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July 2014

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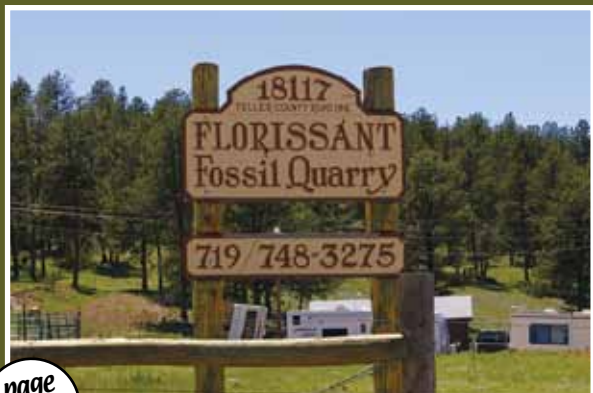
Vol. 6, No. 7

Welcome to Ute Country

Freedom is the open window
through which pours the sunlight
of the human spirit and human dignity.
— Herbert Hoover



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Coffee Barn and Chapman Meats



On Deck

This month's cover is of "Window Rock" on Shelf Road. The window reminds us of the many opportunities July brings to celebrate our freedom. See inside for all the fun ways to celebrate the Fourth of July.

We have had a new window of opportunity open; we are now expanding into Canon City! We took a few down early in the month and the papers flew off the shelves. We look forward to serving Fremont County.

Another window of opportunity arose when Erin Kunitz joined our team! Erin is an intelligent woman with a great personality. She will be helping us to connect to Canon City and Fremont County. Welcome to our team, Erin!

When one window closes, others seem to open. The Ute Country News will no longer be available at either Walmart or Denny's, due to their exclusive contracts with Dominion Distribution. Any reader who used to pick up our paper at Walmart or Denny's is welcome to contact us and we'll help you find the most convenient of our over 40 locations in Woodland Park to pick us up!

Mr. Spaz was delighted to find a few friends enjoying summer: on the cool floor, in their pool or perch. What pic do you have of a pet of enjoying summer? Please send Mr. Spaz your Critter Corner pics at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

Feel free to contact us via email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or phone 719-686-7393. Make sure we have the chance to help you spread your word!

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A special thanks to all listed here for their professional work and time to make this possible. If you have any questions please contact the publishers.



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Families have a rockin' good time finding fossils at Florissant Fossil Quarry

by Kathy Hansen

photos by Jeff Hansen

Some believe you need to read books to learn about history. Some are more adventurous and prefer a more hands' on, approach. If you go to the Florissant Fossil Quarry, you and your family can have a rockin' good time breaking open shale to read the historical record of the plants and animals that used to dwell here. After all, when you crack a fossil apart it opens like a book and you can see the mirror image of the fossil inside!

The Florissant Fossil Quarry is located at 18117 Teller County Road 1. It contains the Florissant Formation, which is a very large and layered rock formation that holds the last 35 million years of the area's history. It can be mind-blowing to consider this sub-alpine desert was once a subtropical climate with a lake that spanned 4.5 miles; the damn of the lake at Evergreen Station.

The area was also home to volcanic activity, which spanned all the way to Guffey. The lahars from the volcanoes actually trapped various species of insects, birds, and many forms of plant-life, much of which are now extinct and cannot be found on this continent, such as "Golden Rain Tree leaves" that now exist in China.

Professors of geology have been coming to the area for about 100 years or so from Waynesburg College in PA. They would spend the summer on-site collecting and studying fossils. Toni Clare, matriarch of the family and property, also known as "the original fossil", said "It was during a summer I was too far along in my pregnancy to work, that a professor needed a driver. I became the driver for the professor taking him where he wanted to go. That's when I first became interested in the fossils."

The Clare family has owned the property since about the 1930s when Myrtle and Homer Clare moved here from Hokum, KS. Their son, Harold Eugene Clare, who preferred to go by "Gene", met Toni when she was visiting cousins at Colorado College. Toni was from PA; she was mesmerized by cowboy culture. While Gene may not have perfectly fit her idea of a cowboy, he was a good dancer and had a great sense of humor. Toni has a great sense of humor herself, along with an adventurous spirit; the two married. They had five children, Nancy, Dixie, Chris, Harold, and Janice; all of which have something to do with the quarry.

Nancy Clare-Anderson had worked with Toni at the quarry for a number of years. A few years ago she decided to change her role and she is now re-designing their website, along with monitoring email from CA.

Dixie comes up from Canon City over the summer to help Toni at the quarry, giving herself a change of pace from her painting.

Chris is married Toni. They have two sons, Cody, aged 14 years and Ryan, only 12 years old, who already has established "Ryan's Fossil Shop" in business for about three years. Toni said, "He runs this completely by himself. He wanted a cash register so he saved for it. Once he got it, he needed a battery pack, so he saved for that as well." Ryan sells a variety of gem stones, fossils, rocks, and the jewelry he makes. He is quite the entrepreneur and a very polite young man. His email is ryansfossilshop@hotmail.com

Harold married Marion. Harold established AC Concrete and uses his front end loaders to bring buckets of shale for the visitors to pick through to find fossils. Marion operates "Nature's Wide Fossil Shop" which features a very wide selection of fossils, minerals, and crystals. To learn more about her offerings call 719-748-3805.



Dixie, Tonie, Toni, and Ryan Clare pose on the steps leading to the quarry.



Emily unearthed a fossil of an extinct leaf.

Janice Nader relocated to Reno and now works for Amtrack. She continues to offer her support from a distance, still an integral part of the family business.

What everyone has in common here is the excitement about finding the fossils. Shirley Logan, right-hand-woman, who volunteers at the quarry commented, "This is more relaxing than a day off!" She considers the day she helps out as her "play day". She enjoys teaching the history of the area, as well as teaching the youngsters how to find fossils. Sometimes she is the care-taker of the tiny tots, too young to wield a hammer.

This truly is a special place. Dixie showed us the front of the Florissant Formation, which is cordoned off to help preserve the Spirit Tree or Medicine Tree on the formation. Dixie said a self-proclaimed psychic visited the area and told them, "You have Native American Spirits who help protect this property."

The family has decided to refrain from further chiseling at the front of this formation as it is incredible to see the various layers. Dixie assured us, this formation is uniquely rich in fossils in



The Lienhards of Colorado Springs host family members from Spokane, WA.



Ryan Clare at his Fossil Shop.

that each layer has something from its time. It is pretty much guaranteed a fossil will be found.

It was Gene who decided back when the Florissant Fossil Beds became a National Monument, meaning people could no longer legally take fossils from that site, to open their land to fossil hunters. Gene was known to say, "Let's let folks come here to find fossils." Soon after they opened to the public he said, "Every kid who comes here learns something."

Many who have found fossils have taken them to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, as the folks there are happy to help find out what species has been discovered. Sometimes, they need a little help.

In the case of "Lillian", an extinct bird fossil of the Eocene epoch, found by Nancy Clare Anderson and her son, Cole, professors from Canada studied the fossil for two years before making their determination. "Lillian" is now on permanent display at the National History Museum, in Denver.

The finder of the fossil is allowed to have the fossil named after them. Nancy and Cole chose the name "Lillian" after maternal grandmother, Lillian Legath. They found one piece and diligently continued the hunt until they found the other two pieces over several days.

There are also fossils found at the quarry that have been donated to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

The jury is out on whether it is better to keep the fossils you find, or to donate them for everyone to enjoy. One thing is clear; the Clares enjoy opening their land to people who are interested in finding fossils and learning more about this Earth's incredible history. They love meeting new people and teaching them about fossils.

The Florissant Fossil Quarry is open every day of the week from Memorial Day through Labor Day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They charge \$10 per hour and everyone finds a fossil within one hour. The serious fossil hunter can spend a half day or the entire day. The quarry is also available to plan your next birthday party fossil hunt. Call 719-748-3275 for more information. Rock on!

Ute Pass Trail

by Linda Bjorklund

Ute Pass (altitude 9,165 feet) lies between the towns of Florissant and Divide near the banks of Twin Creek. There are innumerable Ute Trails in the Rocky Mountains where the Ute Indians traveled from one place to another.

The Ute Pass Trail began as a rudimentary trail forged by buffalo as they migrated from the grassy fields in South Park to the plains at lower altitudes to mark the change in seasons. Paths 15 inches wide and four inches deep attributable to buffalo migration can still be identified more than a century later.

The Ute Indians took advantage of the trail made by the animal that provided their very sustenance. They were at home in the Rocky Mountains, more so than their adversaries, the Arapahoe or the Comanche. The Utes are thought to have originated in Mexico, passed through southwestern states and into the mountains about 1000 A.D.

Their legend, however, attributes their creation to that wily creature, the coyote. The Creator is said to have collected sticks representing various peoples and put them all in a bag. The coyote, portrayed as a trickster and troublemaker, opened up the bag and let loose most of the people who spread out, all speaking different languages. Those left in the bag were the Utes, who would thereafter be braver than the rest.

The Utes learned to defend their buffalo trail against adversarial tribes and they built several fort-like structures along the trail, using rocks that they piled in circular formation about chest high, big enough for three or four people to hide behind. Remains of one of these structures was reported to have been found partway up Fortification Hill in the town of Florissant. This was one of Chief Ouray's favorite campsites.

The first white men to penetrate the mountain home of the Utes were trappers and hunters. Among them was George Ruxton, an adventurer who was born in England, but made his way into the mountain wilderness of what was to become Colorado. Ruxton came to this area in 1846, travelling with his guide, his horse and his pack burros.

Ruxton camped for several weeks in the area near Manitou Springs, venturing occasionally into South Park to hunt and explore. His account of one trip starts, "I followed a very good lodge pole-trail, which struck the creek before entering the broken ground, being that used by the Yutas (Utes) and Arapahos on their way to the Bayou Salado."

His account describes in detail the Indians he met and the animals he observed—bears, buffalo, deer, antelope, wolves. He didn't fear the Indians but took pains to separate his camp from them. He thought he had put a safe distance between his camp and theirs on one occasion, but found out otherwise. His story goes, "I descended the mountain to the springs, and, being very tired, after taking a refreshing draught of the cold water I lay down on the rock by the side of the water and fell fast asleep."

He awoke shortly after the sun had set and immediately saw a bright light against the mountainside. The dense cloud of smoke indicated that there was a fire about a mile away. Ruxton quickly ran to collect his animals and urge them into the nearby stream. They made it across the water in the nick of time, even though he had to stop and retrieve his gun, which he had dropped into the water in his haste. After he had safely crossed the stream, he turned around and looked back. Now able to think more clearly, he concluded that the Indians had deliberately set the fire, hoping to steal his animals without the risk of attacking his camp.

When he returned to England in 1847 he wrote about his adventures in his book, "Wild Life in the Rocky Mountains".

Ruxton Creek, later named after the explorer,

er, flows into Fountain Creek, which continues through Manitou Springs, southward through Colorado Springs and Canon City, where it empties into the Arkansas River.

When gold was found in the Rocky Mountains in 1859, prospectors rushed to the area to try to make their fortunes. They used the old Ute Trail on their way to the gold fields in South Park. The road was very narrow and steep in places, which forced many would-be gold seekers to leave their horses and wagons in Colorado City and pack their tools and supplies on their backs of the more sure-footed burros.

Among those who attempted the trek in 1860 were Horace and Augusta Tabor who brought their infant son. Horace staked a claim in Gregory's Diggings near Golden. Other miners convinced him that the gold camp was no place for a woman and child, so he took them back to Denver for the winter. When he returned to his claim, he found that it had been jumped by the same miners who had convinced him to leave. Discouraged but not daunted, the Tabors ventured into Colorado City. Finding no gold there, Horace began to hear from returning miners that there was gold in South Park.

They set out with their wagon on the trail which had been "previously used only by Indians and a few whites." The trail was so steep and they made such slow progress that they could often look from their current night's campsite and still see the smoke from their fire the night before. They used pine trees to brake the wheels of the wagon at night and prevent it from rolling disastrously downhill. They eventually got to California Gulch near what later became Leadville and settled down. Horace Tabor's fortune from the mines there became legendary.

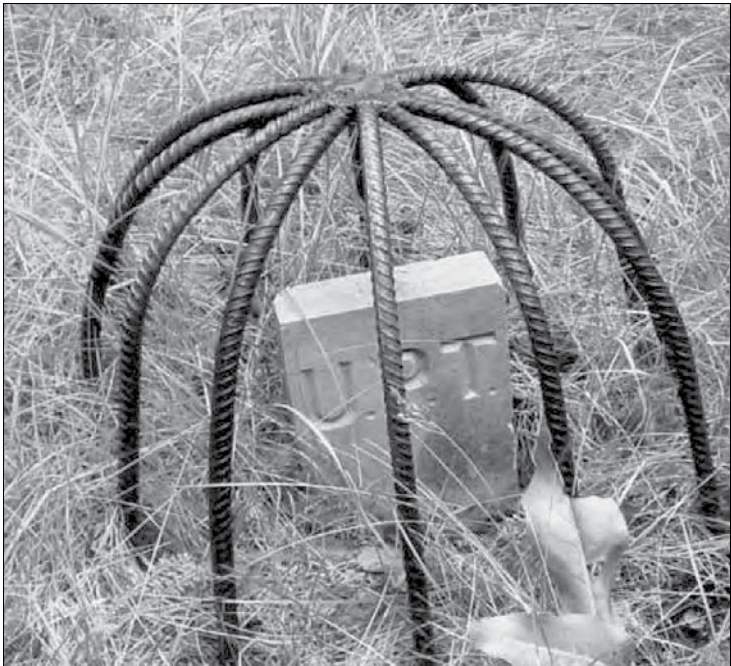
The Ute Pass Wagon Road continued to be used in spite of the inconvenience it caused.

Travelers strictly adhered to the schedule that developed: mornings were reserved for westbound traffic and during the afternoon only eastbound wagons could use the pass.

In 1872 a new wagon road was completed, making the traveling much easier. Stagecoach lines were established and stage stops were built every 12 or 15 miles to change horses and offer passengers food or lodging. Late in the 1870s the Colorado Midland Railroad began to lay track to reach the mines in South Park and beyond.

Although white settlers began to dominate the territory, the Utes technically had not given up any of it. They were, however, gradually pushed out of their lands and forced to agree to the Treaty of 1864. The federal government guaranteed them annual payments and subsistence and they were coerced into giving up their mountain nomad life and confined to reservations.

In 1912 the El Paso County Pioneers Association organized an effort to mark the old Ute Pass Trail and revive its history. Fifteen white marble markers were placed between the towns of Cascade and Manitou Springs, each labeled U.P.T. Fifty Ute Indians and their families were allowed off their reservation to participate in a celebration on August 29, 1912. Chief Ouray had passed away in 1880, but his wife Chipeta and Buckskin Charlie, now chief of the tribe, attended



A well protected original Ute Pass Trail marker from 1912. photo from elpasoco.com

the ceremony, along with former governor Alva Adams and State Senator Irving Howbert.

The procession began in Cascade with much speechmaking and celebration. The Ute families were driven in cars along the route of the old trail to Manitou Springs. The braves wore buckskin suits and feathered war bonnets and the women were adorned with turquoise and silver jewelry. They sang tribal songs and generally celebrated their own history.

Buckskin Charley explained that the point where the trail begins to descend toward Ruxton Creek was where the Utes gathered to smoke a pipe of peace with other Indian tribes who were normally their enemies. They would stash all their weapons and instead carry choke cherry branches to signify that they were unarmed.

The Utes believed that the hot springs that bubbled with "medicine waters" were inhabited by their Great Spirit, whose breath was the source of the bubbling. Ruxton was one of the early explorers who noted the presence of beads, wampum, knives and pieces of red cloth, left at the hot springs in appreciation for their healing powers.

The Ute Pass Trail now generally goes through the towns of Cascade, Chipeta Park, Green Mountain Falls, Crystola, Woodland Park and Divide; although these days it is in the form of a paved road we call Highway 24.

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Correction



Last month we identified the wrong house as the Castello home at the base of Fortification Hill. Pictured above is the correct house originally built by James Castello. photo by Celinda Kaelin.

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Twister tests family’s rock solid faith

Lake George Cabins & RV Park rebuild from the rubble

by Kathy Hansen
photos by Jeff Hansen

Tornadoes tend to be rare in the mountains, although they do occur. One touched down in Lake George on June 8 of this year, ripping through the Lake George Cabins & RV Park. The tornado turned over six of the seven trailers on the property, destroyed the shelter for their water tank, and ripped through two of the six recently remodeled cabins. For owners, Heidi and Ron Gleghorn, it felt like a test of faith.

The Gleghorns sold everything they had to buy the property in December of 2012. Heidi and Ron, along with their children Cruiz, age 13 and Kaysha, age nine, packed up and moved into the house in Lake George. Ron had recently retired from the service (Army and Air Force), while Heidi had completed her Professional Counseling Certification and created the goal of

being a missionary counselor. She believes in the power of healing and turning life around: a gift from her parents’ personal journey, who accompany them at the house. Together, the plan was to create a place of healing in nature.

The house was originally built in 1945 and the property had been vacant for eight to 12 years. They knew it would take some time, money and lots of effort for their vision of the property to come to fruition. Their goal to transform the property into a place where campers could stay while enjoying the great outdoors and those in need of healing could come for retreat, had been well on its way until the skies had something more in store for the property.

The tornado twisted off a huge tree just in front of the house and relocated it, leaving another very large tree standing tall. The sound of an explosion is what Heidi and her mother recall as they occupied the house during the devastation. There were at least 14 trees uprooted on the property. Debris was everywhere. Shock set in for a day.

They called the insurance company, which wasn’t able to get someone out to assess the damage for almost a week. This left them without water, electricity, and many of their employees homeless. But it didn’t shake their faith.

“Just that morning, we were up on our Prayer Bench, saying a prayer for our family, employees, and property,” said Heidi, as she pointed upward to a large rock formation just behind the house and cabins.

“God tucked us in at the cleft of the rock and passed us over in all His glory, like he did Moses!” she exclaimed, her face passionate. “When I see how close this tree was to our house and realize it easily could have taken the house down, it really hits. Then there is this tree, still standing. Something good will come of this,” her face brightens with hope through her faith.

They had been actively renovating for one year and eight days before the touchdown. They were not sure they would continue with their goals but soon it came clear that was what they needed to do.

While natural disasters always carry a bit of surprise, I asked Heidi what most surprised her about this situation. She said, “There is a negative



The Gleghorn’s Prayer Bench (see cover photo), sits on the hill behind one of the damaged cabins (above). While some cabins were heavily damaged, others were left intact and are now ready for occupancy (below).



The two in-tact cabins are beautiful! Each has a small kitchenette and private bath. The rooms are clean and welcoming.



Trees in front of the office were toppled, but all managed to miss the building.

If you are considering a camping or cabin escape over the summer, autumn, or even winter, consider giving the Gleghorns a call. They will welcome you as guests on their faith-filled space. Stop by at 8966 County Road 90, Lake George, just off Hwy 24, call them at 719-748-3822 or email info@LakeGeorgeCabinsAndRVPark.com or check out their website www.LakeGeorgeCabinsAndRVPark.com

- Heidi and Ron Gleghorn extend their heartfelt thanks:**
- Community Church
 - Day Spring Church
 - Donut Mill
 - Doty Family
 - Elevenmile Ranch
 - Florissant Subway
 - Impact Church
 - Lake George Bible Church
 - Lake George Charter School
 - Lake George Clean Up
 - Lake George Fire Department
 - Lake George Pizza
 - Linda Karlin
 - Park County Sheriff’s Office
 - Rocky Mountain Materials & Asphalt
 - Starkey’s General Store
 - The Navigators
 - Todd Landsborough
 - Waste Management



Mary Marques was at her home in Florissant when she caught a glimpse of the twister that hit Lake George on June 8th.



On Tuesday, June 17th, a suspected microburst tore the roof off the Outpost Feed Store in Florissant.



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Get crafty

by Erin Snyder

Crafts and projects are a great way to fulfill your creative side. However, if your supplies are disorganized, it can be stressful to even begin a craft project. Here are few tips to keeping those supplies tidy and easy to manage.

Crafts for Kids

Use an over the door shoe organizer for kid’s crafts. This is a great way to store glue, markers, colored pencils, stickers and any other supplies you might have. You can even put the items that you don’t want them to reach in the higher pockets and put things like crayons and stickers near the bottom. This also helps children learn how to put their items back when they are finished.

Use shoeboxes, small bins or drawers and label each one so that your children know where each item belongs. If they are not able to read yet, simply print a picture of the item so that they can recognize where things go.

Scrapbooking Supplies

If you have a scrapbook or other small project you are working on, purchase a ‘project bin’ from a craft store. These will fit 12” x 12” square scrapbook paper and you can keep all papers, photos and embellishments for a certain project together until you complete it. That way, you can simply grab the project box when you want to work on it. These are stackable, have latches to keep them closed and come in a variety of colors.

Embellishments

These are all of the small additions to scrapbook and craft projects that can be so overwhelming. They include buttons, stickers, brads, photo corners, rhinestones...the list goes on and on. There are numerous ways to organize these. One is to get a binder filled with plastic page protectors. Each page protector can hold a different type of item or can be categorized by style, such as holidays, travel, pets, etc. They won’t spill because they are held upright and you can flip through the pages easily to find what you need.

Fabric, Yarn and Ribbon

If you have an assortment of fabric that is difficult to sort through, there are lots of ways to organize it. Shallow drawers are great for organizing fabric because you don’t have to dig through large piles each time you want something. You can also use a rolling cart with clear shallow drawers so that you can easily see what is inside each one. A file cabinet is another great way to store fabric. Simply fold the fabric and hang each style over a file folder inside the drawer. When you open the drawer, you can see all of your fabric at once and can organize by color or fabric style.

If you have a lot of yarn, it is great to be able to see all of the colors at once. Buy a wood cabinet with small cubbies (made for shoes or purses) and organize the yarn by color. Then, label each cubby to make finding your favorite color simple and easy.

If you have a jumble of ribbon, try putting all of the ribbon upright in a shallow organizing basket with holes in it. Put a dowel through the hole in the center of the ribbon rounds and through either end of the basket. This keeps the ribbon from falling out and you can pull the ribbon out through the holes in the basket. You could also buy a small tension rod and put it inside a small shelf or drawer. Put the ribbon rounds on the rod and slip it into place.

Creative Storage

You don’t have to spend a lot of money to have organized craft supplies. For example, instead of buying fancy storage boxes, pick up a few tackle boxes. The compartments in these are perfect for small craft items and can often be adjusted to suit your needs. You can buy clear ones so you can see what’s inside and they are easy to stack and transport.

Used spice containers or mason jars are another great way to organize. Again, most of them are clear so you can see what’s inside and you can buy them relatively cheaply. They don’t take



Get creative when organizing crafts

up much room, will seal tightly shut and can be displayed on a shelf or tucked into a drawer.

The over-the-door hanging shoe organizers mentioned earlier are a fantastic way to organize all sorts of things. Yarn, scrapbook tools, and craft paints fit well in the small pockets. Just make sure to buy the organizer with clear pockets or label them so you can easily find what you’re looking for. You can also take these off of the door and move them from room to room as needed.

Before buying supplies for storage, look around your house to see what you already have. You might be surprised at the creative solutions you can come up with. Once your supplies are organized, it makes the actual craft projects that much more enjoyable!

Erin Snyder is a Professional Organizer and the author of the organizing blog “Neaten Your Nest”. For more information, please visit www.neatenyournest.com or contact Erin at erin@neatenyournest.com or 678-622-6718.

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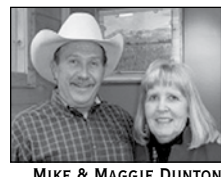
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MIKE & MAGGIE DUNTON



Florissant Heritage Day

by Celinda Kaelin

An historic photo of the stage at Florissant, courtesy of the Pikes Peak Historical Society

One hundred and forty-four years ago, in 1870, Judge James Castello established a Ute Trading Post in Teller County. Later, when he petitioned for a Post Office, he named it Florissant for his hometown in Missouri. The public is invited to join the Pikes Peak Historical Society as it celebrates this event on Saturday, July 26 in partnership with the Florissant Grange, the Florissant Volunteer Fire Department, and the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

Festivities will begin at 7 a.m. Saturday, July 26, when the Florissant Volunteer Fire Department opens with its Pancake Breakfast at the Florissant Fire House on the west side of town. Donations are requested for this meal and benefit the Fire Department.

After this delicious breakfast, guests are invited to walk over the hill, or drive around to the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum at 18033 Teller County Road #1, across from the Florissant Post Office. Beginning at 10 a.m., they may tour the museum for free. The Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 748-8259.

Later, they may cross over Highway 24 to the Florissant Schoolhouse Museum. Volunteers Jan North and Mary Humphreys will preside as hostesses at the Schoolhouse Museum, which formerly served as the teacher's residence. Guests may also go next door, to the 1886 Florissant school for a full day of activities presented by the Florissant

Grange, including:

- Historic plays and re-enactments by Clay Al-lison and 20 Years on the Road Productions
- Barrel-train rides
- Pony rides by Idlewild Ride
- Treasure hunt
- Ladies of the Old West
- Horseshoe games
- Ice cream social
- Children's games and activities
- Music on the bandstand all day, featuring Saide and Amber Elbert, Mel March and many more
- Native flute music by Viola Butler
- Vendors and crafts galore
- Burgers, brats and hotdogs on the grill from 10:30 to closing.

Ghostly adventures await those brave enough to visit the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery at 10 a.m. There, hosts Donna & Knut Knudton will recount some of the stories of numerous Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery. Many say that their spirits can still be seen and heard among the pines and aspens.

For more information on these activities, call Harold Kaelin at 748-3562 or the Museum at 748-8259.

A mile further down the road, volunteers for the National Park Service will present living history at the Hornbeck Homestead for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. For more information call the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at 748-3253.



Children enjoying the activities at the 2013 event.

4th of July at Memorial Park

Community Partnership Family Resource Center and the City of Woodland Park will present the annual Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Memorial Park in Woodland Park on Friday, July 4, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This family-friendly event features live music on three stages, free activities for kids, the Fire Cracker 5K Fun Run, a kids fishing pole casting contest, bounce house, basketball and volleyball tournaments, fire engine rides, horse and buggy rides, food and craft vendors, a Bierwerks beer garden and much more. Admission is free, but some activities have a small fee.

Old Fashioned 4th of July Schedule:

- Fire Cracker 5K Fun Run begins: 8 a.m.
- Kids fishing pole casting contest begins: 8 a.m.
- All other activities begin: 9 a.m.
- Flag-raising ceremony and National Anthem: 12 noon

Community Partnership Family Resource Center's Parent Engagement program is presenting the Fire Cracker 5K Fun Run as part of the day's festivities. The 5K course will wind through the north side of Woodland Park, beginning and ending at the celebration in Memorial Park. Registration is \$15 per person. Pets and bikes are not permitted for safety reasons. Fire Cracker 5K registration is available at www.cpteller.org/5Kregistration.

This event is sponsored by the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company, The Colorado Health Foundation, Park State Bank & Trust, Pikes Peak Courier View, Moun-

tain Home Medical, North Teller Build A Generation, Bierwerks, Mountain Memorial Services, Re-Elect Sheriff Mike Ensminger, Syzmankowski Agency-State Farm Insurance, Summer Love Tye Dyes, Summit Beauty School, Pikes Peak Regional Hospital, and the City of Woodland Park.

"We are excited to bring the County's biggest annual family-friendly event to Woodland Park once again this year for the 4th of July. The addition of the Fire Cracker 5K Fun Run is a great reminder for all of us to get outside and enjoy the beauty of Teller County," said Jodi Mijares, Executive Director, Community Partnership Family Resource Center.

About Community Partnership Family Resource Center

Community Partnership Family Resource Center was founded in 1992 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving all of Teller County. Last year, 1 of every 17 Teller residents were involved in their free/low-cost programs, including: parenting education, parent/child play group, GED classes, cooking & nutrition classes, adult exercise, health self-management, parent engagement in schools/community, family development resources, health coverage assistance, and emergency utilities assistance. www.cpteller.org • 719-686-0705



New Teller County Regional Street Guide available

MacVan Map Company of Colorado Springs announces the release of a newly published updated street atlas for Teller County, Colorado and Ute Pass Communities. Atlas features all Teller County plus towns of Cascade, Chipita Park, Cripple Creek, Divide, Florissant, Green Mountain Falls, Goldfield, Victor and Woodland Park. The full-color, spiral bound book includes full street index, subdivision guide, MLS areas, real estate sub areas, zip code boundaries, points of interest, mileage charge and state map. Grids on this atlas match the MacVan Teller County wall maps. The guide is 64 pages and only \$17.95.

The atlas is available online at www.macvanmaps.com or in-store at MacVan Map Co., 1045 #B Garden of the Gods Rd., Colo. Spgs., CO 80907, with discounts available for quantity orders. Call the store at 719-633-5757 for more information.

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*Rose and Abram Hackman, portrayed by Kenya and Stephen Lunsford.
photo by Judy Perkins*

3rd Annual Cemetery Crawl

Take a walk around the Woodland Park Cemetery on Friday, July 4th and meet some of the old pioneers who are resting there. Tours run every 15 minutes from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$5, and tickets are available at the gate. The cemetery is located at 650 Short Street in Woodland Park. Please call UPHS at 719.686.7512 or e mail uphs@peakinter.net for more information.

The Ute Pass Historical Society offers free self-guided public tours (donations gratefully accepted!) of History Park the second Saturday of the month from June through September.

Docents will be on hand in each building to answer questions. The tours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting at the Museum Center, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue in Woodland Park.

The Museum Center building is located next to the Woodland Park Public Library. A guided historic walking tour of Woodland Park meets at 10:30 a.m. For more information, please contact UPHS at 719.686.7512 or visit our website at: utepasshistoricalsociety.org.

All tours are weather permitting.

Volunteers needed

The Ute Pass Historical Society (UPHS) is seeking volunteers that would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Our mission is to preserve and share the history of the Ute Pass area. UPHS operates with dedicated volunteers and two part-time employees who manage the historical collections and daily operations. We need people to

help us lead our organization into the future.

The Ute Pass Historical Society is responsible for History Park located next to the Woodland Park Library, which includes four historical cabins with exhibits reflecting the history of the Ute Pass area. We host regular tours of History Park for schools, visitors and residents of our area. UPHS has initiated several projects including publication of books, a pioneer garden and museum exhibits. We are also working collaboratively with various groups to help promote heritage tourism within Teller County.

This is an exciting time to be part of our Historical Society Board with so many projects underway to preserve the heritage of our area



The Immer Cabin at History Park. photo by Judy Perkins

and to use current and emerging technology in advancing the mission of UPHS.

If you are interested in joining the UPHS Board of Directors, please contact the Ute Pass Historical Society at 719.686.7512, Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Field trip!



*The third grade trough seventh grade students from Lake George Charter School enjoyed their end of the school year field trip to the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine.
photo by Denise Kelly*

Coffee Barn and Chapman Meats: greener pastures ahead

by Kathy Hansen

Have you ever had the opportunity to meet someone who makes "reinventing yourself" look easy-shmeasy? Allow me to introduce Sandra Chapman, owner of Cripple Creek's Coffee Barn.

Sandra moved to Cripple Creek at age four. She attended school K-12 in Cripple Creek. In fact, she had worked at the CCV School for over 15 years when budget cuts eliminated her position. What now?

Sandra had lots of time to think about it. It was less than four months into her marriage to Jim Chapman, lifelong friend, as he too attended Cripple Creek school from K-12; Sandra was facing reconstructive surgery on her right foot. That meant at least six weeks, non-weight bearing on the foot and then three months in the boot. Sandra captured the opportunity to research what it would take to create a small drive-through coffee shop.

When I asked Sandra how she decided on a coffee shop, she said, "I love a good cup of coffee. I noticed whenever we travel we look for a drive-through; they are all around the country. People enjoy a good cup of coffee."

Sandra began to do her research. She learned about various kinds of coffee and various grinds. She learned about fair-trade, organic, and delicious condiments to add to coffee. She began to research the cost of constructing a building versus the cost of a pre-manufactured Weather King building. When she had her data, she and Jim discussed the pros and cons. While there are always doubts when setting out on new territory, they decided, "Let's just go for it!"

Go for it they did, but not alone. Sandra's brother, Todd Bowman of District Supply provided the electrical; cousin Jesse Stephens installed the plumbing; Sid Chapman, Jim's son, along with Sandra's son, Steven DiCamillo and Cede (Steven's fiancé), did the drywall and painting. Together, they turned the Weather King building into the Coffee Barn. It is truly amazing to see how much space they have inside! They need it to hold all they offer.

Yes, you can have your coffee any way you like it. Whether it is latte, cappuccino, caramel macchiato, or three types of mocha, espresso shots or Americano, or perhaps you'd like an extra shot or flavor, Sandra has what it takes to make what you consider to be the perfect cup of coffee. The menu also includes a variety of hot teas, including Chai, or perhaps you'd rather cool off with a sparklers iced tea. There is even a decaf option, or hot chocolate, and even smoothies.

Sandra knows many folks like to have a little substance with their cup of Jo and began exploring those options as well. While Sandra

did her research, she learned about The Pantry Commercial Kitchen in Canon City. It's been said that a good leader can see the strengths of others. Sandra tasted the incredible cinnamon and caramel pecan rolls crafted by Meadowlark Bakery and knew she had to make their items available to her customers. She also met the folks from Fired Up Burgers; she sells their breakfast burritos made with Chapman beef, also sold at the Coffee Barn. After all, supporting local vendors simply helps to build communities.

Coffee to calving

The Chapman beef comes from the Chapman farm, currently owned by Marlene Chapman, Jim's mother. It was Jim's grandparents, Charles A. and Ann Chapman who began the ranch back in 1921, as they developed their homestead in "Marigold", the name given to the area by early settlers. Charles worked in the local mines while he added to the homestead piece by piece, as he could afford to acquire it.

The tradition was passed onto Jim's father, Jim R. Chapman, who became more interested in the family farm after WWII. Jim R. married Marlene and they had four boys. Jim R., continued to add on to the ranch as mining claims or other adjacent parcels came available. The ranch continued through Jim R's passing in 2010.

Jim had always enjoyed the ranch growing up. He too, worked in the mine and for the county for 17 years. Jim's son, Sid, lives on the ranch and also works at the CCV mine. Jim's brother, Mark, lives north of Canon City, also works at the mine and helps out on the ranch. The roots of the ranch and family tugged on Jim as they survived the drought and its many impacts.

Drought

Weather is a somewhat unpredictable variable when it comes to farming or ranching. Records kept over the years show there are cycles: about 25 years of drought followed by normal weather, followed by 25 wet years, followed by normal, then back to 25 years of dry. Understanding the cycles is one thing, being prepared to endure is quite another.

This last drought has really taken its toll. They have lost significant pasture land and many grassy areas that could be feeding areas for the cows. Hay needed to be purchased at very high prices to keep the cattle they could. The herd had



Jim and Sandra Chapman on the deck of The Coffee Barn in Cripple Creek.

been reduced to 100; the lowest head of cattle since Charles began the ranch. Trying to re-seed the land without water is impossible, and their land's summer water rights belong to Canon City. Tilling up soil ravaged by drought is even worse as whatever moisture is left simply evaporates once it is turned up. Difficult discussions about the future of the ranch took place. How is it possible to bring the ranch back?

New technology meets tried and true practices.

The family reviewed what worked in the past and researched what new technological advances were available. The ideas began to flow.

The first recognition was the sad state of what remained of the soil. It was decided they would plant turnips and collard greens, to feed the soil. Planting these crops in spring, and allowing them to winter-over provides essential nutrients for the microbes in the soil. The next spring, the soil is nutrient rich and able to hold seed.

This tried and true technique of boosting the nutrients in the soil is great, but the traditional method of seeding and tilling would rob everything they had spent a year investing in. Their research showed a new technology



A winter irrigation system can help conserve this vital resource.



One of the remaining houses from the nine original 1880s homesteads.

was available; a seeder that didn't destroy the soil, the "no-till-seeder" punches the seed in the soil without tilling the soil up. This places the seed perfectly without drying the soil. They made this purchase last spring and found this year the grass has flourished! They have kindly offered to loan their no-till-seeder to ranching neighbors, as they have developed a network of folks helping each other through these recent tough times, fostering friendships as they farm the land.

Their next realization was to diversify crops. They had consultation with the Abbey in Canon City, along with Colon Orchards. They decided they would try a few new crops: grapes and hops. They have planted three types of grapes: Norton (for red wine), Gatavia (table grapes), and Muscat (sweet wine). So far, the grapes are beginning to take hold. This is process requires patience; they need to pluck the blossoms in order to help the roots establish these first two years. Next is the task of installing a solar powered fence to keep the fruit safe from foragers.

The hops, also three high altitude varieties, grow much more quickly. They may be able

to sell the hops this summer. The vines can be fed to the cattle. They planted the rows wide enough for their equipment to cut and bale the grasses between, making every productive inch count. This fast growing crop can help feed the cattle this year to help build up the herd, as it takes a year or two for heifers to produce calves to build the herd.

Winter irrigation

Respecting the restrictions on the water of Four Mile Creek during the summer, their research taught them about winter irrigation systems. They are currently installing 10,000 ft. of irrigation lines that can irrigate their fields during the winter when the demand for water is at its lowest. This allows the roots to take firm hold and produce a very early crop. This advancement will help them to grow more grasses for their beef.

As the irrigation system is developed further, they are expecting to add a drip type system to the grapes and hops because it uses less water. Once established, the drip system will deliver four gallons of water per week, which their projections show will be enough to feed the grapes and hops, and possibly endure the next drought.

The meat of the story

The Chapmans have been raising cattle since 1921. They have a closed herd of primarily Angus mixed with Limousin, which are bred for altitude. They never give hormones and seldom need antibiotics because they use virgin bulls. They have intentionally sought higher altitude bulls that have been tested for "brisket", a potentially fatal lung disease specific to high altitude cattle.

Their weaned calves are fed out on cracked corn and milo, which they find gives a consistent flavor and a tender beef product. I can attest; the beef is delicious and tender! If all goes well with the irrigation and the hops, they may be able to offer a 100% grass-fed beef option in the future, as they know that taste and preference vary, just like the individual preferences for the perfect cup of coffee may vary.

They continue to use Blue Ribbon processing out of Fowler because they process one animal at a time, which is cleaner and it prevents any cross-contamination.

Future of Chapman Ranch

Now that they are armed with the best information of their tried and true methods, along with the newest technology, as well as expanding crops, the Chapmans wanted to assure the integrity of the land legally. They have created conservation easements on the south side of Grouse Mountain with the Palmer Land Trust. This land cannot be sub-divided, which will help to maintain agriculture. Jim is predicting that within 10 years 75 percent of the land surrounding Pikes Peak will belong to conservation easements.

Sandra and Jim Chapman have learned to look at what is under their noses to find partnership in planning, problem solving, and perpetuating what is important in life. They will celebrate their second wedding anniversary July 14th. Perhaps you will stop by the Coffee Barn in Cripple Creek, open Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and pick up a delicious cup of coffee made just the way you like it. While you're there, buy the beef you'll need for dinner tonight. Their meat is also regularly available at Teller County's Farmer's Market in Woodland Park each Friday. Feel free to give Sandra a call at 719-660-1238 to learn more about the Coffee Barn's offerings as well as what's in stock from Chapman's Meat.

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Mountain Top Cycling Club
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The Mountain Top Cycling Club is pleased to announce that we had a 27% increase in the number of cyclists that registered for the 2014 Mountain Top Experience Ride June 21, 2014. We would like to thank our many sponsors, support and volunteers to make this event a success.

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Graduation 2014 at GCCS

by Flip Boettcher
photos by Pam Moore

About 55 people plus students attended the graduation ceremony and community BBQ at the Guffey Community Charter School on Thursday, May 29. There were two eighth graders graduating this year, Kade Christian Foulk and Jolene Michele Dague Carria.

Awards were given by each teacher to their students. Jenny Hartman (Kindergarten – 2nd Grade) had seven students with two Kindergartners graduating to first grade.

Lynda MacDonald (3rd Grade – 5th Grade) had 10 students and said she "really loves her job and coming to work every day." MacDonald's goals for her students are work hard, be kind and have fun.

Hillevi Peterson-Hirsch (6th Grade -8th Grade) had five students this year.

The school is raising money to build the pole on the property the school recently purchased for high speed internet for the school. School Principal Pam Moore said the "Power to the Pole" project had \$4100 so far. The Big Bear Ranch, a local ranch southeast of Guffey, is putting up to \$5000 in matching funds for anyone making a donation.

After the graduation ceremony there was a community BBQ. Don't forget, school starts August 20. Everyone have a good summer.

In other community announcements:

- The 4-Mile Church will be having Bible School in July. There is more information at the school.
- The fundraising community cookbook will be available by July 4, so get your recipes in as soon as possible.
- Guffey Heritage Days and Chicken Rodeo will be July 4.
- The library summer reading program will be on Thursdays and will offer their "Bucks for Books" read program again this summer.



Kade Foulk



Jolene Carria

Symphony Above the Clouds

The Ute Pass Symphony Guild proudly presents the 34th annual event featuring the Colorado Springs Philharmonic on July 5th. Hear the cannons roar, watch the fireworks at this free, outdoor concert celebrating our nation's birthday. Gates open at 5 p.m. with music beginning at 5:30 p.m. performed by Ceol Ceili. It all happens at Woodland Park Middle School 600 E Kelly Rd, Woodland Park, CO. Concessions will be available.

Make this a night to remember in the "City Above the Clouds", bring your family, jackets and picnic baskets for this amazing celebration. (No Pets Please) For more information go to our website www.symphonyabovetheclouds.org or call 719-661-7377.

Guffey Toastmasters

by Flip Boettcher

Do you need to improve your communication and leadership skills? Toastmasters International could be just the answer. Guffey area residents are now in the process of forming the South Park Toastmasters Club (SPTC), according to an email from Joe Rodriguez, club organizer.

The club meets every Thursday of the month (except the first Thursday) at the fire station in Guffey. Social time is 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with the meeting starting at 7 p.m., stated Rodriguez. Everyone is invited to attend a Toastmasters meeting to learn more about Toastmasters.

The idea of a Toastmasters club seemed to flow from a Leadership Skills Workshop held in early May. Acting Fire Chief, Aaron Mandel of the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District, wanted some kind of leadership skills workshop and asked for Rodriguez' help. The workshop was designed to involve anyone interested in the fire department or anyone helping to resolve high priority issues; the community was invited to attend.

According to the Toastmasters website, www.toastmasters.org. Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development with a membership of 292,000.

A Toastmasters meeting is a learn-by-doing

workshop and there is no instructor. A typical club has 20 to 40 members who meet weekly, bimonthly or monthly and a typical meeting lasts an hour to an hour and a half.

The Toastmasters program offers many benefits that help people in all walks of life. These include increasing one's self-confidence, becoming a better speaker, becoming a better leader and communicating more effectively.

Joining is easy. There is a \$20 new member fee and a six month dues of \$36 plus any local club expenses. Since 1924, when the Toastmasters program started, more than 4,000,000 people around the world have participated in the program.

The Toastmasters' mission statement is "We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth."

Rodriguez said in his email that they had received the Toastmaster starter kit which contains supplies to start a new club for 20 members.

Toastmaster meetings are a lot of fun said Rodriguez and on has, "the opportunity to meet some great people." These skills provide benefits in all areas of life and professions.

Become a CASA volunteer

CASA offers a volunteer opportunity like no other. As appointed representatives of the court, CASA Volunteers are empowered to make a lifelong difference in the lives of abused and neglected children. Find out how you can become a CASA volunteer. Join us Thursday, July 24th 5:30 p.m. for our 4-1-1 hour at the CASA office, 701 S. Cascade Ave., CSC 80903. Please RSVP to Kelly, (719) 447-9898, ext. 1033 or visit our website, www.casappr.org.

What can vacations teach you about investing?

Summer is here — which means it's official— vacation season. You may be looking forward to "getting away from it all," but, as you know, vacations actually require a fair amount of planning. It might surprise you to learn that some of the efforts required for successful vacations can impart some valuable lessons in other areas of your life, such as investing.

Here are some vacation-related moves that you may want to transfer to the investment and financial arenas:

Secure your home.

If you're going on vacation for a week or so, you may need to take some steps to safeguard your home: stopping your mail and newspaper, putting on a timer to turn on lights, alerting your neighbors that you'll be out of town, and so on. But while it's important to secure your home today, you will also want to help ensure it will be there for your family in the future, should anything happen to you. That's why you'll want to maintain adequate life and disability insurance.

Know your route.

If you are driving to your vacation destination, you will want to plan your route beforehand, so that you can avoid time-consuming delays and detours. To reach your financial goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you will also want to chart your course by creating an investment strategy that is designed to help you work towards those goals based on your specific risk tolerance, investment preferences and time horizon.

Keep enough gas in the tank.

As you set out on a road trip, you need a full tank of gas in your car, and you'll have to keep refueling along the way. To "go the distance" in

Protect yourself from getting burned.

If your vacation plans include a stay at the beach, you'll need to protect yourself and your family from the hot sun; make sure you're all using sunscreen. When you invest, you can also get "burned" if you are not careful especially if you are inclined to chase after "hot" investments. By the time you hear about these so-called sizzlers, they may already be cooling off, and, even more importantly, they just might not be appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. Instead of becoming a "heat-seeking" investor, focus your efforts on building a diversified array of quality investments appropriate for your needs. If you only own one type of financial asset, and a downturn hits that asset class, your portfolio could take a big hit. But by diversifying your holdings, you can help reduce the effects of volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.

As we've seen, some of the same principles that apply to creating a vacation may also be applicable to your investing habits. So, put these principles to work to enjoy a pleasant vacation, and a potentially rewarding investment experience.

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

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Ride of the Rockies bicycle tour

by Tim Edwards

The 2014 Ride The Rockies (RTR) bicycle tour course is 473 miles over six days. Starting in “host town” Boulder, each day the 2,000 cyclists ride to the next host town where food, entertainment, and sleeping accommodations await each cyclist's arrival. The host towns this year were Boulder, Winter Park, Steamboat Springs, Avon, Breckenridge, and Golden, where the finish line was the Welcome Arch in Golden, CO.

Cyclists attended from all 50 states and numerous other Countries.

I am new to distance bicycling; my first-ever 100 mile ride was the Sunday prior at the Elephant Rock Century on June 1.

I was thrilled to be accepted into RTR's lottery registration ...and truthfully, a little scared. I questioned, “Can I ride almost 500 miles without pulling a muscle? Will I get painful chaffing from many hours on the saddle?”

On day one, Mother Nature reminded us that she has a way of making things unsafe for bicycles — we rode into a massive hail storm which decided to hang-around and became more of a blizzard, socking-in Berthoud Pass and glazing the pavement with a sheet of ice. RTR Organizers called an end to that last 25 mile section of the day's ride due to safety concerns; they shuttled people and bikes over the Pass with State Police escort. It was gnarly riding conditions to say the least. Some cyclists got hypothermia; the event made the news. Veteran RTR participants said it was by far the worst they had ever seen, which made me think “this has to get better”.

Veteran RTR participants said it was by far the worst they had ever seen, which made me think “this has to get better”.

At Winter Park (aptly named, as it was still snowing there, in June) I set up my tent and got my bike out of the weather, crawled-into my down bag and slept like a baby. I woke-up early (4:30am) to discover my tent was covered



One beautiful view near Battle Mountain. photo by Tim Edwards

in ice - the zipper was frozen shut. Hmmm, new problem. My breath warmed it enough to un-zip and I proceeded to break camp, get breakfast and commence the next stage of the ride: en route Steamboat Springs. The outside temperature was 18 degrees, but once the sun broke through, it warmed up nicely.

The adventure of riding my bike through a new town was a thrill that quickly overcame the difficulty of the prior day's weather. The course takes mostly back roads, so I rode through places that I would not normally see in a car when driving on the most traveled roads.

From there on, the weather got warmer each day and my fun increased a lot. Remote Colorado scenery is amazing. I pulled-off the road often to take pictures as I have never been to these very scenic places before and I might not be back anytime soon.

There was plenty of climbing. I mean UP hill, LOW gear. Total course elevation gain was 28,265 ft. (but we missed-out on some of it from the Berthoud Pass blizzard), so around 27,000 ft. is probably close.

I saw hundreds of different kinds of

bicycles, many newer high tech carbon fiber designs, lots of aluminum frames, some steel and titanium bikes, and a fair number of classics as well. I talked to a rider on a restored Schwinn Paramount which he rode as a teen in the 1970s and kept it all these years. One man did the entire Tour on a mountain bike.

There were also several recumbent bikes, three of which the riders were amputees (both legs). I was amazed at their cheerful disposition and their athletic ability: using their arms to propel a bike over high Colorado mountain passes, hundreds of miles.

I hit every Aid Station for drinks and snacks - stayed well hydrated and my legs never cramped, my bike never had a flat tire, and my butt held-up real well after six days in a skinny saddle.

All tolled, I logged 456.7 miles and took 86 pictures.

It was an amazing experience that I must admit, has fueled a greater love within me for the adventure and a sense of freedom when riding a bicycle.

What a great way to see some amazing parts of remote Colorado.



Just label it: We have the right to know what is in our food

by Carol Grieve

There is an important initiative that is going to be on the ballot this November for Colorado voters. This initiative would require the labeling of genetically modified ingredients (GMOs).

Currently the big food corporations are not required to label their ingredients that are genetically modified. Why is that? If they think their products are so great, why not label them! The answer is simple. They know that if people are given a choice to buy products that have been genetically engineered, conventional, or organic, they will choose the latter.

According to the World Health Organization, genetically modified foods are altered by the introduction of genes from a different organism. Typically, GMO foods are plant-based, and crops are modified to increase resistance to disease and to benefit harvests.

Currently, a number of the foods that we eat and feed our families (including certain baby formulas and a high percentage of corn, soy, and sugar beets commonly used in processed foods sold in the U.S.) contain GMOs. Without labeling requirements, we are unaware of the GMO ingredients in our foods.

The notion of GMO food labeling is widespread across the globe. In fact, 64 countries around the world already require GMO labeling.

In Europe, GMO labeling “did not result in increased costs, despite the horrifying (double-digit) prediction of some interests,” according to David Byrne, former European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Parliament.



ling, including Japan, India, Russia and China. As a whole, the European Union enforces mandatory labeling requirements on all genetically modified food and feedstock. There are also many countries that have banned or are in the process of banning GMOs.

Labeling is an issue of transparency. Labeling enables us to make an informed choice about what foods are right for our families. We have the right to know what's in our food and the right to choose for ourselves what we eat and feed our families. These are fundamental American values.

Labeling is supported by consumers, farmers, nurses, and doctors across the U.S., and polls regularly show that more than 90 percent of Americans want labeling of genetically engineered foods. A 2011 poll found that GMO labeling has broad bipartisan support, with 89 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of Independents and 93 percent of Democrats favoring GMO labeling in the U.S.

One of the most common questions asked is will this labeling cost us money? Manufacturers change their labels often and based on labeling in other countries, food costs should not be impacted. U.S. food processors agree that changes in labeling have no effect on consumer costs.

“We, as with most manufacturers, are continually updating our packaging. It is a regular cost of doing business — a small one at that — and is already built into the price consumers pay for products,” said Arran Stephens, president and founder of Nature's Path. “Claims that labeling GMOs would significantly increase the price of food for consumers just aren't true.” Companies would most likely update their packaging for other reasons within the timeframe they will be given to comply with a new law and could simply make the additional GMO

labeling changes at the same time.

In Europe, GMO labeling “did not result in increased costs, despite the horrifying (double-digit) prediction of some interests,” according to David Byrne, former European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Parliament. Similarly, Norway did not see prices increase when it adopted GMO labeling policy.

Colorado is currently gathering the required number of signatures to get this initiative on the ballot in November. The signatures need to be collected by July 15. Once the signatures are verified it will put on the ballot for vote next November.

I guarantee that you will start seeing ads by the corporations who have a vested interest in keeping you in the dark. Many of these corporations care more about their bottom line than they do your health. Keep in mind that these corporations have a lot of money to spend to keep you in the dark! In other states where similar initiatives have been proposed, these corporations have spent millions on campaign ads opposing the labeling issues.

Some of their tactics will include: making you believe it will cost you money to label GMOs; telling you it will be too confusing to you to know what is to be labeled (in essence they are counting on you being passive and being too ignorant to understand the process). They might also claim that those who disapprove GMOs are anti-science and try to convince you that this technology has been around for several decades. Nothing could be further from the truth about their claims.

The process of genetically engineered crops is a recently new technology and has only been around since the early 1990s. One of the biggest concerns for many should be that they have not thoroughly tested these products and,

in essence, we are the human guinea pigs.

Also, genetically engineered crops (corn, soy, canola, sugar beets, alfalfa — the primary ones) are engineered to withstand high levels of pesticides/herbicides — with the primary chemical being Glyphosate (RoundUp). This means that these crops are heavily sprayed with this chemical and residue of this chemical has been found in our drinking water, soil, our urine, in our biome (gut) and most recently, breast milk.

Glyphosate is not only a powerful herbicide but a patented antibiotic and mineral chelator. What does that mean for you? It means that if you are eating GMOs, you are getting a daily low dose of antibiotic in your diet which can destroy the good bacteria in your gut. Mineral chelators can also bind and destroy the necessary beneficial minerals we need for a healthy gut and immune system. Ever wonder why there is such a huge increase in food allergies that we never saw prior to the early 1990s?

The point is that the jury is still out on GMO labeling. We do have the right to choose and to know what is in our food. Don't be fooled by the corporations' deceptive marketing tactics and expensive anti-labeling tactics that I guarantee will be flooding the airways once the labeling issue is placed on the ballot. Be informed! Go to www.responsibletechnology.org and learn the truth about GMOs. You can also go to www.foodintegritynow.org and listen to learn more, including the interview with Dr. Don Huber, Professor Emeritus, Purdue University, Plant Pathology.

The biotech industry is counting on you to stay in the dark and stay confused. Let's prove them wrong. We have the power to research and to be informed about GMOs. Make the choice to educate yourself and your family; your children and grandchildren will thank you!

Carol Grieve is a petition circulator; if you would like to sign the petition, please contact via carol@foodintegritynow.org to learn where you can sign the petition. She is a Certified Life Coach and Health and Wellness Coach and the host of the widely acclaimed talk radio show, Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org). For more information on health and wellness coaching, contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org or call 415-302-7100. Phone or Skype sessions are available.

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The Society Girl

Adapted by David Martinek

"The image of an old postcard depicting a double-header through the black crags canyon of Ute Pass." Denver Public Library

This story first appeared in the "Leadville Herald-Democrat" nearly 107 years ago in December 1907. It is the account of a young female socialite in Colorado Springs who with "reckless intrepidity rode clinging to the pilot of a Colorado Midland locomotive through Ute Pass from Colorado City to Divide." The name of the author is lost down through time; regardless of whether the story is true or just a fabrication to fill a slow news day of the past when reporters had no images to illustrate a thought but had to rely on their own imagination to paint a picture with words.

Leadville Herald – Democrat – December 1907 – "The Society Girl"

Panting, as if fretting under restraint and with an eagerness to get away, No. 22, a powerful ten-wheeler locomotive bound eventually for California, stood waiting impatiently at the Colorado City depot. It was midnight. Down the platform came the conductor with orders to start. With a majestic air he waved his hand and called "all aboard." The girl climbed on the pilot.

"I'll make this trip right here or die in the attempt," she shouted defiantly. Slowly, as the train began its long struggle up the Pass, she kept up her courage while many passengers retired for the night. Inside, a gang of Italians bound for Fresno to work in the fields occupied a corner of the

smoking car. One played the accordion. The chair cars bulged with transcontinental tourists, including a dramatic repertoire company expecting to win their fortune on the coast. Their comedian looked like an undertaker. Three Pullman cars were filled with eastern passengers going to California for the winter.

Outside, it was bitter cold and the girl snuggled close to the boiler for warmth. Through the tunnels black as night the roar and rumble of the train shattered the silence with awful reverberation; out again it emerged into the fury of a windy midnight storm. Then creeping along the brink of dizzy precipices where a loosened hold meant a fall to the death on the rocks and creek below, it finally dashed into the radiance and glory of a moonlit night on the crest of the divide, while the world around them slept and the night winds whistled overhead.

In the early dawn, she laughingly alighted from the train at her journey's end to greet friends at Divide with a note of triumph and a merry ring to her voice. Foolish and proud she had met the test of courage, taken up the gauntlet, accepted the challenge and won.

There were bon-bons and new gloves as her prize.

When safety rules began to be more strictly enforced, riding the pilot of a Colorado Midland Railway engine was ever after forbidden.

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K9to5

K9to5 at Teller Park Vet is where every dog has their day

by Kathy Hansen

Dogs are known for being loyal, obedient, and they tend to be people pleasers by nature. People choose to get a dog for a variety of reasons, and typically one of the reasons is companionship. It seems there is a special connection with canines that we crave.

Some folks specifically choose a particular breed because they hope the stereotype is true. How often do we consider the unique personality of a dog we choose? Many people figure they just pick a puppy and everything will be fine from there. Maybe it will, but maybe the dog behaves differently than you imagined, especially when it comes to visitors, strangers, or other dogs. What then?

Christine Kelly, of K9to5 dog training is an excellent choice. She has been around dogs all of her life, has been caring for dogs since she was 16, and training them for 10 years. Her dedication is remarkable and her own training is impressive. She is certified in training and counseling (CTC) and is a certified pet dog trainer – knowledge assessed (CPDT-KA).

Christine was inspired to become a trainer when she was working in a doggie daycare/kenel environment when she began to recognize the impact her behavior could have on the dogs. She wanted to learn more. She went from what she called "traditional punishment training" to clicker training due to her personal conviction.

"I thought one day as I was using a choke chain on a very nice dog, 'Why are you being mean to the dog? There has to be a better way.'" Christine then went on to train under Jean Donaldson, one of the forefront trainers in the country on clicker training.

She was impressed after seeing humane society dogs fully trained and out the door in about 14 days into their forever homes. "This transformed me; I had never had happy dogs while I was in a training session during my punitive training and never developed such a positive relationship with any dog. I realized that I would rather communicate to the dog the behavior that I wanted from them than to punish them for a behavior that was clear in my mind, but the dog had no clue. God bless the dog."

How about that! Someone considers the feelings of and what knowledge has been given to the dog. It is this very consideration she extends to humans as well. She teaches the human to understand the dog's body language, even teaching the human to identify the "tell" the dog displays. This helps the human to recognize clues about the dog, which contributes to deepening the ability to communicate with each other.

Christine allowed me to sit in on her class at Teller Park Vet in Divide. It was an eye opening experience. When I arrived, everyone was outside with a dog on a leash and a bag of treats with several feet of empty space between each dog/human pair. It was a windy afternoon, which became a distraction, and so it was decided to go inside.

Once inside, the dogs were much more aware of each other and somewhat less interested in their humans or the treats. Christine reminded everyone it was time to "go back to kindergarten."

ten". Just then, my photographer was pulling up so I stepped outside to greet Jeff and bring him inside. I couldn't believe these were the same dogs/human pairs and treats; I left chaos and came back to order! How did that happen?

Christine explained that sometimes too much stimulation can be distracting to the dog. The human needs to recognize this and go back to kindergarten which simply means "We reduce our expectations temporarily to basic foundational work to ensure success. Then we slowly raise our expectations back to where they were last week. This method reduces frustration of the dog and the handler which results in quicker return to the higher expectations they have previously performed at."

Christine is also good at helping humans understand the reward system, "Using positive reinforcement means that we have to have a reward that the dog thinks is extremely worth-while, it isn't always chicken, it could be a toy, a person, etc."

Beau is brilliant!

She went on to say, "I liken it to our pay system. If I showed up to your house with one dollar every hour would you look forward to seeing me? The answer is always no, especially if I am coming on the middle of the night. However, if I showed up to your house with a \$20 an hour you might think a little about my arrival. Again, if I showed up every hour with \$100 dollar bill every hour, you might start looking for me. If I showed up with \$1,000 every hour then you would be looking for me for sure. To get the attention of dogs in class we use several things. First, is to make sure we have the right value of the treat. Second, is to make sure that our rate (how fast we pay them) is quick like one treat every six seconds. Third, we tell them what behavior we are looking for from them by using the clicker which marks that behavior."

She is an expert at understanding reinforcement theory, explaining it to humans, and applying it to dogs. When both the dog and the human understand how to apply the system, they have co-created effective communication. We get the behavior we wanted from the dog and the dog gets a meaningful treat; its win-win.

Christine elaborated, "The average pet owner sees dog training classes as obedience training; sit, down, stay, come, leave it, no pulling on the leash, etc. The professional dog trainer sees dog training as including all the obedience, but more importantly, a way to help the dog become familiar

with other locations, people, dogs, objects, noises, and interactions which build confidence, positive emotions, and results in happiness and obedience in the dog when the dog goes outside its normal home environment or when owners have friends and family coming to their home. The dog must figure out how to successfully live in a human environment and the owners must figure out how to successfully integrate the dog into their home (with all the expectation); the class gives the dog and the owner the chance to do that."

When asked how you know if your dog needs training, she answered, "I believe any dog can benefit greatly from training, remember, classes are not just about obedience. Training is indicated when there are more serious issues. At that time a professional trainer can certainly give the tools for success. The most vital group that needs training classes are the puppies because the proper interactions with puppies their same age is not replaceable and cannot be recreated; it is absolutely vital for their adult life with other dogs. They should go through at least one set of classes if not a couple for best results."

Christine offers classes based on age and the other classes are by ability. She is able to train for rally (a fun class that combines course work with obedience work; it helps fine tune the team to work better together as a unit), service dogs (trained to perform tasks for an individual with a disability) and therapy dogs (therapy dogs cheer people up).

Christine explained this way, "Therapy dog teams are taught how to visit people and be appropriate in a nursing home, school, or anywhere there are many people that need cheering up. Therapy dogs are trained above the average dogs in general classes because they have to listen extremely well in highly distracted facility. They have to know when to say hi to people and when not to, when someone wants a visitor and when they don't."

"Service dog training is far more complex and takes a long time to fully train the dog as well as the team. The service dog must not only be able to function in public perfectly, they must also be taught tasks that are done for the person with a disability. These tasks they must do without fail

Huck enjoyed Rally Training

Christine and her dog, Ginger

because often the life of the disabled person depends on it. They are not to say hi to the general public because they are working in public."

I asked, "Is there a dog that cannot be trained?" She replied, "I am sure in theory there is. I have not run across one that could not be trained." I believed her; if you saw her in action you would believe her, too!

But don't just take my word for it. Here is what Huck's human had to say, "Huck and I have gone through puppy and intermediate training. We also had a few weeks of rally thrown in there to switch things up. Upon taking classes however, it became evident that he didn't quite know how to interact with other dogs and was a bit scared of them. From here, she suggested socialization via doggy day care. I know I would have had a completely different dog, had I not had the guidance on how to socialize and train Huck, via Christine."

Here is from a parent seeking a service dog. "We were training a rescue dog as a service dog for our son. Her experience with training therapy dogs was very important. Also, she uses positive reinforcement methods. I much prefer this because we want to be viewed by our dog as being "on the same team" and working together instead of being adversaries. The vet told us she has noticed some huge positive changes in our dog since we've been working with Christine. She has proven that she is more than willing to take on dogs with big challenges. She helped us to find solutions to the problems we encountered. That has had an immense positive impact on the day to day life of our family, plus it has helped our dog feel so much better!"

The literature Christine gave us has a motto, "Teaching with kindness, gentleness, love, self-control, job, peace, patience, and goodness". After watching her class, I can attest, it is a very positive environment. It is no wonder she chose an image of a paw-print atop a human hand. She said, "I wanted to represent the human and the dog working hand in hand to have the best possible relationship."

Christine holds classes at Teller Park Vet in Divide. She can be reached at ckelly@k9to5.us or call 719-238-8118.

Explore the great outdoors

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

We know intuitively that getting outside makes us feel better. For many of us, this draw to the outdoors is a big part of why we chose to live where we do. But even those of us living in beautiful areas with easy access to outdoor recreation may not be getting as much outside time as we used to.

Our activities have increasingly moved inside and we've become more reliant on new technologies over the years, so children and adults alike are not spending as much time in nature. For many, hours of screen time have replaced outdoor activity. This means we're missing out on the tremendous benefits we get from spending time outside that we just don't experience when we're cooped up indoors.

Whether it's running after dandelion seeds as they scatter, building a fort in the tree out back, or simply taking a quiet walk, connecting with the outdoors is good for our minds, bodies, and spirits.

When we play outdoors, we tend to get more physical activity. Spending time outdoors is a fun way to grow stronger, maintain a healthy weight, feel more energetic, and keep your heart healthy. Outdoor time also boosts levels of vitamin D, which is essential for bone and heart health, and benefits vision.

We also feel better mentally when we connect with nature. Spending time outside improves focus, decreases stress levels, and inspires creativity. Outdoor play also enhances problem-solving skills and can help with emotional and social development, especially for children. Most of all, the joy of being outside and exploring the natural world is rejuvenating and fun.

Beyond personal benefits, getting outside also has long-term advantages. Time outside fosters a love of nature and inspires the kind of stewardship necessary for taking care of our natural resources and ensuring others can enjoy the benefits of nature for generations to come. After all, we love what we know and we take care of what we love. So take some time this month to get outside and explore the spectacular beauty in our backyard.

10 things to do this summer

1. Explore a wilderness area. The 1964 Wilderness Act defined wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life

are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." These wild areas are protected and managed by federal public land agencies to preserve their natural conditions. The Buffalo Peak Wilderness, Lost Creek Wilderness, and Mount Evans Wilderness are all located nearby in the Upper South Platte Watershed.

2. In the mood for a treasure hunt? Try geocaching. Using your phone or GPS, you can navigate to specific places to find the 'cache'. Caches range from a container with something inside to a geologic feature where you can learn more about that particular environment. Find more information about how you can get started on one of these real-world adventures at www.geocaching.com

3. Visit Florissant Fossil Beds. You can explore an incredibly rich and diverse fossil deposit at this national monument located just off of Highway 24. Teens (13-19 years old) are encouraged to participate in the Trail 4 Teens hiking contest this summer, which challenges teens to hike all 14 miles of trails at Florissant Fossil Beds by September 28th to explore the area and win prizes. Stop by the visitor center front desk to learn more and pick up a hiking log for the Trails 4 Teens program.

4. Give back to the places you love by volunteering! Volunteering is a wonderful way to learn more about your environment and ensure your favorite places can be enjoyed for generations to come. Check out www.upsouthplatte.org/Volunteer/ and waldofire.org/Volunteer/ to find nearby opportunities.

5. Go stargazing. Revel in the beauty of the night sky by turning off all the lights and watching the stars. The less light, the better you can see the stars, making this a great camping activity.

6. Photograph wildflowers. The meadows in South Park are great places to see native wildflowers, and July is usually the peak of the season.

7. Get out on the water. It's no secret the South Platte River and its tributaries harbor some great rafting areas, kayaking sections, and fishing spots. The Upper South Platte Watershed also has 5 major reservoirs – Antero, Spinney Mountain, Eleven Mile Canyon, Strontia Springs, and Cheesman - that

The dark green on the map indicates National Forest.

offer a variety of recreation opportunities.

8. Go on a picnic. Bringing a meal to eat outside is a fun family activity. There are several scenic picnic areas off of County Road 96 headed toward Eleven Mile Canyon. Remember to pack out what you pack in.

9. Go horseback riding, and see familiar places from a different vantage point. There are many local ranches and stables that offer a chance to experience the outdoors from the back of a horse.

10. Grow something. Whether you're growing vegetables or native flowers, gardening is a good excuse to get outside and get your hands dirty.

As always, please be mindful and respectful of the other people, critters, and plants that share our environment when you go exploring outside.

Health benefit information adapted from the National Wildlife Federation's "Whole Child Report: Developing Mind, Body, and Spirit through Outdoor Play" available at www.nwfw.org/be-out-there/why-be-out-there/health-benefits.aspx

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Critter CORNER



Tauna and Oliver - Jenn Doss, Woodland Park



Young Eagle - Linda Karlin, Florissant



Amelia Enjoying Her Pool - Liz Henry, Florissant

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



Summer Girl

by Danielle Dellinger

She sat atop her bull moose as he carefully picked his way down the tree-covered hill. A bluebird alerted her to a newcomer in the forest, insisting that she come immediately and take a look. The sun was beginning to set, descending behind the hill and throwing everything into a bright golden light. More than halfway down the hill, she spotted a boy laying curled up at the base of a tall Lodgepole pine tree. She nudged her moose's sides to get him to hurry. The moose stopped in front of the boy as his rider looked around, perplexed as to why the boy was suddenly here. She looked back up to the top of the hill and saw a bull elk turn and disappear down the hill. The moose groaned and shifted some, drawing the girl's attention back to him. She slid from the moose's back and put a hand to the Winter Child's forehead. Her hand stung from how hot his skin was, making her hiss and yank her hand back.

Winter was drawing to a close, and the Winter Child usually only existed during the harsh, cold season. So the need for cooler temperatures must have been why his elk dropped him off there, just outside of Breckenridge. She moved him more into the shade to help cool him down. There were still patches of snow around, which she planned on dragging him to. The Winter Child groaned again, his eyes fluttering open this time.

"Where am I?" he muttered, his eyes having trouble focusing on the girl leaning over him.

"Breckenridge," she replied. "Your elk dropped you off."

He smirked. "What a good boy..."

She smiled, watching him closely as he closed his eyes and swallowed. His looks were very striking, despite his haggard appearance.

"Who are you?" he asked, opening his eyes after a minute and looking at her.

"I'm Summer Girl. Behind me is my moose, Shiras, named after his type of subspecies."

"That's a strong name," replied the Winter Child.

Summer Girl nodded. "He seems to like it," she said, Shiras smelling her head and blowing her hair into her face. She giggled and reached up, petting his muzzle.

The Winter Child nodded. "My elk has never had a name. I think he likes it like that for some reason."

Summer Girl looked to the boy and nodded. "It must be something he doesn't need."

"Must be." The Winter Child shifted into a slight sitting position, leaning back against the tree. "So, what's the scoop on this town, Breckenridge? Does it have a dark history?"

"Well, it was founded back around 1859 by General George E. Spencer, during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush to serve the miners sifting through placer gold deposits discovered beside Blue River. Placer mining is using water and a pan to sift through soil to find gold deposits. Anyway, Spencer chose

the name "Breckenridge" after the then-Vice President John Breckinridge. Spencer wanted to flatter the government in order to get a post office. It worked. However, when the Civil War started in 1861, John Breckinridge, now former vice president, sided with the Confederates. Since the town's citizens were pro-Union, the first "i" was changed to an "e," and it has been spelled Breckenridge from then on," Summer Girl concluded, shrugging and smiling.

The Winter Child blinked, then smirked. "That's quite the history. Humans are fascinating. They get so passionate, sometimes about the oddest things."

"It's fun to watch them during the Fourth of July parade they have every year. They get very strange. Oh, like the people walking in the parade will pelt the onlookers with apparently edible projectiles," said Summer Girl.

The Winter Child chuckled for a moment, then started to cough, leaning forward far and covering his mouth while holding his abdomen. Summer Girl frowned and put her hand to his forehead. Somehow he was even hotter than before.

"Let's find some snow for you to lay in," she said, getting to her feet and holding out her hands to him.

He took her hands and clumsily got to his feet. He started to fall to the side, but Shiras the moose was suddenly right there to stop him and give him something to lean against. The Winter Child thanked him in a raspy voice, his eyes closing as he held onto Shiras's shoulder.

"Come on, Shiras. Let's just walk him there like this," said Summer Girl.

Shiras grunted and then slowly made his way to the nearest snowpile. Summer Girl stayed beside the Winter Child. When they got to the snowpile, the Winter Child opened his eyes and dropped down to his knees into the snow. He sighed shakily as his body instantly began to cool. He pressed his face into the snow then slowly stretched out until he was laying on his stomach. Summer Girl and Shiras moved away a few feet to give him space.

The sun was set completely now, casting them all into a greyish light. A few minutes passed, and the Winter Child sat up, looking a hundred times better. He gave Summer Girl a big smile. Water droplets slid down his bare chest from the bits of snow stuck to his skin.

"Thanks so much for helping me. I'm not sure why I'm still here, because winter is my season. Maybe something's changing. Maybe Mother Nature has a plan for me, now," he said.

Summer Girl shrugged. "Possibly. Everyone heard about what she did to the forest spirit, and how you helped it out. So, I guess it would make sense that you're next on her list. It kind of sucks that she'd take advantage of you while you're not feeling well."

"That's what she does, though. It's to help push you to become a better, stronger being. Hasn't she tested you before?" he asked.

She shook her head. "Not that I know of.

Things have been pretty easy for me, but I feel like I'm a lesser guardian. Kind of like Arina from the coyote riders. Yeah, we still play a role in the environment, but it's not like what you or the forest spirit do. Even Shiras hasn't been tested; he's always been healthy. You can tell by the symmetry of his antlers, when he has them, of course. He always gets the girl, too, because his antlers are huge due to his age and great diet," she said, smiling and looking to her stead.

Shiras looked at her with warm brown eyes.

Summer Girl looked back to the Winter Child, blushing when she realized that he was steadily watching her. "What?" she muttered, tucking some hair behind her ear.

He smirked and shook his head. "You know you're not a lesser guardian. None of us are. I'm also trying to figure out what your role is, exactly. What do you watch over?"

"I help the plants and animals flourish during the summer so they're ready for winter. I kinda do what the forest spirit does, but I really just take over its job after everything is out from winter hibernation. I give everything the strength it needs."

He smiled. "So you help my elk to get strong again," he said, happy that someone watched out for his boy while they were separated for the other three seasons.

"Essentially, yes. He always does well. His set of antlers is impressive, too. I've heard he gets quite a few ladies," she said, winking and smirking.

The Winter Child nodded. "Oh yeah. Every fall after the rutting period, we join up and I get to see all of his memories."

"You know, we'd make quite the team if we joined up to help the ecosystems."

"But I only protect the elk. What else could I possibly do?"

"Maybe that's Mother Nature's test for you. That's probably what you're supposed to figure out, since you're still here and all. Besides," she paused, "I could always use a friend. We could watch the humans tomorrow at that Fourth of July parade. That'd be fun, wouldn't it?"

The Winter Child thought a moment. "I don't know if I can take the heat. How am I going to keep my body cold?"

Summer Girl frowned, sad that there was an obstacle in their way. "Wait... What if I'm being tested, too? Maybe I'm supposed to help you get stronger, and better able to tolerate the heat. Because, I mean, it is Colorado, and winter weather can return at any time, really."

The Winter Child laughed, grinning. "I think you're right. Okay, yeah. We'll watch the parade."

He could barely see her now in the dark, but he thought he could make out a smile on her delicate face. He was really glad to have another friend besides an aloof spirit. He carefully laid down in the snow, contentedly sighing. He heard Shiras lay down, followed by Summer Girl getting into position somewhere against her moose.

"Goodnight, Winter Child," Summer Girl said quietly, after a couple minutes.

"Goodnight," he replied.

Night faded into morning. The Winter Child opened his eyes and stretched, glad that there was still plenty of snow beneath him. He looked over and saw Summer Girl was still asleep, and that Shiras was grazing nearby. He looked to his other side and tuned into the traffic driving by on the road below them. It sounded like the parade would be starting soon. He sat up, grabbed some snow, and pressed it into his eyes, enjoying how cold it felt.

Summer Girl then sat up, rubbing her eyes. He looked over at her and stifled a chuckle when he saw some leaves stuck in her wavy hair.

She looked to him, raising an eyebrow. "What?"

He shook his head, smiled, then moved closer and carefully picked out the leaves. She blushed as she watched them drop to the ground. "Oh. Thanks," she muttered.

He plucked one from near her face, and a sudden charge went through them both as his fingers touched her cheek. It wasn't like anything humans had experienced when touched by another they had a bond with. No, this type of spark only happened between guardians, and it was something that made their souls resonate and ripple like a bell being rung.

"What was that?" Summer Girl asked, when she could focus.

"I... I'm not sure..." he stammered, looking at his relaxed, half-closed hand. His eyes then drifted back up to Summer Girl, their eyes locking. He felt a pull toward her that he'd never felt with any other being he'd come into contact with.

He slowly raised his hand, and she did the same. They pressed their palms together, and he gasped while her breathing hitched. He felt his body grow colder, and her body grow warmer. He felt himself getting stronger, though he worried that he was weakening her. She didn't look like she was feeling anything negative. His heart began to race, and he leaned his head back, shutting his eyes. It was like he was transcending to a completely different plane. His soul in its entirety was vibrating so much that was jarring.

Summer Girl suddenly pulled her hand back with a small gasping whine. The Winter Child opened his eyes and looked at her with concern.

"I'm okay," she said airily, reading his expression. "That just frightened me." She rubbed her hand that had been against his with her other hand.

He nodded, understanding. He looked down at his hand, his fingertips tingling. He caught his breath and looked back up at Summer Girl. "Well, on that note, should we go to the parade?"

She chuckled a little then nodded.

"Yeah."

They got up and Shiras came over to them. They both hopped up onto his back and settled in as he walked toward the town, staying out of sight as they walked behind the buildings. Shiras found a good spot for them, coming to a halt. Winter Child carefully put his arms around Summer Girl's waist, the charge between them humming

like a plucked guitar string. It was such a curious thing.

The parade started, and they sat atop Shiras and watched everything. It was very festive and enjoyable. All the townspeople were in good spirits. Everyone loved the music, including the two guardians. A while later, the last of the parade went by and people began to pack up and head to other locations. Summer Girl turned the best she could to look back at the Winter Child, smiling softly. He smiled back, feeling very peaceful. He then realized that he wasn't at all hot. In fact, he was as cold as snow. It was like being in contact with Summer Girl had the opposite effect on him than one might think it would. He started to say something, but then someone cleared their throat from beside them. He looked over and was surprised to see Mother Nature standing there, in all her shimmering beauty.

"Are you wondering why you two were brought together?" Mother Nature asked.

Summer Girl nodded. "Yes, madam."

Mother Nature seemed to smirk. "Opposites attract. As two seasonal guardians, that vibration in your souls was like when warm and cold air meet to create thunder. The longer you touch each other, the more intense the vibration will get. In the end, you'll benefit each other after pushing the limits of the other. You were right about this being a test for you both."

She then turned suddenly and started to glide away.

"Wait!" Summer Girl called out to her, putting a hand over the Winter Child's and holding firmly. "Is that really all there is?"

Mother Nature stopped and turned back to face them. "Yes. For now. There's more in store for you. I needed to see if you both could handle it. Plus, I've spent so much time giving attention to the humans and other creatures, that it's time to focus on the guardians and spirits. It'll be organized chaos for a while, but I have faith that you'll be alright, both of you."

Summer Girl clenched her jaw and glanced back at the Winter Child nervously, her hand tightening around his.

"Don't be afraid," Mother Nature said. "Your time has come to prove yourself. First, it was the forest spirit's. Also, since your boy has an attachment to the spirit, it only makes sense that he be next in line, along with you of course. It'll all work out, don't worry."

She then turned and glided away into the trees, disappearing from sight.

The two guardians were quiet for a few minutes as Summer Girl looked forward and stroked Shiras's neck.

"I wonder what will happen when winter officially comes again. Won't I technically be weaker, then? Kind of like you were just yesterday."

"I guess, technically. But I promise to be there to take care of you. Just like you nourished me, I'll nourish you. Some way. Somehow. We'll find harmony."

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Spiritual redirection

by Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director

Spiritual Redirection is for those who are willing to step outside the traditional box of your formal belief system to grow your soul – your divine spiritual nature. Spiritual redirection may come in story form, lesson form or in any gentle way the Spirit nudges me to communicate with you. In these writings, I will use the many names for God. Because we all have different beliefs, please feel free to use the term by which you know the Divine. Please use your discernment to determine what is true or not for you. Now, let us begin.

Your divine perfection

I am often inspired by passages in books I read. Here is a paraphrase from "Thomas Printz Private Bulletin, Book 1", co-mingled with my thoughts.

Every lifestream (living being) is endowed with the birthright of perfection. Creator God made humanity in God's own image and likeness, and decreed perfection as the natural law of our beings. Another of God's laws is to honor God's Will. When we, through our own thought, feeling and spoken word emit energy from our lifestream to another or ourselves charged with a picture of perfection, we cover the divine image God has created. Given our ignorance of God's laws, this is an ongoing occurrence and a violation of God's Will for us.

We constantly overlook our heritage. As children of God, made in God's image, we have the inherent creative attributes of thought, feeling and spoken word. But because of lack of understanding of our divine nature and our

God-given attributes, we have created turmoil in our lives and world.

We never intended to create havoc in our lives and world, and it can be changed. Our thoughts, feelings and spoken word contain the creative power of God. As we become more aware of our divine heritage and our gifts, it is incumbent upon us to use them for the betterment of our lives and our world.

Decrees and the invocation of God's Sacred Light were given to humanity to balance the misuse of our thoughts, feelings and spoken word over the centuries.

Decrees start with one of the names for God — I AM. If your spoken word is made with the "feeling" of love and is peace-giving, your decree becomes God's word through you.

You may wish to experiment with this decree for yourself. You may also use it for anyone you are praying for or have sent pictures of imperfection or negative thoughts. Simply substitute their name and the appropriate pronoun.

I AM the resurrection and the life of my divine perfection as the natural law of my being. I hope you find great value in this Spiritual Redirection.

Barbara Royal is an Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director and Certified Angel Therapy Practitioner®. She is the founder of the Miracles of Wellness method, which gives clients tools to claim blessings from heaven. She may be contacted at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com for a free initial consultation and/or session appointments, which are available by phone or in person.

Lamps, lanterns and life before electricity

by Karla Schweitzer of the Ute Pass Historical Society

photo by Karla Schweitzer

Modern conveniences were slow to arrive in southern Colorado's mountain towns before World War II. Those who lived in larger communities, such as Colorado Springs, had electricity by the 1920's, and electric appliances were commonplace. Less populated areas were not supported by public utilities, resulting in lagging standards of living.

For places like Ute Pass, this meant that farm and ranch chores were done by the flickering light of coal oil or kerosene lanterns. Battery power was available, but was a poor substitute for what became perhaps the greatest invention of the modern world.

The people of Ute Pass needed reliable, round-the-clock electric power for their homes and businesses. President Franklin Roosevelt recognized the need for power in the rural communities and created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). This agency became the primary source of low interest loans that helped bring power to rural America.

"Lamps, Lanterns and Life before Electricity" features portable lighting devices that were used in Ute Pass from the 1910's to the 1940's. Coal oil lamps, kerosene lamps, and battery powered lanterns are on display, along with carbide lamps used by Colorado miners.

Learn more about the history and use of coal, kerosene, and battery power. The exhibit



A sampling of the display

also features local memories of lantern use and early electricity, and the early days of the Intermountain Rural Electric Association (IREA).

"Lamps, Lanterns and Life before Electricity" will be on display through July at the Woodland Park Public Library on the second floor, just outside the Colorado Room.

Adopt Me

By Lisa Moore of TCRAS

Ashes and Oreo

Hello. Our names are Ashes and Oreo. We came to TCRAS recently to find our forever home. We are both front and back declawed, so we cannot roam free outside, as we have no way to protect ourselves. We are really hoping to find a home together, but if we can't that is ok too. We are a bit shy at first, but will come ask for lap time or a good head rubbing when we are comfortable in our new surroundings. Come by and meet us, you never know, we may become fast best friends! Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! www.tcrascolorado.com



The legacy of James John Hagerman

- Part 6

by David Martinek

The ability to exploit the rich silver and coal reserves west of the Continental Divide in Aspen and around Glenwood Springs was encumbered, as Percy Hagerman wrote, by the lack of adequate rail transportation beyond Leadville. Back home in Colorado Springs, his father's association with the First National Bank provided an unseen opportunity to address that challenge.

Formation of the Colorado Midland Railway

The bank is where Hagerman met Irving Howbert, after he was elected to the board of directors. In addition to being bank president, Howbert was also one of the members of a group who wanted to build a railroad up Ute Pass to Leadville and beyond. It was Howbert who encouraged Hagerman to accept the presidency of their "paper railroad" in the hopes that he could help secure the financing needed to build it.

Percy Hagerman describes the enterprise in his unpublished biography of his father, "James John Hagerman – A Sketch of His Life". "A number of men in Colorado Springs had conceived of the idea of building a railroad from that place through Leadville and Aspen and other points on the western slope, the scheme being eventually to build on down the Grand River [the Colorado River] to Grand Junction and on to Salt Lake, thereby establishing a shorter line from Colorado to the Pacific coast, opening up a rich mining and agricultural area in Western Colorado and bringing the ores of Aspen and other newly discovered camps to the Leadville smelters. The road was to be called the Colorado Midland."

Percy's condensed summation belies an interesting back story about the development, evolution and incorporation of the Colorado Midland. It seems that several of the principal organizers were former Denver & Rio Grande (D&RG) men, and the eventual railroad that Hagerman would preside over, construct and later sell to the Santa Fe Railroad, was actually the consolidation of at least two plans by two different groups.

After the D&RG decided not to build their narrow gauge line any farther west of Colorado Springs than Manitou Springs, Homer D. Fisher, a local lumberman, conceived of the idea of a railroad up Ute Pass and through South Park to Leadville. Fisher was general manager of the lumber company supplying timbers to Dr. William A. Bell, an Englishman, homeopathic doctor and founder of Manitou Springs, as well as to his friend General William Jackson Palmer, founder of Colorado Springs. Palmer and Bell had purchased a large section of native forest

land north of present-day Woodland Park in order to provide the raw materials to build their cities. Bell developed a lake and resort in the midst of the property, called Manitou Park, and owned the lumber company that Fisher managed.

Fisher had already built a short lumber railroad from his sawmills to a gathering point about eight miles south which connected to the wagon road up Ute Pass that was built in the 1870s. The lumber was massed near the spiritualist community of Crystola and hauled down Ute Pass by oxen and wagon.

Fisher's notion took root when Dr. Bell and several friends of Gen. Palmer (who was the founder of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad) were kicked off the D&RG board of directors in January 1883 as a result of a takeover by Jay Gould and his associates. By that time, the D&RG's narrow gauge line had reached Leadville from Denver. Discouraged and in conflict with Gould and his practices, Palmer approached his friend Dr. Bell about continuing the pursuit of a road farther west over a different and more southerly route. Fisher was the main promoter of the idea and Bell was seriously considering it, so Palmer's request reinforced it. The concept eventually gained enough support to incorporate as the Colorado Midland Railway on November 23, 1883. The organizing group included Henry T. Rogers, a Denver banker and attorney, and Thomas H. Wigglesworth, an engineer who had formerly surveyed routes for the D&RG, as well as Fisher and Bell. Other well-respected businessmen from across Colorado were also added to the board, but

neither Fisher nor Rogers were elected to office. Dr. Bell remained only a stockholder. Instead, the presidency went to Edwin W. Edwards, who had recently moved to Colorado Springs. The railroad's plan defined two routes, one to South Park with branches to Salida and Leadville, and another north to the South Platte River. Some initial surveys were done. It was Wigglesworth who discovered that instead of constructing another narrow gauge line, standard gauge rails could be laid in the Ute Pass corridor.

In the meantime, the Colorado Springs group that Percy wrote about, championed by Irving Howbert, were developing their own railroad plan to support their mining investments in South Park, Leadville and Aspen. They proposed a road to Crested Butte with a branch to Leadville by way of Fairplay. The railroad was called the Colorado Short Line and its principal organizers consisted of four prominent men: Howbert, Benjamin Cowell, Orland Metcalf (a steelmaker from Pennsylvania) and Joseph H. Humphrey. Humphrey was a cashier at the time in Howbert's First National Bank. He would eventually become a partner in the firm of

Howbert, Humphrey and Cowell, focusing primarily on financing mining adventures. The "Short Line" had also done some initial surveying work, but was unsuccessful at raising any significant capital.

Both groups had limited funds. By mid-1884, neither group had made any substantial progress towards their plans, so they decided to merge – the "Short Line" group being absorbed by the incorporated Colorado Midland group. Humphrey was elected president and Metcalf and Howbert joined the board.

Hagerman elected president of the Colorado Midland

In the spring of 1885, as Hagerman was building his new house on Cascade Avenue, he was persuaded by Howbert (actually by several from the Colorado Midland group) to join the board of directors, which he did in May.

Shortly thereafter, on June 9, he was elected president, replacing Humphrey.

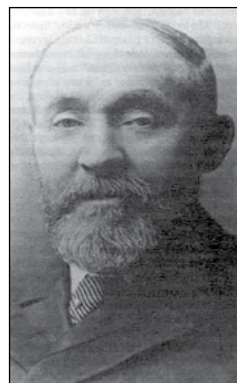
Looking back on Hagerman's reasons for settling in Colorado Springs, there may have been more attraction than just a healing climate. Hagerman may have realized that the area afforded him not only an opportunity to improve his health, but also to restart a social and business connection in a new and developing community. As John J. Lipsey, author of "The Lives of James John Hagerman", wrote: "The Hagermans, though not social butterflies, did like good company... [and] there were then a great number of pleasant, cultured, congenial people in residence there."

Hagerman's association with the bank and his willingness to accept the presidency of a new railroad company were probably too interesting to resist.

Hagerman wrote Jerome B. Wheeler later in June 1885 to inform him that he had also been elected to the board of directors and to the office of vice-president of the company during the same meeting that elected Hagerman president. Wheeler owned coal and silver mines in the Aspen and Glenwood Springs regions and was one of the principal owners of R. H. Macy & Company in New York City. Wheeler's influence in Aspen was legendary; the Jerome Hotel there was named after him. In addition to the news of his election to the board of the Colorado Midland and to his office, Hagerman also asked Wheeler to invest in the railroad. This was the beginning of a long string of letters and meetings by Hagerman and others with various friends and acquaintances, and even with potential competitors, throughout the Midwest and back east, and also in England, to raise the necessary capital to begin construction of the road, or to sell it in its infancy.

(to be continued next month)

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Thymekeeper: The gifts of the great mullein

by Mari Marques

Verbascum thapsus

AKA: Common mullein, Gordolobo, Shepherds staff, Old Man's Flannel, Velvet plant, Indian Tobacco, Candlewick plant, Camper's toilet paper, Torches and many other common names including "those damn cabbages!" Although considered a "noxious weed" by the state of Colorado, I would like to throw my hat in on this one. Invasive, yes it can be, but noxious, not so much. The online dictionary defines the word noxious as "Harmful to living things; injurious to health".

Considering that mullein is one of the first plants to come back in the Hayman burn area, in abundance I might add, speaks to one of its many uses. Invasive plants that form dense clusters in disturbed habitats help to protect areas from further degradation. Per herbalist Jim McDonald, the easiest way to get mullein to grow is to burn a slash pile and sprinkle the seeds on top. In many ways mullein is associated with fire; it heals the Earth, it heals the lungs, and it can light your way in the dark as you'll see below.

Almost everyone knows mullein by one or another of its many common names. Native to Europe, Asia and North Africa, it was first introduced to the indigenous people of this continent by the Europeans and was quickly and widely accepted into their daily lives.

Description

Mullein is a biennial; in the first season of the plant's growth there appears only a rosette of large leaves six - 18 inches long with dense white hairs making it feel thick to the touch. In the following spring a solitary, stout stem with tough, strong fibers enclosing a thin rod of white pith, arises from the middle of the leaves.

The leaves at the base of the stem are large and numerous but become smaller as they ascend the stem. The leaf system is arranged so that the smaller leaves above drop the rain on the larger leaves below, which then direct the water to the roots; this is a necessary arrangement in order to thrive since the mullein grows mostly on dry soils.

The downy hairs which cover the entire plant so thickly act as a protective coat making sure the plant retains some of its moisture, and are

also a defensive weapon of the plant. Not only do they prevent the attacks of creeping insects, they can be intensely irritating to mucous membranes of any animal that may attempt to graze on them so that the plants are usually left alone. Per Maude Grieve's book titled, "A Modern Herbal", the down on the leaves makes excellent tinder when quite dry readily igniting on the slightest spark, and was, before the introduction of cotton, used for lamp wicks, hence another of the old names: 'Candlewick plant'.

Towards the top of the stalk which can and frequently does grow as high as eight feet or more depending on conditions, the wooly leaves merge into the thick, densely crowded flower spike usually about a foot long. The flowers opening here and there on the spike not in regular progression from the base; the flowers themselves are stalk-less and yellow, nearly an inch across. Every day different flowers open on the stalk and they are only open for one day. The ripened seed capsules are very hard and contain many seeds, which eventually escape through two valves and scatter around the parent plant. Mullein likes to grow in families.

Besides being visually aesthetic, you will be surprised by the many uses of mullein. Both medicinal and utilitarian, it's one of the most incredibly diverse and useful plants in the herb kingdom and deserves its place on the list of all time useful plants. I use all parts of the plant and in many different remedies. Let's take a look.

The Leaves

Mullein is relaxing and helpful for lung conditions where there is tightness, tension, irritation, and coughing. It is especially useful for wheezy asthmatic coughing and sudden abrupt hard coughing that makes your chest hurt afterward.

A tea can easily be made from the dried leaves although you may want to strain it through a coffee filter before drinking to remove any leftover hairs.

It can also be smoked like a cigarette; hence the common name Indian Tobacco, although this may not be the best choice, you can simply burn a small clump of the dried leaves and inhale (not directly) to decrease any spasms that may be happening in the bronchial area. Breathing in the distributed smoke often helps to calm respiratory spasms without requiring direct inhalation from a pipe or herbal cigarette, and is preferable for children and those with delicate lungs. It can also be taken as a tincture or used as a poultice on the chest.

Interestingly enough, the pattern on the bottom of the leaf closely resembles lung tissue, reminding us of the Doctrine of Signatures. Signature having both the words "sign" and "Nature" together, sign of Nature.

A poultice can also be used to relieve painful joints. It's very useful for hydrarthrosis; an accumulation of synovial fluids in movable joints such as water on the knee. A paste can be made and applied around the joint. It's also used for horses suffering from hydrarthrosis.

Traditional uses of mullein in France include as an emollient to soften tissues and bring fluid to an area to relieve inflammation. Specifically for injuries that produce a hard knot, it is especially useful. With this type of injury or for hard congested lymph glands, the leaves can be simply dipped in boiling water and, when cool enough, placed upon the afflicted area. Or the fresh leaf can be pounded and applied to the area as needed.

The leaves can be inserted into your shoes when hiking to provide a nice cushy padding



A tea can easily be made from the dried leaves although you may want to strain it through a coffee filter before drinking to remove any leftover hairs.

at the same time providing anti-inflammatory action. Although one of mullein's common names is "Camper's toilet paper" I highly advise against it; the fine hairs are intensely irritating to mucous membranes.

The Root

I use mullein root tincture for spinal issues, out of alignment conditions, and many other joint issues as well as broken bones. It helps things to set into place and heal more quickly. It's very useful in the treatment of chronic hip pain or other chronic long term pain.

Mullein is useful for bladder incontinence, or bedwetting in children due to a weak trigone in the bladder or lack of tone to the urinary tissues.

The optimal time to collect the root would be in the fall of the first year. Once the stalk starts to form the second year, much of the energy of the plant is going to form the stalk.

The Flowers

Although the whole plant is good for acute pain, the flower is the strongest for relief of acute pain when accompanied by swelling and inflammation.

An infusion of the flower in olive oil is often used to clear up childhood ear infections. The oil should be warmed and tested on a sensitive part of the body to ensure that it isn't too warm for the ear. One or two drops per dose repeated throughout the day. One can also massage the oil around the ear and down the eustachian tubes; it has a great affinity for the clearing of these tubes. Often the tincture can be used in the ear and is frequently more effective than the oil because it helps to dry up any excess fluid that may be contributing to bacterial proliferation. A tincture of any part of the plant will have similar action on ear infection.

For hemorrhoids, macerate the fresh flowers in warm milk, make a paste and apply locally.

For common cold, a tea of the flowers can be used to calm inflammation of the throat and lungs. Today we use the leaves for this purpose but tradition shows that in the olden days the Europeans preferred the flowers. In the book "Health Secrets of Plants & Herbs" by Maurice Messegue, he says the flowers are much stronger than the leaves.

Infused flowers of mullein in warm milk with honey is very good for sore throat and irritated cough. Start with whole milk (preferably goat milk) in a pan, cover with mullein flowers and gently heat until barely hot, remove from heat and let sit for 15 minutes, gently heat again until barely hot, add honey, strain and serve. Sip when the throat tickles or when having an urge to cough.

Another veterinarian use for the flower is for dysentery in sheep. Infuse a handful of fresh flowers in a quart of water; administer this tea

daily until symptoms abate.

The Stalk

Once the stalk has dried it can be dipped in tallow or melted candle wax and used as a torch. Hence the common name, Torches.

The Seeds

Although I have not used the seeds extensively, they also have a markedly calming affect when taken as tea or tincture. To be a responsible neighbor, the stalk should be harvested before the seed pods expel their many seeds so as not to invade your neighbor's property.

Mullein Facts:

- The whole plant is a strong anti-inflammatory and relaxing nerve.
- Historically, mullein was used for colic and diarrhea in children.
- Mullein is a good lymphatic helping to move lymph fluid when congested using a tincture of the leaf or root or a combination of both.
- Historically, the tea was used for respiratory issues in cattle.
- Mullein flowers in July and August

I for one would not be without mullein in my herbal medicine chest and I've only just begun to list the never ending uses of this plant. If you live in Teller or Park County, there is probably some growing near you. As always, avoid harvesting your herbs by the roadside or where there is potential that they have been sprayed by man or beast such as public areas and parks.

Mari Marques is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari at mugsys-pad@aol.com or 719-439-7303. Mari is available for private consultation or to meet with you and see what's blooming on your property in July and August.

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Fine artist paints dreams into reality Muralist Amy Spring; new to our community, not her art!

by Christine Ford

When was the last time you heard of a talented fine art painter that began her career with the P.T.A.? When Queen Palmer Elementary in Colorado Springs needed murals to brighten the teachers' lounge and restrooms, they asked their P.T.A. for a volunteer. Then, a 30 year old with a son in fourth grade stepped forward; Amy Spring. She had never painted a mural but was willing to try.

Spring had gone from unskilled to unskilled job, and was working as a maid at the time. She had absolutely no fine art training. She transformed the school's interior into scenes of Pikes Peak and Colorado history and a new artist was born.

At first she worked by chance and word of mouth. She did faux finish painting for a designer in Monument. As she learned, she would only paint behind the refrigerator until she was sure it would look good. She also spent eight months at a desk in Michael Garmin's shop, hand painting his sculptures. Spring was learning every step of the way, but then her father passed away. "I took a look at my life," she said, "and decided I did not want to spend 20 years at that desk."

Examining her community, Spring noticed the bare walls of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. She went home and made concept sketches, then approached the facility. "We can't afford to pay you," she was bluntly told. "Okay," said Ms. Spring, "Will you buy the paint?" The zoo agreed and allowed her to sign the work with her name and phone number. This led to a commission from a Lt. Colonel at the Air Force Academy asking for a mural in the prep academy gym; then she did commemorative paintings for two classes.

Amy had only painted according to what she had learned while practicing, but when she was divorced and supporting her children, she decided it was time to make a real business out of her art. She attended classes at Pikes Peak Community College, studying such wide ranging topics as graphic design and illustration to editing, at which she excelled.

One of her teachers saw something very special; pulled her aside and gave her special projects meant to hone her color skills. "You

are not a graphic artist," he told her. "You are a fine artist."

But times were tough, and one day Amy even found herself selling plasma to get gas money. She videotaped the experience so she would never forget what that low felt like.

She joined a networking organization and began to promote herself. Through the group she met a woman in another networking group who offered to have her on "The Saturday Business Magazine" on KRDO.

Then, an admirer of her work that she had met through her promotions on Twitter heard she did not have a complete website to present on the show, so this single mother with an autistic child spent day and night getting Spring's website into professional shape, and at no charge. Business began to blossom.

Romance blossomed for Spring as well, when she met her partner of the last six years, Aaron. He is disabled; she became a caretaker on top of her painting jobs. As time went by, Spring had more and more commissions up the Ute Pass area, including the well-known mural that wraps around the walls and fireplace at what is now Denny's in Woodland Park. They both loved the area and would explore the National Forest on weekends.

One day they walked over a hill and Aaron found a variety of crystals. He told Spring, "Our rainbow has touched the ground". They filed a mineral claim with the help of a geologist, who traded his time for an Amy Spring original; and a new pair of die-hard rock hounds were born.



A frightened bear cub clings to the branches of "The Grandmother Tree", a large and well know aspen in Colorado Mountain Estates. photo Christine Ford

Last year they began looking at properties in the high country. Spring had fallen in love with a small rural cabin. She loved the serenity, the incredible scenery, and the history of the area. With help from their Colorado Springs Realtor they were able to purchase the home.

Most recently, Spring has spent the last month or so out at Colorado Mountain Estates, or CME, at the home of Darrell and Metta Blevins, transforming a stairway into a personalized work of art in three dimensions.



Amy Spring with one of her creations. photo by Amy Spring

The Blevins's met Spring at Denny's, where she was having professional photos taken of her mural for her extensive portfolio, and they began to talk. The Blevins had acquired their dream home in CME last year and wanted to personalize it.



Close-up of the trees shows the 3-D effect. photo by Amy Spring

On June 6th, the mural was unveiled to admiring friends and neighbors, along with a delicious luncheon spread put on by Metta Blevins. The mural centerpiece is what local residents call "The Grandmother Tree", an ancient aspen of incredible girth. The painted tree stretches from the lower level of the stairwell to cover the ceiling of the upper, and holds a frightened bear cub in a crook of its golden-leaved branches.

Spring consulted with the homeowners on what their dream mural would include; their cats are skillfully worked into the design, as well as the prayer tree outside their backdoor. The current and former homeowners and original builders are remembered with their initials, as is a cherished family member who has passed on.

The mural is bright and full of life, with a different miniature scene to catch the eye at each step. Gaze into snowy peaks, or warm your feet with the elk in the meadow. There are hummingbirds, one which is cleverly



A forest scene wraps around a fireplace. photo by Amy Spring

ensconced in a heart shape made by aspen tree branches. One of CME's resident foxes is pictured, as is another bear cub on a stump. Spend an hour looking and all this painting has to offer will continue to keep you enthralled. Spring even carried the aspen design around corners and onto adjacent walls.

The artist spent three weeks of 18 hour days on a ladder painting, while Blevins, an excellent cook, not only kept her nourished but sent home care packages to Aaron, who was "very sad" when the job was finished.

The Blevins family is thrilled with their new addition to their dream home. "He loves it," said Blevins of her husband, Darrell, a contractor. "He was a part of it, choosing personal things that had meaning for him as well."

"As for Spring," said Blevins, "She put so much of herself into it; she created it. We just kind of let her go with it." Blevins pride in the mural was evident in her wide smile and continued praise as she pointed out each special touch.

Spring enjoys painting at home as well, and to that end she has been offering special pieces, where she paints a cherished memory or a favorite dream for you. You can see Amy Spring's work and contact her at www.AmySpring.com or on Facebook at Muralist Amy Spring. Her phone number is 719-210-6818. If you are looking for a talented artist who captures the beauty of the Pikes Peak high country in a special and unique way, look no further!

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2nd Annual Senior Circle Ice Cream Social & Serenade a success!



Berries, nuts, sauces, sprinkles & whipped cream layered over Chef Paddy's finest vanilla, trivia contests and a serenade by the "Woodland Winds!" made it a fun event for over 50 attendees.

On Friday, June 20, Pikes Peak Regional Hospital hosted the 2nd Annual Senior Circle Ice Cream Social & Serenade.

Rampart Range Library news

by Anne Knowles

What better time than summer to take advantage of everything the library has to offer? The summer reading program is in full swing and there are already more than 415 children, 150 teens and 110 adults registered. It runs until July 31 so there is still plenty of time to get on board, read and win prizes. You can register from home through our website, <http://rampartlibrarydistrict.org>, or come into either library and register.

There are programs for everyone - "Fizz, Boom, Read" for children from birth through those entering fifth grade in the fall, "Spark a Reaction" for teens/teens entering sixth through 12 grades and "Literary Elements" for everyone 18 and older. Bring the whole family to the Annual End of Summer Bash, the "Mad Scientist Party", on July 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Woodland Park Library.

Florisant has storytimes every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and Minecraft on Thursdays at 11 a.m. Storytime themes in July are "Sparks" on July 3 with special guests from the Florissant Fire Rescue, "Solids, Liquids and Gases", "Senses", "Simple Machines" and "Spectrum". You won't want to miss puppets, stories, songs and silliness with Cathy Kelsay as Mother Goose on July 17 at 10:30 a.m. There are special programs for teens and teens this summer at Florissant every Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. followed by the Video Club from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Come to the Florissant Library and learn Computer Basics on July 7 at 9 a.m. and Word 1 on July 11 at 9 a.m. Preregistration is

required so please stop in at the library or call 748-3939 to reserve your spot. The Book-Worms Book Club will be discussing "American Brutus: John Wilkes and the Lincoln Conspiracies" on July 16 at 10:30 a.m. New members are always welcomed.

Rampart Library District is having some special family programs for all ages during July in Woodland Park. Come dance, sing and have fun with Mr. Kneel when he celebrates what it really means to be a kid with fun, inspiring hip hop music on Wednesday, July 2 at 10 a.m. Ann Lincoln returns by popular demand and will feature juggling, magic, comedy and much more on Wednesday, July 9 at 10:15 a.m. Closing out the month on Wednesday, July 23 at 10:15 a.m. will be Denise Gard and Sienna the trained dog. Will Sienna be saved after she is kidnapped by aliens in "Alien Alert"?

An exciting new resource at the library is the early literacy backpack. Featuring such topics as dinosaurs, bugs, new baby in the family, telling time, shapes, tying your shoes, size and measurement, and caring for the environment, these contain several books, games and/or manipulatives, suggested songs, poems and fingerplays. They check out for one week and are limited to one per family because of limited quantity and high demand.

Please visit us at the library, like us on facebook or stop by the Library Booth at the Woodland Park Farmer's Market on July 18. We would love to talk with you, hear what you like about the library and share what we have to offer you.



First Cruiser ride of the season.

MTCC Cruiser rides

by Deborah Maresca

The Mountain Top Cycling Club will be hosting Cruiser Rides on Wednesdays until Sept. 24th. Meet at Ute Pass Brewery. Be ready to ride at 6 p.m. Cruiser Rides are designed to be a casual family ride. No fancy cycling clothing needed; just t-shirts and sneakers for non-professional cycling attire.

Cruisers are designed to get more families out riding, to build confidence in group riding, present an opportunity for people that have bikes hanging in their garages to get out and ride, and to offer opportunity to start a healthier lifestyle through cycling.

Cycling down Centennial Trail to Valley View, over to Rampart Range Road and back to Midland Street, this five mile loop is as flat as we can make in Woodland Park. We regroup and ride together at a very easy pace. For riders that would like to keep track of their miles we will give out a reward once they reach a half century or 50 miles.

On the first ride, the Pro Challenge Team was on hand to give out Pro Challenge Swag and two VIP passes to the Pro Challenge August 22, 2014. Woodland Park will be the host for the Stage 5 Start.

There were six cyclists that rode in the inaugural Cruiser ride; Mike Sperry, Deborah Maresca, David Kriegshauser, Grace Krieg-



Cruisers banner

shauser, Mary Ann Pisaruk, and Chip Hahn from Colorado Springs. The ride started at 6 p.m. and the group stayed together. We finished at 6:40 p.m.

Grace Kriegshauser has just received her new mountain bike for her 11th birthday and she was very excited to do her first five mile group ride.

For more information call Debbie, 719-687-2489 or visit www.mountaincyclingclub.com. We will post any cancellations on the website.

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Fire mitigation large or small

by Don and Donna Doty

Let talk “Forest Fire” Mitigation large or small. Every night on the news we see the fire activity across our great nation. Yes, it is fire season. We all can do our part to be better stewards of our mountain properties. There are some basic steps for helping to evaluate your property’s mitigation levels.

The first step is to determine “how large or how much” of your property you want to mitigate. Some of our projects have been contracted over several years; breaking down large mitigation projects into sections, completing one or two sections a year. We suggest starting around the home and other outbuildings. These larger parcels take forestry equipment and professional sawyers that can handle these types of mitigation projects in a timely manner. Timberline Spraying has these quality components; between five to seven man crew, chipper, skid-loader with tree shear, grapple, pole saws, chainsaws, all the equipment and manpower to fulfill your mitigation project.

The three major areas for fire mitigation evaluation are; vertical/ladder fuels, surface fuels and crown fuels.

Vertical/Ladder Fuels

Ladder fuels are defined as smaller trees and brush that provide vertical continuity, which would allow a fire to burn from the ground level up into the branches and crowns of larger trees. Older firs and pine trees begin to lose their lower branches while feeding new growth towards the crown of the tree. These lower dead branches are lower ladder fuels. These fuels are potentially very hazardous, but are easy to mitigate.

The ladder fuels near homes are especially important to address. Using an extendable pole saw you should prune all tree branches from ground level up to a height of 10 feet or up to 1/3 the height of the tree, whichever is less. This will make it much safer for firefighters. Pruning further up could jeopardize the health of the tree.

Shrubs that are near or touching the home should be pruned based on specifications recommended for the species. You should never have branches or limbs touching or reaching over your roof. All dead branches or green slash should be broadcast chipped or removed. When evaluating your property for vertical ladder fuel, look for dead standing trees first, then look at over-crowded groups of trees. Think about thinning these trees by age, species, and size. Keep in mind the crown of trees should have open sky between them.

Surface Fuels:

logs, branches, slash

Naturally occurring woody material on the ground and debris from cutting down trees (also known as slash) may increase the intensity of fires. This will increase the likelihood of surface fires transitioning to crown fires. Dispose of any heavy accumulation of logs, branches and slash by chipping, hauling to a slash dumps, authorized burn pit or piling for permitted burning later. Always contact your county sheriff’s office or local fire department first for information about burning slash piles. Another alternative is to chip it into very small pieces and distributing it widely over the ground. If chipping logs and/or slash, it’s essential to avoid creating continuous areas of wood chips on the ground. Also, avoid heavy accumulation of slash piles, these green freshly cut piles of slash can and will draw the pine and fir beetle to that area of your forest. It is best to plan to remove these slash piles as part of your mitigation project.

We are fortunate that some of our local communities provide us with a slash dump or burn pit locations. One of those is the Divide Slash Site, which is open on Saturday’s for our use.

The Ranch of the Rockies provides a burn site for their residents. The fire station in Fairplay has a burn pit for area residents from the Valley of the Sun, Foxtail, and surrounding communities. Indian Mountain Subdivision also has a burn pit available for their residents. These facilities make it easy for us to be proactive in our mitigation projects. Take advantage of these sites. Don’t wait until it’s too late. Don’t let wildfires take control of your property.

Pine Needles

Every year pine trees drop 1/3 of their needles. For many of us that causes an annual need for raking them away from our homes and other outbuildings. These needles should be removed from the property. These needles are usually deeper under many larger trees. This is especially true in ponderosa pine forests.

Grasses

Grasses are perhaps the most pervasive and abundant surface fuel in Colorado. Mow grasses and weeds as often as needed throughout the growing season to keep them shorter than 6 inches. This applies to irrigated lawns and wild or native grasses. This is critical in the fall, when grasses dry out, and in the spring, after the snow is gone but before plants green-up. Be especially careful when mowing in areas with rocks. Mower blades can hit rocks and create sparks, causing fires in dry grass. Consider mowing only on days with high humidity or after recent moisture to reduce the risk of starting an unwanted fire. When mowing around trees, be sure to avoid damaging the root system and tree trunk by using a higher blade setting on the mower and trimming grass that grows against the trunk only by hand.

Crown Fuels

An intense fire burning in surface fuels can transition into the upper portion of the tree canopies and become a crown fire. Crown fires are dangerous because they are very intense and can burn large areas. Crown fire hazard can be reduced by thinning trees to decrease crown fuels, reducing surface fuels under the remaining trees, and eliminating vertical fuel continuity from the surface into the crowns. The way that I look at your forest mitigation project, no matter how large the acreage, is to remove overcrowded areas by tree ages and species. By leaving great spacing between trees, opening up the forest floor to sunlight the end results will be a healthier forest that is fire safe. Opening up the forest floor often invites Aspens to grow into these areas. Aspen are great because they contain moisture unlike the ponderosa and fir trees.

After you have completed your forest mitigation project it is recommended to complete a checklist of fire safety needs inside your home (these should be available at your local fire department). Examples include having an evacuation plan and maintaining smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Develop your fire evacuation plan and practice family fire drills. Ensure that all family members are aware of and understand escape routes, meeting points and other emergency details. Contact your county sheriff’s office and ensure that your home telephone number and any other important phone numbers appear in the county’s Reverse 911 or other emergency notification database. Prepare a “grab and go” disaster supply kit that will last at least three days, containing your family’s and pets’ necessary items, such as cash, water, clothing, food, first aid and prescription medicines. Ensure that an outdoor water supply is available. If it is safe to do so, make a hose and nozzle available for responding firefighters.

Here are a few reminders for your annual mitigation checklist.

- Clear roof, deck and gutters of pine needles and other debris.
- Mow grass and weeds to a height of 6 inches or less.
- Rake all pine needles and other flammable debris away from the foundation of your home and deck.
- Remove trash and debris accumulations from the defensible space.
- Check fire extinguishers to ensure that they have not expired and are in good working condition.
- Check chimney screens to make sure they are in place and in good condition.
- Remove branches that overhang the roof and chimney.
- Dispose of slash from tree/shrub thinning.
- Check regrowth of trees and shrubs by reviewing photos of your original defensible space; properly thin and prune trees and shrubs.

A clean mitigated forest is a healthier forest. Call Timberline Spraying 687-6811 for a free mitigation estimate no matter how large or small. Next month we will talk about the health benefits of fertilizing your trees.

July is the time to have any valuable tree sprayed to prevent the spread of the Dwarf Mistletoe. In controlling the mistletoe we target spray a growth inhibitor directly onto the spore. This will sterilize the spore and within 48 hour it will fall to the ground. If you have any questions please give my office a call 687-6811.

Budworm update: The budworm is now in the worm stage eating their way toward the moth stage of their life cycle. The moth stage is still very damaging to your trees. This is the stage in which they lay their eggs for next year’s hatch. If you are seeing these tiny white moths and want to prevent continued damage to your trees call Timberline Spraying 719-687-6811 or email mpinebeetle@aol.com to get your trees sprayed. Look for our ad in this month’s paper.



Timberline Spraying mitigation crew cleaning surface fuels.



Timberline Spraying employee trimming latter fuels up 10’.



Timberline Spraying tree shear cuts up to an 18” diameter tree.



Timberline loading and hauling truckloads of dead fall to the burn pit.

PSB&T welcomes Jill Isabell & Chuck Mahoney

by Perini & Associates

Park State Bank & Trust has two new team members: Jill Isbell as the LPL Financial Advisor for the Invest and Retire Center (IRC), and Chuck Mahoney, the bank’s newest asset manager.

Jill Isbell

“We listened to our customers who asked for on-site services in retirement and financial planning,” according to Tony Perry, President and CEO of Park State Bank & Trust. “To better meet this growing demand, we selected Jill Isbell to join us as we knew she was committed to helping business owners, individuals and families pursue their financial goals and objectives.”

The Invest and Retire Center’s role is to help customers make well-informed decisions about investments and retirement plans. “I am dedicated to helping customers work toward their financial goals,” she said.

Isbell provides the following representative services and products to customers:

Services

- 401(k) Rollovers
- Insurance Reviews
- Investment and Asset Management
- Retirement, College, Business, Tax, and Estate Planning

Products

- Alternative Investments
- Comprehensive Asset Management Accounts

Isbell emphasizes the importance of having an ongoing personal relationship with customers. “The relationship is key,” she said. “The more you understand and better manage your wealth, the more likely you are to achieve your goals and dreams,” she said.

Isbell feels strongly about being a partner with the bank. “It is a privilege to be able to partner with an institution that cares about their clients and their community,” she said.



Jill Isbell the LPL Financial Advisor for the Invest and Retire Center (IRC)

- Domestic and Foreign Securities
- Individual Stocks and Bonds
- Insurance
- Mutual Funds
- Variable and Fixed Annuities

“As an independent broker, I am in a position to be objective and give unbiased advice,” Isbell said. LPL Financial offers no investment products of its own, so advisors who work with LPL Financial can devote their time and energies not to product quotas and sales goals, but to understanding your individual financial objectives.

At the IRC, which is open to the entire community, not just current bank customers, one will find planning services to include: Business Succession, Education, Long-term/Elder Care, Retirement, Tax, Business, Estate and Wealth Building and Preservation.

The Invest and Retire Center works in partnership with the other bank departments to find, as she said, “The best possible combination of services and products that work in conjunction with each other, rather than in competition of.”

The IRC is not a “sales” environment, she stresses. “This makes our office different, the only goals and the only agendas that matter are those of the client.”

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Services

- 401(k) Rollovers
- Insurance Reviews
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Products

- Alternative Investments
- Comprehensive Asset Management Accounts

bicycling. She believes it is important to give back to the people and environment that have enriched her life so she volunteers in several community organizations and groups including YFU, Lions Club, and Manitou Schools.

Chuck Mahoney

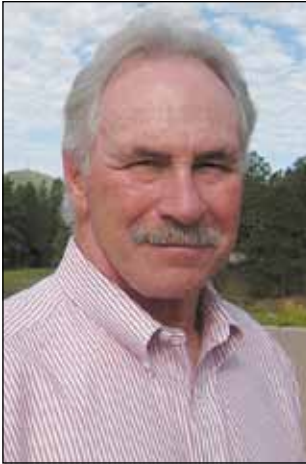
Chuck Mahoney is the new asset manager for Park State Bank & Trust. “We had a strong small business program already. However, listening to customers who asked for additional options when it came to physical asset analysis we decided we needed a successful business owner as part of the team,” according to Tony Perry, President and CEO of Park State Bank & Trust. “To better serve our customers, we asked Chuck to join us as he had a stellar reputation in the community backed by a successful business.”

Mahoney provides the following services to customers:

- Physical Asset Analysis
- Physical Asset Master Planning
- Property Research Services
- Coordinated Business Research and Planning
- Appraisal Reviews

“I feel fortunate to be part of an organization that is taking a team work approach to benefit from the checks and balances of different areas of expertise,” Mahoney said.

Mahoney is a 30-year successful business owner in Teller County. “The fact that I have worked and lived in our community is key to be-



Chuck Mahoney the new asset manager for Park State Bank & Trust

able to identify with customers and to provide them with realistic options.” Mahoney said.

Mahoney believes that the community has changed during the years. “Expectations for services in our community are higher now,” he said. “People moving into our county are more savvy, educated and approach financial decisions with much more knowledge than in the past.”

Mahoney is also proud to be at an agile business that happens to be a bank. “As an agile business, our response time is very beneficial to customers who have their plates full already and appreciate the quick turn around on decisions,” he said. “Our approach here is that we seek to first understand. We listen. We serve,” he said.

Mahoney is committed to providing exceptional service and is committed to the community. He provides a realistic appraisal, costing analysis and also gives customers a historical perspective. “I think it’s important that they know about like businesses in the past and how they fared,” he said.

Mahoney believes that Park State Bank & Trust is a financial institution that is community bank proud for the following three reasons:

- Longevity and history in the community
- Board of Directors who are focusing on Teller County
- Experience, teamwork and agility of the bank’s team

About Chuck Mahoney

Chuck Mahoney has been a resident of Teller County for the last 30 years. Since moving here in 1984 he has operated a building business, having both a residential and commercial contractor’s license.

He and his wife, Connie, have two children born and raised here in Woodland Park. Chuck has been involved with numerous non-profit organizations through the years. Most recently he has been on the Board of Directors of the Woodland Park Saddle Club and is involved in their land purchase and moving to a new facility in Divide, Colorado.

If you are interested in consulting with either Jill or Chuck for your needs, they can be reached at 719. 687.9234 or you can stop by Park State Bank & Trust, located at 710 U.S. Hwy 24, Woodland Park, CO. Mahoney is available during bank hours.

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FRESH LOCAL ORGANIC PRODUCE

Local dance school sets new world record

by Mickie Richardson

The world of Irish Step Dance is typified by fast intricate footwork, large curly wigs, and colorful sparkly dresses. At Mountain Eire Irish Dance School of Woodland Park, Colorado, we embrace this tradition but try to add an element of adventure, as well. For example, this past Saint Patrick's Day we flash-mobbed our local Wal-Mart, Safeway, and City Market grocery stores with impromptu Irish jigs to the surprised delight of employees and patrons alike. In keeping with this adventurous spirit, we went all out for the first anniversary of our school and set a new world record!

June 17th, the one-year mark of Mountain Eire's existence, 21 dancers and their families piled into eight vehicles shortly before noon. For many of us, who are definite acrophobes, simply driving the Pikes Peak Highway proved adventure enough! Once we reached the summit, our amazing road crew (made up of our fabulous and supportive family members) set up the music and a make-shift dance floor near the summit altitude sign as proof of our location.

Foregoing our curly wigs (that wind at the top would make short work of those financial investments), we donned our costumes and Irish dance shoes. Even though we train at more than 8,000 feet, we were sure to take specific precautions against the extreme altitude, such as stopping at Glenn Cove part way up to acclimate, and drinking bottles and bottles of water. We knew that the 14,110 feet would quickly undermine our physical endurance.

With family members and several tourists in attendance, dancers ranging in age from eight to 61 executed their very best high altitude steps. Strangely enough, the lack of oxygen didn't end up making the jumping, bouncing, and butt-kicks



Mountain Eire at the summit of Pikes Peak

as big a challenge as we predicted. One dance was enough for us physically, though, but we were able to set the new world record for "Highest Altitude Traditional Irish Jig." Check out our facebook page for a link, or visit www.recordsetters.com, to see the video of our record-setting performance.

As the dancers drank yet more water and enjoyed the amazing views, our road crew quickly packed away all physical evidence of our presence at the

top. Twenty-one dancers and their families happily made their way back down the highway (nearly as harrowing an experience as the ascent) and back to their every-day lives with thoughts of next year's Guinness World Record attempt in mind.

Mickie Richardson is owner/instructor of Mountain Eire Irish Dance School, www.mountaineire.org, mountaineire@yahoo.com

Rolling Thunder Cloud Café

by Flip Boettcher

The snow is melted, the mountain sides are green, wildflowers are blooming on the hillsides, and a new restaurant has opened for business in Guffey, the Rolling Thunder Cloud Café (RTC Café or just the café).

Guffey is a quaint, eclectic mountain town, part ghost town, located in southeast Park County near the Fremont County line at 8,600 feet with a population of around 30 people.

The RTC Café is owned and operated by Guffey residents Wayne and Geordi Walston. They feature year round home-style cooking and BBQ specialties from their smoker. The café is located where Rita's Place used to be and fills the void left when Rita closed her doors last December 21.

Also located in the café is a gallery of local artists' works and crafts. These include jewelry, soaps/lotions, paintings, books, pottery, handmade rugs and lots more; just perfect for browsing and eating.



From left to right are the smoker, Geordi and Wayne in front of the Rolling Thunder Cafe. photo by Flip Boettcher

The Walstons, who moved to Guffey from California eight years ago, "are excited to open their doors to the community," said Geordi in an email. Their summer hours are Tuesday to Friday 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and closed Mondays.

Surprisingly, Wayne is the chef in this duo and the breakfast menu includes his popular homemade biscuits and sausage gravy. Guffey resident Catherine Johnson, wife of Mark "Wolf" Johnson the owner of the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation, the wolf rescue just north of Guffey, commented that it's "more than worth the drive for a breakfast this good! I love 'Wayne's choice', a house specialty.

The lunch menu has quite a variety of offerings, but features the pulled pork or brisket from the smoker. The Walstons drove all the way to Georgia to pick up the custom built smoker and they feature pulled pork and brisket from Scanga meats in Salida.

Wayne, who has prepared gourmet meals as a guest chef for an upscale restaurant while living in California, said cooking is one of his favorite hobbies. He is enjoying using his outdoor smoker skills.

Be sure to save room after your meal for one of Wayne's special pies: Granny Smith Apple, Triple Berry, or Cherry. The "Granny Smith Apple pie is the best I've had in ages. The touch of the 'mystery ingredient' is just perfect", said Guffey resident Deb Wadsworth.

The café enjoys the support of the local residents as well as people passing through, Geordi said. Recently Willem and Elly from the Netherlands passed through Guffey and commented, "Cycling across the USA, we happened to stop in Guffey....We had a cold beverage in the RTC Café there and the next morning had a magnificent breakfast fresh made for us. The owners were very open and friendly and took time to talk to us....When you happen to pass the Guffey road off Colorado highway 9, stop there and enjoy the hospitality."

After having started playing the piano at four years old and being a music educator for 38 years, Geordi is very excited about bringing music and dinner music back to the café. In fact, Geordi will be playing at the café on July 4th as part of the Guffey Heritage Days and Chicken Rodeo from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on café events, menu items and other café news, visit their website: www.rollingthundercloudcafe.net.

The Walstons are focusing on "everyone enjoying a home cooked meal and good conversation once they walk through our door," Geordi stated.

Summer backpacking, fishing, hiking and camping

by Jeff Tacey

With summer in full swing it's time to do fun things. If you can avoid the afternoon rain storms, it's a great time for fishing, hiking, camping and backpacking.

One of my favorite places to go hiking is the trail going up the backside of Pikes Peak. Take Forest Road 383 off of Highway 67. Start at the Craggs Trailhead, cross Four Mile Creek to find the Pikes Peak Trail.

A great fishing spot is Penrose-Rosemont Reservoir off of Gold Camp Road. You have to park off the road and hike down to the lake. You'll catch rainbow, brook, brown and cut-throat trout here. Artificial flies and lures only. A Woolly Bugger with an air bubble works well.

Another good fishing spot is Manitou Lake seven miles north of Woodland Park on Highway 67. You'll catch mainly rainbow trout as the lake is stocked heavily by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

A great place for some overnight backpacking trips is the Lost Creek Wilderness off of County Road 77 or the Tarryall Road. Several trails start at the Twin Eagles campground. You can plan a loop hike and intersect the Colorado Trail or find Lost Creek as it keeps disappearing underground.

The Pike National Forest in Park and Teller Counties has a ton of camping. You can camp just about anywhere on forest land or use one of the many campgrounds for a fee. Eleven-mile Canyon has some great campgrounds as does Elevenmile State Park.

Get yourself out there and enjoy nature!

Ute Pass Chamber Players benefit concert to help older adults and kids!

The Ute Pass Chamber Players are pleased to announce the selection of two local nonprofit beneficiaries for the annual UPCP benefit concert, to be presented on November 9, 2014. The beneficiaries are the Woodland Park Senior Citizens Club and the Mountain Top Cycling Club.

Proceeds from the concert will help support programs essential to the well-being of seniors and handicapped adults in northern Teller County, as well as to provide students at Cripple Creek & Victor High School with a positive, life-changing experience through participation in National Interscholastic Cycling Association Races. More information will be available in the near future.

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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 us at 719-686-7393 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

CRIPPLE CREEK

8 The Gold Camp Christmas Committee is meeting July 8 at 9 a.m. in the conference room at the Aspen Mine Center. Anyone wishing to help plan the 2014 event which will be held December 11, 12, 13 & 14 is invited to attend or call Kathi Pilcher at 659-3599. After this meeting there will be two meetings in each September, October, November, and one in December.

DIVIDE

12 Teller County Sheriff's Office "Open House" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is FREE! Come to enjoy the petting zoo, games for kids, food and drink.

14 & 28 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill - Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechapelfoodpantry@outlook.com.

FAIRPLAY

25 & 26 South Park Telephone is a proud sponsor of Burro Days. Come visit us at our booth.

Habitat needs help!

by Jamie Caperton

We need volunteers for VINO & Notes, Wine-Food-Jazz Festival August 2! Volunteer for one 3 hour shift and get a FREE ticket to the event. Call 687-4447 to sign up for a shift. Details about the event are online at www.vinoandnotes.com. Event will be held at Woodland Station and benefits Habitat for Humanity of Teller County.



SOUTH PARK SENIOR CENTER

The second Wednesday, Senior Board Member meetings at 9 a.m., except holidays, then lunch at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$6.00 per person, need not be a senior. Thrift shop is open 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Mon thru Sat. Bargains for all ages. Phone during thrift shop hours, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., is 719-836-1455. We are located at Park Senior Center, 6th and Hathaway in Fairplay.

FLORISSANT

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Community yoga at the Florissant Park, Thursdays at 10 a.m. This practice will temporarily replace the 9 a.m. Thursday yoga class at the Florissant Garage. Donations accepted, everyone welcome. Call Debbie for more info: 719-748-3678

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS Yoga, Stars, and Wildflowers: New Activities Offered at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument this summer:

YOGA HIKES

Join Ranger Denise Ackart for 1.5 hour long yoga hikes every Wednesday and Saturday morning through August at 9 a.m. Meet at the visitor center. Bring water, comfortable clothes, and shoes with flexible soles. For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/fflo/park-news/yoga-hikes.htm>

ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS

19 Join Ranger Leo Sack and see the night sky the way it used to look before city lights crowded out the stars. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument offers a dark enough sky to reveal the countless stars that once lit the night for our ancestors. From 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

WILDFLOWER WALKS

Join Ranger Shawn and learn about the colorful world of wildflowers. Programs take place every Sunday through August 31. Meet at the visitor center at 9 a.m. Bring water, snacks, and layered clothing. Please call the Monument for more information about the daily programs at (719)748-3253.

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS TO HOST 2014 SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. and Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument have announced the 2014 Seminar Series. The classes are open for the general public and teachers. Teachers can receive CEUs through Pikes Peak BOCES and graduate credit through Adams State University. The cost of the seminars for non-members of the Friends is \$25.00 while members pay \$15.00. Teachers interested in credit would pay an additional fee.

10 The Natural History and Ecology of Flammulated Owls, Brian Linkhart, Friday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

11 & 12 Fens, Forests, and Flowers, Doug Coleman Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

19 Follow a Fossil: Behind the Scenes of the Paleontology Program at Florissant Fossil Beds, Herb Meyer Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

20 From Pikes Peak to South Park: Mid-Tertiary forerunners of the Shape of the Land, Bud Wobus, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24 School in the Woods, Jonathan Wuerth & Carol Stansfield, Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about seminars, visit the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Bed's website at www.fossilbeds.org/seminars or call the Monument at (719) 748-3253 extension 109. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The entrance fee for the park is \$3.00 per adult (16 years or older) or free with one of the many federal land passes. For more information please call the Monument at (719)748-3253 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/fflo.

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum is located in Florissant at 18033 Teller County Road #1, across from the Florissant Post Office. The Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 748-8259.

26 Florissant Heritage Day

see page 6 for more information.

Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Garage Hall is open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck. For more information call the Garage at 719-748-5004.

THUNDERBIRD INN

4 Horseshoe Tournament at 1 p.m. 5J. Crosser-Davis & the "Ghghoe" 4 p.m.

6J. Michael Steele & Bertye, 4-8 p.m.

13 Lissa Hanner

18-19 11th Annual Bluegrass at the Bird

27 Kevin Deal

Thursday night is open mic jams at 7 p.m.

Call 719-748-3968 for more information.

GUFFEY

4 Guffey Heritage Day and Chicken Rodeo.

5 & 6 then 19 & 20 Grammy's Mountain Market. Learn more on page 27.

HARTSEL

SAVE THE AUGUST DATE 2 & 3

The Hartsel Library is celebrating its 15th anniversary. During Hartsel Days, August 2nd and 3rd, the library will be hosting the now world famous 'Bake and Book Sale'. Sunday August 3rd the library will be passing out slices of home baked cakes for all our patrons and visitors. Come enjoy home baking and

good reads.

LAKE GEORGE

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY - ONGOING

Wed 9 a.m. Low Impact Exercise

1st & 3rd Fri: Lake George Quilters Square 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

Help U' Club: We have our meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake George Community Center, starting with potluck at noon and our meeting at 1 p.m. 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.

OLD COLORADO CITY

The Old Colorado City History Center will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The bookstore will also be open during these hours. A schedule of summer activities can be seen at their web site - www.occchs.org or by calling 719-636-1225. **ADMISSION IS FREE.**

WOODLAND PARK

4 Street Dance The Ute Pass Cultural Center Pavilion, 210 E Midland Ave, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Open to public. Free admission. For more information contact Monique at 719-687-9975 or info@wpsad-club.com

4 Ute Pass Cultural Center hosts 3rd Annual Cemetery Crawl, see page 8 for more information.

5 Symphony Above the Clouds see page 10 for more information.

6 & 20 Ute Pass Saddle Club - Gymkhana held at 19250 E Hwy 24 in Woodland Park. Registration opens at 8 a.m. First event starts at 10 a.m. For more information contact Monique at 719-687-9975 or info@wpsadclub.com

DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER

4 Military Appreciation Day: 1/2 off of regular admission with active or retired military I.D. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

12 Art/Craft Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The DRC will host their fifth outdoor craft show. Join us and enjoy carved statues, hand-painted toys, handcrafted jewelry, home décor, leather items, stained glass, wall-hangings, wood crafts, sweets and much more! Check out our website for complete details. Dinosaur Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park. For more information visit: www.rmdrc.com or call 719-686-1820.

FARMER'S MARKET

The 24th Annual Woodland Park Farmer's Market, every Friday through September from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Center and Henrietta. SNAP welcomed. Featuring fresh farm vegetables and local produce, fruit from the western slope, high-altitude nursery plants, bakery-fresh bread, cheese, salsa, jams, pasta, natural meats (bison and grass raised chickens). For more information call (719) 689-3133 or 648-7286 or email: info@WPfarmers-market.com

8 Holistic Healing Day from 10 a.m. to noon. Practitioners from the Wholistic Networking Community invite you to experience the benefits of holistic services on a first come, first served donation basis. You may choose from tuning fork, color, crystal & sound healing; hands on or no touch Reiki; psychic guidance; relationship & addiction counseling; EFT; or essential oils. Practitioner information can be found at Facebook page WNC - Wholistic Networking Community. AARF- Adoptable Animal Rescue Force, a non-profit located in a Divide, CO, will be the beneficiary of your donations. Venue: Mountain View United Methodist Church, 1101 Rampart Range Rd., Woodland Park. For more information call Barbara Royal 719-687-6823.

13 Music in the Key of "A Miner": A Benefit for the Aspen Mine Center at the Country Lodge 723 West US Highway 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring: Cari Dell Trio,

Dick Cunico & The Little Big Band to follow. Admission: \$10/person or a table of 8 for \$70.00. Door prize drawings, silent auction, root beer floats, and dancing. For more information call 719-689-3584.

15 The Wholistic Networking Community invites you to meet area practitioners and learn about wholistic wellness from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at our regular monthly gathering. Venue for July is Mountain View United Methodist Church, Youth Room, 1101 Rampart Range Road. Come to the rear entrance. Be sure to mark your calendars for our regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Garen Ferrenbach, Healing Practitioner for over 30 years, has shared sound and energy healing in several countries and throughout the U.S. Garen will lead us through the vibrational qualities of sound, using a crystal singing bowl, tuning and ancient languages, to assist us in harmonizing our body mind and spirit. We will start with a meditation that will facilitate our receiving the vibrational qualities for our potential healing. For more information about the Wholistic Networking Community or to RSVP, contact Barbara Royal at 719-687-6823 or mira-cleofwellness@gmail.com.



Lindsey Bristol, left, as Mrs. Champain and Mattew Krob as Captain Stevens join a wonderfully talented cast in Thin Air Theatre Company's production of "The Spoilers". The show is followed by a delightful Mowtown themed olio. photo by Jeff Hansen

CLASSIC MELODRAMA & OLIO: THE SPOILERS

When miner Roy Glenister and his partner Dexty have their claim jumped, they set out for justice and vengeance against the men who stole their mine. A thrilling tale of corruption and greed during the early days of the great Alaskan gold rush, this classic American melodrama is filled with action, romance and intrigue. This melodrama will be followed by a hilarious summer olio. Lead: Helper, Healer, Friend and Savior. Fun songs, interactive activities, skits, games, and crafts. Lunch brought from home needed. Volunteers are needed. Contact: 719-687-9345 or Sister Mary 719-632-4463 or info@thinairtheatre.com for registration information.

25 Mad Scientist Party from 10 a.m. to noon at Woodland Park Library. Call 719-687-9281 for more information.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES FOR JULY

4 Pancake Breakfast in conjunction with the Old Fashioned 4th of July in the Park from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Great for vendors and early birds!

8 Potluck and presentation at 1:45 a.m.

17 The 5th Annual Afternoon Tea & Serenade at 2 p.m. Delightful sweets & savories and a concert provided by Ute Pass Chamber Players. Victorian dress is encouraged, but not required.

SAVE THE DATE -

Quilter's Above the Clouds Quilt Show August 9th. The Quilt Show is an opportunity for members and other community quilters to share their results with the public. Individuals and groups are invited and encouraged to enter a quilt. Entry forms and more information are available at www.quiltersabove-theclouds.org. Check-in will take place on the Lower Level

way! Set in vivid, mid-20th century New York City and buoyed by a Frank Loesser score that is among the most immortal works in theater history, this American classic has been called "the perfect musical comedy." Featuring an eclectic ensemble of high-rolling gambler "guys," well-meaning missionary "dolls" and brassy-voiced showgirls, Guys and Dolls is a toe-tappingly fun and romantic fable about gambling men and the strong-willed women who love them. The show runs July 4-Aug. 30. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$18 per person.

POPULAR MUSICAL: GUYS AND DOLLS

Guys and Dolls is a sure bet that soars with the spirit of Broadway.

To make reservations visit ThinAirTheatre.com or call 719-689-3247.

22 Catered meal and program. Peggy Wallace with Columbine Elementary will present a new program being developed that will give Seniors an opportunity to interact with kids preschool through 5th grade. There will also be one or two Steampunk Jewelry classes. Call Activities Director, Pamela Argo, for more information 719-339-0954.

VICTOR

18-20 Victor Gold Rush Days. For full schedule of events call 719-494-9789 or see www.victor.colorado.com/events.

19 & 20 Ute Trail Muzzle Loaders, Bayou Salado Rendezvous and Trade Fair, next to the old cemetery in Victor, CO. For more information 719-684-7780.

29th Annual Mountain Arts Festival August 2 & 3

Here is your chance to check out the latest creations of our local artists. Come to the Mountain Arts Festival at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. The Festival runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 2, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3. Admission is free.

For the past 18 years Bruce Belmore has been crafting flutes full time. Made from maple, walnut or cedar, he focuses his efforts on the internal quality of the flute. They'll be available for sale at this year's Mountain Arts Festival.



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