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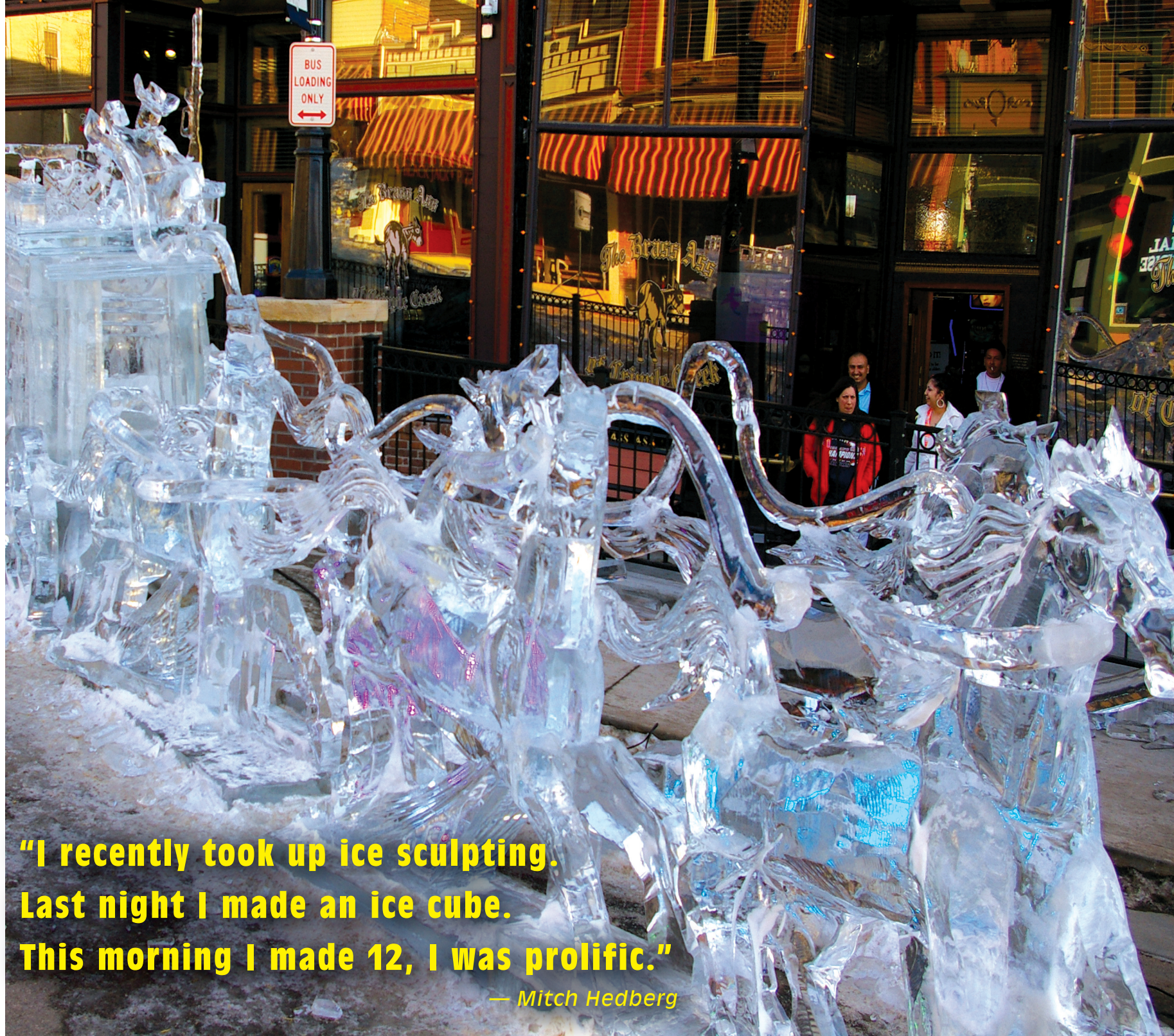
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February 2020

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Vol. 12, No. 2

## Welcome to Ute Country



"I recently took up ice sculpting.  
Last night I made an ice cube.  
This morning I made 12, I was prolific."

— Mitch Hedberg

### PEEK INSIDE...



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## On Deck



We felt the cover photograph of the 2016 Ice Festival held annually in February of each year in Cripple Creek would be appropriate. It is an amazing experience to witness these artisans craft these creations with chainsaws and many other tools. Blocks of ice begin to transform into recognizable objects, often appearing as though they are in motion. It shows Cripple Creek has more to offer than gambling. Ice Fest this year is from February 8-16.

Speaking of that which transforms into something else, we have a number of articles with this theme in the pages that follow. Mary Shell brings us artist Jennifer Burbank who transforms rice paper with paint to bring a powerful image forth. *Life Enhancing Journeys* brings us the greatly anticipated coping skills for accepting our emotions and releasing once we have their message. *Musings Along the Way* encourages us to bask in the ever-fleeting moment. A new columnist, Stefanie Skidmore introduces herself and her recently acquired skill of gentling mustangs. If you are ready for transformations, this issue is for you.

This month we received photos from Florissant and Guffey for Critter Corner; we appreciate the captions and the images of both indoor and outdoor furry friends on page 12. Do you have photos you'd like to share with our readers and let your pet be a celebrity for a month? It's easy, just send them into *Ute Country News* POB 753 Divide, CO 80814 or email them to [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com).

We love to hear from you! Feel free to send your comments, questions or requests to us at the email and address above or you can stop by Shipping Plus Monday through Friday, 9-5:30 p.m. or call us at 719-686-7587.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Thank you,  
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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

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## Life-Enhancing Journeys Making friends with your emotions - part II by Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACIII, MAC, EMDRII

Many people strive to hold on to the good feelings like happiness and contentment and reject the feelings like anger or fear, yet negative emotions are an unavoidable part of being human. Human beings are quite adept at going to battle between thoughts and emotions. As the previous article (Jan 2020) described, it's a strategy to make uncomfortable thoughts and feelings seem more manageable.

It wasn't until I learned that I could survive and even thrive with whatever painful emotions I was experiencing, that I allowed myself to acknowledge all of my emotions and feelings. One concept that I became aware of was that suppressing negative feelings resulted in subduing all emotions, including the positive ones. Actually, I'm now quite comfortable in my own skin since I've adopted this new and healthier perspective. It certainly takes time and considerable effort, yet it is so worth it. In this article, I am sharing some thoughts and behaviors which assisted me along the way.

### Strategies to help set you free

**Timeouts** — Timeouts interrupt the ongoing course our brain is taking after it has been triggered because arousal decreases as time passes. Intense feelings that are causing the distress can be calmed by taking a break. A strategy that I use is to intentionally give myself a deep breath to halt the downward spiral.

**Surround yourself with positive people** — Negativity breeds more negativity. If you find yourself surrounded by negative people and negative feelings give yourself a deep breath as you walk away. When you find positive friends and family members, cherish them and know that by spending time with them you can change your attitude for the better. Remember — you deserve people who support and encourage you.

**Stop and Think** — Giving yourself some time can be so beneficial and slowing things down may help shift your perspective. When we then stop and think (rather than impulsively giving in to our feelings) we take the time to think about what the possibilities are so we can reinterpret the situation and reappraise it. The obsessive thoughts and ruminations can now stop that continual loop running in our head.

**Move Your Body** — We humans are the only mammal who do not automatically let go of stressful experiences. Think about when your dog gets frightened and he will shiver and shake until he calms down. Without discharging the residue of the event, what happens is that it gets stored in our cells. Any time you become aware of distressing emotions, especially at night before you go to sleep, allow yourself to shake it off by moving your body; flailing your arms and legs with the intention of releasing emotions. Exercising before a stressful event can alleviate any residual nervousness.

**Stay in the present** — Focus on what is going on now rather than what has already happened. For example, even if you recently overheard a negative comment from a friend, refuse to allow that simple past act to intrude on the present. Our brains can become obsessive and replay negative experiences and memories. To stop this fixation file everything else in the past where it belongs. A method I use is to imagine putting old, hurtful memories in a box with a lid on it then leave it tucked away on a bottom shelf or in a drawer and then tell myself I can open the box anytime I choose, if I need to wallow again in a past hurt.

**Reappraisal or Reframing** — This means looking at events from different angles in order to arrive at another potential explanation.

Remember, our reality is based on our perceptions and by changing the perception you change the interpretation of a situation. This then leads to different emotions. A rude comment from a co-worker can be viewed differently after you found out he was up all night with a sick kid. Appraising the situation in a new way does not suppress negative feelings as it simply replaces them with different, more positive feelings. Reappraisal involves how people think and reframe emotional situations. This reappraisal is considered to be a positive type of emotion regulation because it is flexible and it transforms the whole emotion. Reappraisal is associated with lower levels of depression and greater levels of well-being because the concept of emotion regulation and well-being go together.

## Remember, our reality is based on our perceptions and by changing the perception you change the interpretation of a situation.

A few weeks ago, I heard an interview on the radio where the journalist was congratulating a woman who had just won a state-wide political position after failing to win four previous local attempts. The interviewer brought up the earlier losses in a condescending way. The woman could have taken the bait and become embarrassed, but instead she said clearly and with declaration stated, "I'm not a loser, I'm a learner..." What a great comeback! She thought about his remark as a challenge rather than a threat. Her reappraisal was empowering rather than shaming.

**Stop Judging** — Judging feelings as good or bad serves no useful purpose. When we learn to let go of the judgment around our feelings, they lose their power and control over us. Learning to accept and deal with the full range of emotions is one of the most important skills you can develop. Consider observing what feelings come up, zoom out (as if you're behind a movie camera) then view what you're focusing on from a distance rather than up close. Notice and allow it to linger in your mind for a while. Once you have learned to accept your thoughts and feelings, you likely will notice that

it loses its intensity and then becomes easier to release. Another concept is to pretend that your thoughts and feelings are like clouds floating across the sky. Imagine that your negative emotions and feelings are inside the clouds. Accept that these emotions are there, yet you can leave them alone, and imagine that they are simply passing you by.

**Emotional acceptance** — This is learning to manage what we are capable of controlling and accept what is outside of our ability. When you accept uncomfortable emotions, you become more confident in your ability to prevail over them. Somewhat surprisingly, emotional acceptance is related to a decrease of negative feelings as well as an increased sense of resilience. People who allow their negative emotions to be fully acknowledged generally experience an overall reduction in the intensity and duration of negativity. Acceptance involves avoiding trying to change how we are feeling. It's more about staying in touch with the feelings and seeing them for what they are — fleeting messages. It appears that acceptance uniquely affects negative reactions and feelings yet keeps positive emotions intact.

Acceptance is one of the core principles of mindfulness — becoming aware of your emotional and psychological state with objectivity. The other mindfulness concept is that of non-reactance. What you're striving for is a stance of emotional acceptance by acknowledging your emotions yet never being threatened by them. Non-judging acceptance seems to be a key ingredient to mindfulness. Accepting negative emotions is more likely to lead to elevated levels of well-being according to research done by Brett Ford, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto.

In our search for happiness we try to regulate our emotions. What if we knew we had the ability to manage and/or alter our emotional experiences? Wouldn't that be wonderful especially if we believed in ourselves with total confidence. Feeling all of your emotions can set you free.

It has been said that whatever you fight, you strengthen, and what you resist, persists, and it's not the things that happen to us but the view we take of them.

*Barbara Pickholz-Weiner, RN, BSN, CACIII, MAC, EMDRII is the program director of Journeys Counseling Center, Inc. At Journeys we teach you tools, skills and help you discover resources to live the most effective life possible. We guide, support and coach you along the path you desire, to become the best version of yourself. To contact Barbara, call 719-687-6927 (office) or 719-510-1268 (cell).*

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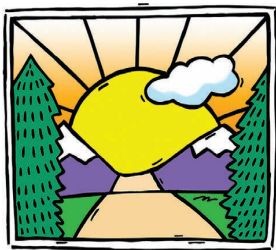
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## Musings Along the Way Basking in the moment

by Catherine Rodgers

*"The winds of God's grace are always blowing; it is up to us to raise our sails."*  
— Sri Ramakrishna

One of my new favorite words for 2020 is "bask." Like a cat, I bask in the sunshine streaming in through the window. Reading Day 51 of Deborah Perdue's gratitude journal, I read "my heart and soul bask in the feelings of comfort, of grace, of peace that wash over me like rays of sunshine." Ahhhh! Can you feel yourself S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G like that cat? In winter I tend to contract against the cold, and huddle. So, I am choosing now to release tension, to ignore the hustle, to center. I listen to the breeze ruffle the wind chimes. I take a deep breath and smell the myrrh oil I put on. How often I forget to relax, to look with curiosity at what is simply here, now. Yet all sorts of reminders show up to bring me back from the distractions to my heart center.

I look at the clock and it is 11:11. Ooooo I better get started if I want to make the deadline for the February issue! So, I look up Willowsoul.com commentary on the meaning of that number. "You are being called to awaken..." to hear those beyond the veil sending love, to shift my vibration by paying attention to my thoughts. Focus on what has gone well, what I want. So maybe the so-called distractions are moment to moment signposts directing me over and over to choose what matters.

Looking for the quote by Sri Ramakrishna, I found a wonderful blog by MollyLannonKenny.org which describes her personal synthesis of Catholicism, Buddhism, Sufi, etc. — her spiritual quest. I am so moved by her 6/29/2019 heart-felt writing on grief and loss that I am

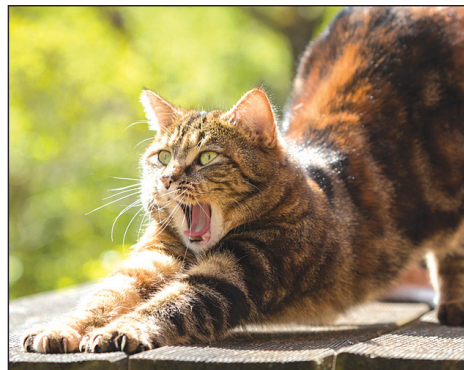
going to stop writing entirely and direct you to her site where she quotes Christina Rossetti:

*"What are heavy?  
Sea-sand and sorrow.  
What are brief?  
Today and tomorrow."*

*What are frail? Spring blossoms and youth.  
What are deep? The ocean and truth."*

Sigh. I bask in sweet sorrow, cherishing those I love who have passed. I weep in the sunshine of their love. In *The Hundred Secret Senses* by Amy Tan, one sister asks why the other, Kwan, is crying when she learned her auntie had died: after all, you say you believe in reincarnation. Kwan replies because we can no longer make memories together.

Back to the blog, Molly mentions she visited Ram Dass in Hawaii several times before he left this plane December 22, 2019. I also had the good fortune to be here now with Ram Dass several years ago. When he invoked the presence of his guru, Neem Karoli Baba, I could feel a different energy fill the room. It is said that such a sadhu, or wandering saint, like Neem Karoli Baba constantly oscillates between his earthly body and the great beyond. It's up to us to shift our vibration, to look up, to remember. I wept then, too, in the presence of the Divine. There is something, a wall, a constraint, my fear of feeling these emotions that melt in the presence of really holy people who radiate such peace and love.... so that we can bask in the glory of goodness and mercy, loving kindness. In an interview,



Ahhhh!  
Can you feel  
yourself S-T-R-E-  
T-C-H-I-N-G like  
that cat?

Ram Dass whirled his left arm in circles like a vortex before him and said, "You see, I treasure the moment." This moment. Now. "I am loving aware-

ness. I am loving awareness."

When we raise our sails, we are blown away by grace! We can set an intention and invoke those qualities of God-ness and Divine Love that we want to emulate and incorporate. "Where God is remembered, God is." Some set an alarm once an hour to call God to mind and to recall our many blessings. The gift of holy presence, and of those we love beyond time in the eternal now, is still available to warm the cockles of our hearts, in spirit as well as on the internet. My heart echoes what Molly writes, that she has "...a desire to connect deeply with people on a soul level, always to offer others a respite from suffering by seeing them fully for who they are — perfect and whole," and so it is.

When I sat down at the computer, I decided to enlist some vibrational aid. I found it helpful to listen to ZenLifeRelax on YouTube, the 528 Hz Release Inner Conflict and Struggle. According to Dr. Leonard Horowitz, 528 Hertz is a frequency that is central to the "musical mathematical matrix of creation." More than any sound previously discovered, the LOVE frequency resonates at the heart of everything. It connects your heart, your spiritual essence, to the spiraling reality of heaven and earth. Seems to me that it works pretty well for the February love vibe, eh? Namaste.

## Nick Conlin achieved Eagle Status

Don and Katy Conlin are pleased to announce their son, Nick Conlin (15) has achieved Eagle Status, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, joining just 4% of all Scouts that reach that Rank.

Nick began his scouting career in 3rd grade, working through all badges until his Eagle Project, which was designing, coordinating, and overseeing construction of two benches, now housed at Columbine Elementary School.

Nick is a sophomore at Woodland Park High School, and has a long-term plan to work as a trauma nurse. His true passion, however, is Olympic Weight Lifting. During his first year of competing, he won State and competed at the National Youth Weight Lifting Championships. He is expected to return again this year to Nationals!

Nick and his parents would like to immensely thank both Scout Troops 43 and 230, as well as the Pikes Peak Council,



for their support, encouragement, and guidance through his scouting career! We highly recommend scouting for all kids to have great experiences, build character, foster friendship and citizenship, and develop life skills and personal fitness.

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## Mountain Mustang Memories Discovering wild

by Stephanie Skidmore

I was born in East Germany in 1985, thus 14 years old when the Iron Curtain fell and the horizon moved westward for those who had been trapped on the other side. The socioeconomic and political changes that occurred in the world of my child- and young adult-hood were far-reaching and are, at least to some extent, still ongoing. As for me, I've loved to travel for as long as I can remember, to learn new languages, gain knowledge of foreign cultures and explore different parts of the world. I was 21 years old and enrolled in a biology undergraduate program at the University of Leipzig, Germany, when I booked my first flight to Colorado where I had signed up to spend the summer of 2007 volunteering at Mission: Wolf, a wolf sanctuary nestled in a remote part of the Wet Mountain Valley. During that summer, my first encounter with one of the icons of the Wild West occurred at the tiny grocery store in the nearby town of Westcliffe. I must have been staring so intensely at the tall, middle-aged man in a cowboy hat, plaid shirt, a belt buckle that must have weighed 4 pounds, dirty Wranglers and dusty boots, that he promptly asked me whether I was okay. Embarrassed, I muttered "Yes" and hastily disappeared down the nearest aisle. Oops. It would only be the first of many "oops-es".

For me, that moment literally changed the world as I knew it. Little did I know then that the West was still wild; certainly much wilder than anything I had ever encountered. While I was aware that there had been cowboys working cattle in wide open spaces here at one point, I also thought that they had long since become a part of history, alongside the once vast herds of bison and the wagon trains. Another oops.

Fast forward a few years, I was now living in Colorado full-time, had grown accustomed to pick-up trucks and embraced automatic transmissions, it appeared that all paths were leading me in the same direction: toward America's wild or, more accurately, feral horses. I had been a wrangler at Quaker Ridge Camp in Woodland Park, and later moved, via several detours, to the small, unique town of Guffey. I was training clients' horses and giving horsemanship lessons. Even though I had acquired a few horses of my own and was becoming increasingly involved in the local horse community, I remained entirely unaware of the herds of wild horses, commonly called Mustangs (derived from the Spanish word 'mesteño' meaning 'untamed'), that were still roaming the ranges of primarily western states.

Around that time (2016), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had begun increasing its efforts to promote Mustangs as affordable equines available to the public, improve adoption rates and lower the barriers for adopting wild horses. In partnership with the Mustang Heritage

Foundation (MHF), the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP) had been created. The concept behind said program is that experienced horse trainers will gentle Mustangs in approved, wild-horse-safe facilities, using humane training methods. The trainers then advertise and find suitable BLM-approved adopters for the wild horses in their care. Through fellow horse trainers and social media, I learned that approximately 80,000 Mustangs were living in dozens of Herd Management Areas (HMAs) across the western United States and another roughly 50,000 had been rounded up and shipped to holding facilities across the country. The wild horses already in holding facilities were the ones BLM was aiming to place with private adopters through TIP.

## There is hardly an easy answer to the issues surrounding the Mustang, presently or in the future.

Having worked with horses since I was 8 years old, and being an avid student of both animal and human behavior, I was fascinated by the idea — and challenge — of working with an untouched horse that had been shaped solely by its life in the wild, and experienced only minimal exposure to humans since its gather. In late 2016, with the encouragement and support from friends and clients, I submitted my application to become a TIP trainer. I was accepted and picked up my first wild one in February of 2017: a 2-year-old dun-colored filly who had been born in holding in Cañon City to a mare gathered from the Divide Basin HMA in Wyoming. Lacy will be 5 years old come March and is still with me today. After Lacy came Rain, then Sage, Lakota and many others, a total of 25 wild horses so far. The lessons I've learned, the people who have crossed my path and the memories I've made on my continuing journey with wild horses go far beyond anything I had anticipated.

I have since discovered that the plight of the Mustang is much more complex than I initially thought. There is diversity among the herds, and huge differences between individual horses. Not every horse is a good fit for every handler, and some adjust to living a domesticated life better than others. There is the trauma some horses experience throughout the gather, processing (i.e. freeze-branding, vaccinating, tagging and, for male horses, gelding), sorting and being hauled often across state lines to different holding facilities. There



Stefanie and Lacy riding in the Pike National Forest near Guffey (above).  
photo by Ory Photograph

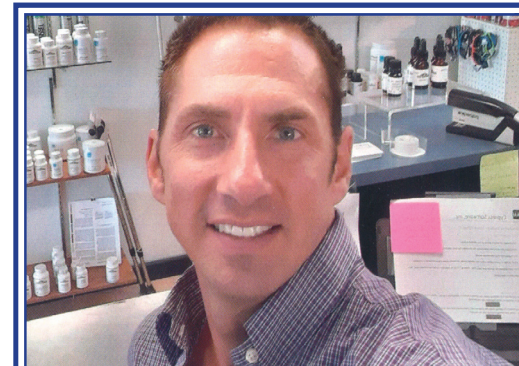
On the cover: Picking up wild horses for gentling from Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary (GEMS) in Deertrail, CO.

is the ever-changing legislature affecting these horses and the bureaucratic structures that we as trainers need to navigate in order to do our job. There are also vastly different groups of people across the country who are lobbying either for or against wild horses. Finally, there is the immense range of beliefs people hold about the Mustang, from considering them pests that need to be eradicated altogether, to assuming that all wild horses are small, scrawny, jug-headed, untrainable creatures one just needs to stay away from, to advocating for no management of the wild horse population and letting them all live wild and free. There is hardly an easy answer to the issues surrounding the Mustang, presently or in the future. My part in this is to raise awareness for the plight of the American wild horses, to become an ever-better horsewoman in order to meet the needs of the animals in

my care, and to find suitable human partners for the Mustangs I gentle.

I have met some of the most wonderful and interesting people from diverse backgrounds, different parts of the country, and even from overseas, along my Mustang journey, which continues to transform not only my approach to horsemanship but also me as a person and how I interact with the world around me. In future articles, I invite you to join me as I share with you some of the discoveries, experiences and insights from this ongoing and ever-evolving adventure.

Stefanie Skidmore is a Mustang trainer and advocate located in Guffey, Colorado. Her website is [stefanieskidmore.com](http://stefanieskidmore.com). To learn more about her work with wild horses you can contact her via email at [stefanie@stefanieskidmore.com](mailto:stefanie@stefanieskidmore.com) or call/text her at 719-377-8587 (cell).



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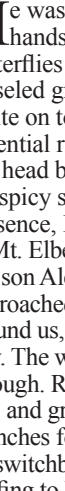
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# Pharmgiri

## Tall, dark and I

by Peggy Badgett

He was just my type; tall and ruggedly handsome in a way that made the butterflies in my stomach flutter. He had chiseled granite features and a dusting of white on top for that distinguished look. All potential rivals paled in comparison. I tilted my head back and closed my eyes to inhale his spicy scent. Heart pounding in his mere presence, I was smitten, by a mountain.

Mt. Elbert's summit towered above as my son Alex, his friend Eric and I steadily approached. Dense mist shrouded the forest around us, cloaking everything in mystery. The woods slowly woke as we strode through. Ravens called from atop tall green firs, and grey jays jabbered from aspen branches for snacks. Steep climbs followed by switchbacks quickly had me huffing and puffing to keep up with the boys' long legs.

The trailhead sign had cautioned visitors with numerous safety tips regarding recent bear sightings. We weren't the top of the food chain out here. Alex was armed, but would pepper spray really deter a grizzled mammal contemplating a blonde-haired blue-eyed snack? Any rustling from the brush behind us garnered a quick glance over my shoulder, monitoring for four-legged stalkers. Predators always went for the stragglers. I was so distracted that I stumbled into Alex while he waited for me to catch up. He rolled his eyes at my panicked expression.

I was the only one to blame for my predicament. A vacation on a white sandy beach would have been more sedate. With Alex's encouragement, I stepped away from modern conveniences, busy highways and touristy areas to experience the Colorado wilderness. Who would have thought a mom like me would love scrambling through rocky terrain and eating dehydrated meals? Somehow the thin air transformed those dry rations into delicacies more delicious than lobster drenched in butter. Well, maybe not that good, but they were easier to carry.

The trail swept upwards, covered with half-buried rocks and tree roots. I'd already tripped several times. My heart pounded violently inside my ribs. But I wasn't going to quit. I'd survived labor three times. I'd ridden my bicycle 120 miles in one day. I'd wrangled spitting alpacas to the ground for shearing for years. I'd chopped thousands of thistles taller than me.

Alex and Eric disappeared around a bend, the innocence and brazenness of youth fueling their pace. I needed a break. Sitting gingerly on a rock, I sipped some water and admired the delicate details of tiny blue flowers peeking through crevices around me. Suddenly a ptarmigan scuttled into view; she swiftly crossed the path and disappeared as her feathers blended into the tundra. I would have missed those

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*Peggy on top of Mount Huron.*

## The trail swept upwards, covered with half-buried rocks and tree roots. I'd already tripped several times.

beautiful sights if I hadn't stopped. Shouldering my pack once more, I focused on stones along the path that looked like the shape of Wisconsin and Texas instead of the pain signals my legs kept sending. Apparently, hallucinations were setting in.

After regrouping with the boys, I trudged behind them. As Alex waited for the fiftieth time, I looked beyond and saw only sky. Adrenaline quickened my pace, but fizzled when another long stretch of trail appeared above. Mt. Elbert mocked us with a false summit. Large rocks treacherously shifted without warning. Time ceased to have meaning. Every muscle in my body screamed for oxygen. We wound our way along a narrow ledge on the last ascent. My cheek, chest and stomach pressed against ancient boulders as I clamored over them and finally reached the summit. Taking shelter from the bitter wind behind a wall of rock, we took in the breathtaking panorama. Two golden eagles drifted on thermals along the ridges, their massive wings tiny against the mountainous backdrop.

Just as we finished our celebratory gritty granola bars, dark clouds gathered BELOW us. It was time to descend. White

flakes fluttered innocently about as we staggered down to the tree line. My knees ached. Both calves cramped frequently, making me bounce up and down frantically while howling some very bad words. I think that kept the bears away. A quiet exhaustion settled over our group as we struggled along. I sang television theme songs from "Gilligan's Island" and "The Brady Bunch" for encouragement; the boys were too tired to complain.

I wanted to kiss our vehicle when I finally stumbled up to it, but settled for a hug with the cold metal instead. I silently recounted the experience during our trip back into town. Fifty dollars worth of bread, cheese and meat at the little sandwich shop disappeared as we downed multiple root beers. My tired legs screamed in protest as I shuffled to the bathroom. Alex snickered.

So began my love affair with Colorado peaks. Since that fateful day, hiking fourteeners has become a passion. Each mountain offers a different challenge, a new story. There is a wonderful marriage of breath, suffering, and beauty along each trail. Best of all is the incredible view of the world at the summit which helps me realize how truly insignificant my problems are. Attitude adjustment is the ultimate gift from my high-altitude objects of affection.

*Peggy Badgett is a recent transplant to Guffey Colorado. She is a retired pharmacist, author of two books (The Rooster in the Drive Thru and Romancing the Bike), artist and avid adventurer. Her website is coloradopharmgirl.com, email is coloradopharmgirl@gmail.com.*



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# The Miner's Photo

## A pathway to the past

by Steven Wade Veatch

**T**his photograph, taken around 1899, shows my ancestors posing at their modest frame home where they lived one step away from Cripple Creek's gold rush world of cardplayers, whiskey drinkers, and midnight carousers. The scene depicts my great-grandfather (Robert Pickering Plews), my great-grandmother (Janet Plews), and two of their daughters in front of their miner's cabin, built from pine boards, on a hillside in the newly established mining town of Elktown, Colorado.

My great-grandparents were from England. Two years after my great-grandfather married my great-grandmother, he left England — by himself — to build a better life in Cripple Creek's goldfields for the family that he left behind.

Robert Plews was a hope-chaser. He carried his dreams from England across the Atlantic and then 1,700 miles to the Front Range and Cripple Creek. He arrived in the gold mining district in 1897. Victoria was the Queen of England, William McKinley was the US President, and Marconi had sent his first wireless transmission. The Colorado Rockies meant a new chance for him at a place with unlimited opportunities. He went to work at the busy Elktown mine. After my great-grandfather established himself in the mining camp, he sent for his wife, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Mabel, who were still in England. They left Newcastle, England in 1899 and immigrated to Elktown.

I discovered this photograph recently, tucked away in an old box. I am drawn to this image's simple charm. It's a staged scene: the family hired a photographer, dressed up, and posed for the camera; it would not have been an inexpensive endeavor at the time. The photo is an affirmation of their place and position in society. My great-grandparents wanted to preserve this sense of success in a new country.

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## My great-grandparents wanted to preserve this sense of success in a new country.

In the photograph, the modest home in the mining camp is a tidy place. My great-grandfather raised six daughters there. A seventh daughter later grew up in Cañon City, Colorado. Great-grandfather Plews was the strict English father of legend, who made all of his daughters behave at a time when children were to be seen and not heard.

In stark contrast to the rustic cabin, everyone is dressed as if they came from a holiday party, not a rough-and-tumble mining camp. The clothes are stylish and expensive. My great-grandfather is smartly attired. A simple watch box hangs out of a pocket of his waistcoat. He wears sleeve garters on his ready-made shirt. Shirts in those days came in only one sleeve length; and the garters allowed him to adjust the sleeve so that the cuffs were the correct length. My great-grandmother's long dark dress covers her high-button shoes. She covers her abdomen with her hand and arm, as did many women of the day who were pregnant. She was pregnant with my great-aunt Emma. The two young girls, newly arrived from England, are in white dresses. One has ribbons in her hair.

According to my grandmother, my great-grandfather satisfied his hunger for learning by reading books late into the night, some of which were about mining. His hunger for education resulted in several promotions at the Elktown mine. He eventually became the hoist operator there. While he worked at the mine, the shafts sank lower and lower and the horizontal drifts dug deeper into the rich

ograph

goldfields while tailings piled up on the surface. My great-grandfather worked at the Elkton mine for 21 years.

This photograph is a path for me into my past. I can connect with my great-grandfather and imagine his days of mining, and how that work somehow reached through several generations to me, explaining, in part, my interest in mining and geology from an early age. I can envision how my great-grandmother baked, cooked, cleaned, and sewed for a family of nine. I think of their lives, deeply lived in Colorado's last gold rush.

Today, the cabin is no longer there; modern gold mining operations replaced it and the town of Elkton. Yet, everything my great-grandfather created there would live on through his seven girls, their children, and beyond. I am a direct descendant of one of his daughters, and remain deeply rooted to the Cripple Creek Mining District.



*Robert Plews (32), with two daughters, Elizabeth (4) and Mabel (3) and his wife Janet (25), stand in front of their small home in Elkton, Colorado, one of the towns in the Cripple Creek Mining District. Photo date circa 1899, from the S. W. Veatch collection.*

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**vrom**  
Brain building moments

**Art Scene**  
**Jenifer Burbank**  
by Mary Shell



As an art teacher it's interesting to witness the birth and growth of an artist. I have known Jenifer Burbank for about 3 years. Our first meeting was when she came to one of my Art & Wine parties. She didn't stand out from the other people there that were painting, laughing, drinking wine and enjoying themselves. But it was more for Jenifer. She loved the process and joined in my art classes. It wasn't long before her talent and love for creating art began to blossom; and blossom she did, trying every medium and technique I knew.

I have been teaching art for over 35 years and have never experienced a student with such passion and dedication to learn. She wanted to learn how to create Japanese paintings on rice paper. Normally, it is a lengthy process to learn how to use the Japanese brushes. Masters of these brushes took years and years to perfect the technique. Jenifer would spend all her class time perfecting the technique until she got it right. Most of my students would have gone on to other mediums finding it too difficult to learn, but not Jenifer. She was focused on learning and never let frustration overtake her.

Jenifer tried many mediums, techniques and themes searching for the one that hit home. When she did settle on a style there was no stopping her.

She's settled on becoming a minimalist, creating paintings with such emotion and mood with little effort. Figures with no faces, yet showing more emotion than if she painted a face. Much of the interpretation is put on the viewer. Her colors range from rich and bold to subtle and diluted, depending on what she is painting.

Once Jenifer found her style there was no stopping her. She would work on two or three paintings at the same time; working on one while waiting for the paint to dry on the others.

*"I first started painting seriously about 3 years ago after doing the Art and Wine classes. For me painting is my therapy and my way to escape from the stress in my life. I use it for my meditation when I'm overwhelmed and my therapy when I need an escape. Normally I'm very logical and precise, painting is my opportunity to shut down that part of my brain and allow my artistic side to take over. When I'm creating art, it is a natural high that I can't get anywhere else. It just speaks to my soul."*



Artist Jenifer Burbank (inset) with one of her paintings.

allow you to reflect. She has developed simple, yet elegant strokes that hold the essence of her subjects. Moody is the word I would use to describe her paintings; moody and simple where you can calm your soul.

Jenifer is the featured artist at REM Art Gallery, 710 Main St. Cañon City for the month of February. Come view her work on First Friday Art Walk, February 7th, and meet the artist and help celebrate REM's 3rd anniversary. She will be featured the whole month.

Jenifer creates beautiful paintings that

## Midland Railroad Tragedies

The Colorado Midland Railway was the first standard gauge line into the Colorado Rockies. At its peak it was 261 miles long and had two branches. The route began in Colorado City, went on to Leadville and then crossing through the Continental Divide via the Hagerman Tunnel it continued on to Basalt and terminated at New Castle, Colorado.

The first contract for construction was awarded on April 6, 1886. The construction in Colorado Springs started in July of 1886 with 3000 men spread between Colorado City and Buena Vista. Eight months later, the track was completed to Woodland Park and made it to Florissant on March 23, 1887. In Lake George, the tracks through the 11 Mile Canyon weren't completed until about June and then continued on to Buena Vista, reaching that point in July. Eleven Mile Canyon was the deadliest stretch of the Midland in El Paso, Park and Teller Counties. "Midland Railroad Tragedies" will address some of those many accidents in our area.

Steve Plutt, local historian, will present an interesting program on this piece of Teller County history at the Cripple Creek District Museum's February Visits with History talk. Steve has long lived in the shadow of Pikes Peak, having grown up in the Woodland Park area. Steve now resides near Lake George.

The Cripple Creek District Museum invites you to learn more about the Midland Railroad and the tragedies which befell the line at the CCDM history talk on Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m. at the Cripple Creek Heritage Center. The Heritage Center is located on Hwy 67 outside of Cripple Creek. This program is presented as a public service of the Cripple Creek District Museum in partnership with the City of Cripple Creek. Admission is free and refreshments are served. Seating is limited, reservations are required. Call 719-689-9540 to make reservations or to get more information.

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## Financial Focus

### Protect yourself against long-term care costs

If you're fortunate, you'll live independently and in good health throughout your retirement years. However, if you ever needed some type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home, would you be financially prepared?

To answer this question, you may want to evaluate two variables: your likelihood of needing long-term care and the cost of such care. Consider the following:

- Someone turning age 65 today has an almost 70% chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- The average cost for a private room in a nursing home is about \$100,000 per year, while a home health aide costs about \$50,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company.

Clearly, these numbers are worth thinking about. If you needed several years of long-term care, the expense could seriously erode your savings and investments. Keep in mind that Medicare typically pays only a small percentage of long-term care costs. Therefore, you may want to evaluate the following options for meeting these expenses:


- **Self-insure** — You could "self-insure" against long-term care expenses by designating some of your investment portfolio for this purpose. However, as the above numbers suggest, you'd likely have to put away a lot of money before you felt you were truly protected. This could be especially difficult, given the need to save and invest for the other expenses associated with retirement.
- **Long-term care insurance** — When you purchase long-term care insurance, you are essentially transferring the risk of paying for long-term care from yourself to an insurance company. Some policies pay long-term care costs for a set number of years, while others cover you for

life. You can also choose optional features, such as benefits that increase with inflation. Most long-term care policies have a waiting period between 0 and 90 days, or longer, before benefits kick in. You'll want to shop around for a policy that offers the combination of features you think best meet your needs. Also, you'll want an insurer that has demonstrated strength and stability, as measured by independent rating agencies. Here's one final point to keep in mind: Long-term care premiums get more expensive as you get older, so if you're interested in this type of coverage, don't wait too long to compare policies.


- **Hybrid policy** — A "hybrid" policy, such as life insurance with a long-term care/chronic illness rider, combines long-term care benefits with those offered by a traditional life insurance policy. So, if you were to buy a hybrid policy and you never needed long-term care, your policy would pay a death benefit to the beneficiary you've named. Conversely, if you ever do need long-term care, your policy will pay benefits toward those expenses and the amount of money available for long-term care can exceed the death benefit significantly. Hybrid policies can vary greatly in several ways, so, again, you'll need to do some research before choosing appropriate coverage.

Ultimately, you may decide you're willing to take the chance of never needing any type of long-term care. But if you think that's a risk you'd rather not take, then explore all your coverage options carefully. There's no one right answer for everyone — but there's almost certainly one for you.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Lee F. Taylor, AAMS, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisors.*



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# Bison Peak Lodge

## A place for veterans and first responders to heal

by Kathy Hansen  
photos by Jeff Hansen

John Kessel was 12 years old when he attended Bob Mathias' Boys Camp; yes, one-in-the same as the Olympic decathlete. Like most 12-year-olds, John was a little shy, a bit awkward and a tad anxious about meeting new people. One day at the camp, John went fishing and caught a very large bass, which he took to the camp kitchen. The cook marveled at the size and said to John, "Look at the size of that bass! It sure is a big one. Bob just LOVES bass!" He asked John's name. Later that same day in the dining room, Bob Mathias stood up and said he saw the biggest bass he'd ever seen and it was caught by John Kessel. Bob announced, "Where is John Kessel? Can you stand up John Kessel?" John stood up and the room cheered! New friends came over to John to meet him and John found himself surrounded by friends. That powerful experience had stayed with John into his adulthood; grateful for the opportunity to have his peers "glom" onto him, talk about his fish and open the door to friendship. John thought it would be a good idea to create a place and environment where others can connect, open up and become friends. This became the impetus for Bison Peak Lodge; a place where first responders and veterans can go as they overcome Post Traumatic Stress Disorder — for free!

Bison Peak Lodge is located at 20859 County Road 77 near Tarryall, Colorado. The prior owner, David Appleton named the place Outpost Wilderness Adventures (OWA), a place where summer camps and expeditions are designed to provide teenagers with high quality, in-depth instruction in a range of outdoor adventure activities. While OWA is still quite active in Colorado, Texas and Wyoming, this property was sold to John just a few years ago.

The property and its buildings are changing, starting with the main lodge. While David Appleton still owned it back in 1998, he was staining the deck of the log cabin one warm, sunny day when suddenly, the stain spontaneously combusted resulting in a fire that took the main lodge down to the ground! It was rebuilt with walls of concrete and steel; the walls won't burn but there is no insulation. One of the first tasks on John's list was to insulate the walls inside and out, and apply a new face to the walls.

This was one of many projects on John's list of to-dos with the intention to be as Earth-friendly as possible so he used local dead trees to mill the wood for the lodge, and uses a lumber mill in Lake George. Most of the buildings have motion switches to keep the lights on only when needed. There are solar-heated showers up-valley, along with vault toilets. For those who prefer modern plumbing for showers and flush toilets, there is a room in the main lodge accessible from outside that has three showers and three flushing toilets, along with three mirrors so three bridesmaids can apply their makeup at the same time. The infrastructure for 23 cabins has already been installed as the construction (all done by veterans) continues on the property for small cabins, along the west ridge as tipis circle the drive. The intention is that only golf carts will use that drive, as a way to keep noise and exhaust to a minimum during guest visits. There is also a yurt and bubble tent. Eventually, there will be a western town complete with hotel, saloon, jail and general store, to be completed by 2021.

Perhaps the most exciting new structure, due to be completed early April 2020, is the Event Center. This huge structure can accommodate up to 200 people for a sit-down dinner, prepared onsite in the commercial kitchen at the main lodge. The Event Center will be used to gather all the attendees for the veteran groups, as well as first responders, and also can

be utilized during weddings (the weddings help to pay for the veterans and first responder visits). What a great place for a dance, reception or large gathering!

For those who are seeking a more down-to-Earth experience, you can escape the opulence of the main lodge by spending the night in one of the many tipis that dot the drive of the property. These beautiful structures were built in traditional fashion with the first of the three main poles set at the northern point. The remaining poles are then tied to the northern pole. The skins of the tipis are each painted with an animal you might come across during your visit to Bison Peak Lodge. The tipis came from Nomadic Tipi Makers; the same that made the tipis for the movie *Dances with Wolves*.

Every tipi has a queen size bed or two, a 2-burner propane grill with a side burner, bear-proof food storage, chairs and cushions to sit on, and at least one drum from Mexico. John knows that kids enjoy a lofty place to discover; every cabin has a loft and he is working on creating a loft within a tipi.

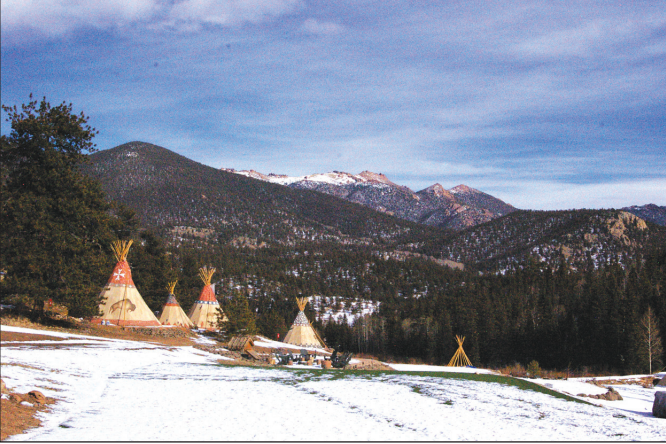
What is there to do at Bison Peak Lodge? Well, if you can think of a sport, it is quite likely Bison Peak Lodge has the equipment you'll need. There is a shed dedicated to holding the sports equipment and it is chock full of a variety of items for the sport of your choice: fishing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, back-packing, volleyball, sledding, gold panning, golf, rock-climbing wall, soccer, la cross, even elk antler hunting! A nine-hole putt-putt course has been set up using aspen branches and pine cones. You can take a short hike to meander your way through the peaceful labyrinth on the property. There is a BB-gun range and 3-D archery range where you can take aim at velociraptors, bobcat, deer, coyote, turkey, and cougar to name a few. This is especially fun for kids who are challenged to hit a target or miss dinner! (Of course, they are allowed to get as close as necessary, and try as many times as needed because at Bison Peak Lodge everyone is a winner!) There are plenty of outdoor activities to get the attendees moving, active and talking to each other. A hike up Bison Peak itself, easily seen from just about anywhere on



One of the musical instruments available for the guests to use.



John Kessel in the great room of the main lodge.



Tipis dot the landscape up the valley (above).  
The lodge's game room is a very inviting space (below).



Bison Peak Lodge property is always available. Bison Peak is above timberline at 12,500 feet of elevation; it is the highest peak in the Tarryall Mountains and easy to spot because of the 150-foot high hoodoos. Inside the main lodge is a game room for billiards and telescopes for star-gazing.

Perhaps one of the most exciting and personalized activities for veterans and first responders is the music program. Every room has at least one musical instrument in it and when veterans and first responders attend, each are given a guitar to keep, compliments of Challenge America of Aspen. The group of veterans or first responders are split into two groups: one group spends half a day with a songwriter and the other group spends half a day with a lyricist. Both groups work to create a song; the groups switch so that the lyricists then meet with the songwriter and vice versa. A highlight of the weekend is the performance of these songs.

John shared a powerful true story of one veteran who killed 54 men in battle. This man's grandmother would not speak to him because of it. This cut-off by his cherished grandmother only seemed to add insult to injury. When it was his turn to write a song, he wrote a lullaby for his grandmother, sharing his grief of this separation. Once she heard his song, she found her way to forgive him and the family re-united!

There is truly something very power-

ful about healing in groups, with music and especially in the middle of nature where the Earth does her part to absorb the negative feelings being shed and the wind does her work by blowing away the tears. Much has been written in recent years about the healing benefits of forest bathing. Highway 77 is such a beautiful drive, especially since the road is now completely re-paved, one can see how the drive alone can help to put one at ease.

As retreat attendants get settled and find a place to relax there are many things to discover. There is a puppet tree filled with a wide variety of animal puppets available. There is a tic-tac-toe game with a twist; each rock has both X and O on either side so when the rock topples over, the opposite side is exposed adding an interesting variable to the mix. There are critters carved of wood peeking out from various hidden spots that one tends to notice only after sweeping the sites of the property several times, so it becomes a wonderful discovery!

At this point, John has four separate veteran/first responder groups scheduled for 2020; one group are all physically disabled and two of the groups will include veterans/first responders and their families. He and his wife Lily are very pleased their dream is coming true, as they have been planning this for over 10 years. In fact, their friend Margie Hamrick of TheHomeOutpost.com has stored the furniture they have been finding for the project for seven years.

John came from a military family; his grandfather flew planes in WWI and his father was a captain in the navy in WWII. A missing ACL renders John ineligible for service; even the Peace Corps could not accept him. Serving veterans is the next best thing to serving the country.

Back in 2010, both Lily and John were in Haiti after the earthquake. They saw first-hand the challenges first responders dealt with and recognized their heroic efforts often come with internal and invisible scars, unseen and difficult to heal. It was decided then to extend the free healing retreat to first responders.

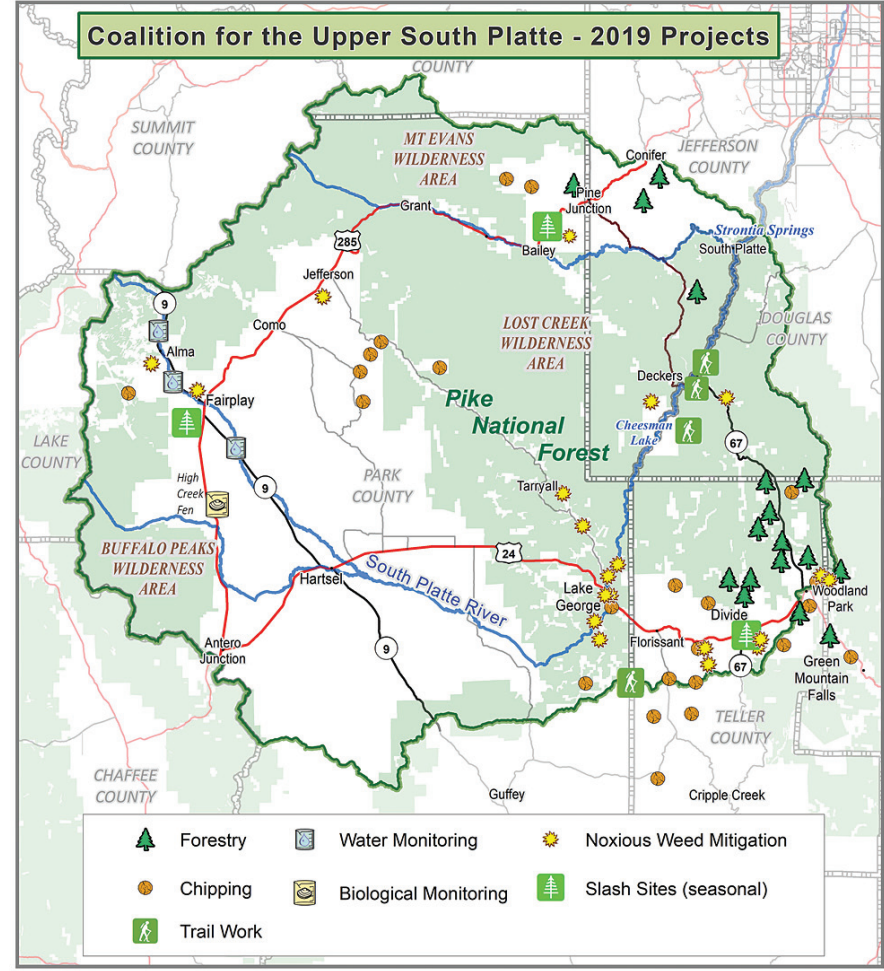
John and Lily wish to thank the following agencies for their assistance in making this dream come true: Challenge America for providing up to 50 guitars, as well as travel for songwriters and music therapists; Starrings, a group of Navajo coaches; the US Olympic Committee, Colorado College, US Air Force, USA Volleyball, Park County Commissioners, Jefferson Como Fire District and US Forest Service. They would also like to thank every member of their blended family, and their significant others who have worked on the project for months or more!

To check on availability for veterans/first responders email info@bisonpeaklodgecolorado.com. You may also visit these websites: www.bisonpeaklodgecolorado.com or www.pumahills.com (for weddings and special events).



# Ways we keep the watershed healthy

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte



The Coalition for the Upper South Platte enjoyed another exciting and fulfilling year of work supporting the health of the watershed in 2019. Our entire staff is grateful to the community for the cooperation and support we receive. The map shows just some of our 2019 work in the watershed.

**Forestry** — Forest Health work on over 345 acres to improve the sustainability of the forest and reduce impacts of wildfire on private and public property.

**Chipping** — CUSP's Neighborhood Fuels Reduction uses our mobile chipper to assist neighborhoods to manage slash from fire mitigation forest management. The chipper traveled to 80 locations in 2019. Property owners spent over 3199 hours completing fuels mitigation on 316 properties treating 500 acres.

**Trail Work** — CUSP continues our ongoing partnership with Sanborn Western Camps, Denver Water, Aurora Water and US Forest Service to maintain trails. In 2019, 4,882 feet of train construction and maintenance were accomplished. Volunteers assisted with Gill Trail work, which is actively used by fishermen on the South Platte. The Trumbull Trail, north of Deckers has been restored and new interpretive signs will be installed in 2020.

**Water Monitoring** — Water quality tests on the Middle Fork of the South Platte from the Alma

area to Fairplay were completed in 2019. Seven sites were tested in the spring and fall to characterize the water quality and review potential quality issues. Reports are in process.

**Biological Monitoring** — CUSP visited the High Creek Fen with Silverheels Middle School students again in 2019. This program has been ongoing for over seven years. The students gather ecological information, and later enter the data into the World Water Monitoring Day website.

**Noxious Weed Mitigation** — Over 140 acres were treated for noxious weeds in 2019. Colorado State law requires property owners manage weeds on their property. Weeds of focus include Thistles, Toadflax, Common Mullen, and Orange Hawkweed. For more information on weeds in the CUSP area visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species>.

**Slash Sites** — Summer slash sites in Divide Fairplay, and Bailey were open in 2019 for property owners to dispose slash from forest health activities. Over 2,200 loads were delivered to the sites; the result of 4325 hours of work mitigating approximately 140 acres.

The work plan for 2020 is being developed and we expect to be just as busy. Please give us a call 719-748-0033 or visit <https://cusp.ws/>

# Adopt Me

by SLV Animal Welfare Society

## Angel

Angel is 9-years-old and a love. She is currently housed with the 2-year-old lab mix male she came in with. They get along fine and share quarters; however, she would be best as an only dog if not adopted with him. Angel is spayed, current on all vaccinations and house trained. To meet her, call SLV Animal Welfare Society at 719-587-woof (9663) or email [woof@slvaws.org](mailto:woof@slvaws.org). This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



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### Critter Corner



Where's Santa?

- Lynne Roedema, Florissant, CO



Mindy - Steven Rizzio, Guffey, 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](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com). Be sure to include the critter's name as well as your name.

# BEAST TAMER

by Danielle Dellinger

In September of 2019, the United States Navy confirmed that three video clips, released between December 2017 and March 2018, show fast-moving, unidentified objects. This reignited the discussion of whether aliens exist or not.

Triss Starward jogged along her favorite hiking trail. Pine trees lined either side, along with quaking aspens. She looked up at the crystal blue sky as she ran. All of a sudden, a large object billowing black smoke fell across her line of sight.

"What the hell?" Triss stopped running and pulled out her headphones just in time to hear the object crash with a thunderous boom. Thick, black smoke plumed into the air in front of her. Worried that someone might be trapped, she raced toward the wreckage. When she got there, she found a deep skid mark and crater. Whatever had crashed was consumed in flames.

"Dammit!" Triss slid down the embankment, coughing from the smoke. She navigated around to where there were less flames. "Hello?" she called. "Anyone in there?"

If there was an answer, she couldn't hear it over the noise of the crackling flames.

"Hello?" she called again, not wanting to give up yet. She leaned in as close as she could, listening hard. A faint banging sound could be heard, and then she saw some movement behind the cockpit glass. Triss picked up a rock, shouted for them to turn away, and then hit the glass with the rock. The glass shattered, and she cleared away any fragments before helping the person inside climb out. She half dragged them up the embankment in case the wreckage exploded.

When they were a safe distance away, she stopped and turned to the person to check them out for injuries. However, it quickly became obvious that this person wasn't human. She stared at their wrinkly grey skin, and the two tentacles that hung from either corner of their mouth down to their abdomen. A half circle of multicolored feathers surrounded their small pointed ears. Their eyes were sharply angled and almond shaped. Their eyes themselves were as black and shiny as obsidian.

"What the hell are you?" Triss asked in shock before she could stop herself. "I'm sorry. That's not what I meant to say. Hi, I'm Triss." She held out her hand because she didn't know what else to do.

The being smiled and warmly took her hand. "I'm Kell," he said in a rumbling, watery voice.

"Oh, good. We can understand each other. Pleased to meet you, Kell. What happened? Why did you crash?"

"My ship had a malfunction. I was traveling to make a delivery nearby, but the cargo has escaped."

Triss's gut immediately clenched. "What kind of cargo?" Her words were slow and deliberate so there wouldn't be any misunderstandings about what she was asking.

"Unfortunately, a beast that is not meant to be free-roaming."

Triss's heart pounded in her ears after she said that. "Just how dangerous are we talking?"

"Very. This beast can decimate a population of 500,000 within an hour and a half."

It felt like her jaw was on the ground. "Then why the hell were you delivering it to a place here on Earth?"

"It's part of a new program between my government and yours. The thing that makes this beast valuable is that there is only one person on this planet who can tame it because they have the necessary matching DNA markers."

Triss felt this was an impossible story even for a science fiction author. "You've got to be kidding me. How do you find the person who can tame this thing? And once it's tamed, is it just supposed to live in the backyard?"

"I have a sensor that'll lead me to the person. If it wasn't destroyed, that is." Kell turned to look at the burning ship.

"Hold up. Is this beast tamer a regular citizen, or someone in the government or military?"

"Your military is not involved. Too risky. As far as I know, the tamer is a regular person. We tried to talk your government out of doing it that way, but they were all too scared to be the tamer themselves. Said something about in case things go wrong. So, we searched until we found someone outside of the government."

"Something wrong, as in this?" She gestured to the destroyed ship.

Kell smirked at her. "Yes."

"But why create this program in the first place?"

"We have an overpopulation of these beasts on our planet, and human DNA is the only genetic makeup compatible with these creatures. We don't know why either," he said, cutting off her next question.

"So, basically, it's a rehoming program my government is forcing on us. Sounds about right."

"I'm sorry you and your people weren't informed. I guess that was the only way to keep your military in the dark."

"The secret is definitely out now. But what're you doing for my government in return?" Triss knew there had to be a bigger reason.

"We're offering military protection, but only when necessary."

"Ah, there it is," Triss said, clapping her hands. "I knew it. That explains why this was all worth the risk."

"We were told you all would be accepting of the beasts because there is a heavy cultural obsession with alien lifeforms."

Triss nodded. "That's correct. I can see how this might work out well in the end, as long as these beasts don't require a lot of resources. Earth is kinda running out at the moment."

"Luckily, that's part of the deal. We'll provide what they need."

"Well, great. Win-win all around somehow." Triss rolled her eyes a bit. "Before we get the sensor thing, are you hurt?"

"I've healed in the time we've been talking."

"Oh, well, excellent. Let's get that sensor, then."

Kell nodded and teleported to the ship. Triss was about to demand he wait for her, but he seemed to know what to do without getting injured. Within a minute, he had teleported back to her. "I've retrieved it." He held it up to show her.

"Does it work?" She could see the plastic edges were singed.

He pushed a button and it let out a shrill chirp. After a minute of booting up, it began beeping rapidly. He hummed and frowned, turning it over in his hand to see if it had significant damage on the back.

"What is it?" Triss finally asked, the suspense killing her. "Is it working?"

Kell nodded. "Yes, and pointing directly at you."

Triss stared at him. "What? Are you pranking me?"

He looked her right in the eyes as he asked in a dead serious tone, "What's a prank?"

"You've got to be kidding me?! I'm the one who's supposed to tame this thing? No way. There's been some mistake. I'm sure of it."

Kell shook his head. "We are not known for making errors."

"I live in a one-bedroom apartment! They don't even allow fish as pets!" She put her hands on her head as she turned in circles, the panic setting in.

"Let's find the beast first," Kell encouraged. "You know, I really don't like how cavalier you're being about this whole thing. It's annoying."

Kell simply watched her, not understanding what she was so upset about.

When he didn't react, she exhaled loudly and dropped her hands. "Fine. How do we find it?"

Kell pointed to huge tracks near him.

"Right. Follow the destruction." She reluctantly started walking in the direction the tracks were going.

The tracks quickly led off the trail and down the jagged side of a hill. Triss struggled over the tough terrain while Kell effortlessly floated just above the ground. A raging river wound its way around at the bottom of the hill, and Triss could see the tracks on the other side from where the beast had crossed. It was headed straight for the city. With help from Kell, Triss was able to cross the river. They got up onto the road and followed it, and as they got closer to the city, they could hear screams. Triss's chest tightened, and she hoped that no one had been killed yet.

Before she knew what she was doing, she was flat out running. She turned the corner in time to see a UPS truck going flying down the street, followed by a black streak. She was so caught off guard that she stumbled to a stop. "What was that?" she panted, wiping sweat from her brow.

"The beast," Kell replied, stopping beside her.

She looked up at him. "Okay, tell me how I'm supposed to tame it."

Kell shrugged. "Just get its attention and walk up to it."

"Seriously?" Her expression showed just how unamused she was. "It's that simple?"

"Well, yes and no. Getting its attention while it's in this frenzy will be hard. You will have to be extra loud and dominant. Can you do that?"

"I—" She was about to answer when a blood-curdling scream and crash came from a few blocks over. Triss instantly started running toward the commotion. There was no time to think, just act. As she neared where the screams were coming from, she could see a creature as tall and large as a polar bear and as long as a Siberian tiger reflected in the building's windows. The fur was a greasy black, and the tail was long and flared. Its shoulders were huge and pointed. The beast snapped at a woman lying on the ground and trying to back away. It had two rows of teeth on its upper and lower jaws, and the canine teeth hung well passed its lower jaw. The woman scrambled to her feet and started running away, which unfortunately made the beast chase after her.

Triss climbed up onto a parked car, cupped her hands around her mouth, and let out the loudest yell that she could, squeezing every last bit of air out of her lungs. For a brief second, the beast paused, its ears flicking back in her direction. Triss quickly yelled again. "That's it," she heard Kell encourage her from behind the car.

This time, the beast turned its head toward her. When they locked eyes, a powerful shiver went through Triss, and she lost her breath. But she forced out another yell, even if it wasn't as loud as before. It was all she could do to keep from running as the beast, with its shimmering purple eyes, turned around completely to face her.

"Go to it," Kell hissed at her.

"Are you crazy?" Triss snapped back in a hushed tone.

"Just do it!"

She clenched her jaw and carefully slid off of the car, her eyes never leaving the beast's. Slowly, they both walked toward each other. Triss could feel her palms sweating, but she didn't want to make a movement and startle it. When they were a couple feet apart, Triss gradually raised her arm until her palm was facing out. A low rumble came out of the beast and its upper lip curled to reveal its numerous, yellow teeth.

"Easy," she said calmly. "Easy does it." Its lip lowered slightly.

"That's it. We'll take it nice and slow." They both came to a stop a foot apart, Triss's hand still outstretched.

"Do you want to sniff my hand?" she asked it, treating it like a wild dog because she didn't know what else to do.

The beast's large nostrils flared, and it carefully stretched out its neck until the top of its nose brushed against her fingertips. It inhaled deeply, which pulled her palm firmly against its nose, and then it exhaled and pushed her hand back.

Triss smiled, chuckling nervously. "See? Wasn't so bad, huh?"

Another low rumble came from deep within the beast's throat.

"I know. You're probably tired, right? All that running around was exhausting. I know it was for me." She could see the beast's eyelids were growing heavy, a sign that it was calming down. "Can we go together, now?" She still hadn't lowered her hand, and the beast bumped it with its nose. Triss smiled big and allowed herself to relax. "Let's go." She allowed her hand to return to her side, and then turned to face Kell with the giant beast behind her.

He clasped his hands together excitedly. "You did it!" he exclaimed. He clapped a couple times, and almost instantly, onlookers from all sides began clapping as well.

The sudden sound startled Triss, and she quickly looked around at the hundreds of people staring at them. She could feel the beast growing tense behind her as it looked around as well. Triss raised her hands in an attempt to shush the crowd. The noise died off, even if it wasn't as quickly as she would've liked. She faced the beast and moved to its side. "Come on, let's get you taken care of."

A few days later, Kell and Triss stood in front of a few government officials who had come out to investigate the incident.

"There were serious injuries, yes," Triss explained, "but no one died. Thankfully."

"Where is the animal now?" the agent gruffed, jotting down some things on a tiny notepad.

"Emba, is her name now. She's living in the woods behind my apartment. Since there aren't any pets allowed," she joked.

The agent's face remained unchanged.

Triss cleared her throat. "Kell has set Emba up with everything she needs. We've explained to her to remain hidden and not interact with humans."

"Uh huh . . ." The agent finished writing and then put the notepad away in his jacket pocket. "Now that the military knows there's an alien beast living here, they're likely going to try to go behind our backs and capture it."

"Her. Capture her," Triss corrected. "Her name is Emba."

Again, the agent's face remained unchanged.

"Look, I'm no match for the military. You're going to have to do what you can to protect Emba. Kell, here, is going to do the same. I didn't ask for any of this, and neither did Emba, so that's on the two of you. So, fix what you broke." With that, Triss turned and walked away, heading into the woods to find Emba.

She couldn't remember exactly where Kell had constructed the cave of rocks specifically imported from Saturn's rings. Since she wasn't having any luck finding Emba or the cave, she let out a whistle. A second later, the ground began to shake and the trees began to violently sway back and forth off to her left. Within another second, Emba burst through the trees and screeched to a halt, spraying Triss with dirt.

"We're gonna have to work on that," Triss chuckled, holding up her hand for Emba to sniff. It was their way of saying hello.

"How're you doing out here?"

Emba growled softly and wagged her tail gently against the ground.

Triss smiled. "Good. This is our brave new world now. We'll enjoy it together. Promise."

— The End —  
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Barbara Pickholz-Weiner

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## New geek on the block

by Flip Boettcher  
photo by Flip Boettcher

There's a new geek in the 400 block of Cañon City's historic Main Street and that's a good thing. Madi Weber brings a lot of expertise to her computer repair business, Positive Computing, located at 423 Main Street.

Weber offers professional computer repair services and support, as well as electronics sales. In fact, Weber says she can offer computers for Wal-Mart prices that are twice as good and also includes set up and "bloatware" removal.

Weber, a Kansas native, moved to Colorado three years ago to be closer to her family and finish her accounting degree at UCCS, she said. Weber came with an associate in engineering degree.

Noticing a lack of computer repair services in her hometown motivated Weber to open Positive Computing here. Weber's engineering degree gave her the formal technological experience and getting her accounting degree taught her the ins-and-outs of how to run a business. Weber felt she was ready to open her new business in July 2019 after graduating in May 2019. A computer repair shop seemed like the perfect way to combine her skills, said Weber.



Madi Weber and her dog Lady in front of Positive Computing at 423 Main St. in Cañon City.

Contact Positive Computing at 719-792-2627 for text or cell, website [www.positivecomputing.net](http://www.positivecomputing.net) or email [madi@positivecomputing.net](mailto:madi@positivecomputing.net).

## Mary Crade's Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you! These two words fall short in expressing the depth of gratitude I feel to so many who gave selflessly, devoid of any hope for recognition! Please know that I am deeply humbled and grateful for the continued outpouring of love and support from this extraordinary community that I feel privileged every day to be a part of. Thank you to my family and friends who are always there for me! Thank you to all of the businesses who contributed food and items for the Silent Auction on The Pasta with a Purpose night. Thank you to the students who attended and performed their magic! Thank you to all the community members who worked tirelessly in these busy days to plan, organize, cook, bake, serve, clean and attend, what I was told was a 'perfect' event, full of heart! Please know that I am continuing to face this new challenge with a strength and optimism that I thank all of you for. Without your overwhelming support, your prayers and loving thoughts, this journey would be unthinkable! I cannot thank you enough for being there for me! With a heart full of gratitude!

## Robin's way home

by Sam Applegate

Robin is our sweet, one-year-old male Boxer, and he has been missing since August 31, 2019 near Hartsel, CO. We will not give up searching for him.

We were camping on a friend's property on CR 53 between Hwy 24 and Guffey, east of Hwy 9, the last weekend in August when gunfire erupted and two of our dogs, Robin and our little Chihuahua, Tito, took off in a panic. Tito was found a week later at the campsite, but Robin did not come back with him.

There were several sightings of Robin in a 10-square-mile area around where he went missing, and he was seen on a game camera in mid-October, but there have been no confirmed sightings since October 17 when he was seen on Leonardo Lane, just west of Hwy 9.

We have heard from many people that someone may have him in Hartsel, but no one has come forward with more information. We are offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to Robin's safe return.

Robin is a large male German Boxer, cinnamon color with white paws and white on his face. He has a short bob tail. He had on a brown leather collar with tags



when he went missing. He is micro-chipped. He is loved and greatly missed!

Please contact Maria at 720-808-4315 with any information, and please join our page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/robinswayhome](http://www.facebook.com/robinswayhome) for updates and information.

We won't give up until Robin has found his way home. Thank you.

## Cookbook Connections

by Catherine Shepherd, Florissant Public Library Manager

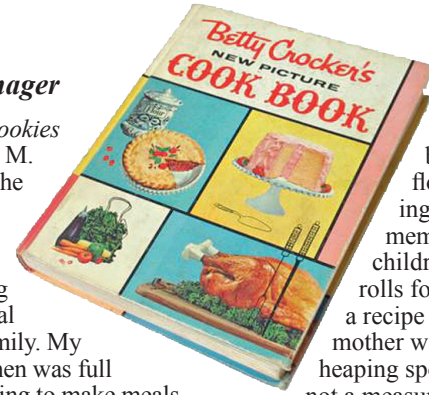
Cookbooks, like all books, are magic and tell a story. My favorite cookbooks include chapters about the culture and history of the featured country or region. I feel more connected to the recipes when I learn about the people, the culture and history surrounding the food and the ingredients. Cookbooks allow you to time travel by evoking memories of your grandmother's cooking or cherished recipes from your childhood. My grandmother had a *Betty Crocker's Cookbook* with a white cover. By the time I was old enough to help in the kitchen, the cookbook wasn't very white anymore and the pages were stained. I have happy memories of making recipes out of the *Betty Crocker's Cookbook* with my grandmother.

At some point I started collecting, or hoarding depending on who you ask, cookbooks. I'm not sure if it's the images or the stories that draw me to cookbooks. While not the same edition, I do have a *Betty Crocker's Cookbook* on my bookshelf. One of the most beautiful cookbooks I have on my shelves, is *Arabesque: A Taste of Turkey, Morocco and Lebanon* by Claudia Roden. The images in this cookbook are vibrant. The narrative Claudia Roden includes about the regions of Turkey, Morocco, and Lebanon draws you in and provides an understanding of how the food ties to the culture. Some of my cookbooks are still pristine and some are well loved with battered covers, bent pages, and numerous

stains. *Christmas Cookies* edited by Katherine M. Eakin has endured the most love.

Perusing cookbooks, selecting recipes, and cooking have been communal activities for my family. My grandmother's kitchen was full of many hands helping to make meals, make bread or make pickles. Homemade pickles are amazing and are one of my favorite foods. As child it felt like it took forever for the pickles to be ready. When everyone helped not only did the work get done faster but there was also this joy and love associated with making food. Food tastes better with laughter and love added to the ingredients. For me, the shared experience of cooking with my family strengthened my connection to my history and my story. I continued this tradition with my children.

The entire process of looking through cookbooks, selecting recipes and actually cooking food with my children has always been happy chaos. Cookbooks are pulled off the shelves and piled on the table or the living room floor. Recipes are compared, ingredients written down, and after a couple of hours decisions about what to make are final. The kitchen always begins orderly and neat. The kitchen always ends with almost every pan or pot



used, a flour explosion, batter everywhere, the floor sticky, and smiling faces. One of the best memories of cooking with my children is making cinnamon rolls for the first time. We use a recipe handed down from my mother with measurements of "5 heaping spoons of flour." This was not a measurement for teaspoons or tablespoons but rather for big serving spoons. Figuring out and remembering the measurement were part of the fun and the story. One of my children now makes amazing bread by hand and loves to experiment with different types of bread. The measurements are not as ambiguous.

The Florissant Public Library has a new cookbook club, Friends at the Table Cookbook Club. Friends at the Table creates a space for participants to share cookbooks, recipes, and stories through good food. It builds a shared cooking experience for our community, strengthen connections and creates extended family. Friends at the Table meets once a month with a different theme each month. Participants bring a prepared dish and the cookbook or recipe to share. The next meeting is: Monday, February 24 at 11:30 a.m. at the Florissant Public Library. The theme is Mardi Gras. Registration is required. For more information call 719-748-3939.

## Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center news

### Hospital exhibits paintings by Max Ruppeck

Salidan painter Max Ruppeck captures scenes from Colorado, Europe and Mexico in a collection of watercolor paintings on display at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center through March 31, 2020.

Ruppeck painted his first watercolor in 1962, when he was an architecture student at the University of Illinois. Over the years, Ruppeck has studied with internationally known artists, including Mel Stabin and Alvaro Castagnet. He has also studied with Colorado artists Raleigh Kinney, James Pedersen and Dennis Pendleton.

His primary subjects are cityscapes and landscapes, and he has also created figurative and portrait work.

Ruppeck's initial approach to applying color and value to a painting is to use as few strokes as possible with a large brush. In the final part of the painting process, he adds details with smaller brushes and/or other applicators.

"I often add backgrounds, shading and details, and intensify value contrasts in my studio, after the initial paint application is thoroughly dried," he said.

All of his paintings in the hospital exhibit are for sale, and 25% of the proceeds are donated to the HRRMC Foundation. This is the hospital's first exhibit this



year, which is part of its mission to create a healing environment for patients and visitors.

HRRMC displays the work of regional artists, with an emphasis on the Arkansas Valley. For more information on exhibiting art at HRRMC, call 719-530-2217.

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Taylor Heslop in his new shop at 125 East Main Street in Florence, Taylor'd Home.

## Taylor'd Homes

by Flip Boettcher  
photo by Flip Boettcher

Taylor'd Home is one of the newest shops to spring up in the 100 block of East Main Street in Florence. The shop is stocked with interesting, unique, one-of-a-kind items, tastefully arranged and displayed, for home use and décor, by Taylor Heslop, the shop's owner and designer.

Shop name, Taylor'd Home, comes from Taylor's "passion for design and love for homes," he said. Like one would go to a tailor to style your clothes, you can go to Taylor'd Home to style your house.

The shop is a combination of antique and vintage items mixed with a modern flair, said Taylor.

Taylor lives in Denver and is a realtor with Liv Sotheby's International Realty. Taylor stages his listings and assists his

clients with designing their homes, he said.

For Taylor, opening a brick and mortar shop was the next step. He picked Florence because he grew up in Turkey Creek just outside of Penrose where he attended elementary and middle school. Taylor then went on to high school in Florence.

Taylor remembers spending time with his grandmother, aunt and mother as a kid visiting the shops along Main Street in Florence. Taylor has always dreamed of opening a store and he could not think of a better place than Florence, he said, which holds so many memories for him.

Taylor'd Home is located at 125 East Main Street. The store is open Wednesday-Friday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



## Trooper Tips

Older drivers  
by Trooper Gary Cutler

Driving is a feeling of freedom you get when you're able to just travel wherever you wish. There may come a point in time when either you or someone close to you must make the decision to put the keys away and find another way to commute.

Talking to an older person about their driving can be difficult and is often delayed until their driving is to a point of being dangerous. But if delayed too long, it can be a hesitation that can turn fatal.

I speak from personal experience; I lost my grandmother in a crash. The signs were there prior to the fatal crash, but we failed to see them as a serious enough problem and hesitated in having her stop driving. It started with a few scratches here and there on the car, and pulling into the garage a little too far. Perhaps, if we had acted upon those signs, we may have had her around longer.

Years later when another driving situation approached my family, we didn't hesitate to take action. My father began to show signs of having trouble driving due to early onset dementia and we took steps to keep him from driving and possibly hurting himself or someone else. A problem you may face is the older driver believing they are driving fine, when in fact you are seeing dangerous problems. I won't tell you it was easy to have the conversation. My father was upset with us for a while, but I would do it again to make sure everyone remains safe.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration shows that in 2018, 19% of all fatal crashes were caused by drivers 65 years and older. Now this doesn't mean just because you turn 65 you should have your driver's license taken from you. Far from it, it just means it's time to start being aware

## Be sensitive to ways you can preserve the older driver's self-respect.

of any changes. For a start, keep track of eyesight, physical fitness, and reflexes.

If you are an older person, try to avoid driving in bad weather, driving at dusk or night, where it may be harder to see things, or if bright lights have started to bother your eyes. Other ways to make sure you are being safe is to give yourself more distance between cars, and to constantly scan the road ahead. Look to ways you can extend your driving by being aware of any changes that could be dangerous on the roadways for you and others by adjusting those problems as they arise.

For family members with aging relatives, plan ahead so when the time comes everyone involved knows what needs to be done. Have a discussion with family members about what should be done, and how everyone should respond when and if the time comes.

Be sensitive to ways you can preserve the older driver's self-respect. Present concerns in non-threatening terms. Use "I" messages rather than "You" messages. Focus on a plan that maximizes community safety and try to look for what can put into place that allows the older person to continue to drive if possible, by changing habits.

Don't wait to take steps that could save lives. For more information on driving for the elderly visit [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov). As always, safe travels!

## One Nation Walking Together

### Chief Halftown

by Urban Turzi

Growing up, when Philadelphia was the third largest city in the US, way back in the 1940s and 50s, there were no TV sets in any of the row-homes on our block or surrounding blocks to keep us kids indoors. We spent most of the time in the streets roller skating, playing catch, playing hide and seek, playing pimple ball, sledging when it snowed, or doing our best to portray cops and robbers or cowboys and Indians. We didn't have to worry about cars running us over as very few folks owned cars in our working-class neighborhood. We were lucky, as our next-door neighbor and my playpen partner (Donna) was the first on the block to get a TV. So, when it was time for the "Howdy Doody" or the "Willie the Worm" shows to come on the tube after school, about a dozen of us would cram into this neighbor's home enjoying the fruits of her father's pay check. Once television sets became a big part of our lives, then there were the omnipresent westerns to keep our fathers glued to the TV while our moms were cleaning up after dinner. But we kids were really lucky as Philly had a TV show hosted by an American Indian in the form of Chief Traynor Ora Halftown.



The Chief Halftown program aired from 1950 until 1999, a remarkable run on WFIL Channel 6 in Philadelphia. Chief Halftown was a true original. There were very few local kids show hosts who enjoyed his kind of television success, plus drawing adoring crowds at personal appearances all over the Delaware Valley.

To many non-Philly youth, "ees da sa sussaway" (Seneca for LET'S GET STARTED) would simply be syllables spoken by the Chief, but generations of Philadelphia children know differently as those words meant "let's get this show going." They know these are the magic words of Chief Halftown, beloved children's' entertainer and Philadelphia legend who began broadcasting his self-titled children's television program in September of 1950. Originally intended to be a simple cartoon show, it grew into the longest running local children's program in the history of television. For nearly 50 years, Chief Halftown was a part of the lives of Philadelphia's youngsters. The show started out on a daily basis, but about halfway through its run, it became a weekly, Saturday 7 a.m. broadcast.

Chief Halftown was a full-blooded Seneca Indian born in upstate New York. His parents were both born on an Indian reservation near Buffalo and his grandfather had toured with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show. He moved to Pennsylvania with the hopes of becoming the next great crooner after Sinatra. He enjoyed moderate success until after WWII; the closest he came to realizing his dream was his 45-rpm recording of four tunes on the SEN-ECA recording label, which can be found on eBay today at a handsome price. If you really want to hear the total recording, just go to YOUTUBE and search for "chief-halftown record" and sit back and listen to the scratches on this 45 and imagine being serenaded by an aspiring Seneca. Only four songs were on the record...he really had a nice voice as he sang 1-Lonely Wind, 2-Sleepy Head, 3-Goldmine in the Sky and 4-Dream Time.

While those crooning dreams were never to be fulfilled, he did find his way to fame. When his children's show began broadcasting, he had to rent his own regalia from a



shop on Chestnut Street, in downtown Philly. Throughout the years, he always appeared on camera in Native American headdress, beads and buckskin clothing. These signature marks were not just an aesthetic choice but were also a teaching tool. His show, which began as a cartoon show, grew into a place to showcase the talent of local children and to teach us about American Indian traditions and culture. He taught us tribal customs, folk lore, language, arts and crafts, and chants all of which were important lessons.

In 1950, the Chief was battling a prevalent stereotype. On television and in the movies, there were very distinct depictions of Native Americans, generally as so-called "savages" or sidekicks. John Wayne and Jimmie Stewart both starred in films about Native Americans. If there were good roles for Native Americans, such as Cochise in Jimmy Stewart's *Broken Arrow*, they were generally not portrayed by Native American actors. There was, fortunately, Chief Halftown who refused to play to the stereotype. He famously claimed, "I had no idea what it would come to, but I vowed that I would be myself. I wouldn't talk like a Hollywood Indian...I made it clear that I was an Indian and no one was to tell me how to be an Indian." Chief Halftown's formula worked, making him an incredibly popular part of the WFIL Channel 6 lineup. A lot of Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches were consumed while he was on the air.

In addition to his television show, Chief Halftown made lots of personal appearances in and around the Delaware Valley. He not only entertained children, he also visited senior centers, schools, store openings and charity events. (Speaking of openings, the father of my next-door neighbor, whose family had the first TV on our block, was president of a bank and for the grand opening of a new bank, he booked the Chief so his grandson could meet this infamous Philly legend). When his show went off the air in 1999, Chief Halftown was 82 years old but that didn't end his career. He continued making public appearances for several more years. He moved to Brigantine, NJ in 2002 to be near his children and he passed away there in July of 2003.

Chief Halftown didn't live an outlandish existence. He never considered himself a celebrity, yet he was a part of the lives of children in the Philadelphia area for nearly half a century. Never pandering and always staying true to himself, he succeeded in the local television market in a way that is no longer possible. As national networks have increased their children's programming, local shows beyond the news have died away. The Chief was a pioneer. While he and his show may be gone, memories of his teachings will remain for years to come.

He always opened his show with the kind, gentle and caring voice saying, "Welcome Tribal Members." My brother recalls the chief saying "oh-nay" at times but neither of us can remember what that meant. My brother (aka: Snake) mentioned the following when he edited this piece, "Just by looking at the photos of the Chief, you could tell he was a kind and loving person. His eyes and his face drew you and you trusted him." An important word taught by the chief was "Nya-wey,"

which meant THANK YOU in Seneca. Native Pride and a sense of spirituality always prevailed as these were the very attributes which endeared him to kids.

He offered a different view of Native People and you could tell he was not the kind Americans had seen portrayed in most TV or Hollywood westerns. The Chief Halftown Show was one of Philadelphia's most popular programs. He had a live audience with selected children visiting his set.

A veteran of World War II he served his country honorably and after discharge from the Army moved to Springfield, PA (a Philly suburb) with his wife, Margaret. Unable to have children, this remarkable couple adopted three children from reservation families.

Because of early exposure to substance abuse on his Seneca reservation, in upper New York State, and due to a short period of personal dependency, he became known as a 'sponsor' for others having such problems. He aided thousands of Pennsylvanians through his example and guidance for nearly 60 years. His passing was a tragic loss to many professionals who dedicated their own lives to this specific healthcare field.

On certain occasions, his show, would be televised outdoors in the back of the TV station on the lush lawn adjacent to the station's parking lot and he would be on horseback. Just imagine being 8 years old and seeing an Indian, adorned in beautiful regalia, astride a horse, with views and sounds of an evening rush-hour in the background. I remember being confused by that scenario, but I still loved our Chief's show.

Skip forward some 70 years and I am convinced my interest in Native American history and culture is due to watching this kind and soft-spoken man on our black and white television sets. He was our generation's Mister Rogers, but so much more...he was the Grandfather of our tribe. NYA-WEY!

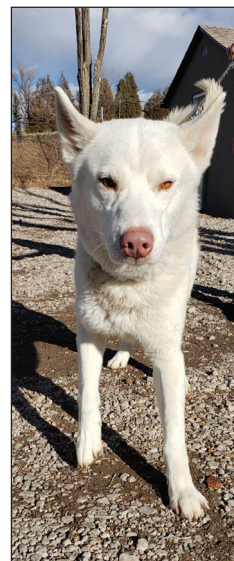
See archives at [www.phillyhistory.com](http://www.phillyhistory.com) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). In both cases, search Chief Halftown.

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# Currant Creek Characters IV Benders and Hammonds - The Enclave

by Flip Boettcher

Hannah Hammond, Annie Bender's mother, and her sons Henry "Hank" (1855-1935) and William J. "Bill" (1857-1925) arrived on Currant Creek in 1871. Annie Bender's cousin George Hammond, her uncle James's son, probably came with Annie's mother and her brothers, as well. Cousin George stayed in Colorado mining, first in Central City and Georgetown, then Leadville and in the Elk Mountains.

Cousin George finally came to Rocky Ford in 1887 and had several retail businesses there until his death in 1928. He and his wife Effie are buried there at the Valley View Cemetery in unmarked graves, a fact only recently found out by Doug Stiverson, Annie Bender's great, great grandson.

George's brothers Elijah and Henry H. Hammond also came to Colorado. Henry eventually went on to help found the town of Delta, Colorado. Elijah "Lige" settles for a time on the Bender Ranch on Currant Creek and eventually homesteads the Thirty-One-Mile Ranch southwest of Guffey. Interestingly, today the ranch is an air B & B and a vacation rental.

Annie's father John Hammond never visited Colorado and passed away, probably in Wisconsin, in 1873 or later. Annie's uncle James did visit his children in Colorado, according to a Delta County newspaper article.

With the gathering of family and relatives in 1871 and 1872 on Currant Creek, the Bender-Hammond enclave was growing, eventually stretching a couple of miles along the creek. John Bender went on to become a very prominent rancher in the area, South Park and Cañon City. Bender was a member of the South Park Cattle Growers Association and the Fremont County Cattle Association. The Bender Ranch (the old Moore place on Colorado Highway 9) northwest of Guffey, is one of the oldest ranches in

Park County and has been in continuous operation up to the present day.

Small enclaves were popular and often became stops on the road and then towns. Families, relatives and friends homesteaded in an area together, allowing help, sharing and support for all. Homesteading and ranching are hard enough in the best of times.

With the arrival of his mother-in-law Hannah Hammond, I'm sure John Bender welcomed the help of her two sons, his brothers-in-law, 15-year-old Hank and 13-year-old Bill, building log cabins to house everyone.

The Bender Ranch must have been a lively and exciting place with stages stopping and exchanging teams of horses, incoming and outgoing mail, freight wagons coming and going, people buying and ordering supplies at the store and just the general traffic along the Currant Creek Wagon Road.

Before the first official post office was established at Kester sometime before 1877 at Job Kester Sweet's place, there was a stage and freight stop, post office and store at the Benders. It is listed on the 1872 general land office map of the area. In a 1978 family history, Annie's oldest grandchildren remembered Annie handling incoming and outgoing mail. Annie was a "very pretty, small-framed woman that never walked, rather she trotted," they remembered.

The 1870 United States Census lists only one residence between the head of Currant Creek at the pass downstream to where Freshwater Creek joins Currant Creek, that of Abraham and Sikka Scott. The 1870s saw significant growth along the creek.

By 1870, Fairplay was as much a ranching center as a mining center, with 6,000 head of cattle and 700 horses grazing in South Park.

In 1872, Anton and Catherine Artus' son Charles was born on Currant Creek. Catherine was John Bender's sister. In 1874, John and Annie's last child and first born at the

ranch, Hannah Elizabeth was born at Kester. In 1875, Emma was born to Anton and Catherine and Julia was born to them in 1879.

Hannah Elizabeth is Stiverson's great grandma. Stiverson's grandmother Hazel Elizabeth Adams was the last family member born at the ranch in 1902. Stiverson has been invaluable in supplying family history and pictures for these articles.

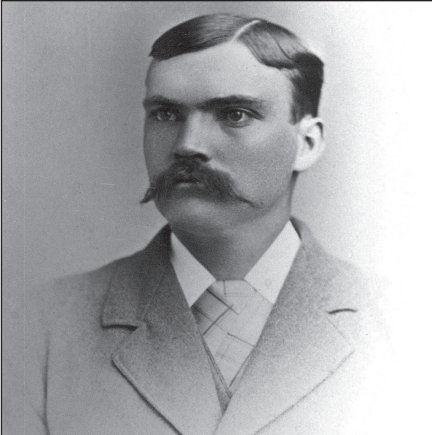
William H. Beery arrived at the head of the creek and Job Kester Sweet, William Bainbridge White, Benjamin Reuben Dell, Olaf and Charles Davis and Peter Allstrum all settled farther down the stream in the 1870s.

In 1877 the post office moved from Sweet's one-half mile downstream to White's store. White's homestead, 1882, also had the Currant Creek Pioneer Cemetery (CCPC) on it.

It is interesting to note that one could not legally apply for a federal homestead under the 1862 Homestead Act until the area had been officially surveyed. Before that squatter's rights applied. Squatter's rights were a claim to public land that might be granted to a person who openly possessed and continuously occupied that land without legal authority for a prescribed number of years, according to the Random House Dictionary.

This might explain why many homesteads were proofed up, a process that took five years, sometimes a lot later than when the homesteader had arrived in the area. This area of Currant Creek was surveyed between July 1872 and October 1879.

The 1872 map lists Beery's Thirty-Nine-Mile Ranch House near the pass, a store at Bender's Ranch, two houses and a school at the townsite of Kester, never platted, which was later Hank Hammond's homestead, Annie's brother, in 1894. The witnesses for the proof of Hank's homestead were John Bender, Martin Bender, W.J. Hammond (Bill) of Balfour, and W.F. McClure of Fairplay.



Henry "Hank" Hammond, Annie Benders brother who came to Currant Creek in 1871 with his mother Hannah and brother William "Bill."

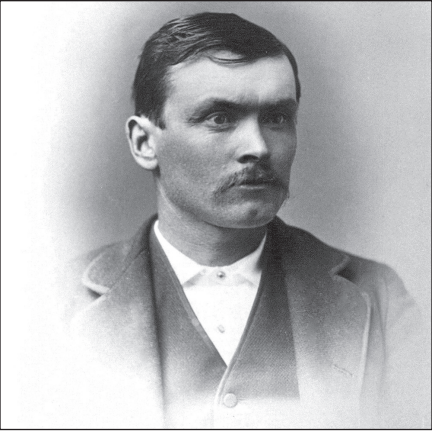
The old Rowe map lists that same site as the Kester Post Office and stage station, saying that it later became the Henry and William J. Hammond homestead and Hammond Post Office. Since there were so many Hammonds in the area, Kester was often referred to as Hammond.

Interestingly, although there were a lot of Hammonds in the area, the only other Bender to come to Colorado was John's sister Catherine Bender Artus and her husband and children. They moved to South Dakota, though in 1881.

John's brother Martin Andreus Bender remained in Wisconsin, married Henrietta Laper in 1860, and the couple had 11 children between 1861 and 1883. Sadly, one died at only five days old in 1876. Andreus died in Wisconsin in 1894 and is buried there along with John's parents Johann and Anna.

Hannah Hammond, Annie's mother, proofed her homestead in 1881 and son-in-law John proofed his first 160 acres in 1882 and his second in 1892. Bender also had an 1896 40-acre parcel with son John Martin and John T. Whistler on the south side of White's where 34-Mile Creek (non-existent

continued on next page



Elijah "Lige" Hammond, Annie Bender's cousin who came to Currant Creek around 1880 where he is living on the Bender Ranch. Lige goes on to homestead the Thirty-One-Mile Creek Ranch southwest of Guffey.

today, just a dry gulch) joined Currant Creek. The 1892 homestead is where Bender built the ranch house that still stands inhabited today, known as the Moore place.

John and Annie's son Martin proofed his homestead in 1901 and their daughter Hannah Elizabeth proofed her homestead in 1903. Hank Hammond, Annie's brother, acquired three more 160-acre parcels, a homestead in 1921 and two in 1925 as homestead stock raising.

Despite the United States financial panic of 1873, a plague of locust in 1874 and a plague of grasshoppers in 1876, the South Park cattlemen and the haying industry there survived, and by the 1880 census, the population in the upper Currant Creek area had exploded.

There were now eight residences between Beery's homestead at the pass and Scott's at Freshwater Creek. These included the Benders, Hammonds, Anton Artus, Nathan Munn, Leander Smith and family, Job Sweet, William White and Reuben Benjamin Dell.

In 1880, John Bender is listed as a stock raiser and his brother-in-law Anton is a farmer. Registrars of voters on Currant



Ida Lloyd in an 1885 Census picture. Ida started west from Nebraska when she was 9 days old in a prairie schooner and went on to be considered, with her husband Lige Hammond, among the 100 - 200 Fremont County pioneers.

Creek in 1880 include John Bender, Anton Artus and William White, with the election held at White's place.

The 1880 census has Annie's brother Bill Hammond living with their mother Hannah next door to Annie and John. Annie's brother Hank is living in Gothic, but he returns to Currant Creek by 1885.

Also, with Hank in Gothic are Annie's cousin Henry and most likely her cousin George. George went prospecting in the Elk Mountains in 1880 for three years. Gothic is located in the Elk Mountains. All three list their occupations as miners.

Cousin Henry, who went on to help found Delta, Colo., was a true entrepreneur who tried and succeeded at many different ventures, said Stiverson. Probably cousin George and Hank were just tagging along. Gothic is now a high-altitude biological laboratory near Crested Butte.

Lige Hammond (1861, Wisconsin — 1928, Cañon City), Annie's cousin, is living at John and Annie's ranch in 1880. In February 1886, Lige marries Miss Ida Lloyd in Kester with John Bender officiating. Lige proofed up his homestead in

1892, the Thirty-One-Mile Ranch, which is adjacent to his father-in-law, William C. Lloyd's homestead, 1890, on the side of Baldy Mountain southwest of Guffey.

William Lloyd (1832-1929) and wife Jane Prichart (1847-1907) headed west in a prairie schooner from Nebraska City, Nebraska in March 1866 when their first child Ida was but nine days old; what a journey that must have been.

The Lloyds spent some time in the Denver area and South Park before heading to Leadville at the height of the boom days there. By 1870 they are in Saguach County. In 1878 Lloyd is a ranchman in the Currant Creek area. In 1880, Lloyd is listed as a watchmaker in Cañon City. In the 1885 Colorado census the Lloyds are in South Park.

William and Jane's son, William Albert, 1878-1879, is the first and youngest recorded burial in the CCPC. Interestingly, William C. is the last and oldest recorded burial in the CCPC. William's wife Jane and daughter Margaret are both buried in the CCPC.

Lige and Ida lived in the Black Mountain area southwest of Guffey on their 31-Mile Ranch homestead from the late 1880s until after 1910. This homestead is where the original Currant Creek Wagon Road crossed Thirty-One-Mile Creek between 1860-1880.

At an 1885 meeting at Lige's 31-Mile ranch, the Black Mountain Mining District was formed. Lige later discovered some copper on his father-in-law's ranch in 1906, but nothing came of it.

In 1920 Lige and Ida went to Cañon City and Lige became a prison guard. Lige died in 1928 and Ida died in 1951. Both are buried in the Lakeside Cemetery.

Lige was a member of the Elk's Club and he and Ida are considered among the 100-200 pioneers of Fremont County.

Meanwhile, back on Currant Creek... to be continued.

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## UCHealth PPRH new administrator

UCHealth Pikes Peak Regional Hospital is pleased to welcome Ron Fitch as the hospital's newly appointed chief administrative officer. Fitch, who also serves as vice president of operations and military affairs for UCHealth's Southern Colorado Region, took on his new role on Jan. 15.

Fitch brings more than two decades of leadership experience to Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. He joined UCHealth in October 2018 after serving nearly 24 years in the military, where his last role was as garrison commander at Fort Carson. His responsibilities in that role included public works, emergency services, security and all training apparatus on the post. His Army Special Forces background also includes several high-level positions centering on strategic and operational planning. Fitch holds master's degrees in strategic studies, international relations and engineering management.

"I look forward to working with the Woodland Park and greater Teller and Park county communities to provide the best possible health care while continuing to expand services that best serve the community," said Fitch.

UCHealth began operating the 15-bed hospital in 2018 and immediately began expanding services that enable patients living in Teller and Park Counties to receive care closer to home. Most recently, the hospital opened an outpatient infusion clinic so cancer patients in need of chemotherapy need not have to travel to Colorado Springs for care. In addition, the UCHealth Specialty Care Clinic in Woodland Park now offers women's health services; ear, nose and throat specialists; general surgery; and orthopedics. In all, 13 new specialists provide care at the



Ron Fitch is the UCHealth Pikes Peak Regional Hospital's newly appointed chief administrative officer.

clinic, with more planned in 2020.

Joel Yuhas, president and CEO of UCHealth Memorial, said Fitch was the unanimous selection by the hospital's leadership and governing board. "We are excited about the opportunity to bring Ron's management and dynamic leadership experience to Pikes Peak Regional Hospital as we continue to expand services in the community."

Fitch is deeply engaged in the local community as a board member for the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Springs Conservatory, TESSA, Military Affairs Council and Peak Military Care Network Advisory Board. He and his wife, who is in the Air Force Reserve, have three children.

## Newmont CC/V Mine awards 20K to WPSD

Newmont Mine recently awarded Woodland Park School District a total of \$20,000 to teachers and staff during the Jan. 8 Board of Education meeting. A total of 16 grants applications were received requesting over \$30,400. The funds will be used for various projects within the schools that positively impact Woodland Park students. Congratulations to the following recipients:

**Columbine Elementary School**

- Colorado Springs Philharmonic "Link Up" Concert
- Mindfulness Nature Garden

**Gateway Elementary School**

- Preschool Educational Curriculum

**Summit Elementary School**

- Sensory Room

**Woodland Park High School**

- Hydration Stations
- Library Creative & Wellness Space
- Panther PE Strength & Conditioning

**Woodland Park Middle School**

- Challenger Learning Center
- Computer Technology Education
- Protective Factor Services
- Resiliency Building Opportunities

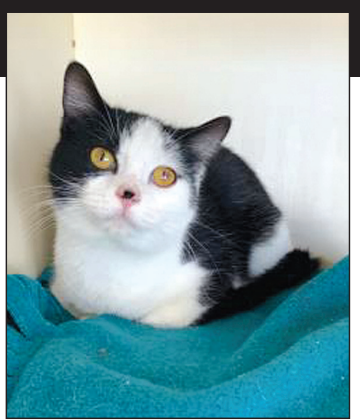
The Board of Education meets at 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month. All meetings are open to the public.

## Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society

### Ama

Ama is a sweet and sassy 5-month-old female Domestic Shorthair mix. Ama is looking for a cat-savvy owner to help her continue to learn better manners. She can be quite feisty at times here at the shelter, so she is hanging out in a loving foster home until her forever family comes for her, so make sure to call us first (719-395-2737) to set up a meeting. Her foster mom says, "She is such a sweet girl, just a baby who is still learning. She still nips when she's overstimulated or scared. We're working on it, and she is really improving." Ama has improved so much already in this loving foster home, and we know she will only continue to flourish in a home that is patient and continues to work with her. She would also do best in a home with other cats as she LOVES her foster feline-brother, and learns from him too! If you think you are the purrfect fit for Ama please call Ark-Valley Humane Society! 719-395-2737.

This space donated by the Ute Country News to promote shelter animal adoption.



Check out these activities going on right here in this area. If you know of an activity we should include, please call us at 719-686-7587 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

### BUENA VISTA

- Central Colorado UAS Club (drones) 9 a.m. featuring Michael Fronapfel, director of planning & development at Centennial Airport. He has been instrumental in helping integrate UAS into the Class D airspace around Centennial and finding interesting uses for Centennial Operations. FMI ccuasclub@gmail.com or ntaviation.com/central-colorado-uas-club.

### CAÑON CITY

- Two Gun Charlie 6 p.m. World's End Brewing Company.
- First Friday Art Walk 7 p.m. at REM Art Gallery 710 Main St. Watch Mary Shell speed paint and give her paintings away!
- Brew and Bikes 6-9 p.m. Lissa Hanner with Two Guns Charlie aka Super Chuck at 224 Main St. Let Lissa's songbird voice carry your worries away as you listen to her mountain music!
- NAMI Connection Support Groups for those living with a mental health condition meets every Friday at 1 p.m., Community Education Room of St. Thomas More Hospital 1338 Phay Ave. These meetings are free and confidential. No reservations required. FMI 719-315-4975 or go to www.namiconnection.org
- Yoga with Bill O'Connell at River Lotus Yoga Mondays 9 a.m., Wed 6:30 p.m., studio fees apply.

### PIKES PEAK CENTER

- COS Philharmonic — The Spirit of Prohibition 7:30 p.m.
- COS Philharmonic — The Spirit of Prohibition 7:30 p.m.
- Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live 6 p.m.
- COS Philharmonic — Mozart & Tchaikovsky 7:30 p.m.
- COS Philharmonic — Mozart & Tchaikovsky 2:30 p.m.
- Travis Tritt 8 p.m.
- Jackie Evancho 7:30 p.m.

### COMO

- Abominable Winter Obstacle Run starts at 10:30 a.m. This is a 4-mile obstacle course including snow tunnels, high walls to climb, a log carry, lots of steep hills and a sledging section. FMI: abominableevents@gmail.com or www.abominableerun.com.

### CRIPPLE CREEK

- Visits with History: Midland Railroad Tragedies 2 p.m. at Heritage Center. RSVP 719-689-9540. Read more on page 8.
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 367 E. Carr St. Thursdays at noon and Sundays at 4 p.m.
- Save the DATE: March 7 is the 22nd Annual Pearl's Follies. Silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. FMI Charlotte 719-689-2485 or Karen 719-689-3984.

### ASPEN MINE CENTER

- 10, 17, 24 The Art Group meets every Monday 8:30-12 p.m. in the dining room.
- 17 Employment First 8:30-12:30 p.m. A DHS program for SNAP recipients. Open to public; appointment required, call Lisa 719-686-5511.

### COLORADO SPRINGS

- Lissa Hanner 6-9 p.m. at Prime 25 Steakhouse on 1605 S. Tejon St. Let Lissa's songbird voice carry your worries away as you listen to her mountain music!

## ~OUT AND ABOUT~

- TBI Group participation meetings regarding Traumatic Brain Injury 10-11:30 a.m.
- 26 Community Lunches each Wednesday between 11:30-1 p.m. All community members are welcome. Meals are provided on a donation basis.
- 26 Celebrate Recovery Weds 1:45-3:15 p.m.
- Southern Teller County Housing Task Force 8:15 a.m.
- Southern Teller County Childcare Task Force 10 a.m.
- Veteran Service Meeting 9-11 a.m.
- All Vets, All Wars. Group participation 10-11:30 a.m.
- Teller County Resource Group 9-11 a.m. Meeting for community partners.
- Colorado Legal Services 1:30-3 p.m. The Colorado Legal Services is a non-profit organization that assists persons with low income and seniors who need meaningful access to high quality civil legal services in the state of Colorado.
- OIB Group. This is a support group for individuals with blindness or other sight issues 1-3 p.m. in the Dining Room on the 2nd floor. FMI, Kathleen at 719-471-8181 X103.
- American Legion Post 71 9-10:30 a.m.
- Teller County Emergency Food Distribution Program (Communities) will be held the last Friday of the month 9-2 p.m. Please bring photo ID and proof of Teller County residency.
- Cross Disability Meetings for persons with disabilities 10-11:30 a.m.
- GED Registration 11:30-2 p.m. Childcare provided with advanced notice. FMI Katy@cpteller.org
- A Willow Bends Tues & Wed most of day in the Shack; every Thurs 4-7 p.m., every Fri 4-8 p.m.

- On-going:** Our Health Navigator Krys Arrick is available Mondays 8-4:30 p.m. for families who are seeking access to affordable and quality health care. Call 719-689-3584 ext. 111. Unless otherwise noted all meetings are held in the 2nd floor conference room.

### PARKS N REC

- Pickleball at Cresson Elementary Gym 12-2 p.m.
- Special Valentine's Day Partner Yoga 5-6 p.m.
- Registration deadline for Adult Team Co-Ed Volleyball
- Registration deadline for Youth Basketball
- Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-off trip to Manitou Springs 8:30-4 p.m.
- Big Deuce Archery Tournament 9-2:30 p.m. All events at Park N Rec unless otherwise noted above.
- On Going Classes and Activities:** Aikido for Adults, Archery open shooting/tournaments for all ages, Belly Dance, Bible Study for women, Child Care with field trips, Fitness Center/Gym, Silver Sneakers Fitness Membership and Group Exercise, Yoga, Zumba.
- Parks & Recreation Indoor & Outdoor Facilities:** Playgrounds, Disc Golf Course, Basketball/Tennis/Pickleball/Volleyball Courts, Dog Park, BMX Track, Skateboard Park, Hiking/biking Trails, Sledding Hill, Sandbox & Toys, Covered Picnic Shelters with Tables, Archery Ranges, Large Indoor Events Arena, Fitness Center, Full Kitchen, Meeting/Class Rooms, Birthday Party Packages, Indoor Roller Skating. FMI 719-689-3514.

### DIVIDE

- Cripple Creek Masonic Lodge meets first Friday every month

- 5:30 p.m. at 75 Buffalo Ct in Divide. FMI 719-687-1457.
- Little Chapel Food Pantry Drive-through distribution 3:30-6:30 p.m. by last name beginning with:  
A-H 3:30-4:30  
I-Q 4:30-5:30  
R-Z 5:30-6:30

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- GED Registration 10-1:30 p.m. Childcare provided with advanced notice. Contact Katy@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
- Crossroads of Parenting & Divorce 9:30-1:30 p.m. Teller County court approved divorce class. Registration fee required. Contact Amy AmyS@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
- Parent Advisory Committee 5-7 p.m. Caregivers of children of all ages are welcomed to have a voice about CP programming and community needs. Meal and childcare provided. Contact Amy AmyS@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
- Yoga sponsored by Community Partnership at Pikes Peak Community Club Mondays 10-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 5-6 p.m.

### MUELLER STATE PARK

- Mueller offers a wide variety of activities in winter. Several guided hikes are planned to explore the trails. Depending on the snow, visitors can hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski! The park, campground and cabins are all open each day!
- Hike: Preacher's Hollow and Stoner Mill Trail meets at Preacher's hollow Trailhead 9:15 a.m.
  - Hike: Redtail Overlook and Lost Pond meet at Visitor Center 9:30 a.m.
  - Hike: Outlook Ridge Trail meet at Outlook Ridge Trailhead 9 a.m.

- Hike: Homestead and Black Bear Trails meet at Homestead Trailhead 9:30 a.m.
- Snowshoe Hike meet at Elk Meadow parking lot 11 a.m.
- Hike: Outlook Ridge Trail meet at Outlook Ridge Trailhead 9:15 a.m.
- Hike: Rock Pond meet at Visitor Center 9:30 a.m.
- Hike School Pond Trail meet at Homestead Trailhead 9:30 a.m.
- Hike: Elk Meadow Trail meet at Elk Meadow Trailhead 9 a.m. Mueller events are free, however an \$8 day- or \$80 Annual-pass are required to enter the park. FMI 719-687-2366.

### FAIRPLAY

- Celebrate Valentine's Day at Salado Restaurant with the musical stylings of Celtic Harpist Maryanne Rozzi 5-7 p.m. She weaves the serenity of this magical instrument among all those listening, as she provides captivating ambience for your dining experience. Does your upcoming event need the spice of enchantment? Check Maryanne's availability 719-838-0279 or solarozi@yahoo.com.

### FLORENCE

- OWL APOTHECARY**
- First Aid and CPR class to support Fremont County 4-H by Deb Snell 10 a.m.
- Understanding Organic Dream Catchers by Dawn 11 a.m.
- Hemp and CBD 102 by Rene at 11 a.m.
- Animals and Essential Oils, best usage and practices by Deb Snell 1 p.m.
- Country Doctor's Guide to the Ultimate Healing System by Dr. Dan Young at 11 a.m. FMI 719-784-7447.

continued on page 22

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continued from page 21

• The Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center has many books for sale for that special someone who enjoys local history. Check our tour website for links to authors: Tracy Beach and Jeff Broome www.florencepioneermuseum.org.

FLORISSANT

15 Ancient Paths to Initiations. For centuries cultures around the world participated in many forms of initiation. The power of this was mostly lost to our culture. Join us for the introduction to our six-month program. We offer this program on an annual basis for Men and Women 18 and older. We gather once a month for 5 months from Sat. at 1 p.m. to Sunday around 3 p.m. The sixth month we gather for 4 days to send you on your vision quest. Go to https://www.sacredearthfound.org/initiations for more information.

LIBRARY

8 Winter Fun Day 10-12 p.m. All ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Florissant Library. Enjoy crafts, games, music and snacks!
 • Lego Club Fridays 12-4:30 p.m.
 • Storytime Fridays 10-10:45 a.m. Ages 3 and up.
 • Tai Chi Mondays 10 a.m.
 13 Yarnia! 10-12 p.m. Bring your crochet and knitting projects and meet other yarn crafters. Share projects, tips and socialize.
 13 Free Legal Clinic for parties who have no attorney 3-4 p.m. Schedule by calling 719-748-3939.
 10 Let's Read Amok! 11 a.m. February theme: Disaster-Natural or Man Made?
 19 Bookworms 10:30-12 p.m. February book: *Educated* by Tara Westover.
 21 Introductory Yoga 10-11:30 a.m.

In this 90-minute class, instructor Renee Rudolph will teach you what yoga is, where it came from and guide you through a typical yoga sequence.

26 Craft and Create at Your Library 1-2:30 p.m. Alcohol Ink Jewelry Dishes. All supplies provided. Sign up 719-748-3939 or at the Circulation Desk.
 24 Friends at the Table Cookbook Club 11:30 a.m. Bring a prepared dish to share and the cookbook/recipe that inspired the dish. Everyone will have a chance to sample an assortment of dishes. Make sure you come hungry! February theme: Mardi Gras. FMI 719-748-3939.

ALL TELLER READS THROUGH FEBRUARY 29 Join the Rampart Library District and the Cripple Creek Library for the first All Teller Reads. The goal of All Teller Reads is to build a stronger community through the shared experience of reading the same book, engaging in book discussions, and participating in related events. Check out the Rampart Library District's website for information about programming related to the book selections.
 12 The books selected for discussion in Florissant is *The Woolly West: Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepscapes* at 1 p.m.
 29 Fire mitigation presentation 11 a.m. with John Dickerson from Florissant Fire & Rescue and Stone Mountain Fire Protection. Rampart Library District will be closed on Monday, February 17 for President's Day.

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS

• Alanon Mountain High Sere-

~OUT AND ABOUT~

ity AFG Saturdays 5 p.m. Red Cloud Serenity Club 10400 Ute Pass Ave. Across from pond/park. Salmon colored building; go through the folding doors on E side of AA room.

• Women's Networking Group meets at the Blue Moose the second Friday of each month 11:30-1 p.m. RSVP's required 719-480-8638 or wpwin@yahoo.com.

GUFFEY

13 The 11th Annual Pie Palooza 4 p.m. at Guffey Community Charter School. Call the school to enter a pie, call 719-689-2093 or visit www.guffeyschool.org.
 • Corona's at Freshwater see page 13 for music lineup.
 • Yoga with Bill O'Connell at Guffey Community Charter School Sundays 9 a.m. meditation 10 a.m. yoga, Tuesdays 5 p.m. yoga. Donations appreciated.

BAKERY AT STRICTLY GUFFEY

• Yoga every Friday morning from 8:30-9:30 a.m. with Kristie.
 • Talking Threads the 3rd Thursday from 10-12 noon.
 • Drum Circle the 3rd Thursday night from 6-8 p.m.

LIBRARY

3 Walking Talking Threads 12:30-3:30 p.m. Take a nice brisk walk around Guffey Town and meet back at the library to crocheted, knit and talk away.
 20 Combined Children/Adult Book Club 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join us as we engage with the Guffey Charter School's 3-5 grades in a discussion about any *fantasy* book of your choice. Everyone takes a turn sharing the book they have read. Bring a fantasy dish for all to sample if possible.
 22 Altered Book Workshop 1-4 p.m. Hosted by Fine Arts major Gail Nelson. Bring an old book and

learn how to change into a magical piece of art. Don't have an old book around? The library can provide you with one. All other materials needed will be provided.

24 Guffey Literary Society 1-3 p.m. Book choice for February discussion is *Princess Elizabeth's Spy* by Susan Elia Macneal. The Guffey Literary Society is a wonderfully dynamic and diverse group. All are welcome to join. FMI 719-689-9280 or Guffey-lib@parkco.us.

HARTSEL

15 Valentine Dinner at the Hartsel Community Center 6 p.m. hosted by the Hartsel Library Board. Menu includes spaghetti, meatballs, vegetarian sauce, freshly tossed salad, home-made bread, pies and holiday desserts. Cost \$10/person, \$15/couple. Make reservations by Wed, Feb 13 by calling 719-836-2745 or 303-526-5726 or email hartsellibrary@gmail.com.
 • Country Church of Hartsel offers Sunday Service at 10 a.m. at Hartsel Community Center 80 Valley Drive. Breakfast Potluck on 1st and 3rd Sundays. Come one, come all! FMI Don 443-756-2911.
 • Country Food Bank: feeding the hungry in our area with dignity, respect and love every Sunday 2-5 p.m. at 10 W. Elm St. FMI 719-836-2480 Jimmy or text Mark 719-293-1914.

LAKE GEORGE

16 The Wildflower Excursions 2 p.m. at Lake George Charter School. Pikes Peak Historical Society presents Mel McFarland's "Wildflower Excursions" program, as he is local historian and author of two Colorado Midland Railroad books, *Midland Route on the Colorado Midland* and *Cripple Creek Road*

on the Midland Terminal. McFarland will give a slide presentation and discussion of the Midland's Wildflower Excursions into what is now the Eleven Mile Canyon and Lake George area. This trip will show not only "company" advertising pictures, but also pictures that people on the train took. Beginning in 1887, it was a very popular full-day excursion starting in Colorado Springs and picking up people along the way. Participants carried home arm-loads of wildflowers. The final trip was made in 1919. This presentation is part of the Pikes Peak Historical Society Chautauqua series and is provided as a public service. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. FMI 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861.

LIBRARY

11 Veterans Affairs officer comes to the library every 2nd Tuesday noon-2 p.m.
 13 Rocky Mountain Rural Health comes to the library every 2nd Thursday noon-2 p.m. to give health screenings and read blood pressures, as well as donated clothing and shoes for free!

MANITOU SPRINGS

21 CarniBall
 22 Mumbo Jumbo Gumbo Cook-off.
 22 Carivale Parade.

SALIDA

5 Chaffee County's Emergency Food Assistance Program & Commodity Supplemental Food Program distributions on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Salida Community Center, 305 F Street, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Elaine Allemand for more information 719-539-3351.
 11 SCFTA presents the Creative

Mixer at 5:30 p.m. at Paquette Gallery; an opportunity to network with other local artists.
 • NAMI's Family Support Group for those who have a family member dealing with a mental illness meets 5:30-7 p.m. the 3rd Tues at Salida United Methodist Church 228 E 4th St. FMI 970-823-4751.

VICTOR

7, 14, 21, 28 Celebrate Recovery 6:15 p.m. at Victor Community Center. FMI 719-243-4970.

WOODLAND PARK

3, 10, 17, 24 WP Community Singers 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come sing with us! Anyone who loves to sing is invited. We meet at Mountain View United Methodist Church. FMI 620-482-2170.
 4-March 17 Active Parenting of Teens 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Mountain View United Methodist Church. Discussion series for parents with children ages 12-18. Meal and childcare provided. Contact Amy AmyS@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
 11 Raising Gen Z 7:45-9:45 a.m. at WP Middle School. Are you interested in learning more about parenting Generation Z? Join us for a free monthly educational series and support environment. You will have opportunities to share about your student, learn about methods to manage youth risk, and ways to engage your youth in a positive and trusting relationship. Contact L.Magnuson@wpsdk12.org.
 20 Lissa Hanner, Solo Acoustic 6-9 p.m. at Woodland Country Lodge 730 Country Drive. Let Lissa's songbird voice carry your worries away as you listen to her mountain music!

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continued on next page

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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 29 Super Chuck at 6 p.m. Woodland Country Lodge 730 Country Drive.
 • Narcotics Anonymous meets at Mountain View United Methodist Church 1101 Rampart Range Road, Fridays 7:30 p.m. Parking/entry at rear/East church lot.
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instructors and thousands of LEGO pieces. Build dinosaurs as well as excavate a fossil site with LEGO construction vehicles. Programs are at 11 a.m. and 1:30p.m. Participants may not keep their LEGO designs. FMI on either event 719-686-1820 or www.rmdrc.com.

LIBRARY

• Tai Chi Thurs 5:30 p.m.
 • Tai Chi for Arthritis Fri 10 a.m.
 • Tai Chi Sun Style 11 a.m.
 13 Water Bottle Penguin 3:30-4:30 p.m. Ages 3 and up. Supplies provided. Children's Craft Room.
 • Books and Babies Storytime Tues 10-10:20 a.m.
 • Lego Club Fri all day
 • Silly Saturdays 10-10:30 a.m. ages 0-5.
 • Storytime Wed & Thurs 10:05-10:45 a.m. ages 3 and up.
 13 Teens
 6 Teen Advisory Board 3:45-5 p.m. We are looking for kids ages 12-18 to tell us what you want to see and do in the Teen Room!
 12 Anime Club 3:30-5 p.m.
 13 Mixed Media Art Club 3:30-4:30 p.m. Media: Magazine Wall Art. Ages 12-18, supplies provided.
 18-22 Marvel Movie Marathon 1:30 p.m. Bring a snack and enjoy a different movie each day.
 • Fridays Coffee and Manga 4-5 p.m. Teen Room Ages 16 and up.
 8 Citizens' Climate Lobby has a non-partisan but powerful approach to addressing climate change. If you are feeling despair over the fearful truths about climate change, join us to find your way to new hope. We meet the second Saturday each month at 11-1 p.m.
 13 Free Legal Clinic for parties who have no attorney 3-4 p.m. Schedule by calling 719-687-9281 ext. 103.
 9 The Forgotten Kingdom 1:30-3:30 p.m. Do you like mushrooms? Learn how to grow your own. Sponsored by the Harvest Center.
 11 Stitches Above the Clouds 1-3 p.m. Colorado Room.

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• Conversational English meets Tuesday and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. Colorado Room. English conversation group for non-English native speakers. Come join the conversation with Bonita a TESOL instructor. Register 719-687-9281 ext. 103.

Book Clubs

4 WP Library Book Club 10:30-12 p.m. February book: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.
 5 Not So Young Adult Book Club 11 a.m. February book: *Crown of Feathers* by Nicki Pau Preto.
 13 Senior Circle Book Club 10:30 a.m. February book: *Pretty Guilty Women* by Gina LaManna.
 Computer Classes
 8 Microsoft Power Point Basics 1-2 p.m.
 11 Database 101 10-11:30 a.m.
 12 Computer Basics 10-11:30 a.m.
 13 Email Basics 10-11:30 a.m.
 19 Microsoft Word Basics 10-11 a.m. Register for classes by calling 719-687-9281 X 102.

ALL TELLER READS THROUGH FEBRUARY 29 Join the Rampart Library District and the Cripple Creek Library for the first All Teller Reads. The goal of All Teller Reads is to build a stronger community through the shared experience of reading the same book, engaging in book discussions, and participating in related events. Check out the Rampart Library District's website for information about programming related to the book selections.
 18 Fire on the Mountain by John N. Maclean 2 p.m.
 19 Defensible Space 3 p.m. Fire mitigation presentation with Chief Tyler Lambert from the NE Teller County Fire Dept. Rampart Library District will be closed Monday, February 17 for President's Day.

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- After School PE Activities
- Family Fun Nights
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- After School Academic Assistance
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- Community Connection Classes
- Mountain Bike Club
- Self-Directed Learning
- Tween Outdoor Playground
- Warm Welcome Wednesdays

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- Internship Opportunities
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~ Steve Woolf, Superintendent

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