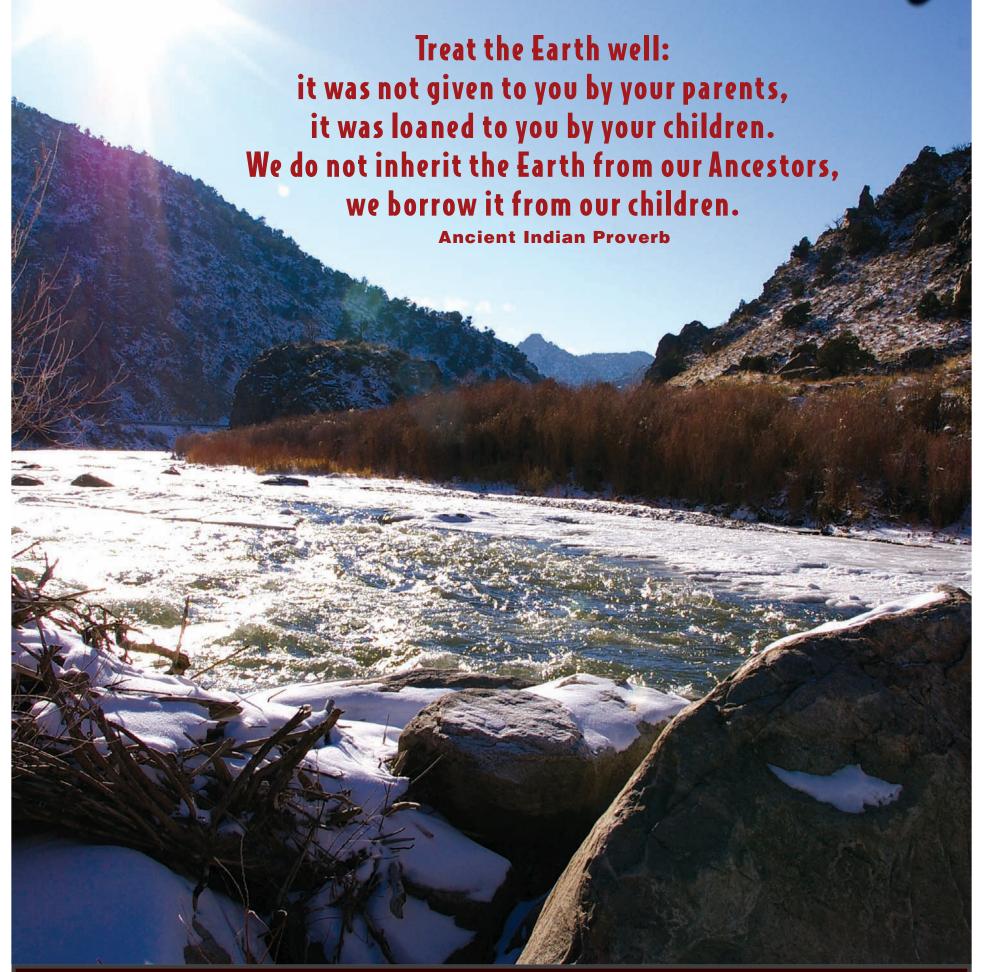
March 2015 P.O. Box 753, Divide, CO

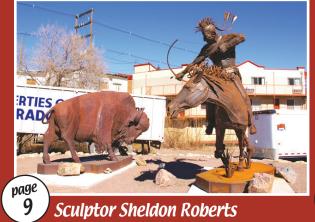
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Vol. 7, No. 3

Welcome to Ute Country



PEEK INSIDE...







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This month's cover photo is of the icy Arkansas River along highway 50, just east of Cotopaxi. We actually took the photo back in January. It was rare to see more ice than rafters, and it was beautiful to feel the rush of the chilly water along the riverbed while noticing the large chucks of ice float past. The bright sun shining down on the water created reflective pools that seemed to blind if looked at directly.

We hope this issue brings a light on a few topics for you or perhaps provides information you may have not considered from a particular perspective. We will introduce you to some award winning volunteers and other special folks in our communities. We shed a little light on a recent project awarded to CUSP, who found ways to engage our youth's interest in science, while creating a baseline of air quality in Park County.

Please remember to pay a visit to our advertisers; without them these issues are not possible. Let them know you saw their ad in the *Ute Country News!*

Do you have comments about this issue? Perhaps you have a human interest story or some good news to share. As always, feel free to contact us via email utecountrynewspaper@gmail. com or phone 719-686-7393. Make sure we have the chance to help you get your word out!

This month's Critter Corner is dedicated to the younger of Kathy's two brothers, Bob, who would have been 55 this March 18th. Bob loved animals, both indoors and outdoors. Mr. Spaz agrees to rest up for more photos to paw through for April. Please send some photos in to help motivate Mr. Spaz who seems to be taking extra catvantage of his nap time. Simply email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

— 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 pleas contact the publishers. **Publishers:** High Pine Design

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Mystery dinner show sure to be success

Mamma mia! If you're in the mood for a little mystery with a serving of lasagna on the side, you're in luck. The Florissant Grange Players, a local youth drama club, will be performing a mystery dinner show entitled 'The Secret of the Spoon' on Saturday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 15th at 5 p.m. Tickets for the dinner show are \$12.50 each and must be purchased ahead of time. Both performances will be held at the Florissant Grange Hall and promise to be fun for all.

The Florissant Grange Players is a group of local youth, ages 10 to 16, who have been rehearsing weekly since the beginning of January to prepare for the mystery dinner shows. The roup is mentored by local children's playwright. Alexi Alfieri. Alfieri also wrote and directed the popular "Cowgirl Cookie Plays" performed at the Grange over the past two summers. Alfieri writes custom playscripts for young performers and authored "The Secret of the Spoon" especially for the Florissant Grange Players group. She is working in collaboration with the Florissant Grange Hall to put on the mystery dinner show.

"I have been mentoring 11 completely enthusiastic young actors and actresses," says Alfieri. "They are an excellent team on stage, and they are working awfully hard on their Italian accents.'

"The Secret of the Spoon" is a playful mystery set in an Italian restaurant named Mamma Mia's. The popular restaurant is run by a passionate and argumentative family, the Pastaluccis. The family includes Mama and Papa Pastalucci along with their six children: Vinny Fettuccine, Maria Capellini, Angelia Rotini, Sophia Tortellini, Lucia Linguine, and Eddy Spaghetti. Rounding out the restaurant staff are Brandy and Candy as hostesses and Andy the dishwasher. Unfortunately, Nonni, the feisty but beloved grandmother of the



The Florissant Grange Players from left to right are: Meadow Spencer, Josiah Newton, McCoy Kleppe, Emily Newton, Marin Kleppe, Madigan Kleppe, Carson Jobe, Anje Sorensen, and Foster Blaisdell-Patton. Not pictured: Claire Coffman and Ruth Anna Powell. photo by Jeff Hansen

Pastalucci family, has just passed away. While grieving her loss in the middle of the restaurant kitchen, the family members discover that a very special spoon of Nonni's has gone missing. Even though the family members believe this spoon to be the secret of the success of Mamma Mia's, they nevertheless begin to accuse one another of stealing, hiding, or misplacing the spoon. Despite things heating up in the kitchen, they still manage to serve the audience a three course Italian meal. Thankfully by dessert, the secret of the spoon and its whereabouts has been revealed. "I love to write a good comedy over any-

thing else," confesses Alfieri, "and if I can throw a bit of mystery in, all the better. The kids are enjoying the script, and I am confident they will get some laughs from the audience."

Members of the Florissant Grange will be preparing an Italian meal of salad, lasagna, and tiramisu for audience members. A glutenfree option and a vegetarian option will also

To purchase tickets, drop by the Florissant Grange on a Monday or Thursday evening, 5:30 to 7 p.m., or call (719) 748-5004. Seating is limited, so act quickly! Then prepare to settle in, enjoy the show, and mangia, mangia!

Taking on the big guys: Change can happen

by Carol Grieve`

Over the past several months the company, Monsanto, has been creating advertisements in just about every news media that they can convince to run their ads. You may be seeing their ads on your local television station, heard them on your Pandora, or seen them in your favorite magazine. They have launched a massive public relations campaign in an effort to clean up their image. Are we being duped?

I became aware of one of those ads in a January 2015 issue of O Magazine. When I first saw this advertisement, I was absolutely shocked. I asked myself: Why would Oprah Winfrey and Oprah Magazine have an ad for Monsanto in their magazine? I thought to myself, surely Oprah does not know about this advertisement as she is such a proponent of organic gardening and I know she has a huge organic farm in Maui. From there, I knew we had to educate her and make her aware of this and let her know what we know about this company

My thoughts that day were shared with several others, including the Director of The Institute of Responsible Technology and several other food activists that are widely well known. We brainstormed on what we could do to educate Oprah and to get her to remove the ad from her highly regarded O Magazine. We concluded that we must do a petition to Oprah and O Magazine to request that she remove this advertisement and to also educate her as to why she should remove Monsanto's advertisement.

I created the Petition in early January and titled it "Oprah and O Magazine Drop the Monsanto Ad". The Petition read as follows:

"To Oprah, from the many who have learned from you, been inspired by you to aim higher, try harder and to strive to be the best version of ourselves. You have repeatedly been recognized as one of the most powerful and influential women of our times. Your influence on the American family through your vast work as the host of the The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Oprah Book Club, and O Magazine has impacted millions. Countless women in this country look to you and rely on you as a powerful thought leader and your influence spans to all genders and diverse groups around the planet — in essence, you are a role-model to many.

Therefore, we are confused and deeply saddened to see that your highly-regarded magazine, O Magazine, is running an advertisement for Monsanto, a company that according to a 2014 Harris Poll from Neilsen, was ranked 3rd worst among 60 high-profile companies. Oprah, we can only assume that you may be unaware of the misalignment of this advertisement by Monsanto, which is a company that is in total contradiction with your core values that support integrity, authenticity, truth, responsibility and self-care.

Oprah, you and your readers may not realize that this shrewdly-crafted advertisement talks about "growing enough food for a growing world": This statement insinuates that genetically engineered crops will yield more food to



feed the world. This statement is not true and is clearly a marketing ploy to convince and dupe the public about GMOs ("genetically modified organisms"). See study.

Monsanto states it wants to grow food "in a sustainable way": Since the use of genetically engineered crops, there has been a 527 Million pound increase in the use of pesticides in U.S. from 1996 to 2011. See study.

Monsanto states that "we partner with **farmers**:" Monsanto requires farmers who use their seeds to sign an agreement that they will not save seeds, so that farmers have to buy more seeds every year — **from them**. In a report created by The Center for Food Safety, it tracked numerous lawsuits that Monsanto had brought against farmers and found some 142 patent infringement suits against 410 farmers and 56 small businesses in more than 27 states In total the firm has won more than \$23 million from its targets. See report here. iii In essence, Monsanto is patenting life itself.

Oprah, most importantly, Monsanto's ad does not mention the mounting evidence and peerreviewed studies on the health impact of GMOs and Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup®. Genetically engineered crops are engineered to be resistant to this herbicide. Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in the world and is also sold by Monsanto. Glyphosate is a patented antibiotic and mineral chelator. Even though Monsanto claims Glyphosate is minimally harmful to humans, we are greatly concerned because studies have shown that Glyphosate has been found in our soil, water, blood, urine, gut, and most recently in human breast milk. See further information and studies here. iv

Oprah, given this information, does this sound like a company that is in alignment with everything you claim to stand for? We feel that Monsanto's advertisement misrepresents to the American family the underlying agenda of Monsanto. Monsanto spent over \$10 million dollars in 2014 alone on anti-labeling campaigns — preventing Americans from having the right to know what is in their food. They are using humans as their guinea pigs for their science experiment of genetically engineered crops — which have never been proven safe for humans."

In mid-Febuary, after we gathered 13,100 signatures on ne petition, O *lagazine* dropped ne Monsanto nagazine in both heir February and March, 2015 ssues. Although we did not receive

Oprah or O

Magazine, we are pleased that they have removed this advertise ment. I posted the results on Facebook on our Food Integrity Now page and the post has gone viral with nearly 1 million views!

I learned much by creating this petition and engaging many others to let their voices be heard. Change can only be created when we are committed to doing something different. The many people who took the time to sign the petition and the hundreds of people who shared the petition with others are the real heroes here — people who are not afraid to use their voice and to take action. This is the only way we will change what is happening with our food supply. Will you be a voice for change? I guarantee you it will be worth your effort. Be well!

I will be offering classes this Spring on topics such as "Healing Through Food", in "Healing Leaky Gut", "Why Do your Children Have Allergies?", "Pesticides in Your Diet", "Gluten and Beyond", "A Diet For Life", "Eating Healthy on Budget", "Depression and Diet", "Minimizing the Chemicals in Your Diet", and more. If you would like further information about these classes, call or email me for times, dates and location.

Carol Grieve' is a Certified Life Coach and Wellness Coach, the host of the widelyacclaimed talk radio show, Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org), and a speaker and writer. 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

If you would like to assist Carol in her efforts to educate about healthy food, you may make a donation on her award winning website: www.foodintegritynow.org.

http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/legacy/assets/documents/food and_agriculture/ failure-to-vield.pdf http://www.enveurope.com/content/24/1/24

iii http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/ seed-giants final 04424.pdf

whttp://earthopensource.org/earth-open-sourcereports/gmo-myths-and-truths-2nd-edition/



Story Medicine: Plants that teach us presence and mindfulness

s herbalists one way we pass As herbalists one way and a on information about the plants from one generation to the next is through what we call "story medicine". Storytelling is quite possibly one of the oldest art forms and carries with it much power. It's something that doesn't require any technology at all, simply words. Here is my story of the day

At one time in the world, humans had a profoundly deep understanding of the plants. This is another way the people knew what to do with them. We understood that we are part of Nature and not separate from Nature We understood the connection to be such that the plants and the people actually breathe each other's breath. Then something changed.

The people stopped living from their heart space and went straight up into their heads, the focus turned from outward to inward. Much like it is today. I should mention the heart is comprised of 50 percent neural cells making it a brain in its own right, however a far different one than the one in your head. It was at this time the people started to hunt without gratitude, take without asking and pretty much viewed everything as here for us to take.

The plants became very upset over this disconnection, so they called consult with each other in the center of the Earth where all of the roots meet. They said "Creator, what will we do with these people? When they were first here, they were so alive and aware and now all they do is take without saying 'thank you'. They mindlessly walk all over us. They cut down our elders, the trees with no thought whatsoever. What will we do?" Creator promised to have an answer by morning.

The next morning there was a new plant growing; tt covered the forest floor, it climbed the trees, it grew in bushes. It was everywhere and you couldn't miss it but the humans with their inward focus did not notice until they had intimate contact with the plant through their mindlessness. This plant has 3 leaves. Its name is poison ivy. Poison ivy developed as a way to help us

become present and mindful again. It brings us mindfulness medicine in a most effective way. If I took you on an herb walk and said, 'Oh! Watch out for the poison ivy!' I guarantee your attention would instantly change to your immediate surroundings to the extent you would be counting everyone's leaves. Afterward, I would have to confess that I've never seen it growing west of Manitou. Just because I haven't seen it growing in Teller or Park County, there is nothing to say it couldn't someday. Every year there are more and more tourists visiting our wonderful mountains and their actions are often mindless to say the least. The awful sport of shooting propane tanks is a fine example of this.

Many traditions regard the poison ivy as a guardian plant. I very much agree. It protects endangered species, it protects the land where it needs to repair itself. I have never seen it growing where people aren't, so in my humble opinion it was indeed developed for the people or rather, as a result of people.

The point of the poison ivy story is simple. Here we live in the beautiful Rocky Mountains, abundant with free food and medicine and many of us don't know what is growing in our own backyard. There are many edible plants growing in the wild and in your back vard that are super nutritious but are regarded as lowly weeds. Now that your guard is down with respect to poison ivy, let me raise your awareness to a plant that DOES grow in Teller and Park County that absolutely deserves your undivided attention. Nettle. Urtica dioica, (the name derived from the Latin "uro", to burn.)

Let me not forget to say stinging nettle! Stinging nettle has many hairs that resemble prickles lining the stem and underside of its leaves. It very closely resembles mint so pay close attention. If you examined the plant under a microscope you would notice drops of formic acid on the ends of those prickly hairs. That is the same acid that ants and bees have when they sting. Once you come into contact with nettle, it leaves you with a lasting impression. Most people know this plant from experience. I met stinging nettle in an old growth forest in Oregon. As my full attention was being paid to a salmon berry bush in the sunlight, stinging nettle gave me a mighty lash across my bare thigh raising a welt that lasted three days. It literally took my breath away. One would have thought I was mortally wounded by my reaction. Tears came to my eyes as I howled in pain! Approach with respect and mindfulness was my lesson. It helped me become present and aware, no

doubt about it. Per herbalist Rosemary Gladstar, if you approach the plant "wisely, quietly, and with



Stinging nettle has been long valued as a food and medicine dating back to ancient Greece and Rome where it was cultivated for correcting symptoms of PMS. as a tasty food as well as a remedy for gout, rheumatism, snake Because of its vitamin K content, it

respect," you can pick the plant with your bare hands. Although I will approach in the manner she describes I will continue to wear long sleeves and gloves when harvesting and suggest the same for others.

Where do I find it or rather, where does it

If you aren't looking for it and want to avoid it, be mindful in areas where water collects. Nettle likes to have its feet in water so the best places to be mindful of it would be wherever water collects. That may be where the water and snow drips off the roof, it may be creekside or next to a lake, pond or in a flooded meadow.

Now let's understand why we would want to know this plant beyond its wicked prickly hairs. There is not an herbalist in this country that doesn't sing the praises of the nettle. It is long valued as a food and medicine dating back to ancient Greece and Rome where it was cultivated as a tasty food as well as a remedy for gout, rheumatism, snake and insect bite.

Known for its nutrition, no other green vegetable excels the nettle in vitamin and mineral content. It is one of the world's most chlorophyll rich plants and is high in iron. Unlike supplements, the naturally occurring vitamins and minerals found in nettle are easily absorbed by our bodies. Because of its iron content, it is useful in the treatment of anemia. Is it a multi vitamin you need? No, simply eat a weed!

Vitamins/Minerals	High	Very High
Calcium		X
Chromium		X
Cobalt	X	
Magnesium		X
Manganese	X	
Phosphorus	X	
Potassium	X	
Protein	X	
Riboflavin	X	
Selenium	X	
Thiamine	X	
Vitamin A	X	
Vitamin K	X	
Zinc		X

Chart taken from Rosalee De Floret's ebook Nourishing Infusions

The hairs of the plant also contain histamine. Recently, and quite by accident a lab technician at the Eclectic Institute in Portland, Oregon found that taking the freeze dried capsules of nettle relieved his allergy symptoms almost simultaneously. As a remedy for hay fever type allergies I always include nettle in my allergy tea blends.

Even the sting that gives nettle its wicked reputation has been used for centuries as a remedy for arthritis and rheumatism. Per gypsy herbalist Juliette de Bairacli Levy, the Romans planted nettle as a rheumatic remedy for flogging the skin to increase blood flow. The formic acid was considered beneficial as a nerve and tissue excitant in treatment of chronic rheumatism, paralysis and stiffness of joints. The gypsy method was to bind fresh cut plants into a bundle and beat the affected parts until heat was created in the area. Then cotton cloths soaked in cold vinegar were applied to the area and after several hours the flogging

s repeated. Although this sounds like some kind of medieval torture, many cures for chronic cases were achieved with this primitive treatment. Bee venom therapy is currently used to relieve arthritic and rheumatic pain. Nettle can be used instead. Save the bees!!!

Important to both genders

cific remedy for general female problems and as a tonic during oregnancy comes from Native American tradition. The indigenous women used it as a tonic throughout pregnancy and as a remedy for emorrhaging during childbirth. It s still used to enrich and increase the flow of milk. As a general female tonic, there are few substances that surpass it; excellent for females from their teen years through menopause. As a diuretic, it helps reduce water retention and is excellent and insect bite. is a specific remedy for excessive menstruation. The calcium levels make it useful for bone strength in the case of thinning bones.

Benign prostate hyperplasia afflicts many men as they age. Although benign, it comes with rather unpleasant side effects. A recent study of 100 BPH patients found stinging nettle effective in reducing prostate size as well as the symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate.

Lower urinary tract problems are a common problem with men as they get older. Symptoms include a frequent urge to urinate with a poor stream resulting in an incomplete voiding of the bladder. Nettle to the rescue! Stinging nettle was tested along with saw palmetto and Pinus pinaster as a means to remedy these issues. Stinging nettle, along with the other herbs tested, reduced the symptoms in 85 percent of the patients. These patients specifically noted a significant reduction in the painful and irritating symptoms, due in part to its antiinflammatory properties. For more see:
• http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pub-

med/20890858 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/

PMC3589769/ • http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16635963

Other benefits include:

· Balances blood sugar levels and helps to normalize cholesterol.

· As a restorative to the adrenals, nettle resets metabolic circuits to normalize weight and reduce fatigue and exhaustion. • It's an extremely effective diuretic for those

who retain water. It is also known for its ability to dispel gravel or stones wherever they have formed, especially the kidneys.

· Nettle acts as a hair tonic and growth stimulant, restoring color and beauty to hair. It improves the health of skin, scalp, and hair strengthens weakened hair follicles: and removes dandruff. A simple nettle tea made from dried leaves can be used as a skin toner and hair rinse

Fun facts

• Nettle is actually considered a gourmet green in many parts of the world. Steamed nettle tops drizzled with olive oil, lemon juice and feta cheese makes a tasty nutritious food.

• The leaves can be layered in a jar and covered with one part vinegar, one part olive oil and left to marinate for several weeks or months. The vinegar and oil will preserve and pickle them. This way they can be enjoyed through the winter months as well. Nettle can be used in place of spinach for foods like the Greek dish, Spanakopita.

Nettle can be put into a blender and made into a healthy fresh drink. I don't recommend eating it fresh otherwise for obvious reasons.

• The tough fibers of the plant were used in fabric making. Remnants of nettle fabric have been found in burial shrouds dating back to the Bronze Age and it is used today by survivalists to make cordage and fabric Nettle fabric is as strong as canvas. It has filaments and fibers similar to hemp. When Germany and Austria ran short of cotton during the war, the value of the nettle as a substitute was recognized at once.

Mari Marques is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari at mugsyspad@aol.com or 719-439-7303. Classes and herbal facial parties are available. Contact Mari to be added to the class email list.





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Foundation awards funds for school projects

by Woodland Park School District

The Woodland Park School District Foun-▲ dation recently awarded \$10,882.47 for various projects within our schools that will positively impact Woodland Park students. Congratulations to the following recipients:

Gateway Elementary

Lisa Kitson - Analyzing a Topic from Multiple Informational Texts - \$922.15 Sandy Struble - Lego Story Starters Classroom Set - \$843 92

Gateway and Columbine Michelle Jackson - Lego story Starters -\$496.43 (each building)

Angela Lane - Summit Star Dusters Project -

Mary Crade - Summit Garden Project - \$911.97 Brenda Baker Goolsby - Put the GRAND in our Finale! - \$250.00

Donna Frick - Lego Education - \$1,000.00 Val Brown - Warm up to Words - \$507.00 Val Brown - Read Live Program - \$799.60 Val Brown - Pop-Up Research Report - \$270.00

Woodland Park Middle School Jeannie Walter - SPARKS book club - \$750.00 Anna Thompson - Digital Reading Materials -

Elizabeth Barry - Video Production & Broadcast Journalism Program - \$1,000.00

Woodland Park High School

Josh DeSmidt - Behaviors of Learning - \$250.00 Gary Adamson - Math Integrated into Welding - \$500.00

District Office

Lauren Stuart - Junior Chef Program - \$850.00

The general intent of an educational foundation is to provide funding for activities that are beyond the scope of traditionally supported school district activities. The Woodland Park School District Foundation, which was incorporated in 2005, is a separate entity from the school district. According to their mission statement, the foundation supplements the district's educational programs by partnering with the community to provide students and staff with opportunities that

Seeking mountain bike coach

by Deborah Maresca

The Mountain Top Cycling Club is looking for a mountain bike coach for the Cripple Creek and Victor High School Mountain Bike Team for the 2015 season. Coaching certification is required, team training will need to start after August 1st and go until October 11th. Must be 18 years or older. Must be willing to work with team after school at least two nights a week or on weekends, there are four competitions that are required attendance, held on weekends. For more information please call Deborah Maresca 719-689-3435.

Science fun days

by Maurice Wells

The CSU Extension Office in conjunction with the Friends of the Lake Gorge Library have started Science Fun Days on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Lake George Library.

A different topic of interest will be explored each month with lots of hands-on experience. The topic for March is "Vortex Action" and

participants will make a "tornado in a bottle" Although the orientation is toward children, interested adults without children are welcome.

Because supplies and equipment are involved each month, reservations are requested. Please call 719-748-3812 for reservations or

Celebrate Easter at The Sanctuary

Join Andrew Wommack and the Charis Bible College family as we celebrate Jesus's life, death, and resurrection with two uplifting times of praise and worship:

Good Friday Celebration

Friday, April 3, at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5, at 7 a.m.

Celebrate the Easter Season with a special message from the president and founder of Charis Bible College, Andrew Wommack. Enjoy live music performed by Daniel Amstutz and the Charis Bible College Worship Team, as well as special guests: Dove Award winners Don and Wendy Francisco, Dove Award winner and Gospel Music Hall of Fame vocalist Matthew Ward, and an Easter Brass Ensemble.

Both services are FREE and open to the public.



An extension of **ANDREW WOMMACK** MINISTRIES



800 Gospel Truth Way, Woodland Park, Colorado 80863 For more info call: (719) 635-6029 or visit: charisbiblecollege.org



Sumner and group members discuss ideas.

Adult writers group established

by Maurice Wells photo by Maurice Wells

Local aspiring writers have contacted Sandie Sumner, a published author, requesting that she form an Adult Writers Group. With the cooperation of the Lake George Library providing a meeting space, the group has been meeting over the course of several weeks. Some mem-

bers of the group are also published authors and

are familiar with the creative writing process. Sumner says that the group can help with writing techniques, dealing with deadlines, working with editors, and the entire publishing process. Sumner also feels that since writing is a solitary process, joining those with limited or even extensive experience in a social setting can be helpful, gaining encouragement from the group.

Exotic flowers with an

invasive strategy to

replace native plants

If you read "Weed Reduction Strategies" in the

January issue of this publication, you are now sleeping a little better at night knowing you actually do stand a chance of eradicating those pesky Canada thistle weeds popping up in your land-

scape. Learning a bit of biological knowledge about the individual species we are combating in

our county can go a long way in the fight against

noxious weeds. Unfortunately, Canada thistle is only one species out of the hundreds of many noxious weeds we deal with in Colorado. Each

Toadflax was introduced to North America

eggs") and Dalmatian Toadflax quickly escaped

gardens, however, and now can be found infest-

steals valuable soil nutrients and even more valu-

able water from native plants in the landscape.

Toadflax creeps via rhizomes, and popula-

tions can quickly take over a pasture. Toadflax

can produce thousands of seeds per plant and

those seeds are viable for up to 10 years, waiting

quietly in the soil for just the right conditions to

grow and spread quickly. Knowing a little about

the growth cycle provides us with information

we can use to develop a plan for when and how

eradicating one noxious weed species is not the

Once established, a toadflax population is

challenging to eradicate. A "List B" species

riculture, toadflax is required to be eradicated

contained, or suppressed depending on the

location, the size of the population, and the

ly managed three ways: culturally, biologically,

and mechanically. Planting competitive grass spe-

cies like thick spike wheatgrass and stream bank

wheatgrass is one way to culturally outcompete

toadflax plants. Native grass seeding, combined

Some landowners might also invest in bio-

logical controls to contain and eradicate toadflax

with herbicide spraying is a popular method.

Small populations of toadflax can be effective-

history of the infested site.

to attack this plant. Often, a good method for

best method for attacking another species.

ing roadsides, native meadows, and pastures. While considered pretty by many folks, toadflax

as a garden flower similar to snapdragons. Yellow Toadflax (commonly known as "butter and

species presents a different challenge

Toadflax

by Dan Carlisle

Other members of the group encourage people to "just try writing". Support and suggestions about the process can come out of sharing at the meetings. Networks established at the meeting enable contacts at non-meeting times when a "crisis" occurs and some TLC is needed.

The nature of the writing is not limited to novels, but can be scripts, screen plays, life experiences, etc. Sumner hopes that aspiring writers are not intimidated by those who have published, but can benefit from the experience of others to further their own process.

The group meets the first and third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Lake George Library. Sumner may be contacted at 748-8012 or sumnersandi25@yahoo.com.

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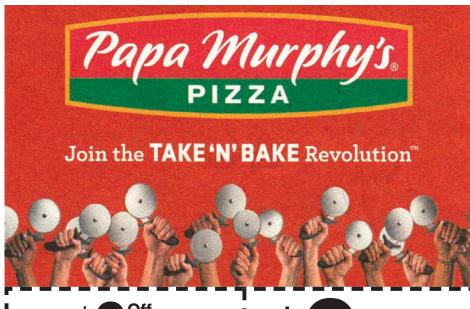
populations. The predatory noctuid moth (Calophasia lunula) feeds on the leaves and flowers of both toadflax species, for example. Other biological methods also include introducing a species of root-boring moth and stem boring weevil. Find out more about these methods by calling the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Insectary in Palisade at 970-464-7916.

Hand pulling these weeds can also be an effective mechanical control for small populations if done before the seed head has formed. Pulling requires a five to six year commitment and site monitoring for many more years. For larger populations, herbicide treatments applied at early plant growth stages can be effective.

As you can see, there are a variety of chemical, mechanical, biological and cultural according to the Colorado Department of Agmethods that are used throughout the season to treat noxious weeds, though the treatment methods vary from species to species. Knowing when and what method to use for each species can be overwhelming.

For information about the various methods of controlling and treating weeds, check out the Weed Management Preferences chart on the Teller-Park Conservation District website at www.tellerparked.org.

Dan Carlisle is the weed management specialist for Teller-Park Conservation District. Contact TPCD at (719) 686-9405 x104.



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Eleven Mile State Park hosts final Ice Fishing Tournament of season

by Jennifer Churchill

olorado Parks and Wildlife will host the Marina March Madness Ice Fishing Tournament at Eleven Mile Reservoir March 7. This event is the third and final ice fishing contest of the season at the park, and is part of the Cabela's Colorado Classic Ice Fishing Tournament series. The Marina March Madness tournament consists of three, two-hour fishing contests, with money awarded for each two-hour set. All fishing is done in the North Shore Marina area beginning at 7 a.m. Participants drill their own hole, use their own equipment and have chances to shoot free throws for fun and prizes during weigh-in breaks. Early entry costs \$80 per team through March 2, and \$105 thereafter and the day of the contest. Fishing Has No Boundaries, a nonprofit 501-C3 organization whose goal is to open up the great outdoors for people with disabilities through the world of fishing, will

host the awards barbecue during the tournament. Earlier this month, Colorado Parks and Wildlife hosted the South Park Ice Masters Traveling Trophy tournament. The trout-only contest attracted 123 two-person teams and drew competitors from Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nebraska vying for large cash prizes and bragging rights. Over \$6,000 was awarded in the contest. Michael Gonzales and

Joe Martinez Jr. from Pueblo were the big winners with a total combined weight for two fish at a tournament record of 15.99 lbs., smashing the previous mark of 12.485 lbs. set in 2013. Their 8.745 lb. Cutbow was also the heaviest fish of the day. They won \$3,450 in total prize money. Contest rules require that participants winning both first place and the big fish pot take a polygraph test. Gonzales and Martinez Jr. successfully completed a polygraph test February 12, and a celebratory reception was held at Cabela's Lonetree location immediately after.

Williams and Perry Aphelbeck of Silverthorne took First Place with a combined weight of 8 lbs. taking home cash, the coveted Ice Masters Green Jacket and the First Place Trophy. A valid daily or annual Colorado State Park

pass is required for all vehicles entering the

park. A valid Colorado fishing license is also

In the Pro Division, Team Cabela's Ford

required for all participants. For more information, to register for the upcoming tournament, or to see previous tournament results, go to www.11milesports.com or call 719-748-0317. For Eleven Mile State Park information, call the office at 719-748-3401 or

Mule deer conservation event scheduled

by Mule Deer Foundation

The newly formed Woodland Park Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) is holding a special event and a night of fun at its inaugural fund-raising banquet. Banquet revenue will be used to assist with mule deer habitat improvement projects on public lands in Teller, Park and northwest Douglas Counties. The event will include an outstanding meal of beef brisket and teriyaki grilled chicken BBQ with all the fixins'. A live auction, silent auction, and raffles for merchandise will include over 10 quality firearms, guided deer hunts in Colorado and Kansas, bows, outdoor gear, western/wildlife art and jewelry and home furnishings will follow the meal. The banquet will take place Saturday, March 14th, 2015 at the Shining Mountain Golf Club in Woodland Park. Doors will open at 4 p.m. and dinner will start at 6 p.m.

The Woodland Park Chapter of the Mule Deer Foundation is a local group of volunteers that are working to raise money that will be spent locally to provide and conserve habitat for mule deer and other wildlife species throughout Teller, Park and northwest Douglas

counties. Mule deer are the only big game species in North America that are on a population decline; identified by wildlife agencies as caused by highway mortality, habitat loss from wildfire, disease, overgrazing, winter die-off, over predation, and competition with elk and whitetail deer. The Woodland Park Chapter is working to minimize the threats to this species through fundraising and local projects.

The MDF is one of the most efficient, highest ranked non-profit organizations in America making sure the largest percentage possible of net revenue goes toward on-the-ground projects and mission accomplishment. Our growth and success comes from new members and donors who want to make a difference.

The event will also feature limited vendors and a trophy display. Attendees are encouraged to bring mounts to display. Phone orders can be made by calling Larry Long at 719-351-0994 or Rose Long at 720-936-5778 (leave message) or email csfslong@gmail.com. Phone and email orders require credit card information. Must pre-register to attend.

Salida's special election: Change the use of existing city sales tax?

Aspecial election regarding a possible change to the use and allocation of existing city sales tax will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. The election is a mail-in ballot only; ballots will be mailed to active registered voters between March 2 and 9. Ballots need to be returned by 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 to Salida City Hall at 448 E 1st Street, Suite 112, Salida, Colorado 81201

You can register to vote up to the day of the election, so please register to vote if you have not already. You may go online to www.govotecolorado.com to register to vote or update your current voter registration. You may also register to vote or update your registration at Salida City Hall or the Chaffee County Clerk's Office. Please note that this election is for Salida residents only and you will need to be a resident of Colorado for a minimum of 22 days before March 24, 2015 (resident no later than March 2, 2015) in order to vote in this election.

The city has created a page on the city website to provide citizens with information about the special election. The outcome of the election could affect how much money the city invests in capital improvements versus providing a variety of municipal services. Please visit http://cityofsalida.com/projects/2015-specialelection/ for more information.

The three possible outcomes are (1) Ordinance 2015-02 will commit the city to spending at least \$1 million per year on streets improvements (2) Ordinance 2014-28 will commit the city to spending 75 percent of one-third of the city sales tax on streets while continuing to spend 44 percent of two-thirds of the sales tax on capital; or (3) make no changes to the current requirements. Both of the ballot questions contain new reporting requirements to improve available information about where

taxpayer dollars are being spent We encourage citizens to read the ballot questions in their entirety and understand how each would amend the Salida Municipal Code. Citizens are also encouraged to attend council meetings or contact city officials with any questions. The League of Women Voters will host a forum on the issues on March 5, 2015 in the Salida City Council Chambers from 6:30 n m to 8:30 n m

Background

Proponents Billy Carlisle and Rodney Farney circulated an initiative petition to submit a proposed ordinance to the city council for consideration pursuant to C.R.S. 31-11-104(1), which would change the way the 2A funds are allocated. Article 11 of Title 31 in the Colorado Revised Statutes allows for any proposed ordinance to be submitted to the legislative body for consideration by filing written notice of the proposed ordinance with the clerk.

Ĉity council chose not to adopt the proposed ordinance from Carlisle and Farney at their regular meeting held November 18, 2014. Council instead chose to refer the proposed ordinance to registered electors of the City of Salida at a special election to be held on March 24, 2015.

The proposed ordinance will not take effect unless a majority of the registered electors voting on the measure at the election vote in favor of the measure. An alternative ordinance was also submitted by the City Council to be considered by voters in the upcoming March 24, 2015 Special Election pursuant to 31-11-104(2).

If both measures are approved at the upcoming election, the one that receives the greatest number of affirmative votes will be adopted in all particulars as to which there is a conflict.



Emily Clarke on the left with Colored Rain Crystal. Karyn Miller on the right with Colored Rain Thunder who is 18 months old and weighs 850 pounds. Karyn is showing Thunder.

Colored Rain Ranch

by Flip Boettcher

arge, shaggy, intelligent, docile beasts with Long curved horns aptly describe the Scottish Highland Cattle (HLC) on the Colored Rain Ranch northeast of Guffey. The Colored Rain Ranch, approximately 60 acres just over the Park County line in Teller County on CR 102, is owned by Moe and Jane Florence who live in Arizona.

The ranch got its name because the strings of beadwork hung in the windows of the art gallery above the garage by artist Moe Florence look like colored rain running down the windows, according to Karyn Miller, Guffey resident and ranch caretaker.

Since it is too warm in Arizona for the HLC, they remain in Guffey. They seem to do fine with the cold and the elevation. Scottish Highland Cattle have lived for centuries in rugged remote Scottish Highlands. The cattle have a double hair coat with long, coarse outer hair and soft wooly inner hair, according to the website www.highlandcattleusa.org.

Right now the ranch has eight HLC, three males and five females, although they are expecting a birth this spring, said Miller. Usually, according to Miller, they like the cows born between June and September. With such long hair the calves can freeze to the ground in the winter when they are still wet after birthing. Since the calves can't get up they freeze to death. In fact, Colored Rain Crystal, a 15 month old female, lost part of her tail because it froze to the ground when she was born.

The gestation period for HLC is nine months. They calf easy and are good mothers, said Miller. HLC are slow to mature and live to be about 16 years old. The heifers are bread after they are two years old. The calves are weaned at five to seven months old and sold at seven months old for about \$3000 each, stated Miller. The cows are at least halter trained before they are sold.

Because the HLC mature slowly, they need to be kept until they are two or three years old before butchering them. That's quite a commit ment Miller added. Some people also just keep them for pets in their fields

HLC are classed as beef and their meat is higher priced than regular beef. Highland beef is so good though, said Miller, that you don't want to have regular beef again.

Highland beef is lower in cholesterol and higher in iron and protein than regular beef, continued Miller, and has a good natural taste. It is all natural beef, grass fed with nothing added. Feedlot cows on the other hand, are fed grain loaded with additives including growth hormones and antibiotics, added Miller. For more information on Highland beef visit www. reluctantgourmet.com/move-over-angus-thereis-a-new-cow-in-town/

Miller said it was hard to find Highland beef for sale but it is usually sold at farmer's mar-

kets. Miller added that it costs the ranch about \$1300 per month to feed the cows hay and a little grain to the show stock. The Colored Rain Ranch has had the HLC

for about six years or so, said Miller, and they are very popular. All the HLC are Grand Champions, they come from good stock which makes good animals and good beef, stated Miller. The ranch HLC are registered with the American Highland Cattle Association (AHCA), she added.

Colored Rain Casper, the ranch's small bull at 1300 pounds was third in his division when he was shown, but now is only used for breeding. HLC bulls range from 1200 - 1800 pounds and cows from 800 - 1200 pounds. The tack room wall is filled with ribbons, plaques and trophies won by the HLC.

The Colored Rain Ranch breeds, raises, sells and shows their HLC. This past year, 11-yearold Guffey resident and Guffey Community Charter School student Emily Clarke has been learning to show the HLC with Miller. The AHCA has a really good program for youths wanting to show HLC, said Miller. Colored Rain Crystal is Clarke's junior project this year. Crystal is a 500 pound, 15 month old heifer who Clarke is training and showing. Clarke likes the HLC and finds them personable and a good hobby, she said.

According to Miller, there are two main livestock shows in the U.S., the November International Livestock Show in Louisville, Kentucky and the National Western Livestock Show, which was last month, in Denver.

The National Highland Show, which is a part of the Livestock Show, was January 20 - 26 and the Colored Rain Ranch will be taking four HLC to the show, said Miller. She said it costs the ranch about \$3000 to take four cows to the stock show but it is well worth it to get your name out there and let people see your stock.

According to Clarke, it takes about three hours to get a cow ready for the show. This includes washing, blow drying, brushing, trimming and fluffing the hair up as well as sanding and oiling the horns. They don't really like the bath, but they really like the blow drying, stated Clarke.

The hair on the sides of the cows gets fluffed up while the backs are to be straight and flat. Flat enough a glass can sit on them, said Clarke. The cows must be halter trained for the show and they have a ring in their noses for serious commands. Those long horns are dangerous.

The National Stock Show is very interesting and includes a livestock sale complete with bagpipers stated Miller. For more information on the livestock show visit: www.nationalwestern.com.

For more information about HLC or to visit the ranch give Miller a call at 719-689-5989.

Adopt Me By Lisa Mo of TCRAS Dovey

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the limited intake shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! www.tcrascolorado.org



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K-Kids give back!



Dart of the mission of Summit Elementary's K-Kids is to give back to the community. The group recently donated \$400 to the Wounded Warriors of Ft. Carson. Pictured

are Summit 5th graders: Wyatt Hunter, Sam Brown, Haylee Mohr, and 4th grader Brelynn Barnes presenting the \$400 check to US Army Officers Termain, Engle, and Cole



Spotlight on the Divide Chamber

Each month we will feature up to five new or renewing members of the Divide Chamber of Commerce.

- Mueller State Park: 719-687-2366. Offering year-round recreational opportunities including camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing and nature studies Winter activities include sledding, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
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Sheldon Roberts

by Charlotte Burrous

He doesn't remember his first art project. By the time Sheldon Roberts was 4, he already had begun sketching images from photographs his grandmother had shown him.

"(My grandmother Maryann Johnstone) was an artist as well," said Roberts, who lives parttime in Cañon City and the rest in Windsor. He said when he thought he was done with

a sketch, she helped him understand he needed to do more to complete it. "She was a great encourager," Roberts said.

Although he never went to an art school, he studied it while in school "I went to the school of life," he said. "Just

sculptures alone, (I've done) 21,000 plus." Along the way, Roberts expanded into creating sculptures, pets and different animals then later he created life-size figures

such as the John C. Fremont statue in Pathfinder Regional Park, a Roman warrior in front of DiRito's Italian Restaurant, and a motorcyclist on a stand in front of Fremont Motorsports. Again he was influenced by

"I've been carving for 18 years," Roberts said. "I moved into a neighborhood, where there was a carving enterprise. I picked up the saw (and began to create pieces)."

A multi-talented artist, Roberts works in bronze, steel and wood, winning numerous

blue ribbons for his efforts He also paints wall murals, as well as carves custom doors and mantels.

His carvings and sculptures are scattered all over region. including a buffalo and an Indian on a horse shooting an arrow at Second and Royal Gorge Boulevard in Cañon City, a piece known as "Visions of

sculpture garden by Bradley Medals on Red Canyon Road north of Cañon City and sunflowers carved on a stump in front of Chelsea's Chapel on Third Street in Florence.

One of his latest carvings is a bear catching some fish on one side of a stump and an eagle on the other side of it at a house on the corner of Florence and Third streets in Florence.

hape and put in what (my clients) want,

Roberts said. "The starting point is called

the 'art of subtraction.' You have to leave

bout his artwork by word of mouth and

rough networking. Recently, he began

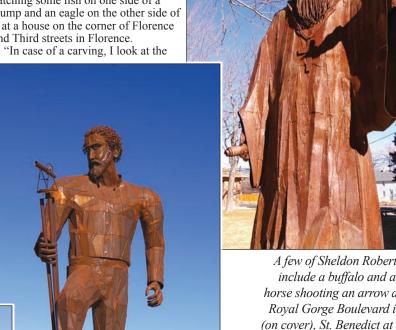
ising social media, but the best way he

becomes known is when people see one

of the pieces and ask who created it.

In the beginning, people learned

everything that is the piece."



A few of Sheldon Roberts local works include a buffalo and an Indian on a horse shooting an arrow at Second and Royal Gorge Boulevard in Canon City (on cover), St. Benedict at St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Florence (above), John C. Fremont at the entrance of Pathfinder Regional Park (center), and a Roman warrior in front of DiRito's Italian

"I started out having to market myself," Roberts said. "But now, it's more like people get a hold of me."

Restaurant in Cañon City (bottom left).

Born in Denver, he lived in Colorado Springs until he was 17 then moved to Cañon City, where he also sculpted two wolves on display in front of Hadley's Western Wear, a bigger than life Husky mascot in the Florence High School and an eagle with a 16-foot wing span on Oak Creek Grade.

For more information or to commission an art piece, call 719-371-3575.





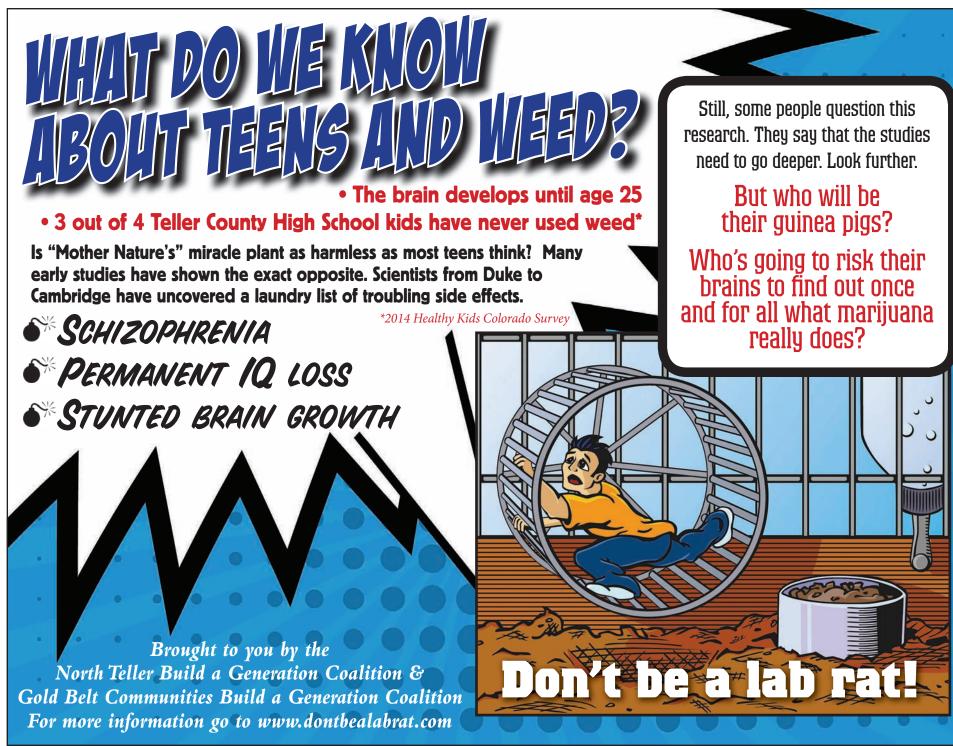
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A lot of bull - Part 1

by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

Our ranch animals are sentient spirits to us, so we treat them with the respect that we accord other people. This is the true story of some of these four-legged friends who have spent time with us at our Twin Creek Ranch. A Ute medicine man told me that our house was built on his people's sacred ground, so perhaps this explains some of the unusual behavior of our livestock.

Tjust finished clearing away our breakfast dishes when a flash of black caught my eye at the kitchen window. Running to the breakfast nook, I strained to catch a glimpse of one of our cows as she trotted down to the south end of the pasture. She seemed distressed, so I grabbed a pair of binoculars and raced up the stairs two at a time. I then positioned myself at a dormer window, silently noting the hour on the alarm clock. I focused the lenses on Frassy, now prostrate on the buffalo grass, heaving and straining. After five minutes, she doggedly rose to her feet and resumed trotting along the fence line. I bit my lip in consternation, however, as I watched her lay down again and again. With my enhanced vision, I saw two little feet protruding from her birth canal. She was in trouble, and



Wee Willie and Mama, Frassy in 1993.

soon it would be serious

Fortunately, our old Victorian ranch house commands the open pastures for at least a mile in each direction. Its location is ideal during calving season, saving us from endless outings during the frigid days and nights of our Rocky Mountain spring. We can check the progress of each cow in complete warmth and comfort. Our philosophy in raising cattle is to not interfere with the natural process. Just as it is with humans, we've found that stress is the greatest threat to the well-being of our livestock. Our

healthy, drug-free cattle are the result of a strict regimen of tender loving care. Most modern ranchers use a series of hormone shots to induce estrous, then a series of antibiotics to prevent infection. These cows are usually brought into a small enclosure for calving. It is virtually impossible to keep this cramped space clear of fecal matter, thereby requiring another round of antibiotics in order to prevent infection.

My husband Harold and I have found that none of these drugs are necessary, however, if the cattle are allowed to deliver their calves in a natural environment and in a natural way. We retired to a small ranch in the shadow of Pikes Peak in 1989, and with this philosophy and Harold's devoted animal husbandry, we have never lost a calf or a cow. I silently vowed that Frassy and her baby would not be the exception.

Nonetheless, I jotted the hour and minute in my logbook. I was well aware that first-time heifers bear more watching than others, and that we would have to intervene in another 40 minutes. Frassy's calving was a little early, but she was healthy and young. This, combined with her good nature and mixed Angus blood, augured well for the baby. We added her and her twinsister Sassy to our herd after the auction house assured us that they came from a high-altitude ranch. Most of our 30 head are Hereford, but our plan at this time was to introduce some Angus blood. We hoped to produce a diverse, healthier gene pool with this strategy. Our 8600foot mountain mandates that any black cattle come from a similar elevation, as their breed s especially susceptible to "brisket," a deadly, nigh-altitude respiratory disease. Twenty minutes passed before Frassy

headed into the tall pines of the north pasture. I was puzzled when she lay down on the steeplysloped side of dry stream bed. Then I realized that she had cleverly aligned her birth canal with the flow of gravity. I watched in fascination as the other mama cows slowly formed a circle around her. Then, Twinky, a red. motley-faced, three-year veteran of the birthing process, lumbered up to Frassy and sniffed at the two little protruding feet. She closed her eyes and methodically began to lick the tiny imbs and then Frassy's vaginal area. After five minutes of this loving tongue massage, Frassy gave a great heave and a wet black bundle emerged. Twinky continued her ministrations on the new arrival, however, until the spindlylegged baby awkwardly gained his feet. His



L-R: Alfalfa, Funny Face, Birdie, Cookie, Red, and Chinook

appearance was as unusual as his birthing, and I smiled at his face, rakish with its white eyepatch against an all-black body.

Twinky now plied her healing tongue to the face and sides of momma cow, again working a miracle. After a few minutes of this tender caress, the exhausted Frassy struggled to her feet. Meanwhile, newborn Wee Willie Winkie



Birdie & Cookie in 1997

sniffed the air until he found momma's scent, then wobbled to her side and began to tug at her engorged teats. As he labored to fill his belly, the other mothers welcomed him with a soft "Moo" before nonchalantly lumbering off to graze again. Their work was done.

Aunt Twinky's reward came several weeks later when she surprised us with a pair of healthy twins. She dropped one calf right away, but still labored for another half hour. We rubbed her baby down, and then put her in the corral so that we could examine her. After Harold and I cornered Twinky, the vet grabbed her by the tail. Before he could insert his gloved hand, however, she jumped clear over the fivefoot fence. As she landed on the other side, a little red baby popped out onto the ground.

Chinook, our breeding bull, was as proud and gentle with these little ones as a mama cow. Many days I would find him babysitting the twins, washing them with his sandpaper tongue from head to toe. Chinook took his duties seriously, however, and these little ones soon earned that they had best come when he called He was a highly responsible herd bull, refusing to come down to feed until his entire brood was present and accounted for. "Moo-AHH" echoed across the mountain side each morning until he collected his harem and their children. He and his half-brother, Alfalfa, were born

three years earlier from the same black bull — Big Handsome — to those inseparable cow-friends, Ranger and Tonto. We leased this big Angus for breeding from our neighbor. Irv had planned to deliver him in the back of his pickup truck, but Handsome had other ideas. In less than 10 minutes, he tore up the steel cattle rack in the back of the truck, and jumped over the cab. Irv wasn't too happy with this turn of events, and chased Handsome down the road to our ranch. We heard Irv swearing and the bull bellowing several minutes before we saw them, so Harold ran down to the south pasture to open the gate. Fortunately, Ranger and Tonto were in estrous, so Handsome joined them with very little coaxing. A bull's hide is so tough that a barbed wire fence is only a mere scratch

a mind to go, and Handsome wanted to go to these cows. That November a warm Chinook wind blew in from the north, melting the snow and giving

Ranger a safe window for calving. Her little Chinook (namesake of the wind that brought his birth) stared up at us with big innocent eyes, fringed with long black lashes, as we rubbed him dry. He was as black as his father,

on his backside — he will go wherever he has

but his white face bore the telltale ranger's mask of his mother. Little Alfalfa was spookier when he arrived a few days later. We were in the middle of offloading 20 tons of alfalfa hay when I saw Tonto go into labor. This 60 pound baby was completely black, just like Handsome, but clearly of a more sensitive nature. He struggled the whole time that Harold

rubbed him down. Once he dried off, however.

he decided that humans were a good thing and snuggled up for a heart-bonding cuddle with me. He was a wuss, and loved to jump around and chase the other calves just to show that he had attitude. I think that he didn't want the others to know just how softhearted he was. A few years later, these two young breeders were joined by a third, Cookie. He was born to Oreo, an old black and white cow that is still the best escape artist we ever met. His classic Hereford looks belied one of the sweetest dispositions ever found in a cow. He followed Harold around the pasture like a puppy, and

almost purred when his horns were scratched. Winter brought the customary cold, with January and February dipping to 30 and 40 below zero. Our small herd was growing, and survived the frigid weather without incident. That is, all except me. My lungs filled with fluid, and I spent the spring recovering from several bouts of pneumonia. My daughters, Jessica and Melinda, decided to celebrate Mother's Day with the gift of a two-year-old, little grey burro, bearing the black Bethlehem cross on his withers. Birdie was part of the wild herd in Cripple Creek, and had survived

several Burro Races there. This rodeo-type contest left an indelible mark on his psyche, however, and he decided that a visit from any two-legged presaged a terrifying ordeal. I was too sick to gentle him, so we locked him in the corral next to the bull pasture.

One day, while I was home alone — in bed — this clever little fellow unlocked the three gates separating him from the bulls and went on a walkabout. I heard his braying, and got to

the window in time to see him trotting along the fence line, looking for an escape spot. There was nothing that I could do at this point, so I watched helplessly until he gave up his quest. He was a lonely herd animal, but wisely retreated when the bulls repulsed his friendly advances. It was sad to see him calling for Inkie & Alfalfa, 1991 his old friends day after day and then

forlornly standing in a

corner by himself.

I monitored him closely from my sick bed for the next few weeks, and was puzzled when he repeatedly rolled in bull manure. He was smarter than I was, however, for this new aroma soon gained him entree to the bulls' bachelor club. They didn't mind that his ears were big and floppy (horns, maybe?), and that his voice was enough to make the most hardened heart laugh. Soon he was just one of the guys. Alfalfa seemed to have found his soul-mate in this clever little fellow, and they became inseparable. On hot summer days you could always find the two of them, under the big pine tree on the east edge of the pasture, grooming one another. Side by side, nose to tail, Birdie scraped Alfalfa's tough black hide with his front teeth while the bull gently licked the burro's withers. I could almost hear the music "ah, sweet mystery of love how sweet thou art..." Birdie even learned to "bull" with the others — play-mounting one another's backs in a courting rehearsal. Inevitably, however, these star-crossed friends would have to part.

to be continued next month...



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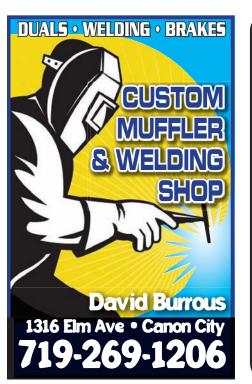
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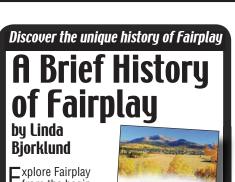
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Scheelite crystals and muscovite mica showing fluorescence under ultraviolet radiation. Image courtesy of Commons Wikimedia: image released to public domain.

The Pulver Gulch prospect: A hidden reserve of metamorphic minerals

by Steven Wade Veatch

As U.S. Highway 24 approaches Wilkerson Pass, Colorado, the 1.7 billion-year-old metamorphic rocks of the Puma Hills replace the younger Pikes Peak Granite. The Puma Hills were formed by the metamorphism of sedimentary rocks that were once oceanic sediments - sand, mud, and clay.

Before the highway reaches the summit of Wilkerson Pass, it goes past the dirt road to the M Lazy C ranch. The ranch road heads north into the hills where forest road 247 soon intersects the winding ranch road, and at this junction forest road 247 bears east, into the deep forest, past the old Pulver Gulch prospect.

The geology at Pulver Gulch is unlike the surrounding area. The sediments at Pulver Gulch contain more calcium carbonate, from impure and muddy limestones, than the surrounding ocean sediments that formed the Puma Hills. These calcareous sediments were heated, compressed, and transformed into calcium silicate rocks that host a group of interesting metamorphic minerals that include scheelite, vesuvianite, wollastonite, grossular garnet, and diopside. The Pulver Gulch prospect's exploratory dump is an excellent place

search for these metamorphic minerals. Prospectors worked the Pulver Gulch prospect over 50 years ago looking for scheelite, a nineral that formed in the metamorphic rocks at the site. Scheelite is an important source of tungsten. Tungsten has many industrial applications, including filaments in light bulbs.

Since scheelite is strongly fluorescent, prospectors searched the area with battery powered black lights at night.

Brilliant brown granular crystals of vesuvianite, a basic calcium magnesium silicate mineral, are common here. Short prismatic crystals can also be found. This mineral was named for Mt. Vesuvius, where it was discovered on the slopes of the Italian volcano

Wollastonite, a calcium silicate, occurs as milky-green masses of needle-like crystals at this site. Some of the massive specimens are larger than a football. This mineral is faintly fluorescent. Wollastonite is used as a component in refractory or heat resistant ceramics and as a filler for paint.

Thick, banded layers of brown grossular, a member of the garnet group, are associated with wollastonite at the Pulver Gulch prospect. These garnets also formed from the impure limestones and occur here in a massive and granular form.

By breaking open the host rocks on the Pulver Gulch dump, well-developed microcrystals of dark green diopside are exposed. The diopside crystals, a calcium magnesium silicate, are embedded in sparkling white calcium silicate rocks. These specimens of diopside can be interesting to micromount collectors.

Today the Pulver Gulch dump is largely undisturbed. Occasionally a small group of geology students from Colorado College will stop by the dig site to study the local geology in this peaceful part of the Puma Hills.

Guide to minerals: Amazonite

by Steven Marquez

This specimen is a variety of I microcline feldspar. Many jewelers love this mineral for making cabochons because the brilliant color. The blue color is thought to be caused by traces of lead and water. This gemstone is called the Stone of Hope" because it inspires confidence and hope. The name "Amazonite" comes from the Amazon River in be found at the Lake George area along with smoky quartz The occurrence of amazonite is very limited.

Facts on file: Chemical formula: KAlSi³O⁸ Composition: potassium aluminum silicate Color: bluish green or verdi-

gris green Crystals: triclinic Cleavage: good, two directions at 90° Fracture: uneven Luster: vitreous Streak: white

Hardness: 6 Transparency: none Specific gravity: 2.56-2.57

An Amazonite Haiku:

Microcline feldspar. Bluish or verdigris green.

The perfect jewelry.



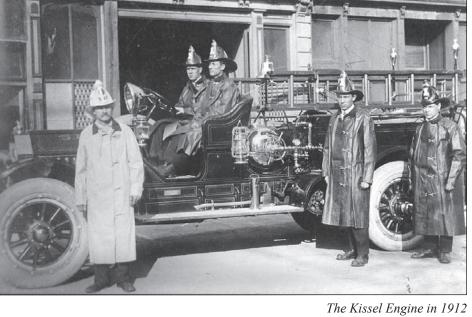
This specimen of amazonite was mined in the Lake George area of Colorado. A S.W. Veatch specimen, photo © Steven Marquez.

About the author

Steven Marquez is an Earth Science Scholar with the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. He is a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers. He is in the 8th grade and lives in Colorado Springs







City of Salida Receives Grant to Restore Kissel

a grant in the amount of \$60,000 to the City of Salida to restore the 1911 Kissel fire truck that has been owned by the city since September 7, 1912. The estimated cost to restore the Kissel is a total of \$80,000, \$20,000 of which is the City's contribution of 25 percent. Of that \$20,000 the City budgeted \$7,500 and the remaining \$12,500 was acquired through fund raising efforts over the last two years.

The next step in the process is to enter into a contract with the State Historical Fund. It could take two to four months for them to approve the contract and then they will establish start and end dates for the project.

When the start and end dates on the restoration have been established, the truck will be taken to Reliance Fire Museum in Estes Park, CO where owner Doug Klink and is crew will begin the restoration process of the 1911 Kissel fire truck.

The Kissel was the first motorized fire truck owned by the City. The truck was in service from 1912 to April of 1942. For many years, this truck was a parade favorite in Salida until the engine began to overheat. The City would like to thank everyone that donated and gave their time towards this great project.

Please contact Doug Bess with any questions or concerns that you may have at 719-539-2212 or by email doug.bess@cityofsalida.com

Calling all cancer-haters!

This year's "Relay for Life" of Ute Pass is coming soon, so it's time to get your team excited and start fundraising. We're looking forward to an amazing event, and hope to make it bigger and better than ever before. Put on your walking shoes and walk with us to find a cure! We have a new venue and a new time for the relay, and there are no registration fees. The Relay

for Life will be held on Friday, June 12, 2015, from 4 p.m. to midnight at Ute Pass Cultural Center. Do you want to get more involved? We are looking for dedicated cancer-haters to join the event leadership team to plan for this year's event. Monthly meetings are held at Peoples Bank on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more info, contact tyler.schultz@cancer.org or go to our website: www.relayforlife.org/utepass

Late ice and early ice off

by Jeff Tacey

With the warm weather we've had the past couple of weeks, it's going to be an early ice off in Teller and Park Counties. The ice on the lakes didn't get the usual 36 inches thick. Late ice can be good time for ice fishing, but don't wander too far from shore. Have a rope, a buddy, and ice picks with you, just like early ice.

A better bet is to fish the open water when ice starts to break up. Use bait where legal because the fish will be cruising the shorelines looking for an easy meal. The fish will also stick to the warmer water by the shoreline.

Go to Antero Reservoir as it will be drained in early summer for dam repairs. The limit has been raised to eight keepers; whatever fish are not caught will be gill netted by the Colorado

Parks and Wildlife and transported to Spinney Mt. and Eleven Mile Reservoirs. Keep your eyes posted for Spinney's opening day as the reservoir was stocked last fall before ice and the fish haven't been bothered for four to five months. Try Mepps Agila, Panther Martins, and Roostertails for spin fishermen. Pistol Pete's and Wooly Bugger will also work.

At Eleven Mile, the northern pike will be spawning, so look to the shallow bays and use large Rapalas or 3-4 inch long tube jigs. Use rainbow trout, perch or mouse patterns. Check the 2014-2015 Colorado Rules and Regulations booklet for more information.

Don't forget to get your new annual fishing

Wildfire can happen to You! Attend a prevention workshop March 27

66 Don't let snow or last summer's rains fool you, wildfires can happen at any time and communities need to prepare." So says Randy Johnson, President of Pikes Pike Wildfire Prevention Partners (PPWPP.org). To help residents and communities get ready, the organization is holding a full-day prevention workshop March 27. "We've already seen homes lost to wildfires this year in other parts of the West," says Johnson, "and we've already had small fires locally. The threat is ongoing," Johnson stresses.

Workshop topics include: • What you need to know about homeowners

- insurance and wildfires
- What are "fire-adapted" communities? • Colorado's new aerial firefighting resources
- Bus tours of the Hayman Fire burn area and a

• Aerial drone use in wildfire prevention

designated "Firewise Community"

Over a dozen topics will be presented, most in a short, easy-to-take-in length. The cost is just \$30 which includes a full day of activities, lunch, and door prizes (including a chain saw)! Register at ppwpp.org. The workshop will take place on Friday March 27 at Camp Elim, 5567 Painted Rocks Road, near Woodland Park.

Established in 1993 Pikes Peak Wildfire Prevention Partners is a group of wildfire professionals, mitigation contractors, agency representatives, and homeowners. Our mission is to reduce the threat of wildfire to life and property in El Paso, Douglas, and Teller counties. Proven wildfire mitigation techniques greatly reduce the risk to lives and property.

Register and check out the full schedule at

Greater WP Chamber Awards

The Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the following awards: Volunteer of the Year (Shannon Hellman); Employee of the Year (Renee Bunting), Non Profit of the Year (Charis Bible College); Business of the Year (Edgewood Inn), and Wagon Boss (Tony Perry of Park State Bank & Trust). These awards will be presented at the Chamber's Masquerade Dinner on Friday, March 13, 2015 at Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. Dinner Tickets are available by contacting the Chamber office at 719-687-9885 or going to the website at www.woodlandparkchamber.com



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Argonaut, a submarine

by Linda Bjorklund

The conversation was about telling the stories of heroes we knew. A lunch for veterans was well attended as I sat near Francisco "Frank" Martinez and heard him say, "My uncle was on a submarine that was lost during World War II." I replied, "That story really should be told." A few weeks later he handed me a few sheets of paper and a navy photo.

The paper began, "A Biography from the United States Navy. CHIEF COMMISARY STEWART, LUPE ROMERO.'

But the story starts even earlier with the original submarine that was used in the United States. Both sides of the Civil War had begun to experiment with the idea of an underwater combat vehicle. Horace Hunley, a Confederate, was the inventor who joined other machinists to experiment with an odd looking piece of machinery that looked like a steam boiler. They tried to make it work with electromagnetics and steam propulsion, but finally settled on a simple, hand-cranked propulsion system.

Two submarines were built and tested. but neither worked well enough to engage in battle. The third one, named the *Hunley*, was designed for a crew of eight — seven to turn the hand-cranked propeller and one to steer and direct the boat. Each end was equipped with ballast tanks that could be flooded by valves or pumped dry with hand pumps. There were two watertight hatches, one forward and one aft.

A test of the *Hunley* in Alabama's Mobile Bay was successful and it was shipped to Charleston, South Carolina, for immediate use by the Confederate Navy. The appointed captain and seven other men volunteered to make a test dive in August of 1863. Unfortunately, the captain accidentally stepped on the lever controlling the sub's diving planes as she was running on the surface. This caused the sub to dive with the hatches still open. The captain and two other crewmen escaped, but five others drowned inside the sub.

The *Hunley* was recovered and new tests were scheduled in October of 1863. Horace Hunley, the inventor, and a crew of seven took the submarine down to perform a mock attack. The sub failed to surface and all of the crew was lost. But the Confederate Navy salvaged the submarine and returned her to service.

The Hunley was outfitted with a spar torpedo, a copper cylinder containing 90 pounds of black powder, attached to a 22-foot wooden spar. The objective was for the submarine to submerge six feet or more below the surface of the water, get close to the targeted ship, and jam the spar into the side by ramming. The spar was at the end of a long rope, and the submarine was to back away from the target to a safe distance, then pull a mechanical trigger to set off an explosion

The Confederates were desperate to break a naval blockade of the city of Charleston, so they decided to employ their submarine to sink the Union ship blocking the harbor. The *USS* Housatonic was a steam-powered sloop of war, equipped with 12 large cannons, stationed about five miles offshore.

The *Hunley* and its crew of eight were sent into the harbor in February of 1864. The torpedo was successfully embedded into the hull of the *Housatonic*, and detonated as the submarine backed away from it. It took the Union ship only five minutes to sink to the bottom, taking with it five of her crewmen. But

Frank Martinez at the American Legion in Buena Vista. photo by Linda Bjorklund.

the *Hunley* failed to return to her Confederate

It wasn't until 1995 that the wreckage was recovered. A number of possibilities were offered as to the reason the *Hunley* was lost.

> Although nothing could be proven for certain, one of the most likely scenarios appeared to be that the submarine was too close to the ship when the torpedo was detonated, knocking the crew members unconscious and sinking the sub. At any rate, the *Hunley* now resides in a tank of water at a conservation laboratory. Guided tours are offered to the public.

An Irish inventor, John Phillip Holland, marine that used internal the surface and electric

was launched in 1897 at a New Jersey shipyard. The United States Navy purchased the submarine in 1900 as its first commissioned submarine. It was christened the USS Holland

> Submarines became a vital part of warfare for the United States, as well as several other nations. German U-boats saw a lot of action in World War I. They patrolled the Atlantic Ocean and conducted unrestricted submarine warfare on any vessel they encountered. The sinking of the British ship, RMS Lusitania, by a

German U-boat has been cited as one of the reasons the United States inally entered the

V-boats were

developed as the

need for longer endurance becan important. The navv needed submarines to act as strategic scouts. There were nine lifferent V-boat classifications, each named in order: V-4 was launched in 1925 from the Portsmouth Navy Yard. It was designed primarily as a minelayer, with four torpedo tubes forward and two minelaying tubes aft. At the time of its construction it was the largest submarine built in the U.S.

V-4 was renamed Argonaut in 1931 and was assigned to Submarine Division 7 in Pearl Harbor. The Argonaut began carrying out minelaying operations, patrol duty and other routine work, including Army-Navy military exercises.

Guadalupe "Lupe" Romero enlisted in the United States Navy in 1927, a young man of 22 years. He attended the

United States Naval Training School and then the Cooks and Bakers School in San Diego. His first ship assignment was on the USS Holland. Lupe was to serve on eight different submarines over the next 16 years.

Chief Romero began his assignment on the Argonaut in March of 1938. Lupe and the Argonaut were routinely involved in tactical exercises in the Pacific Ocean near Pearl Harbor. The Argonaut was on patrol duty near Midway Island when the infamous December 7, 1941, attack was made by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. The crew witnessed Japanese ships firing on Midway, but the sub was not equipped as an attack submarine, so the Argonaut captain decided not to fire on them.

In 1942 the Argonaut was converted to a troop transport submarine. In August of that year the Argonaut and her companion submarine Nautilus were transporting marine commandos to Makin Island in the Gilbert Islands to support the American forces that were at Guadalcanal. The Japanese were already there and fired on the marines as they began landing with their rubber rafts. The US Marines prevailed, however, and by midnight the Japanese garrison was wiped out and their installation destroved.

The Argonaut was transferred to Brisbane.

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Chief Lupe Romero, lost at sea from the submarine Argonaut. photo courtesy of the Frank Martinez family

Australia, later that year and began to patrol the area between New Britain and Bougainille. On January 10, 1943, a convoy of Japanese freighters and their escort of destroyer ships, Maikaze, Isokaze and Hamakaze, were spotted by the US submarine. The Argonaut fired a torpedo toward one of the destroyers. The Japanese ships lost no time in firing back. The Argonaut suffered a direct hit from a depth charge and the destroyers surrounded her with a barrage of shells. A US Army aircraft flew over just as the attack was happening. Unable to provide any help because it had already used all of its bombs, a crewman aboard the plane reported that he saw a torpedo hit one of the destroyers. The Argonaut's bow suddenly broke surface at an odd angle and then immediately sank

On that day 105 lives were lost, among them Chief Commissary Stewart Lupe Romero.

Twenty-five years later Francisco "Frank" Martinez received his draft notice from the Army. Frank was studying auto mechanics and working at the Pacheco Gas Station in Mora, New Mexico. He was then 22 years old, the same age as his uncle Lupe had been when he enlisted in the service of the U S military.

Frank's older brother Luis had already served in Viet Nam and been discharged. During Frank's enlistment process, he talked to a marine recruiter and decided to enlist in the Marine Corps. He graduated from boot camp at Pendleton, California, and was sent to Field Artillery Battery Training.

His first assignment was with an operation called "Bold Mariner" in Viet Nam. În January of 1969, two battalions of marines were sent to the Batangan peninsula, jutting into the South China Sea about 330 miles northwest of Saigon. The objective was to surround the peninsula and flush out the enemy hiding there. The action was labeled the biggest amphibious assault of the war.

Corporal Martinez was awarded the Purple Heart and a Combat Action Ribbon, among others, for his service in Viet Nam. He retired from active duty in March of 1970.

Frank worked at the Climax Mines for a number of years and is now retired. He and his wife live in Buena Vista. But his story and the story of his uncle Lupe on the Argonaut are not



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SPCFPD ambulance fund

by Flip Boettcher photos by Aaron Mandel, Chief

The ambulance fund at the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District is rising, thanks to many generous community donations, but it is still short of its goal. The goal is to purchase a newer, 2000 or later, model four-wheel-drive ambulance to replace the district's aging one. Currently acting Chief, Aaron Mandel, is looking at a 2001 Ford F-350 with a 7.3L motor and a McCoy Miller box. It's 4X4 and has only 83,971 miles, he said in an email (see photo on cover)

In September, 2014, the district replaced one of its two BLS (basic life support) ambulances with a 1997 Ford E-350 ambulance for an original cost of \$1000 but a total cost of \$2700 with the required equipment and markings, said Sandy Rucker, board of directors' treasurer. It was not a four-wheel-drive vehicle though, which is pretty much of a requirement in the district's rugged terrain and weather. stated Mandel

Therefore, the district still needs a newer model ambulance with four-wheel-drive to replace the other older ambulance. The newer ambulance is needed as the district's first out and transport vehicle, according to Mandel. Rucker said that the ambulance fund now stands at \$2740.

The SPCFPD is like most small, rural volunteer fire departments in that it is always struggling to find grants, donations and funding to help augment its low tax-based income to supply the department with vehicles, equipment, training and running the department.

Many of the district's vehicles are older, sometimes requiring costly repairs and/or replacement. Under the direction of Mandel, the department has a plan to downsize by selling off its older and some of its specialized vehicles. Then replacing those vehicles with newer, fewer, more multi-purpose equipment financed by the sales of the old vehicles, grants and donations according to Mandel.

Another way for the district to raise more tax revenue is to get more of the properties in the district "included" in the district. SPCFPD is unique in that when it was formed, the residents and property owners could choose to belong to the district and pay a small yearly fire department tax with their taxes, or not. Many opted not to belong to the district.

With the passage of time and change in



Ambulance purchased last September

property owners, some owners don't find out they are not in the district until they have an emergency call to their property and then subsequently get billed for the call by the denartment

To find out if you are included in the district, look at your tax bill. If you find the #0020, you are in the district. If you find the #0004, you are NOT in the district, according to board member Steve Wilson who handles inclusions.

Wilson just drafted an inclusion letter to be mailed out by the board to the 132 non-included properties with dwellings in the district. The letter explains about being in the district and how much it might cost you if you aren't. For example Wilson's letter says, "Fire apparatus billing is \$250hr per unit." A response requiring three units for three hours would incur a cost of \$2250 to the property owner, added the letter.

The letter also explains how much it might cost in taxes if you are in the district. One needs their actual assessed value as determined by the Park County Assessor and multiply that number by .007846, the mill levy. For example an assessed value of \$15,000 X .007846 = \$117.70 per year in taxes or about \$.32 per day.

Other ways the fire department can raise money for vehicles and equipment are through various grants, funds and fundraisers.

There needs to be a symbiotic relationship between the community, the fire department and the auxiliary. The community provides volunteers, taxes and donations; the auxiliary sponsors fundraisers and purchases items the department needs and provides support on incidents; the fire department provides emergency services to the community and training for volunteers. According to Mandel the district really needs volunteers from the east side right now.

The auxiliary just had a successful Heart Health Month Pancake Breakfast with 40 to 50 people attending, said auxiliary president Susan Geiger. Hopefully, all the fire boots on the tables got stuffed full with donations, especially the "new look" red, calf-high, lace-up, platform, 6" stiletto heel boot.

For anyone thinking of volunteering. remember it is a commitment. Anyone is welcome to attend fire training to see how they like it. Training is Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the fire station in Guffey. For more information contact Mandel at: 719-689-9479, or visit the department's website: www. guffeyfire.net.

The writer of this article is on the board of directors for the South Park County Fire Protection District.

Ute Pass Chamber Players: Another incredible performance

by Kathy Hansen

The walls of the High View Baptist Church resonated with exquisite music on the afternoon f February 8, in Woodland Park, thanks to another erformance by the Ute Pass Chamber Players.

This performance included four separate, yet ery complimentary pieces: Quartet in D Minor y Georg Philipp Telemann (From Tafelmusik 733, II, no. 2), for Flute, Oboe, Bassoon and sso continuo (also a harpsichord); Variations n "La ci darem la mano" WoO Ludwig van Beethoven, for two Oboes and English Horn; Trio for Brass Instruments Robert Sanders; and Quintet in A Major, K581 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, For Clarinet and String Quartet.

This amazing group of professional musiians always includes a little humor and a little education while they wow the crowd with the nasterfully played melodies. We learn somening each time we attend. This time, we learned n Opus does not require a number, although it loes tend to be the standard. When a composer loes not assign a number to the Opus, it is written as we've typed above for Beethoven above. WoO", which is "Werke ohne Opuszahl" meanng "Work without Opus number"

It is always interesting to hear the various airings of instruments they offer. Great considration is given as to what order the pieces will be played. It seems they change the instruments hat are paired together (the voices) and they also switch up the tempos. There was also the pportunity to hear an English horn for the first me, as it paired with two oboes.

We encourage anyone with an interest in ny type of music to attend one of the Ute Pass Chamber Players performances. You are likely o learn something; you might see an instrument ou've never seen or heard before; you might iggle at light-hearted humor; and you might alow the many melodies to carry your stress away. We look forward to their next concert on May 1st at 3 p.m., also at High View Baptist Church

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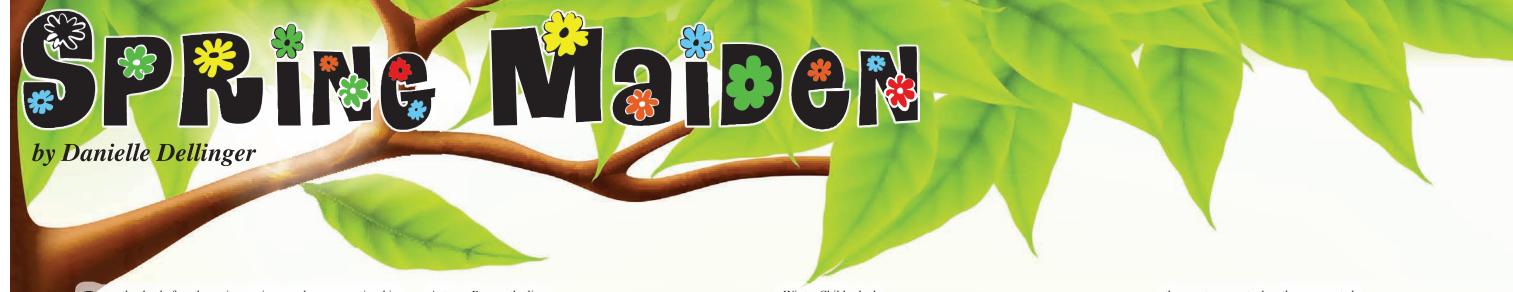




We dedicate March's Critter Corner to the younger of Kathy's two brothers, Bob, as he would have celebrated his 55th birthday on March 18th. Bob enjoyed nature and animals of all species. He spoiled his pets, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and spearing.



Tave a cute critter? Send us your favorite Π 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.



Tt was the day before the spring equinox, and someone stirred in

Winter Child and Autumn Boy were walking hand in hand toward the town of Salida. They both felt as though they were being pulled toward the small town. They had spent the winter months together, enjoying each other's company, and learning all they could about each other. Autumn Boy had made it clear that he hated the feeling of fresh, new grass between his toes. He much preferred the feeling of dead, damp leaves. At the moment the grass was still dead, so he was okay with walking on it. The Winter Child thought his avoidance of new grass was cute.

Behind the two guardians walked the bighorn sheep ram and the bull elk. The elk was likely going to lose his impressive set of antlers in the next couple of months. His antlers would create a calcium-rich feast for all the woodland rodents that would find them. As they all got closer to the town, the two animals stopped and began to graze. The pair of guardians continued on to the southern edge of Salida because there were numerous trees there. It was a town that had been founded in 1880 as a railroad town, and became a key stop for the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. In Spanish, Salida means "exit." The theory for why it got its name is because the Arkansas River Canyon opened out onto the valley of the Upper Arkansas River.

As the boys walked along, Autumn Boy looked down, feeling a change in the grass.

Winter Child looked down to see what he was talking about. He could just barely make out green grass poking up out of the ground through the dead weeds. He chuckled. "Should we find you something to put on your feet?'

"Probably. I don't know if I can go on like this," he said, looking

up at the Winter Child with a smile The Winter Child couldn't resist and leaned in, softly kissing Autumn Boy on the lips.

"Look, we're coming to the South Arkansas River. Maybe we can put some mud on your feet," he said, pointing and looking to the river. Autumn Boy brightened up. "Yeah, that should work. Mud

always feels great to me." They reached the river and crossed it in a place where ice still covered it. Trees lined both banks, creating tons of shade from the sun that was beating down on them. They sat down on a flat rock that was mostly embedded in the dirt of the bank.

"There's some good mud right there," Winter Child said, pointing to where the water lapped at the shore.

Autumn Boy nodded and slid down there, grabbing handfuls of mud and smearing it on the bottoms of his feet. When he was mostly done, he looked up at Winter Child with a big grin on his

face. Winter Child grinned right back and giggled. Autumn Boy got to his feet and rejoined Winter Child on the

rock, playfully nudging him with his shoulder. Winter Child laughed and wrapped his arms around him in a big

hug, which Autumn Boy melted into. They sat there like that for a couple minutes, then a female voice

"Hey! Anybody there?"

Winter Child momentarily froze, thinking that it was Mother Nature come to ruin things. But then he realized that the voice was higher and much more feminine. He glanced at Autumn Boy, who was looking in the direction the voice had come from. They both felt that familiar strong pull at the same time.

"Hello? Anyone?" came the voice again. The boys got up and walked toward the voice, the strong pull

practically dragging them there. "We're here," said Autumn Boy, looking around.

"Oh! Oh good! Down here!" Winter Child frowned as he looked down and scanned the ground, seeing nothing. "Where?" he asked.

His eyes finally landed on a girl no bigger than a rabbit, frantically waving her arms to get their attention. She appeared to

be partially buried in the dirt. "Oh," he said, surprised. "Can you pull me out?" she asked, reaching her hands up toward them.

The two nodded and got into position, each taking one of her hands. Then they gently pulled until she came free. Her legs were pale green roots twisting together almost like vines, but the rest of her looked human. Her skin was utterly pale, nearly

translucent, from the lack of sunlight. She wore a green dress made of grass, and her black hair had bright green streaks in them.

"Thanks so much," she said, brushing herself "What were vou doing in the dirt?

Autumn

Boy asked. "That's where I'd planted myself before the end of fall," she replied, smiling up at him. "That's clever," Winter

Child said, smiling also. She grinned and nodded. "I thought so too!" she laughed. "I'm Spring Maiden, by the way." "I'm Autumn Boy, and this is Winter Child," replied Autumn Boy, gesturing to

himself and his boyfriend. "Wait . . . Spring Maiden? Does that mean you're another seasonal guardian?

She beamed up at him and nodded. "Yep! Are you guys, too?" The boys nodded, both with smiles on their faces.

"Cool!" she giggled. "Who is the summer guardian?"

"Summer Girl," Winter Child answered. "She should be joining us later to celebrate the spring equinox. It's a new tradition we're starting, to celebrate the equinoxes. You'll join us, right?'

"Absolutely! Sounds like fun. But first I need to sit in the sun," she said, hugging herself and rubbing her upper arms. She carefully went over to a patch of sunlight and sat down, sighing contentedly.

The two boys exchanged a glance, then went over to join her, sitting to one side of her so she could get all the sun she needed. She smiled as she looked to them. "Are you two together? You know,

romantically?" Winter Child blushed, nodding. "We are."

"It's been great. We're such a great match for each other," piped up Autumn Boy

Spring Maiden grinned. "That's so awesome!"

Autumn Boy grinned back at her, then leaned in and kissed Winter Child on the cheek. "Thanks. I'm glad I met Winter Child. Since we're in our late teens now, being together like this is helping us to mature into decent adult guardians.'

Spring Maiden smiled happily at them. "That's really good. I hope I can find someone like that to mature with. Winter Child nodded. "It's a nice thing to have, but it's not necessary for

maturing. It's important to make sure that you're strong on your own, as well as when you're with someone.' "Agreed," Spring Maiden replied. "Though it'd be nice to have someone planted beside me for the cold months.

"We understand that completely," chuckled Autumn Boy, his hand on Winter Child's knee.

Spring Maiden watched the two, smiling, as they looked at each other with a deep connection and care.

As they sat there chatting, Winter Child looked out across the field and smiled when he saw a familiar being coming toward them. A lot of time had passed since he'd last seen the forest spirit, so seeing it here now was a great treat. He didn't know if the other two guardians had ever met the spirit, so he gently nudged them to get their attention, and pointed to the now-looming figure of the forest spirit.

Autumn Boy and Spring Maiden looked up at the creature, their jaws slack. It was a majestic sight to take in. The forest spirit smiled at the three once it reached the river, bowing its head slightly to them.

"Wow," whispered Spring Maiden, getting to her feet. She carefully walked across the ice on the river, tiny flowers sprouting up and then wilting as she walked on the cold surface. She stood in front of the forest spirit, who was literally a giant compared to her. The forest spirit looked down at her, then gracefully laid down so she wouldn't feel as small. She stepped up to it and reached out a hand, lightly putting it on the forest spirit's hand that rested on its leg. As she touched it, the spirit closed its eyes and inhaled deeply, exhaling long and slow. When it exhaled, large flowers and thick blades of green grass sprouted around Spring Maiden, nearly reaching her shoulders. She could feel a strong power thrumming through her whole body and down into the earth.

The two boys stood a few feet behind Spring Maiden now, holding hands and watching the two beings interact. A couple minutes later, the forest spirit opened its eyes and looked to Autumn Boy, extending its other hand out toward him. Autumn Boy glanced at Winter Child, who gave him an encouraging smile, then stepped to the forest spirit and took its hand. The spirit studied him from head to toe, frowning a little as it looked at his brown hair with white tips. Its eyes then moved to Winter Child, who smirked, then came over and showed the spirit his nails. The spirit smirked when it saw his colorful nails, nodding some as it seemed to understand that Winter Child had saved Autumn Boy's essence from freezing over.

Spring Maiden watched in fascination. "Are you here to join us to celebrate the spring equinox?" she asked, breaking the silence. The forest spirit nodded, smiling.

Winter Child spoke up, "Great. Summer Girl should be here soon."

In late afternoon, Summer Girl came from the west, riding her bull moose and following the South Arkansas River. Spring Maiden was the first to spot her. "That her?" she asked, nudging

Winter Child, who had his head in Autumn Boy's lap. He opened his eyes and felt that familiar pounding of his soul and the null toward her

"Yeah," he said, getting up to go greet her.

Summer Girl grinned when she saw him. She jumped off her moose and ran to him, hugging him firmly. She looked over his shoulder at Autumn Boy and smiled, already knowing that the boys were together, having felt

the exact moment when they connected.

They released each other and stepped back. Summer Girl waved to

Winter Child smiled and looked back at Autumn Boy a moment. He then looked back to Summer Girl. "We have someone new for you to meet. Well, two new someones." He gestured for her to follow him.

He took her over to Spring Maiden first, who after being in the sun was the size of a preteen girl. The girls shook hands and gazed at each other, letting the strong pull roll over them along with a slight twinge of something else. Once they let go of each other, he introduced her to the forest spirit, who was laying with the guardians' companion animals. It smiled as it studied her. It then bowed its head toward her.

"You're a great being," she told it. "I'm glad you're here." It responded with a kind smile.

She turned back to the three other guardians. "It's so great to have everyone together."

Everyone nodded, smiling.

All four of them then took a seat, leaning against their respective animal companions. Summer Girl invited Spring Maiden to join her and lean against her moose with her. Winter Child looked over at the girls and smiled, glad that they were quickly becoming friends.

The sun eventually disappeared behind the mountains, and the moon rose as the stars became visible. The four guardians, the three animals, and the forest spirit quieted and looked up at the sky, as another realm seemed to reveal itself above them.

"I wonder if Mother Nature will ever let us go up there," Spring Maiden murmured, her arm brushing against Summer Girl's.

Summer Girl shrugged. "Maybe one day, when we aren't needed here." She looked at Spring Maiden and smiled, putting a hand on her arm and

"Yeah," she said, smiling and sounding hopeful.

The Winter Child smirked and turned his head to look at the girls. He wasn't too surprised to find them cuddling. He looked back at the forest spirit, who was looking up at the night sky contentedly. He wondered what the spirit was thinking, if anything.

"Hey," came Autumn Boy's voice, drawing Winter Child out of his thoughts. He looked to Autumn Boy, eyebrows slightly raised. "There you are," Autumn Boy said, smirking. He leaned up and softly

kissed Winter Child. Spring Maiden looked at the boys to see if they were enjoying the stars, but she smirked when she saw them enjoying each other instead. Summer Girl looked over as well, smiling

"I hope to have someone like Winter Child has Autumn Boy," Spring

Maiden said. Summer Girl nodded. "Same here." She looked back up at the sky. "One day."

Spring Maiden looked up at her, studying her features. "Yeah, one day. Mavbe one day soon... "Maybe," she agreed, a small, hopeful smile on her lips.

Spring Maiden smirked and snuggled against Summer Girl.

At dawn, when the sun and the moon did a changing-of-the-guard rotation, so to speak, the forest spirit roused the four sleeping guardians. It gathered them into a large circle spanning several hundred feet, with them all spread out at equal points. The forest spirit then took its position in the middle of the circle, and looked up at the sky. Just before the sun crested the mountains, the spirit's antlers began to glow silver and then tiny silver orbs began to rise out of hem, ascending in a column that grew brighter as more were added.

When the bright sunlight appeared and spread to the circle, Spring Maiden's body began to glow gold. She looked at the spirit. They gave a slight nod to each other, then the silver column arced down toward her and disappeared into her being. The gold and silver colors swirled together, briefly hiding Spring Maiden from view. The colors soon became smoky and slowly dissipated. When they did they revealed Spring Maiden, who was now the same height as Summer Girl, and her legs were now human legs.

Spring Maiden grinned at everyone, her gaze lingering on Summer Girl. She was too caught up in looking at the other girl that she somehow failed to realize that the forest spirit was now standing in front of her, holding out a large, multicolored flower to her, known as the Guardian Flower. It put a light hand on her shoulder to get her attention. She gasped and looked up at it, then looked to the flower, carefully taking it. She smiled and held the flower to her chest.

Then she went over to Summer Girl, shyly taking her hand in her own and gazing into her eyes. Summer Girl gazed back at her. The two began to glow a soft green, and as they did, Spring Maiden lifted Summer Girl's hand and kissed her knuckles, locking eyes with her. Everything and everyone seemed to vibrate with a powerful, refreshed energy.

Spring had officially begun.





The Psychic Corner It's tough being so sensitive

mpathy: the power of understanding and Limaginatively entering into another per-

I meet so many people that say it's hard to be a highly sensitive, or empathetic, person in this world of ours. Does this sound like you or someone close to you? I'm not just talking about professional psychic empaths like myself; I'm talking about all of us who are sensitive to other peoples' energy.

There are all sorts of ways negative (low frequency) energy can manifest, and sensitive people will perceive it and feel it. Projected negative energies can feel like an emotional sucker-punch, often cutting us to the core of our being. Examples are: critical or harsh words that are said to you, especially if it's said by a loved one; situations where another person, like a boss, co-worker, family member, or friend, seems to delight in criticizing you all the time at the expense of trying to make themselves look more superior or smarter; classmates who bully you, mock you, and put you down; a condescending comment or scornful look from someone you hardly know. You get my drift and you probably can come up with your own unique list of "hurts" that can wound you deep inside your heart and soul.

sensitive, empathetic nature! Understanding it ple don't need to try to change themselves to

do need to learn how to honor and live with our sensitivity so we're not adversely affected. Once we know how to deal with this aspect of ourselves in a healthy manner, i will benefit us in all areas of our life, not just on a personal level. For instance, there are many professions where sensitivity is a real plus. Some examples are: teaching; make ing art and music; marketing and business (being aware of what people need and want, and knowing how to present products and services in an enticing way). I won't neglect

to mention: sensitivity and

empathy are hugely important

in parenting! If you often feel burdened and weighed down due to your empathetic nature, don't despair. Here are two very simple methods that anyone, even a child, can do, no matter the time or place. (There are, of course, many more advanced methods that can be utilized by those so

This Month's "Ask Claudia" Question:

Dear Claudia: I just received an awesome job offer from a company who sought me out. It's for more oney with greater responsibility. But, it's in another state that I think I might not enjoy living in. I like Colorado and wouldn't mind staying here, but I also know my current job is not my calling and the company might be closing its doors soon. Job security is a concern for me. I can move anywhere I'd like, but I have doubts about accepting this new offer. Something just isn't feeling right, along with the fact I'd have to relocate. What do you perceive? Thank you for your help. Signed, "Confused"

Dear Confused: One of your challenges in this life s that you have a huge tendency to get stuck in the "should I or shouldn't I" trap, so no wonder you're confused right now! I sense you know very well you would soon become bored with the new job. But yes, it does appear the company is solid and you could advance in job responsibility rather quickly. However, no matter what new city in that state you choose to live in, nothing will feel right. You won't feel settled, nor will many close-by, like-minded people on the spiritual path like you're on be easily found. Thus, there's a big probability that you will feel very repressed in the new location because you have been, and certainly will ontinue to be, on an investigative journey to under-

> upon whatever higher source you resonate with, be it God, Goddess, Divine Mother, an archangel, or your spirit guides. Call upon this source to remove from your aura (the etheric space that surrounds you) anything that is not your burden to carry. Ask to be surrounded and filled with love, peace, light, technique is also wonderful to do before you

available) of yourself and person(s) you wish to ask about. All identities are kept strictly confidential.

falling asleep at night, too.

tivity for weakness." -Anaïs Nin

stand your intuitive side and to pursue teachings that

interest you in the metaphysical realms. This is one

of your top priorities in this lifetime. So, you could

become miserable there. However, I "see" the spirit

guides' heads nodding in agreement that Colorado is

a great fit for you professionally and in your spiritual

quest. If you can hang in there with your current job,

I'm "hearing" you need to put together an up-to-date

resume now and start getting it out there. I sense a

better higher paying job is here for you too. But first

and foremost, the Universe is testing you greatly in the

decision to be made. Make up your mind! Then live

with it and do what you need to do. Remember that

no matter what, all that transpires is not a "decision

mistake." It will all work together exactly as it's sup-

A thought to ponder: "Please do not mistake sensi-

Have a question or concern that you would like to

Corner column? Send your question to: claudia@clau

if possible), and the names, birth dates, and photos (if

brownlie.com. Submit one question (keep it brief,

have considered for a response in my next Psychic

Set limits on how much you're affected by other peoples' pain

Empathetic people have a huge capability to feel and empathize with the hurting person, but we can also absorb pain and sorrow that is not ours. Now, this can be a plus when we deal with family and friends who are sharing hurtful or upsetting situations with us. They want us to listen, to lend comfort and support, give input, and the like. But in doing so we've got to be mindful to not "own" their issues as ours. It's absolutely not healthy for us to do so. Think about it ... is it advantageous for us to carry their burden around for days on end? No, it's not.

Now, we may continue to be worried for days, weeks or months about a situation affecting a family member or friend. but again, caring about and loving them, being a shoulder to cry on and the like is of course a compassionate thing to do, but we have to draw the line when it comes to their burden adversely affecting us emotionally and/or physically.

So, how can we set simple-to-do boundaries? When you're feeling someone else's pain, ask yourself: What can I do about this? How can I help? Can I pray for them, or send some loving energy their way? Taking simple steps like these can help us to step away from being nothing more than an absorbent, empathetic sponge! As you practice setting internal limits, becoming aware in situations where you realize you are getting sucked up into "owning" someone's pain, you'll find that it becomes easier to catch it at the get-go. Soon, with a little practice, you'll be more aware when you're starting to own it as your own, and you'll be able to stop and use one of the suggestions above.

Empathy is a beautiful gift to have and it's a valuable tool. Please learn to understand it so you can positively and effectively utilize it in

Claudia Brownlie is a Woodland Park, Colorado-based Professional Psychic Intuitive Consultant and certified Life Coach, serving clients locally and world-wide. In-person, telephone, and Skype video chat appointments are available. Claudia also provides classes and lectures, and offers psychic reading services tailored for corporate events and private parties. For more information please call her international office number: (505) 819-3309. Or visit her website:



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rreventative tree spraying saves trees Preventative tree from deadly insects



Aperson that takes care of trees for a living is often referred to as an arborist. An arborist that takes the care of trees seriously often becomes a Certified Arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture.

As a local tree service that desires to stay informed and provide quality tree care Timberline Spraying has joined the International Society of Arborists. When a homeowner needs an arborist to provide tree care services here are some of the questions that they should ask:

- Is the Tree Service Company licensed by the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture?
- Is the Tree Service Company a licensed commercial pesticide applicator?
- How many years of experience does the arborist, or tree service, have in the tree care industry of tree spraying or forest management services?
- · Have they retained current forest health information for the service area?
- · Do they use the maximum amount chemical per label rating?
- · Do they spray a heavy coat to the bark surface to assure total coverage? · Do they spray the entire tree (branches in-
- cluded) or just the bark surface? Does the arborist have a college or university
- degree in an arboriculture related field? • Does the tree service the arborist represents follow tree care industry safety procedures
- and carry the proper insurance coverage? • When firewising do they perform a complete forest floor clean-up?

The control of insects like the Fir Beetle, Spruce Budworm and IPS Pine Beetle as well as other tree disease pests often involves tree spraying. Tree care companies like Timberline Spraying and Services offer other forest management services like deep root fertilization, firewising to meet homeowner insurance requirements, full mitigation, tree pruning, needle racking, slash hauling or falling of trees and chipping of the slash. The equipment used for tree spraying can be as small as a backpack sprayer all the way up to a 1,000 gallon tank trunk. The equipment an arborist uses for tree spraying depends on the tree species, tree size, and the insect pest or tree disease pest the arborist is controlling.

Some tree species are highly targeted by insect pests or various tree diseases, while other landscape trees are relatively pest free. A local arborist, like Timberline Spraying and Services can be a valuable resource in determining what landscape trees will be prone to attack by insect pests or tree diseases. To prevent the destruction of insect damage to your valuable trees a homeowner will want to have these trees preventatively sprayed by a Licensed Commercial Pesticide applicator.

If you are a do it yourself person and would like to spray your own trees, please be aware that you still need to have a private applicators license issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. If you don't carry this private applicator license you will not be in compliance

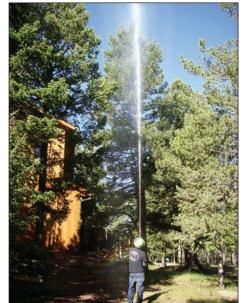
Also, it is important that you acquire the list of pesticide allergic people within your area of spraying. Anyone that would like to be placed on this list should contact the Colorado Depart-

Summit Singers

Recently, 150 students from Columbine, Gateway, and Summit Elementary gathered at Summit to work with the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale for an afternoon of workshops,

rehearsal, and fun. The group had dinner together followed by a concert performance. Divide

Chamber of Commerce sponsored part of the dinner. Pictured are the Summit Singers 2014-15.



Reaching the top of the tree and covering the entire tree is the key to successful

ment of Agriculture.

A Licensed Commercial Pesticide Applicator does one of two types of preventative spraying: targeted tree spraying and periodic tree spraying.

Targeted tree spraying

Targeted tree sprays are designed to control a particular insect or tree disease at a certain time of the season. When a targeted tree spray is scheduled only one tree, or tree species, in the landscape is treated by the tree service. An example of a targeted tree spray would be if the tree service sprayed just the Pine Trees or Spruce Trees to prevent the damage of the Mountain Pine Beetle, IPS Beetle, Fir Beetle, (April, May, June application) and Budworm on Spruce/ Fir trees (Budbreak application). If you need these services please call Timberline Spraying to schedule an on-site survey or contract to have your valuable signature trees sprayed.

Periodic tree spraying

Some tree service companies offer a tree spray program where the tree service visits your property every four to six weeks to inspect your landscape plantings. The arborist inspects your trees and sprays trees that have insect pests or trees the arborist suspects will be attacked by insect pests before the next visit. This type of spraying is performed on Aspens for Tent Caterpillar, Aphids, leaf borers, needle miner's on ornamental plants. These programs usually contracted and cost more due to the frequency of the number of on-site visits.

We are currently experiencing epidemic outbreak levels of the Fir Beetle and Western Spruce Budworm in the Teller, Park, Chaffee, and Fremont County areas. A call early in the spring to schedule the spraying of your valuable trees will assure you not to miss the prime opportune time to protect against the attack of these deadly insects.

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CC&V's storm water drainage plan to protect Cripple Creek

by Dave Martinek

n the early days of underground mining in Lthe Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining District, two natural obstacles faced miners as they descended into the great depths looking for veins of gold ore — ground water and gases. Eventually, gases were removed or minimized with ventilation shafts and fans. The old practice of taking a canary underground may have even been used. The accumulation of ground water was another obstacle.

Once mining operations reached a certain depth, ground water slowed further exploration until that water could either be pumped out or removed by other means. The "other means" eventually evolved into a series of mine drainage tunnels throughout the district to lower the water table in order to allow deeper mining. The Roosevelt Tunnel, begun in 1908, was the first mine drainage tunnel to be dug in the district, located north and west of the City of Victor. The last drainage tunnel to be dug was the Carlton Tunnel, finished in 1941, with its portal originating at the bottom of the Ajax mine at about 3,000 feet and extending six-miles to the south

When surface mining began in the district in the 1970s, gases were not much of a problem, but ground water still needed to be addressed. Water continues to be drained by the Carlton Tunnel where the quality is routinely monitored, as required by permit. However, storm water was and remains an element to be managed, albeit in a different manner than by tunnels.

At the beginning of the "mine life cycle", vegetation is removed and top soil is stored for reclamation before the start of actual mining activities in an area (see my article in the January 2015 edition of the Ute County News at utecountrynews.com). Once the surface is exposed, t becomes susceptible to storm water runoff whenever it rains or snow melts. In order to effectively manage the accumulation and retention of storm water, the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company (CC&V) must comply with regulations enforced by the State of Colorado and Teller County which require the approval of a drainage plan prepared by a qualified professional engineer (i.e., a professional hydrologist). The resulting drainage report and plan, including drainage, sediment and erosion control, as well as storm water management, must demonstrate that the drainage and water control procedures do not endanger local communities or adversely impact downstream properties.

In other words, prevention and mitigation of possible flooding caused by storm waters from exposed mining areas, as well as how water drains from those areas, becomes an integral part of CC&V's mine permitting processes, and one of the first plans to be implemented even before vegetation removal. CC&V has already begun to take steps to protect downstream areas, including the City of Cripple Creek, from the potential release of storm waters related to the approved mining development planned above Poverty Gulch on Globe Hill, known as the North Cresson Project.

In a letter to the City of Cripple Creek in September 2014, CC&V's Environmental Manager, Tim Comer, reviewed the stateapproved storm water and drainage plan being implemented by CC&V in great detail, referencing the calculations and information used by their professional hydrologists to design a plan that would effectively protect the city from potential flood-induced rainfall "equivalent to the volume predicted for a 100-year 24-hour storm.'

Comer noted that hydrologists not only culate predicted rain fall, based on historica weather pattern information, but also include



Of the five retention ponds to be excavated as part of CC&V's Storm Water Drainage Plan. the lowest pond will be located in the depression in Poverty Gulch near the International Complex across Highway 67 from the Heritage Center.. photo by Jane Mannon

estimates of water runoff "caused by absorption as the storm water passes across uneven terrain, forms ponds in depressions, enters the shallow ground water table though existing porous ground and is eventually dispersed. Therefore, both potential storm water runoff and the runoff created by ground water seeping to the surface have to be accounted in the preparation of adequate retention plans.

In order to retain and store approximately 10.9 acre-feet (or 4,799,785 gallons) of water, CC&V's Storm Water Plan (included in Amendment 10 of Permit M-1980-244 - Colorado Office of Mined Land Permit) involves the design of five retention ponds — three along Poverty Gulch and two more along the ridgeline of Globe Hill. Each pond will have designated spillways at the top of their embankments to permit water to flow into a lower pond so that the accumulated water retention would be dispersed throughout all five ponds — the lowest pond located in the depression in

Poverty Gulch near the International Complex

across Highway 67 from the Heritage Center.

With over 20 years of experience manage ing water drainage and storm water runoff events at the Cresson Project, Comer wrote that "CC&V feels strongly that our storm water management practices not only meets our regulatory requirements, but also because CC&V has over-designed the storm water management structures, provides the City of Cripple Creek with protection against maximum foreseeable storm water events.

Excavation of the retention ponds has already begun and are due to be completed by the summer of 2015 when CC&V will begin removing trees and other vegetation along the "Historic Buffer" zone at the bottom of Poverty Gulch.

The City of Cripple Creek has acknowledged CC&V's plans and efforts.

"CC&V's storm water plan has been approved by the state and Teller County," said Cripple Creek City Councilman, Chris Hazlett. "I think the city feels confident that the mine has done all it can and more to protect us from potential flooding."

CC&V exploring underground mining plans

While the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company has no intentions of ever mining under Cripple Creek, their recently announced plans to explore anderground mining east of the Molly Kathleen Mine in the "high wall" area of the North Cresson Project "has been the dream of a lot of folks," said Jane Mannon, CC&V's community affairs manager. In a presentation before the Teller County Board of County Commissioners in January, Mannon outlined activities planned in 2015 to explore "if there's an opportunity to go underground." If the plan is viable, the ompany aims to develop the infrastructure n 2016 and begin underground mining in the first quarter of 2017. (Note: as CC&V's underground plans become more defined, look for follow-up stories in future issues of



Gold is what they're after. CC&V is exploring whether underground mining is feasible. If so, the company aims to develop the infrastructure next year and beginning mining underground in 2017. CC&V file photo

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Salute to Veterans Week at Florissant Library

by Polly Roberts

Tn anticipation of the library's 2015 Summer Reading Program theme of "Heroes", the Florissant Public Library will host a week-long celebration of our military veterans March 23 through March 27.

Library staff is very excited about the Summer Reading Program theme this year. "The first thing that popped into our minds when we discovered that the theme was heroes was our veterans. We wanted to do something to honor those who have served our country", said Dean Jaques, library circulation assistant, himself a retired career Naval Warrant.

In preparation for "Salute to Veterans Week", the public is invited to come into the library during the entire month of March to help decorate trees in the library with "flag tags", written with the names of family members or friends that are veterans or active military personnel.

The Florissant-Lake George VFW Post #11411 and Ladies Auxiliary will have American flags and poles available for purchase at the library, and will be collecting both American and Colorado flags for proper disposal, or retirement, due to wear or damage. The Florissant Library will then become a permanent retirement location for flags. Poppies, mini flags, and U.S. Constitution books will also be available that week. The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.

The week will kick off with a public program on Monday, March 23 at 1 p.m. by Thomas Tudor from the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Society is committed to protecting and enhancing the welfare and image of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the soldiers who stand guard, past and present. They make certain that the individuals that made the ultimate sacrifice of their life for our freedom are not forgotten, and that the general public understands this price of freedom.

Established in 1921 after World War I, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier became a place where Americans can commemorate those killed in war who were missing or unidentifiable. It was built at Arlington National Cemetery among thousands of graves of those who have fought and served the country. It is guarded 24/7 by a sentinel.

Mr. Tudor has been a distinguished speaker for 25 years, presenting a moving and informative narration of our nation's most hallowed ground: Arlington National Cemetery. He served as a sentinel, then relief commander, at the Arlington Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from February 1969 to Memorial Day 1970. He is currently the President of the Society, and is an authority on the history of Arlington and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which is visited by over 4 million people annually. His comprehensive and compelling presentation is one you don't want to miss.

Retired Brigadier General Norm Steen will speak on Wednesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Steen has more than 32 years of commissioned military service with the US Army and the Army National Guard, retiring in 2004 from command of the 235th Regiment. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Parachutist Badge. He now serves full-time as a Teller County Commissioner.

The children's StoryTime on Thursday morning, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. will feature local patriotic entertainer, Keith McKim with a "Stars and Stripes" theme. Then at 1 p.m.,

Keith will return for a public presentation of "The Story of the Star Spangled Banner" and patriotic storytelling. Keith is a former Green Beret who was awarded the Silver Star for Valor, Bronze Star, Purple Heart. and other awards. During the Vietnam War, he served with a Top Secret unit called the Special Operations Group (SOG). He is active in community theater as well as being a professional singer and performer, and an amateur writer/poet. Keith's performances are quite compelg and not to be missed.

The week will finish up with a free breakfast for veterans at the library on Friday morning, March 27 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Breakfast will begin with the Posting of Colors by the Florissant-Lake George VFW Post #11411. The breakfast is sponsored by Bronco Billy's Casino in Cripple Creek. The breakfast menu will include eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy, and creamed chipped beef on toast (SOS). The library would like to extend many, many thanks to Bronco Billy's General Manager, Mark Murphy, Asst. General Manager, Ben Douglas, for their generosity and continued support of library events.

Following the breakfast, there will be a program of presenters and various local groups affiliated with veteran services and activities, moderated by Mike Bartol, Teller County Veterans Services Officer. Bartol is a former career intelligence officer with the United States Navy who served five tours of duty in Vietnam. He was the liaison officer for General Colin Powell to General Norman Schwarzkopf during the Gulf War in 1988. Bartol coordinates all processing of veteran benefits for Teller County veterans, including disability, healthcare, pension, education, and vocational training. He was named County Veteran Services Officer of the Year for the state of Colorado in 2011

At the time of this writing, program participants include

Lt. Colonel David "Colt" Simmons. National Resiliency Center (NRC). The NRC's mission is to help American communities effectively prepare, cope, and recover from crisis incidents. Simmons is a co-founder and board member for NRC, and is also a facilitator at the USAF Academy's Center for Character & Leadership Development. He retired from the Air Force in 2011.

· Richard Olachia, veterans business loan funding Mobile Vet Center Outreach, Department of Veteran Affairs. The US Dept. of Veterans Affairs Readjustment Counseling Services serves veterans through specialty mental health clinics called Vet Centers. The mobile vet center program provides outpatient mental health and readjustment services to veterans and their families who have deployed to a combat zone while serving refers veterans to appropriate community agencies and service providers, and serves as a liaison between veterans and other VA facilities. If scheduling permits, program

the mobile unit. • Randy Ford, Florissant-Lake

George VFW Post #11411 Post Commander and VFW Colorado District 8 Commander. Randy has been involved with the VFW for over 35 years. He is a retired 1st Sergeant, and former Police Chief of Green Mountain Falls. Post #11411 meets every third Tuesday at the Florissant Grange and has a very active Ladies Auxiliary. • Scott Harper, National Park

Mike Bartol, Teller

County Veterans

Services Officer

Retired Brigadie

General Norm Steen

Society of the Honor

Guard of the Tomb of

the Unknown Soldier

Keith McKim, local

<u>patriotic</u> entertainer

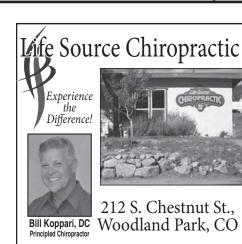
Service "Post to Parks". The Post to Parks Program was created by Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and is currently being piloted as an outreach program to military families and youth in the Pikes Peak Region. Currently Fort Carson, the United States Air Force Academy, and Peterson Air Force Base have been involved in the program. Scott is a Park Ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds. The program offers free one-year passes to active military and free fe-time passes to veterans with a VA rated disability to all 406 national parks and monuments. • Jef Morris, VA Tai Chi demonstration. In 2008, Jef began a Tai Chi program at the Miami VA Medical Center for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghani stan with brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, PTSD, and in need of physical therapy. The effectiveness of VA Tai Chi provided the basis for the University of Miami Pope Center for Spinal Cord Paralysis to fund an exercise DVD for this program. He holds certifications for Tai Chi for Arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Diabetes, and Back Pain. Jef continues to share the Tai Chi practice with people living with Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and stroke recovery support groups.

A soup lunch will follow the program, courtesy of the Friends of the Florissant Library. "Dean has spearheaded this

effort for the library and has done an amazing job of putting together a week of activities to honor, educate, and celebrate veterans", said Polly Roberts, library branch manager. "There has been such a positive response from the community while putting this together. We could not pull this off without the enthusiasm and support of Bronco Billy's, the Friends of the Florissant Library,

and others just too numerous to mention.' All events are open to the public, with the exception of the Friday breakfast and program which is open to veterans only. The schedule of events for "Salute to Veterans Week" is still evolving, so for updated information, please contact the Florissant library at 748-3939, by email pollyr@rampartlibrarydistrict.org, or check the events calendar on the District website: www.rampartlibrarydistrict.org.

The Florissant Public Library is a branch of the Rampart Library District, and is located at 334 Circle Drive next to the Florissant Community Park. The library is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is closed on Tuesday and Sunday



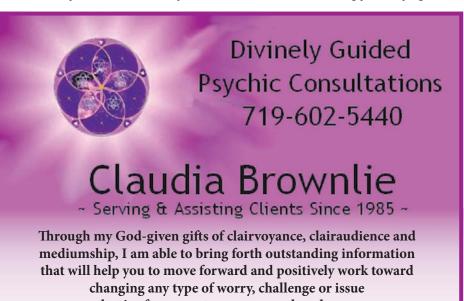








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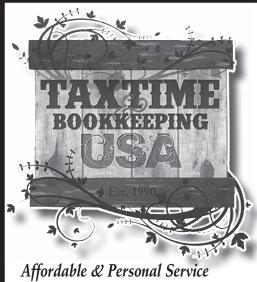
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9Health Fair coming to Guffey

Once again the 9Health Fair is coming to Guffey on Saturday, April 11, 2015, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Guffey Community Charter School, 1459 Main Street, Guffey, CO 80820.

Only one small needle is needed for all blood screenings. Whether you've eaten recently or not, we'll draw your blood. The 9Health Fair Medical Advisory Committee has determined that fasting is not required (optional) for blood screenings. People with diabetes should not fast. Check with your medical provider for specific recommendations.

You can register online and pay for services with a credit or debit card at www.9HealthFair.org/findafair, choose Guffey and click on "You can register online." Onsite registration will be available the day of the fair. Only cash or checks will be accepted as payment on the day of the fair.

All fair participants must be at least 18 years of age. Blood cannot be drawn on anyone under 18, even with parental consent. Children under the age of 18 will not be permitted in the blood draw area. On-site childcare will be provided for children while adults are having blood drawn.

9Health Fair is Colorado's largest non-profit health fair program whose sole mission is to advance health awareness and provide people with the tools they need to take responsibility for their own health at an affordable price. If you would like to learn more about 9Health Fair, please go to www.9HealthFair.org.

Share the health – bring a friend, family member or neighbor! Several free and low-cost health screenings

will be available

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Look through this "LENS" when making Social Security decisions

Your Social Security benefits can be an important part of your retirement income strategy. But when should you start taking

You can begin accepting Social Security as early as 62, but your monthly checks will be much smaller than if you wait until your "full retirement age," which will likely be between 66 or 67. These monthly payments will get even bigger if you wait until age 70, at which point they "max out." So, should you take your Social Security as early as possible and hope that the smaller monthly payments will be justified by the extra years of receiving them, or should you wait until you are older and hope that the bigger checks will be worth the delay?

In weighing this decision, consider the acronym LENS, which stands for Life-expectancy, Employment, Need, and Spouse. Let's look at

Life expectancy

If your family has a history of longevity, and if you are in excellent health, it may make sense for you to take Social Security later, when your monthly benefits will be higher. You'll also want to consider your spouse's life

If you want to keep working in your "retirement years," be aware that your earnings could affect your Social Security payments. Specifically, if you take Social Security early, that is, before your full retirement age, your benefits will be withheld by \$1 for every \$2 in earned income above a certain amount (\$15,720 in 2015). During the year in which you reach your full retirement age, this withnolding changes to \$1 for every \$3 in earnings over the annual limit (\$41,880 in 2015). The withheld amounts could also affect spousal benefits. However, beginning the month you attain your full retirement age, benefits will no long longer be withheld based on how much

you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefits at full retirement age to account for the benefits that were withheld. In any case, if you do plan to continue working, and you think you could have significant income, you'll need to understand the effect that earnings will have on your annual benefits.

In deciding when to take Social Security, here's a key question: Do you need the money? If you can support your lifestyle for several years with alternative sources of income (such as a pension) and modest withdrawals from your investments, you may be able to delay Social Security, thereby increasing the size of your monthly payments. Be careful, though, because relying too heavily on your investment portfolio can shorten its own "life expectancy." It's essential that you maintain a reasonable withdrawal rate for your investments throughout your retirement

Your decision of when to take Social Security will affect your spouse's survivor benefit. Surviving spouses can receive their own benefit or 100 percent of their deceased spouse's benefit, whichever is greater. So, if you were to take your Social Security early, when the payments are smaller, your spouse's survivor benefits will also be permanently reduced. If you are older than your spouse, or otherwise expect your spouse to outlive you, it might be a good idea to delay taking Social Security to maximize the survivor benefits.

As you think about when to take Social Security, look at your decision through the LENS described above. It could help clarify your options.

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

Soup'er Art and Writing Show

by Donna Knox and Kathleen Ogden

All members of the greater Lake George Community are invited to join the students, staff, and families of Lake George Charter School to celebrate and recognize the creativity of our students at the second annual, combined LGCS Soup'er Art and Writing Show, and pot luck dinner, to be held on Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Students at Lake George Charter School participated in their Second Annual LionScribe writing competition on Tuesday, February 3, 2015. Each class, kindergarten through sixth grade, was furnished a writing prompt and given time to brainstorm and organize their thoughts. During the afternoon, the classes assembled in the cafeteria armed with dictionaries, thesauruses and their own notes to create a final draft. The next week, nine judges evaluated and ranked first, second and third place winners for each grade level. These judges were objective observers who do not work with the children but volunteered to review and offer written comments on each student's writing. The judges who so selflessly donated their time and expertise are Evelyn Adams, Rick Favinger, Tonia Favinger, Myrt Fredenburg, Bill Jordan, Cleon Ochsner, Norma Ochsner, Sonja Oliver and

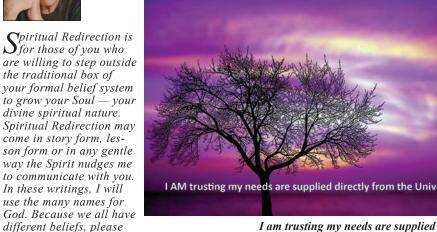
Nick Oliver. The winning essays will be compiled into a booklet for each of the 21 winners. LionScribe writing awards will be presented during the Soup'er Art & Writing Show.

Artwork from over 100 LGCS student artists in preschool through sixth grade will be on display around the school cafeteria. Each student first selected a piece of their favorite art from the year to mount for presentation and display during the show. Students then wrote an artist statement to describe the piece of art they chose for the show, including the title, materials used, and the artistic element in focus. Student art will be available for purchase by donation during the Soup'er Art and Writing Show, with all proceeds used to obtain additional supplies for the LGCS Art program. Donations to the Art program will also be accepted at the door.

The families and staff of Lake George Charter School will generously provide a pot luck dinner of homemade soup, stew, chili, and drinks following the LionScribe awards ceremony. Lake George Charter School will contribute fresh bread sticks and cookies for the pot luck dinner. Additional offerings of food and drink are welcome and appreciated

Spiritual Redirection

by Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director



I am trusting my needs are supplied directly feel free to use the term by which you know from the Universe. the Divine. Please use your discernment to determine what is true or not for you. Now,

Decrees For the next few editions (or more) of the

UCN, I will focus on decrees for your use and spiritual enhancement. What is a decree, you ask? Decrees, in a spiritual sense, are affirmations that begin with the name of God, I AM. When you use a decree, you are working in the sphere of God and the Beings of Light to cocreate the things you desire in your life.

We find reference to the blessings from heaven that result from decrees in the Book of Job (22:28) "Thou shalt also decree a thing and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways."

But there is a caveat. Heaven will establish unto thee the things you affirm (or decree) either to your benefit or to your detriment. This is because you have been given free will and the Divine does not interfere with how you choose to think, feel, speak or act.

Take a moment to think. How often have you seen evidence of the power of your use of God's name, I AM, to your detriment in your own life? Just simply saying, I am broke keeps you broke — because the Universe always gives you what you ask for. If you find yourself using God's name in vain, I urge you to change your thoughts and feelings. Here is a decree for your use this month.

Many of us lack faith that our needs are met

by the Divine. You will notice this tree appears barren, but it is ready to bear fruit; just as you are. I challenge you, this month, to hold in mind ONE thing you desire to manifest. At the same time, state this decree and allow yourself to FEEL from the level of your heart that the thing you desire already exists. If you are visual, see the thing you desire in form as well. You may also let the energy from this image and decree permeate your being.

If you have deep-seated trust issues, this process may be difficult for you. In which case, you may wish to seek professional assistance to help change the underlying causes of any such issues. Otherwise, have fun and experience how this exercise may change your life.

I thank Jeff and Kathy for creating space in the UCN for our journey together to higher levels of consciousness, and I thank you for the feedback I receive when we see each other in our communities

Barbara Royal is an Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director and Certified Angel Therapy Practitioner®. She is the owner of Barbara Royal's Spiritual Life Coaching and creator of a spiritual transformation method for clients to change their minds and their lives. She may be contacted at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com for a free initial consultation and/or session appointments. To learn more about Barbara and her work, visit her Facebook page, Barbara Royal's Spiritual Life Coaching

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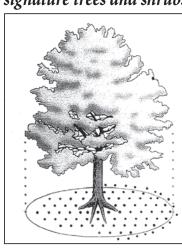
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Growing ideas Gardening from the heart

by Karen Anderson, Plant Lady

The Miracle of a Seed

Aseed is one of the wonderful mysteries of our existence on Earth. Everything begins with a seed; a thought, an idea, a dream, a child, and the very food sources that sustain all living beings. Without a seed, there would be no life as we know it.

All seeds have their own individual forms and structures, yet their purpose is the same. Their dimensions vary from the size of a tiny pin head like the poppy or mustard seed, to the bulkiness of a coconut. Both the poppy and the

plants happiness

mustard plants can grow into 'Jack and the Beanstalk" type plants — that means Huge! The flower of a plant is the receptacle for producing seed.

Mother Nature very efficiently assists in the pollination process by providing the birds and the bees, butterflies and other insects, squirrels and critters and the wind as a means to transport pollen. Pollination is vital to ensure the species' survival; and so it goes. The circle of life

Of course, in order to raise plants successfully from seed, it is necessary to provide conditions which are as nearly ideal as possible. The es-

sential considerations are: good seed; favorable temperatures; correct degree of moisture; and a medium suitable for seed germination. Once those seedlings are 'born', it is our responsibility to nurture them as they unfold and develop to their ultimate beauty and purpose — which includes reproducing through their seed in order to secure a living space on the planet.

I have had a fascination with growing plants from seed for as long as I can remember. It never ceases to amaze me as new life magically emerges from a seed. Since I am not of scientific mind, I will make no attempt to explain the botanical

He who plants a garden, particulars of a seed. My knowledge comes from experience,

observation, curiosity and many years of self-education. I have been blessed with the opportunity to learn from Mother Nature

Here in the mountains, timing is just about everything, so planting seed needs to be scheduled, if you will. I try to plant by the cycles of the moon (that's another story). However we just don't have a long enough growing season to plan perfectly. So we do our best with what we have to work with. On average, we have about 75 days "Plant Lady Speaks" series offered

There has been an overflow of folks who ■ would like to participate in the "Garden Planning" class that was scheduled last month. So I am offering another "Cozy Fireside Chat" on the same topic on Wed. March 11, from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. coffee and tea are provided. Bring a snack to share if you would like and of course, a notebook, pen, catalogues, pictures and gardening dreams. In addition, since we have been talking about seeds, I am scheduling an Inside Seed Starting Workshop for Saturday, March 28, also from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. here at my home (one day after the New Moon). This hands-

and nights of frost free weather. Garden seeds need to be planted accordingly. In our high altitude, gardeners must learn how to manage what and where we can plant and most importantly, when to plant it! Many seeds are planted inside here at Paradise Gardens and are transitioned to the greenhouse or the great outdoors when the time is right. I have fondly named this process

the "Plug it in" gardening technique. I would like to suggest that you seek suppliers that carry a great selection of organic and NON-GMO seed geared for our challenging climate and altitude. I have also developed my own line of high altitude, organic, perennial, heirloom seed, which is available here at Paradise Gardens. If you would like to learn more

formation on the do's and don'ts of getting a head start on the gardening season by planting appropriate seeds at the right time, with suitable mediums and proper conditions.

I will need a minimum of five people with a maximum of 10 to participate in both classes with a \$20.00 offering for facilitating and sharing this valuable information to helr you in your gardening endeavors. As always, directions will be provided with your call or E-mail to reserve a 'spot by the fire'. Please call Karen at 748-3521 or E-mail address: plantladyspeaks@gmail.com.

about starting seed, be sure to check out my upcoming workshop – see below. As always, wishing you happy and successful gardening in your growing endeavors this season.

Karen Anderson "The Plant Lady" at Paradise Gardens, specializing in High Altitude Organic Gardening Since 1977.

Do you have a gardening question or perhaps a tip you'd like to share with other high altitude gardeners? Send your suggestions or question to utecountrynewspaper@ gmail.com. Our goal with this column is to enhance the gardening experience at high altitude by sharing tips, and ideas.

Eggstravaganza eggceeds all eggspectations

by Maurice Wells

On Saturday, January 31 at 5 p.m. over 75 eggcited community members gathered at the Lake George Charter School for the annual Cook-Off and Tasting. Over 56 eggstrordinary dishes were presented in hopes of winning one of the eggceptional prizes. High levels of eggspectation were evident as Donna Knudten, president of the Friends of the Lake George Library, welcomed guests. She eggshorted diners not to eggceed a taste so that there would be adequate food for all attending.

After the opening comments, guests were able to eggperience the eggspansive array of dishes, an eggercise they had been waiting for. Donations from this fund raiser go to purchase items eggstranious of county

This eggclusive event is held the last Saturday in January each year. Mark your calendar so that there will be no eggcuse for missing this activity in the future. Contact 719-748-3812 if you have questions or



Guests eggzamine their choices (above).

An eggsample of an eggceptional

BLM seeks nominations to Front Range Resource Advisory Council

The Bureau of Land Management today announced that it is seeking public nominations for open positions on the Front Range Resource Advisory Council, which advises the BLM on public land issues. As published in a notice in the Federal Register, the BLM will consider nominations for 45 days.

The Front Range RAC, composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the Bureau carry out its stewardship of 245 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has 31 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located. Each RAC consists of 10 to 15 members with an interest or expertise in public land management, including such individuals as conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, Tribal officials, and academics. The diverse membership of each RAC helps ensure that BLM land managers get the varying perspecives they need to achieve their

is to manage the public lands for multiple uses. "As a land-management agency that carries

out a multiple-use mission, the BLM seeks out and values diverse input from citizens who care about the stewardship of America's public lands," said BLM-Colorado State Director Ruth Welch. "This input advances our efforts in managing uses of and protecting resources on the public lands.'

Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on an advisory council. Nominees. who must be residents of the state or states where the RAC has jurisdiction, will be judged on the basis of their training, education, and knowledge of the council's geographical area. Nominees should also demonstrate a commitment to consensus building and collaborative decision making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from any represented interests or organizations, a completed RAC application, and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

The descriptions for RAC positions a

Category One - Public land ranchers and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, the timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial

Category Two – Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historical organizations, dispersed recreation activities. and wild horse and burro organizations. Category Three – Representatives of state,

county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources; representatives of Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; representatives and employees of academic institutions who are involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

tions, including three positions in Category 1, one position in Category 2 and one position in Category 3. Nomination materials should be submitted by March 20, to the Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Kyle Sullivan, 3028 E. Main St., Cañon City, CO, 81212. Additional information can be found by logging on to: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/ racs/frrac.html or by calling Kyle Sullivan at

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This Land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in

DINNER SPECIALS NIGHTLY DURING MARCH OPEN WED-SUN 11AM-9 PM STARTING APRIL 1ST OPEN SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK 11AM-9PM मिल्ली शिक्षिती Sunday March 29th Sunday March 15th George Eldon St. Pat's Bash 4pm-9pm The Saltine Crackers 4pm--9pm Cuffey, Colorado • 7/9,639,05/8 "Like Us" on Facebook at The Freshwater of Solvey of S For eabin availability call 719-689-3291

THINK SPRING! Divide Mercantile Divide Mercantile Stop by and see what we may have for your Spring decor. New items daily. 687-6654 Located in the shopping center in Divide Hours: M-F 9-5:30 • Sat 10-5 • Sun 12-5

6th Annual Pie Palooza

by Flip Boettcher photo by Pam Moore

The 6th Annual Pie Palooza sponsored by the Guffey Community Charter School certainly lived up to all its expectations. The Grand Champion prize was awarded to the school's own middle school teacher Hillive Peterson-Hirsch with her award winning Luscious Lime pie.

There was standing room only in the school's multi-purpose room with people having to leave because they could not get in. This reporter lost count at 120 people or so. According to school Principal Pam Moore there were 59 pies entered with 15 student entries.

The Pie Palooza is composed of two parts; the contest and the auction. Pies can

be submitted for the contest, the auction or both. This year a fourth pie category, Savory, was added to the other three categories — Cream, Fruit and Other. There were four judges, one for each category — Betty Royse (lead judge), Norma Farmer, Mark "Wolf" Johnson, and Steve Taylor.

Along with the pie contest and auction, the middle school students put on a melodrama entitled "All's Fair in Love and Pie". "All's Fair in Love and Pie" is part three of a three part melodrama series written by Alexi Alfieri especially for the GCCS's Pie Palooza.

The melodrama was complete with the Pie sisters — Besta, Lotta and Ĥoney Pie; the villains — Mincemeat and Aunt May, the Pie angels - Strawberry Rhubarb, Blueberry, Cherry, and Banana; and Sheriff Roland Dough, the pie judge. The sheriff announces Honey Pie the winner with her banana cream pie and proposed to her; Honey Pie accepts.

After the melodrama, which has allowed the judge's time to sample all the pies, lead judge Royse announced the winners in each category. The Grand Champion is selected from the first place winner in each of the four categories.

The winner in the Savory category was Pam Moore with her Frito Pie Deluxe. Chris Peterson was the winner in the "Other" category with his Pear/Berry pie. Peterson-Hirsch (no relation) was number one in the Cream category with her Luscious Lime pie, and Park

in Park County

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

How is the air quality in Park County? You may have some ideas of your own, but

very little formal air quality monitoring has

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

(CUSP) and a variety of partners have been

performing extensive baseline water quality

in South Park over the last several years in

response to community concern about potential

impacts of oil and gas development in the area.

While there are no oil or gas explorations or

ty, county officials have expressed interest in

operations currently taking place in Park Coun-

complimenting water quality data with baseline

information about air quality in anticipation of

future interest in energy and mineral develop-

ment in the area. While energy companies and

organizations can operate safely and responsi-

bly, oil, gas, and other natural resource devel-

opment has the potential to generate harmful

emissions and release contaminants into the air

from increased vehicle use and other processes integral to exploration and development.

Understanding current air quality can help the

parties evaluate the effects of future operations

and other ongoing changes in Park County in a

With support from the AirWaterGas Sustain-

ability Research Network based at the Univer-

sity of Colorado Boulder, CUSP, Park County,

South Park National Heritage Area, and South

Park High School are partnering to do some

developed by the AirWaterGas research team

at CU-Boulder, will be used to collect data at

three monitoring stations in the county: one

in Jefferson near Highway 285, one in Hartsel

near Highway 24, and one at the South Park

This preliminary air quality monitoring

project is a great opportunity for students to get

involved and learn more about their local envi-

ronment. Students at South Park High School

will be participating in the monitoring as part

Starting in April, we will begin developing and

adapting curriculum with South Park teachers for

students to explore air quality and get hands-on

experience with the new air quality monitors. To

U-Pods, portable air quality monitors

community, developers, and other interested

transparent and objective way.

preliminary air quality monitoring.

High School near Highway 9.

of a class project.

been done in the county.



The Pie Palooza judges and the grand champion from left to right are Mark Johnson, Hillive Peterson-Hirsch, Betty Royse, Steve Taylor, and Norma Farmer.

County Nurse Betty McClain won in the Fruit category with her Apple Hand pies.

Peterson-Hirsch was crowned Grand Champion with the "Best in Show" chef hat and given a school Pie Palooza medal. Peterson-Hirsch was also awarded the Grand Champion traveling trophy which stays with the winner for the year. The traveling award is a golden pie pan mounted on a wooden bread board with baking utensils hanging from the bottom of it.

After the awards were given out, everyone was invited to sample any or all of the pies.

The auction then followed with local auctioneer Chris Downare. The first pie sold for \$30 and the prices went up from there with a lively auction and plenty of friendly bidding rivalries.

Rita Mick's Fillo Lasagna, the top selling pie, sold for \$300 to Laura Owens. Two pies sold for \$210 each, Moore's Frito pie and Dave Northrop's three-layer Key Lime pie. Dana Peters' pizza pie baked at 10,000 feet in a woodstove brought \$200 as did Chris Peterson's Pear/Berry Cheese cake.

The Grand Champion pie sold for \$170. Norma Farmer's Chicken Pot pie brought \$140. as did someone's blueberry pie. Derry Hirsch's Save the Sheep Shepherd pie sold for \$130. Several pies sold for \$100 and several for \$75.

All in all, the school raised about \$4300 from the auction according to Moore \$570 going to the eighth grade trip. All proceeds are to benefit the school's technology upgrades this year and the eighth grade spring trip.



and others.

Pearls of Wisdom

by Shari Billger

aint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint

Patrick (Irish: Lá Fhéile Pádraig, "the Day

of the Festival of Patrick"), is a cultural and

religious celebration occurring annually on 17

recognized patron of Ireland, St. Patrick (c. AD

385-461). In honor of Saint Patrick let's create

March on being the best we can be to ourselves

difference, changing the world one breath, one

our own luck in life by focusing each day of

When we all make positive changes col-

thought, one action at a time! It is relatively

ing to break a bundle of pencils (each of us

representing a single pencil in the bundle) in

Like a boomerang what we send out returns.

easy to break a single pencil in half. Attempt-

lectively as a whole, together we make a

March, the death date of the most commonly-

Patient

Truth & trusting

Inspiring

Drama-free \mathbf{Y}_{OU}

Top of the morning to all of you! Remember green is the color of healing.

You are invited to sample some of the above mentioned natural healing modalities by donation the second Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the United Method-

half is most difficult

Team lovingly donates their time and talent to these much needed natural methods of health and healing. All proceeds go to non-profit charities. Please contact Healing Team Lead Shari Billger, shari1551@aol.com, 719-748-

ist Church, 1101 Rampart Range Road. The

Wholistic Networkers Community Healing

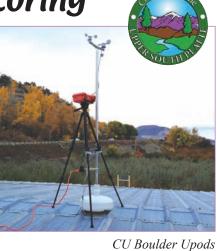
JA curriculum on work readiness

3412, for more information.

funior Achievement of Southern Colorado, Teller County, will present the Junior Achievement J curriculum on work readiness and early elementary grades social studies learning objectives, including how citizens benefit from and contribute to a community's success, to Columbine Elementary's 2nd grade school students on Friday afternoons from March 6th through April 17th. Students will learn to describe a community; identify the variety of careers people have in a community and how each job requires specific skills; and identify how business and government jobs help a community.

Junior Achievement of Southern Colorado is celebrating 60 years of serving students in 46 counties in southern Colorado, including the El Paso and Teller county areas. For more information or to volunteer contact Sherri L. Albertson at (719) 650-4089 or via email to sherri.albertson@ja.org.





jumpstart the 2015-2016 school year, researchers from AirWaterGas will come out to provide train-

ing on how to use the U-Pods. Before the students dive into monitoring, the U-Pods will be set up at the three sites in Jefferson, Hartsel, and Fairplay. Data will start being collected on a monthly basis in late spring or early summer this year. Data will be collected for nearly a year in order to capture seasonal variations and gather enough data to begin understanding the state of air quality in Park County.

As data is collected, South Park students will investigate the importance of air quality and addressing local environmental challenges while working with researchers and local experts to analyze the data.

To round out the project, the collected air quality data and a report detailing the results of a complete data analysis will be available to the public on the CUSP website (http://cusp. ws/) in 2016. Getting a snapshot of air quality in South Park over the next year will help the community determine if further or more in depth air quality monitoring is necessary, and if air pollution needs to be addressed. This baseline data can also be used to compare to any future monitoring results to understand changes in air quality over time.

To access CUSP's previous reports, including those about water quality in South Park, visit http://cusp.ws/reports/

To access curriculum and activities developed by CUSP, including the upcoming air quality curriculum, visit http://learn.uppersouthplatte.org

For more information about AirWaterGas, visit http://airwatergas.org/



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COUPON

COUPON

Lissa Hanner rocks

14 Bronco Billy's in Cripple Creek presents

about the range of resources avail-

able from the SBA and the Office

by March 11 to Dr. Alison K.

of the National Ombudsman. RSVF

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. Open

to all persons with diabetes and their

family members. Call 719-686-5802

DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER

Free scout day from 10 a.m. to 6

p.m. All scouts and their leaders IN UNIFORM admitted FREE!

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dinosaur

Ridge will be here with an activity

table, Flash and Thelma Memorial

with their Hedgehogs. The Space

Foundation will present an infrared

Space Foundation infrared camera.

Inspector Magic (Mark Weidhass)

Hedgehog Rescue will be here

demonstration using the new

will be here with two interac-

tive presentations with a science

theme at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. He

will also be available with hands

on magic lessons with a science

twist in between shows. Dinosau

Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview

for more information

MTCC goes to capital by Deborah Maresca

Diabetes Support Group Third Monday of Every Month 10-11 am

Lower Level Conference Room Pikes Peak Regional Hospital

A program on a diabetes topic will be presented each month by a healthcare professional. Open to all persons with diabetes and their family members.

To register or for more information, call 719-686-5802.



 $F^{\text{ebruary 9th and 10th}}_{\text{Mountain Top Cy-}}$ cling Club Events Director. Deborah Maresca attended the 2015 Bicycle Colorado Bike Summit in Denver, riding B-bikes to the state capital to meet with house and senate representative about supporting HB 1003: Safe Routes to School Program Funding.

What is Safe Routes to School? Forty years ago, about 50 percent of all kids walked or biked to school, now only 15 percent bike and walk. Safe routes to School

programs get more children K-8 to walk and bike to school safely

For the past nine years, students around the state have benefited from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program administered by CDOT. Over \$14 million has been distributed through a competitive grant program to local



Deborah Maresca pictured with Dan Grunig Executive Director of Bicycle Colorado at the Colorado State Capitol.

Director of the Cripple Creek
District Museum (CCDM)

communities for projects that improve infrastructure around schools and teach children bicycle and pedestrian safety skills. HB 1003 will continue funding for Safe Routes projects in Colorado. Without legislative action CDOT will award the last Safe Routes grants to schools and local governments in 2015.

Why is Safe Routes to School Program Important? It increases safely for children and supports an active lifestyle. SRTS is the primary CDOT program focused on children's safety while they are biking or walking. 2012 saw a six-year high for pedestrian fatalities in Colorado. This safety program is needed to help reverse that trend. Getting daily exercise, like walking to school, helps prevent childhood obesity and reduce health costs. It also reduces Congestion; CDOT reports that around 25 percent of all traffic congestion in the morning is due to driving students to school, contributing to poor air quality around schools and increased rates of childhood obesity. Helping students to regularly walk and bike to school helps unclog roads for business trips and helps reduce the risk of obesity-related diseases. SRTS drives student academic outcomes. Studies indicate that students with higher levels of physical activity may have higher levels of academic performance (Turdeau, et al., 2008). Data also suggests that heavier children have greater risk for school absenteeism that their normal-weight peers (Geier, et al. 2007). Safe routes to school help get daily activity into

"Living a Mining Heritage"

www.ccvgoldmining.com

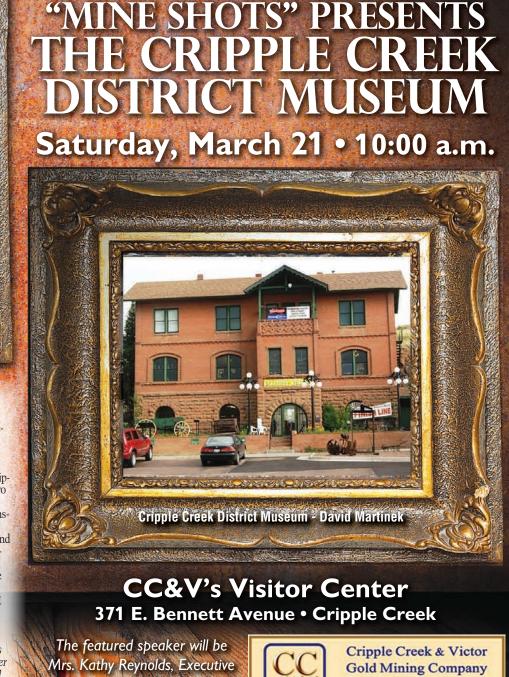
Historic photo - Denver Public Library By Dave Martinek displays and archives.

he Cripple Creek District Museum was founded in 1953 by Richard W. Johnson and Blevins Davis. Seeing a need for a oundation to preserve the history of the gold district, Mr. Davis purchased the Midland Terminal Railroad Depot that had been in use from 1895 to 1949. The historic, three-story building with its original interior and expansive grounds made for a wonderful institution Mr. Johnson solicited funding and artifacts from such prominent figures as Julie Penrose. Ethel Carlton and others whose families made their fortunes during the district s boom days. Within a few short months, in June 1953, the museum was opened and attended by several prominent people from around the state, including Governor Dan Thornton. Within five years, the museum Board of Directors was able to purchase A. E. Carlton's former Colorado Trading & Transfer Company building, the only commercial building to survive the fires of April 1896 that destroyed much of Cripple Creek. Today, the museum complex is a cam-

pus of five historical buildings and numerous

Reynolds presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the history of the CCDM, including historical photos and some brief comments from members of two of Cripple Creek s pioneer families. This will be followed by descriptions of what to see on the CCDM campus - two historic cabins, the Gold Sovereign head frame, the assay office of the Colorado Trading & Transfer Company and the Midland Terminal depot. Inside the museum are geologic displays, Midland Terminal Railroad artifacts, an extensive manuscript and photographic archive, as well as a gift shop and book store. Reynolds will also provide an overview of future plans for the museum. After the presentation, join us for a FREE tour of the museum and its treasures.

The Mine Shots presentation is free to the public, but seating is limited. Interested persons wishing to attend the presentation should register with CC+V in advance by calling 719-689-2341 or 689-4052, or by calling the Cripple Creek District Museum at 719-689-9540 or 689-2634.



~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.

BUENA VISTA

10 Buena Vista Old Tyme & Celtic

13 Buena Vista Community Dance 15 Monthly Wine Tasting 16 & 17 What would you want for a

Recreation Event Center in Buena Vista? Share your ideas on the 16th at 5:30 p.m. and at noon on the 17th. Complimentary pizza and soda served. Call 719-395-8643 X18 for more information

2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 CC&V Visitor's Center Coffee Club each Monday

DIVIDE

9 & 23 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry Distribution

Save the dates: Geology of Teller for the 5th "Geology of Teller County" course. Classes meet on 5 Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, April 11 to May 9, plus a field trip on May 16. Cost: \$80

FAIRPLAY

4 Share your opinions and voice your concerns regarding services for Bogue Street. Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging wants to hear of older adults in Park County as they create a strategic plan.

FLORENCE

7 Movie: Boxtrolls at 3 p.m.

to 11 a.m.

CANON CITY

Fremont County Commodity Sup-plemental Food Program distribu on, 3rd Fridays each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Loaves & Fishes. 241 Justice Center Rd. Call Traci Nelson for more information 719-275-0593.

11 Fremont County The Emergency Food Assistance Program distribu-tion. First United Methodist Church, 801 Main Street, 1:30 p.m. until gone. Call Erlin Trikell 719-275-4191 X111 for more

CRIPPLE CREEK

at 10 a.m. 21"Mine Shots" Presents the Cripple Creek District Museum at 10 a.m. Mrs. Kathy Reynolds, will provide an overview of the history of the CCDM, followed by descriptions of what to see on the CCDM historic site, and an overview of future plans, followed by a free visit to the Museum. Seating is limited, please R.S.V.P. to 719-689-2341. Contact the CC&V Visitor Center at 371 E. Bennett Avenue or 719-689-2341.

27 Aspen Mine Center's Teller County Food Distribution from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please bring photo ID and Call 719-689-3584 for more

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechapel

County. Join instructor Paul Combs covers course fees and park admission. Registration required. Call 719-686-0488.

seniors in Park County, now and into the future. Community forum is from 1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., at from you about meeting the needs Need transportation? Contact Park County Senior Coalition 719-836-

JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY located at 130 Church Ave., Phone 719-784-4649.

3 Storytime Dr. Seuss 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. 4 Dr. Seuss's Birthday from 4 p.m to

10 Storytime Solar System10 a.m. to 12 Watercolor Painting Class Part 1

14 March's celebrated artists: Florence artist Tina Knapp displays her acrylic and oil paintings of landscapes and animals. Join Tina for her Art Reception at 2 p.m. 17 Storytime St. Patrick's Day 10 a.m.

18 Who's Sorry Now? Board Game Day 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

19 "Old McFremont Had a Farm" at 6 p.m. Sue Cochran, assistant archivist at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and Historical Center, will present on the history of the dairy and poultry operations in Fremont County. Sue will bring in a variety of "what-cha-ma-call-its," or farm instruments, and explain their uses. 20 Movie: If I stay at 5 p.m.

24 Tuesday night at the movies fea-tures "Blue Jasmin" at 6 p.m. Rated PG-13. FREE Popcorn! Bring your own drink.

26 Watercolor Painting Class Part 2 at

3:30 p.m. **26** "Gluten Free Meal Planning" at 5 p.m. Join Lexie Justice, the chef and owner of Cheatin' Wheat in Denver, as she discusses how you can plan gluten free meals. 31 Storytime Spring10 a.m. to 11 a.m

FLORISSANT

14 Calling all Sisters to the Red Tent from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at The Sacred Earth Sanctuary, 633 Valley Rd. Have you always wished for a new form of connection to other women, Mother Earth and the Creator? We bring to you this ancient tradition of gathering women of all ages, races and hearts to share wisdom, ceremony and bubbling joy. Please RSVP pati@ sacredearthfound.org. Donations are greatly appreciated. Suggested is \$25 but all are welcome. http://

FLORISSANT GRANGE

719-629-8055

7 High Altitude Gardening Class from noon to 3 p.m. This class is by donation (suggested \$7). Everyone is welcome. See you there. For more information call 748-5004.

www.sacredearthfound.org. phone

14 & 15 "The Secret of the Spoon". Tickets \$12.50 a piece. See page 2 Save the date: Ticket sales begin in March for May 29th the Chuck Pyle Dinner Concert at the Florissant Grange. This will be an available. One show only with dinner for only \$25.00 a ticket. Call 748-5004 to reserve your seat and

purchase a ticket. Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the Jammers

Music and Pot Luck. Yoga Classes: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for all ages and 10:30 a.m. Yoga for Seniors. Thursdays Yoga for all ages at 9 a.m. Donations accepted. everyone welcome. Call Debbie for more info: 719-748-3678. For more information call the Grange at 719-748-5004.

FLORISSANT PUBLIC LIBRARY 5 Children's StoryTime at 10:30 a.m.

will celebrate Dr. Suess's birthday 6 Legal self-help Clinic (via computer link, 20 minute sessions) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Reservation/appoi ment is required. Please call the

Library at 719-748-3939. 9 Friends of the Florissant Library will meet at 1:30 pm to discuss upcoming events. Everyone is welcome. Computer class: Word I. Please call the library at 719-748-3939 to

12 Children's StoryTime at 10:30 a.m.

Theme is "squirt".

14 Celebrate St. Patrick's Day: The Mountain Eire Irish Dance School

will perform traditional Irish dance

at 11 am. 18 Bookworms Book Club meets every third Wednesday of the month, at 10:30 a.m. The book for March is "The Circle" by Dave

Eggers. Everyone is welcome. 19 Children's StoryTime at 10:30 a.m. Theme is "sharks"

23 Salute to Veteran's week. See page 21 for more info. 25 Computer class: Powerpoint Please call the Library at 719-748-

3939 to sign-up. 26 Children's StoryTime at 10:30 a.m. will feature local patriotic entertainer, Keith McKim, with a "Stars and Stripes" theme.

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday

and Sunday, and is located in Florissant at 18033 Teller County Road #1, across from the Florissant Post Office. For more information, call 748-8259.

21 Teller County Shooting Society Annual Meeting and elections at 10 a.m. For additional information contact Larry Marty, Vice President TCSS 719-687-6198

GUFFEY

Save the date: 9Health Fair in Guffey is Saturday, April 11th. To preregister go to 9HealthFair.org or call 800-332-3078. See page 22.

HARTSEL

Basin. Please call Park county Senior Coalition at 719-836-4295 to reserve

4 Community Forum 12 Cottonwood Hot Springs. Cost \$15

+ lunch, Bus will leave at 10 a.m. 19 Cripple Creek with Bronco Billy's \$.49 cent breakfast. Bus will leave at 8:30 a.m.

14 The Hartsel Community Center is once again hosting a St. Patty's dinner to be served at 6 p.m. Side dishes and/or desserts are always welcome. Come one come all and be sure to be wearing the Green! Come meet your neighbors and brag about your

LAKE GEORGE PARK COUNTY SENIOR

COALITION POTLUCK We meet the 3rd Wed at noor - Park County Senior Coalition potluck at the Lake George Senior Center (yellow metal ouilding by maintenance shop on north side of Hwy 24). Bingo will follow the potluck this month, so please bring a wrapped "white elephant" prize and your dish. Table service and coffee/tea furnished. Call Carol for more information at 719-689-5950

Soup'er Art and Writing Show at Lake George Charter School. See

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY 14 Science Fun Day at 1 p.m. Learn about 'Vortex Action" Call 748-

3812 for reservations. Adult Writers Group meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the LG Library from 10 a.m.to noon Contact Sandie Sumner fo

details 719-748-8012

OLD COLORADO CITY

14 "Tunnels under Our Feet"11 a.m. Speaker-Tracy Beach. Have you ever seen a manhole cover with li tle glass circles in it and wondered why it was different from the others? Did you know that there were actually tunnels under the sidewalks and those manhole cov-ers imbedded with glass circles allowed light into the tunnels below Underground hollow sidewalks and vaults had many uses when they were first installed in the late 1800s. Vaults allowed businesses to expand and utilize the unused spaces beneath sidewalks and alleys for storage and coal delivery Hollow sidewalks allowed for delivery of merchandise, to allow people to travel from one place to another without being seen (think prostitutes and speakeasy's during Prohibition), and to allow construction of below ground shops Hollow sidewalks were shared by all the buildings on a block. The author spent five years researching these tunnels and she covers 14 cities in Colorado that has them The book includes a listing of tours of the historic underground across the U.S. Light refreshments will be served with coffee.

Lissa Hanner from 7 p.m to 10 p.m. Save the date: PIKES PEAK REGION RESULTS GROUP 17 Thunderbird Inn in Florissant hosts Lissa START. A RESULTS chapter is Hanner, Stompin' George, & Super Chuck at starting in Colorado Springs, to stand up for those who are strug gling to meet basic needs like food and shelter, access to healthcare and education, opportunity for all chance to voice concerns about unand to combat the growing inequ fair regulatory enforcement, excesity in our nation.FMI: or to R.S.V.P. sive fines, retaliation, burdensome contact Kristy Martino: kmartino@ regulations and other regulatory results.org or go to www.results. sues involving federal agencies org. Thursday, April 9, from 6 In addition, small businesses will p.m. to 8 p.m. Old Colorado City have an opportunity to learn more

SALIDA

Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Library, 2418 West Pikes Peak Ave.

28 4th Annual Consignment Tack Sale Brown, NAVSYS Corporation, at at Chaffee County Fairgrounds. (719) 481-4877, x124, or by email Are you a "Tackaholic"? If you at Abrown@navsvs.com. can't open your tack room doo SYMPHONIC SALIDA because of the saddles stacked 19 Brass Ensemble. Show begins at 7:30 behind it, or; if you have 45 halter p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Arrive and only 2 horses, you might be a Tackaholic!! Don't worry....here is early for assured seating. Advanced tickets are \$18, door price \$20, stuthe cure! Equine tack of all kinds. dents \$10. Tickets can be purchased Western and English apparel, barn stall and arena items, trailers, and at www.SymphonicSalida.com. Steamplant, Salida Chamber. fencing. Refreshments available. Proceeds benefit the Chaffee County 4H Horse Program and **WOODLAND PARK** the Chaffee County Fair Rodeo DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP Royalty Program. To consign tack Meets the third Monday of every and equipment, contact Barbara at: 719-221-1684, 15 percent Consignmonth from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at

Chaffee County The Emergency Food Assistance Program & Commodity Supplemental Food **Program** distributions the first Thursday of each month at Salida Community Center, 305 F Street, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Call Elaine

mang for more information

ment Fee. Consignment forms at:

www.chaffeeco4Hhorse.com

10 Community Blood Drive 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge 140 W. Third St. To schedule an nent, contact Bonfils a 800-365-0006. Ext. 2, or sign up online at www.bonfils.org. Enter site code No. 0328.

719-539-3351.

18 Regulatory Fairness hearing for small businesses. Registration be gins at 2 p.m. This event will give

St., Visit www.rmdrc.com or call

ELEVATION NETWORKING 16 Next meeting is Monday March 16 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Kenpo Karate in Gold Hill South. All vendors welcome. The theme is St. Paddy's Day so bring some green with your table display if you can. Call Thom 719-930-6365 for

FARMER'S MARKET

ond Sat of each month inside Ute Pass Cultural Center from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. SNAP welcomed. For more information call (719) 689-3133 or 648-7286 or email: info@

FREE LEGAL CLINIC

6 at Woodland Park library from 2 p.m to 5 p.m. By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues, and civil protection orders. Please pre-register by calling (719) 687 9281 ext.103 for Woodland Park

HOLISTIC HEALING DAY 10 Practitioners from the Wholistic

Networking Community invite you to experience the benefits of holistic services on a first come first served donation basis from 10 a.m. to noon. Practitioner informa tion can be found at Facebook page WNC - Wholistic Networking Community. Seeds Cafe, a non profit dedicated to impacting and solving hunger, insecurity transforming lives, building and celebrating community, will be the beneficiary of your donations Venue: Mountain View United Methodist Church, 1101 Rampart

continued on page 28

Mueller State Park offers March Programs

by Linda Groat

Want some fresh air and sunshine? Come on up to Mueller State Park and join in fun winter activities! Hiking, snowshoeing, geology and wildlife are topics for programs this March.

March 7th

Preacher's Hollow Hike at 9:15 a.m. Meet at the Preacher's Hollow Trailhead. Join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Remmler on this 2 mile hike through forest, meadows. Bring your snowshoes if there's enough snow!

Elk Meadow Hike at 11 a.m. Meet at the Elk Meadow Trailhead. Join Volunteer Naturalist Carole Larkey on this 2+ mile hike through forest, meadows. Watch for signs of elk and other animals in the winter landscape.

March 8th

What Lives In Trees? Children's Program at 11 a.m. Meet in Visitor Center Auditorium. Join Volunteer Naturalist Rose Banzhaf to discover what lives in trees! Children's program to learn about animals that make their homes in trees. Hands-on, crafts and fun!

Outlook Ridge Trail Hike at 1 p.m. Meet at the Outlook Ridge Trailhead. Join Volunteer Naturalist Rose Banzhaf on this 2+ mile hike on the Outlook Ridge Trail. Hike through forests and out to overlooks to view the mountain ranges to the west! Bring your snowshoes if there's enough snow!

March 14th

Volcanic Rocks Geology Program at 10 a.m. In the Visitor Center Auditorium Discover the rocks under our feet! Bob Hickey, Geologist and Volunteer Naturalist, will help you to learn all about Volcanic Rocks in this region. Bob makes the complex science of geology understandable!

Animals in Winter Hike at 11 a.m. Meet at Preacher's Hollow Trailhead. Join Volunteer Naturalist Carole Larkey for a hike through the forest to look for signs of animals and learn how they survive outside during the winter.

Touch Table: Volcanic Rock from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Visitor Center. Learn about

the geology of the Pikes Peak area with Volunteer Naturalist Bob. See and touch volcanic rocks and learn to identify them. Come any time to check out this hands-on opportunity

March 15th Moderate Hike/Snowshoe at 9:15 a.m.

Join Volunteer Naturalists Joe and Felicia Mendygral on a 3 mile (1.5 to 2 hours) hike/snowshoe starting at the Homestead trailhead at 9:15 a.m. We will hike to Lost Pond to Geer Pond to Black Bear and then back to the trailhead. Be sure to pack layers, plenty of water and protein snacks. Conditions will determine whether we hike or snowshoe so bring all

appropriate gear.

Stoner Mill/School Pond Hike at 9:15 a.m. Meet at Preacher's Hollow Trailhead. Explore the rolling meadows and forests with Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Remmler. Look for signs of wildlife on this moderate 3.5-mile trail.

Center. Join Volunteer Naturalist Carole Larkey on this 1 mile hike on the Wapiti Nature Trail. Learn about the plants and animals that call Mueller their home. Good trail for all ages.

Wapiti Trail Hike at 11 a.m. Meet at the Visitor

March 29th

Moderate/Difficult Hike/Snowshoe at 9:15 a.m. Join Volunteer Naturalists Joe and Felicia Mendygral on a 3.5 mile (2 to 3 hours) hike/snowshoe starting at the Visitor Center/ Rock Pond trailhead at 9:15 a.m. We will be hiking Ranger Ridge to Stoner Mill and then back to the VC. Be sure to pack layers. plenty of water and protein snacks. Conditions will determine whether we hike or snowshoe so bring all appropriate gear.

The events are free; however, a seven dollar daily pass or \$70 annual park pass is required

utes from Colorado Springs on the west side of Pike Peak.

to enter the park. For more information, call the park at 719-687-2366. Mueller State Park is located just 45 min-

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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. continued from page 27

Range Rd. FMI: Shari Billger -719-748-3412, shari1551@aol.com

MOUNTAIN TOP CYCLING CLUB The MTCC will hold its April meeting in two parts on the 7th. We will start downstairs at the Woodland Park Library at 6 p.m. with yoga instruction for cyclists. Bring your mat, but if you don't have one, we'll have extras. Then we will head to Ute Pass Brewing Company for dinner and our regular club meeting. For more information on this meeting or the club in general, please contact Denise Symes at

MULE DEER FOUNDATION

14 Inaugural fund-raising banquet Larry Long 719-351-0994 or email

RELAY FOR LIFE UP UTE PASS Monthly meetings are held at Peoples Bank on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more org or go to our website: www. relayforlife.org/utepass

TEEN CENTER We invite you to come to the Teen Center; a fun, safe place for kids!

2 TAB: Make a donation box for Food

Drive during the month of March 4, 11, 18 & 25 Slice of Pizza special \$.75 for a slice of pizza or \$1 for a slice and a soda.

13 Improv Comedy Workshop. Learn how to make quirky characters and comical stories. No experience **16** Video Gamerz Trailer will be

parked in front of the Teen Center. Come play for FREE! 17 Appreciation Dinner for First Responders 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. RSVP

by 3/13/15. 19 Friends Matter -- positively fun! 4 p.m. 24 Redbox Movie Day w/Free pop-

corn and soda at 3:30 p.m. 26 Pool Tournament. Test your game against other opponents!

27 TAB Meeting. If you're on the Board, please plan on attending

this meeting 30 Recycling & Memorial Park Cleanup -- Service Learning Program After school hours: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Teen Center is located at 220 W. South Ave. Call 719-687-3291 for

the 2015 Marigreen Pines Tours are July 11 and 12, 2015. Tickets

17 The Wholistic Networking Community invites you to meet area practitioners and learn about Library, 218 E. Midland Ave.. Woodland Park, CO 80863. Our speaker for March 17 is David For more information about the

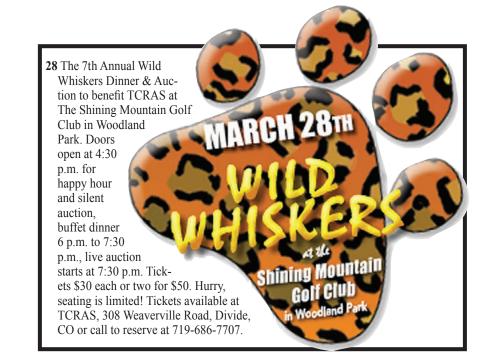
Ute Trail Muzzle Loaders: shoot and meetings the last Saturday of each month at Victor. For information

Youth in Grades 6-12 are welcome!

UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY Save the dates: The official dates for

wholistic wellness from 11 a m to 12:30 p.m. at the Rampart Public Polley, a very popular Dowser-Healer on our WNC healing team Wholistic Networking Community or to RSVP, telephone 719-963-

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13th Annual Teller County Cares Awards

by Kathy Hansen

The morning of February 10, 2015 was one I of celebration for volunteers during the 13th Annual Teller County Cares Awards held at the Cripple Creek Heritage Center.

Wikipedia's definition is, "Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served." There is no doubt the award winners this year have raised the bar, and inspired all of us to be better people.

In order to be considered for the award, the volunteer service activities must have been performed in Colorado for the benefit of Teller County, Colorado residents. The 11 awards and their recipients are as follows:

- Civic/Service Organizations Ute Pass-Woodland Park Kiwanis Club
- Business The Lock Shop, Wayne Stewart Children/Youth — Woodland Park Hockey Association
- · Seniors Geri Holman
- Health Bill LaReau
- Community Pride Taylor and Carol Noble • Good Samaritan — William "Bill" Jackson
- Rising Star Angelica Atkins Special Service — Rose Murphy
- Les Mellott, Jr. Jim Ignatius (award accepted by Sam Stephenson, son-in-law)

• Centennial Award — Stanly "Gus" Conley, Sr. The Teller County Cares Committee is com-

prised of leaders of the community in their own right, Karen Casey-Svetich, Marc Dettenrieder, Suzanne Leclercq, Veldean Petri, and Lisa Noble What can you do today to make the world a better place?



Angelica Atkins (left) recipient of the Rising Star award

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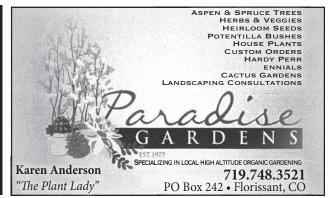
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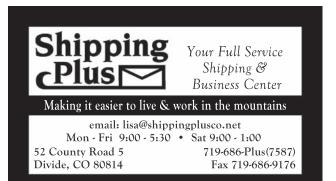


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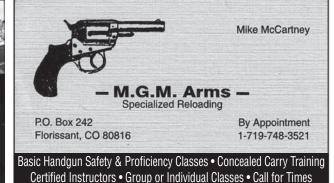
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