of you who enjoy mentoring youth, writing, journalism, or simply wish to give back to community, please feel free to contact us and let us know how you'd like to be a part of this project. The planning phase is always a wonderful place to get the energy going.

Thank you,  
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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



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# The legend of Catamount Charley

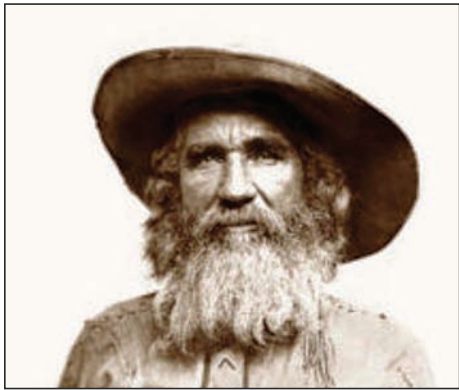
by David Martinek

Around 1880 the population of El Paso County, which included parts of a future Teller County, was about 8,000 people. The 1880 census registered a human count of 7,949 souls – 7,771 whites, 159 African Americans, 16 Chinese and three Indians. There were four men for every three women. However, by the early 1890s those numbers had increased exponentially to 21,000, the result of the emerging gold discoveries in Cripple Creek and Victor and the advent of the railroads. A majority of the stateside influx came from the Midwest (Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri), while most of the foreign immigrants (about 10%) came from England, Wales, Ireland, and Germany. The Welch Cornish men were well adapted to work in the mines and in building tunnels for the railroad.

As a result of this growth, the history of the area from Colorado Springs west up Ute Pass and beyond Pikes Peak is replete with a variety of stories about colorful characters and events, all of which combined to dramatically change the nature of the region when gold was discovered and the Colorado Midland began chugging up the Pass, bringing a more modern world to the frontier's doorstep.

In the 1870's and 80's, one such character was very familiar to the residents of Colorado Springs and up Ute Pass. He was a hunter and adventurer in the mountainous foothills around Pikes Peak, particularly in an area called the Catamounts, southeast of Divide. His name was "Catamount Charley."

Charley's nationality is unknown, but newspaper accounts describe him as being tall, long-legged, with a loosely knit frame, a dark face, black eyes and a "flowing black beard" that cascaded down his chest. He may have been African American, Mexican or Indian, or a mix of all three. Often, he was seen wearing a yellow buckskin shirt and buckskin trousers, both trimmed in strips of fringe, a broad white sombrero on his head (which may point to a Mexican heritage) and moccasins on his feet (indicating some Indian influence). Draped across his shoulder was a cartridge belt of loaded shells for his heavy repeating rifle, which



This image of a mountain man may be similar to what Catamount Charlie looked like. (Internet file image)

he always carried. He would appear in town riding his mustang, Captain Kid.

The exploits of Catamount Charley were well known at the time, enhanced no doubt by his own telling. One such story involved the killing by Charley of a buffalo and three mountain lions with only two shots from his repeating rifle. The anecdote was recorded in no less a prestigious newspaper than the New York Times, as well as the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph. The story begins with Charley riding into Colorado Spring with a bale of skins to sell at a trading post called Aiken & Hunt's museum.

As Charley walked into the store to see Mr. Hunt about selling his hides, what follows is the dialogue exactly as it was written and published on December 17, 1880:

"I say boss," remarked Charley, "I've got some skins yere I'd like to sell yer."

"Certainly," said Mr. Hunt, with his usual politeness. "I shall be glad to look at them."

"Yere," said Charley, "is a mountain bison's hide; yere is a mountain lion's hide; and yere are two more lion's hides. That fust lion's skin is the biggest I ever see. It's 9 feet from tip to tip; the critter must weigh 500 pounds. You see it was this way. I was looking round for game back of the Peak, when all at once I heard a growlin' and a

howlin', which reminded me that the mountain lions was not all dead yet. So I crawled around a point of rock, and I'm blamed if I didn't see three mountain lions havin' a fight with a monstrous bison. I tell you, it was a big fight. The lions would make a leap, and the bison would back up against a root and take them on his horns. I don't know how the fight would have come out, but it was just too good a picnic for me to let it pass, so I drew a bead on the fust lion as it came in range and pulled my old rifle off. The surprisin' part of the affair was that just as I pulled one of the lions jumped in between me and the one I shot at and caught the ball just back of his ribs. It passed clean through him, and bein' turned a bit, it cut the second lion in the throat and went on to break the neck of the bison. They all dropped in a heap, and I was so tickled that I incautiously jumped out from behind the rock, when the third lion saw me."

"Indeed," said Mr. Hunt.

"Yes," said Charley. "The third lion he saw me, and made a jump in my direction. As I saw him comin' I didn't have time to take aim, but I brought my repeatin' rifle up under my arm and took a fly shot at him. Lucky for me, I took him in the breast, and he tumbled over dead."

"Indeed!" said an excited Mr. Hunt again.

"Yes," said Charley, "he tumbled over dead. Now what will you give me for these skins, three mountain lions and one bison?"

There is no record of what Catamount Charley was paid for his skins, his eventual fate, what his real name was or whether he stayed in the region or moved on when civilization encroached upon his territory. But his story illustrates the character and hardiness of the kind of men and women who came to settle the front range of Colorado.

(Note: Sources were the 1880 and 1890 Census records for El Paso County, and Catamount Charley, *How the Hunter of Pikes Peak Bagged and Brought in his Game*, published in the December 17, 1880 issue of the New York Times.)

## Focus on Forever Conference accepting registrations; CPW offers conference scholarships

by Randy Hampton

Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Pheasants Forever are co-sponsoring a June 7 through June 9 conference in Estes Park that will teach best practices for providing outdoor skills education. Participants will receive in-depth training in how to teach skills like archery, cast-iron cooking, shooting, canoeing, kayaking and much, much more. Sessions will also focus on teaching methods that can be used to make sure students are engaged, challenged and retaining outdoor skills for lifelong enjoyment.

The "Focus on Forever" Conference is designed to help current outdoor skills instructors improve and help organizations train new instructors all with the main goal of getting more people outdoors in Colorado.

"Colorado is an amazing state with so

many outdoor opportunities," explained Allison Kincaid, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Partnership Coordinator. "People are hungry to learn new skills and get outside but individual organizations may not have the ability to offer all of this training in one place for their staff, volunteers and board members."

The Conference cost is \$325 per person but Colorado Parks and Wildlife has a limited amount of scholarship funding set aside to provide a 50-percent match for organizations that can't afford the entire fee. An application for the matching fund scholarship is



available by contacting Allison Kincaid at [kincaid@state.co.us](mailto:kincaid@state.co.us) or 303-291-7252.

"Beyond building skills, we're excited to bring partner organizations together to network," added Kincaid. "Participants will learn about programs being offered by other organizations and, we hope, get a chance to find new ways to team up for greater success."

Details about the Focus on Forever Conference can be found on the Pheasants Forever website at <http://pheasantsforever.org/page/1/Focus-on-Forever-Conference.jsp>.

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# What does a Salt Mine and the Tony Awards have to do with Park County?

by Rainey Hall

History suggests as far back as 6000 B.C. Neolithic tribes boiled salt-laden spring water to extract the seasoning and preservative. Today, the essential mineral is manufactured in countries such as Spain and India, professing up to 14,000 uses. There are many salt mines in the United States, the largest in Louisiana.

Did you know Park County, Colorado used to have a salt mine? It was located south of Highway 9 and east of Highway 285. Here, a saline deposit was found from brine that bubbled up from a "natural aquifer of salt water from a prehistoric sea."

In 1861, J.C. Fuller commercially harvested the mineral, as "Pike's Peak Salt." No reason being found, Fuller quit.

Was that the end of the mine? No. Charles and Mary Hall homesteaded the land in 1862. Per Tag Fanning, 5th generation from Charles Sr., sixth from Mary, and family historian: "Charles... was a partner in numerous ventures with Horace Tabor, owned many interests in mining ventures, and served as a Territorial Senator."

Hall began to ranch and dairy farm while planning his manufacturing operation with two partners. Hall named his land, The Salt Works Ranch.

To obtain salt, the water it's in must be evaporated (such as sea salt and brine) or had to have been evaporated at some time, thus digging it from dried lakes beneath the earth's surface. All techniques are referred to as "mining."

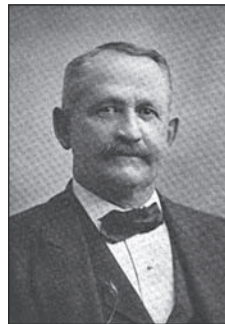
An article by Dan Jennings in the July, 1996 edition of the Colorado Central Magazine states: "They built a 160'x70' building that still stands, and ordered kettles at \$1,500 apiece... To heat and concentrate brine, the kettles were set over an iron fire box... the chimney (was) built from local stone by Italian masons from the Arkansas Valley. The masons made... cement from local limestone. Salt was separated from the brine in evaporating pans..." A steam-powered saw mill had to be built to supply wood for the fire.

During the facility's prime, an estimated 4000 pounds of salt per day were harvested. The first refined salt from the ranch sold for \$4.50 a pound in Denver, soon dropping to \$1.00/lb. The less pure, used for ore processing, cost \$60 a ton in Georgetown, CO.

The coming of the railroad enabled salt to be shipped from the east cheaper than Hall

could produce it, so he closed the facility.

Ever the business man, Hall found a group of investors called the Colorado Salt Works Manufacturing Company who revived the mine in 1881. A new 1,000-foot well was quarried to search for stronger brine. It produced a significant amount of salt from 1881 to 1883. The Salt Works closed for good as a



Charles Hall  
B 1835 D 1907



Mrs. Charles Hall  
B 1838 D 1899

Photos of Charles and Mary found on FindaGrave.com

source of commercial salt in 1883.

The Halls stayed on the ranch. They used the manufacturing building as a calving shed and the kettles for water troughs. It is noted, that the Halls also settled in Leadville.

Another opinion of the ranch is given by Mrs. M. Fanning: "...was ridiculous, building that great big chimney and going in the salt business."

Mrs. Fanning continues, "...the Ute Indians... they used to come out there and get their salt and put it in a corner of the blanket, and then they'd tie a little knot and skid the blanket around their shoulders and come back to get more. The kids were in the blankets and they'd have to take them out to go get the salt. The Indians didn't... have to boil it down... it was a bonus for them. Very colorful, crazy times, and... very pleasant."

During this time, the Hall's added three children to their family. Charlie Jr. passed away at age thirty-eight while mining in Arizona. Minnie Betsy and Mildred were raised on the ranch.

Tag Fanning tells Mildred's story: "When approximately age four she was given to the Halls by Chipeta and Chief Ouray in payment for the care shown their nephew.

Mildred attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She married George Wessels, who owned his own theatre company and whose career included playing "Moriarty" opposite "Sherlock Holmes." At the end of their career, the couple returned to the ranch. Both passed away there.

Minnie Betsy married William Perry, a Denver lawyer. Their daughter, Mary Antoinette Perry, was born in 1888.

As a girl, she loved traveling with her theatrical Aunt Mildred and Uncle George.

Antoinette Perry became a successful actress and Broadway producer. The "Tony Awards" were created in her memory. The award is spelled, "Tony" due to copyrights on "Toni" hair permanent product. An article in the Colorado Gambler states Antoinette "... was an avid gambler and a generous supporter of fellow thespians, she died, (the day after her 58th birthday), deeply in debt." Her grand finale was the producer of "Harvey", the story of a possibly invisible rabbit. (Mary Coyle Chase, another Coloradoan, wrote the play.) Preliminary research shows Antoinette



Salt Works. 1988. Source: Betty Simmons, via Park County Archives

and her mother, Minnie Betsy, were disinherited by Hall.

Charles L. Hall died on August 15, 1907. He, Mary, Charlie, Mildred, and Wessels are buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO.

In 2001, The Salt Works Ranch was recognized as a Colorado Centennial Farm. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by Hall's descendants, it is a private, working ranch. The facilities are available for group events; however, no regular tours are given. For more information write: Salt Works Ranch, PO BOX 26, Hartsel, CO, 80449.

The Tony Awards will live as long as theatre exists.



Mary Antoinette (Toni/Tony) Perry

Antoinette as Lady Margaret Percy in *The Ladder* (inset).

Photos of Toni found on: <http://theladder.wikispaces.com/Antoinette+Perry>

## Students help the environment

by Maurice Wells

photo by Maurice Wells

Lake George Charter School students planted 75 trees donated by the National Wildlife Federation on Thursday, April 25. Classes gathered throughout the day and with help from parents and community volunteers, planted the trees on property around the school.

Students also learned how trees ben-

efit wildlife, humans and our environment. They also were aided in identifying native species such as Pinon, Douglas Fir, Ponderosa and the Colorado Blue Spruce.

Mrs. Mary Doty, first grade teacher, is responsible for arranging for the trees and coordinating the planting activity.

Students get "down and dirty" to plant trees.



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# The 4 Meagles from Summit Elementary School advance to Destination Imagination's Global Finals

by Marci Nickelsburg

After winning honors for creativity, teamwork and problem solving in local, state and regional tournaments, The 4 Meagles from Summit Elementary School - Woodland Park School District have earned the right to travel to Destination Imagination's Global Finals, the largest creative thinking and problem solving competition in the world, to be held May 22-26 in Knoxville, TN. Team members include: Samuel Faux, William Nickelsburg, Abby Woods, and Thad Sayer.

They will compete with other teams in the In Disguise Challenge, one of seven, open-ended challenges that require young people to apply science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), in addition to improvisation, theater arts, writing, project management, communication, innovation, teamwork and community service.

Destination Imagination has had a positive impact on more than 1.5 million young people and adults who have benefitted from taking part in its acclaimed Challenge Program. This year, another 100,000 young people have competed in tournaments throughout the U.S. and in 30 countries to earn a spot at the Global Finals competition in May.

The 4 Meagles are among more than 8,000 students representing more than 1,250 teams that will advance to Global Finals, which will be held at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville May 22-26.

"The Destination Imagination Program

allows students K-College to learn and experience the creative process. Quantitative reasoning, problem solving, risk taking, collaboration, presentations and thinking on your feet are some of the important skills learned in the program," said Chuck Cadle, CEO.

This year, National Geographic's world renowned author and photographer, Joel Sartore, will be addressing the participants at the Global Finals Opening Ceremony. This year's Global Finals Innovation Expo will house engaging exhibits from NASA, Michigan Tech's Mindtrekkers, 3M and many other innovative companies. In addition, participants will have a chance to explore the depths of our planet's oceans and learn about environmental conservation through the 3M-sponsored, interactive "Explore the Uncharted" exhibit.

Destination Imagination is an educational program where student teams are immersed in the creative process needed to solve open-ended challenges then present their solutions at regional and state tournaments. If they win at those levels, they may receive an invitation to Global Finals.

"The DI competition requires students to work through some very demanding critical thinking and problem solving assignments that strengthen our educational systems by enhancing the learning processes taking place in the classroom," declared Cadle. "We've seen the development of superior aptitudes in analytical thinking, leadership, project man-



Samuel Faux, Donna Frick (Team Manager), Abby Woods, William Nickelsburg, Thad Sayer, Marci Nickelsburg (Team Coach).

agement, teamwork, communication, research and innovation in hundreds of thousands of youth since our organization's inception almost three decades ago, and we believe Destination Imagination has the potential to bridge the gap between what is taught in our schools and the thinking skills our youth will need to succeed in the world of the future."

Destination Imagination, Inc. dedicates

itself to enriching the global community by providing opportunities for learners of all ages to explore and discover using the creative process from imagination to innovation.

Any donations to help these four deserving students reach their \$9000 goal (for plane fare, registration, and room and board) may be made to Summit Elementary School, P.O. 339 Divide CO 80814.

## Divide Volunteer Fire Department has back-country equipment

by David Martinek

photos by David Martinek

Despite the spring snows, summer will come to the Ute Pass area eventually and that will bring hikers, campers and ATV riders to the Pike National Forest as well as the back country of Teller County. A certain small percentage of that influx of people will need medical assistance at some point during the summer due to some accident or injury.

The Divide Volunteer Fire Department now has a handy Polaris Ranger 6 x 6 utility vehicle (or "UTV") that can take emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and firemen into the forest along the service roads or over trails to rescue and treat folks who need medical attention.

The Polaris UTV and its transport trailer were purchased by the department in October 2012 for around \$20,000, financed through a series of grants. About half of the purchase price was contributed by El Pomar. The Colorado EMS Council provided most of the rest. The MEDLite Transport sliding unit was added through a grant from the Teller County EMS Council. The UTV was placed into service at the end of April 2013.

"The UTV adds to our EMT capability in the back country," said Jim Lee, Station Manager at the Divide Volunteer Fire Department's Shoemaker Station. "It will allow us to go into backwoods places not accessible by truck or ambulance."

The unit accommodates a crew of three, a driver/EMT and "two more pairs of hands" (additional EMTs, firemen or other volunteers), which will allow medical personnel to access and treat victims on the spot in the back country. They can then be transported more efficiently and quickly to an

ambulance location. In the past, injured patients have had to be physically carried out of the forest on foot. But with the new Polaris Ranger UTV, they can ride along with the EMTs treating them.

The Divide Volunteer Fire Department is located at Shoemaker Station, 103 Cedar Mountain Road (County Road 51) in Divide (Telephone: 719-686-8773). The department is currently accepting applications from area residents who may be interested in becoming a volunteer fire fighter, or to volunteer to provide some other service. Interested persons should contact Jim Lee directly.



The red and black Polaris Ranger 6 x 6 (above) and its transport trailer were purchased by the DVFD in October 2012 for around \$20,000, financed by grants from El Pomar, the Colorado EMS Council and the Teller County EMS Council.

The MEDLite Transport slide (left) allows patients to be transported out of the backwoods in the back of the UTV and then detached like a stretcher for carry to an ambulance. There is also room for EMTs or fireman to ride along with the patient.

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Dr. Amy Mason in front of her new clinic (left) and in the exam room (right). It was named “Bag end” by the previous owner because it reminded him of Bilbo Baggins’ hobbit hole in the book, “The Hobbit”. It is built around an old 1950’s airstream trailer.



## Guffey Vet Clinic - new location

by Flip Boettcher  
photos by Flip Boettcher

The Guffey Veterinary Clinic and Healing Arts Center, owned and operated by Dr. Amy Mason, which opened its doors on April 1, 2009, has moved from 1333 Canon St. to a new location, 84 Main St. next to the Freshwater Saloon in Guffey.

Operating hours are mostly 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday, unless she is out on house calls, and by appointment only after hours.

Mason said by moving the clinic she has doubled her square footage and plans to expand this year to offer small and large animal surgery. Dentistry is the new offering; tooth floating for horses and dentals for dogs and cats. Mason will also be offering doggie day care as well as overnight accommodations for surgery clients.

The clinic has a fenced back yard Mason stated and she will be having the 4-H dog club agility training course set up there. The dog club was recently named the “18 Toes Dog Club,” of which Mason is the fearless leader.

There will be an open house next month at the new clinic once she really gets settled

in stated Mason with the date and time to be announced soon.

In January, 2011, Mason added a 4WD Toyota Portavet pick-up truck, allowing her to make house, farm and ranch calls she said. The Portavet pick-up is “totally stocked with all the equipment to provide economical house calls, large or small, for our clients,” Mason said, and “can provide minor surgeries and routine visits in the field, on the ranch or farm and at the clinic.”

Mason brings traditional veterinary care to her practice as well as alternative therapies. The many alternative therapies include: acupuncture, Bach Flower essences, energy medicine like Reike (an ancient system of healing), Dowsing, herbal and homeopathic medicine, and NAET (Nambudripad’s Allergy Elimination Technique).

Mason is a Colorado native, graduated from Golden High School and got her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 1992. She moved to Nevada, where she started with a mobile practice in a small pick-up truck, then expanded to a 32-foot long class A motor home designed as a veterinary hospital and finally expanded again to a 3000 square foot land based veterinary hospital.

In 2004, Mason returned to Guffey with her family for a “simpler and quieter lifestyle”, she said.

Mason stated that she is certified with the International Acupuncture Society, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and has been inducted into the Colorado Academy of Veterinary Practice.

In an email Mason wrote, “I wanted to be a vet since I was five years old and saving all the injured birds in our neighborhood. My grandmother (an early Guffey rancher) and mother were instrumental in giving me the inspiration that I could attain any goal I set my mind to...and here I am, a vet, married to my college sweetheart, raising our kids and we are living on grandma’s cow pasture in our own little piece of heaven”, she said.

Kim’s Pet Grooming, which was located in the old clinic, has moved to the new clinic as well, doing pet grooming several days a week by appointment only.

To contact Mason call: 719-689-2262 at the clinic or her cell phone: 719-276-5070. To contact Kim for a grooming appointment, call the clinic or her home phone: 719-479-2278.

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## Dr. Vinh Chung hosts an Open House at PPRH Specialty Clinic Open to the Public and Senior Circle Members!

On Friday, May 10, Dr. Vinh Chung, from Vanguard Dermatology and Skin Cancer Specialists, will be the program speaker at an Open House and celebration. This is National Skin Cancer Awareness month so Dr. Chung and his associates are prepared to make you aware and help you prepare. There will also be a focus on looking younger, with fun products to try and lots of prizes. This is also a Senior Circle event for the month of May.

The open house will take place from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Pikes Peak Regional Hospital Medical Center, 16222 W. Hwy. 24, upstairs near suite 210. The event is free to the public and reservations are appreciated. Libations and Hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Please contact the Karen Earley, PPRH Marketing & Senior Circle Program, at 686-5802 to sign up. See the event listing on PPRH Facebook, too.



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# One bad day at the end of the Cretaceous: The death of the dinosaurs

by Victor Gordillo

The Earth was ruled by dinosaurs for about 150 million years or so, a very long time. Sixty-five million years ago, they were all gone, setting the stage for the rise of mammals. Rewind the geological clock to 65 million years ago, and dinosaurs are the dominant organisms on the planet. Move forward only 1 million years and the entire group is nonexistent. Almost overnight, the most successful large animals at the time vanished (leaving only fossils and tracks), setting stage for the rise of the mammals.

The sole cause for this monumental change was a single bad day about 65 million years ago. What happened? Scientific evidence suggests that an asteroid, roughly 10 kilometers in diameter, im-

pacted what is now the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Molten material, ejected from the impact, ignited forest fires around the world within hours. Thousands of cubic kilometers of sulfur-rich rocks were vaporized and thrown into the atmosphere, forming a blanket of soot covering the Earth for months. The Earth was in perpetual darkness which destroyed many links in the food chain, especially plant life. The sulfur combined with water vapor sprinkled back to Earth as sulfuric acid. Ten kilograms of this acid drenched every square meter of Earth. More than 70 percent of all species went extinct as a result of this catastrophe, known as the K-T event (Cretaceous-Tertiary Mass Extinction event).

Our first clues to this doomsday event were discovered in a rock outcrop in Italy that has a definite layer found to be heavily enriched with the element iridium, which is very rare in the Earth's crust but abundant in asteroids. This extraterrestrial iridium layer has even been found in Colorado. This "smoking gun" sediment layer also included quartz grains that had been subjected to a powerful shockwave. Subsequent analyses from rocks and ocean sediments of this age throughout the world provide a detailed picture of this asteroid impact and how its sweeping changes to the environment resulted in what scientists call the "Great Dying," and how this impact changed the history of life on Earth. Just recently, a meteorite exploded in the atmosphere over Russia and an asteroid passed very close to the Earth, giving us pause to think about our planet still being in a "shooting gallery."



These dinosaurs are about to have a very large change in there day. Original artwork by © Kurt Lahmers

## About the author:

Victor Gordillo is a sophomore at Doherty High School. His interests are science and learning; he always likes to keep an open mind when working in the field of science. He loves to swim and spend time with friends. Victor has been a distance student in the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club since middle school. He enjoys the adventure that has come with the geosciences.



## Freshwater Saloon hosts Nighthawk Ranch Fundraiser May 18

The freshwater Saloon in Guffey is the place to be on May 18th. They are hosting a fundraiser to benefit Nighthawk Ranch. There will be lots of great food, drink, a silent auction and live music from three groups. Lissa Hanner and Super Chuck will perform their wide variety of music that simply makes you feel great and appreciate mountain living. Mark Griffith will take charge of the stage and Stompin George will share his music stylings with the crowd.

Tom and Dorothy Evans are the founders of Nighthawk Ranch. It is their dream come

visit [www.nighthawk ranch-colorado.org](http://www.nighthawk ranch-colorado.org) or see the article by Flip Boettcher printed last August in our archives [www.utecountrynews.com](http://www.utecountrynews.com).

Nighthawk will host four camps this year (the weeks of June 9th, June 30th, July 21st, and August 11th). There is 1:1 supervision of the kids and four of the six supervisors have some sort of medical training. The staff spend an entire day prior to the kids' arrival reviewing their medical charts with Medical Director, Dr. Richard Malyszczek. This way, they can anticipate the children's needs and be prepared to meet them. The staff will help the kids overcome some of the longer-lasting side effects of radiation and chemo. For example, a child whose growth has been stunted, has depth perception challenges, and balance issues may not feel confident getting on a horse that first time. Knowledgeable staff can offer helpful balance tips and spotting while the child mounts the horse. By the end of the week, the kids are rid-



Nighthawk Camp welcomes campers.

ing like they are professionals.

Tom and Dorothy have patiently watched their programs grow and there are many ideas for expansion in the future. They intend to maintain the small group experience to provide the greatest 1:1 attention as well as opportunity for connection.

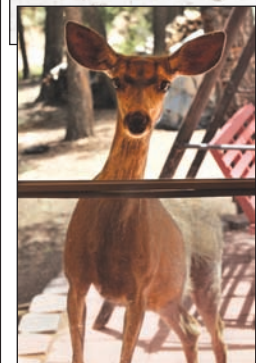
Please take a pleasant drive to Freshwater Saloon in Guffey on May 18th for this very important fund raiser for Nighthawk Ranch. Enjoy great food, bid on an auction item, and enjoy the exciting sounds of local musicians. All proceeds from food and auction go directly to the Nighthawk Ranch. You will enjoy yourself and will have given a healing child a chance at higher self-esteem.



Lissa Hanner & Super Chuck is one of three bands performing.

of increasing self-esteem. The kids experience life on a ranch, learn to handle the livestock and ride horses. Mostly, they get to be around other kids who have made it through treatment and share their experiences. To learn more about Nighthawk Ranch

## Critter Corner



David K. Johnson, Arabian Acres/Florissant



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](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com). Be sure to include the critter's name as well as your name.

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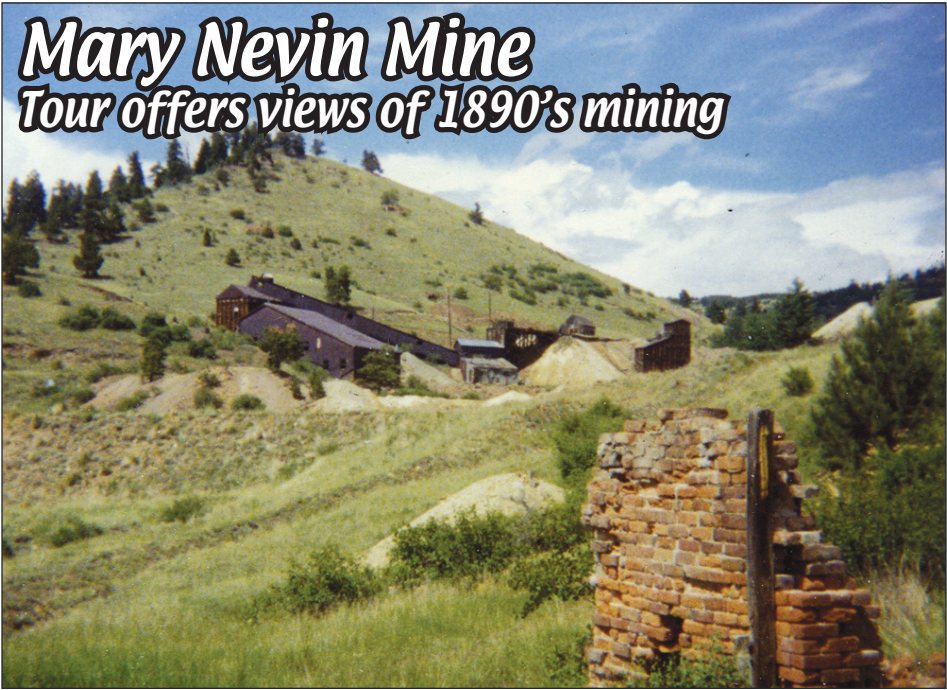


Photo from the Ted Johnson collection, VLT Museum, courtesy of Brian and Rosemary Hayes.

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### Lake George Charter School - Beyond The ABC's

## The Yes Club

by Maurice Wells and Denise Kelly

Students at the Lake George Charter School have chosen to participate in the Catamount Institute's Young Environmental Stewards' Yes Club. This is a science based program for 4th and 5th grade students combining environmental science, community service, technology and leadership. The afterschool program meets for two hours once a week and covers an area of study for a semester. The Spring semester is called "Takes Flight" and studies flying organisms from bats to bacteria that live in our atmosphere.

For additional information about the club contact Kathy Reimer, 4th grade teacher and the advisor for the club at 748-3911 ext. 305.



YES Club members learn about solar power.  
Photo by Kathy Reimer



Kathy Reimer and YES Club members.  
Photo by Dawn Steel



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## Teller Safe Harbor's Fundraiser



Capelli's Hair Salon stylists were kept busy (left), while a variety of items available for raffle were on display (right).



The fundraiser was hosted by Capelli's Hair Salon on Sunday, April 7th from 9 am. to 2 pm. The Salon Crew raised \$820 by cutting hair and selling raffle tickets for an assortment of goodies including gift baskets & gift certificates.

The Woodland Park Police Dept. also attended with child carseat demos., and an opportunity for kids to sit in a police car & blast the siren.

Teller Safe Harbor provides emergency shelter for domestic violence victims in Teller County. To learn more about Safe Harbor please contact Delonna Waters at 659-2313.



# If You are Eating GMOs – You’re Eating Pesticides

by Carol Grieve`

If you are eating GMOs on a regular basis, one of two things is happening. You are either unaware of the dangers of GMOs or you just don't really care. Which one are you? This article is for those who do care and the reasons why you should care.

For those that do not know what a GMO is — it stands for genetically modified organism. Nearly 85% of our foods in the grocery store has some form of genetically modified ingredient in it and if it's a processed food, you can bet that it's been genetically modified. It is not my intention to explain in detail about GMOs and their danger, as I wrote a previous article about this issue a few months ago, "GMO's 101". Please see [www.utecountrynews.com/archives/2013/January](http://www.utecountrynews.com/archives/2013/January) it is on page 11.

Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum systemic herbicide used to kill weeds, especially annual broadleaf weeds and grasses known to compete with commercial crops grown around the globe. It was discovered to be an herbicide by Monsanto. Monsanto brought it to market in the 1970s under the trade name Roundup. I think most of you are familiar with the pesticide called Roundup. You may even use it to control weeds in your yard. On its website, the GMO-seed-and-agrichemical giant Monsanto makes the green case for its Roundup Ready crops, engineered to withstand the company's own blockbuster herbicide. Roundup. Keep in mind, this is the same company that told us DDT and Agent Orange were safe!

The biotech giant, Monsanto, not only recommends using Roundup on its seed products, but they also have engineered an insecticide right into their seed. Monsanto claims that this insecticide (which makes the stomachs of insects explode) is completely



safe for human consumption. Since there haven't been many long-term studies on this issue, other than the ones that they conduct, it is a huge concern for many. Scientists from the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, proved the validity of these concerns when they detected the insecticidal protein, Cry1Ab, circulating in the blood of both pregnant and non-pregnant women. They also detected the toxin in fetal blood, suggesting that the toxin can be passed on to the fetus. The research paper has been peer-reviewed and accepted for publication in the journal Reproductive Toxicology. Neither the women studied nor their spouses worked in agriculture. All reported to be consuming a typical Canadian diet that is virtually identical to the American diet.

Monsanto claims that their "Roundup Ready" crops have decreased the need for

pesticide but this has been proven to be not true. A study, by Washington State University researcher Charles Benbrook, was the first to examine federal data on pesticide use and was published in the peer-reviewed journal, "Environmental Sciences Europe." Benbrook's analysis found that Bt crops — those genetically engineered to repel insects — reduced insecticide use by 123 million pounds, or 28%. At the same time, Benbrook found, farmers increased herbicide use by 527 million pounds over the same period. (Herbicides kill weeds. Insecticides kill bugs and pests. Both are pesticides.) Overall, Benbrook concluded, farmers have increased pesticide use by 404 million pounds. You can read more about this study at ([http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/study-shows-increased-pesticide-use/article\\_bfafcd9c-0ce0-11e2-bc76-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/study-shows-increased-pesticide-use/article_bfafcd9c-0ce0-11e2-bc76-0019bb30f31a.html).)



Carol Grieve`

the body. Here, we show how interference with CYP enzymes acts synergistically with disruption of the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids by gut bacteria, as well as impairment in serum sulfate transport. Consequences are most of the diseases and conditions associated with a Western diet, which include gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer and Alzheimer's disease."

To read the complete study: <http://gmoevidence.com/samsel-and-seneff-glyphosate-enhances-damaging-effects-of-environmental-toxins>.

Given this information, it is more important than ever to choose your food wisely. Learning how to read labels and eating organic whole foods is one way to avoid eating pesticides these untested genetically engineered foods and pesticides. The FDA does not require the biotech companies to label these foods either! We have become the human guinea pigs! Stop and consider why there has been a rapid increase in diabetes, cancer and autoimmune disease, to name a few. Buying organic food or food from your local farmer is another great way to avoid eating GMOs and pesticides. Learn to be your own food consultant by asking questions. Just because it is sold at a farmer's market doesn't mean that it hasn't been sprayed with chemicals. Many people say they cannot afford organics, but have you priced cancer lately? Choose wisely!

If you need assistance or would like health and wellness coaching, email me at [carol@foodintegritynow.org](mailto:carol@foodintegritynow.org). I also do a weekly internet radio show at [www.foodintegritynow.org](http://www.foodintegritynow.org) and our website is a great resource for learning more about the food you eat. Be well!

**Nearly 85% of our foods in the grocery store has some form of genetically modified ingredient in it and if it s a processed food, you can bet that it s been genetically modified.**

A new peer-reviewed scientific review paper has been released in the US stating that glyphosate-based herbicides such as Roundup are contributing to gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

"The review paper states that "glyphosate enhances the damaging effects of ...food borne chemical residues and environmental toxins. Negative impact on the body is insidious and manifests slowly over time as inflammation damages cellular systems throughout

## Adopt Me Please Pick Paris

My name is Paris. I'm a typical husky girl with a lot of energy and am quite the talker! I am house trained but my previous owners did not spend much time teaching me how to be a lady. I am hoping my new family will. I am eager to learn, just waiting for the right person to have the patience to teach me. I am also looking for an active home because I am not the couch potato type. 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](http://www.tcrascolorado.com)



## Upcoming events:

TCRAS presents Wild Whiskers, our annual fundraising event to benefit the animals on Saturday May 11th at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. There will be a live and silent auction with live music and dinner. Advance ticket purchase available at TCRAS for \$20 or for \$25 at the door the day of the event. Doors open at 5pm. Visit [www.tcrascolorado.com](http://www.tcrascolorado.com) for details.

TCRAS is seeking volunteers to partner with them as dog walkers, dog cleaners, dog and cat adoption counselors and other areas. If you are interested please join us for a volunteer orientation Monday, May 13 from 6:30-8:30pm. To sign up or for more information visit our website <http://www.tcrascolorado.com/index.php?page=volunteer-info> or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@tcrascolorado.com](mailto:volunteer@tcrascolorado.com).



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# Just in time for Mother's Day by Danielle Dellinger

**Author's Note:** *I'd like to take a moment to thank my mom. Without her, I would not be the person I am today. Thank you so much for all that you've done for me and for always encouraging me. You're the best!*

The forests of Teller County hold many wondrous secrets. It's impossible to ever completely know a place and all that it hides. In the steep terrain of the main passageway between Divide and Cripple Creek, the sound of an eerie coyote howl rolled down steep embankments and into valleys. A few just-as-eerie howls answered it. Large shapes darted among the trees, all converging on one area where an ailing deer had laid down to rest. There was a moment of silence, then joyful yips, growls, and howls. Soft, unintelligible words from more than one woman's voice could be heard in between the noises from the coyotes. Yes, the forest is a mysterious place.

Kody had always been a bratty and troublesome child, causing more destruction than a tornado, it seemed. He rarely cooperated with any authority figure and was punished often. His mother, Eliza, seemed to age five years every week. She delivered discipline in the softest and sweetest of voices, but unfortunately, that didn't help matters and only encouraged Kody to take advantage of her. Despite his mean-spiritedness, Eliza still defended him to those who knew of his heinous behavior. She refused to say anything bad about her son, convinced that there would be karmic retribution against her. She also feared that he would hear her and really act out.

Many of her close friends tried to tell her that he needed to be sent away where he would be punished accordingly, learn the meaning of respect, and come back a new person. Eliza didn't like the thought of sending him away, but she knew that she was running out of options, and that if she didn't take control of her son, both she and him would be run out of town. Kody's father was away for long periods of time working on the construction of the Colorado Midland Railroad up through Ute Pass. When he came home, he'd bring gifts for Kody and they would spend all of his vacation together, leaving Eliza to watch over the property by herself. She didn't complain, only did her job as a good wife and mother. It was important to her that they get in some quality father-son time together. Although, she hoped that one day she'd get that same kind of time with Kody. Mother's Day was in a couple of days and she hoped they'd get along well enough to enjoy each other's company.

All she could do now was watch as Kody's father left to return to work on the railroad, leaving behind a screaming and crying Kody. She had tried to hold onto him so her husband could leave in peace, but he tore from her grip without much effort. He attempted to latch onto his father, but received a hard smack to the rump and was shoved away with a harshly-voiced reprimand. Kody stormed back into the house and immediately began throwing anything breakable and valuable that he could. Eliza sighed wearily, gathered her skirts into her hands and climbed the few steps up onto the porch.

"Kody, please stop," she called gently inside in between the sound of shattering plates.

"No!" he shouted back. "No! I hate both of you! You're terrible parents!" His voice was loud and intimidating, causing Eliza to take a step back from the door.

"Please, Kody. Just come out and talk to me." She'd be lying if she said his words hadn't hurt her.

"Don't talk sweet to me. You're a dreadful mother, always talking in that disgustingly soft voice! I hate you!" he snarled, turning toward the door with half of his face in shadow. She could see his eyes narrowed and his face twisted into an ugly expression comprised of hate and anger. She couldn't figure out what had caused her son to be so angry. He'd been a happy baby, but from the moment he could walk and talk, he'd turned into a different creature. He might as well have rabies, she thought, spying some spittle on his chin. She was about to say something else, but he snatched up a vase that was so dear to her heart and smashed it to the floor. The pieces were tiny and numerous as they scattered across the wood floor--they'd be dust in no time.

Eliza felt tears pricking the corners of her eyes and she put a shaky hand to her mouth. She turned and slowly walked back down the steps and started toward the cattle pasture, which butted up against a clifflike hillside. Her thoughts were spiteful and hateful, but she didn't voice them. Her heart ached for her son and she wanted to find a way to help him. After all, he was still her son and she still cared for him despite the negative feelings they held toward each other. With Kody being

about 13, she prayed there was still time to correct his behavior.

Kody watched her go, his pulse alarmingly loud in his ears. He looked down and saw that his hands were clenched into fists. He stomped his foot hard against the floor, causing the small house to shudder and rattle. He grabbed his pocket knife and jacket, and ran out of the house, into the woods beside it. The farther in he went, the less light there was due to the trees being clustered closer together. The smell of pine clouded his nostrils, causing him to sneeze a few times. Soon he was hiking up a gradual hill. Near the top, the trees thinned out. He climbed up onto a large rock and gazed around and down into the small valley below. The wind was strong on top of this hill, nearly toppling him from his rock perch. However, he caught a whiff of a rancid odor on the wind. It seemed to be coming from down in the valley.

He hesitated for only a moment before he hopped off the rock and started down the hill at a quick pace, doing his best to track the direction of the offensive odor. He headed into the woods on the other side of the valley. He was instantly shrouded in dim light and a stronger smell of the disgusting odor. Something was dead, he knew that much. He began following the horrible smell, which dried out his throat within minutes. It smelled very coppery and he knew that he was smelling blood. He finally came to the carcass of an elk with its throat slit. He frowned and covered his nose, trying to make sense of what he saw. He'd never seen an animal with its throat cut in such a fashion, but he knew only humans could do that. To their credit, they had chosen an animal that had been about to die anyway.

The longer he stood there staring at the dead elk, the more uneasy he felt. The hair on his arms stood on end and he couldn't help but shiver despite his jacket. He folded his arms and hid his nose into his collar. He wanted to walk away from the carcass, but he felt paralyzed. For a boy that was constantly in motion causing trouble, this was a new sensation, and one that he wasn't fond of. Something moved in front of him and he lifted his eyes to see a rather large coyote standing on the other side of the carcass. Its ears were forward, but it didn't look very happy to see Kody there. Kody's heart began to race and his palms turned sweaty. He'd never come face to face with a coyote before; his father had always warned him about them. He said that their name was derived from the Aztec word *cóyotl*, meaning "trickster". He had wondered, at the time, which was more of a trickster, a fox or a coyote? He didn't want to find out the answer now.

Kody swallowed and barely took a step back, but the coyote growled at him and bared its fangs. Why didn't it want him to move? Kody put his foot back into its original spot and the coyote relaxed. One of its ears twitched off to the side and Kody only moved his eyes to where the ear was pointing. He could barely see more coyotes coming, but there was something off about these. The leader reached Kody and the lone coyote. Now he could see that someone was riding this coyote. The rider was female and roughly the size of a nine or 10-year-old girl, though she looked to be much older. Her skin was a rich tan and it complemented her thick black hair nicely. Her eyes were the same golden color as the coyotes'. She looked at Kody and smiled sweetly.

"So you're who has the forest excited," she said with a slight laugh with a strange accent that was a cross between French and German. "I hope Nella didn't frighten you too much."

Kody frowned and looked confused. "Uh, what? Who's Nella?" The coyote that he'd first encountered dipped her head down in a sort of bow. "Oh. Uh, no, not too much."

The woman smiled again. "Climb onto her back and we'll take you back to camp."

"I can't. I need to get home. I have chores," he said abruptly, his palms sweating again.

"The sun is behind the hills, so I must insist that you be safe and come to camp."

Kody looked over his shoulder and saw that the valley was cast in a dark grey tint. He hadn't realized he'd been in the forest for so long. No wonder it was getting hard to see. With a sigh, he nodded,

and Nella slowly walked around to his side. He felt like he was a giant compared to her. "Maybe I should just walk," he offered, but Nella pressed herself firmly against his side. Reluctantly, he got on her back and they started after the leader who was already a ways ahead. The rest of the group surrounded the elk's body, but Kody didn't get to watch them for long before the trees blocked them from view like a cloak. But he did notice that all the other coyote riders were females as well. The walk to camp was short and Kody was thankful for that because Nella's gait wasn't as smooth as a horse's. He slid from her back and looked at all the hanging tents with rope ladders dangling from their entrances. The trees were spread out, so the camp covered a lot of area. There was a big one hanging in the middle from the biggest tree in the bunch and Kody guessed that was the camp hall, or something. The matriarch of the coyote riders was already climbing into the largest tent. She looked down at him, gesturing for him to follow, so he did.

When he got inside, he sat down on a pile of fur rugs and looked to the matriarch, waiting for something to happen, but she only looked expectantly at him.

"I'm Kody," he finally said, his father's voice in his head reminding him of his manners.

Kody. My name is Arina, and obviously I'm the head of this clan." She smiled her sweet smile again. "What brings you into our woods?"

Kody shrugged and looked away. "I guess I was running away from home."

Arina raised her eyebrows. "Oh? Has it anything to do with your angry demeanor?"

Kody quickly looked to her. "What do you mean?"

Her face softened. "I can smell the anger on you. Something is imbalanced inside of you."

"I don't get what you're saying."

"Of course not. You can't see the problem, even though it's right in front of you. But I'm sure in the back of your mind you know about it."

Kody swallowed. "I smashed my mother's most precious vase today," he said softly, almost to himself.

"Why would you do such a thing?"

He shrugged. "Why not? I was angry and it felt good."

Arina gave a slight, understanding nod. "Do you respect her, your mother?"

At that, Kody scoffed. "No," he said instantly, but stopped and looked at the ground. "She just always talks so quietly and she never yells at me. It's unnerving, like there's something wrong with her. She doesn't deserve my respect."

"And maybe you don't deserve hers," Arina said quickly. "How can she respect someone who acts so hurtful towards her and others?"

Kody frowned and tugged at the fur he was sitting on. "You act like a small child when you're much older and should know better. How is that behavior supposed to earn respect?"

Kody grumbled to himself and then got to his feet. "Forget it," he said, going to the ladder and climbing down.

"Wait!" Arina called after him. "Stay the night and allow yourself to be exposed to a feminine culture. Maybe you'll learn something from the women and even the coyotes, to be able to return to your mother with a more pure heart and mind."

Kody's stood beneath the tent. "Fine," he called back. "But come down here, please." He barely finished his sentence before Arina landed beside him.

She motioned for him to follow her.

She led him over to a large fire pit and began putting as many logs in there as she could.

"Why coyotes?" he asked.

"Because they're just the right size for us to ride and there aren't any wolves in this area. We feel that we can relate better to them, too, since they have a solid foundation of females within the small packs, even if that makes relations between individuals fairly unstable. Plus, they can have up to 19 pups in a litter, though the average is six, but it still keeps up with our ever-growing population. It only takes a year for the pups to physically mature and they're already trained by then, so they're ready to work."

Kody thought a moment about all that she'd said, concluding that it made sense, somehow. They talked until the others showed up with the elk meat to prepare for dinner. Everyone ate well that night. They gave Kody an extra tent to stay in, though he wasn't able to sleep much due to how odd the whole experience had been. In the morning, Arina took Kody aside and sat him down.

"Yesterday you asked why we chose coyotes," she began. "Well, there's more to it. Coyotes seem to be the mongrels of this part of the world. Almost every creature views the coyote as a lowly being, even the fox." She gave him a slight smile. "It reminds me of how you treat your mother. Your anger allows you to feel superior to her, right?" Kody looked off to the side with a frown. "When we came here, the coyote packs of the area weren't in great shape, so we befriended them and became partners. We do nearly everything together and we do it all with respect. If someone--animal or human--acts disrespectfully, they are severely punished. Disrespect is not tolerated. Does your mother punish you for the way you treat her?"

Kody shook his head. "She doesn't, but my father does. She just acts so weak!"

"Ah-ah! That's not an excuse to disrespect her. You wouldn't want her to act the same way toward you, right?"

Kody grumbled, shaking his head. "No..."

"Okay then. Don't treat each other like the coyotes were first treated." Arina smiled and reached forward, putting a hand on Kody's knee. "Just figure out a way to calm that angry spirit of yours."

Kody grumbled again but nodded. "I will." He looked up Arina and gave her half a smile. After that, Arina hugged him and he said goodbye to the clan before she sent him on his way.

When he arrived home, he found his mother sitting in her chair in the garden behind the house, looking forlorn with tight lips. He wondered if she'd always looked so old.

"Mom," he said loud enough for her to hear.

She looked to him, gasped, and jumped to her feet, running to him. They embraced and he whispered an apology in her ear. Eliza felt the tears pricking the corners of her eyes again and she wiped them away as she stepped back.

"Happy Mother's Day," Kody said with a pleasant smile, holding out a beautiful bouquet of wildflowers.

Eliza took them, inhaling deeply. "Thank you, Kody. I'm so glad that you're my son," she said, gazing at him with an expression of pure motherly love.

Kody felt a sense of peace settle in his heart, calming his angry spirit.





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RSVP by May 7 to Karen Earley at 686-5802 or email [reservations@pprh.net](mailto:reservations@pprh.net)

# Walk through time

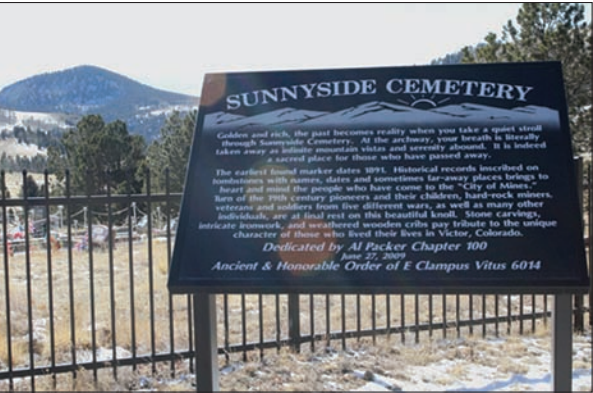
# Victor Sunnyside Cemetery

Step back in time and learn about Victor's 1890's cemetery, its residents and the history that brought them to the gold mining camp. This event is sponsored by the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and will be held Saturday, May 18 as part of Colorado's Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month.

Local historian Veldean Petri will provide insights into the cemetery, its history and some of its residents. The event will be held at the Sunnyside Cemetery which is south of town on Seventh Street. Meet just outside the gate in Pauper's Field by 10 am.

Pre-paid credit card reservations are encouraged and can be made at [VictorColorado.com](http://VictorColorado.com). Tickets at the event are by cash only. All tickets are \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit the museum's building and restoration fund.

Be sure to dress appropriately for spring



mountain weather (which can include wind, cold temperatures, snow, and rain), wear good hiking shoes or boots, and bring water and sunscreen. There are no restroom facilities at the cemetery.

For more information, visit [VictorColorado.com](http://VictorColorado.com), email [museum@victorcolorado.com](mailto:museum@victorcolorado.com) or call 719-689-2675.

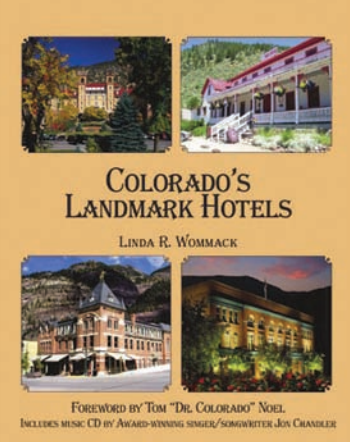
# Colorado's Landmark Hotels

# with Linda Wommack

In the tradition of old Bob Wommack's legacy of Cripple Creek mining riches, his great-great niece, Linda Wommack, now mine's the rich history of two of the Creek's historic hotels in her latest book *Colorado's Landmark Hotels*. There are 30 of these historic hotels in Colorado and Wommack gives a colorful tour of them in her book, but not just the dry historical facts. Did you know that the Hotel St. Nicholas began as a hospital and that a crazed man tried to blow it up during the terrible fires of 1896? Do you know why a shoe was memorialized in a tea kettle there? Did you know there were ghosts at the Imperial Hotel? Or why its bar is decorated with roosters? What about the mysterious scratching heard in the bar?

Learn the answers to these and many more questions when Wommack brings the stories of these Landmark Hotels to life at the Florissant Library on Sunday, May 5. Wommack is the author of six books on Colorado history. She also writes for Wild West Magazine and True West Magazine. Historian for the Brown Palace Hotel, Debra Faulkner says that Wommack's book is "... much more than simple histories..." it is so well researched and written "... that checking out Colorado's Landmark Hotels is the next best thing to checking in."

Linda Wommack's talk will be held at the Florissant Public Library, Sunday, May 5, at 2:00 pm. This program is presented as a public service by the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Admission is free but seating is limited. Refreshments will be served, and a book signing will follow. For more information, call 719-748-3562.



# VFW Post plans Memorial Day activities

by Maurice Wells  
photo by Jana Bartlett

The VFW Post #11411 members will conduct its Honor Guard Ceremony at local cemeteries. The ceremonies will be held on May 27, 2013 as follows:

- 10:00 AM - 4 Mile Cemetery
- 10:45 AM - Florissant Cemetery
- 11:30 AM - Lake George Cemetery

The public is invited to share in these ceremonies.

The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will be providing coffee, water, punch and cookies for travelers at the Wilkerson Pass Visitors Center on Memorial Day weekend from 1-5 on Friday and 7-5 on Saturday through Monday. The Post would like to thank the Forest Service for allowing them to use the covered porch at the visitor's center for the activity.

If you have questions about the VFW or LADIES Auxiliary, contact Randy Ford at 748-5334 or JaNiece Tyler at 748-1335



# Local VFW Post garners awards

by Maurice Wells

The Colorado Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars has recognized the local Post 11411 for accomplishments during the period from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012. The awards were 1st place for Membership and Cancer Aid and Research, 2nd place for Achievement Report, Americanism, and Legislative with a 3rd place for Hospital.

The 34 post and auxiliary members gave 6,781 volunteer hours supporting 108 community projects. Some of the projects were:

- + visiting veterans in hospitals
- + providing meals and transportation
- + encouraging youth programs
- + citizenship education
- + fire department volunteers

Congratulations to a "Small but Mighty Post"!



# Slashing the odds of wildfire destruction... and Beyond

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte

As Spring promises to be just around the corner, many of us start to plan outdoor clean-up projects. With another season of drought in the forecast, this is a great time to consider clean-up projects that include developing or maintaining a good defensive space perimeter around our homes. To make this easier for homeowners, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte manages a slash site for Teller County, centrally located in Divide. (www.divideslashsite.com)

The slash site began operations in 2002 after the Hayman Fire and has remained an effective public service for more than a decade. Years of dealing with post fire recovery and working on fire mitigation have demonstrated the effectiveness of creat-



ing a buffer zone between your home and wildland which greatly improves the odds of your home surviving a wildfire.

This type of work generates a lot of slash and just moving and piling the slash away from your home not only creates an eyesore, but it can create an unintended consequence of a dried out pile of potential fuel.

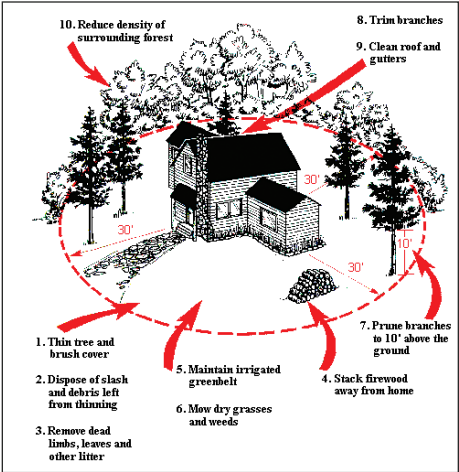
The slash site in Divide is located just east of the intersection of highways 24 and 67. Take Hybrook Rd. south and the site is just past the Post Office on the left. The site opens May 3, 2013 and the program runs through November 10th. Hours of operation are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 3pm. The site will be closed on Sunday May 26th and Sunday September 1st.

There is a nominal fee of \$6.00 per clean load (the equivalent of a full pick-up bed), but larger cash donation are always appreciated.

Acceptable slash in no more than 6 feet long or 8 inches in diameter. The following items will NOT be accepted:

- Stumps, roots, lumber
- Tires, dirt, household trash
- Metals, concrete, weeds or grasses.

The life cycle of the slash you bring doesn't end at the site. Slash brought to the site is rendered into mulch. CUSP and part-



ners transport mulch to Cripple Creek & Victor Mine as supply for mine reclamation and composting program. The mine reclamation project seeks to demonstrate new uses for this currently underutilized material. Research from Rocky Mountain Research Station and the EPA suggest that utilization of wood mulch for reclamation is a viable technique used for soil stabilization in disturbed areas.

In 2012, CUSP also provided the wood chips to the Woodland Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to be used in the creation of a great compost product. After the main treatment processes, wastewater solids are dewatered, mixed with wood chips and composted. The City's compost meets all standards for EPA's "unrestricted use" category. This compost makes a great soil amendment and is free to city residents. Call 687-6016 for availability. In addition CUSP has used the mulch, amended with dairy manure and Mycorrhizal Inoculum to increase fungi growth, within the Trail Creek Project Area. Specifically, the compost has been or will be mixed with grass seed to rehabilitate over 7 miles of decommissioned roads and trails.

So, as you see, the story doesn't end with cleaning up your yard and protecting your home from potential fire damage – it all goes to good and fruitful use that benefits us all. CUSP also operates a slash site in Fairplay. Check the website for 2013 updates – www.fairplayslash.com.

## Cripple Creek Elks Spring Dance May 18



A sampling of the baskets up for bid.

The Cripple Creek Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) are celebrating the long awaited arrival of spring on May 18th beginning at 7pm with their Spring Dance, which is open to the public. There will be lots of free food and a cash bar.

The Country Classic Rock & Blues Band will perform from 7-11pm to keep the energy lively. There will also be a live auction of various spring baskets. Come bid on these beautiful basics certain to inspire your spring spirit.

There are three major ways the Elks contribute to the Cripple Creek community. First, the Clem Audin Fund is available to children up to age 19 for various needs related to education. This could be anything from eye glasses, to physicals for sports, or extracurricular activity fees. The Elks National Foundation provides assistance to the in-school clinic. Last and certainly not least, they help families in need, especially over the holidays, assuring there is food for a holiday celebration along with a few gifts to open.

Get ready to head out to the Elks Spring Dance, see some folks you haven't seen in a while and meet some new friends. Enjoy great food, spirits and live music. Bid on your favorite basket. The cost is only \$10 per person. Hope to see you there!

## Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation Fundraiser

by Flip Boettcher

The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation (RMWF) located several miles north of Guffey announced a fund raising campaign in conjunction with the Phantom Canyon Brewing Company (PCBC) in Colorado Springs.

"PCBC will donate 25% of the sales of its special Continuum Belgian White Ale with citrus peel and coriander, from now through Labor Day," Johnson said, to the RMWF and the Trails and Open Spaces Coalition. So, according to the fundraising flyer, "drink beer and help make the world a better place."

The RMWF sits on 113 acres on top of Gold Hill just north of Guffey. The foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation owned by Mark "Wolf" Johnson who started the RMWF in February, 2001. The foundation is "committed to the caring for and survival of wolves in as natural an environment as possible," says the foundation's website. RMWF rescues abused and abandoned wolves and wolf-dogs.

The foundation rescues only captive born animals, although they had a breeding wolf pair who had three pups in 2008, one of which passed away, and 4 pups in 2009. Of the four pups born in 2009, Apache, Cherokee, Lakota and Navaho, all but Navajo have become some the foundation's ambassadors. Navaho stayed with his parents and is not accustomed to people.

Feeding the wolves is a major job at the foundation. Each wolf requires about five pounds of meat per day. If you multiply that by the 14 wolves, Johnson needs to feed about 60-70 pounds of meat per day.

All work done at the RMWF is volunteer work and Johnson says that the volunteers come from all over the world and range in ages from 16 to 70 years old and stay from a few days to months.

In 2012, the Canon City Workforce Center honored the RMWF for its work for the Governor's Summer Job Hunt program with a beautiful plaque. Workforce Centers across



Colorado provide young people with assistance in resume writing, interviewing skills, and job-search strategies at no cost.

Johnson encourages people to visit the foundation and charges no admission for a tour. In the summertime, Johnson schedules tours at 9am, 12pm, 3pm and 6pm. In the wintertime, he has tours at 10am and 1pm.

One can plan on at least two to three hours for a tour and should wear outdoor clothes as the pups are very rowdy if one chooses to go into the pen with them. Bring your camera, as one can take as many photos, with no restrictions, as they want. Mind your straps and water bottles though, as wolves just love them! On the tour one can visit several different wolves in several different pens if one wants to, and it is quite the experience.

For more information on the RMWF, wolves and/or to schedule a visit, visit the foundations website: www.rmwf.org. Contact the PCB Company at 719-635-2800 for more information on the fundraiser.

## We can't "bear" to see a child cry

During the month of May, the staff at the Divide Post Office is teaming up with Teller County Sheriff's Department to collect Teddy Bears for children in crisis in Teller County. The Post Office is selling Teddy Bears for \$11.99 and \$14.99 right at the Divide Post Office. There are three different styles to choose from. The bears will be given to victims of abuse and crisis situations. Stop by today and brighten a child's life; buy a bear and put a sparkle in their eye!



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# Bears are out; Be bear aware this summer

by Joe Lewandowski

Black bears have emerged from their winter dens and it's time for Colorado residents to take precautions to help keep bears wild.

Because of dry conditions in some parts of the state, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are cautioning residents that bear activity in towns and residential areas may be high again this year. Human-bear conflicts are a fact of life in Colorado, but with some simple actions residents of bear country can help to significantly reduce those conflicts.

The biggest issue in conflict situations is the availability of human sources of food — garbage, pet food, livestock food, compost piles, bird feeders, chicken pens, etc. Bears have a phenomenal sense of smell and can pick up odors of food sources from miles away.

“Bears receive a big calorie reward if they get into something like pet food, or bird seed or leftover pizza,” explained Patt Dorsey, southwest regional manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. “Once they get a taste they quickly become habituated to human food and conflicts start. When that happens, things usually don’t go well for the bear.”

Once black bears have discovered a food source they may defend it and can become dangerous. Those types of situations can be dangerous and it is undesirable to have wild, unpredictable animals in close proximity to people.

“Some bears can be relocated. But bears deemed dangerous must be destroyed. We put down problem bears because we have to, not because we want to,” Dorsey said.

From the Front Range to the mountains to the Western Slope, Colorado offers bears good natural habitat. Bears will go to the areas with the best food availability and it’s best that they find their food in the wild. If food sources in town are limited, bears will likely spend more time in wild lands.

Colorado residents play a major role in keeping bears wild, explained Renzo DelPiccolo, area wildlife manager in Montrose.

“The public can help us by being conscientious and not leaving any types of food available to bears,” DelPiccolo said. “Without the public’s diligence in reducing human sources of food, we have limited success in avoiding and reducing conflicts.”

- Please, follow these tips to keep bears out of trouble and to reduce conflicts:
- Obtain a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster. Check with local authorities or your trash service to determine what types can be used where you live. Keep garbage in a well-secured location; and only put out garbage on the morning of pickup.
  - Clean garbage cans regularly to eliminate food odors. If you don’t have secure storage, put food scraps and items that might



- become smelly into the freezer. Then put them in the trash on pick-up day.
- Don’t leave pet food or feeding bowls outside.
  - Attract birds naturally to your yard or garden with flowers and water features. For those who use bird feeders, suspend them high above the ground so that they’re inaccessible to bears; clean up beneath them every day and bring them in at night,
  - Tightly secure any compost piles. Bears are attracted to the scent of rotting food.
  - Clean-up thoroughly after picnics in the yard or on the deck. Don’t allow food odors to linger.
  - If you have fruit trees, pick fruit before it gets too ripe. Don’t allow fruit to fall and rot on the ground.
  - If you keep chickens or other small livestock, build a secure enclosure and bring the animals inside at night. Clean up pens regularly to reduce odors.
  - Keep the bottom floor windows of your house and garage doors closed when you’re not at home. Lock car doors.
  - Never intentionally feed bears or other wildlife. It’s illegal and dangerous.
  - When backcountry camping, hang food high in trees; at campgrounds, lock food and trash in vehicles.
  - For more information, go to the Living with Wildlife section on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/LivingWith-Wildlife/Pages/LivingWith.aspx>.

If you know of someone in your neighborhood or town who is intentionally feeding wildlife, please call the nearest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office to make a report.

If you would like a wildlife officer to come to your neighborhood or homeowners’ association to talk about bears or other wildlife issues, contact your local Parks and Wildlife office.



# Bike trails in Teller & Park Counties

by Jeff Tacey

I’d like to dedicate this article to my friend Derek Hoffman who died April 14, 2013 of a heart attack at age 41. We used to ride our mountain bikes on some awesome trails together.

With the onset of spring, it’s time to air up the tires and get pedaling. One of the easiest trails starts in Woodland Park and follows Highway 67 north to Manitou Lake. This is about a 15 mile ride round trip.

Next up is the road going up Elevenmile Canyon. This is also a 15 mile round trip and can be rather dusty if it hasn’t rained recently. Also in this area is County Road 90 that goes to Elevenmile Reservoir, which also about a 15 mile round trip ride. The way into the reservoir is all uphill and then all downhill on the way back out.

The Lake George area has my favorite ride. County Road 77 that goes north to Tarryall Reservoir and further to the small town of Jefferson. This trip can be from 1 to 60 miles depending on your turnaround point. If you go north out of Divide on North Road (County Road 5) you will hit the Pike National Forest boundary. There are a lot of biking and forest roads in this area. Study your Pike National Forest map, as this is a vast area for exploring.

The best is last, but I don’t know if this trail will be open this summer as it was burned last year by the Waldo Fire. This is the trail going around Rampart Reservoir above Woodland Park. This is an 18 mile trip around the reservoir with many great sights. Check with the US Forest Service before going on this trail. Happy biking!

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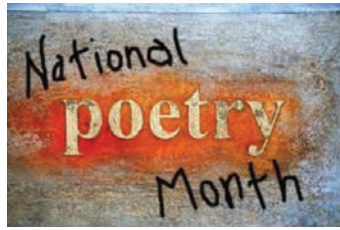
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## Pikes Peak Pebble Pups

Each April the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups celebrate National Poetry Month. This year is no exception. Writing poetry about the Earth sciences, mining, paleontology, climate change, and so forth is not easy, but each year the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups generate some very good poetry. Earlier this year one of our pebble pups was a finalist in a national poetry contest. We also had a first place and second place winner in the same contest at the state level. These two pebble pups are in second grade and will be honored by the Denver Public Library this month at an award ceremony. The pebble pup who placed as a finalist in the national contest will receive an award by the poet laureate of the U.S.

More pebble pup poetry, which is quite good, can be seen at our blogsite at this URL: <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/>



### The Age of Fishes

By Teddy Reeves  
Western Interior Paleontological Society

In the age of fishes  
The period was blazing,  
The cooling plants were few,  
The creatures were amazing.

On the land above  
The air was thinner than today,  
The mammals were none —  
Much to my dismay.

The biggest underwater  
Could not be beat,  
Larger than three elephants,  
Length: more than thirty feet!

The greatest jaws of old,  
A mouth that could crush steel.  
Delicacies of bone  
Made for a great meal.

*Dunkleostues*  
If you had come upon one,  
You should've started a will,  
For your time left was none.



### Author Bio:

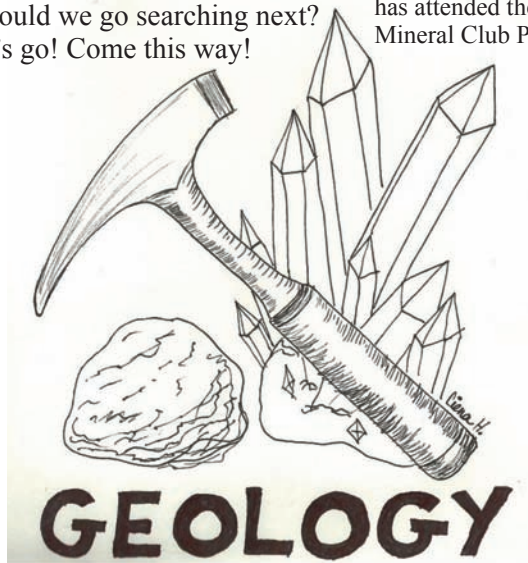
Teddy Reeves is 12 years old in 7th grade and goes to Immanuel Lutheran School in Colorado. He now has been collecting fossils for half his life. Fossil collecting is one of his favorite hobbies. Other hobbies include basketball, piano and acting. Teddy is a CSMS distance student in the Earth Science Scholar program. He has been participating in the distance program through the internet for three years. Teddy's poem is in press and will be published by *Deposits* magazine, an international publication on fossils, rock and minerals this year.



### Fun with Geology

By: Ciena Higginbotham

Geology is very fun  
So much to explore  
Digging, searching, all day long  
Crystals, gems and more  
Geology is very fun  
So much to uncover  
Topaz, pyrite, quartz, and gold  
Look, I found another!  
Geology is very fun  
So much to survey  
Where should we go searching next?  
Let's go! Come this way!



### Author Bio:

Ciena Higginbotham is 15 years old and a 9th grade homeschooler and lives in the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado. She's always had a fascination with geology and has been collecting rocks since she can remember. Ciena has attended the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Pebble Pups since 2010.



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## Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement brings a unique classroom approach to teach children about work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

JA of Teller County and Teller community volunteers will be bringing the Junior Achievement Done In A Day school-based curriculum to the elementary schools (Summit, Columbine and Gateway) on Mondays, May 6th, 13th and 20th.

- 1st grade focuses on Our Families
- 2nd grade is Our Community
- 3rd grade is Our City
- 4th grade is Our Region

• 5th grade is Our Nation

JA is the nation's largest, nonprofit organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future and make smart academic and economic choices.

JA plans to expand into the middle and high school in the next couple of years. If you would like to help out in the classroom and make a difference in the lives of our Teller community's students – please contact Sherri L. Albertson at [sherri.albertson@ja.org](mailto:sherri.albertson@ja.org) or via phone at (719) 650-4089.



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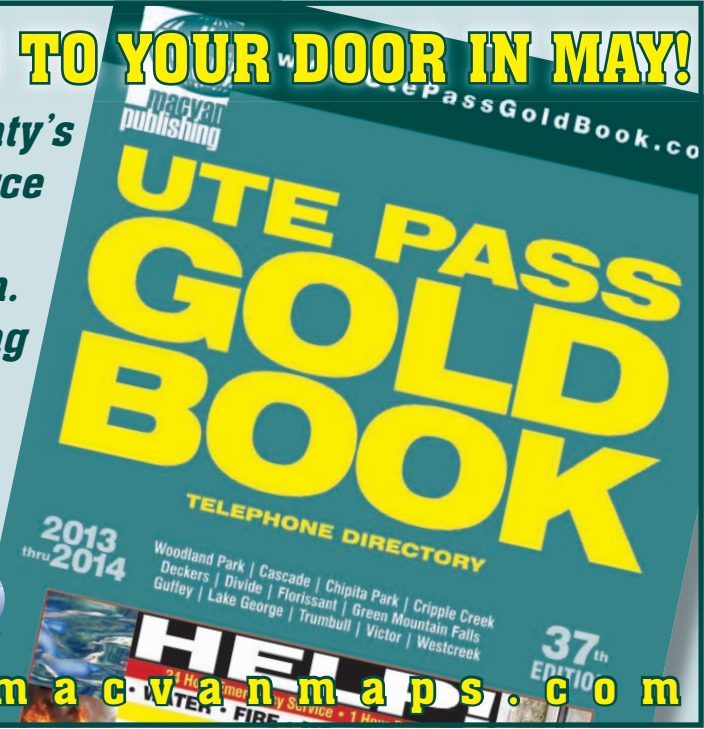
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## Ride of Silence

On May 15, 2013 at 6:00 PM, the Ride of Silence will begin in North America and roll across the globe. Cyclists will take to the roads in a silent procession to honor cyclists who have been killed or injured while cycling on public roadways. Although cyclists have a legal right to share the road with motorists, the motoring public often isn't aware of these rights, and sometimes not aware of the cyclists themselves.

Remember the movie classic "Herby"? It's the story of a Volkswagen bug that is able to communicate and do amazing things. He calls for help and all the other Volkswagen bugs from miles around come to his aid. No matter what their condition, no matter where they were going they turned around to help Herby. "That is my vision for the Ride of Silence," said Deborah Maresca of the Mountain Top Cycling Club.

"Every bicycle from miles around will come and support this event. Old, new, mountain, road, even hybrids can do this route. Cyclists of all ages are welcome. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.) What a great opportunity for parents to ride with their children. This event is free. We only ask that you wear a helmet and preregister at prerace.com by signing the waiver form.

In 2003, Chris Phelan organized the first Ride of Silence in Dallas after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was hit by the mirror of a passing bus and was killed. Some of the people being honored follow:

Jason Murphy 39 of Aurora, CO. Jason was an Aurora Firefighter that was riding his bike to work, and was hit as he was crossing in a crosswalk. Michael Joyal 46 of Larkspur, CO. was killed hit by a drunk driver and killed. Dick Warren 69 of Greeley, CO was hit head on as he rode on the shoulder of the road. Dan Peterson 31 of Denver, CO was killed by a hit and run driver. T.J. Doherty 32 of Boulder, CO. was hit at an intersection and killed. Kenneth Kienzle 58 of Lakewood, CO was killed by a hit and run. Kyle Keefe 49 of Canon City, CO was killed by a hit and run driver. Gelsigh Karl-Cannon 23 of Cherry Creek, CO was killed when she hit a curb and fell and then was hit by a passing truck.

The Ride of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph, wear helmets, follow the rules of the road

and remain silent during the ride. There are no registration fees. The ride, which is held during National Bike Month, aims to raise the awareness of motorists, police and city officials that cyclists have a legal right to the public roadways. The ride is also a chance to show respect for and honor the lives of those who have been killed or injured.

The Mountain Top Cycling Club has permitted with the City of Woodland Park for a slow paced, downhill, two mile police escort through Woodland Park. We will be inviting cyclists from all over to ride in Woodland Park on Wednesday May 15th. Riders can ride where ever they choose that day. The cyclists can park in the North east section of the Safeway parking lot and check in at Wild Wings for their ride material. They must be at the Staging area at 5:45PM for the 6PM police escort through town. The Staging area is at the

traffic light, at the bottom of the hill coming into Woodland Park, Hwy 24 and County Roads 231/25. They will be escorted through town to Aspen Garden Way into the Safeway parking lot. Wild Wings and Subway have agreed to provide a light snack.

The reception following will have guest speakers from the Colorado Springs Cycling Club, The 6202 Castle rock Cycling Club and many more. They will speak about the 5 steps to a safer ride.

1) Follow the rules of the road. 2) Be easy to see. 3) Be

predictable. 4) Think ahead 5) Ride ready. We will honor the eight people that were killed in Colorado in 2012. A short poem will be read and balloons released into the air. This is going to be a positive, informative demonstration. For more info call 719-687-2489.

To learn more about the Ride of Silence visit [rideofsilence.org](http://rideofsilence.org)

For a complete list of cyclists who have been killed by motorists visit [everybicyclistcounts.org](http://everybicyclistcounts.org)

The Mountain Top Cycling Club wants good leaders to help build the cycling opportunities in Teller County. Cyclists of all abilities are welcome, weather it is road or mountain biking we need your leadership to help support a growing desire to support rides in this area. Call Debbie if you have a desire to help promote cycling 719-687-2489. [www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com](http://www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com)



## Feeding wildlife is harmful and can bring costly fines

by Mike Porras

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are reminding the public about the negative consequences of feeding wildlife. The agency cautions that in addition to being harmful for the health of wild animals, it is illegal to feed deer, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, pronghorn, bears and elk in Colorado.

Wildlife belongs to the public and officials encourage everyone to be responsible and avoid feeding, harassing or approaching any wild animal. Violators may receive fines from communities where feeding violates local ordinances, or from wildlife officers enforcing state laws.

"Most people mean well and probably believe that they are helping wild animals by tossing them their snacks," said Ron Velarde, northwest regional manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "However, they are in fact causing more harm than good and we will do what we can to educate the public and discourage the practice, including issuing citations."

As bears awake from their seasonal slumber, Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials have begun their yearly effort to remind the public about the negative consequences of feeding bears, or leaving pet food, trash and other food attractants available to them.

According to state wildlife officials, bears, coyotes and other predators that become conditioned to human-provided food often seek the easy meals aggressively. These conflicts can result in fed animals having to be put down when they become a threat to human health and safety.

In addition, wildlife managers warn that large numbers of deer gathering around

human-provided food near homes can attract mountain lions to a neighborhood, putting people and pets at higher risk.

"That's just one of the more serious, unintended consequences of feeding wildlife," said Bill de Vergie, area wildlife manager in Meeker. "It's irresponsible to put your entire community at risk by attracting deer and other wildlife to residential areas."

A wild animal's natural diet can be difficult to duplicate added de Vergie, adding that people often provide them with food that is harmful to their digestive system, including candy and chips.

Another serious consequence of feeding deer, elk and other big game animals is that it congregates them in large groups, significantly increasing the possibility of spreading diseases such as chronic wasting disease that could eventually lead to higher mortality.

Some homeowners claim that they feed deer to prevent damage to landscaping and ornamental plants; however, the practice only attracts more deer and can result in increased damage to their yard, or their neighbor's yard. Wildlife managers recommend the use of barriers and other deterrents instead, including fencing or commercially available sprays.

To report incidents of feeding or other illegal wildlife activity, contact a local Colorado Parks and Wildlife officer. If you wish to remain anonymous, call Operation Game Thief toll-free at 877-265-6648.

For more information, please visit: [www.bit.ly/donotfeedwildlife](http://www.bit.ly/donotfeedwildlife)

To purchase a hunting or fishing license online, please visit: [www.bit.ly/cpwonlinelicenses](http://www.bit.ly/cpwonlinelicenses)



# Rampart Library District News

Dan Brown, international best-selling author of the “DaVinci Code,” will be talking about codes, symbols, and secrets through the miracle of “streaming” live from the Lincoln Center in New York. The program can be seen at both libraries in the district, Woodland Park Public Library and the Florissant Public Library on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 5:30 pm. Those who attend will be entered into a drawing to win a copy of Brown’s new book, “Inferno.” There will be a potluck dinner during the presentation at the Florissant branch so bring a dish to share; the library will furnish plates, flatware, napkins, and beverages.

A lot of things are happening at the Florissant Public Library and we are showing an increase in library visits. Come in and see what’s new and if you’re lucky, there will be home-made cookies on the circ desk! The Florissant Public Library is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-5 pm and Saturday, 10-2 pm.

Our new themed Storytimes have been popular with our youngest patrons in Florissant. In May, the themes are as follows: May 2nd-Moose, 9th-Mothers, 16th-Manners, 23rd-Messes, 30th-Magic. Storytime at the Florissant library is 10:30 am every Thursday.

One Book 4 Colorado is a state-wide program that puts books in the hands of children and helps inspire a culture of reading in their homes. Providing young children with access to books promotes early literacy and helps families serve as their children’s first and most important teachers. A free copy of this year’s book will be distributed in mid-May to 4 year old children in libraries across Colorado. Please contact either the Florissant or Woodland Park branch for more information.

The themes for this year’s Summer Reading program are “Dig into Reading” for preschool/elementary children, “Beneath the Surface” for young teens, and “Ground Breaking Reads” for adults. Registration for the Summer Reading program will begin on-line on May 24. Special programs and events will be posted at each library.

The Florissant Library will kick off the 2013 Summer Reading program with a Mother/Daughter “dress-up” Tea Party at 12:00 noon on Saturday, June 1. The program will include a presentation on tea party etiquette, “fashion show,” and a dance performance by the CornerStreet Dancers from Woodland Park. Reservations are required – please call the Florissant library at 748-3939.

Also this summer, the Florissant Library is forming a Drama Club for interested kids, ages 10 to 16. The Drama Club will meet weekly on Thursday afternoons at the library, building skills and rehearsing for a performance at the end of the summer (which will also be a fundraiser for the library). The play will be a work created

especially for the library Drama Club. We need kids who love to ham it up! Drama Club will have its first meeting June 6th. Please contact the Florissant library to sign up and for more information.

Book lovers may want to consider joining one of the District’s book clubs. The Florissant Book Worms meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Florissant Public Library at 10:30 am. On May 15 they will discuss Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand and on June 19, The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. WP Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Woodland Park Public Library. On May 7 they will discuss Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides and on June 4, the club is discussing Analyst by John Katzenbach. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions, in Florissant call Polly at 748-3939 and in Woodland Park call Rita at x132.

The Rampart Library District offers a variety of free computer classes in May. At the Florissant Library you can sign up for: Computer Basics-May 6, 9-10am; Word I-May 3, 9-11am; Word II-May 8, 9-11am; PowerPoint-May 17, 9-11am; Excel-May 24, 9-11am.

At the Woodland Park Library sign up for Computer Basics-May 3, 10-11am; Word I-May 1, 5-7pm; Word II-May 8, 5-7pm; Publisher-May 29, 5-7pm. To register at Florissant call 748-3939 and to register for a class at Woodland Park, call 687-9281, x106.

In other District news, the Woodland Park Public Library is hosting an AARP Driver Safety program on May 9, 9-1 pm. Pre-registration is required by calling 687-9281, option 1. On the same day at 10:15 am, also at the Woodland Park Library, Cathy Kelsay’s storytime will be “Fling, Fly & Jump,” magical Spring stories about silly ducks and frog. That same evening at 6:30 is a presentation by Dwight Haverkorn on Colorado’s first known serial killers—The Espinosa Brothers.

On May 23rd at 6:30 pm, the Woodland Park Library in partnership with the Pikes Peak Regional Hospital and Teller County Public Health will present “Deadly Dose.” The leading cause of accidental death in the United States is prescription painkiller overdose and misuse. Pikes Peak Regional Hospital and Teller County Public Health medical professionals will discuss the changing face of victims of overdose. Colorado has the second-worst rate of pain pill abuse and misuse according to a federal report boosting the urgency of various state efforts to curb rampant overuse of the pills. Opiate-based pills are highly addictive, and the mass increase in prescriptions opens them to misuse or theft by family members, addicts and dealers. Overdose deaths are rising in parallel with prescriptions. Call 687-9281 x132 for more information. Come to this potentially life-saving free program!

# Divide’s Little Chapel on the Hill Food Pantry News

The Little Chapel on the Hill Food Pantry would like to announce its First Annual Little Chapel Food Pantry Golf Tournament at Shining Mountain Golf Club on May 18th. Shotgun start is at 8:30am, using four person scramble format. The entry fee is \$100 per person, which includes golf cart and lunch. Space is limited so reserve early by calling 719-322-7610.

**We wish to extend our heartfelt THANKS to our banquet sponsors:**  
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The MANY individuals that wish to remain anonymous  
Thank you to our Silent Auction and Door Prize Donors who are listed on the silent auction bidding sheets and announced with the door prize drawing.  
Thank you to Steering Committee and our wonderful team of chefs and servers, without whom this banquet could not have happened.  
Special thank you to Miller’s Hideaway for the beautiful and delicious handmade chocolates on your tables!

**Our Food Pantry Distribution will be held on May 13th and 27th (yes, on Memorial Day) from 4:30pm-6:30pm.**

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# SALES ARE UP!

First quarter sales figures for single family homes in Teller County are showing a great increase from 2012’s first quarter. The total number of homes sold is 118, up 15%; and the median sales price is \$208,000, an increase of 17%; average sales price is up 22% to \$244,263. While we’re still not at our previous levels for value nor number of homes sold, this is an encouraging trend and I expect it to continue.

Due to the high volume of sales I’m experiencing, I’m looking for quality homes to sell in all price ranges. Call or email me to discuss how I can help you take advantage of our improving economy. This is the perfect time of year to get ready to put your home on the market!



LenoreHotchkiss.com



# Mueller State Park’s Spring Programs and Guided Hikes

by Michael Seraphin

Here is a list of upcoming programs at Mueller State Park. The weather may be waffling but spring is in season!! Pack your gear for spring weather and take a chance on your recreational activity of choice! Trails are open and accessible and campsites are available. Remember our cabins are available year-round.

When enjoying the outdoors in unpredictable weather, always have a map and be prepared with water, sun protection and be dressed in layers. All of our offered programs are free, but you must have a \$7 daily parks pass or a \$70 annual pass on your vehicle to enter the park.

For weather updates or for more information, call Mueller State Park at 719-687-2366.

Mueller State Park is located 4-miles south of Divide on Highway 67.

## Hiking for Fun and Fitness Hiking Series

May 4 and 18 at 10 am. Meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Put some ‘spring’ in your step with a Saturday morning hike! Volunteer naturalist Nancy Remmler will guide you on a series of hikes for the remainder of spring, every first and third Saturday of the month. Each hike will be determined by YOU! Bring your favorite hiking suggestions, sturdy, insulated and waterproof shoes/boots, layered winter clothing, sun protection, water, and snacks. Please come prepared for all types of conditions and weather, hikes will take place rain, snow or shine!

## Nature Hike: School Pond

May 5 at 1 pm. at School Pond Trail Head

See all that’s springing to life in Mueller State Park! Join volunteer naturalist Felicia Mendygral on a refreshing afternoon hike on School Pond Trail. Put a little spring in your step with the excitement of what’s blossoming, blooming and budding and keep your fingers crossed at the chance to see some of our wildlife beginning to wake up after a long, cold winter!

## Family Fun on Saturdays Wapiti Nature Trail Hiking Series

May 11, 18 and 25 at 1 pm. Meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Enjoy Saturday afternoon hike-fun for all ages! Volunteer naturalist Carole Larkey will lead hikes on the Saturdays listed above. The hikes will focus on an educational experience for the entire family. Meet at the Visitors Center to hike Wapiti Trail with stops at the learning stations. Afterwards, Carole will offer a longer hike for those who are interested in joining her on another trail; to be determined that day, based on interest and skill level. Bring your favorite hiking suggestions, sturdy, insulated and waterproof shoes/boots, layered winter clothing, sun protection, water, and snacks. Please come prepared for all

types of conditions and weather, hikes will take place rain, snow or shine!

## Geocache Clinic

May 11 at 8:30 am – 3 pm. at the Grouse Mountain Trailhead

Join volunteer naturalists Bob Hickey and Rose Banzhaf for a fun day-hike defined by geocache points! Sign up individually or as a team (2-4 people); all skill levels are welcome, but at least beginner skill level in the use of a GPS for field navigation is needed by one person per team. Each team of participants will find their geocache points in a particular order that defines their loop hike. The loops and points are designed to be hiked in 4.5 - 5+ miles and approximately 700 feet in elevation gain is possible depending on the assigned route. A Mueller State Park topographic map of the specific hiking area will be provided for each participant. Please bring your field navigational GPS (at least 1 per team), extra batteries for the GPS unit, pencil with eraser, snacks & lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes/boots, sunscreen, layered clothing and rain gear. Participants should be prepared for about a 6 hour day.

\*If you do not own a GPS, but have the skills and would like to participate, notify us in your RSVP and we may be able to accommodate you with a park-owned GPS.\*

Please RSVP/sign up by Thursday, May 9th if interested in attending. The clinic will be limited to 24 participants. Sign up with your name & email address, indicate your skill level and list whether or not you will be bringing your own GPS unit. Sign up can be done at the Visitor Center OR by calling or emailing Park Ranger Chelsea Murray @ 719-687-2366 ext.107, chelsea.murray@state.co.us. Upon signing up, more information will be emailed to you.

## Outdoor Skills Day

May 19 at 10 am. Start at the Visitor Center Parking Lot

Interested in brushing up on some outdoor skills? Perhaps you’d like to pick up a new hobby? Want to teach the kids about new outdoor activities? The Outdoor Skills Day at Mueller State Park is the perfect event for you! The day will be filled with stations of activities including: .22 rifle target shooting, archery, fishing, camping, shotgun & clay pigeons, hiking, geocaching and living & playing in bear country. All stations will be targeted at teaching (all ages) the basic skills in that particular activity! Stations will be cycling all day, until 2 pm.; feel free to pick & choose stations or attempt them all! The event is free, but you must have a \$7 daily parks pass or a \$70 annual pass on your vehicle to enter the park.

Look for more information coming soon! Also find information on the Mueller State Park website [www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/Mueller/Pages/MuellerHome.aspx](http://www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/Mueller/Pages/MuellerHome.aspx) and facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MuellerStateParkCo>.

# ~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

## CRIPPLE CREEK BUTTE THEATER

31 A Cripple Creek Cabaret - Gems of the Silver Screen. Join a few of your favorite TATC actors, Rebecca Myers, Kevin Pierce and Mel Moser, as they tell the little-known story of Rosemary and Leo - a star-crossed couple of...stars. The story is told using some of the most recognizable songs of the silver screen, with hits from the great films of the 30s, 40s and 50s. See [www.thinairtheatre.com](http://www.thinairtheatre.com) for more information.

## CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT MUSEUM

18-19 Opening of the Midland Terminal Museum

25 Museum opens daily 10am-5pm for the season through October 15th

## CRIPPLE CREEK GOLD BAR ROOM IMPERIAL HOTEL

18-19 Hank Cramer performance at 7pm. Tickets: show only \$15 advance or \$18 at door. Dinner/show tickets are \$25. Restaurant opens at 4:30pm. See [www.goldbartheater.com](http://www.goldbartheater.com) for more information.

24-25-26 GT Hurley performance at 7pm. Tickets: show only \$15 advance or \$18 at door. Dinner/show tickets are \$25. Restaurant opens at 4:30pm. See [www.goldbartheater.com](http://www.goldbartheater.com) for more information.

## DIVIDE

22 Your local Divide Chamber has a Business After Hours coming on May 22nd from 6-8pm. We will co-sponsor with Community Partnership who will host the event at their location in Divide, above McGinty’s. All are welcome.

## FLORISSANT

26 Thunderbird Inn hosts band One Eleven for great rock & roll music. Call 719-748-3968.

27 Horseshoe Tournament at Thunderbird Inn begins at 1pm. Call 719-748-3968 for more info.

## FLORISSANT GRANGE

11 “Living with bears and lions,” is an informative discussion by Division of Wildlife Volunteer Joe Kraudelt on safely living in our mountains with bears and mountain lions as well as other wildlife. There will also be information about buying and using bear spray. See you at the Florissant Grange (the old School House), May 11th from 10 am to noon. For more information call 748-0358.

18 “Spring Craft Show and Sale” will be at the Florissant Grange (the Old School House) from 9 am to 3 pm. This is a great place to find those one of a kind, hand-made items on your gift list, or to shop for those people who are very hard to shop for. Many crafters and vendors are on hand with wonderful gifts for house and home. See you there. For more information or to reserve a table, call 748-0358.

June1 “Annual Flea Market and Country Breakfast” will be at the Florissant Grange. The Annual Flea market only comes once a year, so bring your treasures to sell or come shopping and enjoy the BEST Country Breakfast in the area. Homemade sausage in the sausage gravy, with home-

made biscuits, scrambled eggs, fried hash brown potatoes, and bacon or build your own breakfast burrito. Breakfast will be served from 7 – 11am and the Flea Market will be from 7am to 3pm. For more information or to reserve your outdoor Flea Market spot, call 748-0358.

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

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

## GUFFEY S BULL MOOSE

4 Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. Super Chuck appearing with his Amigo & Amiga. Special food and beverage menu. Call 719-689-4199 for more info.

5 The Bull Moose is a proud supporter of the 9Health Fair from 7am-noon at Guffey Charter School.

7 First Moose Tuesday. Beginning May 7th the Bull Moose opens at 5pm the first Tuesday of every month with special menus and drinks. This month’s menu features Rocky Mountain Oysters.

## GUFFEY LIBRARY

28 The Quarterly Friends of the Guffey Library Meeting is Tues. May 28 beginning 11am at the Guffey Library. Everyone is Welcome. Contact the Library at 689-9280 for more information.

## HARTSEL

11 Harvest Center of Colorado Food Pantry has food distribution from noon to 1pm.

## JEFERSON

4 Cinco de Mayo at the Stage Stop Saloon, food and drink specials from 3pm-7pm. Call 719-836-1607 for more information.

## LAKE GEORGE

2 Lake George Charter School Soup’er Salad Art Show 4:15pm

9 Lake George Charter School Piano Recital 7pm

16 Lake George Charter School Spring Concert 6:30pm

## LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY CENTER HELP U CLUB

4 The Help U Club is having a Spring Bazaar 9am – 3pm. Featured artist, Charlotte Lee, crafters, bake sale, yard Sale and lunch. Come Help Us Help Our Community

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.

21 Gem Club Youth Program 6pm Lake George Community Center

## 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.

## WOODLAND PARK

7 Join the Mountain Top Cycling Club for our May 7th Meeting. Located at the Fiesta Mexicana Restaurant 420 W. Midland Ave. Woodland Park upstairs. 6 – 7pm is social time, meeting starts at 7pm. Erin Mirabella a Bronze Medalist in the 2004 Olympics will be our guest speaker. Erin will be sharing about recovery for training, racing and staying healthy. Ryan Shock will be on hand from Bicycle Village to share with the club about his bike shop. Bicycle Village is the bike shop of the month. Meetings are open to the public. Come socialize with fellow cyclists and enjoy the fun. Call Debbie for more information 719-687-2489 or visit <http://www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com/> for more information.

11 Kitchen & Homebrew Supply is having a Customer Appreciation Sale! Saturday May 11th from 10-5. As a thank you to our customers, we are having a free Hot Dog BBQ, Free Brewing Demo and Sale! 719-687-0557, [info@kitchenandhomebrewsupply.com](mailto:info@kitchenandhomebrewsupply.com)

11 TCRAS presents Wild Whiskers, our annual fundraising event to benefit the animals at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. There will be a live and silent auction with live music and dinner. Advance ticket purchase available at TCRAS for \$20 or for \$25 at the door the day of the event. Doors open at 5pm. Visit [www.tcras-colorado.com](http://www.tcras-colorado.com) for details.

Save the date! Woodland Park Farmers Market (23rd year) opens June 7, with over 80 vendors. Every Friday 7am - 1 pm through September 27, on Center Street and Henrietta in Woodland Park. For more info, contact Market Managers at [tcfma@q.com](mailto:tcfma@q.com), or phone: 719-689-3133. website: [www.woodlandparkfarmersmarket.com](http://www.woodlandparkfarmersmarket.com). Facebook: Woodland-Park-Farmers-Market. If anyone has a greenhouse, or hoophouse, or gets any surplus garden produce, feel free to contact us. We are also looking for cheese makers, fish sellers, flower sellers - anything like that.

31 Back by popular demand, Highway 24 will be playing at the Historic Ute Inn on Friday, with lead guitarist Cari Dell sitting in.

## DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER

12 Mother’s Day Celebration: Mom’s get in free with 1 paid adult or child admission from 10am-4pm.

18 Mother Goose visits DRC at 1:30pm. What’s Mother Goose up to now? She’s found a treasure load of books and puppets from the gift shop at the DRC and she’s spinning them into enchanted stories. Join the magical fun on Sat., May 18 at 1:30pm. Location: Dinosaur Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park, CO Website: <http://www.rmdrc.com>

## VICTOR

18 Sunnyside Cemetary Tour with Veldean Petri. Meet outside the gate in Pauper’s Field. Cost is \$10 per person. Sponsored by Victor Thoman Lowell Museum. Call 719-689-2675 for more information.

25 Mary Nevin Mine Tour. Meet at 9:30am at the Victor Thomas Lowell Museum. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 719-689-2675 for more information.

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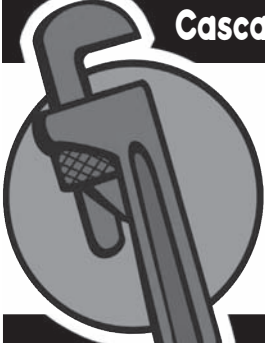
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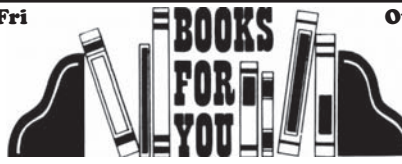
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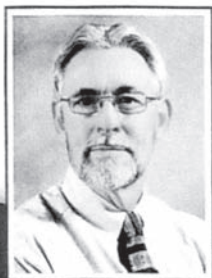
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