



UTE COUNTRY NEWS

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July 2022

P.O. Box 753, Divide, CO 80814 • 719-686-7587 • utecountrynews.com

Vol. 14, No. 7

Welcome to Ute Country

"It struck me that there is a reason James Madison put freedom of speech and freedom of the press in the very first amendment. If we can't speak out, if we cannot challenge those in power, there is no guaranteeing the rights that follow."

— Jonathan Karl

PEEK INSIDE...



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Exploring the Gold Mine Rock Shop

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We are celebrating 10 years as publishers of our *Ute Country News*! Jeff's initial goals were to take the paper monthly, create a colorful cover that would invite readers to pick up the paper and offer a variety of content that would appeal to anyone seeking to live a healthy life in the mountains of Colorado. We gradually increased circulation then needed to adjust with the impacts of COVID and tariffs (COVID took some advertisers and tariffs increased our printing costs significantly). We have survived the waves of change! It is hard to fathom that it has been 10 years. We look forward to bringing you many more years of our *Ute Country News*. Thanks for reading, advertising and sending us your events and programs! We couldn't have done this without you or our writers or our sales reps. Thank you ALL!

We dedicate our July issue to Linda Karlin. She was our advertising representative for over 9 years. She decided to leave early this year due to Dave's (her husband) health. It was a month to the day of this writing that Linda called saying Pancho died on Sunday and Dave that day, hoping we could make space for acknowledgment. Linda followed suit three days later; they are all reunited and surrounded by love and peace! Please see her obituary on page 10. We miss her dearly!

We also celebrate our country's Independence from England's rule this month. In many parts of the world journalists, writers and photographers are imprisoned or even shot on the spot for reporting what is happening. May we continue to enjoy our freedom of speech!

We are always seeking photos of your in/outdoor animal friends. Would you like to share with our readers? Critter Corner is the perfect place to share! Email your photos to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com, bring them into Shipping Plus M-F 9-5:30 p.m. or snail mail them to POB 753 Divide, CO 80814.

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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The Thymekeeper

Wild thing – You make my heart sing

by Mari Marques-Worden
photo by Mari Marques-Worden

The first time I ever experienced an entire meal made strictly from plants gathered in the wild, I literally woke the next morning with a sense of elation that I had never experienced before other than the feeling of being in love. My energy level was full on and I had a true sense of fulfillment. Now when I peruse through the garden and make my annual wild food salad mix, I get to experience that same sensation with other people, and I'm not surprised when they come back and say, "I need some more of that."

I've seen and heard things from couples who act as if they are newly in love, to comments like "I felt like a wilted flower that someone put water on!" I know exactly what they are feeling; a feeling most of us don't get the chance to experience.

My closest explanation for this phenomenon would be that many of us are depleted of vitamins, minerals and what is known as life energy. We are humans full of holes in a sense. Most of the wild foods I refer to here are considered weeds and I've never met one that wasn't power packed with vitamins and minerals. They are like an original key that precisely fits into a lock and opens a world that most people are unaware of, the world of wild.

We all have a wild side although we don't often connect with it except for maybe the occasional party, albeit a different kind of wild than the one I refer to. We are so far removed from anything wild that we haven't allowed ourselves to know the energy of what it really means to connect with its essence. We've been inundated with information telling us that weeds are bad. While that may be true if your main concern is a perfectly groomed lawn, the benefits far outweigh the negative aspects in my experience. While some may call them "invasive," I choose to refer to them as abundantly giving.

Why wild? Why not?

Over 90% of imported fruits and vegetables come from Mexico, Central America, and South America.

As demand for products such as fresh berries grows, suppliers have found ways to transport products from in-season growing areas in the southern hemisphere to consumers residing in the northern hemisphere during the offseason. <https://dirt-to-dinner.com/where-do-our-fruits-and-vegetables-come-from>.

I can say from experience that traveling from Mexico to Colorado takes a lot of energy out of me. The effort alone makes it seem ridiculous, not to mention the necessity of picking them before their prime so they don't spoil along the trek, after all they are highly perishable. The price of



fuel/transportation and the thousands of hands the produce has passed through is also worthy of attention. Finally, are they packaged? If so, where does the packaging go? Most people don't realize this about their food and the many gyrations it may go through to get to you. How can we change our world if we aren't paying attention to the most important aspects like where our food comes from?

It makes sense that any food you find in your own yard or neighborhood won't lose nutrients via radiation or transport from one environment to another. Hopefully no chemical fertilizers or herbicides were involved in their growth. When you pick a plant and eat it fresh, the life energy is still intact and that transfers directly to you. Nothing is more energizing than consuming foods that are at their peak, nutritionally speaking.

Although organic produce is great, they require pampering while wild edibles are naturally strong, healthy, and adaptable. They are good examples of the survival of the fittest. Have you ever observed the tenacity of the dandelion or thistle? The old saying, you are what you eat holds merit here.

While wild foods may not be the largest and prettiest compared to their store-bought counterparts, the flavor is undeniable. There is no comparison, which explains why my wild food salad is so desirable and so good for you. I've heard people comment that it doesn't even need salad dressing as they eat it straight out of the bag.

If it isn't necessary to transport our food from over the world and if we weren't convinced that weeds are bad,

would there really be a fear of food shortage in this precarious time that we live in?

Speaking of shortages, there's been a lot of talk about fertilizer and the possibility of a lack thereof. As long as I've lived there has been fertilizer available in the form of animal droppings and as far as I know, they are still dropping. However, one can easily resort to rotting plants in water as a fertilizer. Every year I make plant-based fertilizer by adding weeds to a bucket of water and stirring every day to aerate. By the end of the month, you will have a potent, albeit stinky fertilizer that can be diluted in water as an alternative to chemicals. Yet another benefit of wild plants is that fertilization is not necessary.

I'm not suggesting one should attempt to live completely from gathered plants or that one should try to substitute baked dandelion leaves for potato chips. I merely suggest the notion as an addition to a healthy diet or as an educational adventure for children. There couldn't be a better time for our children to learn their food does not solely come from a package that is purchased from a grocery store. I love the sense of wonder children experience when they see food growing for the first time and realize much of it does not originate in the grocery store or to discover the plants growing in the yard can be a nutritious snack.

You make everything...groovy

Let's look at what goes into a wild food meal and the benefits of consumption.

continued on page 4



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The Thymekeeper

Wild thing – You make my heart sing
continued from page 3

I'll start by saying every single one of them contain a multitude of vitamins and minerals that are easily assimilated unlike their pill form counterparts found on store shelves. In essence, each one is a natural self-contained multi-vitamin.

Alfalfa - AKA "The father of all foods."

Associated with longevity. Good for long standing illness, chronic ailments. **Chickweed** - A cooler and a mover. Good for hot inflamed tissue or cooling down on a hot summer day.

Clover leaves and flowers - Promotes lymph flow, blood purifier

Dandelion greens and flowers - Facilitates digestion and detoxification, benefits the skin

Red Raspberry leaf and berry - Reproductive tonifier

Dock greens and root - Promote detoxification, relieve constipation and inflammation

Wild spinach or lambs quarters leaves and flowers - Contains more protein by weight than red meat.

Amaranth leaves and flowers - Perhaps one of the most nutritious plants that exist on the planet along with Nettle. Seeds can be popped like popcorn.

Nettle - See utecountrynews.com May 2022 Spring Sting

Mustard greens - prevents urinary stones, assists with arthritis symptoms, warming

Primrose leaf and flower - contain essential fatty acids to keep your joints juicy, soothe your nerves and keep your cognitive abilities sharp

Purslane - Essential fatty acids, adds wonderful flavor to a salad or as a pot herb

Sunflower petals and leaves - Essential fatty acids

Some not so wild additions that can be included:

- Arugula leaf and flower
- Nasturtium flowers and leaves
- Johnny jump up flowers
- Calendula flowers

Wouldn't it be great if all store-bought

food or every restaurant menu came with a list of benefits?

I am only touching the tip of the iceberg when stating the benefits of the wild foods listed above and by no means is this a complete list. Whether gathering or cultivating, eating locally you are no longer a stranger to your land, you are re-establishing your connection to your environment and the Earth. Last but not least, the most important ingredients included in the plants around you are sunshine, life energy and the gift of empowerment.

In the words of Emerson, "A weed is an herb that has not yet been recognized for its virtues."

Mari Marques-Worden is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari@mugsyspad@aol.com or 719-439-7303. Mari is available for private consultation.

Herb Class with The Thymekeeper

The plants in the greenhouse are blooming! Let's have a class and talk about the medicinal and nutritious plants both cultivated and wild here for the taking, we'll learn proper ways to dry and process plants, how to make a tincture on the spot, making fresh plant poultices, the medicinal and nutritional properties and so much more. We'll also touch on the functionality of the greenhouse and the mechanisms that keep it up and running.

Join us on Sunday July 10 from 1:30-3:30
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Pre-Registration is REQUIRED as space is limited.

Nickelsburg and Murray earned 2nd Place in State

by Marci Nickelsburg

For nearly 100 years the National Speech and Debate Association has built a platform for youth voices that has honed the skills of actors, politicians, and country's leaders. The National Tournament is the pinnacle of public speaking for speech and debate competitors around the nation. Mia Nickelsburg (Junior) and Jackson Murray (Sophomore) of the Woodland Park High School Speech and Debate Team have been competing all school year at multiple tournaments throughout the Region and earned 2nd place in the State of Colorado for Duo Interpretation. This June 11-18th Mia and Jackson attended The National Speech and Debate Competition in Louisville Kentucky. Over three days, they performed 11 rounds of Duo Interpretation competition against 226 other duo teams from all over the country. For the first time ever in Duo competition for WPHS Mia and Jackson set the record for advancing to the top 30 in the Nation. This is an enormous accomplishment in the Speech and Debate world. We are so proud of all



their hard work this entire season, dedication and for representing our little town of Woodland Park, and WPHS in this 2022 Nationals Competition. Congratulations!

Things to do in 2022 at the District Museum

A summer of fun activities is ahead for visitors to the Cripple Creek District Museum; ghosts, a scavenger hunt, music and more is scheduled.

Back for another year is the fun scavenger hunt, Mysteries at the District Museum. Answer a series of questions and place your answer sheet in a drawing to win one of three gold nuggets! All the answers to the questions can be found by looking at the displays in the main museum, which was once the Midland Terminal Railway Depot.

The staff at the museum were busy over the winter working on new displays and signage. Improved signage, including maps, tell visitors about the various railroads which served the Cripple Creek District. A display of



Check out the "What is it?" displays to learn more at the Cripple Creek District Museum.



See the restored National Cash Register at the Cripple Creek District Museum.



A display of old firearms can be seen at the Cripple Creek District Museum.

City of Cripple Creek, continues through the summer with talks planned for July 10th, August 14th, and September 11th. Information on these talks can be found on the District Museum Facebook page and in the *Ute Country News*.

A series of music concerts called Music at the Depot will be held on the front lawn of the District Museum beginning in July. These concerts are free to the public with food trucks and a beer garden. The Black Rose Band will play July 9th, Collective Groove will perform August 6th, and The Tejon Street Corner Thieves will play September 3rd. All performances begin at Noon. See you at the Depot!

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Beasts of the Peaks Cracks of Thunder

by Jessica Stevens

Long ago, all the Tribes lived together in relative harmony: bird, reptile, mammal, insect and humankind. Though most lived together in peace, Mountain Sheep was not fond of any of the others. He made his home at the mouth of a well-travelled pass, which led to the richest land around. Mountain Sheep blocked the way, and if any creature tried to use the path, he would gore them with his large, spiked horns and toss them off the side of the mountain. Sometimes he even caused rockslides to fall upon the humans as they hunted in the valley.

One day, Old Man Coyote was traveling near this pass and found an injured meadowlark. She asked for his healing, which he freely gave. After he dressed her wound and used his magic to heal her, she gave him some advice, "Please, Old Man Coyote, do not go this way. Mountain Sheep has blocked the pass and will kill you if you try to go through. Go around the mountain."

"Thank you for your wisdom, little lark," replied Coyote, wishing her a wonderful afternoon as he walked his own way. For a while, Coyote had avoided Mountain Sheep's pass, but the time had come when he had tired of living in fear of a bully. So, off he went.

When he arrived at the pass, a terrible sound rumbled down from the trees above him and rocks began to slide.

"Who goes there?" boomed a great voice. Mountain Sheep appeared. His horns rose straight above his head, tall, thick, and menacing.

"I, Old Man Coyote, wish to travel through your pass."

"Ha! None may pass. For your wish, you will die!" The ram charged.

Old Man Coyote was ready. As Mountain Sheep approached, Coyote moved as close to the cliff's edge as he dared. When it seemed Mountain Sheep would gore him, Coyote stepped aside. With a scream of terror, Mountain Sheep flew into the air. Feeling compassion for the sheep, Coyote snatched the strong horns of the ram and let him dangle by his horns.

"Mountain Sheep, do you promise not to harm any creature ever again?" called Coyote into the abyss.

"Yes! I will never again harm any creature."

Coyote hoisted Mountain Sheep back onto solid ground. The sheep's weight had been so great as he hung that when Coyote released his horns, they curled up around the sheep's ears.

"Old Man Coyote, you are wise. I so love to ram things with my beautiful horns. Might I use them just once every year to prove my strength?"

Coyote smiled and granted the regretful sheep's request. To this day, in the winter, mountain sheep ram into each other so fiercely with their powerful curled horns to prove which is strongest.

Though there are many retellings of this Apsalooke tale, this is my own retelling. The Native peoples of this continent often regarded bighorn sheep as the embodiment of evil while coyote was seen as a wise, shrewd being. Other versions show the sheep to be wise and kind, as in the origin of the Crow peoples' wisdom. Regardless of their status, they found their way into many Native myths. No matter how you look at them, bighorn sheep are one of the most majestic and beloved animals in the Rocky Mountains. They are not only Colorado's state mammal, but the symbol of both the Colorado Parks and Wildlife division and of Colorado State University.

It is hard to mistake a bighorn sheep on sight, though their name is often confused with that of mountain goats, like how I can never keep Bed Bath & Beyond and

Bath & Body Works straight in passing conversation. Although these two animals often occupy the same space, they are vastly different creatures. Male and female mountain goats both have short, black, spikey horns and long, snow-white fur. Contrastingly, bighorn sheep are a grayish tawny color, with grayish, curled horns, and white hindquarters, underbelly, and muzzle. Scientifically speaking, mountain goats are not true goats. They are more closely related to the takins of the Himalayas and are not in the *capra* family with other goats. Bighorn sheep, on the other hand, are true sheep.

Bighorns, though comparatively shorter than other North American ungulates, are extremely stocky, especially the rams. Males have large, thick horns which curl around their ears. The weight of these horns makes up 10% of the ram's body weight, which can weigh in at 40 pounds! Ewes have horns, too, though they are short and spikey. These sheep are five to six feet long and the largest ram can weigh up to 319 pounds.

Every November, the bighorn rams battle each other to win a harem of ewes. To do this, they size each other up from a short distance (sometimes they even kick each other's privates!), then suddenly rise up on their hind legs, run at one another, and slam their horns together. The crack can be heard over a mile away. Oddly enough, they just stand there after the impact. This practice can make the horns split at the tips, which is called "brooming." The skull of a sheep is well adapted for this violent show: their brain is thickly encased in two layers, of which part is composed of a honeycomb-shaped layer to act as shock absorption.

The proteins on either side of the horns grow at different rates. That's why they curl. The horns also have annuli, darker rings that mark a new year of growth. Horns are fully grown around age 7 or 8, and these wild sheep can live up to 20 years old (though they rarely do). Ewes give birth to one or two lambs in May, and they are weaned around six weeks old. Young rams stay with their mothers until they are about 2 years old, when they then join a bachelor herd.

Colorado is home to the largest population of bighorn sheep in North America. Bighorn sheep are only found in mountainous areas, with steep rock faces or in meadows near thick, steep cover. They prefer grasses and coarse shrubs and trees to browse.

Bighorn sheep are named for their big horns. Scientifically speaking, they go by the name *ovis canadensis canadensis*. *Ovis* is simply Latin for "sheep" and the name *canadensis* is often used for many animals that are found abundantly in Canada. Our local subspecies is the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. A small herd of desert bighorn sheep (o. c. nelsoni) were introduced into southern Colorado in the 1960s. The only other species of bighorn sheep in North America is the endangered California Sierra Nevada bighorns. Dall sheep are closely related, but mostly found in Canada and Alaska.

The history of bighorn sheep is fraught with peril. A few years ago, I read an article about a bighorn sheep and a mountain lion which had fallen to their deaths together from the top of a cliff onto a road. Mountain lions, coyotes, and eagles



are sheep's only predators besides disease. It's probable that the lion was trying to eat the sheep, since pictures show the lion still had fur in his mouth, and they just lost their balance and plummeted to the road below.

As band president during my senior year, it was my job to deliver a thank you note to the ranch where we had spent our annual retreat. Mr. Toefer, our director, drove with me up to the ranch and on our way back down, a flock of ewes were trotting in the opposite direction. It was a wonderful sight to see. Bighorn sheep can often be found along roadsides in the mountains, in places like Bighorn Sheep Canyon and in Teller County. Though this provides quite a tourist's dream, it can be dangerous. People stop to take pictures and sheep have no problem standing in the way of traffic.

When settlers brought their domesticated sheep to the Rockies, unfortunately their livestock's diseases followed them. Bighorn sheep fall prey to a type of mite called *psoroptes ovis*, which causes mange in sheep. Sheep can also develop pneumonia, often caused by the pathogen *mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*. The theory is that wild sheep catch this disease from domesticated sheep or livestock, which carry the disease without any symptoms, and once a herd of wild sheep catches it, it can haunt the herd for decades. It has been known to eradicate nearly 90% of a herd, and it affects lambs more than any other member of the flock. Ovine pneumonia behaves similarly to pneumonia we're familiar with. It basically causes the lungs to shut down, makes it hard to breathe, and hard to absorb oxygen. Sheep suffocate to death.

There are many ongoing studies and efforts underway to help the bighorn sheep. When I was in high school, our ecology teacher took us on a field trip to the bighorn feeding and monitoring site in Granite, CO. There, we got to help feed and observe the sheep. Some of the efforts wildlife biologists conduct are collaring some of the sheep to keep track of flocks. Some have tried mounting a vial of antibiotic to a pole and using it to protect the sheep against disease. Though very difficult to do, sometimes they are able to quarantine a flock to prevent the spread of disease between flocks.

Aside from disease, bighorn sheep were overhunted during the early 1900s and their populations decreased from the millions into about a hundred thousand. The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation was founded, and the sale of fishing and hunting licenses has helped fund programs like the restoration of bighorn sheep.

Thankfully, sometimes there is enough time to correct a mistake before irreparable damage is done. The bighorn sheep are a prime example of why wildlife conservation is so important. I am thankful that the bighorn sheep was saved, and we have the pleasure of seeing these beautiful mammals in our state.

Helping Hands Catholic Daughters supporting the Native American people in the U.S.

Court Our Lady of Peace #2728 in Woodland Park, Colorado adopted "One Nation Walking Together" (ONWT) as one of our Circle of Love projects way back in 2020. At our October 27, 2020 meeting, we donated 200 items of food and \$200 in cash.

ONWT came about to help Native American families who are suffering from food insecurity and hunger on a daily basis. ONWT is committed to fighting hunger by delivering food supplies and basic life necessities to some of the poorest reservations in our country. Our goal is to help ensure that native people do not go to bed hungry. During this pandemic, it is difficult to deliver the supplies of food as the cost of a semi-truck to deliver is \$1,200 - \$1,400 to South Dakota; \$1,700 to Gallop, New Mexico; and \$2,800 to Montana. Due to Covid, they have to use a rental truck where semi-trucks are not allowed.

At our December, 2021 court meeting, our members collected coats and other warm clothing, as well as many bags of food, for One Nation Walking Together. Our hope is that the people on the Indian Reservations ONWT serves will keep warm this winter.

In April 2022, our Court was asked by ONWT to help with a food drive. Our ladies expanded our food drive to include local food stores. In Divide, CO, we set up our table in front of the Divide Market and collected \$223.12 in cash donations, but also two full car and trunk loads of non-perishable food. In Woodland Park, CO, we set up at City Market and collected \$365 in cash donations plus a full car and trunk load of food. In the small community of Guffey, CO, they filled up an entire trunk load of food. We had several teams of ladies who gave of their time to man these tables.



Food donations collected to be delivered to reservations.



Coats and warm clothing were collected in addition to food for ONWT.



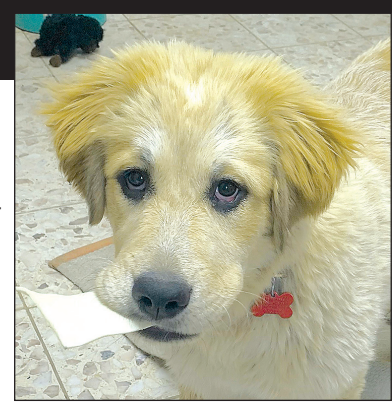
Pictured: Emily Pappadakis, Evelyn Irving & Julie Hatch

Adopt Me by SLV Animal Welfare Society

Buffy

Pup Buffy was abandoned at a construction site. She is a Great Pyrenees/Golden Retriever mix. Buffy is a gentle, mellow sweetheart who gets along with other dogs and loves to play. Buffy must have a young playmate in her new home. She is totally house trained, doggie door and leash trained. At 5 months old, 50 pounds, spayed, all vaccines are current, and she is chipped. Buffy knows the commands "sit, stay, come" and loves to ride in a vehicle. Adoption fairs 10-3 p.m. First Saturday of each month at 5020 N. Nevada Petco; all other Saturdays 7680 N. Academy Petsmart.

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



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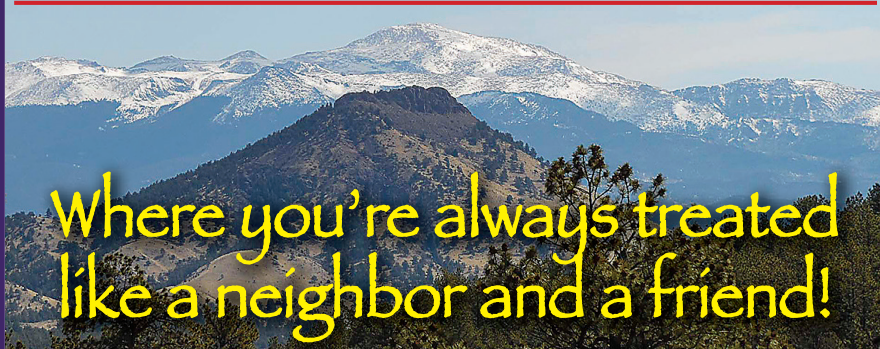
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Musings Along the Way Prayer attributed to Romy Wyser

by Catherine Rodgers

I pray, oh Beloved, Divine Source of All...

May I be wise. May I continually recognize that everything in this precious life is utterly sacred, that every single thing happens for a reason — for my highest good, for my highest growth, and for the highest good of all around me.

May I wield my power with wisdom and compassion for all beings. May I be fair and kind, and patient and powerful. May I ever understand that we are, truly, all One. That there is no “good” or “bad,” no “right” or “wrong,” no “self” or “other.” That only together do we rise.

May the God of War and the Goddess of Love merge within me now, to unleash a force for good so powerful it shakes the very foundation of the universe. Let me take up arms against all darkness, all lack, all delusions of pain and unworthiness.

May I be loving. May I see the world through benevolent eyes, seeing only love and perfection unfolding. May the limitless love inside of me continue to pour forth, blessing all beings everywhere. May I experience this beautiful world with my heart rather than my mind.

May I be forgiving. May I deepen my understanding that radical forgiveness is perhaps the most powerful force in the universe. May all of my thoughts, deeds, and actions reflect this divine truth. May I continually arrive at a place beyond forgiveness — a place where forgiveness is not even required because there is nothing to forgive — just lessons and learning and growth.

May I be connected to my Source. May I realize each day that my life path and my spiritual path are one and the same. May I continue to see the unity of all life and be nourished by this mighty Truth.

May I be alive in my own life. May I embody the full potential of life itself, living in the sweet nectar of the present moment always. May I continue to heal, grow, learn, love, and ascend. May I experience my life as a continuous stream of miracles.

May I have the strength to accept all my life's circumstances with grace and courage and be like the tree that bends in the wind but does not break.

May my mission on this planet light up my life. May I live in service to my higher vision, a vision that inspires me to live and love fully, to raise the vibration of our planet. May I share willingly and generously of my gifts, in service to humanity.

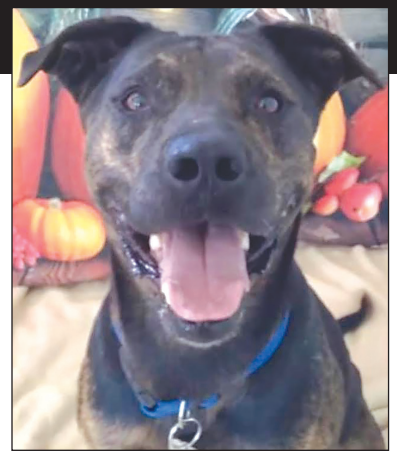
May I arrive, in this lifetime, in the quiet, misty dawn at the shore of the New Golden Age, and witness the cresting waves of the rise of planetary consciousness, as the unstoppable force of love engulfs us all. May I stand shoulder to shoulder with the Warriors of Light as we usher in a new era for humanity, in this lifetime.

Adopt Me by AARF

Buddy

This gorgeous face belongs to Buddy, a 2-year-old love bug. He's a beautiful boy who loves everyone, gets along with other dogs and kids. Buddy wants room to run! We're not sure what mix he is, probably some Plott hound, maybe some lab, maybe some pittie. Whatever is in there it's made a dog full of love and energy. Contact us to meet this sweet boy 719-761-5320!

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



Where is Katee this month?

COVID 19 has affected many families. Katee is asking for your help to her keep her canine and feline friends at home with their families by making a donation to the Pet Food Pantry. Stability is important and having their “Best Friend” to still hug is critical.

You can drop off donations at the UPS Store located in the Safeway Shopping Center or at TCRAS. You can also donate online, www.PetFoodPantryTC.com. Thank you for your support.

We try to make sure that we send a Thank You card or email to everyone that donates. But, sometimes we are not able to associate an email or address to the person making the donation. Please be aware that your support is greatly appreciated. Enjoy the 4th of July!



Have a safe and happy 4th of July!
Pet Food Pantry Mascots Katee & Baylee



Come on in and receive a 10% discount off your purchase!

Earth Art and Lapidary

by Flip Boettcher

photo courtesy of Tammy Laird

Earth Art and Lapidary, located at 119 1/2 West Main Street in Florence, CO, is celebrating their 10th anniversary and are offering a store-wide 10% discount, according to owner Tammy Laird.

The shop stocks rocks, semi-precious and precious stones, beads, crystals, faceted stones, cabochons, strands of sapphires and gemstones, and fossils. Tammy is a silversmith. She will fabricate and make a piece of jewelry for someone who comes in the shop and picks out a stone. She teaches one-on-one silversmith lessons as well. She also sells cabochons, beads and stones to other jewelers.

In 1993, while attending college in Laramie, Wyoming, Tammy apprenticed

herself to a plumber-turned silversmith and made her first silver jade ring.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in socio-economics, Tammy came to Colorado in 1999. In 2003, she opened her first of three stores in Del Norte. Like Goldilocks, Tammy's first store was too big; her second store was too small; but her third store in Florence is just right. Tammy moved to Florence 10 years ago for the store, she said.

Check out the Earth Art and Lapidary rock shop and find your treasure. Rock shop hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10:30-6 p.m., Sunday, Monday and Tuesday are by appointment only. The shop phone number is 719-784-1957 and the email contact is corseted@yahoo.com.

Visits with History

Albert (Bert) E. Carlton came to Colorado to improve his health. Later he and his brother came to Cripple Creek and started a freight hauling business. They formed the Colorado Trading & Transfer Co. which served the mining communities of the Cripple Creek District. Bert Carlton invested in mines, banks and railroads of the area and became known as the King of Cripple Creek because of his financial success.

On July 10th, Leo Kolman, a second-generation Cripple Creek native, will portray A. E. Carlton. Kolman was born at the Saint Nicholas Hospital now The Hotel Saint Nicholas in Cripple Creek. He was a resident of Cripple Creek until 1944 when his family moved to Colorado Springs. He is the Grandson of John Kolman a miner, mine owner as well as owner of other properties and businesses in the Cripple Creek-Victor area. He is a member of the Gold Camp Victorian Society and enjoys researching and portraying characters from Cripple Creeks past.

The Cripple Creek District Museum invites you to learn more about A. E. Carlton on Sunday, July 10, 2022, at 2 p.m. The talk will be held at the Cripple



Creek District Museum 510 E. Bennett Ave. Cripple Creek CO. This is an outdoor event. This program is presented as a public service of the Cripple Creek District Museum in partnership with the City of Cripple Creek. FMI please call 719-689-9540.



Park County Fair

July 8th-17th

KICK-OFF PARADE, 4-H AND OPEN SHOWS, BARN DANCE, #8 AND #12 ROPING, CPRA RODEOS, CARNIVAL, LIVE MUSIC, VENDORS, OPEN GYM/KHANA, JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION, SUNDAY FAMILY FUNDAY, MUTTON BUSTIN', CATCH A GREASED PIG, BEER GARDEN, AND MUCH MORE!

Park County Fair Schedule 2022

updated on 6/20/22 *Schedule Subject to Change without Notice*

Friday, July 8		Thursday, July 14 (continued)	
5pm: Park County Rendezvous Buck Show	Fair Barn	6pm: Tiny Tots Open Livestock Show	Fair Barn
4:00 pm: Beer Garden Open		6:00pm: County Employee Family BBQ	Event Tent
Saturday, July 9		7pm - 10pm: 4-H Swine Show	Fair Barn
7am: County Shoot South Park Shooting Range	Como	8pm: Sun burn in the Shade	Free Admission
8am: Park County Rendezvous Goat Show	Fair Barn		Brannan Outdoor Stage
10:00 am: Beer Garden Open		Friday, July 15	
10:00 am Ranch Rodeo	Joe Linch Arena	9am-4pm: Mile High Barrel Racing	Joe Linch Arena
10am: Open Shoot – Parents & Law Enforcement Como		9am: Sheep Show	Fair Barn
5pm: Park County Fair Kick Off Parade	Fair Barn	10am - 3pm: EXHIBIT HALL OPEN	
Sunday, July 10		Noon: Beer Garden Open	
Noon - 3pm: Open Class Exhibits Check In	Exhibit Hall	2pm: Salida Circus	Event Tent
Monday, July 11		2pm: Jax Jordening Band	Brannan Outdoor Stage
9am - 3pm: 4-H Interviews & Open Judging	Exhibit Hall	12pm - 10:30pm: Carnival	Carnival Area
Tuesday, July 12		12:30pm: 4-H Beef Show	Fair Barn
7am - 3pm: Vet Check/Animal Check In	Bullet Rd	4pm: 4-H Lg. Animal Round Robin	Fair Barn
Wednesday, July 13		4:30pm: Salida Circus	Event Tent
7am - 3pm: Vet Check/Animal Check In	Bullet Rd	6:30pm: Park County Rodeo	Joe Linch Arena
7am - Noon: Weigh in *	Livestock Scale	Royalty Coronation	
7am-8:30am - Swine		Admission: Adults \$15, 6-17 - \$10, 5 & Under - Free	
8:30am-12:00pm - Beef		8:30pm: Sarah Bauer	Free Admission
*we recommend stalling your animal before weighing them in			Brannan Outdoor Stage
8am - Open Small Animal (pre-registration required)	Small Animal	Saturday, July 16	
8:30am - 1:30pm: 4-H Dog Show	Joe Linch/Event Tent	9am-4pm: Mile High Barrel Racing	Joe Linch Arena
10am - 3pm: EXHIBIT HALL OPEN		10am - 3pm: EXHIBIT HALL OPEN	
Noon: Beer Garden Open		10am - 2 pm: Open Gymkhana	South Arena
2:00pm - 5pm: 4-H Dairy & Market Goat Show	Fair Barn	10am: Beer Garden Open	
5:30pm: 4-H Small Animal Round Robin	Fair Barn	10am-10:30pm: Carnival	Carnival Area
(Dog, Rabbit, Alpaca)		12:30pm - 2pm: Celebrity Livestock Show	Fair Barn
6:30pm: Pig Penning	Fair Barn	2pm: Salida Circus	Event Tent
7:00pm - 10:00pm Barn Dance/Silent & Live Auction Fair Barn		2pm: Recognition Ceremonies	Fair Barn
Sun burn in the shade		Round Robin Awards, Fair Dedication	
Thursday, July 14*Park County Employee Family Day*		3pm: Junior Livestock Auction	Fair Barn
7am - 8am: Vet Check (HORSE ONLY)	Bullet Rd	4:30pm: Salida Circus	Event Tent
7:30am: 4-H Horse Show Meeting	Joe Linch	5pm - 7pm: Buyers & Public Dinner	Event Tent
8am - 1pm: 4-H English and Western Show	Joe Linch	6:30pm: Park County Fair Rodeo	Joe Linch Arena
10am - 3pm: EXHIBIT HALL OPEN		Admission: Adults \$15, 6-17 - \$10, 5 & Under - Free	
Noon: Beer Garden Open		8:30pm: Canyon Creek	Free Admission
1pm - 2pm: 4-H Trail Course Judging (Western)	South Arena		Brannan Outdoor Stage
2:30pm - 4pm: 4-H Gymkhana	South Arena	Sunday, July 17	
3pm: Dress-An-Animal (pre-registration required)	Fair Barn	TBD: 4-H Animals Released	



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Obituary

Linda Karlin 4-27-1956 to 5-29-2022

Linda Karlin, nee Hayes, 66 of Florissant, CO passed away at her home on Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Born on April 27, 1956, in Massena, NY to Linden "Babe" Hayes and Dora (Tilley) Hayes of Bartlett, NH, Linda was the oldest of their three daughters. She spent her early childhood years in Canada before her family returned to their hometown of Bartlett.

Linda graduated from A. Crosby Kennett High School in 1974. Following graduation, she moved to Crested Butte, Colorado where she met her husband of nearly 38 years, David Karlin. They were married in Bartlett, NH on October 6, 1984. Together they lived in both Utah and Colorado, before finally settling in Florissant, CO. Linda had a variety of jobs, most notably being a restaurant manager at Florissant's Thunderbird Inn, and working in advertising sales at the *Ute Country News* newspaper in Divide, CO.

Linda was predeceased by her husband, David Karlin; parents, Linden and Dora Hayes; half-sister RoseMarie Hayes of Bartlett; and many well-loved dogs, including Bosco, Chaco, Rosco, and Pancho. She leaves behind her

sisters Catherine Hayes-Blake (Bob) and Dianne Hayes (John Garland) both of Bartlett, her niece Lindsey Garland of Richmond, VT, and nephew Robert Blake of Bartlett, as well as many extended family members and friends who will miss her dearly.

A celebration of life was held at the Thunderbird Inn in Florissant, CO on Sunday, June 26, 2022. Another celebration will be held in Bartlett at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please contribute to your local animal shelter in Linda's name.

Publisher's comments

We first met Linda when she joined our *Ute Country News* advertising staff in May of 2013. It was a very good fit with her skill set. I'm convinced Linda could accomplish just about anything she put her mind to. She loved meeting people and could easily engage with customers. She was an excellent listener and even better problem solver. Linda readily picked up on the paperwork aspect and managed the entire 9+ years she was with us without a computer! Her attention to detail was impeccable; I can only remember one mistake in all that time, as accuracy was important to Linda.

She had a way of connecting to the community. Many times, she wrote out by hand information for a press release, obituary or notice of a new business opening. I appreciated how she understood the goal of the paper was to "put the unity back in community" so she kept her ears open and shared through our publication community resources. She had beautiful handwriting, very easy to read. I often joked with her by asking if we could clone her!

As we came to know Linda better, we would invite her along to attend a show at the Butte Theater. She really enjoyed chatting with her about the productions on the way back to Florissant.

Linda also enjoyed music; Santanna, and John Lennon are two that immediately come to mind. I think it may have been a coping skill for her, as she allowed the notes to elevate her mood. Linda could handle a great deal of

stress like it was water rolling off her back. Yes, there were times she felt frustrated at what was happening in the world or possibly by someone's actions. Yet, I never heard her say anything negative about anyone. The closest she came to that was, "So-and-so is being a putz!" It was an important distinction she made, addressing the behavior, not the person. I feel it was a grace she bestowed on everyone — thinking the BEST of everyone in every moment, giving the benefit of the doubt and recognizing we are ALL works in progress. Maybe that's how she always met you with a smile and those twinkling eyes.

Linda sought her serenity at the lake with Pancho. There would be times she would say she is getting frustrated with one thing or another, or deeply concerned about what might be happening in the world. I would ask her, "Linda, what are you doing to care for yourself today?" Her answer, "Going to the lake with Pancho!"

It turns out Pancho crossed over that rainbow bridge so he could be there to meet Dave, where the two of them waited for Linda to join them. May they rest in peace together.

Thank you, Linda, for the grace you have given this community through your genuine concern for others. We celebrate your life and thank you for the grace you have bestowed upon us, always giving us the benefit of the doubt and recognizing we're all works in progress. Thanks for showing us how to be more respectful toward each other. We miss you!



Growing Ideas Hydration preparation

by Karen Anderson "The Plant Lady"

"The Earth laughs in flowers."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summertime greetings gardeners and friends of our mountain communities. Are we having fun yet? My hope is that you are enjoying time in your gardens in anticipation of great things to come and content with what is in the present moment.

July is the month when many of our established perennial flowers begin to bloom and generously bestow the gift of their colorful company for our pleasure. There are delightful surprises awaiting their discovery, blooming around every corner just about every day during this month of the season. In addition, containers of *Foo Foo* (what I call annual flowers) provide consistent vibrant and pastel colors to the garden landscape. The greenhouse is kicking in nicely and a few vegetable seeds have been sowed. The Colorado wildflowers are popping with color as well. Things are happening!

I'm still planting my annuals as well as new perennials that I have purchased and/or rescued from various sources. Much of the time, store bought bedding and perennial plants have been cooped up in their 4 packs, 6 packs and gallon pots for a very long while and therefore the root systems can be wrapped up so tight, they can hardly breathe! (FYI — if you get your Power Perennials from me, that isn't gonna happen.) So, this brings me to explain the title of this article regarding hydration preparation.

I would like to share some extremely helpful hints with this process to help make the activity easier for you and the plants' transition to the garden or planters.

When I am planting my flowers or any other *newbie*, I want roots and earth to be thoroughly moist or wet before I introduce the plants to their new home. First, I would recommend that the actual transplanting be accomplished toward the evening hours or on a cool and cloudy day to avoid the shock of our intense midday heat.

Preparing the Earth, preferably a cultivated garden bed, to receive your new plant buddies is very important. It is a good practice to thoroughly soak and aerate the soil before you introduce new plantings. In the long run, this is going to help conserve the moisture needed for a comfortable start for the plants and easier for you too. It may take several waterings and turning over the soil to achieve the appropriate amount of saturation without being muddy.

While you are taking care of that task, it is vital to get those flowers and other perennials out of those 'tight jeans' and plunge them into reservoirs of water in order to hydrate and loosen up the root systems. I will soak my plants in very large pots for several days, keeping them in a shady spot until I am ready to situate them into the garden or pots. In some cases, a light combing of the roots with a cultivator, which I call *tickling their fancies* is enough to allow them to spread easily in the soil. In other cases, the roots are so tightly intertwined that it takes careful but 'major surgery' and patience to free them from their bondage! Soak, loosen, soak some more, continue to untangle the best you can, and soak again and this time, add a splash of root stimulator to the water, which is another good tip for a better outcome for the plants. If we don't take these measures into consideration, the roots



won't go anywhere, they will just sit there and stay within the skins they come in.

Some gardeners will *score* the root balls, which basically means cutting through the systems in several places and flaying them out before planting. I'm not a big fan of this particular procedure, but if it works for you, no need to change it.

I would also like to suggest that when you dig a hole for a larger perennial, bush or tree, fill that hole up with water and let it soak in for additional moisture retention before you plant. The basic idea here is that everything involved is thoroughly hydrated from the start for a happy and healthy growing season. By the way, please don't forget to hydrate yourself with plenty of water as all living things depend on it.

I sincerely hope that a few of these tips will help you in your gardening endeavors. I always need to remind myself and encourage other gardening spirits to embrace the moments that we experience every day. I believe that gardening is a process, not an event and that perfection is not really an option. Everything is beautiful

fully and imperfectly perfect, but water is essential. Happy gardening!

If you need a personal landscaping consultation, experienced and knowledgeable guidance or coaching, feel free to give me a call at 719-748-3521 or e-mail plantladyspeaks@gmail.com.

Power Perennials will be available throughout the summer months at the Outpost in Florissant and Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park or you can contact me directly for more options. Native Aspen & Spruce trees are also up for adoption and I am able to provide Gift Certificates as well. Happy houseplants, my heritage seed collection, Blessing Beads and other creative goodies are offered for purchase at Shipping Plus in Divide and at the aforementioned stores.

Lastly, my husband, Mike McCartney, is having a Carpenter's Retirement Yard Sale every Friday, Saturday & Sunday throughout the month of July. Please check out his ad on page 3 for details. It might just be a great opportunity for both guys and gals to visit Paradise Gardens.

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The Adventure Carousel

The new kids - part II

by Gilrund the Historian

Mike and Walter were new to the Nederland town and the Middle and High school. They lived not too far from the school, but closer to the actual town of Nederland. They hadn't been in the school for long before they met Ben and Jack in some of their classes. At lunch they talked of what to do in such a small place as Nederland. Jack mentioned the carousel. Mike and Walt sort of laughed and said that they were too old to ride a carousel. "Those are for 'old people and little kids' and some of the girls," said Mike and Walt agreed with him.

Ben looked at their two new friends and said, "Do you like adventures?" "Sure," replied Walt, "Who doesn't?" "Why," asked Mike, "What do you mean by adventures? What does that have to do with the carousel?" "You don't mean that you ride one of the animals and pretend that you are on some sort of adventure while you spin around and listen to the music?" asked Walt. Ben looked around the room and leaned forward across the table then said softly, "Kinda" except, we do it after it's closed. "What?" responded Walt, "You break in and ride it then?" "How do you get in and get it to go and..." started Mike. "Quiet!" said Ben and Jack together as they looked around the lunchroom to make sure that no one else heard what they were talking about.

Mike went on in a softer voice, "You're putting me on, right?" "Let's talk about this later, after school," suggested Jack. The boys went on talking and finished their lunch, agreeing to meet after school in the trees by the parking lot. Later that afternoon, after school, Mike started the conversation as they met in the trees by the school parking lot. "Okay, now, tell us about this adventure thing with the carousel, after it closes," asked Mike.

"Yeah, we don't want to go to jail for breaking into a business in town," said Walt. "That's not my idea of an adventure." "Hey, you don't have to do it," said Ben, "We just thought you might want to do something better than playing video games all the time."

"Ok, ok, take it easy," said Mike, "Just tell us what you have in mind." Ben looked around and then started talking. "We have found out that the Carousel of Happiness has some sort of magic in it." Walt started to laugh, but Mike gave him a look that said, "Don't laugh." Ben went on, "When Jack and I felt the lion move one day, we decided to find out for ourselves. Jack just happened to have a skeleton key, so we could get inside the back door after it was closed for the day." Jack started talking about what happened after that. Walt and Mike listened intently. "You are serious, aren't you?" asked Walt.

"Yep!" replied Ben and Jack, "So, when do you want that 'Adventure' you were laughing at?" It was quiet for a few moments until Mike said, "This is Friday. How about tonight?" Walt looked at Mike for a moment and then said, "Yeah, let's do it tonight." Ben looked at Jack as he smiled. Jack said, "Okay, tonight. Be at the back of the carousel at eight. Don't let anyone see you or we'll be in trouble for sure." The boys walked along together for a short distance until they split up to go to their homes.

Eight o'clock found the four boys at the back of the Carousel of Happiness and Jack was just unlocking the door with his skeleton key. They quickly slipped inside and there was the carousel lit up with just a single light bulb just inside the door. Ben looked at Jack and said, "They aren't here waiting for us."

Jack replied, "We aren't alone this time." Walt looked around and then said, "Well? Where are the animals that are supposed to take us on the adventure?" The light at the door dimmed for a few moments as the boys started walking beside the carousel, then suddenly in front of them stood Danny, a dragon, Leo, a lion, and two others of the carousel animals.

Walt and Mike stood back behind Ben and Jack as Danny the dragon spoke, "We had to make sure that the two new kids were going to believe in us. Mike does, but Walt is not sure of what he is seeing." Leo then spoke, "Mike, come forward, you have nothing to fear from us." Mike walked around Ben and stood in front of the lion. He reached out and touched Leo on the head and then turned to look at the others as he said, "He's real, Walt." When Mike looked back at the Lion, he saw another animal step forward next to the lion. It was a cheetah and it spoke to him. "I too am real; you are to ride on my back on our adventure. I am called Chester."

Mike reached out his hand and petted the big cat on the head and then reached around its neck and hugged the big cat. Leo smiled a lion smile and said, "They have Bonded." "Come forth, Walter," said Danny. Walter was still standing behind Ben and Jack as he slowly stepped in front of the boys and looked at the lion with frightened eyes.

"You are next to be given a carousel animal to ride during your adventure. I think that Daryl is the one for you." Then a donkey stepped up next to Chester and Walter stepped up to the donkey and touched it to see that it too was real. "He's a real donkey!" exclaimed Walt as he ran his hands over the donkey's head and neck.

"Of course, I am!" said Daryl. "You shall ride Daryl during your adventure," said Leo. Ben and Jack were about to mount the dragon and the lion when Danny said, "This adventure is not for you two this time, it is for the new kids that must learn of our world." Leo looked at Walt and Mike and said, "Mount up!" Mike jumped on Chester's back and Walt climbed on Daryl's back as a fine mist started to form around them.

Mike grinned and shouted, "It's just as you told us!" Walt was looking around at the mist with a look of fear on his face as he said, mostly to himself, "It's actually happening. It wasn't just a story. YES!" Ben and Jack stood next to their animals and watched as the mist grew thick and then vanished. Danny looked at the two boys and said, "They will be gone for a short time, just as you were. When they return, you can share your tales at the malt shop."

Ben and Jack were disappointed, because they wanted to go along, but it wasn't their

adventure this time.

The mist was clearing, and Walt and Mike were looking at where they were. They were looking at a range of mountains that seemed to go for miles in both directions. In front of the mountains on the plains there seemed to be a race going on.

The three men were running their horses as fast as they could toward a small stone fortress that stood on the side of one of the mountains. The men stopped their horses at the fortress and quickly opened the doors. The men entered the open doors of the fortress and quickly closed them. Off in the far distance could be seen a cloud of dust that appeared to be coming toward them. Mike looked at Walt and said, "What do you make of that?"

"Looks like those three guys were in a big hurry to stay in front of that dust cloud. What do you suppose is causing it?" replied Walt. "It's an approaching group of hunters. I suppose after the first three," suggested Daryl, "I've seen that kind of dust storm before."

"What about the three others that are in that little castle looking place?" asked Mike.

"They are too far ahead for scouts, and they appeared to be running away, not scouting," suggested Chester, "I say we go and find out what's going on."

The four friends trotted over to the small fortress and pounded on the door. The door was answered by an armed soldier who asked what they wanted after looking past them into the distance.

"We saw you running here and wondered if you were in need of some help," answered Mike.

The soldier looked at Mike and saw that he was riding a Cheetah and then saw Walt and Daryl.

"Sir," he called over his shoulder. Then another man joined the first and told the soldier to allow them in.

"You must be magical people for no one in this land can ride a cat of that size. Perhaps you could help me and my men," said the newcomer, "I am King Daniel, and my enemies are in pursuit of me. They want my kingdom for their king. He will do anything to gain my kingdom's wealth. We were tricked to get us out of my castle so that they could capture me. My warriors are far away and don't know of our danger."

The King looked at Mike and Chester then continued, "Would you be willing to take a message to my warriors to come to my aid? I will reward you greatly if we can escape back to my kingdom." Mike looked at Walt. "What do you think?" he asked him. "Well, we came here for an adventure. I say we go for it," answered Walt, "I can't keep up with you and Chester, so you must go alone and quickly. I'll stay here and fight for the king if I have to."

King Daniel told Mike and Chester where his men should be, and they slipped out of the fortress, then started running for the warriors of the king. With them they



carried a ring of the king to prove that what they said was true.

It was a long hard run over hills and streams, through thick bushes and over rocks, but on they went.

Chester seemed tireless but Mike wasn't used to riding a big cat for miles and miles. His back side was starting to hurt, but he stayed on by holding on to Chester's fur.

Walt and Daryl waited just outside of the stone fortress watching for the coming enemy as they walked around on the open plains.

Soon they saw four large dogs running toward the fortress and knew that they were scouts for the approaching enemy army.

The dogs saw Walt and Daryl and ran toward them growling, snarling and showing their long, sharp teeth. One of the dogs ran towards Daryl as the donkey quickly turned around and kicked the dog so hard in the head that it staggered away as another of the dogs attacked, and Daryl turned again and kicked the dog twice with his hooves.

Another dog ran at Daryl, and it too was kicked very hard. Then all the dogs ran away as Walt and Daryl ran back to the stone fortress.

"The army is approaching, King Daniel," said, Walt when they went inside the fortress and saw the king. "They are not far away, for we have just fought off four of their scout dogs."

"I hope your friend and his cat get to my warriors in time for them to come to my aid." returned the King.

Mike and Chester were still running as fast as they could when they saw several warriors riding on their horses and Chester ran to them. Mike shouted out to them as he showed them the ring, "We come from your King Daniel. He is in great danger and needs your help. Follow us!"

The first warrior answered, "We have been searching for King Daniel. Wait here as I gather my warriors and then lead us to our king."

The warrior quickly rode off on his horse, as Chester and Mike rested near a small stream while Chester drank some water. The others waited with them.

It wasn't long before the warrior returned with many more warriors, and they all followed Mike and Chester back to the stone fortress.

The warriors rode hard and fast for they knew that their king was in great danger. They arrived just in time as the enemy soldiers attacked the fortress and the battle began.

Walt and Mike had been given swords and they fought alongside of King Daniel's men and soon the enemy turned and ran away as the King's warriors chased after them.

Walt and Daryl along with Mike and Chester returned to the stone fortress along with King Daniel and his two guards.

As they returned the swords, the King said, "I don't know how to thank you, for you have saved myself and my kingdom.

Here, take this ring in addition to the one that I gave you before. Should you ever need anything that a king can give you, you have but to show the ring and you shall have what you need."

Mike and Walt both bowed to the King and thanked him as Walt put the second ring on his finger.

The boys then walked to Daryl and Chester and mounted to leave the fortress when a mist arose around them, and they suddenly found themselves back in the Carousel of Happiness.

Ben and Jack smiled as Jack asked, "How was your adventure?" Walt and Mike showed them their rings as they waved to the carousel animals and left the building. They said, "We'll tell you tomorrow over chocolate malts."

The next afternoon was spent in the malt shop drinking their malts and telling the story of King Daniel and the Two Rings.

To be continued...

Chuck Atkinson of Como, CO enjoys writing fiction stories and treasure hunts for the children at his church. We are pleased to have him contribute to the only fiction in our Ute Country News. Thank you to the kind folks at Carousel of Happiness for engaging in this fictitious series based on their carousel. Carousel of Happiness is located at 20 Lakeview Drive in Nederland, CO.

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Noxious weed season

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte
photos by Kelly Uhing, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Summer in the Rockies! The rivers are running, the meadows are greening up, and the pine tree pollen blankets everything in a fine yellow dust. This is also the time to begin our vigilant scrutiny for noxious weeds. Yup, they love the warming season just as much as the rest of us.

Noxious weeds are non-native aggressive invaders that can replace native species, impact agricultural land, cause erosion, and often increase wildfire impact threat. We can't say that some of them aren't cool-looking, and they often have their folklore, but don't be fooled. It is the responsibility of property owners in Colorado to control noxious weeds on their land. It is also the right thing to do for your land, your neighbors, and the larger ecosystem.

There's lots of great information out there:

- Colorado Department of Agriculture - <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds>
- Colorado State University Extension - <https://extension.colostate.edu/topics/agriculture/noxious-weeds-invasive-plant-species>
- Colorado Weed Management Association - <https://cwma.org>

Recently we saw a discussion on social media about the plants with the big furry leaves, low to the ground. Without seeing the second-year growth of the plant, it was hard to identify from the description. A little sleuthing revealed that the poster was asking about the leaves of Common Mullein. The first-year growth of the plant begins with a basal rosette, basically leaves that alternate and overlap each other. These leaves can grow to over 12" long, with the entire rosette up to 30" in diameter. At this stage, the plants are often called "mule ears" for obvious reasons.

In the spring of the second year of growth, the Common Mullein sends up a long erect stem that often is 2 to 6 feet tall. The plant flowers cover a terminal spike that may reach 2 feet in length. The stem and flowers are covered in woolly hairs. At this stage, folks often call them "witch's broomstick" and say that the height of the stem predicts the depth of snow the following winter. It does seem that there might be some witchcraft at work with this plant that can produce up to 250,000 seeds in one season, and the seeds have germinated after more than 100 years!

Stories about the introduction of Common Mullein say that it was used as a fish poison for easy fishing. Some stories say it was introduced as a medicinal plant used to treat burns and rashes. They say (you know, "they") that early Europeans smoked the dry leaves to treat bronchitis.

Common Mullein prefers gravelly soil, but can be found almost anywhere, including roadsides, disturbed construc-



tion sites, pastures, and abandoned lots. You will recognize the dried brown stems forming a small forest from year to year. They have a deep taproot with a fibrous root system. The best way to control them is to get to them before producing seeds. Due to the longevity of the seeds, eradication is an annual process. When the parent plant is removed and carefully bagged for disposal, native grasses and forbs can work to outcompete new seedlings.

The wise words of the Colorado Department of Agriculture on Common Mullein, "Since the plants produce thousands of seeds, treatments need to occur over an extended period." Seal up those cut flower and seed stalks in trash bags, and dig up as much of the leaves and roots as you can from year to year.

Editor's note: I have found less than five common mullein plants in my yard. Perhaps my soil is very different from the rest of Teller County; but I can tell you I did NOT find that it took over anything. It came up where nothing else was growing. I learned the flowers help reduce inflammation so I began to collect the flowers. In so doing, I noticed every morning, those flowers were full of BEES! Those big, fuzzy flyers crawl right inside those flowers as if their lives depend upon it! I stopped collecting the flowers so the bees could peacefully resume their task. Given we are losing our pollinators, perhaps we might consider how common mullein feeds the bees, which then pollinate our wildflowers, greenhouses and garden beds, ultimately providing us food. Our climate is changing; perhaps our consideration of the benefits of common mullein to species other than humans should be entered into the equation. Our survival may depend on it.

Adopt Me by Ark Valley Humane Society

Tank

At just 9 months old, Tank has a lifetime of adventures and snuggles ahead of him. He is one friendly puppy! Tank's favorite place to be is by your side. Tank has lived with older children and dogs in his previous home and done great with both! He is an American Pit Bull Terrier/Mastiff mix who is currently 47 pounds, he still has some growing to do but we think he takes more after his Pit Bull breed in size. Tank is one handsome boy who anyone would fall in love with instantly! Do you know someone who has been looking for a young, friendly dog? Please tell them about Tank! The shelter is open from 12-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday at 701 Gregg Drive in Buena Vista, stop in any time during open hours or call and set up an appointment at 719-395-2737. You can fill out an adoption application before arriving at the shelter at <https://www.ark-valley.org/adoption-matchmaker-application/> too!

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



The front of the Rocky Mountain Cigar Company.

Rocky Mountain Cigar Company

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher

On March 26 of this year, the Rocky Mountain Cigar Company, located at 640 C State Highway 285 in Fairplay next to the Sinclair gas station, started offering comedy nights in the store. Comedy nights are held on the last Saturday of the month and will run through August, according to owner Scott Gardner.

The cigar company is working with a comedy producer in Denver who builds the shows. They each feature three comedians and an emcee; they come from all over the U.S., including NYC, Omaha, Kansas City, Nashville and Minneapolis, said Gardner.

The cigar shop can seat 38 people for the shows and there are two shows, one at 6:45 p.m. and one at 8:45 p.m.. The shows sell out very quickly, said Gardner, and

one needs to get tickets before the show. One has to download the Eventbrite ticket app and tickets are \$25 each. The comedy nights are a non-smoking event.

The cigar company also has a sipping lounge and bar; a cigar lounge with a big screen TV; an indoor golf simulator; offers guided fly-fishing trips and has fly-fishing supplies; and of course, stocks a wide variety of cigars.

The cigar company just had its second anniversary Memorial Day weekend and is "The highest cigar shop, lounge and bar in the World," at 9954 feet, which Gardner had trademarked seven months ago.

Cigar company hours are Monday-Sunday 9-7 p.m. The store phone number is 218-556-3809.

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A Look Inside the Artist
Darrin Noble, poet
 by Mary Shell

What is poetry? In one description I found explains, “In poetry, words are strung together to form sounds, images, and ideas that might be too complex or abstract to describe directly.” To me poetry is like a painting...It has the unwillingness to be defined, labeled, or nailed down. It loses control in its unnatural assembly of words focused on getting you to see a feeling. It is extremely emotional for the poet but in a satisfying way. Darrin’s poetry comes from pain. Powerful, emotional, and expressive they ooze into the unconscious soul and tell a story. Thank you, Darrin, for your reminder to be humble.

Before we get into poetry tell me a little about your pod cast.
Sadly, I had to put my podcast on hold. It disappointed me to cancel it. But my medical issues and the weekly doctor’s appointments I must go to keep me from having a set schedule.

What got you into creating poetry?
The Robin Williams movie Dead Poets Society. It really inspired me like nothing I’d ever seen before. I think I was 10 or 11 when I saw it at a friend’s house. I had started writing stories before I saw the movie. But feeling that movie changed my life forever and I’m so very thankful for it. I was already a fan of Robin Williams through his standup comedy. So, I was dying to see Dead Poets Society. I had to sneak away to my friend’s house to watch it due to my family’s religious kinks.

What is it about poetry that captures you?
I love the feeling of being able to paint a picture inside someone’s mind, with words instead of a brush. To be able to inspire people with my poetry is an incredible feeling. I deeply appreciate that emotion’s ability to lift me above the constant pain I’m in.

Do all your poems rhyme?
Trying to rhyme my poems has always made me feel constricted, like I’m writing while handcuffed to a set tone before I even begin writing. Normally I get the first two lines or more before I start. Then I let the poem show me what it wants to be. That may sound silly. Hahaha. but that’s me. I think I’ve only written a few poems that rhyme. I tried at first, but I just didn’t like it. My heart and soul lean more to free-flowing poetry. I’m not sure if its due to my lack of a formal education.

They describe poetry as a literary style characterized by a strong expressiveness of words, as a poet how would you describe poetry?
I’d describe poetry as a beautiful expression of the soul.

How does creating poems make you feel?
Writing poetry makes me feel like I have a superpower that others don’t. I truly love having the power to change someone’s day. By letting them know how important they are to all those in their lives. Writing transports me away from my constant agony into the world of my own making giving me a brief distraction without numbing myself with even more medication of man’s own creation.



Living Through Pain by Darrin Noble

*One must fight pain with focused thought fueled by a great passion,
 Resisting the carnal instinct
 To let rage be our fuel
 To attack an invisible illness
 As the passion
 Of those of us
 Who constantly suffer pain’s wrath
 Is more than sufficient
 To beat back a power
 As immense as that
 Of pains unyielding grasp
 Yet pain is only as big
 As we see it
 If in our minds eye
 We see pain as but a part of living
 For we all feel pain
 It’s the great leveler
 Justice isn’t blind
 For that is pain
 Every creature knows it
 So we start to defeat it within our minds
 Which evolved into
 Learning how to live with it
 Then, how to think above pain’s grasp
 How to fight through pain
 To get to the other side
 Of pains constant touch
 Like fingers hooked into my spine
 Burning my flesh from within
 As spasms throughout my body
 Feels like someone applying the boots to us
 So we fight
 We remain focused
 Using our passion
 As fuel for the battle
 To live with pain
 To thinking above it
 Above all else
 Keep things as simple as possible
 For our minds are slowed down
 By meds and the constant flow of pain flooding our minds*

What is your best poem?
I can’t say what my best poem is. I do remember the first line of poetry I ever wrote: “I wrote I love you on a foggy window. Just to watch it fade away.” Which is still one my all-time favorite two sentences I’ve ever written. Like a first love, you will never forget it.

What is your most emotional and powerful poem?
My most emotional and powerful poems are the ones I write about the pain I feel and my family. Those are the ones that really make me feel more than I am. For my family makes me stronger with their love of which I use to fight the pain.

Who inspires you to create poems?
My biggest inspiration is my wife. She’s my everything and so much more. I call her my Angel. For she’s saved me more times than I can remember. She not only takes care of me and gets me to every doctor’s appointment. But she’s always there for our four children, two grandchildren, her parents, my mom, and her cousins. She also works several jobs just to make ends meet. How could she not be my greatest inspiration? She truly is an Angel, with Devil’s horns.

Add whatever you think people would like to know about you and your poetry.
I suffer from several disorders, the main one being CRPS. It makes all the nerves in my body constantly send high level pain signals to my brain. Disabling me and leaving me homebound as it hurts just to be touched. It’s like having a third-degree sunburn on all of your body. Along with the crippling cutting, tearing, ripping pain along the scars of my 25 surgeries. Most

of them have been on my spine. I have two spinal stim units implanted into my spinal cord. They send out an electrical current through my nervous system to try and push the pain signals back to their source. Along with a dozen different meds to help ease the pain. I average a seven on the pain scale. I’ve had it since 2005, when a mistake was made during an emergency surgery. It sucks but complaining won’t move me forward. So, I try to stay positive. My wife is the key to that as she’s always flowing with positivity.

I taught myself how to write and read poetry. My parents pulled me and my siblings out of public school when I was a few months into 4th grade. From there we went to a Christian school for the rest of my 4th grade. But we were homeschooled after my 4th grade. Our parents worked full time, so it was on us to do the schoolwork. They gave us teachers books from public school and tore out the science. My family is deeply dedicated to the Church of Christ. My uncles and grandpa were all pastors. I was expected to be the next pastor of our family leading my first sermon when I was only 8 years old. Most of our schoolwork was Bible study. My siblings didn’t want to do any schoolwork and I loved it. When I was 17, I forced my parents to let me go to public school. I was a 17-year-old freshman. Sadly, it only lasted two years before I was back to helping my dad build houses instead of going to school. But I continued to write poetry. Challenging myself to write about anything that inspired me, even my frustrations.

*Darrin can be reached at
 Twitter: @noble_darrin
 Facebook: Darrin Noble
 Instagram: @DinColorado75
 Patreon: Patreon.com/Din/Colorado*

Currant Creek Characters The Dells sell to the Rows - part XVIII

by Flip Boettcher
 photo by Flip Boettcher

In 1909, the Dells sold their original 320-lacre homestead ranch to the Rowe brothers, Frank and Eugene, “Gene” according to a May 7, 1909 *Flume* article. This became the upper place, or “Dell Flats.” Even though the Rowe’s weren’t among the first settlers along Currant Creek, from mile marker 20 on Colorado Highway 9 up to Currant Creek pass, they ranched in the area 72 years and Gene lived around 50 years at the Dell homestead. Frank’s cattle empire was just over the Park County line in north Fremont County. The Rowe’s amassed “a pile of land and had a lot of cattle,” according to Charlie Dell who worked for Frank or Gene Rowe for 40 years. It’s hard to believe, but there was a lot of traffic on the Currant Creek wagon and freight road in its heyday. This area of the creek is remote in the sense that one was a day or more wagon trip to a town, but there were a lot of homesteaders. By 1900, all the land on both sides of the creek was homesteaded. A typical land patent was 160 acres, which if you make it a square, is ½ mile on each side. So, one had a homestead about every ½ mile up and down the creek. They were packed in like sardines.

At various times, there were eight post offices along the road, Currant Creek, 1870-1894; Currant, 1894-1901; Tac-lamar, 1901-1905; O.P. Allen post office, it burned down in 1900; Micanite, 1904-1924; Idaville, 1885-1886; it became Freshwater and then Guffey about 1903; and Divine or Black Mountain, 1896-1911, according to a Rowe Family History by Frank’s son Sam.

The homesteaders soon found out that one could not make a go of it on 160 acres in this area. Even later, when the land allotment was increased to 640 acres, it was still hard to make a go of it. Today, all the homestead buildings along the creek in this area are gone with only the Bender ranch at the pass and the Dell ranch near Guffey still left. Both are working cattle ranches still. The other places either burned down or there is no trace left. Perhaps only a milled timber or two or some are partially or totally fallen in.

These homesteaders sold out their holdings either before they were proofed up or after they were proofed up, a five-year proposition. People like Gene and Frank Rowe bought these failed homesteads up and acquired quite a bit of land in the process for their cattle business.

Alfred Rowe (1/11/1844, Illinois -10/20/1926) came to this area from Illinois in 1870 to secure his Civil War land entitlement located eight miles west of Currant Creek, south of Mill Gulch and north of Tallahassee Road. He then returned to Illinois.

Called Military Bounty Land, Union veterans of the Civil War got special homestead rights in 1870 when an amendment in the 1862 Homestead Act gave them the right to claim 160 acres within railroad grant areas. Another amendment in 1872 gave them the right to deduct their length of war service from the five-year residency needed to proof up a homestead. Soldiers or their heirs got a Federal Bounty Land Warrant which they exchanged for the land patent.

While attending law school at the University of Michigan Alfred married Mary Jane Gardner (7/24/1850, Pennsylvania — 2/12/1900) on October 3, 1871, in Ottawa, IL. They were passing through Chicago when the great fire started, according to Sam Rowe.

In 1874, Alfred and Mary bought some land on Tallahassee Creek and Alfred freighted to Leadville, Alma, Fairplay and Breckenridge. They returned for a time to IL and their first child, Frank Leslie was born, 6/25/1874, in Sheridan in the first

house ever built in Sheridan by Alfred in 1869.

In 1876, the couple left for Colorado, by way of Kansas to see some of Mary’s relatives living there. The family was in Denver the day Colorado was declared a state August 1, 1876.

In 1880, Alfred and Mary lived at the juncture of Mill Gulch and Currant Creek on the Currant Creek Wagon Road. Mary taught school in the area. She was a college graduate and had an extensive musical background. With his background as a lawyer, Alfred was a justice of the peace for some time around 1888-1892 in the area, although he never practiced law.

Alfred proofed up his 160-acre homestead in 1894, which he called the Eagle Peak Ranch. The house built of logs was just south of the confluence of Smith Gulch and Currant Creek in Fremont County.

The couple’s other three children were born at the Eagle Peak Ranch — Eugene “Gene” Claire, 6/15/1879; Irene “Rene,” 6/10/1884; and Cora Jane, 7/7/1887.

One of Frank’s earliest memories as a small boy was watching the first herd of longhorn cattle to the area going by “all day it seemed,” according to Sam. Most likely it was the 3000 head of cattle that John Reeves Witcher brought to the area in 1880.

In 1890 Frank, aged 16, and his father Alfred started their cattle partnership, buying 30 longhorn cows and calves. Gene joined the partnership later, around 1911.

When not digging potatoes, Frank rode the range, branding and weaning the cattle. Frank and Alfred freighted potatoes, other vegetables, hardware and feed to Balfour, Buena Vista, Leadville, Fairplay, Alma and Breckenridge. The local homesteaders grew lots of potatoes, vegetables and sweet corn. It was said that the corn sold for \$1 per ear in Fairplay.

In 1896 at 21 years old, Frank proofed up his first 160-acre homestead, known as the lower place, at Highway 9 and Park County Road 104, near the town of Micanite. In 1900, Mary died and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Cañon City.

In the early 1900s, the Rows ran most of the cattle along Currant Creek. Gene proofed his homestead on 31-Mile Mountain in 1910 and just kept adding cattle and needing more and more land for them, according to Paul Huntley in “Black Mountain Cowboys.”

Alfred was a charter member of the Fremont County Livestock Protective Association. Their first meeting was December 28, 1897. He was president in 1904, 1906 and 1912. Frank was round-up captain in 1904 and 1906, and Gene in 1909 and 1910.

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www.utecountrynews.com



What is left of Alfred and Mary Rowe’s Eagle Peak Ranch.

Around 1900, the town of Micanite was formed by the Mica Mining Company to provide worker housing for their mica mine and mill in Mack Gulch. There was a post office in Micanite from 1904-1922 and the Micanite mail route ended there. There was a church, a few houses, a hotel and dance hall surrounding the mill. It was all but abandoned around 1918, though, and the buildings sold at auction, according to Sam, and Frank bought the mill and built a hay barn with the lumber. He also bought two other buildings and moved them to his homestead just adjacent south of the townsite.

In 1905, Phoebe Stewart Cleland (1875,

Ohio) and presumably her sister Myra (1883) came to Colorado Springs from Chicago. They were the daughters of Ezra and Ella Cleland of Ohio. The sisters were accompanying a friend who had tuberculosis; she came for her health. The sisters also came to work at the mica mill sorting mica in Micanite. For some reason the mill was closed and the sisters got jobs at the hotel, where they met the Rowe brothers at a dance.

Brothers married sisters. Frank married Phoebe Cleland March 22, 1906, and Gene married Myra Cleland January 2, 1909.

...to be continued



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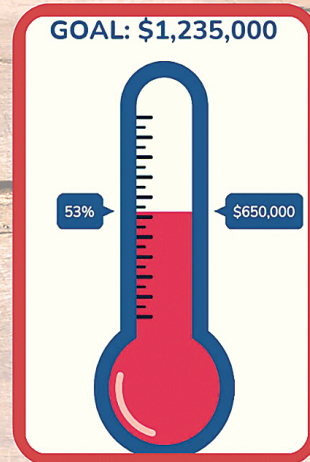
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Healing Is Here



Panning for Good
Exploring the Gold Mine Rock Shop

by Dr. Bec

Enjoy a tactile trip around the world and authentically experience pieces of Morocco, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India and 40+ other countries right here in the middle of Colorado! The Gold Mine Rock Shop just west of Cañon City provides an incredibly unique and quality experience for those who would enjoy quite literally, surrounding themselves with enormous amounts of vibrant, fascinating, healing rocks and minerals.

Be ready to be blown away

After arriving at The Gold Mine Rock Shop, the first clue that a captivating one-of-a-kind experience is about to take place is the stunning, touchable wall embedded with large stone specimens from around the world. Upon entering, the brightness and beauty of the myriad colors of stone creatively displayed and shining inspires unbridled reactions of excitement and wonder from customers young and old alike.

Though the spacious, well-stocked store itself would be enough to keep people coming back, what tops everything I've ever seen at a rock shop is the half-acre outdoor walkway customers can enjoy at their leisure. Surrounding the walkway are numerous piles of large, raw stones found in Colorado and throughout the world.

Take in the exotic, shimmering colors of raw Tiger Eye, the brilliant bluish green of Amazonite, the intricate blue and white patterns found in Sodalite, the 3D oval shapes of the Shiva Lingam stones found in the Narmada River in Western India or the deep, inviting aqua-green of Chrysocolla. Experience the wide variety of tantalizing textures and vivid colors, feel free to touch them and maybe tote some favorites in a take-along wagon as you stroll around the grounds. Experience millions of years, wild temperature fluctuations, molten lava and crystal soups. Become more aware of the effects of immense pressure and collisions that led to the creation of gorges and mountains, recognize the effects of erosion from many types of weather on stone. Enjoy the rock cycle, live in the history of the earth and connect with its events and creations as you hold each stone.



Mike Tezak with large crystal

Rocks run in the family

The engineer and creator of this masterpiece of a shop is Mike Tezak. An unassuming man of few words, a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy, Mike IS a rock, a solid person at peace with himself, and everyone including his family and his customers benefit from his steadiness, generosity and incredible work ethic. Mike and his family are no strangers to the world of rocks. As a child, Mike and his three older brothers, Ed, Jim, and Bill worked in mines in Fremont County including a rose quartz mine his mother bought in 1968. Mike and his brothers would help miners

for free and get free rocks as payment, then they would sell them to tourists. Mike stayed in the rock business because he knew there were many people who had a passion for finding quality rocks. In his words, "What's better from Colorado than rocks for tourists? People come from all over the U.S. to buy rocks here."

Mike's brothers also continued to work in rock businesses as they grew up and had families of their own. Bill owns Colorado Quarries in Cañon City, Ed and his family own T.H.E. Aggregate Source, a granite quarry on the west side of Cañon City, and Jim also owned a rock shop. Though their mom's mine was sold in 1972, Mike, his wife Denise and his brother Ed repurchased the Devil's Hole Mine (Wild Rose Mine) in Fremont County in 2008, reclaiming the rose quartz mine for their family. Mike's wife Denise is an integral part of the store as well. Denise and Mike travel during the winter months to purchase quality rock specimens. Mike shared that the challenge of purchasing premium minerals that are not readily or easily available at an affordable price is an adventure the Tezaks find motivating and exciting. However, it is becoming very difficult to obtain them. The Tezaks are grateful for the connections they have made with people throughout the world over many years as they search for quality specimens to purchase.

Madeline Chambers, Mike's sister, who also works at the rock shop says, "Mike has rocks in his head!" She lovingly jokes about him with sincere admiration for the way he has organized the shop and how he can continue to work 16 hours a day immersed in everything rock-related. It seems she too continues to feel the call of the rocks in her blood. Maddie shared, "I like to see the customers, how much they like the store. The little kids are so excited, they run around and say things like, 'I'm in heaven!'" She has also passed down an interest in rocks to her granddaughter Tanna Adams. Tanna enjoys her work at the store and the opportunity to meet a lot of interesting people. She carries on a young, vibrant version of the family legacy. This is a multi-generational, hardworking, wonderful family who labor together to create an incredible experience for their customers.

A bit of history, the old shop and something for everyone

The Gold Mine Rock Shop opened its doors in 2000 in a small building just off Highway 50 about 8 miles west of Cañon City. That original shop is now a Trading Post offering beautiful log furniture, wall art, pottery, cups, cards, framed pictures, multi-colored patio chairs made from recycled plastic and many other fun surprises. The bigger shop opened in 2016 and is located about 100 yards west of the original shop. This spacious shop, described above, has something for everyone. The rock connoisseur who loves rare, premium specimens of all sizes will not be disappointed with the selection. The person looking for particular stones for physical or emotional healing will benefit from the Tezaks' determination to acquire useful healing stones from around the world. Kids (and adults) can embark on an exciting adventure by taking their min-



The friendly crew at the Gold Mine Rock Shop — L to R-Mike Tezak, Maddie Chambers, Tanna Adams and Kaileigh Schwartzwald



Rock Wall by entrance to Gold Mine Rock Shop

ing bucket (3 sizes available) out to the back yard sluice box to uncover beautiful, sparkling treasures.

Healing support

For those interested in learning more about the healing properties of rocks, The Gold Mine Rock Shop has a knowledgeable employee who can help with those types of questions. Her name is Kaileigh Schwartzwald. She shared with me that she has always been able to see energy in colors, sometimes referred to as auras, since she was a little child. She calls it being electromagnetically sensitive. The Tezak family attests that she has helped many people choose stones that have been helpful to them. Kaileigh also told me that The Gold Mine Rock Shop has some popular types of stones used for healing that can be hard to find. These include: Boji stones, Super Sevens or Melody Stones that have seven types of crystals representing all seven chakras in one stone, Moldavite, Nuummite from Greenland and Shiva Lingam stones from India. If you are interested in connecting with Kaileigh, she currently works Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Fan favorites:

- 10% Military Discount on Mondays
- Mining Buckets-3 sizes: This is not a situation where you take a chance and then get ripped off. I was pleasantly surprised at how many good specimens my grandchildren found. The Tezaks fill the buckets themselves with quality specimens and provide an eye-catching brochure that helps participants identify the rocks they discover.
- Geodes from Morocco and Mexico: Customers can choose their geode and break it or employees will crack them for you.
- Dog Friendly

Good to know:

The Gold Mine Rock Shop does not have a website and does not ship purchases. Customers visit in person and determine how to transport rocks purchased.

Contact information:

44864 Highway 50
Cañon City, CO 81212
Phone: 719-276-9353
Open 9-6 p.m. 7 days a week, March-November
<https://www.facebook.com/thegoldmin-erockshop/>
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-gold-mine-cañon-city>

Jokes:

<https://www.livin3.com/rock-jokes>
Name a rock group made up of four men who don't sing.
Mount Rushmore!

What do they do with a dead geologist?
They barium!

Why shouldn't you ever loan a geologist money?

Because they consider 1 million years ago to be a "recent event."

Quote:

"Stand up like a mountain; have faith like a rock; love like an avalanche."

— Bob Goff

Challenge:

I have visited The Gold Mine Rock Shop many times during the past 20 years looking for quality specimens for our home and meaningful stones to share with family, friends, colleagues and students. Whenever I go, I lose track of time. A sense of awe at the variety and majesty of God's creations throughout the world always penetrates my soul when I visit. Going there is a real experience. The virtual and superficial fade. The challenge this month is to go on an adventure where you can touch and experience something physically, tangibly captivating.

Rebecca Frazier, PhD is an author and educational consultant. Her years as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, leader of coaching programs and principal helped her understand the need to provide positive support to educators and to encourage people in general. She believes noticing and focusing on what is positive creates the energy and hope critical to innovatively solving challenging problems. She can be found on twitter @coach_happy or contacted through her website at coachhappy.com.



Trading Post in Old Building

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY

June 30-Aug 4. Caring for Veterans through Alzheimer's & other dementia 11:30-1 p.m. Join us for this FREE virtual caregiver series for veterans who serve as caregivers, caregivers of veterans and those who serve veterans in the community. This series began June 30 and continues through Aug 4.

7 Effective Communication Strategies

7 VHA Caregiver Support Programs

14 Understanding and Responding to Dementia Related Behaviors

14 Long-Term Care Resources for Veterans

21 Alzheimer's and other Dementia Research Update

21 BHA Geriatric Services and Palliative Care

28 Legal and Financial Planning

28 VCA and State End of Life Benefits/Services

28 BHA Advanced Care Planning

Aug 4 Healthy Living for your Brain and Body

Aug 4 State Outdoor Recreation Benefits. Register https://bit.ly/ALZ_VA_CAREGIVER_2022

• NAMI Colorado: <http://www.namicolorado.org/>

• Suicide prevention: <https://suicidpreventionlifeline.org/> or 1-800-273-8255

BUENA VISTA

2 UAS Club Central Colorado 9-10:30 a.m. at Central Colorado Regional Airport. FMI 719-581-2010 or ccuasclub@gmail.com.

15 BV HOPE meeting 1:30 p.m. FMI BVHope.org.

CONCERTS IN MCPHELEMY PARK

7 Alex Johnstone 6-8 p.m.

14 Bob Weir 6-8 p.m.

21 Army Winds 6-8 p.m.

28 Gene Farrar 6-8 p.m. FMI 719-395-1939

CAÑON CITY

LIBRARY

6 FREE Legal Clinic 2-5 p.m. Call 719-269-9020 for appointment.

• B.O.O.K. Babies on our Knees Monday 10:30 a.m.

• Break out box 2nd Friday each month 3-4 p.m.

• Chess Club Wednesday 2 p.m.

• Cribbage Club Fridays 10 a.m. All ages welcome!

• Filler Friday (different activity each month) 3rd Friday each month 3-4 p.m.

• Fremont Brain Injury Support 1st Tuesday 12:30 p.m.

• Lego Club 1st Friday each month 3-4 p.m.

• Metaphysical Group 2nd and 4th Saturday 10:30 a.m.

• New Neighbors Genealogy 1st Friday 1 p.m.

• Story Swap Book Club 1st and 3rd Tuesday 3-4 p.m.

• Story time and craft Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 a.m.

• Virtual story time Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

All at 516 Macon Ave. FMI 719-269-9020.

COLORADO SPRINGS

9 Music on the Mesa 4-7 p.m. featuring The Hummingbirds. FMI 719-237-9953.

18 James Taylor & his All-Star Band at the Broadmoor

CRIPPLE CREEK

7 American Legion Post 171 meets first Thursday of every month 6 p.m. 400 Carr St., food and refreshments at 5 p.m. weather permitting.

9 Black Rose Band plays at noon at Cripple Creek District Museum Depot. FMI page 5.

10 Visits with History 2 p.m. Leo Kolman portrays A.E. Carlton at Cripple Creek District Museum see page 9.

30-Aug 7 Teller County Fair at fairgrounds TCR 1

ASPEN MINE CENTER

29 Commodities distribution (drive up basis) 9-11 p.m.

• Tuesdays BINGO 10:30 a.m. for seniors.

• Wednesdays Luncheon 11:30-1 p.m. upstairs dining room, every Wed, FREE!

• Thursdays Mexican Train 10:30 a.m. FMI 719-689-3584 x124.

CRYSTOLA

8 Sunburn in the Shade at Crystola Roadhouse 7-11 p.m.

22 Sound Advice plays at Crystola Roadhouse 7-11 p.m.

DIVIDE

11, 25 Little Chapel Food Pantry. This is a drive-up distribution, and to make sure to avoid traffic issues our distribution times are: Last name beginning with: A-H 3:30-4:30 p.m. I-Q 4:30-5:30 p.m. R-Z 5:30-6:30 p.m.

16 Sunburn in the Shade 4-7 p.m. at Paradox Brewing

FAIRPLAY

8-17 Park County Fair. See page 9

13 Sunburn in the Shade 7-11 p.m. County Fairgrounds

14 Sunburn in the Shade 5-7 p.m. with vendors at County Fairgrounds

30 Comedy night at Rocky Mountain Cigar Company, 640 C Hwy 285. First show 6:45 p.m. Last show 8:45 p.m. FMI page 15.

FLORENCE

16 Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center presents A Night at the Museum 4-8 p.m. Come and talk to our local "spirits" about the Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad, sluicing for gold with Sidewinder Sluice and learn about Florence's gold reduction history. For \$10 a person, there will be home-made chili in home-made bowls and cups by P&G Pottery, wine and water. You get to keep the cup/bowl. FMI www.florencepioneer-museum.org.

FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays 8-1 p.m. Pioneer

Park

JOHN C FREMONT LIBRARY

July's artist is Cat Roberts.

14 Friends of John C Fremont Library will be at the Farmer's Market 8-1 p.m. selling books!

• Check out Literary Road Trip! Each week there are 6 states represented with several books set in each state so that people can take a "literary road trip" for the summer.

• Story Time Thursdays 10:30 a.m. at Farmers Market in Pioneer Park.

• Summer reading program "Oceans of Possibilities" continues through July 29. Grab and go activity bags and logs for kids 15 and under. Weekly prizes for ages 16 and up who enter the drawing by reading at least one book. FMI 719-784-4649 ext 2 or 3.

FLORISSANT

2 Rock N' Roll BBQ! Fund-raiser 5-10 p.m. at 4-Mile Fire Station 8437 CR 11. Dance, food & fun!

10 Herb Class with Thyme-keeper 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$25. Registration required. See page 3.

14 FREE Legal Clinic at the library 2-5 p.m. Call 719-748-3939 for appointment.

GRANGE

9 Pine Needle Basket Class 9-noon. Cost is donation to Grange.

12 & 19 Quilt of Valor Guild meets to learn how to or help us make beautiful quilts for veterans of Teller County and surrounding areas.

19 Glass Painting Class 9-noon. Bring a clear, sooth glass to paint on. All other supplies will be available. Cost is donation to the Grange.

30 Florissant Heritage Day 9-3 p.m. This is a big day in Florissant with events at the Fossil Beds, Hornbek Homestead, Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, the cemetery and the Grange. We will have entertainer extraordinaire Susie Knight and a few of her friends on the indoor stage. Outside will be crafters, vendors, hot dogs, and ice cream.

• Sun Mountain Yoga 9-10:15 a.m. Mondays. Donation based. All levels welcome!

• Thursdays are potluck and music night 6-8 p.m. Join us for live music. Dancing is encouraged! FMI vendors or RSVP for classes 719-510-2325.

GUFFEY

• Sun Mountain Yoga 9:30-10:45 a.m. at Mountain Aires Market. Donation based. All levels welcome!

LIBRARY

5 Walking, Talking Threads 12:30-3 p.m. Meets every first Tuesday of the month. Take a nice brisk walk around Guffey Town and meet back at the library to crochets, knit and talk away.

12 Friends of the Guffey



WOODLAND PARK

4 Annual Cemetery Crawl at Woodland Park Cemetery located at 650 Short Street. Come visit with some of the old pioneers buried there! Admission is \$5 payable at the gate. If you'd like to volunteer, please give us a shout 719-686-7512 or check utepashistoricalsociety.org. Tickets are still available for the Triennial Marigreen Pines Mansion Tour!

Library Quarterly Meeting 1 p.m. The Friends of the Guffey Library is a volunteer group that helps to support the Guffey Library in what it has to offer its community in many ways. These meetings are always open to the public and we'd love to hear your opinion about what you'd like to see happening at your local library. We're also looking for officers and new members at this time. It's a great way to volunteer for a good cause.

18, 25 Summer Reading Program 9-11 a.m. Sign up for the Summer Reading Program offering activities for children and teens. Explore the theme "Oceans of Possibilities."

25 Guffey Literary Society 1 p.m. The Guffey Literary Society is a wonderfully dynamic and diverse group. All are welcome to join.

27 Rocky Mountain Rural Health Outreach 11-2 p.m. Weather permitting, RMRH representatives will be offering free health screenings, sound financial medical advice, free clothing and much more. FMI 79-689-9280 or Gufflib@parkco.us.

MANITOU SPRINGS

1-4 The Armadillo Ranch celebrates its 3rd Anniversary! Stop in and celebrate with local artists on stage and on our website, the connections that have been made with our ever-growing dillo family and the community we build at 962 Manitou Ave.

1 Quite Frankly plays at 9 p.m.

2 Big Sky (Grateful Dead Tribute Band) plays at 9 p.m.

3 Michael Reese plays at 2 p.m.

4 Family Elephant plays at 4 p.m.

4 Little London Winds 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

7 Shanghai Metro Temple 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

11 Little London Winds 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

14 Route 61 (Blues/Jazz/Classic Rock) 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

18 Little London Winds 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

21 Mike & Bertye Maddux (Bluegrass) 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

25 Little London Winds 7 p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

28 Academy Jazz Ensemble 7

HARTSEL

• Country Church of Hartsel meets at the Hartsel Community Center 80 Valley View Drive 10 a.m. Sundays. Everyone is welcome! FMI call Jimmy Anderson 719-358-1100.

JEFFERSON

2 Jefferson Community Civic Association Breakfast 7:30-11 a.m. All you can eat pancake breakfast \$9 for adults, proceeds benefit the operation and maintenance of the historic buildings in Jefferson. Hope to see you there!

• JCCA is selling peaches this

p.m. at Bud Ford Pavilion in Soda Springs Park

PENROSE

COYOTE'S COFFEE DEN

3 Michael Reese 10-noon

10 Cleveland Experience 10-noon

17 Craig Walter 10-noon

24 Bob Weir 10-noon

31 Just One Worship 10-noon

VICTOR

2, 16 Sunnyside Cemetery Tours 1 p.m. at the gate, \$10 719-689-5509

• Guided tours of Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District. Meet at Victor Lowell Thomas Museum 3rd & Victor Ave. Tickets \$15 FMI 719-689-5509 or tours@victormuseum.com.

• Gold panning 10-4 p.m. at Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Tickets \$10. FMI 719-689-5509 or tours@victormuseum.com.

• Victor Lowell Thomas Museum open for summer 9:30-5:30 p.m.

WOODLAND PARK

4 WP Senior Center's All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, juice, fruit, coffee and tea. \$8 for adults, \$2 for kids 6 & under. Open to the public! All proceeds support the WP Senior Center.

4 Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration at Memorial Park 9-3 p.m.

5 Nick Naples Soaring Eagles Disc Golf Open 10:30-noon Disc Golf Competition, noon-3 p.m. Disco Golf Open (no experience necessary) at WP Middle School. FMI 719-339-3520.

5 Symphony Above the Clouds 5-8 p.m. at WP Middle School. FMI 719-244-3641.

7 Caring for Veterans through Alzheimer's & other dementia 3-4:30 p.m. This series continues through Aug 4. In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady of Peace #2728 are hosting in-person sessions, FREE! Meet at Our Lady of the Woods Parish Center upstairs in the Parish Hall 120 S West St. Register at <http://ourlady-ofthewoods1.flocknote.com/signup/93157>

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