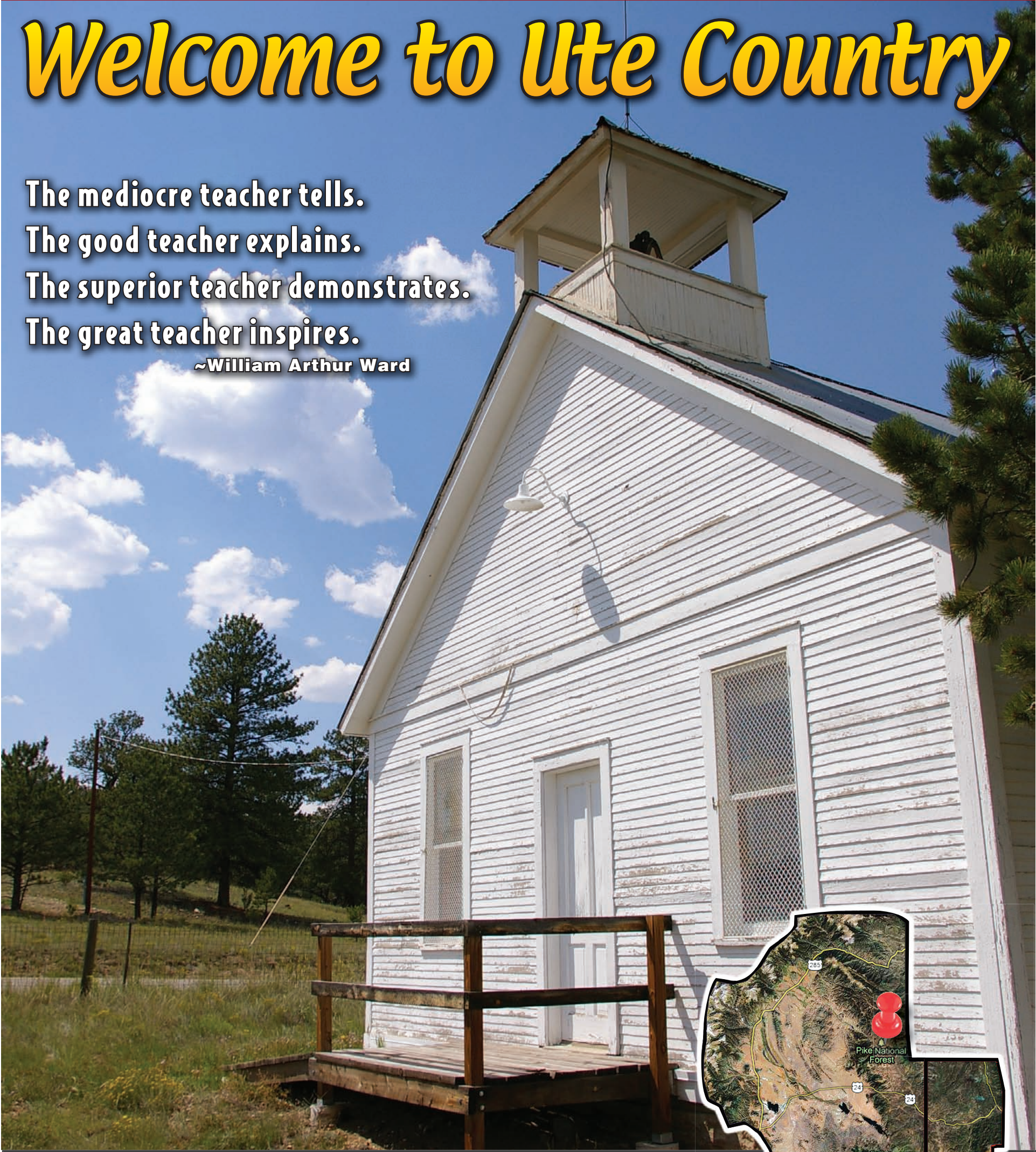


Welcome to Ute Country

The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.
~William Arthur Ward



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The summer is nearing its end and school is beginning as we head into September. The monsoons have helped to provide much needed moisture as drought continues. Much of the green we are enjoying will soon change color and we will welcome autumn.

We would like to welcome Linda Bjorklund, local author and history buff. She has written an article, "Memories of the Buckley Ranch" which you can enjoy on page three. Linda has a gift for hearing and telling a story. We are grateful she is willing to share her gift with our readers.

Over the past several issues, many readers have been asking for the location of the photo on our cover. We decided to add this to this On Deck section each month. The red pin on the map will continue to be a visual guide on the cover.

This month's cover is taken from the Tarryall School in the town of Tarryall on Hwy 77. The first school on the site was built in 1898 and replaced by this school in 1921. Classes were held from 1921 to 1949. The belfry tower was salvaged from the original building and used for this school. The building continues to serve as a gathering place for church services, funerals, weddings, and receptions.

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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A Gift for the arts

A profile of Joe Kain and the Ancestral Arts Trading Post and Gift Shop in Divide

by David Martinek
photos by David Martinek

To ignore one's ancestors is to be a tree without roots

— Lakota proverb

Joe (Chikala Matoch – or "Little Bear") Kain was adopted into the Lakota tribe of the Sioux Nation at Pine Ridge Reservation in 1961 at the age of eight. He is also a member of the Reenactment Guild of America. He started the Ancestral Arts Trading Post and Gift Shop in Divide in 2007 to provide the Ute Pass community with authentic Native American theme crafts, leather and feather items, textiles, jewelry, gems, rocks and crystals...and also hand-made flutes and peace pipes.

Fourteen years ago, after a career as a broadband hardware engineer, Joe decided to use his talents in a different way.

"When this place came up for rent in 2007, I decided to give it shot," he said.



Walk in the store and accept a warm greeting from Joe's brown chocolate Lab, Teddy.

Walk in the door as Native American music thumps from a speaker in the corner and accept a warm greeting from Joe's chocolate brown Lab, Teddy. Then look around. The shop is literally bulging with all kinds of craft work and gift items, many fashioned and created by Joe, himself, or other Navajo or Lakota artisans, such as the jewelry, drums and leather goods.



The Ancestral Arts Trading Post and Gift Shop is perhaps the only authentic Native American trading post in Teller County.

As one writer once commented, "Ancestral Arts offers an interlude from the frenetic pace generated by schedules and timelines."

The list of cultural pieces is quite extensive – bone, horn and buffalo items, camping and fishing gear, cotton and canvas bags, totes, blankets and serapes, feathery dream catchers, fudge, jams and jellies, handmade drums, herbs, jewelry, leather goods, Kachinas, knives and hatchets, metal art, metaphysical aids (chimes, crystals, gems, incense, points and spheres - to name a few), CD's of Native American music, peace pipes, Acoma pottery, powwow supplies, rattles, shirts and hats, smudging supplies, wooden items (bow and arrows, children's toys) and, of course, those wonderful red cedar flutes that Joe carves and often sits playing just outside his shop door.

Ancestral Arts is possibly the only authentic Native American trading post along Ute Pass, certainly in Teller County. Joe Kain's outlet has been the central place where folks can catch a glimpse of the lore behind the Indian legacy that existed in this region, as well as in the Dakotas and Southwest.

No, he won't take any smelly old beaver pelts or skunk hides, but (as he likes to joke) if you bring in money, he'll be happy to introduce you to his artistry and ingenuity and do



The display of Native American products and craft work is very extensive, much of it handmade by Joe or other Lakota or Navajo artisans.

business with you. He'll also be happy to help you rediscover those roots that make living in shadow of Pikes Peak so meaningful.

Shoppers can find Joe and his Ancestral Arts Trading Post and Gift Shop at 11115 West Highway 24 (at the traffic light at the intersection of Highway 24 and Colorado 67) on the corner next to the Venture grocery store in Divide. He also trades many items on eBay. Walk in today; you won't be disappointed.

For more information: Tel: 719-687-2278; Email: ancestralarts@juno.com.

"Sustainable Agriculture on a Small Scale"

The Annual Meeting of the Teller-Park Conservation District

The Teller-Park Conservation District will host its annual meeting on Saturday, September 28, from 10am – 2pm at the Stone Creek Farmstead in Divide, CO. This year's meeting topic is "Sustainable Agriculture on a Small Scale" and will feature a panel discussion followed by a question and answer session, along with half-hour sessions on topics that include:

- Cattle: From Raw Milk and Beef
- Chickens: From Eggs to the Crockpot
- Bees, Hives, and Honey
- Goats and Goat Products
- Growing Veggies, Hoop Gardening, and Worm Composting

This event is free. A "local" lunch will be served. RSVPs recommended by September 25. Call the Teller-Park Conservation

District at (719) 686-9405. The event will be held at the Stone Creek Farmstead, 4145 Omer Road, Divide, CO 80814.

The Teller-Park Conservation District invites Teller and Park County residents to attend and meet the neighbors who are making sustainable agriculture happen on a small scale. Families and children are welcome!

Sustainable agriculture on a small scale is not just backyard gardening—it's also raising farm critters while minimizing the use of chemical pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, and genetically modified seeds. All this, while conserving and preserving soil, water, and other natural resources!

Sustainable agriculture is producing food for personal use and sale to others. It's also a cottage industry that allows small-scale producers to create products we all need.

From meat and veggies, to milk, soap and eggs, sustainable agriculture is happening all over Teller and Park Counties.

Examples of sustainable agriculture on a small scale can include: honey, eggs, lotions & soaps, poultry, vegetables, goats, mushrooms, bison, preserves, raw milk, beef, cheese, pork, and more!

Education is a vital part of the Teller-Park Conservation District's mission. The Teller-Park Conservation District participates in local events and conducts workshops: talking to folks about conservation topics like range management, erosion control, water quality, and weeds & grasses. We also provide literature about environmental and conservation topics. Stop by our office at 800 Research Drive, Suite 100, Woodland Park, for more information.

Memories of the Buckley Ranch

by Linda Bjorklund

He nodded yes to "So you're a third generation Arthur Buckley," as he reflected on his family, who lived on what is known as the Buckley Ranch, not far from the town of Hartsel.

The story actually begins with Benjamin Spinney, who, born in 1838 in Waldo County, Maine, headed west and ended up in South Park in 1873 as he brought a herd of cattle with him and settled along the South Platte. Also, Jerome Harrington, who, born in 1835 in Niagara County, New York, headed west and started in the lumber business, then homesteaded in 1876 on 160 acres along the South Platte. Their cattle ranches were adjacent to one another.

Harrington had married Spinney's sister, Viola, in 1873, so it was a family affair.

Ben Spinney married Mary Rose in 1875, the same year he was elected Park County commissioner for a three year term.

Another local rancher, Harry Epperson, tells the story in his book "Colorado As I Saw It," about Ben, who had purchased some Southern heifers from a young cowboy, giving him a small down payment and then failing to pay the balance due. The cowboy, pressured by his mother, who was the actual owner of the heifers, had accused her son of selling the cattle and spending the money. Being a young but resourceful cowboy, he challenged rancher Ben for the money due him, brandishing some serious weaponry to show his intent to collect.

After tying Ben to a tree, the young man visited the Harrington home and declared that the proper payment for the heifers should be made within an allotted time to an address that he supplied, or Brother Ben would be no more.

A bitter debate ensued in the Harrington household whether Ben should be bailed out or not. The money was reluctantly sent on the last day indicated and Brother Ben was duly released.

Ben later told about his captivity; he survived on oatmeal, which he was allowed to eat either wet or dry. He declared that he could stomach neither option after the nine days during which that diet was imposed.

In 1879, Spinney and Harrington jointly installed a sawmill in their neighborhood to supplement their cattle ranching operations. They joined the rest of the ranchers in the area in building irrigation ditches to provide water for their hay crops, which were extremely profitable.



Main home from Buckley Family Collection

In 1893, Harrington purchased the Rickards property, 840 acres adjacent to his, which was later to become part of the Buckley Ranch.

Meanwhile, Spinney began to lay out a townsite. A plat was filed in the county clerk's office in 1894. The town of Spinney would have a two and a half story hotel, a good sized grocery and general merchandise store, in addition to several homes. The Colorado Midland railroad had a depot, a section house, and several other buildings in Spinney. The Midland began to feature wildflower excursions that took paying passengers to a stop known as Idlewild, where well-dressed ladies and gentlemen got off the train to fill their arms with colorful and fragrant blossoms as photographers took their pictures. The train would then proceed into Spinney and use the way that had been built there to turn around so they could head back to Colorado Springs.

Harrington and wife Viola were parents of three children: Jerome E. (affectionately known as Romie), who worked with his father on the ranch; Adelia (but went by

Ada), who went to Colorado College at Colorado Springs and then Iowa State University, finally graduating from Colorado Teacher's College; and Ralph, who would, after a number of misadventures, establish his own successful ranch.

Jerome Harrington, Sr., succumbed to ill health and passed away in 1899, leaving no will. By mutual consent of the heirs, however, the widow Viola retained one-half interest in the estate and the three children each inherited a one-sixth interest. Ada began teaching at the Hartsel School that same year. While she had been attending Iowa State, she had met Arthur Buckley. Born in Pennsylvania in 1877 (also the year of Ada's birth), Art grew up in Shelby, Iowa, and graduated from Iowa State in 1904 with a degree in electrical engineering. The couple corresponded for several years, then married in 1907 and came to South Park to take up ranching.

Ada purchased 2,640 acres of ranch land from her mother for \$8,550, which included



3rd generation Art Buckley fishing from Hartsel Bridge, circa 1960

the Rickards property that her father had bought in 1893. This then, became known as the Buckley Ranch. Art and Ada maintained a house in Colorado Springs and she lived there while he ran the ranch, except on weekends and summers until their children had completed school.

The story was later told by cowboy and ranch hand Duley Canterbury that the original house on the Buckley Ranch had first been built across the South Platte River. It was floated across the river and moved up the bank to its present location. Several additions to the building were made after the move.

Meanwhile, Ben Spinney had sold his ranch in 1906 to men who were leasing the property. In May of 1908 one short sentence in the local newspaper reported that Benjamin Spinney had "died last week at Rocky Ford."

South Park had avoided the violent wars that affected other parts of the west between cattle and sheep ranchers. Early on the ranchers had all gotten together and agreed on the establishment of boundary lines between the sheep and cattle ranges.

By 1915 the cattle business was being supplemented and finally replaced by the sheep business at the Buckley Ranch. Ada, a competent business woman in her own right, continued to raise a few cattle for "pin money."

The Buckley Ranch continued to raise sheep. Mexican workers from Taos, New Mexico, were hired to assist with the lambing, shepherding and shearing in the spring and summer. The workers would use burros to take the sheep up to higher elevations in June then return with them in the fall.

In July of 1923, a Mexican sheep herder working for the Buckleys was the victim of a tragic accident. He was riding a horse, showing the rest of the herders the easiest path to drive the sheep, when he came upon a power line that was sagging low because the nearby power pole had fallen. As the herder passed under the line he must have tried to push it out of the way and was met with a shock that carried the full voltage of the line. The horse he was riding was instantly killed. He was rushed to the Salida



Art Buckley outside the ranch. Photo by Linda Bjorklund

Hospital by members of the Power Company, but died the next day.

In 1931, daughter Viola Buckley married Murray Peterson and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1941, Arthur "Bud" Buckley, enlisted in the navy during World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945 and brought his wife Maybelle to live at the Buckley Ranch, to help his parents.

In 1949, two of the cabins from the Buckley Ranch were moved into the town of Hartsel and joined together to make a new home for the elderly Art Buckleys. They had sold their ranch to R. M. McDannald, a Texas oilman who had also purchased the holdings that included the Hartsel, Spinney, and Harrington Ranches. The Buckley Ranch headquarters are now owned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The buildings are all boarded up, but there is a parking area for fisherman to use as they practice their angling in the South Fork of the South Platte River.

The third generation Art Buckley, son of "Bud" and Maybelle, fondly remembers his grandmother Ada, who told him stories of the Indians that used to live in the area. She told of being hidden in a closet as a young girl when an Indian attack was feared. She told him about the hill behind the Harrington house that was reputed to be the site of a Ute-Arapahoe battle. Her stories were given credence when a crew of workers who were hauling rock from the old Harrington Place in 1954 discovered a skeleton buried in a deep cleft of the rocks. Specialists at the State Museum in Denver retrieved the skeleton and declared it to be that of a Ute Indian girl about sixteen years of age, whose death was approximately 75 years before.

Art remembers coming to visit his grandparents in Hartsel in the 1950s and climbing with his brother Jay up the hill in back of the Hartsel Hotel to mischievously throw rocks down onto the hotel roof. He remembers fishing off the bridge that used to span the river between the old Hartsel Depot and the Hot Springs Bath House.

He remembers the story told by family members that all of the homes in the area were built with two stories so that a light could be put in the second story windows. When family looked out toward the neighboring houses and didn't see a light; that meant they should saddle a horse and ride over to make sure there was nothing wrong.

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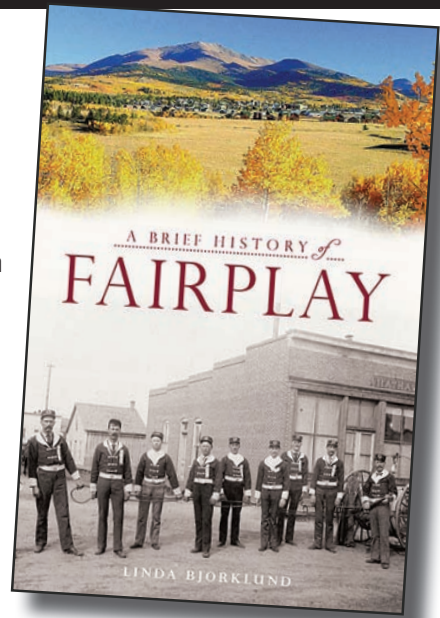
Map showing location on HWY 24 near Weaverville Rd.

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Hardcopy is available at both the Museum and the Ranger Station in Fairplay.



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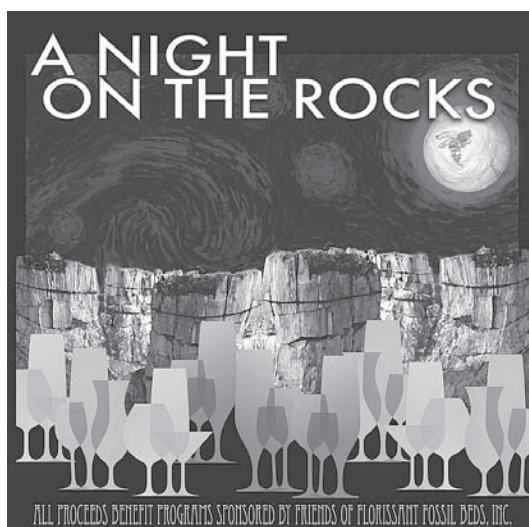
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Florissant Fossil Beds hold wine and beer tasting

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds will be holding a Wine and Beer Tasting fundraiser on Friday, September 20th at the Norris Penrose Center in Colorado Springs. Live music, a professional emcee, both silent and live auctions will be held from 6 to 10 pm.

Tickets are sold from the Friends' website for \$35 per person at www.fossilbeds.org. With excellent wines from Sovereignty Wines, beer from Bristol Brewing Company, other premium beers from Rocky Mountain Distributors and food from Summit Catering, participants will get more than their money's worth!

ALL proceeds from ticket sales and auctions will benefit programs the Friends sponsor at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument-your nearest national park. Programs include the Post to Parks programs for warriors stationed at local bases as well as wounded and fallen warriors' families. The Junior Ranger programs help



local youth gain an appreciation for the great outdoors. Our local park has been a national leader for these programs. The fundraiser is made possible by a generous grant from USFalcon, Inc.

Guffey School

Playgroup 2013-2014

Guffey Community Charter School will be hosting a Playgroup on Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4pm throughout the school year. The program is designed for children birth through the age of 5 and their parents or caregivers. Playgroup is free and is made possible by funds from the Resource Exchange. The program will be held in the school's preschool room and will start on September 3rd. This program has an open invitation throughout the school year.

The goals of the school sponsored playgroup are as follows:

- To build a partnership between the school and family.
- To provide a nurturing, culturally sensitive, respectful environment in which to learn.

- To continue building a foundation for future learning.
- To foster a sense of curiosity, creativity, and self-esteem by providing children opportunities to make choices and decisions.

Please call the school if you are interested in this program 719-689-2093.

Preschool

Guffey School is happy to provide a Preschool Program for 2013-2014 school year. We need five students minimum in order for the program to be offered. If there are enough, the program will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, from 1:30 to 4pm. Tuition is \$75 per month. Please call 719-689-2093 for more information or to register.

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12 steps to getting off processed food

by Carol Grieve

Over the past several months I have written articles on GMOs, gluten, excitotoxins, soy, sugar and how to build your immune system (see www.utecountrynews.com for past articles). This month I want to focus on helping you eliminate processed food from your diet. I have included some steps that you can take weekly to tackle this challenge. I know you can do this and I also know your body, mind and spirit will thank you. You will feel different, think more clearly and you might even shed a few pounds. Let's get started:

Week One: Fruits and Vegetables –

Add two different fruits or vegetables (preferably organic) with every meal.

Week Two: Meat –

All meat you eat this week will be locally raised (within 100 miles from your home). Preferably this meat will be grass fed or at the very least no antibiotics or hormones.

Week Three: Drink Real Beverages –

Beverages will be limited to coffee, tea, water, and milk (only naturally sweetened with a little honey or 100% pure maple syrup). Milk should be organic or raw if you can get it. One cup of juice will be allowed throughout the week, and wine (preferably red) will be allowed in moderation.

Week Four: No Fast Food or Deep Fried Food –

No fast food or any foods that have been deep-fried in oil.

Week Five: No low-fat, lite or nonfat food products –

Do not eat any food products that are labelled as "low-fat," "lite," "light," "reduced fat," or "nonfat."

Week Six: No refined sweeteners –

No refined or artificial sweeteners including (but not limited to): white sugar, brown sugar, raw sugar, sucralose, splenda, agave, corn syrup, high-fructose corn syrup, brown rice syrup, and cane juice. Foods and beverages can only be sweetened with a moderate amount of honey, stevia or maple syrup.

Week Seven: No refined oils –

No refined or hydrogenated oils including (but not limited to): vegetable oil, organic vegetable oil, soybean oil, corn oil, canola oil,

organic canola oil, margarine, and grape seed oil. Use only "true" extra virgin olive oil (see www.truthinoliveoil.com) or pasture butter.

Week Eight: Eat Locally Grown Food –

Eat at least 1 locally grown or raised food at each meal. This includes, but is not limited to: fruits, vegetables, eggs, grains, nuts, meats, and sweeteners like honey.

Week Nine: Try two new whole foods –

Try a minimum of two new whole foods that you've never had before. Whole foods are foods with just one ingredient that are not comprised of a combination of food--in other words something that is a real food!

Week Ten: Nothing artificial –

Avoid all artificial ingredients including, but not limited to: sweeteners, flavors and colors.

Week Eleven: No more than 5-ingredients –

Avoid any and all packaged food products which contain more than five ingredients no matter what.

Week Twelve: Stop eating when you feel full –

Listen to your internal cues and stop eating when you feel full.

It's important to know where your food comes from. Teach your children and enjoy the local farmer's market while you can!

If you follow these steps and incorporate these steps into your every day eating habits, you will no longer even want processed, sugar-laden foods that virtually have no nutritional value and do cause disease. Here's to your health and to your quality of life! Be well.

Carol Grieve is a Certified Life Coach and Health and Wellness Coach. She is the host of an internet talk radio show, Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org). If you are interested in learning more about various food topics that affect your health and the quality of your life, please subscribe to www.foodintegritynow.org to receive information on issues that are relevant to your health. There are over 100 shows on the website with some of the best food experts in the world. For more information on emotional or health-related issues or for food and wellness coaching, contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org or call 415-302-7100. Skype and phone sessions are available.

Annual Rock and Mineral Show

by Maurice Wells

Photos by Maurice Wells

It's a beautiful white chunk of mineral about 6 inches long and 5 inches high covered with hundreds of pointed spines which sparkle in the sunlight. At night, if held under a "black light" it glows or fluoresces a bright green. It's a piece of Aragonite calcite from Mexico. A piece of smoky quartz 4 feet 3 inches high and weighing 349 pounds was on its last public display before being donated to the Colorado School of Mines by



Smoky quartz crystal



Aragonite calcite

its finder, Richard Fretterd.

These are just two points of interest that visitors saw at the Annual Lake George Rock and Mineral Show on August 16-18. Vendors from the local area and as far away as Wyoming displayed hundreds of specimens, many of which had been made into wearable jewelry.

This is 14th year the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club have sponsored the event. Proceeds from the activity are used for scholarships for students who plan on studies in Earth Science.

Mark your 2014 calendar for the third weekend in August. This event is not to be missed!



Carol Grieve



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Pastor Trish and Bill Sinclair

Mountain Top Cycling Club news

By Deborah Maresca

September Meeting

September 3rd the Mountain Top Cycling Club will have its monthly meeting at Carmen's, A Tapas Grill and Bar located at 609 West Midland Avenue, Woodland Park, CO, next to the movie theater. Social time begins at 6pm. If you would like to see the menu please visit www.carmen-tapas.com. The meeting will start at 7pm. The guest Speaker will be Mr. Norm Steen; Mr. Steen is a Teller County Commissioner. Mr. Steen's topics will be "Learn how bike trails and other transportation infrastructure are funded; what has been successful elsewhere; followed by a talk about the Mountain Top Cycling Clubs interest in developing and supporting plans to get outside funding for new construction and upgrade of bike trails."

Angele Komer from CASA of The Pikes Peak Region will be speaking with the club. Cafe Velo will be the feature bike shop of the month; a new, family-owned bike shop on the north side of Colorado Springs. Club Cafe Velo is a non-profit affiliated with the shop which benefits local youth cycling and triathlon. CCV organized the inaugural Cafe Velo Gran Fondo in Monument in early May. They also sponsor the Tri-Lakes time trial, and weekly group rides and runs. They just launched their women's ride series, a women-only ride which runs twice a month. Mountain Top Cycling Club meetings are always open to the public.



2012 Ice Cream Social 39 riders received ice cream in 2012.



Check presentation to Teller County Search & Rescue (from left to right): Treasurer Ed Kelsay, VP Gayle Humm, Pres Mike Smith, Secretary Scheila Watson, Deborah Maresca, VP Rob Watson.

Second Annual Ice Cream Social

September 8th at 1pm the Mountain Top Cycling Club will be hosting its Second Annual Ice Cream Social. We will meet at Mtn. Scoops Ice Cream parlor (Located by the Movie Theater in Gold Hill Plaza). What a great chance to ride together as a family. Be ready to ride by 1 pm. Last year the kids loved the fact that they rode with their family as much as they loved the free ice cream. This is a free event and open to the public.

Everyone will have to initial the waiver form before riding. The ride will be down Centennial Trail to Manitou Lake and back. The ride is about 15 miles round trip. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We will give a free coupon to every rider for

a single serving of ice cream. Helmets are required. Call Debbie if you have any questions. 719-687-2489.

Donation to Teller County Search and Rescue

The Mountain Top Cycling Club presented a check to the Teller County Search and Rescue Unit for \$500.00, on August 5th during their monthly meeting. The Mountain Top Cycling Club wanted to thank Search and Rescue for all of their volunteer help with the May 2013 Ride of Silence and with the June 2013 Experience Ride. The Search and Rescue volunteers were so great to the cyclists, making them feel special, appreciated and respected. It was not much but we wanted to show our appreciation.

Help solve 1890's murder in Victor

Step back in time and help solve the mystery in Victor, Colorado. It's the 1890s and a railroad engineer from the Midland Terminal Railroad has gone missing. What was the cause? Who was at fault? If you like a good mystery, come help solve the puzzle.

"Midland on the Terminal", a murder mystery set in historic Victor will be produced Oct. 19 as a fundraiser for the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. The noted Colorado Springs Red Herring Productions will come to town and lead participants through a labyrinth of clues to solve the mystery.

The mystery will take place over a day of investigations and fact-finding, as well as some good old-time western fun. The cost is \$45 per person for the event; lodging is additional. The event will be based at the historic Gold Coin Club with clues being hidden around several Victor locations, so it is the perfect excuse to visit the businesses and establishments in this 1890's gold mining town.

The weekend includes a Saturday morning introduction at 9 am, meeting the actors and meeting the other characters in the mystery. Saturday will be spent exploring Victor for clues and evidence. Saturday night a western BBQ dinner with home cooked food will be served at the Gold Coin, an 1899 former athletic club built by the founders of Victor. After dinner, participants will put their heads and clues together to solve the mystery.

If you want stay close to the event, which will provide the best experience, find lodging in Victor at the Victor Hotel or Olympia Hotel, which is adjacent to the Victor Hotel.

The event is hosted by the museum and will help fund its building renovation efforts. Sponsors include the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company and the Victor Hotel.

Advance reservations are required by 5 pm Oct. 1. Please see VictorColorado.com to make online reservations and find details about how the weekend works and how to reserve your role.

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Lake George Cemetery Walk

by Maurice Wells

photo by Maurice Wells

On Saturday, September 7, local historian, Steve Plutt, will present two tours of the Lake George Cemetery. The times are 10 am and 2 pm with an \$8 charge per person.

The funds from the tours will go to establish a special memorial for railroad workers killed in a construction accident and buried in the cemetery in the 1800's when the railroad was being built in the Eleven Mile Canyon region.

Four different stops are planned during the tours at which time talks will be presented about Park County pioneers, Civil War veterans, immigrants and general Lake George history. Comfortable shoes are recommended and a folding chair may be wise for those who cannot stand for extended periods.

Light refreshments and drinks will be provided by the Cemetery Board.



Lake George Cemetery entrance



Florissant Library's Summer Drama Club puts on the best melodrama in Teller County.

"Cowgirl Cookie..." Best melodrama to hit Florissant

by Kathy Hansen

photos by Jeff Hansen

The Florissant Grange was packed on Friday, August 16th as the play "Cowgirl Cookie and the Case of the Missing Chocolate Chips" was presented by the Florissant Library's Summer Drama Club. The play was wittily written by Alexi Alfieri, who also led the group of 25 local youth, ages 10 to 16.

This amusing play was well written with lots of rib-tickling puns and witty names, and of course many shameless plugs for the library. The audience remained engaged by the sign holders and the entertaining script. The cast was very well rehearsed, and able to project their voices into the crowd; they clearly had fun performing. The costumes and backdrop set the stage nicely for the timing of the plot. An enjoyable time was had by all!

You know something has touched you when you are still thinking of it the next day. We had attended the Tractor Pull in Lake George and met Sherry Kraudelt, grandmother to eight year old Seth, who is visiting for a while. We mentioned the play and Seth said, "I was there! It was hilarious!" as he slapped his knee and let out a laugh.

We can only hope that Alexi Alfieri will be willing to write another play next year.



Seth said of the play "It was hilarious!"

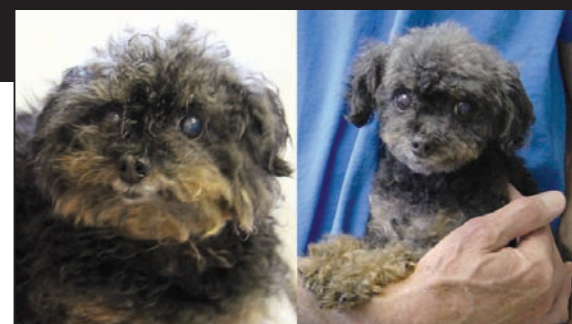
It certainly would be something to look forward to.

Publisher's note to Seth: We truly enjoyed meeting you. What an impressive, assertive, and interesting young boy you are! We will remember your special laugh and wish you all the best!

Adopt Me Einstein

by TCRAS

I am a special little old man who has lost his home. I am hoping someone will look past my age and see I am still full of love! I am a little hard of hearing and don't see that well so it will take me a little longer to get used to my surroundings. I still act like a young whipper snapper when I see you or hear you coming home. I am a great lap dog and could use some regular grooming once in a while but other than that I just need love food and water! As you can see from my before and after picture, I am quite the handsome little guy after a good grooming! Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! www.tcrascolorado.com



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All Real Estate is Local

I'm one of approximately 3300 real estate brokers who participate in a national survey from the National Association of REALTORS, providing details on transactions I've closed each month. Detailed reports are then provided and it's interesting to note that while all real estate is local, we're seeing some of the same trends in Teller County. Confidence is high with buyers, sellers are seeing some increases in value and lenders still have high levels of risk aversion. From the recent study:

- 29% of the sales are first time buyers
- 16% of the sales are investors
- 15% are distressed sales, which is down
- 37% of the mortgages have a down payment of 20% or more

Thus, even without 20% down payment plenty of buyers are able to purchase a new home and the slow down in distressed sales (bank owned and short sales) will help with the value of our homes.

The fall in Teller County is one of our busiest times in real estate - call me if you'd like to discuss the sale of your home!

LenoreHotchkiss.com



On the backs of iron horses *The history of the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad* by David Martinek

It was July 1, 1894. The sun seemed to sparkle brighter than usual and the air tingled with excitement. Flags decked Cripple Creek from Poverty Gulch to Freeman’s Placer, from Old Town to the flat above the Broken Box ranch. A celebration had been planned that promised to make even the Glorious Fourth pale in significance. For it was the day that the first train was due to pull around Gold Hill into camp.

That is how Mabel Barbee Lee, author of Cripple Creek Days, described the first train to reach Cripple Creek on a sunny July day more than 119 years ago. In fact, the city celebrated two mid-summer holidays that year with fireworks, brass bands and parades. True enough; the first celebration was probably more meaningful than the second. Because the first train to reach Cripple Creek, the narrow gauge Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad (the “F&CC”), meant that the life blood of the gold camp could be hauled down to the mills in Florence or Pueblo. They could put their wagons away; the world had come to their door.



The steel bridge is the only remaining landmark structure of the F&CC and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places. (Photo by David Martinek)

New there is some confusion on just when the first train really reached the gold camp. In Barbara McClellan’s book, A Colorado Short Line Railroad - The Florence and Cripple Creek, she wrote that, “a railroad engine whistled its impending arrival... on June 30, 1894.” Perhaps she was talking about another location in the district, not Cripple Creek proper. The F&CC had its main depot just northwest of Victor which overlooked the entire district. It is possible that’s what she meant. Then, too, a

freight or construction train may have arrived earlier. At least one other source lists the “first” train arriving on May 27.

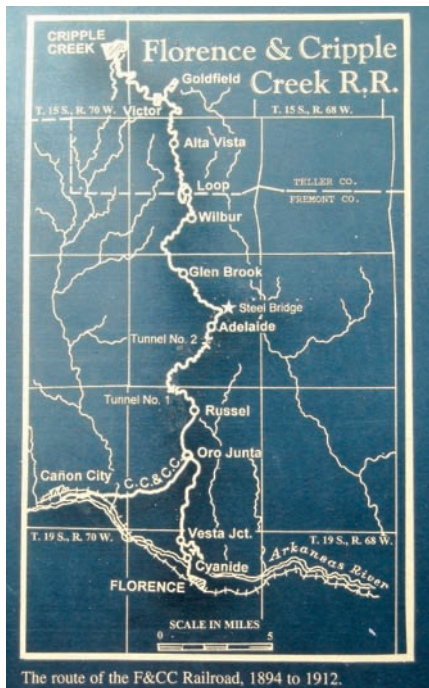
All references may be true. But regardless of the exact date, it was the F&CC that first reached Victor and Cripple Creek 18 months ahead of the Midland Terminal that was still languishing in Gillett. Coming up some 42 miles from the banks of the Arkansas River in Florence through Phantom Canyon, the railroad changed the lives of just about everyone.

The “official” arrival was celebrated on July 1. Later, during the Fourth of July

became president), Eben Smith and James A. McCandless, as well others from Denver and Leadville. David C. Moffett was not an incorporator, but Morris Cafky (in Rails Around Gold Hill) lists him as the prime mover behind the project. Their plan, no doubt motivated by a natural connection with the Denver & Rio Grande and to compete with the Colorado Midland’s Midland Terminal adventure, was to build a 40-mile narrow gauge line from Florence up through the extremely rugged terrain of Phantom Canyon – a geological rift carved by Eight-Mile Creek and so deep and crooked that it would make an eagle dizzy to look down on it. The proposed route rose over a mile in elevation from Florence (at 5,187 feet) to Altman at over 10,000 feet.

The race with the Midland Terminal coming from Divide was a “race of iron horses,” as one writer of the day put it. Both lines essentially began construction in 1893 and both faced unique obstacles and had difficult terrain to navigate. Both suffered tremendous delays – gravel slides and cave-ins, burnt trestles, flash floods cascading down the widening channel of Eight-Mile Creek, blizzards, howling winds and snow drifts, numerous bridges to build and a few tunnels to bore. While the foothills of Pikes Peak presented some dramatic challenges to the Midland Terminal, the deep crevices of Phantom Canyon made others feel that an F&CC train just couldn’t squeeze through them. As one story exclaimed in the 1903 New Years edition of the *Cripple Morning Times*, “Look at that deep crack! They call it The Narrows. Why, a sunbeam is too broad to get through there, but you can see light beyond it; and – Oh Heavens! They are actually going to try to drag the train through that crooked crack – mercy, we’ll all be crushed!” The Narrows were so narrow that the confining cliffs forced the road at one point to round one of the bends on a trestle built out over the watercourse of the creek.

Starting from Florence’s union station, the F&CC tracks crossed the Arkansas River on level grade and then started a slight incline towards Cyanide where a great metallic extraction plant existed. Continuing through rolling prairie the road inched still upward toward Oro Junta where, by 1900, the short Canon City and Cripple Creek Railroad connected and merged with the F&CC main line. Beyond Oro Junta was Russell, and beyond Russell were two tunnels marking *the mouth of the narrow, abyssal canyon* leading to Adelaide. Just north of Adelaide was a long steel bridge which was built in 1897 to replace the original wooden trestle that was destroyed by fire only a couple years after the railroad began operating. The steel bridge is the only remaining edifice from that time, save the two tunnels, and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places. It can be seen along the Phantom Canyon Road.



Speeding on, a train would cross bare, grassless gravel, the dry wash of Eight-Mile Creek – dry as the Pyramids until the rush of winter snow melt or a heavy summer thunderstorm turned it into a destructive, raging torrent. Further north the tracks looped around themselves above Wilbur at just about the boundary between Teller and Fremont Counties – a spot called Rocky Point. From there, though the climb was steep (about a four percent grade), the canyon widened out



The Portland can be seen at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, CO. (Photo from the Denver Public Library)

into a more picturesque narrow valley with soil and shrubbery until Alta Vista and the smoky chimneys of Victor came into view.

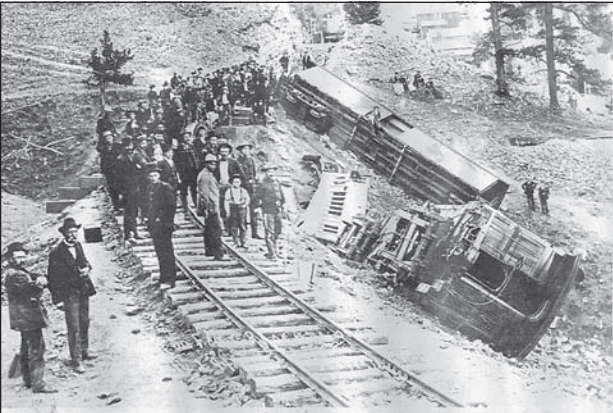
“But here we are at Alta Vista (High View),” writes the *Cripple Morning Times* author, “where we obtain our first glimpse of the great Cripple Creek gold mining district.”

As the tracks wound their way to Victor, around and north of Bull Hill and though Goldfield and Independence, they linked with the Golden Circle Railroad (opened for traffic in 1896), an interurban narrow gauge subsidiary of the F&CC, and proceeded on to the highest point in the district at Altman - *in sight of most everything within a radius of a hundred miles*. The Florence and Cripple Creek’s main terminal in the district, a *pretty station* called the Vista Grande, was at Altman, once the *highest incorporated town on the face of the globe*. A branch line continued from there around Gold Hill into Cripple Creek.

From the summit at Altman the golden hills of the district were in full view – *Battle Mountain, Squaw Mountain, Bull Hill, Raven Hill, Gold Hill, Beacon Hill, Globe Hill and Tenderfoot Hill, all dotted over with bustling towns and flecked with the dumps of mining pits*. Beyond these was Pikes Peak, 25 miles away.

Known as “The Gold Belt Line,” (and also the “String Line” – because its winding route resembled a dropped string) at the peak of its operation the F&CC operated three passenger trains daily between the district and Florence, connecting with the Denver and Rio Grande running west from Pueblo. Overnight Pullman service was also available to Denver. Numerous trains ran between Cripple Creek and Victor each day, and the Golden Circle line reached out from Victor to the surrounding rich mining fields for the ore shipments, passing through Goldfield and around Battle Mountain to a point on Bull hill. At one time, the F&CC laid claim to over 300 freight cars and 16 passenger coaches. It’s Baldwin and Schenectady locomotives were named for individuals, gold mines and local landmarks – names like: the *Victor* (the number one engine), the *Cripple Creek, Elkton, Anaconda, the W. S. Stratton, Goldfield, Portland, Vindicator, Strong, Gold Coin* and the *Last Dollar*.

During the first 18 months of operation, the F&CC was extremely successful, earning enough to pay for itself and recover all its construction costs – becoming for a short time one



Returning to Florence on July 2, 1894, the after its initial arrival in Cripple Creek, several passenger cars derailed on a sharp bend near Anaconda. One person was killed and more were injured. After this in auspicious start, the F&CC went on to be extremely profitable, at least during the first year. (Photo from the Denver Public Library)

of the most profitable railroads in Colorado. But once the Midland Terminal arrived in December 1895, along with the Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District Railroad (the “Short Line”) some time later, both standard gauge, the F&CC never made a profit again.

By the early 1900s, the F&CC was in serious financial trouble, having been taken over by the Denver and Southwestern Railway



The Narrows. The confining cliffs forced the tracks at one point to round one of the bends on a trestle bridge out over the creek. (Photo from the Denver Public Library)

Company in 1899. Around 1903, it merged with other its competitors in the area under the Cripple Creek Central Holding Company which was locally owned.

Suffering from constant flash floods in Phantom Canyon which washed out track and bridges regularly, the railroad’s maintenance costs were exorbitant. With the Colorado Springs area slowly replacing Florence as a milling capital, ore shipments on the F&CC dwindled. So when five miles of track and over a dozen bridges along the railroad’s right-of-way were washed away by a 30-foot wall of water in a July 1912 flood, the new owners decided to abandon the line rather than rebuild it, in spite of a lawsuit by Canon City. This decision effectively forced the closure of the mills at Florence. Several of the towns along the Phantom Canyon route were also abandoned.

At the end, their well kept consolidation freight locomotives and ten-wheeler passenger engines were quickly sold to other narrow gauge lines, and the tracks and bridges (save one) were eventually dismantled. However, the Golden Circle Railroad, which inherited some of the F&CC’s track, continued to operate its commuter service within the district for several more years. The old F&CC railroad grade was opened to automobile traffic as “Phantom Canyon Highway” in 1915.

Looking back on that sunny July 1st day in 1894 when the first F&CC passenger train rolled into Cripple Creek, the Honorable J. B. Orman, of Orman and Crook, the contracting builders of the road, told the gathered crowd that he “never had constructed a line that opened up better country or was of greater commercial importance than this.” Surely he was right. For it was the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad that first linked the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining District with the world – on bands of steel, and on the backs of iron horses.

Sources: Passages and quotes: the 1903 New Years edition of the *Cripple Creek Morning Times*, *Cripple Creek Days* by Mable Barbee Lee and *A Colorado Short Line Railroad – The Florence and Cripple Creek* by Barbara McClellan; Reference: *Cripple Creek Railroads – A Quick History of the Great Gold Camp Railroads* by Leland Feitz; *Rails Around Gold Hill* by Morris Cafky; *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado* by Robert Ormes; Rootsweb; Wikipedia; the Bureau of Land Management; Photos from the Denver Public Library and Archives Net.

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Youth Writing Contest

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UTE COUNTRY NEWS

We will be hosting a writing contest for the issues of October 2013 through June of 2014. It is open to high school seniors, home school, and GED equivalent students. There will be cash prizes for first, second and third place each month. Plus, the top three winning entries will appear in the Ute Country News each month.

Rules:

- Contest is open to any high school senior, any home-schooled student at the high school level, and to GED-test-eligible student aged 19 or less.
- Entrant must be a resident of Teller or Park County.
- Only one submission per individual per month.
- Entry must be typed in Word or pdf format.
- Entry to be submitted to publisher via email (utecountrynews@gmail.com) or website (www.utecountrynews.com) by midnight of the 15th of the month to be considered for the following months contest.
- Entry length to be no longer than 1500 words.
- Entry must be an original work, never before published.
- Subject matter to have relevance to Teller or Park County (person, place, historical event, plant, animal, mineral, geographical, river, mountain, etc.).
- Submission must include contact information: name, address, email, and phone.
- Subject matter can be fiction, non-fiction, journalism, memoir, poetry, or creative writing.
- Photographs or graphics included are publisher's option to include and will bear no relevance on scoring.
- All submissions become the intellectual property of the Ute Country News upon receipt.
- Any student below the age of 18, as of the date of the submission, must have a parent or guardian's release giving permission to the Ute Country News to use the student's personally identifiable information (name, address, age, etc.) in the contest.

Parameters for scoring:

- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence/paragraph structure.
- School appropriate subject matter and language.
- Organization and logic: the story develops, pieces fit, and it makes sense.
- Topic development: definitions, clarity, knowl-

- edge of subject matter.
- Flow – does the piece move fluidly, include segue for transitions, sub-headlines, or marks to let reader know we're going someplace different.
- Was it interesting? Yes, this one is subjective.
- Originality and creativity – something new or it can be a new spin on an old topic, creative slant, and unique perspective.

Prizes and Awards:

- First: \$100, Second: \$75, and Third: \$50.

Benefits to student:

- Students who have been published tend to find their grades go up across the board and self-esteem rises. A deep sense of confidence is built.
- Win prize of \$100, \$75, or \$25.
- Certificate to include on resumes, college applications, and scholarship applications.
- The work world needs writers. This could develop into a full time job, part-time paid session, or an enjoyable outlet.
- Every opportunity to practice helps to hone skills.

Benefits of sponsorship:

- Sponsors will be identified in three issues: announcing upcoming contest, current month contest, and the following month when the photo/check/certificate presentation is printed. Sponsors may choose to remain anonymous if they like.
- The satisfaction of knowing you have done something significant to change an individual's life for the better.
- The satisfaction of knowing you have made a positive impact in the community, potentially the world.

To be a sponsor, call 719-686-7393 or visit our website and look for the Youth Writing Contest page.

Breeze chasers and yard-sale seller/buyers in Divide

by David Martinek
photos by David Martinek

Recipe for kite flying: On a breezy, sunny morning, add the gentle tug of a long string curving skyward to a wind-dancing sail; stir in the gleaming delight in a youngster's eye - and you have just defined fun. The rest is magic.

"Kite flying really isn't a complicated undertaking..." write the folks at Breeze Chasers, an online store selling kites and providing good advice about learning the art of sailing a kite. They describe kite flying as requiring three basic elements – pick your kite, pike the place and pick the day.

The Divide Chamber's 3rd Annual Great Divide Kite Flight provided all three of those elements a few Saturdays ago on August 24th when over 85 wide-eyed kids found a chance to fly their dreams on a string. The kites were donated by Lee Taylor of Edward Jones, along with some snacks and soft drinks; the place was the playground of the Summit Elementary School in Divide; and the day was a breezing, sunny Saturday morning that couldn't have been better if God had special-ordered it.

Perched on the hill behind the school just west of the softball fields, the Divide Chamber tent, staffed by Chamber volunteers, was the place where kids (and their parents or grandparents, and sometimes their aunts, uncles or babysitters) came to receive a free kite and run off down the hill to test the wind and their flying skills. Some adults even brought their own kites to fly – dragons, foils, airplanes and box kites.

When the kite flight ended at 1pm, the Chamber gave away a brand new BMX stunt bicycle, generously donated by Wal-Mart, drawn from a list of eager kids 12 years old or younger who came to fly a kite that day. This year the bike was won by a lucky young girl, named Millie Hinman from Woodland Park.

The Great Divide Kite Flight is sponsored and held each year in August just after school starts by the Divide Chamber of Commerce and is largely funded by Edward Jones. Lee Taylor buys all the kites and gives them out to the kids - for free.

The 2013 Great Divide Kite Flight was held in conjunction with the Divide Chambers' Third Annual Divide-Wide Yard Sale, which was jointly held nearby in the front parking lot of the school. Co-sponsored by the Community Partnership Family Resource Center in Divide, the yard sale attracted a number of sellers and buyers to the school hill that sunny Saturday morning. In addition to 20 to 25 participants, the Chamber had its own tent and Russ' Place in Divide sold food and beverages.

Divide Fire Protection District's Pancake Breakfast a hit!



It just wouldn't be the Sunday of Labor Day weekend without attending the Pancake Breakfast by the Divide Fire Protection District. The breakfast options included: sausage, bacon, eggs, pancakes, burritos and fixings, biscuits and gravy served with beverages. The flow of people was steady.

The Fire Station was set up to showcase fire-fighting equipment, uniforms, medical equipment and tables of information. Informational packages were handed out with fire wise tips, lots of information from Federal Emergency Management Agency to prevent, protect, and help develop emergency family safety plans.



Shoppers and sellers met at the Third Annual Divide-wide Yard Sale at the Summit Elementary School parking lot in Divide - with Pikes Peak as a background.



The yard sale was co-sponsored this year by the Divide Chamber of Commerce and Community Partnership and Family Resource Center.



Millie Hinman, daughter of Donna Hinman of Woodland Park, was the winner of a new BMX bike, generously donated by Wal-Mart.

As has been said before, over and over again, "there was good wind and there were crashes, and sometimes the string broke. Kites would often have to be chased down and repaired. But with expected regularity kites flew. Looking down on the playground with the sun glinting off Pikes Peak, a colorful mosaic of dancing images embraced the morning." The pictures tell the story.

For more information about kites and where to buy them, go to www.kitechasers.com. For more information about the Divide Chamber of Commerce, go to www.dividechamber.org.



Also on display was the remains of a Dodge transmission from the 3,000° Black Forest fire.

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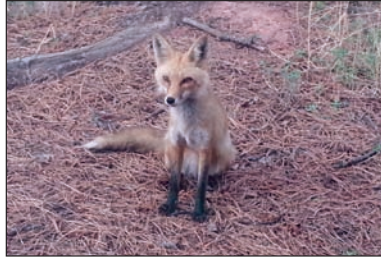


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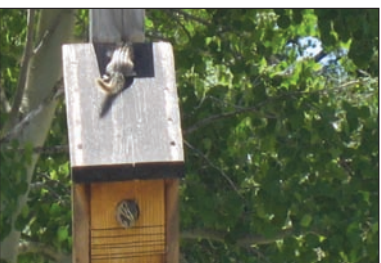
Critter Corner



The Dude Abides in Duide - Deb & Dave, Duide



Red Fox - Grayson Watson, Woodland Park



Chipmunks take over bird house - Sharon Rankford, Wilkerson Pass

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

Rich Friendship

by Danielle Dellinger

Travis stood on the dirt driveway, looking up at his new home in Cripple Creek, Colorado in the year 1893. He and his family had just moved from Gary, West Virginia, where he and his father had been coal miners in Gary Mine since Travis was the delicate age of five-years-old. Now at the ripe old age of 13, he still had coal dust under his fingernails, and his fingertips were still bright red from the constant exposure to the sulfur content of the coal while being a breaker boy. Separating coal from debris had been tedious work. He wasn't quite sure why they

were in this town, but he figured it had to do with mining. He'd seen a herd of mules heading up the long, steep hill that led to one of the mines. Though he felt the strong urge to go and find work at one of the mines in the area, he was afraid to because of his recent accident. While working at Gary Mine, he had, unfortunately, been too close to an explosion, which left him permanently deaf. The sudden silence afterward had almost been more deafening than the explosion itself. Now, because he couldn't hear, he could barely communicate with his family, or anyone else, really. Everyone had cast him aside, not understanding why he stared blankly at them when they were clearly screaming in his face.

He suddenly felt a rough, angry hand on his shoulder, and he barely had time to look back to see his father before he was shoved forward toward the house. He had learned to fear his father even more now. He was steered inside and up the stairs to his room, which was the farthest point away in the house from everyone. He gathered that they wanted him out of the way; out of sight, out of mind. In the room, he found a single box of all his possessions. He knelt on the floor and started unpacking. He didn't mind not having many possessions, unlike his father, who was a greedy man. His greed was probably the only reason why they were in this isolated town; another get-rich-quick scheme. Travis felt sorry for him, that he seemed so unsatisfied with his life. The constant drinking only served to make matters worse. He felt the floor vibrate violently, and he guessed that his father had slammed the front door shut on his way out. He got up and looked out the window, watching his father walk briskly down the driveway and up the road.

Across the way, he could barely see the schoolhouse, and the kids running around during their lunch break. He longed to be with them. His mother brought his dinner to his room that night. He ate on his bed, staring out at the schoolhouse silhouetted in the fading light. His father had returned

in a foul mood, so he was grateful for his forced isolation at the moment. He decided right then that he was going to explore the town tomorrow. He was still getting used to being deaf, so he was going to have to be extra careful. He set his dish outside of his bedroom and closed the door for the night. He lay down on his thin bed and stared up at the ceiling, doing his best to remember what crickets sounded like. Travis being trapped in silence with only his thoughts had gotten to be maddening at times. However, he was lucky enough to soon slip off to sleep.

Just as the sun rose, sharp vibrations rattled his floor as his father marched up and down the hall outside his room a few times. It was his way of waking Travis without going in his room. Travis sighed and rolled onto his side, wanting to sleep more. He finally got out of bed, dressed, and went downstairs to do his chores. By the time the sun was standing on its own over the mountains, he was done with everything he needed to do. Both of his parents had left, so he was on his own. He left the house and hurried up to the school, wanting to observe the kids, and maybe see what they were learning. He stood partially behind a tree, watching intently as the kids filed into the one-room building.

Andy, a young chap of seven-years-old, happened to look over and see a tall, lanky boy standing by a tree as he made his way toward his school. He stared at the boy quizzically, confused as to why he wasn't hurrying to be in his seat before the bell tolled. Andy stopped abruptly, and his classmates jostled him as they hurried passed, muttering under their breaths at him. He frowned, and finally made his way inside when it became obvious that the boy was not coming.

Travis had noticed the kid watching him, and he had desperately hoped that he would come over and invite him in. His heart dropped as he watched the little guy leave, yanking the huge door shut behind him. Travis made his way over to one of the windows near the back and crouched down, trying to see through the grime to the lesson on the board. It was in that moment that he was thankful that his mother had taught him how to read just enough to get by. He was amazed at how the kids all seemed to move as one when instructed to do something. It reminded him of working in the mine with all of his peers, picking at the rocks at nearly the same pace. It tugged at his heart that that was the only experience he had to relate to with these mostly clean boys. He looked down at his dirty fingernails, picked up a dry weed, and started to dig out the dry coal dust. Maybe this would help him fit in.

At lunchtime, Travis quickly retreated back to his tree and waited. He saw the kid from before leave the building. His heart

fluttered with anticipation at the possibility of being asked to join him. But, even though he wanted it, he also feared it. How was he going to understand what the boy was saying to him? The thought chilled his heart. He hid completely behind his tree, watching the kid. At times, he attempted to sneak closer to see what he was doing. However, all too soon, the kids were being herded back inside. Travis stayed outside for the remainder of the day, never once getting up the courage to interact with the little kid. He left at the same time as everyone else.

For the rest of the week, Travis went to the school and hid behind the tree. Each morning, Andy would spot him, and offer an encouraging smile. Finally, after school on the last day of the school week, Andy made his way over to Travis, grinning up at him when he was close enough. Travis instantly tensed, acting like a cornered animal as he tried to mesh with the tree and disappear. Andy introduced himself and waited for a response, but all he got was a confused look from Travis.

"Would you like to come over?" Andy asked. "My daddy's a gold miner, so we got lots of room to play and lots of toys." His eyes were big and hopeful as Travis shifted uncomfortably in front of him. Travis finally shrugged, and Andy squealed with delight. He grabbed Travis's wrist, and abruptly started towing him down the path that he took to get home. Travis blinked, unsure if he should be trying to get away. All he'd seen were Andy's lips moving and hopefulness in his wide hazel eyes. But this boy didn't seem to want to hurt him.

They arrived at Andy's large, three-story home soon enough. Inside, it was well furnished and everything seemed to be polished. It even smelled fresh. His own home smelled of dirt and sweat. Travis felt a pang of jealousy grip him. The boys were greeted by a rather welcoming and confident woman. Andy's mother, Travis assumed. She seemed to be talking a lot, and he saw Andy roll his eyes a few times before he was yanked up the stairs to what looked like a playroom. His jaw went slack as he entered and gazed around the brightly lit room. Toys covered the floor, all of them being rather masculine, like guns, slingshots, and toy soldiers. Andy stood behind him, just chattering away, unaware that Travis couldn't hear him. Travis liked the warmth of this house, especially this particular room. He spotted a toy that looked old and worn out. He went over and picked it up.

Andy appeared at his side in an instant, yanking on his arm and jostling him about. He seemed to be yelling at him. Travis then saw Andy's mother hurry through the door. Andy gestured wildly about as he ran to her. He pointed at Travis multiple times. All of the silent fuss frightened Travis. He quickly returned the toy to the shelf, and then bolted

out. He ran as fast as he could back to his house, stumbling a few times.

Andy's mother managed to calm him. "Honey, what's wrong with your friend? He doesn't seem right," she gently said. Their family had never encountered a deaf person before.

Andy shrugged, wiping his eyes. "I dunno," he whined pathetically. "He doesn't listen to me!"

The following week, Travis stood by his tree outside the school. The kids were just getting out for the day, and he was back to try and make another friend. Though the incident from a few days ago had rattled him good, he still had the strong urge to be part of the school. However, he hadn't expected to see Andy come out of the building and head straight for him. Travis swallowed and gripped onto a broken branch of the tree tightly. Andy stopped in front of him, head bowed and a firm grip on his books. He then lifted his head quickly and started speaking with apparent urgency. He looked troubled, and then frustrated. Andy turned on his heel and started away. Travis opened his mouth like he was going to call out to him, but nothing happened. It'd been so long since he'd spoken that he'd practically forgotten how. He quickly reached out and caught Andy by the shoulder, turning him back toward him. Travis gestured the best he could to indicate that he couldn't hear, but Andy looked just as confused and frustrated as ever.

But then, something seemed to click in Andy's head. "You can't hear," he said, then blushed brightly out of embarrassment from what he'd just said. Travis offered a smile then held his hand out toward Andy's books. Andy glanced down at them, and then passed them over. Travis opened one and started flipping through the pages, his smile growing at what he saw, despite not being able to understand it.

Andy watched with interest. He smiled, and tapped Travis on the arm, motioning for him to follow him.

The two walked to Andy's house. Once again they were greeted by his mother, though she appeared more cautious around Travis. Andy took her aside to explain what was wrong. "He can't hear, mama. That's all. And he wants to learn, and maybe go to school," he said, his big smile returning. She smiled and nodded, then sent the two upstairs. Andy took Travis into his room this time and set his stuff down on the bed, taking a seat by it. Travis stood awkwardly in the middle of the room before Andy beckoned him over to sit down.

Andy started showing him things that he had learned that day. He showed him a paragraph on Robert Miller "Bob" Womack, the man who had discovered gold ore in that area just a few years earlier in 1890. The

following paragraph mentioned that the area had originally been avoided for a while due to the misnamed "Mount Pisgah Hoax," which actually had to do with salting--the addition of gold to worthless rock--in Cottonwood Creek in South Park, Colorado. It also talked about the population boom that had occurred earlier that year, so there were now 10,000 people instead of 500. Travis was fascinated by this information, glad that he could understand most of it. Andy was patient with him as he taught him some math.

He stayed there until suppertime then ran home to his parents before he incurred his father's wrath. But from that day on, Travis went to Andy's house after school and Andy taught him that day's lesson to the best of his ability.

However, Travis came home one night to find his father in a drunken rage. Travis was glad that he couldn't hear the crash of picture frames or vases on the floor anymore. When he stepped inside the door, he froze, hoping to remain unseen. That didn't happen. His father had been about to slap his mother across the face, but the shutting of the door alerted him to his son's presence. Despite him being thin, his height was still intimidating, especially now as he strode across the room and grabbed Travis up by his collar. He got in his face, but the only thing Travis could focus on was his raunchy breath. He then dropped Travis to the floor, connecting a boot with his side. All of Travis's breath left him and he curled up to protect himself. He was lifted off the ground a moment later, getting slapped in the face. Travis's vision swayed. Each time he was slapped, he saw a bright light behind his eyes, and it took him back to the day of the explosion, bringing with it the pressurized pain he'd felt, and causing him to let out a strangled cry. This further enraged his father.

Andy didn't see Travis by the tree like usual and Andy felt a sinking feeling in his gut. Where was he? Andy waited around for a little bit, then slowly walked home, shoulders hunched over sadly. As he stepped up on his front porch, something rustled in the grass on the far left side. Andy stood still a moment, watching and waiting, his breath stuck in his chest.

Just as he was trying to decide what to do, Travis appeared around the corner of the porch and limped over, looking downtrodden. Andy gasped when he saw the dark bruises on his face and the rips in his clothes. Travis had finally managed to get out of his house after his father let his guard down. Andy grasped Travis's hand tightly, helping him into the house. The second that Travis felt the warmth from Andy's home, his spirit seemed to heal some, and he perked up, offering his small companion a smile that he let only him see. He knew that he had a home here.

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Bill Gilley starts his "low rider"

The Antique Tractor Pull and the little engine that could

by Maurice Wells
photos by Maurice Wells

Pullers from the local area and from across the state gathered at the Lake George Arena for the Annual Antique Tractor Pull on August 17-18, this year adding a new category for "low riders". Fans also came to appreciate the history and contributions the tractor has made to the agricultural community. With the development of petroleum powered engines, tractors became a common source of power on farms in the early 20th century.

Equally as common, but not as celebrated was the "farm or hit and miss" engine. Coming in sizes from 2-3 to several horsepower, the engine saw a variety of uses such as pumping water, powering saw mills and machine shops. Jay Ingalls displayed his 1922 3-5 horsepower engine at the event. Ingalls explained that the name "hit and miss" was due to the manner in which the engine ran. Having one cylinder and a governor to control the power output, the engine would fire and if no additional power was sensed by the governor, the engine would turn several times on the inertia of the heavy flywheel, thus the "hit or miss" sound. If the demand



1922 "hit and miss" engine

on the engine was greater, the governor would allow for more "hits". Ingalls added that this method of operation was an early form controlling fuel consumption by using gasoline or kerosene in the firing or "hit" mode. Also, it was safe to say that just about every farm had an engine of the type. If these engines are found today with all parts available, a good cleaning will often result in the engine starting up after years of non-use. A tribute to the design and durability of these units!

Wild Thing

by Kathy Hansen

Hartsel Fire Department has a new addition to their force, "Wild Thing" which is a Humvee, recently refurbished by fire fighter, Chris Tingle. Wild Thing is their new brush truck; it is able to get to places their other vehicles cannot. Chris was happy to share the story of how Wild Thing came to be.

It turns out it all began with an inquiry from the Sheriff's Office, who had been alerted by Fort Carson. You see, this vehicle was among many that shared the same potential fates: be used, be shredded in Arizona, or blown up in target practice by the Air Force. The Sheriff knew the importance of having a brush truck to navigate the terrain and decided to pursue steps necessary to procure the vehicle for the Hartsel Fire Department. There were a total of four procured for Park County; beneficiaries are Guffey, North West Fire Protection District, Sheriff's Office, and Wild Thing. Chris was challenged by the opportunity



Chris Tingle with his "Wild Thing"

to convert this vehicle with only 1,200 miles on it and valued at \$47,000 into a brush truck. He was happy to show us the inside and all that it can carry. Chris said he had never taken on a project like this before; he learned a lot and hopes to use the knowledge he'd gained from this in the future. Chris is hoping for a water truck next.

Many thanks to Chris Tingle and to the Sheriff's Office of Park County for recognizing this incredible opportunity and offering a fate of utility to Wild Thing!

VFW Coffee Stop at Wilkerson Pass

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

This Labor Day weekend found members of VFW Post 11411 and Ladies Auxiliary at the Wilkerson Pass Visitors Center providing fresh coffee, punch, water and cookies to travelers.

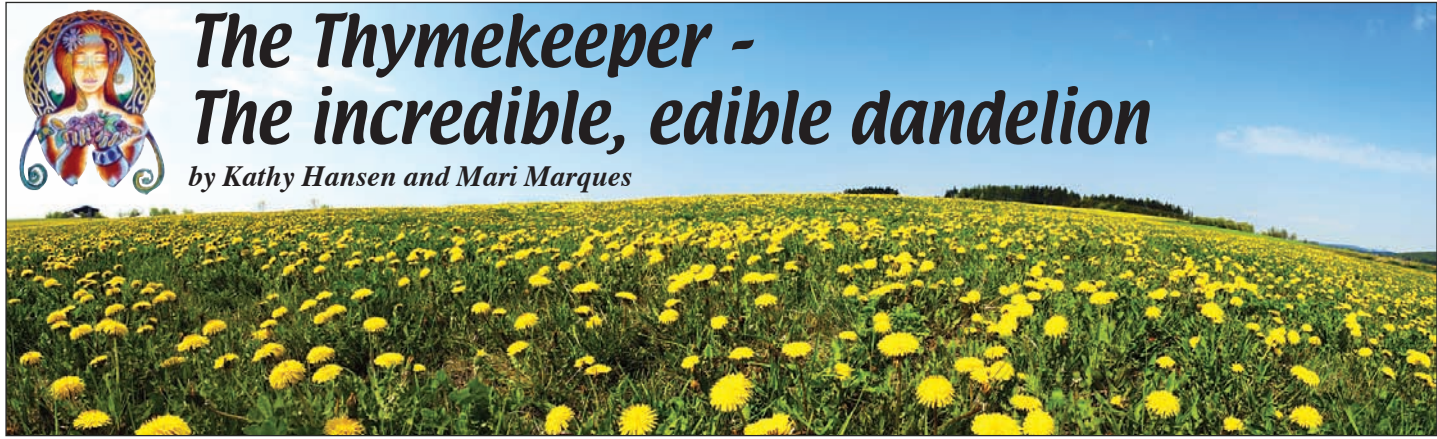
This activity took place the entire week-end, starting with Friday, August 31 through Monday, September 2 and has been provided by the Post for several years.



Refreshment stand at visitors center

Travelers have expressed their appreciation for the break and often find themselves engaging in interesting conversations with Post members.

The Forest Service is generous in allowing the Post to use the covered porch for their refreshment table.



The Thymekeeper - The incredible, edible dandelion

by Kathy Hansen and Mari Marques

While many people in the United States consider the dandelion to be a weed, in Belgium, they manage and grow dandelions in crops. Perhaps it's time to reconsider the value of a dandelion.

The dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) is found worldwide. The name dandelion is taken from the French word "dent de lion" meaning "lion's tooth" as it refers to the plant's coarsely-toothed leaves. Something which is so prevalent certainly has important benefits. From the roots to the flower, each part is edible, and offers substantial benefits to the consumer, including nutrition, medicine, and dye for coloring. In fact, up until the 1800s people would pull grass out of their lawns to make room for dandelions, chickweed, malva, and chamomile.

The dandelion is the only flower that represents the three celestial bodies of the sun, moon, and stars. The sun is represented by the yellow flower, the moon is represented by the puff ball, and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars. The flower opens each day to welcome the sun, and closes each evening as the sun sets.

Dandelions have the longest flowering season of any plant. Their seeds can be carried as far as five miles away. This could make enforcement of Pueblo's dandelion law difficult. "It is illegal to let a dandelion grow within the city limits of Pueblo."

Dandelion leaves benefit the kidneys, and the root benefits the liver. To understand the many ways this plant is beneficial, we must first understand how the liver and kidney function. There are over 500 vital functions of the liver; we cannot survive without a liver (notice the word is "live" with an "r" at the end) a brief overview is below.

The kidney and liver filter toxins out of the blood. They are the primary organs of cleansing. Blood circulates throughout the body, dropping off much needed oxygen and picking up all the leftovers (toxins). The blood from our stomach and intestines circulate directly to the liver. The liver then processes blood and breaks down essential nutrients and drugs for our bodies to use more efficiently. The toxins are carried away via bile, a fluid the liver produces. Bile becomes a river of balance for the stomach and intestines. Waste from the stomach and intestines become feces and waste from the kidney becomes urine. When the liver is

functioning properly, digestion is easier for the stomach and intestine because there is a balanced exchange of oxygen and toxins. But that is not all.

Bile also breaks down fats in the small intestine. We often mistakenly think of fat as an enemy, but fats we consume become essential triglycerides, cholesterol, and other essential fatty acids that we cannot live without. These compounds store energy, insulate our bodies, protect vital organs, and they assist in protein function. Fat in the liver is also where we store "fat soluble vitamins" such as A, D, E, and K. This stockpile is then available when the body needs it. This is similar to how the liver converts excess glucose (blood sugar) to glycogen for storage (easily converted back to glucose for energy).

The liver helps our blood in many ways. The liver is the storehouse for iron and is where the hemoglobin in our blood picks up iron to transport throughout the body. Hemoglobin is essential to blood clotting. The liver is also able to convert poisonous ammonia to urea, the end product of protein metabolism. This too, must remain in balance as when there is excess urea, it pools in joints and become gout, a painful and often debilitating condition. As the liver removes bacteria from the bloodstream it helps us to build our immune system and helps us resist infections.

Did you know that the effects of an out of balance liver can be noticed on the skin? If you have swollen and weepy rashes, eczema, acne, or acute skin eruptions (especially around the face or neck) your liver may be too acidic and a neutralizer, such as dandelion can be helpful.

This is a brief synopsis of some of the major functions of the liver. We simply cannot live without a liver. Let's see how to keep it healthy with dandelion.

Dandelion is great anytime liver, digestion, and urinary functions, or circulatory activity seems to be suppressed. As soon as dandelion touches the tip of the tongue, digestive juices are immediately activated. This will help to induce appetite and can be helpful for mild cases of anorexia.

Dandelion has a natural balance of both sodium and potassium. This is important because of all the "sodium/potassium pumps" throughout the body. Maintaining electrolyte balance is essential. Dandelion

is a great diuretic without stressing kidneys. Most prescription diuretics deplete potassium, which often eventually results in a prescribed form of potassium. Dandelion has an innate balance of potassium and sodium so it can be used safely as a diuretic for most any condition where water is retained, from circulatory issues to premenstrual swelling.

Nutrients are found throughout the dandelion plant. The root is high in iron, manganese, phosphorus, and protein. There are moderate amounts of calcium, chromium, magnesium, niacin, riboflavin, silicon, zinc and vitamin C. The root can help with kidney and bladder disease, kidney stones, diabetic kidney problems, gout, and urinary stones. The root can be roasted and used as a coffee substitute.

The leaves are also nutritious having high amounts of iron, phosphorus, and the B vitamin complexes, including riboflavin, thiamine, niacin, and choline. Ingesting the leaves is a very safe way to increase the amount of water and blood waste eliminated through the kidneys and urine. This can be very helpful for blood pressure, poor circulation, rheumatic swelling, arthritic congestion, and recurrent mastitis. Greens can be gathered and eaten in salad. The best time to gather leaves is after the flower is gone. Flowers can be made into dandelion wine or simply sautéed in oil.

Consider the season when you are collecting dandelion. In spring, the energy of the plant is concentrated above ground for leaf and flower development. In autumn, the flowers and leaves have finished their cycle, and the energy returns to the root.

There are "additional" effects to be considered with anything we consume. If you are struggling with Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease, have irritable bowel, or acute inflammation of the digestive tract, you may need to reconsider your options. Dandelion stimulates digestive juices like hydrochloric acid, which may exacerbate digestive system conditions.

Would you like to know how you can make your own multi-vitamin out of dandelion? Register for the Thymekeeper's class "Making your own Home Remedies" being held at the Florissant Grange on September 21st from 10am to noon by calling 719-748-0358.

Do you need more information on how herbs can help to maintain balance or improve your health? You can email the Thymekeeper at mugsyspad@aol.com

Klingons in Guffey

by Flip Boetcher

Even for eclectic little Guffey, the Klingon Gathering at Steve Doman's Guffey residence on Saturday, August 10th, was a little exotic. Eighteen Klingons attended the party, with 15 from the House VamPyr, a club in Denver and three from a sister Klingon club in Albuquerque, New Mexico. All were



The banner of the House VamPyr hanging in the window of the bridge of the Enterprise. Photo by Deb Rudy.

dressed in full costume; some as Enterprise crew and some as Klingons, complete with stun guns and bat'leths (a bat'leth is a Klingon long sword with a curved blade and spiked protrusions on either end and with handholds along the blade's back, according to Wikipedia.)

Klingons are one of the many non-human species featured on the late 1960's television series "Star Trek" created by Gene Roddenberry. The series featured the interstellar adventures of the United Federation of Planets' starship Enterprise with Captain Kirk and his crew. The series has gained a cult like following over the years with fans calling themselves trekkies.

Doman has spent the last 11 years remodeling the interior of his home to look like a partial mini-replica of the Enterprise, complete with a mock up food replicator in his kitchen, intercoms on the walls and the bridge of the Enterprise all with sound effects from the series built in. Doman is a true trekkie, known world wide over the



House VamPyr with Steve Dolman in front with his dog, Shadow, Deb Rudy in the right front and Epetal Vampyr in the back right. Photo by Flip Boetcher.

internet for his Enterprise mock-up and now as a member of House VamPyr.

House VamPyr is one of many Klingon Houses from the Star Trek series. According to www.klingon.org, the VamPyr's "belong to a small religious and mysterious Klingon Family line called the 'Family of Blood.' The VamPyr's come from a small obscure Klingon colony world located on the opposite side of the Klingon Empire from Federation Space."

It is said that after defeating an enemy in battle this family "has a ritual of drinking the blood of the vanquished in order to gain their life energy." Whether this is true or not, most species give the VamPyr's a wide berth.

Tracking Dinosaurs trip

A family trip is planned for Pebble Pups, Earth Science Scholars, & parents: Tracking dinosaurs and ancient environments at Dinosaur Ridge October 5th

The first stop will be Dinosaur Ridge, a hogback west of Denver, between the towns of Morrison and Golden that exposes dinosaur-bearing rocks of Jurassic and Cretaceous age. The Dinosaur Ridge area is one of the world's most famous dinosaur fossil localities. After a special program and orientation at the visitor center, there will be a guided tour of the outdoor exhibits on the ridge where both bones and tracks of dinosaurs, crocodilians and other animals are visible.

Starting in 1877, many of the first and best skeletons of Stegosaurus, Apatosaurus, Diplodocus, Allosaurus and other dinosaurs were excavated on the west side of the ridge. In the 1930s, during the construction of West Alameda Parkway, dinosaur tracks were discovered on the east side of Dinosaur Ridge in rocks representing the Cretaceous Period.

Following lunch at Dinosaur Ridge, the group will tour the Triceratops Trail at the Parfet Prehistoric Preserve. This half-mile hiking trail winds through old clay quarries, where our professional guides will assist us in interpreting the evidence (footprints, traces, and impressions) left by the dinosaurs, birds, mammals, insects, and plants from this very different, very swampy, habitat that is 68 million years old. Raindrop impressions are among the rarities on the Triceratops Trail. Be sure to bring your camera to take photos while you are on this unique opportunity to explore a lost world. Throughout the tour, expert scientists give their insights into the world of paleontology.

The afternoon will include a visit to the Geology Museum at the Colorado School of Mines. The museum started as a "mineral cabinet" put together by Arthur Lakes, the first curator of collections, in 1874. Today the museum has approximately 50,000 minerals, fossils, gemstones, and artifacts. This field expedition is perfect for all ages. Be sure to register today as seating on the bus is limited.

Note: participants must be able to walk up to three easy miles and stand while discussing points of interest. The bus will pick attendees up in Divide, Woodland Park, and Colorado Springs!

Registration can be sent to:
Cripple Creek Park and Recreation Department
P.O. Box 430, Cripple Creek, CO 80813
719-689-3514

Course fee: \$24 payable to Cripple Creek Park and Recreation. Register through Cripple Creek Park and Recreation Department. Course fee includes transportation to field sites, morning, and afternoon snacks. Bring your own lunch.

Epelal VamPyr (John Miller in real life), the leader of the club said the VamPyr's were vampires and Doman added that they not only suck your blood, they eat your heart as well.

At dinner, Miller did offer everyone blood wine, which turned out to be Sangria.

According to club member Debra Rudy, the title Epelal designates the Lord of the Klingon House and there is only one Epelal in a House. "There is even a Klingon language and dictionary," said Miller, and their club has about 55 members.

House VamPyr is totally supported by donations. They then make donations and do volunteer work like helping at Ronald MacDonald House according to Rudy. Since they are vampires, the club sponsors the vampire bats at the Denver Zoo. The club also goes to many conventions throughout the year like StarFest, GalaxyFest, and the Mile-Hi Convention she added. Rudy said she was looking forward to visiting Doman again next year. For more information visit the club's website: www.housevampyr.com and/or Google "Guffey Star Trek" and "Klingon House VamPyr."



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What do new investors really need to know?

If you're starting out as an investor, you might be feeling overwhelmed. After all, it seems like there's just so much to know. How can you get enough of a handle on basic investment concepts so that you're comfortable in making well-informed choices?

Actually, you can get a good grip on the investment process by becoming familiar with a few basic concepts, such as these:

- **Stocks versus Bonds** — when you buy stocks, or stock-based investments, you are buying ownership shares in companies. Generally speaking, it's a good idea to buy shares of quality companies and to hold these shares for the long term. This strategy may help you eventually overcome short-term price declines, which may affect all stocks. Keep in mind, though, that when buying stocks, there are no guarantees you won't lose some or all of your investment.

By contrast, when you purchase bonds, you aren't becoming an "owner" — rather, you are lending money to a company or a governmental unit. Barring default, you can expect to receive regular interest payments for as long as you own your bond. When it matures, you can expect to get your principal back. However, bond prices do rise and fall, typically moving in the opposite direction of interest rates. If you wanted to sell a bond before it matures and interest rates have recently risen, you may have to offer your bond at a price lower than its face value.

For the most part, stocks are purchased for their growth potential (although many stocks do offer income, in the form of dividends), while bonds are bought for the income stream provided by interest payments. Ideally, though, it is important to build a diversified portfolio containing stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs), government securities and other

investments designed to meet your goals and risk tolerances. Diversification is a strategy designed to help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio; keep in mind, however, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

- **Risk versus Reward** — all investments carry some type of risk: Stocks and bonds can decline in value, while investments such as CDs can lose purchasing power over time. One important thing to keep in mind is that, generally, the greater the potential reward, the higher the risk.
- **Setting goals** — as an investor, you need to set goals for your investment portfolio, such as providing resources for retirement or helping pay for your children's college educations.
- **Knowing your own investment personality** — everyone has different investment personalities — some people can accept more risk in the hopes of greater rewards, while others are not comfortable with risk at all. It's essential that you know your investment personality when you begin investing, and throughout your years as an investor.
- **Investing is a long-term process** — it generally takes decades of patience, perseverance and good decisions for investors to accumulate the substantial financial resources they'll need for their long-term goals.

By keeping these concepts in mind as you begin your journey through the investment world, you'll be better prepared for the twists and turns you'll encounter along the way as you pursue your financial goals.

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

"The Jazz Man" cometh

On Tuesday, September 10, jazz great "Dick Cunico" will be playing at the Woodland Park Senior Citizens Club. The event takes place from 11:45am to 1pm at the Woodland Park Senior Center, 312 N. Center St. It's a potluck so please bring a dish - homemade or store bought. All Senior Citizens Club members and Senior Circle club members and, of course, the public are invited to attend!

Dick provides music from a variety of genres including jazz, blues, country, rock, ballads, ethnic and even original material upon request. His sound - vocals and imaginative keyboard styles depict the original artist.

Cunico hails from Los Angeles, where he performed and/or recorded with such Jazz greats as Howard Levy (Bela Fleck), Eric Marienthal (Chick Corea) Steve Bailey (Dizzy Gillespie & The Rippingtons), Skitch Henderson (NBC Orchestra), Jerry Donahue (The Helicasters), Louis Conte (Koinonea), Lanny Morgan (Supersax), Alex Isles (Bill Holman big band & Alexanders Ragtime Dixieland Band.) Bob Summers (Woody Her-



Dick "The Jazz Man" Cunico

man Big Band), Benoit Grey (Ray Charles), Rick Fleishman (Art Pepper), Henry Skipper Franklin (Clark Terry), Tom Hill (Ray Brown Band) and Alex Milstein (Jeff Lorber).

You may contact the Karen Earley, PPRH Senior Circle program coordinator, at 719-686-5802 or the Woodland Park Senior Citizens Club at 719-687-3387 for more information.

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Fly fishing outside the box

by Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy

Particularly here in Colorado when one thinks of fly fishing more often than not, it is trout that anglers seek out as their primary quarry. There are three native species of trout here in the Centennial State: The Greenback Cutthroat, The Colorado River Cutthroat, and the Rio Grande Cutthroat. Catching and releasing all three of these protected species is known by fly fishers as a Colorado Grand Slam. At the risk of sounding like Forest Gump's friend when he goes through the exhaustive list of ways to prepare shrimp, there are also a plethora of other introduced salmonids that occur in our state such as, Rainbow Trout, German Brown Trout, Cutbow Trout, Brook Trout, Grayling, Mountain White Fish, Arctic Char, Tiger Trout, Golden Trout, Steelhead Trout, Palomino Trout (also known as Albino Trout and mistaken for Golden Trout) Lake Trout, Splake (a hybrid cross between a Lake Trout and a Brook Trout) and Kokanee Salmon.

While fly fishing for the great variety of trout species here in Colorado will likely always remain the main focus for anglers, what is often missed is that there are an abundance of additional cold and warm water fish species that will eagerly take a fly. Carp, Small and Large Mouth Bass, Spotted Bass, White Bass, Drum, Pike, Tiger Musky, various "Pan Fish", Rudd, Wiper, Walleye, Saugeye, and even Catfish are all legitimate game fish, and will put even the most seasoned angler to the test along with his or her equipment. There are countless other species of freshwater fish throughout the United States just begging to have a hook stuck into their mouths. Coming from personal experience, I can say without hesitation that landing a 25 pound Tiger Musky on a fly rod is a thrill that is unmatched and a privilege that few anglers in Colorado have had the chance to experience.

With this in mind, fly fishing does have its own Mt. Everest...salt water, as well as exotic tropical fish species. This type of fly fishing is about as far out of the "Box" that one can go. Customers that come into my fly shop are often in disbelief that Sailfish, Marlin, Tuna



Robert with a 30 lbs, Louisiana Red Fish, On The Fly. Photo by Captain Al Keller

and even Shark, just to name a few, can be fooled into taking a fly. Every year thousands of Coloradans escape our frigid winters heading to warmer climates, in pursuit of Tarpon, Permit, and Bonefish, to destinations like the Florida Keys, Mexico, Belize and the Bahamas. Catching all three of this elusive and strong fighting fish is what's known as a Salt Water Grand Slam and is a highly prized achievement within the salt water fly fishing community. Other places such as Louisiana and Corpus Christi Texas are home to world class Red Fish and Black Drum. This winter I will be heading to the wilds of Tanzania in search of world class Tiger Fish which can best be described as a fresh water Barracuda on steroids. One touch of their razor sharp teeth on your finger and you'll be shaking hands with four digits instead of five.

The rainforests of Central and South America are a smorgasbord of exotic tropical species such as Peacock Bass, and Piranha. You may even be lucky enough to catch sight of a fresh water dolphin, which is pink in color

and had me questioning whether someone had secretly put something in my beer causing me to hallucinate. I don't recommend trying to catch these creatures on a fly rod, although I would be lying if I said I did not make a cast or two at them, just to see if they would take my fly.

As The Bug Guy, I will forever be most endeared to trout, but I still enjoy targeting other species of fish. I guess like most other anglers that share my addiction, if it lives in the water I'm going to want to take a crack at it with my fly rod. With a few exceptions, if a fish can be caught on conventional fishing tackle it can also be caught on a fly rod, which requires considerable more skill and in my opinion, is a lot more fun!

Robert Younghanz, aka The Bug Guy, is a guide and instructor at The Angler's Covey Fly Shop. For more information on aquatic entomology for the Rocky Mountain West, check out Robert's nationally best selling 2 DVD set. The Bug Guy: Aquatic Entomology for the Fly Fisher. www.the-bug-guy.com or contact Robert at: www.robertyounghanzflyfishing.com

Rampart Library news

by Antonia Krupicka-Smith

The Rampart Library District offers free computer classes throughout the year at both the Woodland Park Public Library and the Florissant Public Library. Class offerings include Computer Basics, Internet Basics and the Microsoft programs such as Word I, Word II, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Excel. Some classes at Woodland Park Library are offered in the evening hours (5-7pm), but most are in the mornings. For Woodland Park Public Library classes call 687-9281, x106 to pre-register. To register at Florissant Public Library call 748-3939.

In addition to the above classes, you can get one-on-one help with eBooks, eAudio, Zinio, and other library-specific services and resources. Again, call 687-9281, x106 to "Book-a-Librarian" session.

The WP Book Club has changed its meeting time from 6:30pm to 10:30am, still on the first Tuesday of the month. Everyone is invited! The selection for September is "The Art Forger" by B.A. Shapiro. October's book is "The Kitchen House," by Kathleen Grissom. Florissant's Book Worms book club is reading "Girl in Translation" by Jean Kwok for September, and in October, "An Available Man" by Hilma Wolitzer. The Florissant Book Club meets the third Wednesday at 10:30am.

Starting the last week in September, the Florissant Library will provide information on intellectual freedom in recognition of "Banned Books Week." Banned Books Week is a nationally recognized week celebrated in public libraries across the country, to bring awareness to the importance of the freedom to read. The Florissant Library will light-heartedly be testing your knowledge on frequently challenged book titles, and rewarding your efforts by entering you into a drawing for a prize.

Storytime themes for the Florissant Library for September are: Sept. 5, Mustaches, Sept. 12, Monkeys, Sept. 19, Mysteries, and Sept. 26, Special Guest, Mother Goose.

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Adapting to living with wildfire

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Wildfires are essential for ecosystems in our region to thrive. In the wildland-urban interface – where the forest meets residential development – wildfire is a constant. Even when wildfire season is over, typically in October but sometimes extending even later into the fall and winter, we must think about how our communities are affected by fire and how we can dampen negative impacts when inevitable wildfires come our way. While reducing the risk of wildfire on your property and in your community may seem like an enormous task, plenty of resources are available to help neighbors come together and adapt to living with wildfire.

Fire Adapted Communities

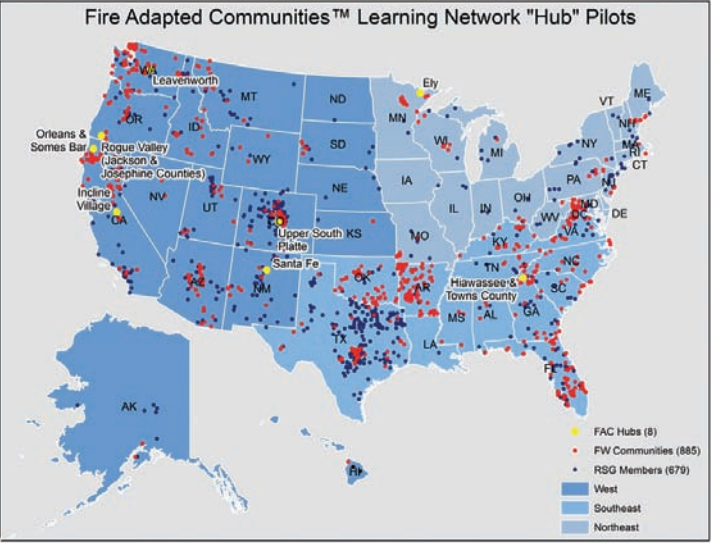
One such resource is Fire Adapted Communities. Fire Adapted Communities is a collaborative approach to taking responsibility for wildfire risk. Rather than a patchwork of individual efforts, Fire Adapted Communities promotes residents, businesses, policymakers, fire departments, and government agencies coming together to achieve a common goal – making the entire community more resilient to fire. This approach is more effective in reducing everyone's wildfire risk because efforts are coordinated and complimentary. If your neighbor's property and the adjacent forest are maintained to resist ignition if a wildfire approaches your area, your home, property, or business is more protected as well. Working together to adapt to wildfire is an ongoing process; there is no endpoint in which a community becomes fireproof. This means fire adaptation is a long-term commitment to keep improving, learning, and working together to protect the assets in the community.

Recognizing the importance of continuing to improve how we approach adapting to living with wildfire, Fire Adapted Communities kicked off the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Pilot Project this year. The project seeks to build upon proven strategies, improve fire-adapted methods, and promote more communication within communities and between communities about what works. Eight network hubs for the pilot project were established across the nation in:

- Ely, MN
- Jackson and Josephine Counties, OR
- Leavenworth, WA
- North Lake Tahoe, NV
- Orleans and Somes Bar, CA
- Santa Fe County, NM
- Towns County, GA
- Woodland Park, CO

leader in the Woodland Park area. Understanding that watershed health, forest health, and wildfire are intimately connected, CUSP has long been involved in working with communities to reduce wildfire risk. As a network hub leader, CUSP will expand work to bring people together to focus on reducing wildfire risk for everyone.

In the first year of the project, CUSP will work to strengthen coordination between existing partners, including community members, home owners associations, businesses, fire departments and districts, the US Forest Service, and local and county governments, to ensure everyone is on the same page and ongoing risk reduction efforts are complimentary. Because the focus of the project is learning and spreading knowledge, another key role will be communicating the innovative ways communities in the region are preparing for wildfire and which strategies work for bringing everyone to table. CUSP will facilitate formal discussions locally to exchange ideas and strategies as well as participate in a national annual meeting to aggregate knowledge and examine how to improve fire adapted implementation. Talking at the local level, the regional level, and the national level about what tools work and where best practices knowledge is lacking will accelerate learning, strengthen partnerships, and make our community's

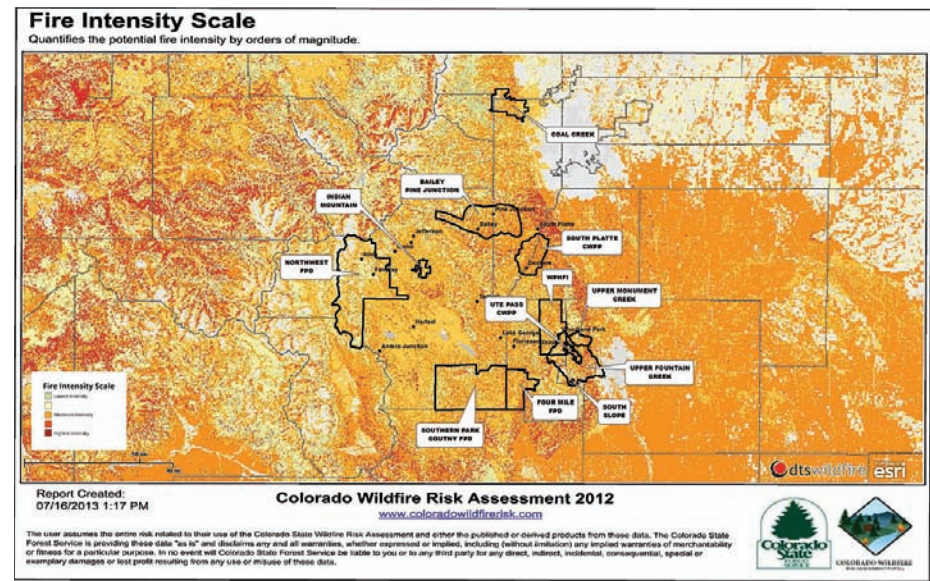


efforts more effective. This first year will get the ball rolling for this nationwide project that has the potential to improve community safety and ecological health for the long-term in wildfire-prone areas across the US.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program

Sharing knowledge and coordinating efforts is essential for wildfire risk reduction, but very little work can occur on the ground to implement fire adapted strategies unless funds are available. In a complimentary effort to the work CUSP is doing as a network hub leader for the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Pilot Project, CUSP was recently awarded \$1 million through the state's Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program.

This grant program is a product of Senate Bill 13-269, which was introduced as a proactive measure in light of the numerous



destructive wildfires across the state over the past decade. The bill was passed by the Colorado General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper in May of this year. As the facilitating agency responsible for distributing \$9.8 million in grant funding, the Department of Natural Resources quickly called for applications to fund projects that reduce the risk of damage to property, infrastructure, and water supplies, with a focus on the wildland-urban interface.

Over \$4 million in grants have been awarded to 25 different organizations across Colorado so far. As one of the recipients of funding, CUSP will use the funds to build upon previous wildfire risk reduction work. One focus will be to continue implementing Community Wildfire Protection Plans – community-wide plans that bring together diverse stakeholders to prioritize risk reduction projects and work together on local challenges. Another focus will be on implementing mitigation projects that account for conditions across the landscape, prioritizing areas most in need of work to emulate a natural, healthy forest composition. Through these two main areas of focus, grant funds will contribute to hazardous fuels reduction; creation of fuel-free buffer zones; increased forest resiliency; community empowerment to lead efforts to improve preparedness and safety; and increased capacity for local biomass utilization.

Many years of planning by CUSP and other partners have helped identify areas of need based on wildfire intensity, watersheds at risk, proximity to communities, and previous work. 1,050 priority acres will be treated in 12 primary areas:

- Coal Creek
- Bailey/Pine Junction
- Indian Mountain
- The Northwest Fire Protection District, encompassing Alma and Fairplay
- Along the South Platte River near Deckers
- Woodland Park
- Ute Pass
- Upper Monument Creek
- Upper Fountain Creek
- South Slope near Colorado Springs
- Four Mile Fire Protection District
- Southern Park County Fire Protection District

Together, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Pilot Project and funding through the Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant Program will improve our region's capacity to reduce the risk of wildfire. Even as mitigation efforts get a boost from these programs,

much more work remains to be done.

Wildfire risk reduction is a community-wide effort; we must all do our part to protect our community! Contact CUSP at 719 748 0033 or culp@uppersouthplatte.org if you have questions about wildfire risk reduction or if you're interested in getting involved with mitigation efforts.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Resources:

- Coalition for the Upper South Platte: <http://uppersouthplatte.org>
- Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal: <http://www.coloradowildfirerisk.com>
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/communities/cwpp.shtml>
- Divide Slash Site: <http://divideslashsite.com>
- Fire Adapted Communities: <http://www.fireadapted.org>
- Firewise Communities: <http://www.firewise.org>
- Ready, Set, Go: <http://www.wildlandfirerisk.org>
- Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative: <http://www.wphfi.org>

Remembering John Collins

On Friday, August 9th, a well-known and much beloved Teller County resident,



John Collins

John Collins, lost his life in a catastrophic flash flood event on Highway 24. John was just one of many people caught in the deluge of rain that overwhelmed the Waldo Canyon burn scar, which also filled Manitou Springs with sediment, debris and flood waters.

On Saturday, August 24th, more than 300 of John's family and friends honored his life at a memorial service at Aspen Valley Ranch. In his lifetime John gave so much to so many; all lessons from the heart. With his death we have learned the lesson of the importance of constant vigilance in matters of awareness and preparedness as we adjust to the new normal of post-fire flooding. John will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.



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Victor, Colorado: The City of Mines

Poem and artwork by Ciena Higginbotham

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Gold is buried underground
As you travel up that hill
Everything seems to just stand still

The place is so unique,
It's something different you'll want to seek
Where miners once walked each street
And friendly people you will meet
Visit the American Eagle Mine
And you will be taken back in time
Just like the legends of old
All these storied are still to be told
So, bring a stout heart if you dare
Phantom Canyon Road will give you a scare





About the author:

Ciena Higginbotham is a junior member of the Lake George Gem & Mineral Club and participates in the Pikes Peak Pebble Pup & Earth Science Scholars program. She is a 15-year-old 10th grade homeschooler. She's always had a fascination with geology and has been collecting rocks since she was little. Her other interests include writing, drawing, and musical activities.



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~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

- ALMA**
14 The Alma Foundation Blues, Subarus, and BBQ Four Wheel Drive Event from 12:30 – 5pm, at Alma Town Hall. Call 719-836-2712 for more info.
15 Mosquito Range Heritage Initiatives “Tour de Fairplay” Mountain Bike Poker Ride. Call 719-836-0964.
21 Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Annual Full Moon Walk at Buckskin Joe Cemetery at 7:30pm. Visit www.mrhi.org or call 719-836-4289.

- CRIPPLE CREEK**
14-15 Cruise Above the Clouds. A Car Show Featuring Vintage, Custom, and Classic Cars and Motorcycles. Live entertainment, Poker Run, Show’n Shine, and so much more! The show will start in Woodland Park, with a poker run to Cripple Creek and a street show that will continue into Sunday. Saturday evening will feature a street dance on Bennett Avenue. All registrants are entered into the door prize drawing and receive a goodie bag which includes a t-shirt, dash pillow and discount tickets to local merchants. Following the Woodland Park show there is a Poker run to Cripple Creek, Colorado.
21-22 The Gold Camp Victorian Society will present Mt. Pisgah Speaks, Historical Cemetery Walk on Saturday and Sunday. Come to Cripple Creek to see and hear the stories of those who lived in the time of “The Biggest Gold Rush in the history of our country.” Tours will begin from The Cripple Creek District Museum parking lot (at the East end of Bennett Ave) aboard Cripple Creek’s Historic Trolley, starting about 10am and continuing with one every half hour up to and including the last trolley at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 each. Each tour will take approximately one and one-half hours. All donations help the Gold Camp Victorian Society’s Historic Preservation efforts. The City of Cripple Creek helps to sponsor the event, along with local merchants who have given donations of items to be given away at a drawing at the end of each trolley ride, so keep your ticket stubs! For additional information call Richard Coshaw at 719-748-5523 or Howard Melching at 719-689-0907
21-22 and 28-29 The Help U Club will be having a bake sale and a ticket sale for the raffie of the hand-made quilt at the Heritage Center between 9am-3pm during the Aspen Tours.

- DIVIDE**
9 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.
23 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.

- ELEVEN MILE STATE PARK**
7 Serious Fishermen Team Pike Tournament. Visit 11milemarina.com or call 719-748-0317.

- FAIRPLAY**
3-7 Plein Air Festival & Art Celebration. Call 719-836-2622 for more information.
14 Relic Sale at South Park City. Visit www.southparkcity.org for more info or call 719-836-2387.

- FLORISSANT**
21 Thunderbird Inn is hosting “Purple Thunder Benefit Event for Alexandra Roberson” at 1pm. Live local musicians, live auction 2-4pm, Bake Sale (including Cookies for Kids’ Cancer.com). All ages welcome! Kid’s activities. Donations for Purple Thunder Alexandra Roberson Fund accepted at Park State Bank and www.GoFundMe.com

- FLORISSANT GRANGE**
7 Potato Festival. In the old days Florissant celebrated Potato Days, a time to harvest and celebrate all the potatoes that grew here. Let’s bring it back! The plans have begun for a one Day Potato Celebration. Mark your calendars for September 7th

- from 1 – 3pm, as Potato Day. Fun for everyone with warm baked potatoes and a potato bar (and a bar-Q if that doesn’t fill you up): Potato Dig, Potato Sack Race and Potato Sack Fashion Show; Potato Relay Races; Mr. Potato Head Contest; Horseshoes, Root Beer Floats and music.
21 Making your own Home Remedies, a new class by The ThymeKeeper, (keeper of ancient remedies), Mari Marques, here in Florissant. Join her at the Grange for a class on using herbs. Learn how to make cough syrup and other quick, inexpensive, and easy remedies for common ailments such as upset stomach, tension headache, ear infection, sore throat, stuffy nose, wounds, sprains, etc. These ailments and more are easily remedied at home using items from the kitchen and many plants from your own backyard. Sept. 21st from 10 – noon. For more information call 748-0358.
Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6 - 9pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck. This is a great night and this is the place to be on Thursday evenings. The music is always different depending on who and how many musicians show up, but we always have fun, good food, and dancing. All musicians are welcome to join in the Jam session and if you are not a musician, come for the social evening out to meet your community and enjoy and great food.
Yoga classes are held each Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Call Debbie at 748-3678 for more information.
Zumba Classes each Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 thanks to the Community Partnership of Teller County. Your donations are welcome at each class. Classes will last through October and maybe longer depending on your interest. Join us!!
Guitar, drums and general music lessons are now offered at the Grange on Friday mornings. Call 748-0358 for more information.
Coming in October: Fall Craft show and Treat Street Halloween Party.

- GUFFEY**
9 Guffey Library is hosting a Potluck and Author Talk with Lake George Author Sandi Sumner. The topic: Adoption/Reunion. From noon – 3pm. Call 719-689-9280 for more info.
14 Open House and Pet Parade at Guffey Community and Charter School. Call 719-689-2093 for more info.
28 Stilleto Sisterz at Bull Moose 4 – 7 p.m. (outdoors weather permitting) or 6 – 9 p.m. (indoors if not weather permitting)
30 Guffey Library is hosting Guffey Literary Society. The Green Mile, by Stephen King at 1pm. Call 719-689-9280 for more info.

- HARTSEL**
14 Harvest Center of Colorado – Food Pantry noon- 1pm.
26 Vision 20/20 will meet at the Hartsel Community Center on Thursday, September 26, at 6pm, to discuss project suggestions. Bring a dish for a potluck supper.

- LAKE GEORGE**
4 Community Fellowship of Christians, Lake George, Colorado, will have a Bible study on the Book of Daniel, starting on Wednesday, September 4, at 10am. This is free and if you have any questions call the church at 719-748-5552. Pastor Dieter Rademacher will be teaching class.
19 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.

- LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY**
4 Low Impact Exercise at 9am
6 Lake George Quilters Square 9:30-11:30pm
11 Low Impact Exercise at 9am
18 Low Impact Exercise at 9am
20 Lake George Quilters Square

- 9-30-1-30pm
25 Low Impact Exercise at 9am
27 Friends of the Library 9:15am - Book Clubs “Tainted Tea” and “Titles” meet afterward.

MUELLER STATE PARK

Naturalist Programs. For more info call 719-687-2366. Bring sturdy shoes, layered clothing, sun and rain protection and water.
6 “Those Sly Foxes” at the Amphitheater at 7:30pm. Foxes run freely in our imaginations, folktales and legends. They are known to be clever, sly, and wily. Remove the mystery and get to know the real fox with interpretive naturalist Penny. Dress warmly.
7 Hike: Buffalo Rock. Meet at Grouse Mountain Trailhead at 9:30am. Join volunteer naturalist Doc for this beautiful hike through four miles of pine and aspen forest, meadows and even get a chance to see the Cheesman Ranch up close.
7 “Deer and Elk: More or Less” at the Amphitheater at 7:30pm. We love to spot and watch deer and elk, the large mammals of our montane forest. However, someone has to manage the population, both for our enjoyment and for the sake of the herds. How do the Wildlife Managers do that? Interpretive naturalist Russ will share the models and methods of herd management.
8 Hike: Family Fun. Meet at Visitor Center at 1pm. Adults and children are encouraged to join volunteer naturalist Carole for this one mile long hike which stops at educational stations along the trail. This hike will include information of interest for all ages.
8 Touch Table: Birds at the Visitor Center from 1-3pm. Come see the bird of the Pikes Peak region up close. The feathers, skulls, and nests of red tail hawks, golden eagles and broad-tailed hummingbirds are just a few of the birds that will be on display.
8 “Wither the Weather” at the Amphitheater at 7:30pm. Why does it hail, rain and lightning so many afternoons? Why can’t the weatherman get it right? Look at the natural forces controlling our temperature, precipitation and our activities with interpretive naturalist Russ Frisinger. Hopefully you will be able to look at the sky and predict.
9 & 17 Hike: School Pond. Meet at School Pond Trailhead at 9am. Take pleasure in a gentle hike to School Pond and experience the breathtaking beauty of fall with Interpretive Naturalist Russ. This 1.5-mile round-trip features a scenic views of the Crags, Sentinel Point and the backside of Pikes Peak along with aspen forests and mountain meadows.
9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30 Mueller Hiking Challenge - Fall Session Meet at Visitor Center at 8am. Join us for this ambitious program to hike every posted trail in Mueller State Park. If you complete the entire program you will receive a beautiful stainless steel water bottle as a memento of your achievement! This program will be even more challenging than the summer session as it is broken into 8 hiking sessions, each about 6-8 miles round-trip for a total of about 65 miles! Only 4 weeks, 2 days a week! Come out for one of the hikes or just a few. Everyone is welcome to join the fun! Be sure to wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, bring plenty of water, your camera, sunscreen, a lunch or snack and anything else to make the hike fun for you!
11 Hike: Black Bear. Meet at Black Bear Trailhead at 9am. Marvel at interesting rock formations, get a great view of Sentinel Point, learn about trail connections for future hikes, and travel to the western boundary of the park on this easy to moderate 4.9-mile hike with Interpretive Naturalist Penny.
12 Hike: Preacher’s Hollow Trailhead at 9am. Join Interpretive Naturalist Penny on this gentle 2.0-mile loop hike. We will travel through meadows and by the Never-Never Pond. We will look for signs of forest fire friends.
13 Songs and Games to Keep Your Campfire Burning. Meet on the Camper Services Porch 6:30pm. Volunteer naturalist Anne will lead you in singing old favorites as well as some

original words to familiar tunes. Games will abound also. All abilities are welcome! Bring water, camp chairs and a willingness to have fun.
14 Map and Compass. Meet at Visitor Center at 9am. Learn the basics of map and compass. How do you choose a compass? Where do you get the maps? Learn how to combine the two to know your location at all times. You will learn about topographical maps and how to take bearings that will locate your position. Bring your compass if you have one, or we will have them available.
14 Touch Table: Volcanic Rock. Meet at Visitor Center 1 - 3pm. Come join volunteer naturalist Bob and learn about the geology of the Pikes Peak area. See and touch volcanic rocks and learn to identify them. Come any time to check out this hands-on opportunity.
14, 21, 22, 28, 29 Hike: Elk Bugling Hike. Sign-up at Visitor Center at 5:30pm. Every fall, Bull Elk seek out and compete for females. Visitors over the age of 10 can witness this amazing yearly event with Mike Storey. This is about a 3-mile round trip hike, returning after dark. Since it is LIMITED. Please sign-up at the Visitor Center via walk-in or by calling (719) 687-2366.
14 Wild Hungry Birds. Meet at the Amphitheater at 7:30pm. Despite the old adage, “Eat like a bird,” these critters can put down a ton of seeds! Home feeders make observing, photographing and just plain watching a delight for all ages. Interpretive Naturalist Russ can answer questions while you view his photos of the Wild Hungry Birds of Teller County. Dress warmly.
15 Hike: Hikers’ Choice. Meet at Visitor Center at 1pm. Volunteer naturalist Carole will lead a hike determined by the folks who join in. Carole is knowledgeable about all of the trails of the park and leads interesting adventures.
15 Hike: Sunset Hike. Meet at Grouse Mountain Trailhead at 6:30pm. Watch the sun go down as you view some of the tallest peaks in Colorado with Interpretive Naturalist Russ. This short but moderate hike leads to the highest point in the park and some amazing views. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, layered clothing, bring water, sun and rain protection and a flashlight.
16 Hike: Osborn Homestead. Meet at Black Bear Trailhead at 9am. Visit the Osborn Homestead and travel back in time. See what it was really like to live in the mountains before modern conveniences. Join Interpretive Naturalist Russ for this 3.0-mile early Fall hike.
18 Hike: Elk Meadow. Meet at Elk Meadow Trailhead at 9am. Examine tracks and signs of the animals that live in Mueller State Park as you hike Elk Meadow with Interpretive Naturalist Penny. This unique trail is a moderate 2.00-mile hike.
18 Hike: Full Moon Hike. Meet at Outlook Ridge Trailhead at 6:45pm. Enjoy the awesome view of the full moon rising over Pikes Peak with Interpretive Naturalist Penny. Learn some random facts and fun myths about our only natural satellite. This is a 2-mile hike rated moderate. We will be returning in the dark. Wear hiking boots, layered clothing, bring water, cameras, and a flashlight.
20 Hike: Homestead Hike. Meet at Homestead Trailhead at 9:30am. Take a pleasant 2.0-mile hike through forest, meadows and rock formations on the Homestead Trail. Join volunteer naturalist Rose looking for scat and tracks left by animals that call Mueller home. Aspens may be golden.
20 Colorado’s Fourteeners. Meet at the Amphitheater at 7:30pm. Get a personal close-up look at some of Colorado’s Fourteeners from a man that has climbed them all. Join Guest Speaker Mark Silas for climbing tips, gear information, and personal experiences, along with some magnificent mountain top scenery. Dress warmly.
21 Hike: Rock Pond. Meet at Rock Pond Trailhead at 9:30am. Enjoy the diverse scenery of this 5-mile hike with volunteer naturalist Doc. Examine tracks and signs of

Flag retirement

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

American flags that are no longer in good condition should be respectfully retired and replaced.
The Lake George Fire Department will host a flag retirement ceremony on September 21 at 10am at the department location. Members of the VFW Post 11411 will conduct an official ceremony to which the public is invited.
If you are unable to attend the ceremony, flags may be dropped off at the Woodland Park Senior Center or the Lake George Fire Department during staffed hours. New flags may be purchased at the ceremony or by contacting Bob Tyler at 748-1335.



“Old Glory” flies above Lake George

animals that live in Mueller State Park, and the various plants along the trail. This is a moderate trail. Wear hiking boots, bring water, sun and rain protection.
22 Hike: Bootlegging, Cattle Rustling, Horse Thieving, and a Murder Mystery. Meet at Grouse Mountain Trailhead at 10am. Explore the flora and fauna of Mueller State Park with volunteer naturalist Felicia. Learn about the early 1900s in Mueller; visit stills, ponds and homesteads. Aspens may be at their peak. Wear sturdy hiking boots, layered clothing and bring water.
22 Touch Table: Horns and Antlers. Meet at Visitor Center 1-3pm. Who do these belong to? Come see a variety of horns and antlers that use to belong to animals in the Pikes Peak area. Find out who has horns and who has antlers. Take this opportunity to touch and feel how heavy they can be. Come anytime.
23, 28, 29 Hike: Aspen Hike - Buffalo Rock. Meet at Grouse Mountain Trailhead at 9am. Enjoy the golden splendor of the aspen trees as they ready themselves for the cold winter ahead. Join Interpretive Naturalist Russ for an aspen nature hike in search of the most colorful displays. Wear hiking boots, layered clothing and bring water.
27 Lynx, Lion and Bob. Meet at the Amphitheater at 7pm. Lynx, mountain lions and bobcats are the only wild cats we have in Colorado. These animals capture the imagination with their stealthy habits. Learn why these elusive felines are at the top of the food chain with Interpretive Naturalist Penny. Dress warmly.
28 Touch Table: Paper Anem. Meet at Visitor Center at 10am. How do we get paper from trees? Is a wasp nest really made of paper? Come learn a bit of history about paper, how recycled paper is made and make your own paper cast using recycled paper to take home.
28 Hike: Wapiti Trail. Meet at Visitor Center at 1pm. Adults and children are encouraged to join Interpretive Naturalist Penny for this 1-mile long hike which stops at educational stations along the trail. This hike will include information of interest for all ages.
29 Touch Table: Scat and Tracks. Meet at Visitor Center at 10am. Come and see what our animal friends leave behind! Learn how to identify their tracks and droppings. Interpretive Naturalist Penny will show the different poops and paw prints for the animals of Mueller State Park.

County’s Clerk & Recorder Office-Elections Department will be present with updated election law information. All Democrats are encouraged to attend, especially former election judges, anyone interested in becoming an election judge, as well as those wishing to learn more about Colorado’s elections’ process. Admission is free. Questions prior to this meeting may be directed to Mrs. Ellen Haase (719)687-1813.
14 “Quest for Mastery” online classes, learn these tools that can help you to manifest your highest potential, and overcome issues in your life. This program is based on the Wisdom teachings of Archangel Michael. For more information email Jimena at Jimena.yantorno@gmail.com or call 719-306-0772. Classes offered in English and Spanish.
14 Ute Pass Brewing Company presents Lissa Hanner performing from 7:30pm-10:30pm.
14 The last Tour of History Park. The Ute Pass Historical Society offers free public tours (donations gratefully accepted!) of History Park September 14th. The tour is from 10 - 1 pm, starting at the Museum Center, 231 E. Henrietta Ave in Woodland Park. The Museum Center building is located next to the Woodland Park Public Library. A historic walking tour of Woodland Park meets at 10:30 am. Please contact UPHS at 719.686.7512 or e mail uphs@peakinter.net for more information. All tours are weather permitting.
17 The Wholistic Networking Community invites you to meet area practitioners and learn about holistic wellness from 11-12:30 at the Rampart Public Library, Woodland Park. “Wholistic” in our name includes all who pursue conscious living, a healthy lifestyle and desire a peaceful, natural world. At this month’s free event, animal lovers will learn how alternative therapies such as Healing Touch, Craniosacral Therapy, Reiki, color, gem essences, and more can help your pets. Beth Shemo, RMP, HTAP introduces you to the tools she uses in her private practice, and formerly in a holistic veterinarian’s office, for the benefit of your animal friends. RSVP to Barbara Royal, 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com
20 Stilleto Sisterz at Vintage Vines & the Staircase Gallery for the 3rd Friday Artwalk, 5 - 8 p.m
21 Stilleto Sisterz at Ute Pass Brewing Company, 7 - 10 p.m.

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13 Center Street & Henrietta 7am-1pm
20 Center Street & Henrietta 7am-1pm
27 Center Street & Henrietta 7am-1pm
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Second fundraising trail ride scheduled for Nighthawk Ranch September 25

by Flip Boetcher
photos by Flip Boetcher

The Nighthawk Ranch is a magical place for kids ages 10 to 17 who are surviving cancer. Tom Evans, a cancer survivor himself, and his wife Dorothy, own the ranch and have created a wonderful outdoor experience for these kids. For more details about this incredible place, please see August 2012 article in the archives www.utecountrynews.com.

The morning of July 24th the author visited Nighthawk Ranch to see the horses were saddled up and waiting in the arena. Everyone buzzed down from the main lodge on ATV’s. There was a brief arm wrestling competition and then everyone mounted up for the morning trail ride. According to Guffey resident Maria Mandel, a counselor at the camp, this was only the campers’ third day of riding and no one had ridden before. “Look at how well they are doing,” Mandel said.

The ranch is sponsoring two fundraising trail rides this summer, each with a morning and an afternoon ride. Horse trainer extrao-



One of last summer’s girls camps at the nighthawk ranch; everyone is in the arena, mounted up and ready to go!



The scene of this year’s first annual fundraising trail ride on the slopes of Thirty-one Mile Mountain at the corner of Hwy 9 and the Guffey turn looking south.

naire, Steve Dunn said that he plans on making the fundraising trail ride an annual event. The first trail ride had 23 riders and was held August 25 from 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 4pm, with lunch served from 12pm – 1pm. One could bring their own lunch or the ranch provided lunch for a \$15 donation. There are pony rides on fundraising trail ride days as well according to Dunn. People are invited to make a donation regardless of whether they are interested in riding.

The second trail ride is scheduled for September 25 (weather permitting), with the same hours. For this ride, Tom Seay, host of RFD-TV’s show, “The Best of America by Horseback” will be filming and interviewing for his show. Seay was here in 2011 filming a show about Dunn and the extraordinary work Dunn does with horses.

Contact Dunn for more information on the trail rides or to RSVP at 719-479-4009 or justin@dunnshighcountry.com. The trail rides require a \$35 minimum donation. All of the proceeds go to the ranch’s summer camp program for kids recovering from cancer. “It all goes to the kids,” stated Dunn.

For more information on the Nighthawk ranch and a video presentation visit their website: www.NighthawkRanchColorado.org. Email: info@NighthawkRanchColorado.org, or 719-689-5634 or P.O. Box 265 Guffey, Colorado, 80820.

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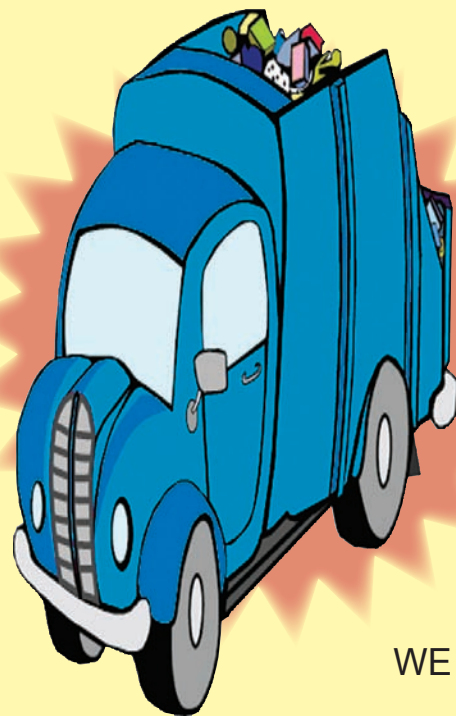
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