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his month's cover is of a pair of fawns ■ enjoying their first winter. They have gone through many changes already this year and snow is a new experience for them. As they go into 2017, they will build on lessons they've learned last year, just as we do. There is much more in store for this pair in the coming year.

We say good-bye to 2016 as we transition into 2017. We appreciate the good 2016 brought us, for example Olga Daich who teaches us a variety of applications for Reiki, and Day Trippin' with Karen Earley as she shares her adventures of traveling the Arkansas Valley.

We bid farewell to those that have left us in 2016. On a very personal note, we grieve the loss of our Frosty as we gently absorb the many lessons Frosty taught us: Everyone is truly special in their own way. Perhaps there is a gift in recognizing the part that makes someone unique instead of focusing on the intended form. To really understand something you sometimes have to turn your head in uncomfortable positions to see each perspective, but boy, is it worth it to get a new view! There indeed might be something chasing you; but maybe there is no need to fear because that tail is just trying to catch up to move along with you, so take a moment to re-examine the situation. Finally, be sure to get enough sleep because a truly restful sleep is beautiful!

Open the pages before you to get a good start on 2017. There are words of wisdom, helpful hints, and lots to learn about our state of Colorado. We launch Teacher Feature in 2017 because we believe in the importance of education, and that starts with quality teachers. See how you can support a Teacher Featured this year.

We love to look at photos of your indoor and outdoor animal friends. We're happy to print them, just email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or snail mail to POB 753, Divide, CO 80814.

We love to hear from you. Do you have comments, questions, or an article for consideration? Please send to us via email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or snail mail to POB 753, Divide, CO 80814. Happy New Year!

— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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The Thymekeeper Home dental health by Mari Marques Worden

eing an herbalist, I have to say one Bositive aspect of learning about herbs is that you never reach a point where you can say you know everything. Only a fool believes they know all. It is a never ending learning experience and sometimes I say I wish I would have known that before now. One of those things was learning how to take care of most of my dental needs at home. Inexpensively. I've spent thousands of dollars at the dentist's office only to return to the next scheduled appointment with no improvement.

I find it interesting that my dentist either never knew of these natural methods or for whatever reason didn't share. I can tell you this, the two appointments he expressed how pleased he was with my progress had nothing to do with regular dental cleanings. It had everything to do with my discovery of baking soda/sea salt tooth powder and an herb called spilanthes, AKA buzz balls AKA toothache plant. Who doesn't love an herb that can relieve a toothache?

Spilanthes, a Native American herb, is used to keep gums in optimal condition among other things. The yellow and red flowers of the plant are small, round to cone shaped, and they really pack a punch. To experience the spilanthes flower for the first time is intense. Your lips start to buzz, the mouth becomes numb, salivation occurs to the point of drooling and talking will be somewhat difficult if you stay with it to the end. Some people become alarmed at the intensity and spit it out right away! This is why I call spilanthes Nature's Novocain.

The properties of spilanthes are antiseptic, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and vulnerary, meaning skin healing for canker sores or other wounds. The flowers and leaves can be chewed or made into a tea. I have used the leaves in a tea blend as a mouthwash but my personal preference is to use the plant in the form of an alcohol based tincture. Hands down one of the best remedies for gum infection I've ever used is to place a small amount of usnea plant in a piece of cloth small enough to comfortably fit in between the cheek and gum. Put a drop of myrrh essential oil (if available, myrrh is optional) on the cloth pouch along with a few drops of the spilanthes tincture and hold that on the affected area replacing the packet as needed. Most people know that a toothache will usually wait for the weekend or a holiday to suddenly flare up when the dentist is not readily available. I've used this method with a great deal of success if I get to the person at the onset. I've also used spilanthes tincture on animals by adding it to their water or applying with a q-tip. Cats are

a little trickier than dogs in this case. If infection has traveled, as infection always does, we use an external onion poultice as a drawing technique. Typically if the infection is on the top you will start to feel pain moving up into the head or sinuses. If it's on the bottom it will start to cause pain in the throat, and if left unattended in either case can result in serious health issues

Onion also has antibacterial properties. Simply slice a piece of onion, cut hatch marks in it and boil it for approximately 10 minutes. Once cooled enough to apply to the skin, wrap in a cloth and hold on the affected area. We are never without onions in this household and the onion poultice is one reason why. If infection persists it is advisable to contact your dentist.

Prevention

Now let's talk about how you can avoid getting into this unfortunate and painful predicament in the first place. Tooth powder has been around long before the popular brands of toothpaste available on the grocery store shelf. Most toothpastes contain questionable ingredients and the beauty of making your own is that you can choose which ingredients and flavor you want to include. The downside of tooth powder is that it's somewhat messy until you've figured out your technique for getting the powder onto the brush. I discourage people from dipping their wet brush into the jar only to contaminate the mixture. Your toothbrush is probably one of the germiest items in your house. I simply put a small amount in the palm of my hand, wet the toothbrush shaking off the excess moisture (you don't want to dissolve the powder before you get it on the brush).



Spilanthes flowers

Pat and scoop until you get the majority of it and brush as usual

This is the recipe I use to make a simple • ½ cup (fine or table grind) sea salt

- 1/4 baking soda (Bob's Red Mill is alu-
- 1/4 cup kaolin white clay • 10 drops of essential oil of your choice. Peppermint, spearmint or anise are

terial properties of their own. Mix the dry ingredients, add the drops of essential oil intermittently into the mixture and mix with a fork. Getting the essential oil distributed evenly is probably never going to happen but don't sweat it. You'll still get the

quite pleasant tasting and have antibac-

Sea Salt is an astringent that helps tighten the gums. Most people with loose gums suffer from an underlying mineral deficiency with vitamin C being a major player. Sea salt is also full of minerals to help prevent cavities or breakdown of the bone. Vitamin C can be obtained from rosehip or pine needle tea. Adding trace minerals to your water in addition can help improve this problem.

Baking soda and sea salt also help remove stubborn plaque. So far I've not had issues with it harming enamel in any way. Baking soda helps to balance the PH of the mouth. It also neutralizes odor.

There are plenty of natural tooth powders available online for people that have no desire to make their own and I find them far superior to anything you can get in the grocery store. Dr. Christopher's Tooth Powder is the one I prefer and I'll frequently alternate between the baking soda/sea salt and Dr. Christopher's.

Take heart you die-hard toothpaste fans! You can make a DIY toothpaste from home without all the questionable ingredients found in conventional pastes.

Natural Toothpaste Ingredients

- About 1/2 cup coconut oil 2-3 Tablespoons of baking soda
- 2 small pinches of stevia powder 15-20 drops of peppermint, cinnamon or spearmint essential oil
- 10 drops myrrh tincture (optional)

Natural Toothpaste Instructions

- 1. Melt or slightly soften coconut oil.
- 2. Mix in other ingredients and stir well. If using semi-hard coconut oil, use a fork, if not, use a spoon. If you are using completely melted coconut oil, you will need to stir several times while the mixture cools to keep the baking soda incorporated.
- 3. Put mixture into small glass jar Let cool completely.
- 5. Apply with a small spoon to put on toothbrush.

Speaking of coconut oil, an age old practice people have used is the coconut oil pulling technique. For this I use about a teaspoon of coconut oil (this will vary depending on the size of mouths you are dealing with) let the oil melt in your mouth and swish or pull the oil through your teeth. It is recommended to do this for 20 minutes at a time but I don't always adhere to that and still feel I am getting the benefits. Benefits include, cleansing, whitening and detoxifying for the teeth and gums. Some people prefer this method over flossing. I've heard of people dislodging such things as a popcorn hull that took up residence for an unsure amount of time that flossing didn't get. Be sure to get organic food grade coconut oil if possible. Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park is a pretty reliable source.

If mouthwash is a part of your routine, we've got that covered as well. To make an herbal mouthwash, simply make an herbal tea, strain and rinse. This will last around three days maximum on the shelf. I don't put mine in the refrigerator as that would only discourage me from using it. Yarrow, cinquefoil and sage are just three of the herbs I've used to make mouthwash to help tighten the gums, disinfect and neutralize odors. These herbs are inexpensive and if your mouthwash goes bad you can use it to water your plants adding nutrients to the soil. With a little experience you'll get to the point where you'll know just how much to make.

Keep them pearly white!

Now for the bonus round, kaolin white clay is that expensive stuff your dentist uses to whiten your teeth. In my world that same clay can be found at Starwestbotanicals.com for approximately \$10 per pound. Another teeth whitener that won't cost you a fortune is activated charcoal, yes that stuff that's black as coal and gets all over everything. Activated charcoal is an amazing teeth whitener for which you will need to have a separate toothbrush. It stains everything it comes into contact with, except for teeth. After brushing with it your teeth will sparkle and feel smooth. The other benefits of brushing with it are that it cleanses the mouth of harmful bacteria. It's a great detoxifier.

Sage leaf, strawberry leaf and strawberries themselves are teeth whitening. You can simply rub the leaves and berries on your teeth or make a strawberry paste by mashing them up and applying them in that form.

A word of caution

Many people over the years have used clove oil for pain relief and as an antiseptic. It does numb the gum but to apply clove oil directly without diluting it down can be harsh. I never recommend using it directly, especially on a teething baby. It can be diluted with olive oil and still be effective without harming the gum tissue.

As an herbalist I would never tell you not to go to the dentist, however where I live people tend to avoid it at all costs. For those people I hope this article helps to alleviate or eliminate some of the common issues regarding dental health.

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. Mari is available for private consultation or private

Lawsuit forces seasonal road closures in Pike-San Isabel

while the plan is

2015 settlement

to consult with

Colorado Parks &

Wildlife to discuss

Some roads have

"There are no

funds available to

said. Instead, he

will read the signs

and comply." His

hope is that forest

"a violation notice

can be issued for

failure to abide by

the special order.'

months in jail.

Effects on

wildlife

article.

The November

by Laura Van Dusen, South Park Ranger District

Afederal lawsuit, filed in January 2011 and settled in November 2015, has forced changes in road use in each of six ranger districts of Pueblo-based Pike-San Isabel national forests. Over 500 road miles are now or will be seasonally closed in the first months of the year; 33 percent, or about 165 miles, are in the Fairplay-based South Park Ranger District.

What it means to forest visitors is that, beginning in January in Park County, and December in neighboring counties, popular routes that traverse big game winter range will be closed for up to five and a half months each year.

A small portion of the 500 road miles will be permanently closed because the areas are considered semi-primitive, non-motorized, recreation areas; or the roads are in an area where endangered species live; or they are social, unauthorized, non-system roads created by forest visitors.

Suit

The suit stems from allegations, brought on by plaintiffs — The Wilderness Society, Ouiet Use Coalition, Wildearth Guardians, Rocky Mountain Wild, and Great Old Broads for Wilderness — that the Pike-San Isabel was not following NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) regarding allowing public comments before additional roads were added to the MVUM (Motor Vehicle Use Map), said Josh Voorhis, district ranger in South Park Ranger District.

Per www.epa.gov, NEPA "requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions" and "to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation," including publishing the document for public review and accepting public comments. The plaintiffs allege that the Pike-San Isabel did neither before new roads were added to MVUMs of each district.

This year, and for the next five years, the routes listed at the end of this article will be closed in the winter months while the plan is formulated.

It was also alleged that the established 1984 Forest Plan has not been followed. "The Plan allocates land to different management prescriptions," said Voorhis, "for back country roads, wilderness and timber," to name a few. It also allocates certain areas as "important, critical wildlife habitat."

A major part of the settlement, and the part that affects the visiting public the most, is formulation of a travel management plan to determine if and when motorized traffic will be allowed through big game winter range habitat. This year, and for the next five years, the routes listed at the end of this

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South Park Ranger District closure. Similar signage to identify restricted roads has been placed throughout the Pike and San Isabel national forests to protect winter wildlife habitat. (Photo courtesy of Brad Carter/South Park Ranger District)

Two groups that support off-highway vehicle use on forest roads, Trails Preservation Alliance and Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition, wrote a letter to PSI Forest Supervisor Erin Connelly in September 2016, saying in part, "The premise that 'large animals, especially deer and elk, are sensitive to traffic and activity along roads is not supported by published scientific research." (Their full letter is found online at http://www.coloradotpa.org/wp-content/ uploads/2016/09/20160907-PikeSanIsabelTM.pdf)

USFS Wildlife Biologist Kristen Meyer disagrees. She cited extensive research showing that deer and elk are especially sensitive to vehicular traffic intrusions during mating and birthing seasons, which encompasses the closure months. The Bureau of Land Management, Colorado office, posts on its website that winter is the most stressful time of year for wildlife. Food sources are limited, yet the animals need extra nourishment because of the cold. Their instinctual behavior to run from loud noises and from people consumes needed calories.

Road Closures

In Park County, roads in the Morrisonbased South Platte district, including FSRs 126, 809, 810 and their spurs near the top of Kenosha Pass, and FSRs 101 and 105 in the Slaughterhouse Gulch area, will be

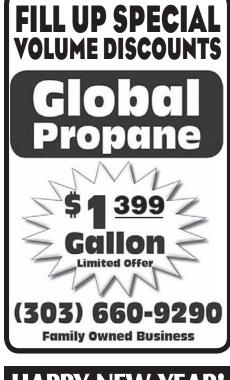
In South Park, seasonal closures on the west side of the district include roads northeast of Jefferson Lake Recreation Area near the Kenosha Pass summit, which are closed Jan. 15-May 15. Closed Jan. 1-June 15, are Beaver Creek, Crooked Creek, all forest roads and trails in the Horseshoe/Fourmile area including Breakneck and Browns passes, and all forest roads east of Buffalo Peaks Wilderness.

On the east side, FSRs 140, 844 and 845 southeast of Jefferson close Jan. 1-June 15, as do FSRs 204 and 212 near Spruce Grove campground and FSRs 142 (and spurs) and 143 north of Tarryall Reservoir. FSR 237 in the Packer Gulch area closes March 1-June 15, and, in the southern end of the county, roads south of Dicks Creek and north of Black Mountain are closed Jan. 1-June 1

In the Colorado Springs-based Pikes Peak district, FSR 376-A in Teller County, is closed Dec. 1-March 31.

The San Isabel National Forest closed several roads in the Salida. Leadville and Cañon City-based San Carlos districts in December. They will open in March, April or May, depending on the road.

Roads will be closed only to motorized traffic. Traveling on foot, horseback and non-motorized bicycle is allowed. Traveling via an over-snow vehicle, defined by the Pike-San Isabel as "a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in





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2017 Veteran's Breakfast

by Polly Roberts

The Florissant Public Library is pleased to announce that the 2017 Veteran's Breakfast will be held Friday, January 20th starting at 8:30 a.m. A buffet breakfast will be served following the Posting of Colors by the Florissant-Lake George VFW Post #11411 and Invocation by Chaplain Dieter Rademacher. All Teller County veterans are invited to attend the breakfast to enjoy information, inspiration, and camaraderie.

The breakfast menu will include eggs,
French toast, biscuits and gravy, and creamed chipped beef on toast (S.O.S.). Bronco
Billy's Casino in Cripple Creek is generously donating all the food for this event in support of those who have served our country. The library would like to extend many thanks to Bronco Billy's Assistant General Manager,
Ben Douglass, and Michele Lopez, Marketing Assistant, for their generosity and continued support of library events.

The breakfast and informational program will again be hosted by Mike Bartol, Teller County Veterans Services Officer. Bartol is a former career intelligence officer with the United States Navy, and coordinates all processing of veteran benefits for Teller County veterans, including disability, healthcare, pension, education, and vocational training.

pension, education, and vocational training.

Norm Steen will join Mike in sharing updates and information on matters of concern for Teller County veterans. Norm has more than 32 years of commissioned military service with the US Army and the Army National Guard, retiring in 2004 as a Brigadier General from command of

the 235th Regiment. He now serves full-time as a Teller County Commissioner.

The featured speaker will be Jim Tackett, newly appointed Senior Veterans Liaison from the office of Congressman Doug Lamborn. Jim is the former El Paso County Veteran Service Officer and a 21 year Army veteran.

Jim was hired as an Assistant Veteran Service Officer for El Paso County Veteran Services in 1988, and promoted to the Operations Officer by 1994. He was promoted to El Paso County Veteran Service Officer in August of 2008 and stayed in that position until he retired in February of 2015. During this same period, he also served on Congressman Doug Lamborn's Veterans Advisory Board and the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Committee.

Jim participated in the start-up of the Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition (CVRC) to address homeless veteran issues in Colorado Springs, and serves as President of CVRC today. Jim was also instrumental in the start-up of the El Paso County Homeless Veteran Standdown Committee. He also served six years on the Executive Board of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers.

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.

Agent celebrates 20 years

Kem Winternitz, managing broker, celebrates 20 years at United Country Real Estate/Timberline Realty in Divide, Colo., in December of 2016.

Winternitz started her real estate career in 1990 after a successful career as a dance instructor and performer. She joined Timberline Realty in 1996 under owner/broker, Dick Hammond, and became the managing broker in 2010. Throughout her real estate career, Winternitz received numerous honors ranking among United Country's top listing and selling agents throughout the nation. Most recently, she won

the United Country Pinnacle Gold award for

sales and a Pinnacle Listing Excellence award

and has remained one of the top United Country

agents across the United States for many years.

"I attribute my success not only to our great office location right on the highway in the shadow of Pikes Peak, but to a supportive and loyal local mountain community," said Winternitz. "Of course, it helps to be familiar with the area you are working in and after 20 years, I guess that just comes with the territory."

Winternitz has been a member of the Realtor Land Institute for nearly two decades and currently serves on the board of directors. She also earned the Accredited Land Consultant designation, which denotes excellence in land marketing and development.

Winternitz and the Timberline Realty team can be contacted by phone at 1-800-748-2242 and you can view all of their current listings at www.timberlinerealtyinc.com.

Small Business RevolutionWoodland Park preps for final round

Woodland Park is one of eight communities nation-wide selected for consideration in the Small Business Revolution opportunity from Deluxe Corp. "Woodland Park is a special small town that can maximize the \$500,000 boost for our small businesses and downtown area," declared Mayor Neil Levy.

Deluxe's Amanda Brinkman and a film crew visited Woodland Park on November 29, 2016 to visit with the downtown businesses and community volunteers. Following similar visits to the other communities on the short list, Deluxe will announce the finalists on February 9, 2017.

"This is where the real work begins," explained Main Street Coordinator, Darlene Jensen. The final winning community

will be selected via on-line voting by the public. "When the announcement is made, we need to have all of our citizens, family, and friends join in the voting effort to ensure Woodland Park is the top vote-getter. There is only one week to vote, from February 9 to 16, 2017. Last year the winning community registered nearly 100,000 votes."

"Our energy right now is focused on getting the information out to let everyone know what to expect when the voting begins," Jensen described. "Details on how to vote, when to vote, and information on the Small Business Revolution can be found on the web at www.WPMainStreet.org/Small-BusinessRevolution/, or call me directly at 719.687-5231."

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Consider some New Year's financial resolutions

We've opened the door to 2017, so you might be thinking about some New Year's resolutions. What's on your list this year? More visits to the gym? Learning a new language? Mastering the perfect beef bourguignon? All worthy ambitions, of course, but why not also include some financial resolutions?

By reviewing your needs and goals, you can identify some resolutions that are particularly relevant to your own situation. But here are a few suggestions:

■ Build an emergency fund.

If you needed a major car repair or a new furnace, or faced some other large, unanticipated expense, could you cope with it? If you didn't have the money readily available, you might have to dip into those investments intended for long-term goals, such as retirement. Instead, build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

■ Cut down on debts.

It's not easy to cut down on one's debt load. But if you can find ways to reduce your debts, you'll help improve your overall financial picture. Many debts are not "useful", meaning, they don't carry any tax advantages, so every dollar you spend to pay down those debts is a dollar you could use to invest for your future.

■ Boost contributions to your retirement plan.

If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar retirement plan, take full advantage of it. Your earnings have the potential to grow tax deferred and your contributions may lower your taxable income. Plus, most plans offer a selection of investment options, so you can choose the investment mix that fits your objectives and risk tolerance. Therefore, if your salary goes up this year, or if you think you can find other ways to free up some money, increase your contributions to your retirement plan.

■ Review your portfolio.

Is your investment portfolio still on track

None of us can avoid all mistakes, in life and in our investment activities.

toward helping you meet your long-term goals? If not, you may need to make some changes. You'll also want to study your investment mix to make sure it still accurately reflects your risk tolerance. Over time, and often without your taking any significant actions, your portfolio can "drift" to a place where you are taking on too much risk — or even too little risk — for your needs and long-term objectives. If this happens, you may need to "rebalance" your holdings.

■ Avoid mistakes.

None of us can avoid all mistakes, in life and in our investment activities. But as an investor, you'll clearly benefit from minimizing your errors. For example, it's generally a mistake to jump out of the market in response to a period of volatility. If you wait for things to "calm down" before investing again, you might miss out on the opportunity to participate in the next market rally.

■ Think long term.

Keep this in mind: You're not investing for today or tomorrow, but for many years from now. Try to keep a long-term focus when making all your key investment decisions. By doing so, you can avoid overreacting to short-term developments, such as a sudden drop in the market or a "momentous" political event that actually decreases in importance as time goes by.

Try to follow these financial resolutions as best as you can. You could make 2017 a year to remember.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Paula Hunt, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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New grants for HFH of Teller County

Habitat for Humanity of Teller County (Habitat) announced last month the award of four grants totaling more than \$50,000. These new grants were awarded to the Teller County office to be used in assisting families to find affordable housing options.

"We are proud of our recent track record of fostering and encouraging the development of affordable housing" said Jamie Caperton, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Teller County. "These new grants showcase how important both the work and the need here is for helping families find affordable homes, especially during the holiday season," said Caperton.

Challenge Grant

Gates Family Foundation will provide a \$15,000 grant if the donation is matched by private contributions. "If you haven't made your contribution in regards to the Home for the Holidays campaign, now is the time with this dollar for dollar match contribution,"

Every dollar raised in association with the Home for the Holidays campaign will go towards the goal. The funds will support renovating the Lofthouse Inn – renamed the Clock Tower Condos, located in downtown Woodland Park. Home for the Holidays campaign runs until work on the Clock Tower Condos are complete or until \$15,000 is raised, whichever comes first.

Daniels Fund

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative.

The foundation provided \$30,000 to be used toward the transitional housing portion

"We are extremely proud to receive this grant as we know that the Daniels Fund only supports community investments that have the highest goal for success," Caperton said.

John G. Duncan Charitable Trust

This is a Wells Fargo Bank foundation program; Habitat received \$5,000 for support to the Clock Tower Condos.

"We know that this trust supports a variety of charitable, benevolent, educational and religious purposes within the state of Colorado, and we are honored that we passed the tough requirements needed to receive the grant," said Caperton.

Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Since 1928, the mission and vision of the foundation has been to "improve the quality of life in the Pikes Peak region."

This generous gift to Habitat for Humanity of Teller County demonstrates both the need and responsiveness of a project like the Clock Tower Condos, according to foundation sources. "The \$2,000 gift will have a significant impact on the Clock Tower Condos by providing the agility to move forward and get families into affordable housing in our community sooner rather than later," Caperton said.

All the recent grants, combined with those made earlier in the campaign by the El Pomar Foundation, Osborne Trust and Newmont Mining Corporation, will advance the efforts to provide affordable housing to those in need in Teller County.

"The grants awarded will support muchneeded efforts to provide services to benefit deserving individuals who need homes. Words cannot express just how much we are thankful, especially during this holiday season, to have such outpouring of support by these four groups," Caperton said.

A big thank you

Thank You all for supporting the Lake George Charter School's Halloween Carnival!

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One Nation Walking Together Considering the source?

by Kelsey Comfort

I personally didn't learn much about Native Americans in school. I could tell you the inaccurate Thanksgiving story they teach you and I could give you some incredibly brief details about the Trail of Tears, but that's honestly about it.



Sadly, it wasn't until college that I thought to question why I knew so little. This was the first time that I had a professor ask me to consider who wrote the history textbooks I read, and what impact this may have on what I learn.

Sarah Shear, an associate professor of social studies education at Pennsylvania State University in Altoona, studied this very issue. For two years, Shear examined statemandated U.S. history standards (Indian Country Media Network).

What Shear found is surprising to say the least. She found that non-Native authors write 90 percent of all manuscripts written about Native people. Shear also found that across all 50 states, 87 percent of references to Native Americans are in a pre-1900 context. Additionally, Shear found that none of the 50 states mention any current Native issues or challenges (Indian Country Media Network).

But why is there such little mention of Native Americans in history textbooks? This could be attributed to a couple of different reasons.

According to the May 2000 article, Educating America: The Historian's Responsibility to Native Americans and the Public author Angela Cavender Wilson argues that part of the problem may be a culture clash, mainly the difference in how cultures record their history. Native Americans tend to use the oral tradition, in which histories are passed down verbally from one generation to the next, while historians prefer to rely heavily on written records.

This difference has the potential to create mistrust on both sides, according to Wilson.



Historians may doubt the accuracy of the oral traditions passed down while Native Americans may doubt the abilities of non-Native historians to accurately interpret the oral tradition.

Wilson also argues that the reasoning for the importance of history can differ among cultures which may also cause conflict. Wilson states that for Native American people, history tends to establish a sense of identity and belonging.

"Rarely is Native American history from this perspective concerned with dates and times; rather, notions of place and homeland are given primacy, as it is this connection that is closely linked with our sense of identity," said Wilson.

These details can differ from what historians choose to write about, or consider important facts.

Regardless of their reasoning, my college professors made me realize that my education was severely lacking because I had such little knowledge of Native American history and culture. Since then, I've taken it upon myself to learn more about Native American culture as well as other cultures. I believe this has allowed me to have a much better understanding of the world around me. Hopefully schools will begin to realize

this and how important this truly is, and future students will be able to tell you a lot more about other cultures' history than I could after I graduated high school.

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Some event participants running through an aspen forest in last year's Abominable

Abominable Como Winter Adventure Run

by Flip Boettcher

photos by Lauren Jones from last year s event

Themed and adventure runs have become I very popular, especially in Colorado, but there are very few winter adventure runs to participate in. Scott Jones, co-director of the Abominable Como Winter Adventure Run, saw an opportunity to produce an outdoor event that would get people outside in the winter and as Jones said, "Bring out their wild side."

The adventure run will be held January 28 at Camp Como, a non-profit Christian based camp just north of Como off U.S. Highway 24 that operates camps and programs designed to get people of all ages outside and active. Part of the proceeds from the run is donated to the camp.

The four mile run starts at 10:30 a.m. and includes steep inclines, sledding sections. thick forests, deep snow and challenging obstacles to get over, under and through; a challenge at over 10,000 feet elevation.

Yeti costumes are encouraged, but not necessary. Some participants may even have a close encounter in the woods with the Yeti himself, according to Lauren Jones, event co-director.

For participants wishing to stay the weekend, many fun winter activities are planned including sledding, snowshoeing and drinking hot chocolate. Lodging is available at the





camp or in nearby Fairplay.

For more information and to register for the run please visit: http://www.abominablerun. com/. For more information on Camp Como please visit: http://www.campcomo.com/.

Early ice fishing

photo by Jeff Tacey



Rainbow trout.

C ince winter showed up in mid-December; ice fishing has arrived. The usual lakes and reservoirs are doing well with the early ice for trout. Later in the year as the ice and snow get thicker and the oxygen level drops, the fish will be less willing to bite.

Center your ice trips around the moon phases and weather fronts. Full moon is usually the worst for fish activity, incoming storms and cold fronts spur a fish feeding time frame. Tarryall Reservoir is good for early ice trout; 10-15 inch rainbow trout are common here. Northern pike will hit on sucker meat on a tube jig or waterdogs on a quick strike rig. Use

small Kastmasters. Scudbugs or freshwater basic tube jigs with wax or meal worms. Skaguay Reservoir also has rainbow trout that will hit Power Bait on Shrimpo or Ratso jigs. The same baits and lures that work at Tarryall will also work at Skaguay. The northern

pike at Skaguay will be by the inlet area. Elevenmile Reservoir has a lot of pressure with Antero Reservoir still closed for dam maintenance. Get away from the crowds and you'll do better. Jig a Kastmaster, Swedish Pimple or Buckshot spoon with worms to get the trout's attention. They'll often hit your dead stick (still) pole with a smaller jig. Use Power Bait balls or wax worms.

Check the 2016 Colorado Fishing booklet for all rules and regulations. I'll see you out there.

Cripple Creek and Victor Schools celebrate Christmas

by David Martinek photos by Dave Martinek

songs. The cafetorium

at CCVS was packed

to overflowing with

the concert started.

rendition of the Star

the evening, sung a

parents at 6 p.m. when

A superb harmonic

Spangle Banner began

cappella by the Pioneer

was a stage full of over

tary school children (up

to sixth grade), including

several rows of kin-

dergarten kids, singing

Chocolate, Frosty the

Snowman" and several

other modern Christmas

tunes — delighting the

The Pioneer band

several pieces, led by

Mr. Dunkin playing the

clarinet. The Pioneer

eral songs, featuring a

one trio, ending with

Dave Dunkin has

been the music director

"Silent Night."

couple of solo parts and

choir rounded out

the night with sev-

crowd of parents.

was next, playing

"Bring on the Snow, Hot

Choir. What followed

150 exuberant elemen-

A midst a host of seasonal celebrations in Woodland Parl and throughout Teller County and the Pikes Peak Region, one of the more joyous was the Christmas concert held the night of December 8 at the Crippl Creek and Victor (CCVS) High School Music Director Dave Dunkin, accompanied CCVS's Christmas Celebration began with the Pioneer Choir by Annie Durham on the piano, led both Cresson Elementary kids, as well as high school students, in a full night of holiday



Music director, Dave Dunkin, led over 150 elementary school children, including kindergarten kids, from Cresson Elementary in a series of 8 or 9 contemporary Christmas songs.



The award-winning Pioneer Choir and Band finished the evening by singing "Silent Night," shown here accompanied by music director Dave Dunkin on guitar and Annie Durham on piano.

"They also won the Espirit de Corps at CCVS for the last six years. In April of award at the competition," added Dunkin, 2016 the school's choir and band competed "for their respectful and mannerly behavior. in a state-wide competition and won first We received a letter of congratulations from

the Colorado Legislature, too."

Hope for a Cure raises funds

Barbara Pearson-Sawyer, real estate broker with First Colorado Land Office and area manager for Arbonne International, and her team donated funds to the Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Foundation to benefit local cancer patients.

place in their division in both categories.

This was the second year for Barbara to organize "Hope for a Cure" to raise money so that the Salida hospital can better serve the needs of cancer patients.

This year "Hope for a Cure" was dedicated in memory of Molly Grether, the 33-yearold daughter of local residents Bob and Katy Grether, who we lost to cancer on June 30. "During her time with us, Molly taught us through her presence how to be more loving, grateful and compassionate," said Barbara.

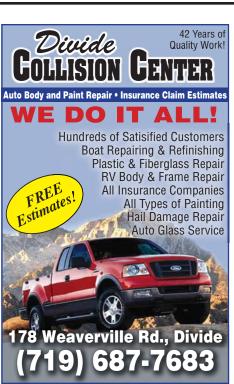
The funds were raised through a live event held at First Colorado Land Office, through the purchase of "Pure Safe Beneficial" Health and Wellness Arbonne Products, and by private donations from clients, friends and family members.

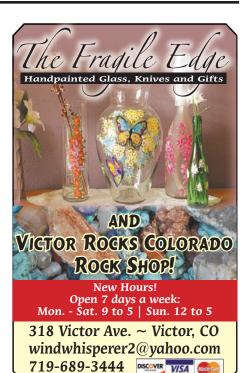
Barbara, who is a cancer survivor herself, said, "I believe there is 'Hope for a Cure' because of communities like this, that work together along with local health care facilities to make a difference to bring about new research and technology, better trained doctors and nurses, early detection and prevention through education about health and wellness, and making better choices for yourself and your families.'

Barbara and her team want to thank those who participated and donated to this year's "Hope for a Cure." Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Front row (L to R): Oncology Department Manager Mary McConathy, Barbara Pearson-Sawyer, Foundation Director Kimla Robinson. Back Row: HRRMC CEO Bob Morasko, and Foundation Vice-Chairman Dan Wardrop, M.D.







2016 Results

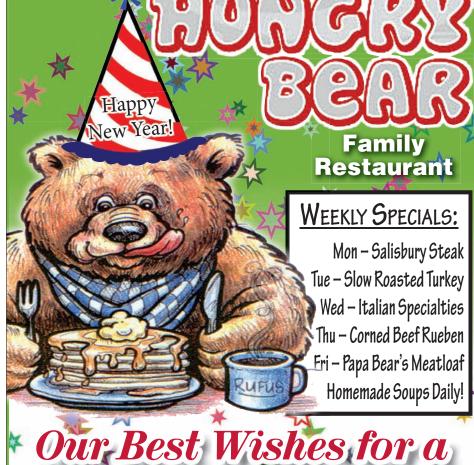
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Growing Ideas Keep going.....keep growing!



Happy 2017 to everyone! So, here we are, presented with a brand New Year. We are given the opportunity to make individual choices that can enhance the quality of our lives and of those within our circle of influence each and every moment of each and every day. As I was contemplating on what I wanted to write about this month, I began to think about 'Growing Ideas for Human Beings'. We grow up (and sometimes out) from physical childhood, but I would like to share some thoughts with you about growing from within: growing with each lesson learned; growing up emotionally; conscious growth of the Spirit. Personally, I hope to be perpetually learning and growing with an open mind and heart. Here are some growing ideas to consider for people and as always, please take what resonates with you and leave the rest behind

Growth for the betterment of ourselves may not be an easy process — at least not for me — but worth every ounce of energy and dedication I put into it. My life is enhanced and relationships deepen as I grow with age and knowledge and wisdom. It takes total honesty and humility (not to be confused with humiliation — although that can be a good lesson as well) in order for me to figure out the right thing to do in any given situation. I believe that we grow by learning to listen, so that we can listen to learn. We can practice avoiding the temptation to interrupt each other with our own thoughts before one has a chance to finish theirs. It's known as the courtesy of a thoughtful and meaningful conversation and we might just learn something valuable — if we truly listen.

Making mistakes along this Earth Walk can offer huge growing opportunities. Accept them, admit them and move on with new information about yourself and how you want to live your life. I need to remember that 'a mistake is not a mistake unless I know it's one', so I need to own up and realize when I have been wrong. 'Please', 'thank you' and 'I'm sorry' are powerful

words in mature conversation. Just like plant life, we grow healthy with nourishment, hydration, love, comfort, kindness, and attention. Give yourselves these things and offer them to others in order to keep the growth process going

We grow by: letting go of blaming and shaming others for the troubles in our lives; by taking responsibility for our own actions and words. We have choices and staying in the solutions rather than the problems brings us to a higher level of consciousness and growth. By releasing our unreasonable demands and expectations, we grow.

We grow by treating each other with respect. We deserve it. We learn to agree to disagree by responding rather that reacting.

We live and let live; allowing folks to make their own decisions and mistakes as they walk their own paths in life without our judgment, gossip, interference or criticism. They have their lessons to learn and we have ours.

I feel that we grow in spirit when we genuinely wish the very best for all beings, especially those with whom we are in conflict, wishing no harm to anyone. Everyone deserves happiness. We can let go of our egos and allow resentments to melt away. We can choose to walk a mile in our adversaries' boots and show some compassion for them and their particular situations.

We can grow by leaps and bounds when we cease all the complaining and start counting our bountiful blessings. An attitude of gratitude goes a long way.

We grow when we finally come to the realization that we are not in control of everything and everyone. It is not necessary to carry the burden of the world on our shoulders. What a relief!

We grow when we are able to stay in the present. Worry and preconceived notions about the future are a waste of precious time and energy. We can let the day unfold organically (Thanks again to my friend Kathleen for coming up with that phrase — Love ya, girl) without resistance; when we learn to be flexible. We may not be able to control the wind, but we can certainly adjust our sails.

I grow when I understand that if I am having a bad day and I'm grumpy and things are not going according to my plan, I am always given the opportunity to start that day over at any given moment. I have the capacity to change my thought system. There's a quote on my frig that reminds me of this tool, "I changed my

mind....and it works much better now!' I believe we grow tremendously when we can 'get out of ourselves' with all our troubles and seek to help another being whose problems are much worse than our own. Giving others encouragement and comfort truly helps us to feel all warm and fuzzy inside and to forget about our troubles for a while.

We learn and grow when we figure out that it is not necessary or productive to 'pole vault over mouse turds' meaning that most of our problems and issues are not as big as we think they are. Keeping things in perspective and 'right sizing' a situation can be one of the most useful keys to our state of mind and well-being.

Acceptance of things as they are, of which I have no control, has been a huge lesson for me as I continue to pursue personal growth in my own life's journey. But also having courage to create change for the better is greatly significant. Of course, change can be extremely difficult and uncomfortable. This will pass eventually as we reap the benefits of that positive change.

I believe that peace of mind and of heart is the goal I wish to work towards during the course of the New Year and of course, that is a daily process.

When I become aware that I am emotionally unbalanced and am willing to figure out the 'why' of those troubling feelings (needing to excavate deeper into my soul), I grow. Yes, sometimes it hurts a bit, that self-truth thing. I define this process as having 'growing pains' and that's OK.

I believe that we all have the capacity to flourish and grow into beautiful human beings and share our authentic and awesome selves with the rest of humanity. We do good work. We do the best we can. We go and grow forward with grace and optimism We remain teachable. We are honest with ourselves and with others. We will always be growing in all kinds of ways, if that is our desire. We can shine our own bright light wherever we go. We can make conscious decisions to do the right thing next and the next thing right. We can collectively make this crazy world that we live in a better place as we grow together. So my friends, go in peace. Grow in peace. Thanks for listening.

Just a reminder: healthy and happy houseplants are always available at Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park and at the Outpost in Florissant. If are interested in specialties or custom arrangements, feel free contact me at 719-748-3521. Blessing beads, painted rocks, talking sticks and prayer feathers are also presented for purchase at the stores. Check em' out!

K-Kids Donate to Sheriff Department



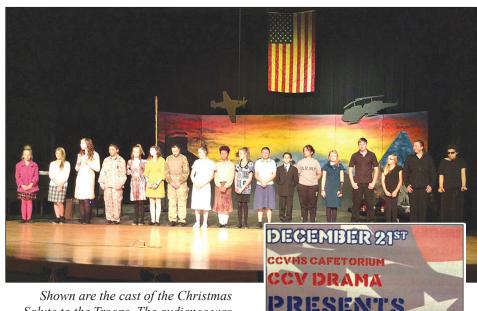
Pictured in back: Colorado Blue Shield Program recipients Brandon Toomey and Kimberly Mora. Not pictured: Matt Hondorf. K-Kids from left: Raegan Graff, Gabby Mammenga, Taylor Wilson, Vera Settlemire, Alex Christensen, Rylee Schoendallar, Lilly Grassmann, Adey Hughes.

ummit Elementary K-Kids (Young Leaders Helping Others) donated \$858.41 to the Teller County Sheriff's Department to help support the Colorado Blue Shield Project. The mission of this project is to provide protective gear to local law enforcement to be safe while on duty. The club held a fundraiser of selling donuts and coffee for three days before school

Supplies were provided by staff, City Market, Safeway, and Walmart. The biggest donation came from the Ute Pass Kiwanis who gave their "Happy Dollars" from their Nov. 9

A Christmas Salute to the Troops

by David Martinek photo by David Martinek



Salute to the Troops. The audience was asked not to take flash photos during the performances, but the cast lined up for pictures afterwards.

The drama class of the Cripple Creek and ■ Victor High School presented a series of unique performances on Wednesday night, December 21, 2016 in their first-ever Christmas Salute to the Troops.

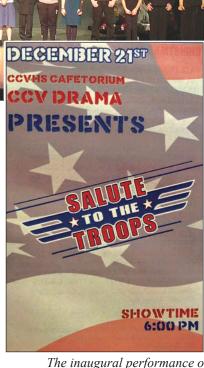
Directors Matt Baca and Annie Durham put together a series of vignettes featuring monologues, readings and excepts from such sources as Tom Brokaw's The Greatest Generation, Letters from Westerbork by Etty Hillesum or Shrapnel of the Heart by Laura Palmer, as well as other readin The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and Piece of My Heart by Keith Walker. The goal of the presentations was to trace wartime memories from World War II through to the present-day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan using personal letters from soldiers, commentaries or the reflections of the families of soldiers — and they succeeded.

In between the readings, a 1953 ABC Headline News radio broadcast with Taylor Grant was re-enacted and a presentation explaining the 12 folds of the American Flag given. Interspersed throughout the night were musical interludes, and even dancing girls

The Wilson Guys, a barbershop-style quartet, sang the National Anthem at the beginning, as well as several Christmas songs throughout the performances, ending with a crowd-participation rendition of "White Christmas" at the end.

The 'dancing girls' were local students dancing to Glen Miller's "In the Mood." Other numbers included a choral group singing Patsy Cline's "I Fall to Pieces" and an instrumental version of Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode" with Donovan Hocking on guitar and Annie Durham on piano. Dave Thornberry was the announcer/emcee.

Prior to the performances, supper was



The inaugural performance of a Christmas Salute to the Troops was performed by the drama class of the Cripple Creek and Victor High School.

served by the high school's cooking class beginning at 6 p.m. There was an admittance fee, but the veterans in attendance ate for free. It was a most enjoyable evening and well attended by the community. Hopefully, these inaugural presentations will inspire a second annual salute next year.

Students participating in the performances were: Cassie Castillo, Missy Colard, Neveah Thompson-Farr, Lacy Hilfers-Garduno, Donovan Hocking, Skye Jacobsen, Alycia Jensen, Cindle Juarez, Julie Kisseberth, Ayrrial Kurschinske, Sheri Medlin, Rose Martinez, Lillyan Morehead, Zac Sponick and Katelyn Whitemore.

Directors and stage crew included: Matt Baca and Annie Durham (Directors), Angelica Atkins and Bethany Hocking (Costumes), Marguerite Skinner (Backstage Assistant), Annie Durham (Choreography), Matt Baca (Light and Sound, Set Design) and Beva Leyerly and Matt Baca (Set Construction).





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Mrs. Brenda Goolsby: An Immeasurable Impact

January 2017 Teacher Featured: Mrs. Brenda Baker Goolsby Name of the school: Summit Elementary RE-2 · Divide, CO Submitted by: Mrs. Katie Rexford, Summit Elementary Principal What is going on that you like in the classroom:



Mrs. Goolsby serves as the music teacher at Summit Elementary and I have had the honor of working with her for the last four school years. Brenda brings music to life in her classroom and she has the ability to make every student a musician as they clap the beat, hum the tune and sing the words!

Mrs. Gooslby's reach goes far beyond her classroom. Not only does she inspire her students during the school day, but she also runs a choir comprised of over 50 students! Her students have performed at Christmas in

Divide, the Lighter Side of Christmas Parade and Forest Ridge. In addition to performing, Brenda helps orchestrate the other performances in order to share the talents of many local artists! Brenda brings joy to those around her and she uses music as an avenue to bring joy to our community!

Brenda also supports Summit by running

our Box Tops collections. Over the years, Brenda's efforts have brought in hundreds of dollars and have supported our school through new supplies and resources! A few weeks ago, she even coordinated a delivery of new books to every classroom to add to the classroom libraries. Brenda finds ways to meet people's needs. She goes above and beyond to serve our students and our community! Despite her abilities to be on stage, she is not one to seek applause or recognition for her efforts. I would like to thank her for all that she does and recognize her for the wonderful contributions that she has made to our students, our staff and to our



Mrs. Goolsby with one of her classes.

community! Thank you Brenda Goolsby for all that you do and all that you are!

January 2017 Teacher Feature has been sponsored by Ute Country News. To find out how you can nominate a teacher or become a sponsor of Teacher Feature contact the Ute Country News at 719-686-7393 or via email: utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or POB 753, Divide, CO 80814.

Nominate a teacher or para-educator. Each month at least one teacher will be featured in the Ute Country News. The teacher will receive a \$50 cash prize and an additional cash prize of \$50 will go to the school that nominated the teacher.

Teachers/para-educators can be nominated for a project, for creativity in making learning fun, for problem-solving techniques or for support/inspiration.

Nomination forms may be submitted by students, parents/guardians/grandparents, teachers, para-educators, principals, superintendents. Forms can be found on www.ute-countrynews.com and can be returned via email: utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or UCN, POB 753, Divide, CO 80814.

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital Specialty Services Welcomes

Hearing Rehab Center

PPRH Specialty Services is happy to announce the addition of Hearing Rehab Center to the expanding list of Specialty Services provided for the residents of Teller County and the region. The Center will begin seeing patients in December.

Hearing Rehab Center will offer various hearing related services including:

- Hearing evaluations by a Doctor of Audiology
- Custom hearing solutions for your lifestyle and budget
- Tinnitus management
- Hearing aid service and repair

Dr. Katie Williams

Dr. Katie Williams earned her Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders from the University of Wisconsin Madison and received her Doctorate in Audiology at Salus University. Dr. Williams has a strong biomedical science background and has extensive experience performing audiologic evaluations.

Dr. Williams is a member of the American Academy of Audiology and a licensed audiologist in the State of Colorado.



To schedule an appointment, call 719-634-8801.

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www.pprh.net



Think Tank Showcase

ateway Elementary School hosted a Think Tank Showcase where students presented their learning experiences by displaying a wide range of unique projects. Each student spoke about their chosen topic, as well as how they made their innovative design. Think Tank is a new curriculum at Gateway where all students are encouraged to follow their passion by exploring a topic; deciding why it is important to them; figuring ways to accomplish it; and planning how to measure their success.









Habitat for Humanity in Park County
by Flip Boettcher

Phase one of two Habitat for Humanity projects was completed the end of October 2016 in the Guffey area, according to local resident Bill Betz. Betz has been working since fall, 2014, to bring HFH to Park County, with the end goal of helping veterans and locals in need of home repairs

photo by Betty Cain

and affordable housing in the Guffey area.
Since the population in Park County is too low to qualify for its own HFH organization, the county has to be affiliated under the Woodland Park and/or the Cañon city HFH, stated Jody Berger, Administrative Coordinator HFH International, in an

In 2015, Betz submitted two HFH projects to Jamie Caperton, Executive Director Teller County HFH. Caperton and her board have been very helpful in getting the projects approved, said Betz. The two projects were for Don Davis, veteran of the Korean War, and Barbara Wales, who is wheelchair bound.

About the same time, Betz submitted a grant proposal to Becky Nation, manager of the Cañon City Home Depot, for materials and labor for the two HFH projects. Nation submitted the proposal to Gabe Sneller, manager of Team Depot's Western Division, who approved the complete cost for the two projects.

Sheila Cross and John Deagen, Park
County Development Services Department,
were very helpful getting the two projects
through the county, stated Betz. Travis Rector, building inspector and plans examiner
Park County Building Department advised
on repair and upgrading handicapped
ramps, as well. Park County Administration
Officer Tom Eisenman and county commissioner Mike Brazell have been, "Very supportive of establishing HFH in Park County
and the Guffey projects," Betz added.

October 20, the day of the projects, over 40 volunteers were on hand to do the work. The Davis home was to get a new roof in Phase One. New windows in the spring are Phase Two, said Betz. The Wales home was to get a new backdoor and a new front handicapped ramp to replace the old in Phase One. In the spring, Wales will get a new backdoor ramp as part of Phase Two.

Phase One of both projects was completed in one day with the help of seven volunteers from the Fort Carson Army base in Colorado Springs, the HFH crew, the Home Depot crew and many local volunteers, said Betz.

Area resident Joe Rodriguez is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11411 in Florissant, and was able to have the Post, as well as the Post's Ladies Auxiliary, each donate \$250. Those monies went toward trash containers from Teller County Waste Management at each site, stated Betz. Mr. Potts in Lake George has also been very helpful, he added.

Guffey restaurants The Freshwater Bar and Grill, The Bull Moose, and Strictly Guffey provided food, refreshments and beverages throughout the day for the volunteers. The Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District provided

Don't Drive Impaired

Heart of the Rockies Radio Group in Salida, CO, in conjunction with the Buena Vista Police Department, Salida Police Department, the Colorado State Patrol, and the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office held a "Don't Drive Impaired" workshop at the Salida SteamPlant Ballroom on Thursday, December 29th, 2016.

The afternoon was a training exercise for approximately 50 law enforcement officers throughout Colorado, including several Drug Recognition Experts. The officers conducted road sides and other testing on approximately 30 volunteers who will have consumed alcohol, as well as marijuana and marijuana products.

This is certainly the largest workshop of its kind in the country, to include marijuana in the training of law enforcement.

The timing of the event was set for maximum impact going into the New Year's Eve weekend. Heart of the Rockies Radio Group broadcast the event on all four of their radio stations in an attempt to educate the public about the dangers of driving impaired.

tables and chairs and medical support if needed.

HFH is a non-profit organization that

helps low income people and veterans build new, affordable housing, as well as remodeling or repairing existing dwellings; they will even help with fence maintenance. HFH is supported by volunteers, donations, fundraisers, and low-cost or donated building materials.

The idea for HFH started in the early 1970's on a community farm, Koinonia Farm, outside of Americus, Georgia, owned by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan, according to HFH website: www. habitat.org. Jordan and Millard and Linda Fuller developed the concept of "Partnership Housing". "The concept centered on those in need of adequate shelter working side by side with volunteers to build decent, affordable houses. The houses would be built at no profit. New homeowners' house payments would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising to create 'The Fund for Humanity,' which would then be used to build more houses," stated the website. Those basic concepts are still

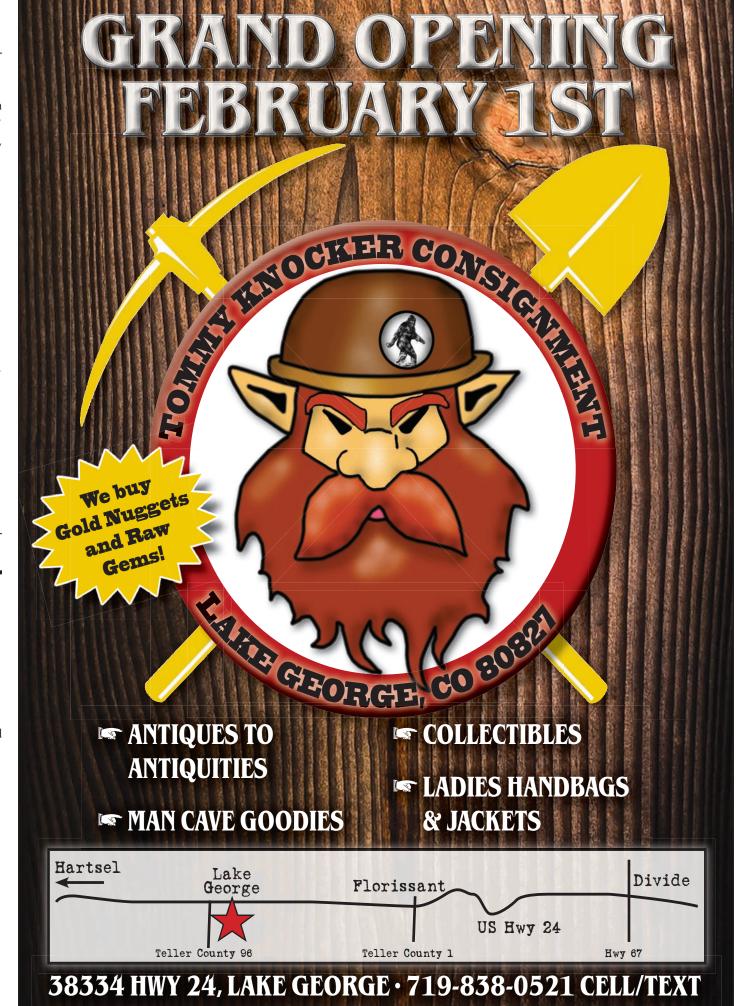
OUNIEY

The HFH crew in front of Don Davis' house where they put on a new metal roof. The Home Depot crew is in the orange t-shirts. Don Davis is in the front row 6th from the right in the blue sweatshirt.

Thanks in no small part to President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn and the awareness they raised, HFH now works in 1,400 communities across the U.S. and in nearly 70 countries around the world and has "Helped 6.8 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter," said the website. Habitat's vision

is "Of a world where everyone has a decent place to live."

According to Betz, these two projects are not the last for the Guffey area and he has at least one more in mind, he said. Such a show of local support is helpful for getting future projects accepted. "In the end," Betz added, "It's all about people helping people, which makes you feel better."



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Geology of Colorado fishing

Maroon Lake, at the foot of snow-striped Maroon Bells, is one of many Colorado lakes

Mall

719-338-1628

Astream, as a geological agent, is one of the most powerful forces on Earth. Many of Colorado's magnificent landscapes are the products of what streams do best move sediments sporadically downstream in regular cycles of erosion and deposition. In Colorado, the Continental Divide splits streams that flow west to the Pacific Ocean from those that flow eastward to the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. The sparkling streams of Colorado not only shape the landscape but also provide great fishing. A deeper understanding of the riparian environment and geologic processes will enhance every fishing trip.

Snowmelt gives rise to Colorado's four major river systems: the Platte, the Arkansas, the Rio Grande, and the Colorado, Here is a quick review of those rivers.

The South Platte begins in the high country of South Park, but when it reaches the Cheesman Canyon, south of Deckers,

local geology creates some remarkable places to fish. Granite formed in the canyon under enormous pressure several kilometers below the surface and was later exposed by regional uplift. With the erosion of the overlying rock, the granite expanded and cracked due to the release of pressure. Gravity now causes the rock between the cracks in the granite to break loose in concentric slabs from the underlying granite body. This process, exfoliation, results in the rounded nature of the granite outcrops in the canyon.

bars across the South Platte that dissipate the energy of the flow, producing areas of calm water and deep pools in Cheesman Canyon. Willows grow along the banks while aspens and spruce trees grow tall, providing shade for brown trout. Because browns are very selective in what they eat, they are hard to catch and grow to a large size. Anglers on this river frequently use small flies, espe-

where great fishing awaits. photo © S. W. Veatch.

303 888-8917

Keith & Elsie Ore

Granite boulders, slabs, and gravel form



A view of the Gunnison River running through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. photo used by permission under a Creative Commons License.

cially the pheasant-tail fly.

The Arkansas River starts in the mountains near Leadville and Tennessee Pass and flows south and east to merge with the Mississippi in the state of Arkansas. After spring runoff has reworked sand and gravel bars, fresh gold placers can be panned on the upper reaches of the Arkansas. As the Arkansas River flows by the Texas Creek recreation area on its way to the Royal Gorge, brown trout can be caught with caddis flies. The Texas Creek area is also noted for deposits of rose quartz associated with pegmatite (coarsely crystalline) granite that intruded into metamorphic rocks.

The Rio Grande River has its headwaters in the San Juan Mountains and flows through New Mexico on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. Near Creede, at Wagon Wheel Gap, the Rio Grande offers excellent fishing for browns, brooks, rainbows, and cutthroats using a prince nymph. Cutthroat trout like slow pools that are just opposite large granite boulders. There are several geothermal springs in the area, and excellent specimens of fluorite occur nearby.

The Colorado River drains the western slope of the Continental Divide and empties into the Gulf of California. The major tributaries of the Colorado River are the San Juan, White, Yampa, and Gunnison Rivers.

The Gunnison River began downcutting into the Earth after a period of regional uplift

Western Accoutrements

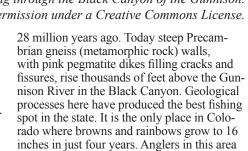
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brian gneiss (metamorphic rock) walls,

Trout are not always easy to catch in high be easily spooked. Brook trout — comtheir food supply.

Trout like to cruise most of the 11,300 consider the rock and understand the role that geology plays in fishing, they have an advantage for catching trout. It is "gneiss" to



commonly use big nymphs. Geologic processes have created 1,800 lakes above 9,000 feet in elevation in Colorado. Many of these high-country lakes, called tarns, occupy the bottoms of amphitheatershaped cirques where glaciers eroded into the mountain. If there are enough insects to eat and the lake is deep enough for the fish to winter, there will be a population of trout.

lakes as they feed along the edges and can monly found in high country lakes, beaver ponds, and small creeks — tend to be small because they reproduce rapidly and surpass

miles of streams in Colorado, and if anglers know that fishing and geology can't be taken

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Day Trippin' With Karen Travels in the Arkansas River Valley

hot cocoa, are still game! Moreover, there

So if you're in for some fun in 2017,

venture out and see what awaits you in the

Arkansas River Valley. Suggestions always

If you are interested in being featured in

a day trip with Karen, email her at coloear-

leys@gmail.com

to finish any day trip on a warm note.

are many hot springs up and down the valley

A New Year affords a new start. Time to get moving, explore and try something new! Start Day Trippin' with Karen, in the Arkansas River Valley.

Did somebody say powder?! Time to ski! But what if you don't ski? What are your options? How about dog sledding, snowmobiling, snow shoeing, snow biking or tubing? Sound too chilly for you? You're still in luck.

In the Arkansas River Valley, there's much more to do in winter thanks to a certain fruit, the banana belt. Buena Vista, Salida and environs are officially located in what's called a "Banana Belt."

Essentially, when air rises over the top of a mountain range, it cools and releases moisture on the windward slope As the air is

pulled down the other side, is compressed and heated via "adiabatic heating" (according to Wikipedia). It warms and dries territory in the mountain's rain shadow. Temp are typically 10 degrees warmer in the valley due to this phenomenon Therefore, biking, hiking, fishing, strolling along the

Riverwalk with

Did you happen to see Christmas in Salida? You may still be able to catch sight of the Tenderfoot Mountain and Christmas Tree Lane in



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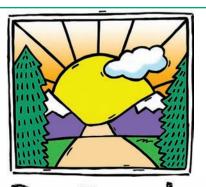


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Cherokee - Stefanie Skidmore, Guffey, CO





"Digger Dawson" enjoying a graham cracker treat -Jeanie Crane, Jefferson, CO

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

as well as your name.

the tree Whisperer

by Danielle Dellinger

torywish lifted her eyes from her book to look out the window of her small cabin. She lived away from society, having given up on it when it hadn't seemed to do her any favors. All she did every day was read and do chores around the house. Today, snow was rapidly falling. Sighing heavily, she marked the page she was on, and then got to her feet with a stretch and a groan.

The wind buffeted her around as she trudged through the snow to the wood pile, grabbing as much as she could. While making her way back, she thought she saw something move out of the corner of her eye near the corner of her small shed. She stopped and squinted. Upon seeing nothing, she continued on her way, walking up onto the porch and setting her load into the trunk beside the door. Right as she turned to open her door to go inside, she caught movement in her peripheral again. She jumped and pressed herself against the cabin, as if that would protect her. This time there was a baby pine tree poking up out of the snow in between two of her footprints. Now she knew that hadn't been there before, so what was going on?

Storywish pushed herself away from the cabin wall and slowly descended the three steps, walking as quietly as she could toward the small tree. Just as she started to crouch in front of it, the tree chirped and shuddered, shaking off the snow it had already accumulated. She jumped and fell on her butt in the snow. She stared into two green glowing eyes that were nestled among the tree's branches. The tree then abruptly turned and waddled away like a penguin.

"Hang on!" she called, scrambling to her

The tree stopped and partially turned back to her. It then chirped again and continued on its way, seeming to wave its

Storywish hesitated, glancing back at her cabin. She was trying to make up her mind when she felt a tug on her sleeve, and looked down. The baby pine tree was back and trying to get her attention. It really did want her to follow. She nodded and started to follow it, thinking about how in the movies this was the part where her epic journey

The pair trudged through the snow until Storywish's feet were numb even inside

her boots. "How much farther?" she asked, her voice tired.

The baby pine tree just kept wad-

baby pine tree was frantically chirping. Storywish stopped, nearly stepping on the tree. The tree was turning to her and then forward, awkwardly gesturing with its branches. She frowned and looked forward to see what it was fussing over. The scene that met her eyes was one of the strangest things she would ever see.

Lying on the ground was a massive tree made up of varying major tree species related to the state of Colorado. The bark looked withered and dried, the needles and leaves were brown and falling off. But waddling around this fallen tree were numerous baby trees of different species. For instance, the aspen, the blue spruce, the lodgepole pine, the white fir, the piñon pine, the Rocky Mountain juniper, the Douglas fir, and so on. Storywish watched as the babies seemed to be fussing over the fallen tree, distressed by something

She slowly and cautiously approached, being mindful of where she was stepping so she wouldn't accidentally step on a baby and squish it into the snow. As she got closer, she could see a dim multicolor glow emitting from the cracks in the fallen tree's bark. Once she was standing right next to the tree, she could see it had a twin trunk, but it looked like someone had cut out a piece of the trunk. Glittery black goo resided in the hole and it gave off the stench of death. Storywish wrinkled her nose as she studied the goo, then felt a tug on her pant leg and looked down to see the baby pine tree stand-

stopped and listened for a moment or two. When she didn't hear anything else, she began walking again. After a few minutes she heard another thwack. She picked up the pace and hurried toward the sound. As she got closer she could see a large, slightly hunched figure through the trees. She was struggling to place what creature it was when it turned its head slightly and allowed her to see more of its face. It was a forest troll! Not once did she ever think she would

see a troll in person. The troll looked like it had a temper, though, and would be quick to anger. She was studying the large, chunky features of its face when it raised its arms over its head with something in its hands, letting whatever it was drop against its knee with a loud thwack. The thing the troll had dropped remained unbroken, as far as Storywish could tell. It wasn't until the troll did it again that Storywish spotted glittery black drops sailing through the air. It was the missing chunk of tree! But why was the troll trying to break it into pieces? She needed to get closer.

Using the trees as cover, she carefully made her way toward the troll, and soon enough she was hiding behind a tree right next to the creature. Just as the creature was about to drop the chunk again she spotted something glinting in the center of it. She leaned forward slightly and was able to see crystals poking up out of the wood like it was a geode. Geodes are created in hollow

from the strength she was exerting. The troll managed to get a good hold on it and yanked the piece of wood right out of her hands. It laughed a creepy phlegmy laugh

as it held up the wood in victory. The troll then sat down outside of Storywish's prison, found a sharp rock, and began to hack away at the wood. Storywish watched with wide eyes as the crystals became more exposed. After a few more minutes of chipping away, the crystals came free and the troll grabbed them, eyeing them as if they were a delicious treat. It even licked its lips. She wasn't entirely sure why the troll wanted to eat the crystals, but she had a sinking feeling in her gut telling her that that would be an extremely terrible thing. She started kicking at the branches, trying to make a hole to crawl out through. She kicked with all her might, the splintering and snapping of the branches the only sound filling her ears. A small hole in the bush appeared, but it still wasn't big enough for her to crawl through. The troll lifted the crystals to its lips, and Storywish screamed at the top of her lungs in protest, hoping to distract the beast. But the troll merely looked at her and grunted in a bemused way. It then took a bite of the crystals.

Storywish stopped and gasped as purple flowing lines spread all over the troll's body. They looked like veins. The troll's eyes turned a deep purple with a glowing red pupil. She watched in horror as the troll was like they were suddenly in the dark version of Alice in Wonderland. The troll

on its head. The troll let out a strained yell and violently twitched. Storywish could see small streams of purple leaving the troll and travelling up through the ent's tendrils.

Finally, the ent released the troll, picking up the remaining shards of crystal and enclosing them in its hand, sending the purple essence back into them. The ent then leveled its eyes at Storywish. The eyes were black, but they held a deep vastness, and Storywish figured that this ent was probably one of the oldest, if not the oldest, ent there was. The ent leaned down and held out its hand to Storywish. She held out her own and it dropped the crystals back into her hand, now back in one piece and glowing a bright purple. The ent then spoke to her through hums and moans, but she somehow understood it.

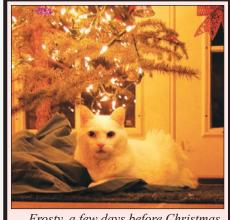
"You have done a great service, young one. You have saved the tree community from certain death. Take those crystals and return them to the Tree of Life.'

Storywish looked to the crystals and then up at the ent. "Thanks for your help." The ent smiled a deep caring smile, giv-

ing a slow nod as it stood up tall. "You are beautiful," Storywish said

quickly before it could leave. The ent smiled more, gave a calm wave, and then turned and walked off into the

Storywish let her eyes drop to the troll who seemed to be out cold. She exhaled, finally exiting her body. She began making the long journey back to the Tree of Life and the baby trees. There was a new, welcoming peace about the forest. The snow didn't even feel cold as it hit her face while she walked, but she told herself she was more likely



them into the hole, into the glittery black

goo where they belonged. It sounded like

began to close up on its own. The multi-

tree's bark began to shine brilliantly. The

tree groaned back to life, and then pushed

and pulled Storywish down to the ground,

crawling all over her like puppies.

Life hummed.

itself upright. The baby trees cheered loudly

"Thank you, Tree Whisperer," the Tree of

Facebook.com/dmdellin08

Twitter.com/ZepherSong

pieces of glass clinking together as the hole

color veins visible through the cracks of the

Frosty, a few days before Christmas

Frosty 2002-2016

eaving the vet's office with an empty →pet carrier is never an easy thing to do. Especially when you're leaving behind a beloved companion who has been with you for the past 14 years.

Frosty Cracker Pinkerton joined our family in September of 2002 as a little white puff ball with the cutest pink nose and pouty lips. He soon bonded with me and I became his human. I felt honored that I was the one he would talk to and come to when he needed affection. My morning constitutional was our special time together, as he knew I was a captive audience, there to listen to his stories from last night's adventures and pet him until he'd had his fill of lovin'. He could be sound asleep on our bed and still hear when the lid was raised, come running to the door and meow until I'd let him in for our morning ritual. Not having him around will leave a painful void in my day and in my heart.

Frosty wasn't the smartest cat; we often joked that the brightest thing about him was the color of his fur. He never understood that his tail was a part of him He saw it as an adversary that would taunt him out of the corner of his eye as he tried to relax. It would twitch, and he would bat at it with his paw. Twitch and bat, twitch and bat, then he would get frustrated and bite his tail. OUCH! He would then try to run away because something was hurting him. No matter how fast or far he ran, that damn tail was still behind him! He will always be my special little boy.

He was a shy kitty, hiding from most risitors, until he got to know them. My mother came out to visit us a few years back and couldn't remember his name, so she called him Snowball. He didn't mind what you called him, as long as you had a hand ready to stroke his fur and scratch nis ears. Kathy's friend Fay visited us years ago and would sit in her bedroom having her breakfast of Polish sausage. Of course she had to share with Frosty. When she found out Frosty's affinity for the powdered donuts I was eating at the time, she demanded Kathy stop at Dunkin' Donuts in the Springs so she could bring her new friend a treat.

Another connection Frosty and I had was our evening walks. Only this "walk" occurred after I had retired for the night. Frosty would jump up on the bed, find my leg (always my left leg), and proceed to march on it, a very purposeful march. He would occasionally pause, stare at me for a few seconds, meow, then continue his march. This would go on for up to 10 ninutes, then he'd decide he was done, curl up next to me and go to sleep. The first night after his passing I had a hard time getting to sleep.

His passing came on very suddenly as we were putting the finishing touches on this issue. He seemed healthy and happy, playing with Shadow and Jade just minutes before he started vomiting, suddenly becoming paralyzed in his back legs. We rushed him to the vet where he was diagnosed with a condition I couldn't pronounce, much less spell. I am grateful we were home at the time to care for him to minimize his suffering.

Thanks to Dr. Kip Madsen at Animal Medical Center in Woodland Park for the compassion and empathy he showed to Frosty and the grieving parents. As a couple without children, our fourlegged furry friends become our de facto offspring, and losing one is an extremely painful experience.

Luckily, I will carry his memory with me forever, along with 14 years worth of photos. I will miss my little buddy. Rest in peace, Frosty. Your ma and I are already nissing you.



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The mountains were my classroom. I Learned how to ride horses in the stony hills. Rushing waters taught me that I should not use a bobber when fishing for trout. Still waters taught me patience when I did use my bobber. I learned to be wary of mother mule deer when walking my dog. The mountain lions taught me to mind where my feet wander. Fawns helped me to smile, pigeons to laugh. Bears taught me to keep the dumpster closed.

The lodgepoles showed me how to stand tall. The lichen-flecked boulders taught me to be steadfast. Pinon pines showed me to be generous when I give. Bristlecones taught me resilience. I learned how to read tracks, find food, and understand my surroundings. I learned to look for the small, essential details. The mountains were my classroom.

We sat on a log at 11,000 feet. Beyond the wall of evergreens, the wind bit and snarled. Temperatures were low and our cheeks were red. Our hands were shoved into our lukewarm pockets. When I shifted my weight, my thick coat crackled from the cold. The treetops gently swayed in the wind. Inches and possibly meters — of pine needles and decaying wood cushioned my booted feet. I sat upon a long-dead log, covered in green moss and cider-colored fungi. One fungus in particular was quite large: swirled with white, cream, brown, and amber. It was the size of my fist. I sketched it in my booklet.

We sat in a row on that log, shoulders touching, hunched. Ten or 11 of us, gloved, ears covered, clasping binders against our chests. Pencils were tucked uselessly into the binders or in our pockets. It can be difficult to write with a gloved hand.

Our teacher — one of the best who own that title — stood in front of us and drew a deep breath. As he exhaled, he grinned broadly, and spread his arms apart. I also drew a deep breath, noting the pungent smells that wafted upwards. The bouquet of pine needles, decaying wood, and chilled mountain air was sharp and sweet.

Not even a breeze licked at our cold noses when our wise teacher gave us our directions. My cold hands began to move more freely, and soon the crackling jacket quieted its protests. A few minutes later, it was too

warm to wear. I slipped it off. He spoke, teaching us about this zone, the subalpine. The freezing alpine zone which grows only tough grasses, squatty willow brush, and an occasional bristlecone pine — was different than the place we sat. Tall Engelmann spruce guarded the deep and



slowly decaying forest floor. The temperatures rose, and the wall of trees helped the interior of the forest to be warmer. Though we wouldn't see any, lynx and snowshoe hares would romp about, playing the unending game of survivor.

As I measured the height of an evergreen, the cold plastic of the clinometer in my bare hand, a flit of gray passed through my peripheral vision. I paused to look. The small feathery body flashed to a branch nearby, which swayed with his miniscule weight. The grey jay — also known as a whisky jack — peered at us with black eyes. We were told they were picnic robbers, and he seemed to ask us, "Got any food?"

When he saw there was only plastic, he went to inquire of my fellow students. Mr. Keidel was thoughtful enough to have brought snacks for him and the black Abert squirrels.

The mountains were my classroom. They taught me many things. However, they were my classroom in a literal way. I was lucky enough to have teachers who were in love with the mountains and used them to their advantage. Many a science lesson, rehearsal, literature reading, gym class, and soccer practice were done sitting by the creeks, cottonwood trees, and trails.

The things other kids learn only in a brick classroom, we got to experience. We acted as forest service employees, shocking the creek to count the trout and assure the health of the fish populations. We wore waders and counted mayflies and stoneflies. We calculated the average heights of trees and measured the percolation rate of the ground. We learned how to care for our home in a tangible way. Though I've been out of school for four years already, I still remember how the sand dunes form and what a pseudotsuga menziesii is, thanks to the mountains and my

Gratitude for community support

by Connie Dodrill, Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation Director

On behalf of the Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation Department please accept my gratitude for the community's strong support of our programs and services. We value the involvement in the recreation programs that individuals and families have participated in this past year.

It is our department's vision to build a healthy and happy community that improves people's lives. I am proud to report, as of November 2016, we have served 33,901 visitors in the June Hack Community enter, 27,283 participants in our programs and have 397.25 hours of volunteer service along with 2,228 hours of paid training employment. Giving us a total of 61,184 individuals served. We are unable to track just how many people have used our City Park, Mountain Wave Skate Park, the basketball court and Mountain View BMX track.

We are extremely proud of our new basketball/multi use court. We will be celebrating with Newmont by hosting a "Grand Opening" sometime in the spring. We are planning some new activities and tournaments. If you like Pickle Ball, Badminton, Volleyball and Basketball you will like what we have planned for 2017.

We are always looking for volunteers, new classes, workshops, coaches and sponsors to add value to our vision. So please feel free to give us a call at 719-689-3514 if vou are interested

Please visit our web site: www.ccparksandrecreation.com. It is very user-friendly and a great way to see all of our amazing programs and services.

Again, thank you Southern Teller County for your invaluable support and involvement in our programs and services.

Adopt Me **Priss**

Priss is a 1-1/2-year-old female Terrier Mix. She is a sweet girl with a ton of personality and loves to be around her people! She is heartworm positive so she is currently in foster receiving treatments. She just needs the right home that will give her the special care she needs while she's being treated for heartworm. If



you're looking for an easy-going gal, Priss is your pup! To learn more call 719-395-2737 or stop by AVHS is located at 701 Gregg Drive, Buena Vista, CO.



In the spirit of fake news and urban leg-Lends, Colorado is well known for inventing the teddy bear and the cheeseburger. Not to mention outdoor Christmas lights, juvenile detention centers, and the shopping mall. Every ski bum's favorite was born here, too — the ticket wicket — you know, that wire you hang your lift ticket on.

Despite common knowledge, none of these were actually invented here. All have well-documented histories, long before their appearance in Colorado.

Yet, Colorado is a hotbed of bona fide invention, with plenty of gadgets and processes borne out of ingenuity, engineering and sometimes a bit of luck.

For example, Wheat Ridge's Bill and Dorothy Harmsen had bad luck selling ice cream in the 1940s. But their luck turned good in 1949 when they created everyone's favorite middle-school treat — Jolly Ranchers.

One of the most iconic elements of cowboy style was invented in Denver, when in 1946 Jack Weil added snaps to a western shirt. These mother-ofpearl-covered diamondshaped snaps provided the wearer with a bit of bling as well as utility. That's because the snaps permitted the shirts to behave like tear-away warmup pants do in basketball, but for a cowboy who'd snagged their shirt while on horseback.

One of the most unsung inventions came from the Gates Rubber Company of Denver, which in 1917 invented giant rubber-bandlike belts called "V-belts". Even today, these somewhat stretchable V-belts connect pulleys and other moving

parts in nearly every car, motorcycle, and boat engine, not to mention most

the tenets of xeriscaping, now used throughout the west to help conserve water, were borne after the 1977 drought that parched the American West. Seeking to help customers stretch their resources by promoting water-thrifty landscaping, Nancy Leavitt 1982, playing off their newly minted x-word.

Sometimes determining when and where something is invented is a fuzzy business. For example, is it when the idea is con-

boiled whole wheat grain, for such tasteless bowel-calming wheat, shred it, stitute it into tiny After proofing the concept in New Jersey and then presenting the

distributing these biscuits The snaps found on most western- and has been a mainstay style shirts was invented in of fiber fanatics ever since. Denver in 1946. But where was it actually

industrial motors.

The term xeriscape and of Denver Water coined the term xeriscape in 1981. They even unveiled the first demonstration xeriscape garden in an "X-rated" party in

ceived, when it's put into practice, or when it's patented? Witness poor Henry Perky of Denver, who was bedraggled by chronic abdominal pain and ulcers. Facing a lifetime in which his diet would be dominated by

such as Crocs. It was around 2001 when its founders decided to add a heel to when visiting Nebraska existing foam clogs made by he came up with a better idea than settling another manufacturer, and of course gave them a much cooler name. The rest is history. Or the "Denver Boot" blah. He invented of 1944, which was born a new way to boil when Frank Marugg adaptbake it, and reconed the anti-theft wheel locks commonly used by vehicle owners to deter hotwiring or joyriding in unattended cars during the 1910s-1930s. In pillows of roughage this case, he turned the tides on vehicle owners because now the cops had Frank's fortress-like wheel-locks. Law enforcement officers used concept at the World's them to immobilize vehicles whose drivers hadn't paid their traffic or parking tickets. Fair in Chicago, he started

There are even some oft-touted Colorado in downtown Denver. Such inventions that are still in dispute, such as ice cream sodas, including root beer floats. Urban shredded wheat was a hit, legend has it that they were invented in 1871 by Denver caterer Otto Baur and by Cripple Creek Brewing's Frank Wisner in 1893,

be out of the game. Get strength for the Game of Life by eating SHREDDED WHEAT

Nebraska,

New Jersey, or

Colorado? Ditto

for the cheeseburger,

which was first patented

in 1935 by Louis Bal-

Dumpty Drive-In. Yet

Several well-known

were really just adaptations

of pre-existing creations,

resulting in products that

are both loved and loathed,

Colorado "inventions"

decade prior.

last of Denver's Humpty

cheeseburgers appeared on

menus in California over a

east once a day all the year naking material in the whole wheat made digestible by steamcooking, shredding and baking

out hitting anything will soon

Many persons imagine they can get "strong as an ox" by eating beef The ox gets his strength from grass and cereals. He doesn't eat meat. He is a strict vegetarian. Pound for pound there is more muscle-making, brain-building material in Shredded Wheat Biscuit than in beef, bacon

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After proofing the concept for shredded wheat in New Jersey, and then presenting the concept at the World's Fair in Chicago, Henry Perky started distributing these biscuits in downtown Denver.

> respectively. But such claims lack verifiable evidence and there are abundant reports of such sodas being first rolled out at an 1874 celebration of Philly's Franklin Institute.

The animated cartoon, South Park (circa 1997) is of course is an authentic Colorado "invention" and helped popularize another one-of-a-kind item — Casa Bonita! But my favorite thing 'invented' in Colorado?

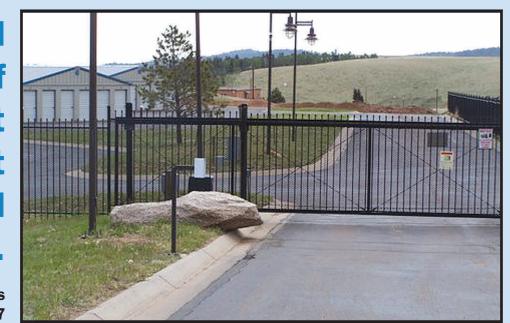
James Hagadorn, Ph.D., is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions & comments welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org.



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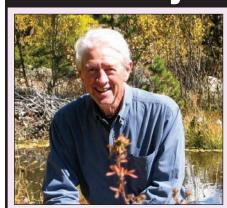
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Obituary



Thomas Lee Willoughby

Thomas Lee Willoughby, known to friends and family as Lee, died unexpectedly Nov. 24 at his home in Woodland Park. He was 73.

Lee was born April 16, 1943, in Jackson, MS., and his love of learning and leadership were evident from the beginning. He was president of his class at Provine High School and a National Merit Scholar who earned the highest score in the state of Mississippi.

Lee was also a talented athlete and played football and baseball in high school. He studied psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1965. Lee became an instructor at the University of Missouri Kansas City.

In 1972, he began working at the UMKC Medical School where he worked to develop methods for evaluating and improving teaching methods and assessing student knowledge while conducting research in medical education.

Lee loved computers and new technology. His knowledge of computers grew alongside the growth of the computer industry itself. Rumor has it that he owned the first Apple computer. Through his work and hobbies, Lee's computer skills ran the gamut from code writing and multimedia presentations to web design; he brought those skills to his community work.

Lee was a lifelong advocate for the environment and sustainable farming. He and his wife, Kathy, began their journey together by growing food on their 10acre farm in rural Missouri.

When Lee and Kathy moved to Woodland Park in 2005, they threw themselves into learning about highaltitude gardening

Lee loved the city and threw his heart and soul into the community. He was the current president of Teller Park Conservation District and a member for seven years. He served on Keep Woodland Park Beautiful and the WP Utilities Advisory committees. He was also on the Woodland Park Main Street board and was the current treasurer. He helped establish and sustain The Harvest Center, an organization dedicated to educating the community about high-altitude gardening and sustainable living.

Lee will be remembered for his warmth, wisdom, kindness and infectious sense of humor. His smile and "Hello" were an invitation to conversation that few could resist. He took great joy in time spent around a table eating great food and talking. But Lee was most of all a doer. He wasn't content just talking about problems of the world — he worked every day to make the world a better place.

Lee is survived by his wife, Kathryn Ruth Willoughby: his mother. Betty Holt Waller of Horn Lake, MS, his son, Christian Bradley Willoughby of Kansas City. MO. his daughter. Amanda Leigh Willoughby of Berkeley, CA; his stepson, Patrick (Kate Paterson) Tepesch of Corning NY, and granddaughters Claire and Erin Tepesch.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Earle Willoughby of Jackson, MS; his sister, Lillian Willoughby of Pearl, MS, and his father, Martin Lee Willoughby of Jackson, MS.

The family hosted a celebration of Lee's life on Dec. 17, 2016 in Woodland Park. CO. The celebration included music, food, laughter, memories and love.

Donations to honor Lee's life will be gratefully accepted to the Lee Willoughby Memorial Fund c/o People's Bank, 651 Scott Ave., Woodland Park, CO 80863.



t was around eight years ago when the Lunique presentation of autism first got my attention. I knew about Indigo-, Crystal-, and Rainbow-Children as described by Nancy Ann Tappe, Jan Tober and Lee Carroll, yet I knew there was something very special about autistic kids that I needed to discover.

The definition of Autism for those who haven't heard of it is: "Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impaired social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. Parents usually notice signs in the first two years of their child's life." (Wikipedia)

I got the information about "who" they really are in a non-conventional way. There are different ways of communication with spiritual guides. It can happen during a state f meditation, during a Reiki session, or while you are sleeping. I got the information while I was sleeping. That day I called my best friend in Venezuela (Maria) to share with her the information I was given. I told her, "I just found out what is going on with autistic kids. They are spiritual beings coming from the fifth dimension. They don't fit in this third dimension because it's too dense for them; it's overwhelming, too noisy, and sticky for them."

Maria has been my spiritual partner for years; we learned to trust each other without any doubts. Maria asked me how did I know about autistic kids, and I told her "I don't know, I woke up and I knew it, they whisper that information in my head while I was sleeping."

One day, maybe a year after receiving this information I found a very interesting interview on YouTube. It was a "60 Minutes" segment, an interview with a mathematic genius, Jacob Barnett. He is an autistic teenager tipped for a Nobel Prize; his IQ is higher than Einstein. During this interview the reporter asked him, "Where does the mathematic information come from?" His answer was "from the fourth dimension."

I started looking for more information about autistic kids. That is how I found the book AWEtizm by Gayle Barkley Lee and Lyrica Mia Marquez. Lyrica is a grown woman who is autistic herself. Her book is a beautiful gift for all of us. Here are some sentences from her book: "We are teaching again fifth dimensional ways of being. We have come here in a fifth dimensional energy body asking the world to rise into its higher destiny. That is why we don't fit into this third dimensional world.'

She wrote about nonverbal communication, about telepathy, "We need the healers. we talked to them in their minds." I was so thankful when I read this paragraph. That was the moment when I knew that the information I gave to Maria about autistic

After all this information came to me I had the opportunity to work as a teacher aide in a school for autistic kids from 3- to 5-years old.

I was working in classroom X, but we shared kids' activities with classroom Y.

My first experience with Reiki and these kids was unexpected. I remember trying to calm a kid I will call Tomas who was known for his "troubled behavior". Nothing seemed to help him. None of the "tools" that I was allowed to use as a teacher aide were helping him. Tomas was sitting in a chair, facing the corner wall, crying, sweating, throwing a tantrum, and trying to get out of the chair. I will be honest with you; I don't agree with how many so call "autistic schools" deal with these kids. I will say my experience working there was very frustrating. I decide that it was enough. I will try to calm Tomas my way, so I took a few deep breaths, and started the Reiki. His response was amazing; it took only a couple of minutes for him to calm down. Tomas was teaching me the right way to help him!

During my first year working there I noticed a very special kid, I will name him Ben. His behavior was notorious. It seems like many situations will trigger tantrums from him. Ben was a non-verbal kid, he didn't have social interaction with other kids; he was always by himself. The next year I ended sharing the same classroom with Ben. Most all the time I was assigned to work with him. I didn't hesitate; I did Reiki for him every time that he was quiet, usually during lunch time when I was sitting behind him. Ben became very close to me, he was always reaching for me. No other kids could sit in my lap, that was Ben place and he would let other kids know it. He didn't need to express it in words.

The other teachers noticed a difference in his behavior. One of the most experienced teachers said, "Ben is a different kid this year."

By the time, I left the job Ben's tantrums were less frequent. He still didn't interact or talk with the other kids. However, he was a calmer and relaxed person.

My experience with another child was more meaningful, she wasn't in my classroom but I would see her at break time. I will call her Sue. She was maybe 4-years old, poor social interaction. She was always playing alone, moving her arms in circles, twirling and talking with herself. I used to watch her from a distance.

One day at break time I saw her but I noticed there where something unusual in her behavior. I decided to get closer to her, enough to see the expression on her face. She looked scared. She seems to be looking at something around her that I couldn't perceive, while she asked repeatedly "Who are you?" I got closer to her and saw tears in her eyes. I knelt down and called her. She didn't seem to hear me but after a few more times calling her name, she turned her face in my direction, looked at me and came towards me. Sue sat on my lap, put her face on my chest and said "You found me." Sue became calm and went back to play in her own world.



Autistic kids can get trapped in between dimensional worlds. They can see what we can't with our eyes. I knew she was seeing something that scared her. My voice could pull her back from the "realm" where she was having this experience.

My biggest fear is to witness how easily these kids can be diagnosed with schizophrenia and/or mental retardation. Are we trying to "fix" them with pills? Are we so blind that we can't see who they really are? I hope one day we can have a better understanding of these kids; they are coming from a higher dimension, they are higher spiritual beings, who came to this world to teach us.

Here are more words from Lyricas book: "What if suddenly the world could see another view? A vision that autism is a higher form of being, not lower? That we in autism are blessed with spiritual abilities and possibilities that we help us transcend the lower world trapping to, find our own true, purpose and way? What if there is truly a language of light that doesn't require words to be spoken?"

What if we are Earth angels here to serve and teach in ways that few of us yet understand and know?

From my heart, I thank Lyrica and the autistic kids who blessed me with their

If you have any questions or want to contact me for a Reiki appointment you can reach me by email: olgacely@hotmail.com Please write REIKI as a subject in your email. Namaste.

Editor's note: If you have an interest in autism, please view the entire 60 Minute segment referenced above and also see Doreen Virtue's website: www.angeltherapy.com/ blog/indigo-crystal-and-rainbow-children.

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by Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Happy 2017! A new year means new resolutions If you are 1 solutions. If you are looking for some ways to fulfill resolutions to be more active and involved in your community, CUSP can help. We will be continuing work on several large-scale projects for which we will be recruiting thousands of volunteers. These projects include our multi-year Horse Creek project just south of Deckers, CO and our work at Beaver Ranch Community Park in Bailey, CO. Also, we are pleased to announce expanded volunteer opportunities at CUSP in 2017.

CUSP will be launching a new fundraising initiative – the "Pack for the Platte". This event, scheduled for Sunday, May 7th, will not only raise funds and awareness for CUSP's wildland firefighting team, it will provide an opportunity for local firefighters to complete their annual Pack Test, a requirement for maintaining their red-card status. The arduous Pack Test measures aerobic capacity, muscular strength, and muscular endurance.

The event will be open to professional and volunteer firefighters as well as to interested individuals who have trained for this event and want to test their endurance for a great cause! Of course, you can participate without having to take the test – you can sign up to volunteer for planning and event day activities.

Maybe planting willows and trees, or working on a Pack Test, are not your forte. Perhaps your talents are better employed through problem solving, long-term planning, or community engagement, outreach and education. CUSP is looking for individuals who have a strong desire to create a lasting influence in our watershed by bringing and using an array of talents to our Volunteer Executive Committee. From new takes on fundraising to making CUSP more visible through social media outlets, this committee welcomes new, innovative and diverse ideas. This committee works closely with Development and Outreach staff to help raise awareness about watershed issues and increase positive CUSP impacts throughout the watershed.

Yes, CUSP can help you on the path to making good resolutions for the New Year and we give you the tools to be successful. Use the following checklist to discover how our opportunities fit your goals:

Help my community

• The Horse Creek project is part of the Hayman Fire recovery – a decade and a half

Casting call

We've returned! The Florissant Grange Players youth drama club is back in action and recruiting now for a spring play production. Members should be between the ages of 10 and 16, and while drama experience is not necessary, enthusiasm is required!

The Florissant Grange Players drama club is mentored by local children's playwright and director, Alexi Alfieri. Alfieri has written and directed a large number of plays with kids, including the hilarious trilogy of "Cowgirl Cookie" comedies as well as a fun mystery dinner show entitled "The Secret of the Spoon." All of the performances entertained a packed crowd at the Florissant Grange Hall. Alfieri also wrote the series of old-fashioned western melodramas still being performed at the Guffey Community Charter School every year for their popular winter fundraiser, the Pie Palooza.

"One of my favorite things is to work with enthusiastic kids on stage," says Alfieri, "and another is to make an audience laugh. I've been so lucky to have done both in all of my shows!"

The participation fee for the Florissant Grange Players drama club is \$90, and the deadline for registration is Friday, January 27th. Rehearsals will be scheduled during the weeks of February and March in preparation for a performance on Saturday, March 25th. All rehearsals, as well as the show, will take place at the Florissant Grange Hall.

"In the past, the local community has shown such generous support for the Florissant Grange Players," says Alfieri. "Every time I've gathered up a cast, there's always a kid or two who is dying to be a part of things but can't afford the participation fee. Then, out of the blue, I'll receive a call from someone who wants to offer a scholarship. just want to emphasize how much that support is appreciated by everyone!"

To register your young thespian for this spring's group or to offer a scholarship for a youth in financial need, please contact Alexi Alfieri at 719-464-4767 or at alexibalfieri@gmail.com by Friday, January 27th. On with the show!

Adopt Me by AARH

Jenny

Hello my name is Jenny. I am 1½-year-old, very sweet, affectionate and smart. Unfortunately, when I was a puppy I was not treated kindly so I get nervous around new people at first, especially men and young children. However, I warm up quickly, and am very loving! I'm hoping I can find someone with a big heart and patience to give me a forever home. I've been searching for such a long time. If you would like to meet me, call Dottie at 719-748-9091 and she will help arrange a visit for us.





since the fire and there

• The long-term goal

of the Beaver Ranch

Community Park is

to create ecological

to re-introduce its namesake;

• Join CUSP's Volunteer Executive Com-

community engagement

Get outdoors more

mittee Team. Help support the mission of

tion through special events, donor cultiva-

tion, fundraising oversight, leadership and

CUSP by developing a strong organiza-

All of CUSP's on-the-ground projects

Raking, seeding and mulching; planting

willow and trees; pulling noxious weeds

and creating slash piles; all build muscle

• Train for the May 7, 2017 inaugural Pack

for the Platte – A 5K Endurance Test (45

pound pack for 5K/3miles in 45 minutes).

Wildland Firefighter test event – great for

firefighters maintaining their red cards as

If you are interested in volunteering with

check out our Volunteer page at http://volun-

teer.cusp.ws/?page id=103. If you are inter-

ested in the Pack for the Platte or Volunteer

Executive committee, please contact Rachel

All of us at CUSP wish you and yours a

happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

CUSP and are new to our process, please

• Start training now for this work capacity

are in beautiful locations throughout the

More physical activity

and burn calories!

well as for individuals

• Volunteer to help with the event

at Rachel@uppersouthplatte.org.

resiliency in the park and

be done.

is still so much work to

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Guffey

by Linda Bjorklund photos by Linda Bjorklund

Thirtynine Mile Mountain looks pretty placid these days. But it once was a volcanic field that contained four source areas, one of which was the Guffey Center. When the mountains were forming, these volcanos must have been spectacular with their explosions of volcanic bombs erupting and raining ashes. When the activity finished, Thirtynine Mile Mountain stood a few miles north of the caldera, or basinshaped depression, that was to become the town of Guffey.

It was in the mid-1890s that miners found gold and deposits of other minerals in Cripple Creek and Victor. Some say that a labor dispute sent miners westward, other sources indicate that miners were frustrated at not finding anything, so they went west to an area that resembled Cripple Creek. Whatever the reason, they settled in the basin close to mountains that used to be volcanos. This became the Freshwater Mining District.

On April 12, 1895, a post office was established and named Idaville, after Ida McClavey Wagner, who owned the mining claims on Gold Hill, directly east of the town. Locals wanted to name the town Freshwater. In December of 1895 they went so far as to have an election and file a petition with Park County to incorporate the town of Freshwater.

When they went to establish the Freshwater post office, they were turned down by the federal government because there was already a town named Freshwater — in California. James McClurg Guffey was active in the oil, gas and coal

industries, as well as in politics. He is said to have owned mining properties in the Freshwater Mining District. The story is somewhat muddled as to whether he paid the town \$500 for street improvements, the condition being that it be named after him, or his nephew, Joseph, made the request. At any rate, the town became known as Guffey and the post office was changed to reflect that name in May of 1896.

One of the most notorious murder cases ever to hit the presses involved an unscrupulous character who became known as the "King of Freshwater." George M. Wright and Charles T. Case were two of the many aliases used by this "King." A graduate of law from the University of Ann Arbor, Charles Case, as he was known in Freshwater, came to town in 1895 and became involved in prospecting, building mills and erecting buildings, a very prominent citizen.

In January of 1896, Dr. William D. Crampton, one of Case's partners, went missing. He was found several days later, buried under a pile of manure, with two bullet holes in his head. Crampton's dog was found nearby, also shot to death. Case led the search, stating that he had gone to Crampton's ranch the day of his disappearance and seen him, but did not talk to him. He took the lead in searching for his partner. Case was a member of the coroner's jury and seemed to be actively trying to solve the mystery.

Three local men were arrested for the crime, but there was no evidence that could prove any of them guilty, and they were all eventually released. In the fall of 1897, Case left



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dence was uncovered that put Case under suspicion of killing the boys to get possession of cattle they were in charge of. The stepfather was pardoned and released from custody

> When Case turned up in Hawaii, the Jtah courts were quick to put him on trial and, if, for some reason he wasn't convicted, he would be sent to Colorado and tried for murder there. It is to be assumed that he did not escape from Utah, as nothing else was heard about trying him for his crime in Guffey.

> William Flavious White brought his wife Kate and four young children to Guffey from Macon County, Missouri, in 1896. They arrived just before the murder of Crampton and quickly "Flave" became involved in solving the crime. He was appointed marshal in the fledgling community and one of his first tasks was to build a jail. The murderer was never put in the Guffey jail, but it was occupied by at least one visitor.

> It seems that there was a roving cowboy who worked from place to place, but took an extended vacation at least every 30 days. He was an Irishman, but no one knew his real name. He

Guffey for parts unknown. It was discovered that he had manipulated the stock of one of his companies and absconded with the profits. Suspicions of his guilt in the murder of Crampton began to surface.

Case was not heard of again until December of 1901, when a sheriff in Honolulu, Hawaii, recognized him from a crime circular. Case was now going by the name of George Wright and serving a sentence in Hawaii for embezzlement. He was planning to head to Australia as soon as he got out of jail. Park County sheriffs would have to wait

their turn in extraditing the "King" for trial. Before Case had come to Colorado, he had been engaged in ranching near Provo, Utah. He had started his criminal career by stealing cattle. Shortly after his crimes were discovered, he disappeared. About the same time, three young boys, cousins, were found murdered. Their bodies had been loaded into a wagon, driven

by a team of horses onto the ice of Utah Lake, then dumped into a hole cut into the ice. One of the bodies surfaced in April and the other two were found a short time later.

The stepfather of one of the boys was tried and convicted for the crime. He was sentenced to hang, but the sentence was twice commuted and he was serving a life term. Evi-



I Saw It: "When the first jail was built in Como, he donated ten dollars for its construction. He was the first to be locked behind its steel door. By having the honor of dedicating the building, he was christened 'Como Jim.'

Como Jim found himself in Guffey on one of his vacations, insisting that "Me throat is so droy I am spittin' cotton and me belly is craving a good dronk of licker." After a session of 'celebrating with the byes' rather more than he

was able to tolerate and still mount one of his three horses, Como Jim as usual retired for the night in the Guffey jail.

'Flave' White also helped build the old dance (city) hall and a barn located at the north end of Main Street from which one of the stage lines was run. White's son Virgil recalled that "when they had a dance in the hall, there was a check stand, and everyone was compelled to check his six-gun and spurs.'

The jail was again occupied in 1908 by "Bud" McDonald, who was arrested for stealing. "Bud" apparently borrowed a horse and saddle from one Edward Shimin, and promptly rode to Salida, where he sold them. The county sheriff was notified and went to Salida to arrest him. "Bud" was given a hearing and ordered to get back the stolen goods. He managed to redeem the saddle and was given nine days to get back the horse and return it to Shimin. In more recent years, Guffey has become unique

in that the duly elected mayor of the town is a fouregged creature. Residents elected their first feline Jail mayor, Paisley, in 1988 after officials in the county seat of Fairplay misplaced Guffey's zoning map. The replacement map erroneously zoned residential

property as commercial, resulting in higher tax rates. Park County Deputy Sheriff Betty Royse, also a Guffey resident, was credited with the idea of putting a fat cat in office. After Paisley's demise two years later, another cat, mostly Siamese, named Mayor Smudge le Plume, was elected for the job. The mayor, however, came up missing in 1991, and the owner of the Guffey General Store opined that "My feeling is she became dinner for some eagle, hawk or coyote."

The office of Mayor didn't stay vacant for long. In 1993 it was reported that a 3-year-old golden retriever named Shanda held the position. According to the Colorado Springs Gazette, "She has abolished the leash law and remains quick to lick the feet of her constituency. She's lousy at returning phone calls and urinates when she gets excited.

Guffey residents insist that they have two political parties — the 'Democats' and 'Repuplicans.' As recent as 2012, the reigning mayor was a cat named Monster, who roamed the premises of the town and came by the town

The town of Guffey now has a charter school, a community library, a fire station and several businesses. What hasn't disappeared, though, is its past. The jail is still there, as well as the city (dance) hall and other buildings that have been renovated to serve its public. To prove that Guffey indeed has a sense of humor, there is an old horse-drawn paddy wagon sitting in a lot on Main Street. Its occupants, includ-



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& Referral Services

Native Plants of the Ute Country Wild Poinsettia, Euphorbia dentata Michx

photos by Mary Menz

Wild poinsettia, or toothed spurge as it's also known, is not reported in all of the Ute Country, but is worth mentioning in this column for two reasons. First, it's a cousin of the cultivated, multimillion dollar holiday season plant. Second, it IS found in the southern range of the Ute Country and may yet to be noticed in the mesic, dry areas of Teller or Park Counties in June through August. It is currently found in Fremont and Chaffee Counties. Citizen science is an important aspect of reporting native plant species so that they can be accurately accounted for and monitored by experts and amateurs alike.

The native poinsettia found in the wild is not necessarily as showy as the holiday varieties, yet its delicate tooted leaf structures and clustered flower buds are beautiful in their own right. A quick web search will show you the various forms it can take in native habitat, which is generally disturbed areas like roadsides, railroad beds, and former pastures. Some counties in a handful of states even classify it as a noxious weed. Ah, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Many birds of the Ute Country enjoy the seeds of spurges, including the Mourning Dove. The pollen and nectar are rewards for many kinds of short-tongued insects like

the flea beetle and various flies. It's not a favorite food of many animals due to the white, milky sap that can cause both skin and stomach upset.

general public are an important aspect of Plant Database shows that wild poinsettia is native to the lower 48 states, yet has no input helps make data more meaningful.

Meshing of both amateur and expert information is the motivation of programs like iNaturalist. iNtauralist is a web-based program where amateurs can share their observations of both plants and animals. Recordings and discussions can take place online at the inaturalist.com website, on Facebook, or via the popular cell phone application.

With the more widespread popularity of phone — people are making significant contributions to science. For example, in Teller County, there is a Facebook page for reporting and identifying native flora and sharing information. This is a great way to



Data and observations reported by the citizen science. More and more, this kind of crowd-sourced information is critical to professional scientists. For example, the USDA county data for the state of Colorado. Public

Facebook — via both the internet and smart



The wild poinsettia is not as showy as the cultivated holiday plant sold in stores.

know whether a plant you find is common, sensitive or rare, and to generally increase knowledge among all participants.

Make 2017 the year you contribute to science! There are numerous ways to get inspecies, be they plants, animals, or birds

Mary Menz is a naturalist and Colorado Native Plant Master. She loves to search for — and find — native plants. You can reach volved in reporting about your favorite native her at snowberryblossom@gmail.com.

Pikes Peak Rotary dictionary drive

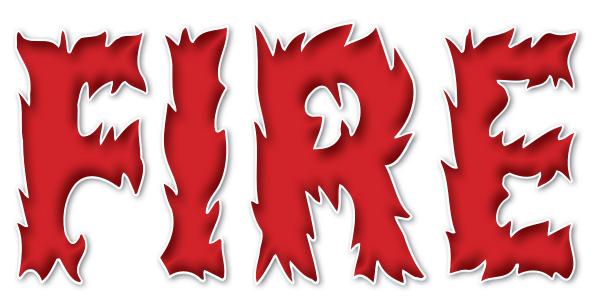
Pikes Peak Rotary Club recently distributed dictionaries to 3rd graders at Columbine Elementary School. Students from the Woodland Park Middle School Interact Club (a student extension of the Rotary Club) helped pass out the books. The Rotary Club provides dictionaries to all area 3rd grade classes every year.







Don't miss



at the Ice Festival

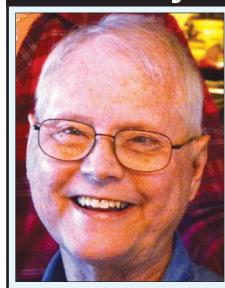


Saturdays & Sundays February 11 & 12 February 18 & 19 10am - 4pm



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Obituary



Ray Chris Wardlow

Ray Wardlow was born in Eureka, California, on December 1, 1951. He died December 13, 2016 in Colorado Springs at Penrose Hospital. Ray was raised in Southern California and moved to Colorado Springs, CO in 1982.

Ray began his working career by helping out in a LaVerne, CA nursing home where his mother, June Wardlow, served as the Director of Nurses. Following this he began working in the sheet metal industry both in California and Colorado. Ray worked for Denver Lockheed Martin Marietta during the manufacturing period of the Titan II Missile and for many years in the quality control department at Siemens Water Technologies where he took an early retirement.

His whole world changed when he met the love of his life, Arlinda. His passions included riding his Harley, traveling with Arlinda, and witnessing for the Lord. During his life, he witnessed for the Lord with both The Christian Motorcycle's Association and the Black Sheep ministries at different times. Ray also did volunteer work for both the Pikes Peak Christian Church pantry and the Catholic Charities Marian House. He was a very generous person. His frequent visits to family and friends in Teller County will be missed.

Ray moved unexpectedly into retirement when he developed Multiple Myeloma cancer, a disease that could be treated into remission but could not be cured. He was able to enter remission from the cancer after a stem cell transplant (transplanting his own stem cells). Unexpectedly, in September 2016 Ray started experiencing severe medical problems that doctors were unable to diagnose before his death, but appeared

to be Lou Gehrig's disease.

He is survived by: his wife of 10 ½
years, Arlinda; his brother, Joe Wardlow; his sister, Yvonne Eskay; his niece,
Shawna Wardlow; and his nephew, Ed
Wardlow; plus many extended family
and friends. He was preceded in death by
his parents and sister, Sharon.

A memorial service is planned for Monday, January 9th, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Pikes Peak Christian Church, 4955 Bradley Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80911. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Pikes Peak Christian Church or the Marian House of Colorado Springs.

Public Libraries

by Flip Boettcher photo by Flip Boettcher

We all have probably visited one in our lives at some time or other and maybe even wondered how they were funded, but did you ever wonder how our modern-day public libraries originated?

Libraries and public access to books have been a part of our culture for a long time. Amit Anu, "Tabl Keeper," is the earliest known librarian at the Royal Library in the ancient kingdom of Ur in 2000 B.C. The Romans provided dry rooms with scrolls for patrons of the baths to read. The Romans had some success establishing libraries within their empire.

In the American colonies in the 1700's, many small private libraries existed, owned by ministers, doctors, churches and colleges. These libraries were typically open for limited times and only to a select few. Books symbolized wealth and usually were only available to scholars and the upper classes and mostly only to men.

Public libraries developed over time. According to Wikipedia, a public library is "A library that is accessible by the general public and is generally funded from public sources, such as taxes." Public libraries have five common characteristics: they are generally supported by taxes; governed by a board of directors to serve the public interest; open to all; voluntary to use, not forced; and provide a wide-variety of services without charge.

Throughout the 1700's to the early 1800's, three trends led to our present-day public libraries, according to the website: www. straightdope.com. One trend was the idea of "social libraries," where book collections were shared among specific users with members purchasing "stock or shares" in the library. This money was used to buy more books. Members could borrow the books and use the library.

Ben Franklin is attributed with starting the first "subscription library", the Library Company of Philadelphia, which started as a "discussion club" in 1731, "partly as a means to settle arguments and partly as a means to advance themselves through sharing information," (Wikipedia). Social libraries became very popular with their idea of sharing quality books, but were never financially secure.

Circulating libraries brought the idea of including popular materials like the latest fiction and the 18th century innovation, the novel. Circulating libraries, which rented out books, were started in the late 1700's and often were housed in bookshops or print shops.

In the early 1830's, Horace Mann, Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, advocated for school libraries saying "After we educate our children, what do they have to read." Schools were expected to supply books for their students. Eventually, school district libraries, funded by taxes, provided reading for adults and children; thus giving us the idea of public funding for libraries.

The mid-19th century saw a real push for tax supported public libraries run by the state. The Boston Public Library, which opened in 1854, is considered to be the first real public library. Its statement of purpose basically says "There's a close linkage between knowledge and right thinking; the future of democracy is contingent on an educated citizenry; there's a strong correlation between the public library movement and public education; and every citizen has the right of free access to community owned



Rita Mick, Guffey library branch manager on the porch of the Guffey library.

resources," (straightdope.com).

In 1890, the American Library Association elected Melvil Dewey (1851-1931) as its president. Dewey had a huge impact on the development of public libraries. Dewey's slogan was "The best reading for the largest number at the least cost."

Dewey began organizing and standardizing nearly every aspect of the library right down to the size of the library card. Of course, Dewey is most noted for the Dewey Decimal Classification System for cataloging, filing and placing books on shelves to make them more accessible.

Libraries rapidly expanded with public libraries started in Los Angeles, 1889, New York, 1895, New Orleans, 1896 and Brooklyn, 1897. About this same time, Scottish born industrialist Andrew Carnegie, who was once the richest man in the world, was donating part of his fortune to starting new libraries. Carnegie thought libraries and books should be available to all and by 1920, the Carnegie estate had donated \$60 million to fund a system of almost 1,700 libraries across the United States. Carnegie's donations got libraries started in small towns. This was the largest endowment ever made to libraries.

Today there are approximately 9,000 public libraries in the United States plus another 8,000 branch libraries. About 60 percent of these are small libraries serving communities of less than 10,000 population.

Park County is fortunate to have four public libraries: Bailey, Lake George, and Guffey are branch libraries all under the Fairplay main branch library. All the county libraries are under the direction of head librarian/branch manager Pat Shepherd. The Park County libraries provide a wide range of free services; pre-school story times to encourage literacy; quiet study and work areas; book clubs; computers and internet access; as well as borrowing library materials and access to interlibrary loans. The demands made on each library and their financial support depends a lot on the population they serve.

Some specific free programs in the Park County library system include Fast and Fit Brain Training which includes Brain HQ designed to increase your brain activity and Fast Forward for people 5 - 82 years old and beyond, for improving reading skills.

Rita Mick, branch manager of the Guffey library, stressed that your library card is not obsolete, and can be used with many online resources available at the library. Some online programs include over 500 free education

classes; the Mango language program with 72 different languages one can learn; and the Overdrive program to download books to personal electronic devices. One time a month, Shepherd presents the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) program at all the four libraries, said Mick. The libraries also share a new 3-D printer.

Some programs specific to the Guffey library include the Book Nook, which sells used books; craft and movie days; "Book Bucks" and the summer reading program. Since Guffey is a rural area, it is hard to get people to the library to participate in the activities, said Mick, but the library is "an important, central part of the community." The library is a neutral gathering and learning place.

The computers, the WiFi and the meeting room get a lot of use, stated Mick. The Friends of the Guffey Library, the Talking Threads sewing group, the quilting group and the book club all meet there. The Guffey Community Charter School uses the library the first and third Thursdays of the month during the school year

New to the libraries this year is a collaboration between Colorado State Parks and Colorado libraries called Colorado State Backpacks, said Mick. Each library has two backpacks that can be checked out for two weeks. Each pack has a list of 42 Colorado state parks that one can visit and a day pass for those parks. Use of the packs does not include overnight stays or fishing licenses.

All of these programs cost money, said Mick. Libraries are always trying to do a lot with limited funding. Funding comes from federal, state and local taxes, but grants are also an important part of funding. Branch managers and Shepherd are responsible for writing and applying for all library grants.

Libraries not only accept monetary donations but also donations of DVDs, CDs, videos, and books. Library Friends' groups also have library fundraisers throughout the year. As a final note, "Next time you're looking for a present for someone who has everything, make a contribution on their behalf to your local library," straightdope.com.

Did you know there are more libraries in the United States than McDonald's restaurants? Also, libraries have more cardholders than Visa. At one time Mao Zedong, Golda Meir, J. Edgar Hoover, and Laura Bush were all librarians.

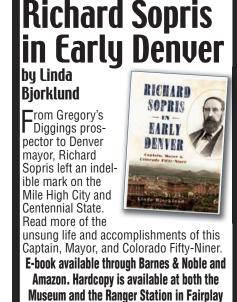
For more information on the Park County libraries visit their website www.http://park-county.colibraries.org.org.cg/l/710-836-4200

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John C. Fremont Library news

January's featured artist is Christine Shinofield. She will be displaying her exhibit *Colorado Inspired*. There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, January 14th from 2 - 4 p.m. as part of Florence's Second Saturday.

January's featured collection: for 2017 we have two new online databases, LearningExpress which has resources for achieving educational and career goals, and Ebsco which features auto repair resources, health information, and other reference tools. We are still offering Encyclopedia Britannica for all of your homework and reference needs! http://www.jcfld.org/databases

Adult Programs

Medicare and Medicaid with Tom Rooney on January 5 at 6 p.m. Tom Rooney, Senior Health Advisor and Licensed Insurance Representative, will help clarify the confusion that surrounds Medicaid, Medicare and the Medicare/Medicaid combination plan. Tom will also talk about low income subsidy. Find out more about your options regarding these plans.

Vista Hogan and the Reel California Girls with Loretta Bailey on January 11 at 1 p.m. Join Loretta Bailey, who will be dressed in character, as she tells us about Cora Beardsley and Ethelyndal McMullin, Vista Hogan's "Reel California Girls." In 1916 these two silent movie actresses from Alameda, California traveled by automobile to Cañon City. At that time there were two studios here making films, and that appears to be one of the draws for them

Woodland Park High School (WPHS) received a grant for the amount of

Services (EARSS) Restorative Practices.

\$100.934 from the Colorado Department of

Education for Expelled and At-Risk Student

According to Michael DeWall, WPHS As-

sistant Principal and Athletics Director, the ap-

plication for the grant was specific to restora-

tive practices. This is based on the idea that

instead of using punitive measures for misbe-

havior, actions are taken to make things right

include all levels from classroom interventions

with the people or facility. These practices

up to handling expulsion hearings.

to come. Another was they came with hopes of building a summer resort in the Royal Gorge Park about a mile from the north rim. They were successful in getting the Vista Lodge, or Vista Hogan, built and opened in 1920.

Sew What? With Connie and Nancy on January 18 at 1 p.m. Want to learn how to use a sewing machine by doing some simple projects or need advice on a project you are having trouble with? Our talented seamstresses will help you achieve success on your project, regardless of your sewing skill level.

Personal Energy Independence with Gary Gage on January 19 at 6 p.m. Gary Gage, owner-operator of Sunshine Solar and Wind LLC, will teach us how to become energy independent through solar, wind, and hydro power. We will learn about systems that can be both tied to the grid, and off the grid.

Movie Night: At the Fork on January 24 at 6 p.m. In At the Fork, filmmaker and omnivore John Papola, together with his vegetarian wife Lisa, offer up a timely and refreshingly unbiased look at how farm animals are raised for our consumption. With unprecedented access to large-scale conventional farms, Papola asks the tough questions behind every hamburger, glass of milk and baby-back rib. What he discovers are not heartless industrialists, but America's farmers — real people who, along with him, are grappling with the moral dimensions of farming animals for food.

Ichigo Ichie (One Encounter, One Oppor-

"A big piece is for the student to own the

behavior and problem solve on how to avoid

repeating the action in the future," DeWall ex-

plains. "We have been trying to figure out how

to change the culture of discipline in our high

DeWall worked with Peace Partners, a

groups to implement restorative practices.

local nonprofit organization who works with

A large part of the grant includes how to use

the practice in the schools and plans are now

"We are already doing restorative prac-

tices at a lesser level and when we looked at

being made to begin work in January.

school and this definitely meets our need."

tunity) with Joy Sato on January 26 at 6 p.m. Join Joy for a Japanese Tea Ceremony. She will teach us about the Way of Tea.

Clubs

Vegan Book Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. to discuss veganism and topics related to veganism.

Wool Gatherers meet every Wednesday at 10 a.m. to yak, knit (or crochet or quilt), and have lunch! The group is BYOP: Bring Your Own Project. All levels welcome.

Youth Programs

Family Movie: *BFG* on January 21 at 2:30 p.m. Steven Spielberg directed this adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel, which centers on the unlikely friendship between a lonely orphan named Sophie and the "big friendly giant." PG. 117 min. FREE popcorn, bring your own drink.

Story Time at the Library every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Join Ms. Debbie for songs, stories and crafts.

Youth Clubs

Teen Group every Thursday at 3:45 p.m. Teens 6th to 12th grade are invited for crafts, games and fun. There is a new weekly theme. Snacks will be provided.

The John C. Fremont Library is located at 130 Church Ave., Florence, CO 81226. Call 719-784-4649 for more information.

WPHS receives grant for over \$100,000

decreases in drop outs due to expulsions,"
DeWall said. "Now we will be able to do it
all on a much larger scale."
The money received will include a fulltime employee shared between the WPHS
and middle school. Training for all staff is
also necessary so teachers will be using the

what we've done previously, those changes

resulted in great improvements such as

time employee shared between the WPHS and middle school. Training for all staff is also necessary so teachers will be using the same language keeping consistency throughout the district. "We are taking what we are already doing and making it much more robust and system wide," DeWall said. "We want this to be a culture of our schools."

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FLOOD REALTY

buried in information from countless sources on every parenting topic from how to eat and exercise during pregnancy to how to encourage a child's love of learning and everything in between. My hope is that the informawill help bring attention to important topics and provide to make educated decisions and/or learn more if they wish. Nothing in this article should be considered a substitute for medical advice, **Woodland Hardware** common sense, or your own

> Tt's the most wonderful time of the year Lagain! We have snow on the ground, the woodstove is fired up, and lights and wonder are all around. With the holidays over, many families hunker down to wait out the next few cold months inside where it's warm. But if you like to brave the bitter cold like we do, here are a few tips to make it fun and safe!

Winter Activities

When you have a baby or toddler, there are lots of fun ways to enjoy the winter and incorporate some great new experiences for your little one. Snowballs can be great for counting, teaching big and small, building, and playing "catch." Twinkle lights are a very fun way to talk about colors and learn the difference between "on" and "off", not to mention they are a wondrous sight in these winter evenings. Take a drive in a decorated neighborhood and watch your babe get excited about all the beautiful lights!

Babies especially love to just sit in snow and discover what it feels like, what it tastes like, and how it works. Your baby may not be ready for skiing quite yet but can learn to love this interesting season at a very young age. A good rule of thumb for cold weather is that no baby/child should be outside playing if they are shivering, have goosebumps, or very cold fingers. Also, keep kids inside if the windchill is below -10°F.

Cold weather safety

Just like adults, babies and children are best dressed in layers when it's cold outside. A good rule to remember is that your baby should have one warm layer more than what you're wearing in order to stay warm but not overheated. Start with thermal underwear, add pants and sweaters, and then put on jackets, coats, warm socks, boots, mittens, hats and a neck gator. A neck gator is always a safer and warmer option than a scarf, which can fall off or can get caught and become a strangulation hazard. Make sure baby's skin is all covered but they can still breathe easily around the clothing.

Baby's skin is more sensitive to cold than an adult's and needs to be protected from chapping and frostbite. Layers are a good start but for noses and cheeks, try spreading a winter balm that can protect the skin from

Annual Bike

The Fourth the Night is August 26th. Registration is \$20 (early registration) or \$25 for adults,

child. \$5 after that. Prize money is available for best costume

October 7th is our 3rd Annual Aspen Valley Mountain bike race. Registration and age categories include: \$10 Strider 2 - 5, \$15 Youth races 6-9, \$20 Juniors 10 - 18, and \$35 Adult races.

Seeds to Sprouts Frosty fun

by Maren J. Fuller, MSM, CPM

Real information on everything from conception to age two

As modern parents, we are tion contained in this column valuable resources for parents research and is written for informational purposes only. Please enjoy!

wind and cold. This is also important right after a bath when you can lock moisture into your child's skin by moisturizing immediately. Your child should also be drinking at least an ounce of liquid (breastmilk, formula or water) per pound of body weight every day to help moisturize from the inside out.

Car seat

Remember that your baby or child should only be wearing 1-2 layers while in the car seat. There should be absolutely no puffy layers between your child's body and the car seat straps as this extra "fluff" can be a severe hazard in case of an accident. This is a tough prospect when it's bitter cold outside but is well worth the effort. With an older toddler you can make it fun by strapping them in and then letting them wear their coat backward over the straps. Try warming up your car before bringing your baby out and for removable car seats, get baby tucked in before stepping outside.

Sleeping

In the winter, you may be tempted to dress baby very warmly or use extra blankets in their crib/bed. This is not the safest way to keep your child warm at night or during naps. It's always better to keep the room warmer and dress baby in relatively light layers with no blankets. Keep blankets, pillows, and other bedding out of baby's bed until after the age of two when kids can easily awaken and avoid smothering under these lavers.

Resources and suggestions for further reading & support:

- •Dr. Sears on Winter Skin: http://www. askdrsears.com/topics/health-concerns/ skin-care/winterizing-childs-skin NCBI Winter Safety Tips: https:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/
- PMC2794526/ *AAP Winter Safety: https://www.aap.org/ en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/ news-features-and-safety-tips/pages/

Ouestions? Comments? Suggestions for future columns? Please send them to: utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

Winter-Safety-Tips.aspx

Maren Fuller is a mother, a midwife. an educator, and an activist dedicated to finding support, providing education, and building community for Colorado families during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting. She and her family live on a small homestead in

MTCC 2017 Events

by Deborah Maresca

The Mountain Top Cycling Club is pleased to announce the 2017 calendar of events, which is filling up quickly!

Our club meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month, with the exception of July 11th. All club meetings are open to the public. We always have guest speakers and door prizes. Check the website for more information. http://www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com./

The Teller County Parks and Recreation cosponsored by Teller County Chiropractic will host the Teller County Bike Rodeo on June 7th, which is open to the public.

June 17th is the 6th Annual Mountain Top Experience Ride, road cycling fundraising event with 18-, 30-, 50-, 75- and 106-mile

~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 4 CDOC Hiring Event from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Apply at CDOC.JobsNow! or call Lisa Harding 719-226-4465 12 Trans Himalayan Trek: Stories of my journey and rebuilding Syaphru Bensi at 7 p.m. Held at Congrega tional United Church of Christ at 217 Crossman Ave.

CA ON CITY

CAÑON CITY LIBRARY 7 Rob Smith Yukon Gold rush talk and presentation 2 p.m. On-going events at

Cañon City Library · Monday B.O.O.K. (babies on our knees) is a story time and activity play for 0-24 months at 10:30 a.m Tuesday, Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is story time and craft for 2 and up. • Lego club every 2nd and 4th

Wednesday at 3:15 to 4:15 p.m Cañon City Library is located at 516 Macon Avenue. Call 719-269-9020 for more information

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group. Adults living with mental illness. Every Wednesday 5:30-7 p.m. at St. Thomas More Hospital Community Education Room. Free safe, and confidential. 719-315-

COPPER

MOUNTAIN

7 USASA RMS Slopestyle 14-15 SafetyFest 21 Ugly Sweater Ski 21-22 USASA RMS Halfpipe & Slopestyle Competition

CRIPPLE CREEK

ASPEN MINE CENTER **3, 17** TBI - Group participation meetings regarding Traumatic Brain njury on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. The meeting is held in the 2nd floor conference room from 10-11:30 a.m.

10 All Vets, All Wars - Group participation for all vets, of all wars on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. Meeting is held n the 2nd floor conference room. **4, 18** ATTUNE - New support group for male victims of domestic

violence. This group meets the 1st

and 3rd Wednesday of each month between 4-5 p.m. in the 2nd floor 4, 11, 18, 25 - Aspen Mine Center inity Luncheon is held each Wednesday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. All community members are welcome, particularly seniors, persons with disabilities

and families. Meals are provided on a donation basis. 19 OIB Group - This a support group for individuals with blindness or other sight issues. The group meets from 10-11 a.m. in the Dining Room on the 2nd floor every third

volunteers, low income individual

Thursday of the month. 27 Aspen Mine Center's Teller County Emergency Food Distribution Pro gram (Commodities) will be held

between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please bring photo ID and proof of Teller

27 Cross Disability Meetings for persons with disabilities. The eeting is held the last Friday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. The meeting is held in the 2nd floor conference room. For more information call 719-689-3584 X124.

GED classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please call Katy to register 719-686-0705.

DIVIDE

- 9 & 23 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechane foodpantry@outlook.com Save the date: July 8, 2017 is the Music
- 14 Our next TCSS general membership meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide. Go to www.tcss-co.org for
- The Divide Planning Committee (DPC) invites you to sign up on the website below if you reside or work in the Divide Region of Teller County. The Divide Planning Committee is the voice of the Divide Regional Plan acting as a Review Agency for the Teller County Planning Commission, Teller County Planning Department, and the Teller County Board of County Commissioners. By signing up on this website you will receive notices for future meetings. See the DividePlanning.org website for

GED classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings from Katy to register 719-686-0705.

FAIRLPLAY

Camera Club is holding a plann meeting for 2017 events at South Park Brewing in Fairplay on Saturday January 14 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Come meet the club members and get the inside scoop on upcoming events. Photographers of all ages and skill level are welcome. For more information visit the club Facebook page at www.facebook. com/GSPACC/ or email us at southparkcameraclub@gmail.com.

Chili Bowl in a Chili Museum on Saturday January 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and have a cup of home-made chili in a hand-made pottery bowl by P&G Pottery, \$5 for a cup of chili. All proceeds go to Florence Pioneer Museum Building Fund www.FlorencePioneerMuseum.org

information call 719-784-4649.

FLORISSANT

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT 16 Fee Free Day to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day all National Park Service units including FFBNM

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 20 Night Sky Program 6-8 p.m. into the distant past. Program will feature a 30-minute indoor presentation followed by outdoor mitting). Members of the Colorado guide us on our celestial voyage. as we explore Jupiter and beyond! Members of the Colorado Springs

- information on this committee

9:30-noon. New Student Please call

FLORENCE

21 The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center presents a

John C. Fremont Library - see page 25 for January 2017. The John C. Fremont Library is located at 130 Church Ave. For more

are free for the day. The hours are

sky and provide telescope viewing

of the moon, star clusters, nebulae

and other celestial wonders. Please

note that the telescope viewing is

These programs are generously

assisted by the Colorado Springs

Astronomical Society. For more

information on this partnership.

please visit their website: www

FFBNM will host a cosmic journey aser-guided constellation tour and colorado.org. Event is weather permitting; check with Helen at 719-836-0173. elescope observations (weather per-Springs Astronomical Society will Astronomical Society will be on hand to share their love of the night

weather-dependent, and takes place only if clear. Presentations take place no matter the weather. Dress warmly in layers. Bring binoculars or a flashlight if you wish (redfiltered lights only please).

csastro.org. Admission for the program is the regular park entrance fee, which is \$5 per adult (16 years and older); children and federal pass holders are free. For additional information, please call 719-748-3253 or visit our website: www.nps.gov/flfo or on Facebook at /FlorissantNPS

FLORISSANT GRANGE

On-going classes:
• Let's Paint! Painting classes are by reservation only and can have from 3 to 10 people. Supplies, snacks, beverages, and instruc tor are provided. Cost is \$30 per person. Call to reserve your space 719-748-5004.

 New Al-Anon Meeting every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. For more information contact 719 466-0431

next clinic is February 1. Jam Night. Every Thursday all year 10 Blood Drive from 11 a.m. to 4:30 the Grange Hall is open from 6 to 9 p.m. for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck. Please call 719-748-5004 for more info

FLORISSANT LIBRARY see article below.

PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM Families and groups can arrange a visit with only one- or two-da notice by calling 719-748-8259 or

THUNDERBIRD INN Every Thursday night is open mic jam at 7 p.m.

GUFFEY

FRESHWATER BAR & GRILL 7 Our first Wii Bowling on the 100 14 Adam Ashley 5-8 p.m. 21 Wii Bowling 6-8 p.m. 28 Stompin' George & Super Chuck

JEFFERSON

6-9 p.m.

21 WANTED: Cooks to compete it the South Park Wild West Chili Cook-Off on January 21 at the Jefferson Community Center. Chili should arrive by 4:30 p.m. in a crockpot. Entry fee is \$10. First place: winner's name on a plagi displayed in the Jefferson Com munity Center PLUS a cash prize Doors open at 5 p.m. for tasting and voting. Charge for tasting and voting is \$5. Find the entry form online and complete/return by January 18. www.jefferson

LAKE GEORGE

7 Eleven Mile State Park hosts Ice Fishing Tournament Grand Slam Save the date for Ice Masters Traveling Trophy Feb 4. For mor information call 719-748-0317.

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY Story Times each Wednesday from

PARK COUNTY

a Grant for Park County Veterar of any age to help pay for Housing, Utilities, Groceries and Gas For more information, please cal 719-836-4295.

SALIDA 4 A free legal clinic for parties

who have no attorney, will be featured from 2-3 p.m. on the firs Wednesday of each month at the Salida Regional Library at 405 E St. Salida, CO 81201. By com puter link volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the proce and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlordtenant law, small claims, veterar issues, and civil protection orders. Walk-ins are welcome and everyone will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis. The

p.m. at Masonic Lodge located at 140 West 3rd Street. For more in formation call 800-365-0006 X2 10 The Friends of The Steam-

Plant's first fundraiser of 2017 is

scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Salida SteamPlant Ballroom. Special guest Dan R. from Heart of the Rockies Radio Hippie Radio 97.5 will emcee the Trivia Night Battle Royale event. Teams of up to six players may participate for \$25 Individuals pay \$5 each to play, and individuals and businesses ma sponsor a trivia question for a \$10 donation per ques The inaugural night's Special Category will be Salida History. The SteamPlant will be hosting a cash bar, with beer and wine provided by Hubbub Brewery and Vino Salida, Merchandise and other prizes from local businesses will be awarded to the evening's winners. The Friends will be staffing a Membership table so patrons can

renew or become a new Friend that

night as well. For more information

Iappy Story Hour every Wednesday

on the fundraiser, please go to the SteamPlant's website: salidasteam plant.com/event/trivia-night

BOOK HAVEN

COLORADO SPRINGS

ering the Anza Legacy: Juan Bautista de Anza and his 1779 Comanche Campaign by John Wesley Anderson. Social time is at 6 p.m., dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The event is at the Colorado Springs Masonic Center, 1150 Panorama Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado. 80904. This is a story of two fearless men Governor Juan Bautista de Anza and Cuerno Verde, the Comanche war chief (Green Horn), determined to protect their people and preserve their cultural way of life. While the legacy of Juan Bautista de Anza is well established throughout much of the American Southwest, his influence during the 18th Century remains relatively unknown across today's Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. Challenging the Comanche, known as the Lord of the Plains. Anza leaves Santa Fe with a mounted force of 600 Spanish. They are joined by 200 Ute and Jicarilla Apache, north around Sierra del Almagre (Pikes Peak) attacking the Comanche main camp on August 31, 1779 (at present-day Colorado Springs). The Final Battle occurs four days later, south of present-day Pueblo

John Anderson is an author, artist and historian. He retired from Lockheed Martin in 2012 to launch a small consulting business allowing him the freedom to pursue his love of history, writing and the arts. Prior to working 10 years in the corporate world. John served two-terms as the elected Sheriff for El Paso County, Colorado (term-limited in 2003). Although John has traveled around the world, he remains most fascinated by the rich history and art discovered in his own back yard in the American Southwest

While on a different topic, John will have copies of his book: Ute Indian Prayer Trees of the Pikes Peak Region available for purchase and autograph. Program format is in a casual, catered dinner setting at a cost of \$17, payable in advance. RSVP and pay via credit card on-line by Friday prior, by noon. Guests are welcome! Membership in the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners is open to all individuals with an interest in Western history

For more information call 719-473-0330 and ask for Bob DeWitt or email: posse@dewittenterprises.com

5:30-6:30 p.m. Begins Jan. 18th. Happy Hour and Appetizers for adults. Story Hour and Treats for children (infant - 8 years old). RSVP Required! 719-539-9629

· Chaffee County The Emergency Food Assistance Program & Commodity Supplemental Food Program distributions on the 1st Thursday of each month at Salida Community Center, 305 F Street from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Elaine Allemang for more information 719-539-3351.

WOODLAND

PARK 20 The space where the Woodland Park Parkinson Support Group has been meeting has been leased and is no longer available for us. Start ing January 20, 2017 the support group will be meeting at the Mtn. View United Methodist Church at 10 a.m. We hope to see you there.

21 Senior Center Pancake Breakfast at the Woodland Park Senior Center 312 N. Center Street, from 8-11

a.m. We hope to help you start off vour New Year with good food and friendly conversation. Join us for a fresh cooked, all you can ear breakfast of fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, the best biscuits and gravy around, and a seasonal treat. Your home town seniors wil be flipping the pancakes and serving them up with juice and coffee or hot tea for only \$8. Kids 6 and under eat for \$2. This open to the public fundraising event helps to support the programs and activities of the Woodland Park Senior Center. Consider adding a monthly visit to the Senior Center for breakfast to your New Year's resolutions. We appreciated the support of each one of you! Mark your calendars and plan to join us on the 3rd Saturday each month this year.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP Study. Please join us as we study the Book of John. FREE! Resumes

p.m. at Woodland Park Community continued on page 28

study Jan 11 Wednesdays 6:30

Don't be a skunk

by Polly Roberts

During the cold winter months, skunks get comfy in their dens and torpor (a light hibernation when body temperature, breathing, and metabolism drop) in the company of their close family. They will have spent the fall eating as much as possible so they can store up body fat and stay warm during their sleep. During their torpor, they will occasionally wake up from their deep nap and come out to go to the bathroom and scrounge up something to eat.

Like skunks, we humans can undergo a type of torpor. It begins around Thanksgiving when we begin the holiday feasting season with turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and pies. We then, in addition to regular meals, commence grazing candy dishes, cookie trays, towers of chocolates, hams, and edible gifts from friends and co-workers. By the end of the year, we have gained a few pounds and are ready to hunker down in our warm dens to wait out the short days and onslaught of ice and snow.

Are you in danger of becoming a skunk? Besides having books and magazines to read, and movies to watch, the Florissant Public Library has many programs and activities to help keep you from holing up this winter.

There is a new book club coming to the Flo-

rissant Library, the "Who Picked This Book?" Club This will be a very unconventional offthe-wall book club. The idea is to enjoy alternative books and unorthodox book club activities. Many times you will not have to read anything ahead of time — just show up, bring a snack or your lunch, and be ready to have a good time. The "Who Picked This Book?" Club will meet the second Monday of every month, beginning on Monday, January 9 at 11:30 a.m.

The Friends of the Florissant Library will hold their first meeting of 2017 on Monday, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. If you haven't joined yet, this is the perfect time to get on-board for the coming year's activities.

Wish you could get individualized computer assistance? Get a "Computer Quickie"! Make an appointment to sit down one-on-one with library staff to learn the basics of the Internet, email, the library catalog, or have whatever basic computer questions you have answered. You must register in advance for a 20 to 30 minute session. Sessions in January will be held between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 9 and between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 12. Call the Florissant Library at 719-748-3939 or stop

by the circulation desk to The Adult Coloring Group meets the second Wednes-

day of every month at 10:30 a.m. There are no rules and no skills required. The library has coloring books and sheets, and markers and colored pencils for you to use. This is a great way to kick back, have fun, and maybe make some new friends. The first meeting in 2017 will be Wednesday, January 11.

StoryTime is every Friday at 10 a.m. Bring the little ones to enjoy stories, songs, and crafts with Miss Leslie. There will be a special StoryTime on Friday, January 13 come play hockey with us in the library!

The BookWorms Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The January 18 selection is the *The Rosewood* Casket by Sharyn McCrumb. Old man Stargill is dying, and his four grown sons are called home to the small Tennessee mountain town where they grew up to say good-bye and carry out their daddy's dying wish: that his boys build him a rosewood casket. But a dying man's wishes aren't the only problems the

Stargills are forced to face. Emotions ride high, and tempers flare because if it isn't a vulture-like land developer

must be buried with Stargill, or a small child disappearing, it's a neighbor going berserk or a shocking, long-forgotten tragedy resurfacing to add more pain to the family's grief. In 2017, the free self-help Legal Clinic will be held the first Wednesday of each month instead of the first Friday, beginning

going after the 1790 family farm, or old ladv

Bonesteel with a mysterious box she insists

on Wednesday, January 4. Appointments can be made for either 3:30 p.m. or 3:45 p.m. at the Florissant Library. Call 719-748-3939 or stop by the circulation desk to sign up. Last, but certainly not least, the Florissant Public Library will hold their 2017 Veteran's

Breakfast on Friday, January 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the presentation of colors. Please see related article on page 4. Don't be a skunk! Get out and about this

winter at the Florissant Public Library where we have "something for everyone"!



For more information: 719.686.2000 www.wpsdk12.org

JANUARY 26: WP Middle School 6:30-8 p.m.

is the BEST Choice!

~OUT AND ABOUT~

continued from page 27

Church and Thursdays Jan 12 at 10 a.m. at High View Baptist Church. Contact: Tara Hendrickson for details at 303-949-8055 or zfunefarm@aol.com

· Clothes Closet offers free food and clothing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. Dona tions accepted. Call 719-687-2388

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

month from 10 to 11 a.m. at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. Open to all persons with diabetes and their family members Call 719-686-

DINOSAUR RESOURCE

STEM Program from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Steve and Susanne Leininge will have a hands-on STEM table with different activities and

something for each visitor to take

home. Susanne is a geologist and oceanographer and Steve is a computer engineer. Come prepared to ask questions and have a really 28 Steve Veatch: Basic Paleontol-

introduction to paleontology.

the study of ancient life forms

indicators of ancient environ-

preserved as fossils. The class will focus on the use of fossils as

ments. Join Steve and explore the

lost worlds where dinosaurs once

ruled supreme. Register with the RMDRC by calling 719-686-1820 X104; ask for Deb. Everyone gets

a certificate of completion, and a

resource CD to take home. Class

is from 9:30-noon. Pre-registration

is required. Class fee is \$20 plus

per person. Students are required

museum admission of \$11.50

to bring a pen, notebook and

clip board. Location: Dinosaur

Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview

St., Woodland Park, CO. Website:

GED classes are offered Thursday ogy Course from 9:30-noon. This evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. course aims to provide a practical Please call Katy to register 719-

FARMER'S MARKET

http://www.rmdrc.com

RAMPART LIBRARY 3 Book Club 10:30-noon. Into the Beautiful North: A Novel by Luis

Alberto Urrea 4 Free Legal Self-Help Clinic 3-4 p.m. **18** Computer Basics 10-11:30 a.m. 19 AARP Smart Driver Class 9:30

Rampart Library District will be closed Monday, January 16 in Observance of Martin Luther King,

TEEN CENTER

Sign-up sheets for all activities are at the Teen Center. 2 TC closed **3-6** TC open noon to 6 p.m

WOODLAND PARK

UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

29 UPHS & PPM Annual Patronage Luncheon on January 29, at the Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Avenue. Captain Jack performs the West" at 12:30 p.m. Doors open for UPHS Patrons at 1:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the program. Ute Pass Historical Society honors its Patrons with a buffet of homemade soups, salads and sandwiches. The Traveling Book Store will be on hand with a selection that includes Discovering Ute Pass Volumes I and II and the 2017 UPHS Pictorial Calendar. If you are not a Ute Pass Historical Society patron become one at the luncheon! A family membership is only \$35 and all memberships include a 10% discount at the Gift Shop and Book Store (excluding consignment items). Cash or check nly, please! For more information call 719-686-7512 or check our website: UtePassHistorical-Society.org

3 Tracking on a trail in Divide! \$2.Transportation provided. 1-4 p.m. Sign-up if you would like to

4, 11, 18, 25 Snack Special: grilled cheese sandwich & fruit \$1 6 Chill Day 3-6 p.m.

9 TC Open noon to 6 p.m. 9 Build your best Lego creation at 11 TAB Planning Meeting 4–5 p.m. 16 TC Open noon to 6 p.m.

16 Come with us to build snow caves \$2.Sign-up 1–3 p.m.

18 Adopt-A-Spot–Clean-up in and around Memorial Park and help keep Woodland Park beautiful at

19 Art Day-Draw some art and help us decorate the TC all day! 24 Book Club-Find out what the new book will be from 4-5 p.m. 26 Make a duct tape wallet at 3:30

31 TAB Meeting 4–5 p.m. If you're on TAB, please plan on attending! At the Teen Center we have lots going on every month. Besides what's on the calendar above, we have our Elevate Café offerings, board games, card games, puzzles, Xbox 360 and PS4 game consoles, a pool table, air hockey and a foosball table! We are a safe supervised place for teens to come

After school hours: 3 to 6 p.m. No school hours: noon to $\dot{6}$ p.m. Youth in Grades 6-12 are welcom Teen Center is located at 220 W. South Ave. Call 719-687-3291 for

and spend the afternoon. We are a drug-free, bully-free, violence-free

WOODLAND COUNTRY LODGE see ad on page 4

VICTOR

28 Ute Trail Muzzle Loaders: shoot and meetings the last Saturday of each month at Victor. For information call 719-684-7780.



The Ute Pass Social Club has new Officers for the year 2016-2017. Paulette Krueger President, Linda Appelbaum Vice President, Mary Jane Barth Secretary, Vicky Eshelman Treasure

UPSC has new officers

The Ute Pass Social Club is a group that started as a ■ "Newcomers" group, and developed into The Ute Pass Social Club so the women could continue to enjoy several activities together, such as: hiking, playing Bridge, Poker, Mahjongg, and Bunko. They have book clubs, needleworks, lunch groups and much more. This Club has been in the Woodland Park area for over 35 years. To find out more information about the club visit https://sites.google. com/site/upsocial/Home or contact MaryAnn our membership chairman at 719-687-1773.

Mueller State Park

Captain Jack

Naturalist led hikes are the thing to do at Mueller in January! Enjoy the peaceful silence in the snowy woods, watch for signs of wildlife and learn their different tracks, and see the hardiest of birds searching for food in the trees. It's great to explore Mueller in winter with a naturalist during this beautiful time of year!

Don't forget to dress for the weather! Hiking at Mueller in winter can bring a wide range of temperatures and snow depths at 9,600 feet. Sometimes there is not enough snow to sled on and sometimes there is a foot or two of fresh powder! Check our website cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ Mueller or call ahead for snow conditions 719-687-2366. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding are popular activities as well. The campground is still open or stay in one of the luxurious cabins. We hope you visit Mueller any time of year!

7 Hike: Elk Meadow. Meet at Elk Meadow Trailhead at 9:15 a.m. Examine tracks of animals that live at Mueller State Park as you join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy, on this moderate 2-mile hike.

7 Hike: School Pond. Meet at Preacher's Hollow Trailhead at 10 a.m. Join Volunteer Naturalist Rose on this 1.5 mile hike and catch a glimpse of Pikes Peak as you pass the frozen pond.

15 Hike: Elk Meadow. Meet at Elk Meadow Trailhead at 1 p.m. Join Volunteer Naturalist Penny on this 2 mile hike as you take in a beautiful view of Pike's Peak in

21 Hike: Stoner Mill. Meet at Preacher's Hollow Trailhead at 9:15 a.m. Travel through a coniferous forest and see the bristlecone pines (the oldest trees on the park!) on this moderate 3.5-mile hike, with Volunteer Naturalist Nancy.

28 Hike: Rock Pond. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy picturesque views of the Dome Rock valley, while hiking down to one of Mueller's largest ponds, with Volunteer Naturalist Rose. Great chance to see wildlife!

Mueller events are free; however, a seven dollar daily pass or \$70 annual park pass is required to enter the park. For more information, call the park at 719-687-2366.



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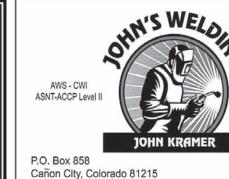
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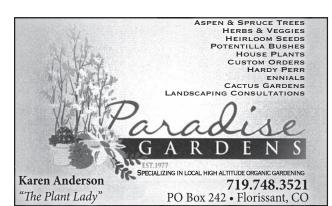
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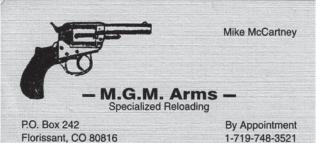




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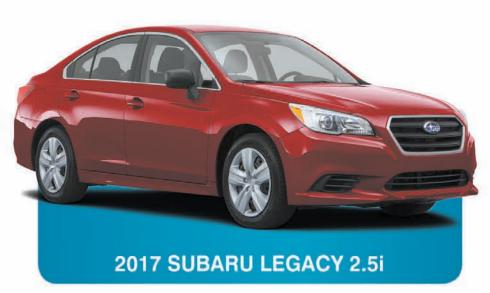
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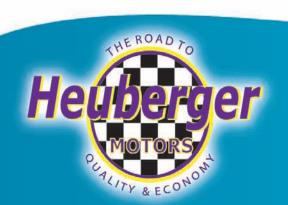












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