



UTE COUNTRY NEWS

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September 2023

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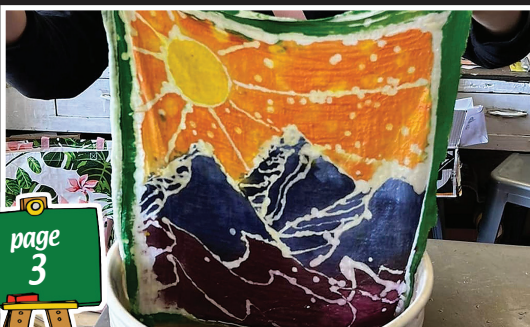
Vol. 15, No. 9

Welcome to Ute Country

"It's. A. Bear! Granted it seems like a very intelligent bear, but it's still a bear! It has no concept of revenge."

— Christopher Barnard

PEEK INSIDE...



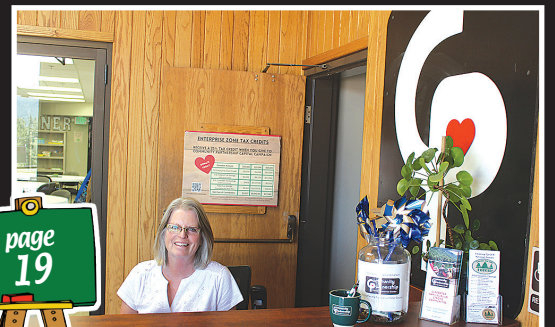
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Jeff saw a shadow out of the corner of his eye, as he turned, he saw this bear in our tree last month. He grabbed his phone to capture the bear’s photo. The bear immediately skeddaddled away! Jeff then went to see if I was okay. “Of course, I’m okay, I’m in my greenhouse!” was my response. He showed me the photograph. What a great reminder to be bear aware! The quote seemed fitting as this may be the same bear that ate every strawberry in the greenhouse about three years ago. It is important to remember, he’s just a bear and is seeking food; a message to attend to as bears enter hyperphagia to prepare for hibernation.

You might enjoy the “Human-Bear Conflict Resolution” article and the links to CPW that give even more information. We also have another installment of *Current Creek Characters – part XXVII* for those interested in the history of the area. If you are interested in helping those of ill health in our community, check out “Blood donors needed in Southern Colorado.” We are getting lots of comments and additional random acts of kindness in our “Monkey See, Monkey Do — You can kindle kindness, too” series. Feel free to share your experience with random acts of kindness, and kindness just might become more frequent in our communities!

If you enjoy connecting with people and are seeking an additional income in such a way that you can work as much as you want, consider becoming a sales representative for *Ute Country News*, as we continue our search for a sales rep for the Woodland Park area. Stop in at Shipping Plus Mon-Fri 9-5:30 p.m. or email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

We’d love to feature photos of your favorite in/outdoor pets in our Critter Corner! You may email them to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com, bring them into Shipping Plus Monday through Friday, 9-5:30 p.m., or snail mail to Ute Country News 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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A Look Inside the Artist Beki Javernick, batik artist

by Mary Shell

Evidence of early examples of batik have been found in the Far East, Middle East, Central Asia, and India from over 2,000 years ago, and this process is as popular now as it was then. In Egypt, linen grave cloths from the 4th century BC have been excavated which show white patterns on an indigo blue background, possibly made by scratching designs into wax.

Indonesia, most particularly the island of Java, is where batik has reached its peak. Here, Chinese, Arab, Indian, and European traders bought and sold textiles and batik is first specifically mentioned on a cargo bill in the mid-17th century. It made its way to West Africa, where it began a life and a tradition of its own, one which continues to this day as “wax print.” From the 1960s to present, batik has been used for T-shirts and clothing. I guess it will be around for a long time.

I previously interviewed Beki as a potter some time ago. I was surprised to see she was giving classes in batik on Facebook, so I had to find out what she saw in it.

When did you get involved in batik?

Started doing batik in the late 90’s. I was making batik tie dye hybrid shirts.

What is it that you like about dying fabric?

Batik opened a whole new fabric/dye relationship for me. I love using powder dyes and getting really bold dark colors or liquifying them and using it more like paint. With the use of the wax, I can create space where the dyes won’t mix. It’s a fun surprise to wash the wax out to see the full resist effect.

Can you control your design or is it always random?

Batik is created using a tjanting tool. It’s a little pen looking gadget with a scoop at the bottom and different size “tubes” that the wax comes out like a free-flowing pen. There is a surprising amount of control with the wax to create intricate designs. Designs can also be layered by creating (wax then dye), washing the wax out and repeating the process.

Textiles are so different from work-

Way to go Sawyer Blizzard!

by Steven Wade Veath and Kathy Hansen

We printed “Theiophytalia kerri: A Garden of the Gods Dinosaur” written by Sawyer Blizzard in our January 2023 issue of *Ute Country News*. We understand Sawyer was 16 years old when he wrote this. This same article

A student is holding a piece of batik art (above).
Beki Javernick (left)

What else are you doing with textile art?

I also do printmaking on fabric with plants, which is a really fun outlet also!

What’s in the future for you?

My hopes are to go to Bali in 2024 to take some batik classes and learn from the real masters!

Contact Beki at Driftwood & Clay Studio, 719-371-3241 or www.Driftwood-clay.com

Are you and local artist and would like to be interviewed please contact Mary Shell at creatingfromthesoul@yahoo.com or www.MaryShellArt.com

ing in clay, which is your primary art outlet?

I’ve always loved both Clay and textile! Clay is a little more difficult to manage with a retail shop, so fabric is the way to go.

won first place in a writing contest in the Rocky Mountains (13 states were represented) and on August 6, 2023 it won first place in a national writing award from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies!

Way to go, Sawyer Blizzard! We hope this is the first of many more to come. Please keep up the excellent writing skills, scientific exploration and submitting your articles for publication.



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Growing Ideas Walking the labyrinth

by Karen Anderson "The Plant Lady"

"What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action."
— Mesiter Eckart

September greetings gardeners and friends. One of the projects that has been on my bucket list in the gardens for quite a while now is creating a labyrinth. I have walked a few in my time and the experience has always been one of peace and calmness. So, this month, as we journey toward the finale of our 2023 garden-

present and in the moment. Perhaps raise your arms up to Father Sky and be open to grace. Feel your feet firmly grounded to The Earth Mother. Express gratitude for your blessings. Perhaps there is a round and flat topped tree stump at the center as well, which may be considered as an altar where objects that are of importance to you could be placed, such as some special crystals or anything meaningful for the purpose of symbolic cleansing of any negative energies and the renewal of more good stuff.



A labyrinth can be as simple as placing stones in a pattern.

ing season, I would like to share with you some interesting information about the benefits of walking a labyrinth.

Labyrinths are ancient patterns traditionally in circuitous formations and are found all over the world and the spiritual applications are varied. The origins are mysterious and I will not even try to elaborate on the history of them at this time. Basically, a labyrinth is a continuous singular path in a circular design usually framed with rocks to lead you to the center. There is one way in and one way out of this Sacred Path. Of course, if you feel you need to step out of the labyrinth at any time for any reason, you are free to do so. The purpose of walking a labyrinth is to quiet the all too busy and sometimes very loud mind, to open our hearts, to focus on a grounding experience and to exercise self-healing.

At the entrance of a labyrinth, you may want to set an intention, let go of any expectations and/or ask a Higher Consciousness for guidance on your Earth Walk. You may wish to walk slowly or swiftly. Find your own pace. This is a time for silent meditation or prayer as you wind yourself through the designated circular path leading toward the center. Breathe. Be observant of what is around you. Listen to the sounds of nature. Be mindful as you walk. This practice is a pilgrimage of sorts and you may be enlightened by new and positive thoughts or creative ideas.

When you reach the center of the labyrinth, it is a good time to be totally

Stay as long as you like while contemplating well-being, renewal and serenity.

When you feel it is time to journey out of the labyrinth, you may wish to integrate and process your experience and if you have discovered any insights that may be helpful to you, ponder on how to implement them into your life for the greater good.

If you are interested in creating your own labyrinth, as I am, start gathering some rocks to line the circled paths. It can be as big or as small as your spaces allow. The first labyrinth I experienced was extremely inspirational as many of the rocks were painted with artful designs and some were dedicated to the memory of loved ones who had passed away, which really touched my heart, brought me closer to the Creator and reminded me of how precious the gift of life is and to cherish each and every day with love and gratitude.

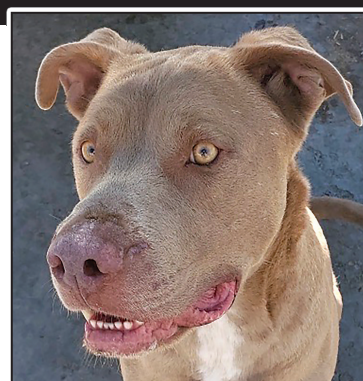
As always, if you have any inquiries regarding the plant world, you may reach me at 719-748-3521 or email plantlady-speaks@gmail.com. Happy Houseplants, Blessing Beads, my Heritage Seed Collection and other goodies are available throughout the year at The Outpost Feed Store in Florissant, Shipping Plus and Nature Mama's in Divide as well as at Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park. You may also contact me directly for more options. Gift Certificates may be purchased for any amount for anything that I have to offer. Until next time, may peace be with you and happy gardening.

Adopt Me by SLV Animal Welfare Society

Questa

Here is Questa, a 2-year-old happy dog. He is a special needs, neutered mixed breed. He chases his metal food dish around during the day. He is high energy despite not having any hip sockets. He likes to run and walk for half an hour. After that he needs a rest. Questa weighs about 70 pounds. We hold adoption fairs 11-3:30 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.



FloCo Gallery and Gifts Where art, community and creativity flourish

by Tom Davis

Established in February of 2011, Stitchshop Clothing originally focused on providing print services to the community, offering an array of customized products including t-shirts, stickers, banners, and embroidered apparel. Over the years, the business quickly gained a reputation for quality craftsmanship and exceptional customer service. However, like many others, Stitchshop Clothing faced challenges brought on by the pandemic. In the face of adversity, the FloCo team embraced change and saw an opportunity to pivot their business model. The decision to shift towards retail was not only a survival strategy but a bold move that breathed new life into the establishment. The team's passion for creativity and community remained unwavering, and this transition marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

As the retail concept took shape, FloCo Gallery and Gifts emerged in October of 2022 as a fitting new identity. This rebranding reflected the business's expanded focus on retail offerings and its commitment to promoting local artisans. The addition of an art gallery space within the store was a defining feature, serving as a platform for both established and emerging artists to showcase their work. "We wanted to create a space that not only offered unique and carefully curated items but also celebrated the rich artistic talent within our community," shared Tom Davis, co-owner behind FloCo Gallery and Gifts. "Our goal was to build a haven where art, culture, and commerce intersected, fostering a sense of belonging and inspiration for everyone who walks through our doors."

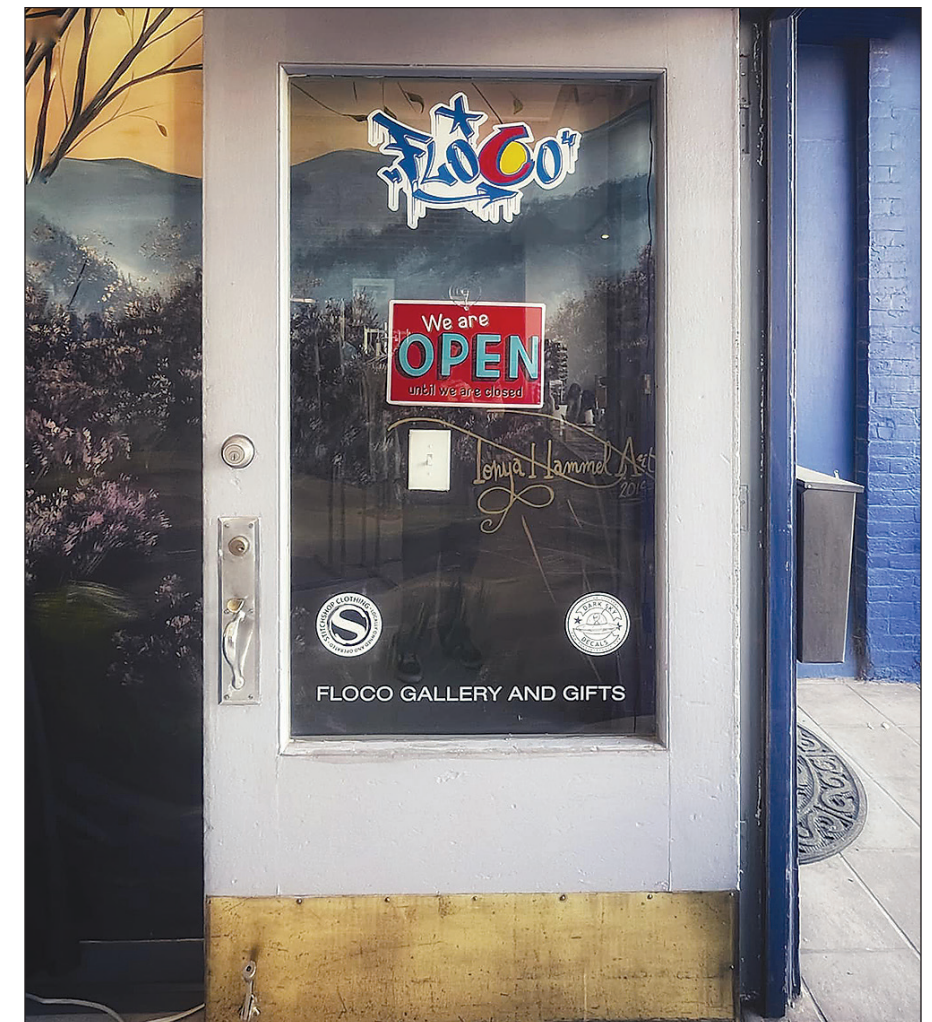
True to their mission, FloCo Gallery and Gifts has become a bastion of community engagement and creative expression.

The shop proudly supports local artisans and vendors, offering an eclectic array of handcrafted goods that capture the essence of Florence and its vibrant artistic scene. From hand-painted artwork to intricately designed jewelry, every item tells a story and reflects the passion of its creator.

One of the hallmarks of FloCo's engagement with the community is its monthly art shows, where local artists are given the spotlight to showcase their work. These events serve as an opportunity for residents and visitors alike to connect with artists, learn about their creative process, and immerse themselves in the artistic energy that defines FloCo Gallery and Gifts. Adding to the festivities, live musical performances by local musicians are a regular feature of these art shows, infusing the space with melodies that complement the visual art on display. This harmonious blend of visual and auditory artistry creates an atmosphere that is both dynamic and inviting, inviting patrons to linger and explore.

Beyond its role as an artistic haven, FloCo Gallery and Gifts is deeply ingrained in the fabric of the community. The business is an active member of the Florence Merchants' Association and plays a pivotal role in organizing the beloved second Saturday events that grace downtown Florence every month. These events draw residents and visitors to the historic streets, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared experience that is synonymous with small-town charm.

In a world where the intersection of commerce and creativity is crucial, FloCo Gallery and Gifts stands as a shining example of what's possible when a business dares to reimagine its purpose. An enduring reminder that even in challenging



Welcome to FloCo Gallery and Gifts. photo from facebook page.

ing times, the spark of creativity can illuminate the path forward.

FMI visit FloCo Gallery and Gifts at 120 E Main St, Florence, CO.

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Gold Camp Victorian Society restorations at Mt. Pisgah Cemetery

by Kathi Pilcher

Pictured is Rob Johnson, charter member of the Gold Camp Victorian Society. The 501c3 non-profit did restoration work at Cripple Creek's Mt. Pisgah Cemetery. The club has worked with the city for the past 23 years in order to present "Mt. Pisgah Speaks," reenactment event. This is one of many activities the group presents all year long.

Rob is pictured restoring a grave in what the group calls "the children's section." The work was a club historic preservation project. Keeping within guidelines included using "white wash" instead of paint, work was done cleaning, weeding, replacing some wood, and "facelift" to many gravesites. The group coordinated with the City of Cripple Creek Historic Preservation office and the cemetery grounds-keeper. The grounds are in their natural state of grasses and wildflowers, but mowing, grave repair, and some road repair is done by the city. The area view and fall colors are always commented on.

The organization is planning their 23rd year of this guided cemetery walk. Reenactors will portray the famous, and the citizens who made up the World's Greatest Gold Camp!

The event is September 16 and 17. Tours leaves from Cripple Creek District Museum, 510 Bennett Avenue, every 30



minutes. Saturday the 16 the first group leaves at 9:30 a.m. and the last at 1:30 p.m.; Sunday the 17 the first departs at 10 a.m. and the last at 12:30 p.m. (Allow approximately two hours for reenactment and refreshments). Donation is \$15 adult and \$8 children under 12. For advanced reservations go to: www.goldcampvictoriansociety.org. Tickets will also be available on the days of the event at our tent, next to the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Free Bird Walk and Identification in Victor

by Ruth Zalewski

A free fall bird walk by Better Bird-watching with wildlife biologist Joe LaFleur will be held Saturday, Sept. 2 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Meet at the new American Eagles' upper parking lot for a bird walk on the Grouse Mountain trails. Access to the area is just west of Victor; from Victor drive west on Highway 67 and turn left on the American Eagles Access Road just before the Arequa Gulch Bridge. Follow the access road to the upper parking lot.

Binoculars are suggested and the event is open to ages 5 and up. Dress for moun-

tain weather and hiking on rough terrain. Following the walk, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. LaFleur will present a free program at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum, 298 Victor Ave. Learn to identify local birds in this audiovisual presentation.

After the program, LaFleur will be at the museum signing his new Teller County bird guide book and answering questions about birds.

The walk is free but limited to 20 people — first come, first served. The presentation is free and limited to 30 people, first come, first served. FMI: 719-301-8801.

Adopt Me

by Ark Valley Humane Society

Tyson

Tyson is an adorable and goofy 5-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier mix. He is neutered, microchipped, and up to date on his vaccinations. Tyson has lived with both male and female dogs previously and has done great! We're confident that he will win you over with his goofy and lovable personality. Tyson has been staying in a wonderful foster home for almost a month now and they have nothing but great things to say about him. They even strongly considered adopting him because of how good he is! Tyson has been in our care for almost 57 days. We have no idea why this amazing pup hasn't been scooped up yet. If you're looking for a friendly, snuggly and loving dog, please consider adopting Tyson! You can visit him at the shelter 701 Gregg Drive in Buena Vista, we're open from 12-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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



Pharmgirl Mountain amore

by Peggy Badgett

Thunder rumbled loudly as my tired legs protested the deceptively false flat ribbon of highway. There was no way I was going to outrun the storm; the switchbacks were never ending. I could barely see the road ahead as it snaked upwards, cutting along the mountainside on the final climb. A mere five miles remained on our ride up and down both sides of Independence Pass. They were definitely the longest. My shoulders ached, and my neck was stiff from being in one position too long. The slow drizzle we had been riding through changed to a steady pounding rain. A minute later, little hail pellets pinged off my helmet and stung my skin through my windbreaker. Lightning streaked across the clouds. Surrender to the elements appeared to be the wise choice; I didn't want Mother Nature cremating me before I was ready. I signaled to my riding buddy Steve, I was stopping.

Dodging the frozen rain as best we could, we stashed our bikes in a small grove of pines above a historical mining camp and ran for cover. A big lightning bolt flashed to our right and made me jump. Steve chose a cabin; I opted for an open outhouse because it was closer. Hail stones pounded the roof as I huddled on thin plywood covering the one seater and shivered in my wet clothes. At least it didn't smell ripe. The small structure appeared safe, as long as I didn't think about the tall spruces nearby that could topple over and crush the ancient wood at any minute. But when I glanced outside, I grinned. The view from my throne showcased a beautiful valley; that miner had chosen well.

Chewing on a dry granola bar, I pondered how quickly life had changed after my move back to Colorado this winter. The mysterious pericarditis that stopped me in my tracks last summer has faded, and I am extremely grateful to experience the athletic endeavors I love once more. After that brush with mortality, I'm doing my best to stop focusing on going faster, and instead immerse myself in the softness of pine needle carpets beneath my hiking boots, shimmering ripples of water around my paddle board, and the warm sun on my face as I pull thousands of tumble weed babies from the parched soil that is my land (yeah, that wasn't one of my favorite work outs, but it is pretty good for my flexibility). I'm once again frolicking on new gravel roads, mountain



Peggy and Steve celebrate conquering Independence Pass (above). Peggy considers jumping after riding too many switchbacks (below).



biking single track, hiking fourteeners, and venturing up mountain passes on my bright red road bike. I'm definitely exhausted after these outings, but I don't mind. I can go right back to sleep even after mournful coyote songs propel me out the front door of my little cabin to admire the brilliant stars and milky way studded in our dark night skies. I am content.

Just as I finished my snack, the rain slowed and blue sky peeked through the clouds. Temperamental weather was just an accepted hazard in the Rockies; any kind of condition could pop up during these summer adventures. It always gave us something to laugh about after we were done. I breathed in the fresh scent of wet sage and pine, and gathered up my gear as Steve appeared. The dark thunderheads disappeared

over the next ridge; it was time to go. Steam rose from the pavement as we mounted our bikes and began the long steady climb to the top of the pass. Steve was at least a half mile in front of me, but I didn't care. I was alone with my high altitude amore, admiring purple wildflowers poking through the rocks and pika warning calls. It might sound crazy, my need to conquer these mountain challenges. I simply love the jagged peaks for their lessons in humility, thankfulness and grace. As the road rises up, and my breathing becomes labored and ragged, I'm joyful that my heart agrees.

Peggy Badgett is a freelance writer/adventurer and can be reached at pharmgirl3168@gmail.com.

2023 Midland Days Symposium A Mountain of Memories

by David Martinek

"Oh, there's gold in those mountains!" The history of the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining District repeats that phrase over and over. There are "Mountains of Memories" associated with the World Greatest Gold Camp and the railroads that supported it were an integral part of that history.

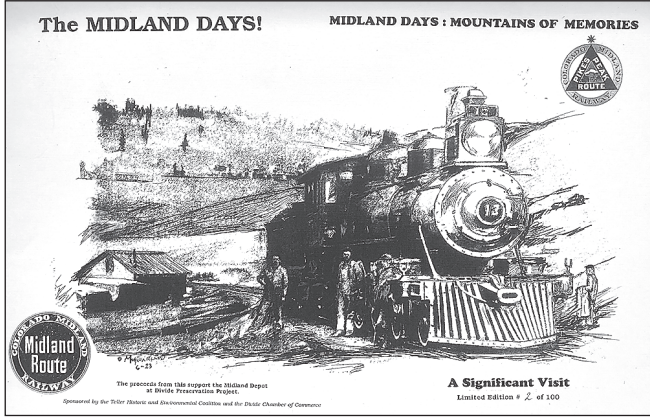
The focus of the 2023 Midland Days Symposium is to re-discover some of those memories. Scheduled for Saturday, September 9, at the historic John Wesley Ranch south of Divide, day-long presentations will attempt to ask and answer some of the defining questions about the gold district in Teller County and the railroads that helped to ignite one of the region's most famous landscapes. How did mills and samplers work? Why was the Carlton mill built in Victor? Who was the "King of Cripple Creek?" Did railroads have chapel cars?

"We're just scratching the surface of all the memories that flow toward us from the past about the search for gold in Cripple Creek and Victor," said Dave Martinek, President of Midland Days at Divide, Inc.,

the presenters of the Midland Days symposiums for the last 13 years.

In March of 2010, Dave Martinek and local historian Mel McFarland held the first Midland Days symposium at the John Wesley Ranch. "We barely had 25 people in attendance and that included the presenters and volunteers," recalled Martinek. "Our purpose was to shed some light on the history of the Midland railroads that helped settle our part of Colorado and create another source of funding to support the renovation of the Midland Depot in Divide."


Since that cold spring Saturday, a lot has happened to continue the symposiums to the present day (13 Annual events, not counting the Covid year of 2020). Some of the initial small group of presenters later joined forces with others to incorporate a non-profit in 2013, named Mid-



Mel McFarland's latest drawing for the symposium entitled "A Significant Visit."


land Days at Divide, Inc. and eventually become owners of the Midland depot. Midland Days now supports the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition's ongoing project to restore the Midland Depot in Divide and create an interpretive center for railroad, mining and ranching history in the area.

Attendance at the symposium is by reservation. Folks interested in attending should contact Midland Days prior to Monday, September 4, 2023, to reserve a seat (contact: Midlanddays@yahoo.com).




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GED Orientation: September 6 & 11; 5:00-7:00pm

Peer Support Group for Fathers: September 12; 5:30-7:30pm

Positive Parenting Workshop: Starts September 12; 5:15-7:45pm

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Career Advance Colorado

by Matt Radcliffe

Pikes Peak State College announces its rollout of Career Advance Colorado for fall 2023. Career Advance Colorado is a groundbreaking statewide initiative that provides zero-cost training for in-demand jobs in Colorado. Qualifying programs will be offered to students at zero cost, with tuition, fees, and course materials fully covered while funding is available. The Colorado Community College system has allocated \$5.3 million for Pikes Peak State College to provide to eligible students.

Beginning this fall, students enrolled in selected certificate programs at Pikes Peak will benefit from the generous funding provided by Career Advance Colorado. These programs have been carefully selected based on the community's work-force needs and include Early Childhood Education, the Pikes Peak Regional Law Enforcement Academy, Fire Science Programs, and Building and Construction.

The specific certificates available for zero-cost enrollment under this initiative include:

Early Childhood Education:

- Early Childhood Education Director
- Early Childhood Education Teacher
- Early Childhood Education Assistant Teacher
- Early Childhood Education Basic Skills
- Infant Toddler

Pikes Peak Regional Law Enforcement Academy:

- PPRLEA Certificate

Fire Science:

- Basic Firefighter Certificate

Nursing:

- Nursing Assistant

Building & Construction:

- Electrical Fundamentals
- Electrical Advanced Applications
- Carpentry Fundamentals
- Carpentry Advanced Applications

Career Advance Colorado's funding will support students in these programs for up to two years, with some certi-



cates able to be completed within a single semester. Students are required to apply for federal and/or state financial aid to be eligible for this support. Career Advance Colorado will cover any remaining costs after financial aid has been applied.

The implications of this innovative collaboration extend far beyond individual career advancement. Through Career Advance Colorado, Pikes Peak State College anticipates enriching the community with more peace officers, firefighters, early childhood educators, and skilled craftsmen. These efforts directly align with broader state objectives, including the Governor's promise of free Pre-K for all families in Colorado.

This initiative is enabled by House Bill 23-1246, which dedicates \$38.6 million to the state's community and technical colleges. The allocation for Pikes Peak State College is \$5.3 million.

For more information about the zero-cost programs offered through Career Advance Colorado, visit pikespeak.edu/career-advance.

About Pikes Peak State College:

Established in 1968 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, Pikes Peak State College offers associate degrees, certifications in career and technical fields and three bachelors' degrees. With three campuses, various off-campus locations, two military education centers, and hundreds of online classes, PPSC provides access to a quality, affordable and flexible education to more than 18,000 students annually with both credit and non-credit classes.

Thank you!

by John C. Fremont Library District

The John C. Fremont Library would like to thank all our wonderful supporters of the 2023 Summer Reading Program, *All Together Now*: City of Florence Pool, Royal Gorge Bridge, Royal Gorge Dinosaur Experience, Friends of the John C. Fremont Library, Florence Brewing Company, Florence Family Dentistry, Florence Rotary, Florence Consignment Corner, Dairy Queen, SunWest Credit Union and IHOP Family Dining in Cañon City.

A very special thanks to Joanne Mohr and the Florence Farmers Market for such an hospitable venue for Story Time every Thursday in Pioneer Park. It was so wonderful to have Nature's Educators present their wildlife programs, too.

Congratulations to the Summer Reading Program Participants for all their efforts and many hours of reading. We are so grateful to our wonderful patrons and community supporters and we are looking forward to another great program in 2024.

Adopt Me

by TCRAS

Tulip

Well, hello! My name is Tulip and there isn't much known about my past. I was found running in the forest and when I was brought to TCRAS, no one came looking for me. I am a young girl, 1-year-old, German Shepherd mix, who wants to be in a home with a large fenced-in yard to run and play. I could also use some training so that I know how to be a good dog. I am very sweet and love to be around people, so if you would like to come into the shelter to meet me, please call TCRAS 719-686-7707. I so badly want to find a new family to spend the rest of my life with! TCRAS is located at 308 Weaverville Road in Divide.

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



Monkey See, Monkey Do

You can Kindle Kindness, too!

by Readers of Ute Country News

We continue this column to share random acts of kindness in our communities. Here are submissions for September:

■ A diner at a restaurant recognizes an employee from a performance at the local theater. She first confirms that he was playing the part she thought she recognized him from, he confirmed. She went on to give a raving review of the entire show, thanking him and the theater troupe for an amazing performance and encouraged him to engage in many more in the future. It is an act of kindness to be told you have done a good job!

■ Neighbors help a family pack up personal items after a member of the family passed away. Offering assistance at an emotionally fragile time is an act of kindness and compassion.

■ My friend stopped in to see me, just because she is concerned for my health and wanted to know how I am doing. This warmed my heart and put me in a good mood all day. Thank you for this act of kindness, making sure I am aware that she cares about me!

■ Three gentlemen immediately jump up to help a man and a woman attempting to lift a 200 pound crate into a building. The woman buys them each a beer in gratitude. Random acts of kindness and reciprocity create a positive atmosphere. Everyone should try it!

■ During a day that I was attempting to bring myself into a better mood, a customer came in and told me how I

make the process easy for her. That sincere expression of gratitude moved the mood meter into the positive for the rest of the day! Compliments are acts of kindness that make for a better day.

■ A customer asks if they can provide a 5-star rating and shares how it is her goal each day to put more positive vibes into the world than negative. It is so cool when kindred spirits share appreciation and the intention to put more good vibes into the world each day. Intentionally putting good vibes out into the world elevates us as a species!

■ See how kindness spreads: A customer gives a gift of Lindt Chocolate Truffles to a business owner, who then shares the Lindt Chocolate Truffles with co-workers and vendors. Everyone's day is a little brighter, especially with the endorphins incited by the chocolate. In this case, kindness feels and tastes good!

■ A customer expresses appreciation for our business by giving a heart-warming compliment and a tip. The feedback lets us know what we're doing right so we can keep up the good work and the donation is a plus. Both lifted our spirits and kept the mood positive.



"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

- Aesop

■ Your comment touches my heart and last week at the troll festival an artist I admire gave me some free art! I really wish that everyone could realize that you do attract more bees with flowers/honey. Or however the saying goes... It is greatly appreciated...and contagious!

■ It was raining. A patron at a local pub retrieved the vehicle of a gentleman who was having difficulty walking and drove it to right outside the pub's curb for the gentleman to easily get into his vehicle. Driving a vehicle closer for someone having difficulty walking is an act of kindness and compassion, especially in the rain!

■ Two guests at a private dinner offer to

help the host/hostess by clearing the table and rinsing dishes for the dishwasher. Helping to clean up after a dinner party is an act of kindness.

■ A member of a church drives another member to the entrance that is the shortest distance for the other member to walk, given the other member is hooked up to oxygen. Saving steps for someone who can easily become short of breath is an act of kindness and compassion.

■ Awe! A customer took time to complement our work. Being told we are wonderful and a treasure in our little town warms our hearts. Compliments are an act of kindness that motivates us to keep our standards high.

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Obituary

Vickie Garrick (Easterling)



Vickie Garrick (Easterling) was born on December 7, 1947, in Oakland, California, and raised in Aurora, Colorado. She passed away peacefully in her Woodland Park home on August 7, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and resilience.

Vickie's passion for education led her to Colorado College, where she nurtured her love for learning. She went on to impact countless lives during her tenure at Woodland Park School District, inspiring students to reach their potential.

On October 3, 1998, Vickie married her soulmate, Delbert Garrick, embarking on a journey filled with love and shared dreams. Together, they faced life's challenges with unwavering strength and found joy in each other's company.

Vickie's life was a testament to courage as she bravely battled through health issues. Her determination and spirit inspired all who knew her.

Vickie is survived by her loving husband Delbert and a host of family and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

Vickie Garrick's legacy will continue to shine in the hearts of those she touched. May she rest in peace.

Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Grants

by Joey Livingston

Governor Polis and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced August 22, 2023, the funding recipients of the Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant. This grant program provides funding for local communities, municipalities, businesses and non-profit organizations working to create innovative ways to reduce human-bear conflict and keep communities safe.

"Colorado is home to iconic wildlife, including black bears, and as our state grows, we must take action to protect the native wildlife and their habitats," said Governor Polis. "Bear damage can be expensive for communities and homeowners to repair. Because of this, we must continue to support local strategies that prevent conflicts before they happen to save people money and keep communities safe. I am thrilled to announce the 14 recipients of this funding, and I look forward to how your projects will help your communities, the state, and our bears stay safe!"

In 2021, Governor Polis signed a bipartisan law HB 21-1326 sponsored by Rep. Barbara McLachlan, Rep. Perry Will and Senator Tammy Story which directed CPW to distribute funding to local communities to help reduce human-bear conflicts and support native species conservation. The Human-Bear Conflict Reduction Community Grant was created to accomplish this and to support local initiatives working to prevent bear conflicts.

Last summer, Governor Polis and CPW announced the first recipients of the grant program and distributed \$997,138 to support the selected projects. Following last year's success, CPW extended the program and provided long-term sustainable funding to continue to support efforts that reduce human-bear conflicts.

This spring, CPW offered up to \$1 million, distributed through a competitive



grant process, in order to support more projects that prevent conflicts with bears in local communities. A total of 20 applications for this year's grant funding were received with applicants applying from all four regions of Colorado. (Below is the project relevant to our coverage area.)

Manitou Springs - Bear Can Community Giving Project

\$18,000 awarded — Manitou Springs is a vibrant mountain town nestled at the foot of Pikes Peak. People love living in Manitou Springs for the natural beauty of Pike National Forest that nearly surrounds the town. However, that close proximity to the outdoors and the wildlife residents, means that humans must responsibly manage trash and other wildlife attractants. The Manitou Springs Wildlife Protection ordinance currently requires all residents and business owners to have a bear-resistant container for trash, but the majority of Manitou homeowners do not own one and bear-resistant trash cans can be cost-prohibitive.

Many residents may not know about the code requirements or the immediate risk of leaving trash exposed to wildlife. Grant funding will be used to help purchase and distribute bear-resistant trash cans to residents and businesses and to assist with robust community education and outreach efforts around coexisting safely with bears. Providing effective ways for residents to secure trash is a small but crucial step in reducing conflicts that residents and visitors have with black bears.

Become Bear Aware: CPW offers printable resources and encourages you to share these materials and talk to your neighbors about being Bear Aware. CPW asks all residents and visitors to help save Colorado's bears by being actively bear aware throughout the year. Bear conflicts and bear euthanization is most often traced back to human behavior. It is all of our responsibility to help minimize risks to humans and bears alike by being mindful of our impacts. CPW manages bear populations in the state following the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

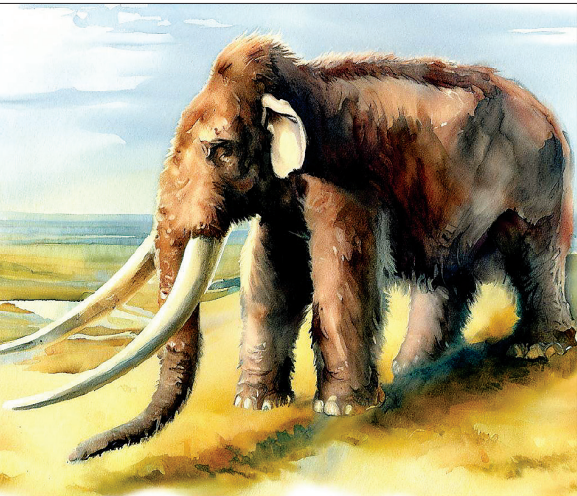
FMI on bears in Colorado or the full list of recipients visit cpw.state.co.us/bears.

Mammoth

by Steven Wade Veatch

*I found a rock at the mammoth's grave.
Inside only hidden fossils remain—
pollen grains and mossy spores
that once floated on an Ice Age breeze.*

*Now these tiny remnants yield
the deepest glimpse
of a world before we came
and warn of a future we must face
as the forests change, species die,
and life recedes.*



An Ice Age mammoth. The author created this AI image with the assistance of DALL-E and MS Bing. The poem is based on the mammoth and fossil Ice Age pollen discovered at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Steven Wade Veatch discovered the pollen.

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Pookie taking a break from play
- Kathy Hansen, Divide, CO



Merrill thinks that's a great idea!
- Jeff Hansen, Divide, CO

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Art was a good kid, but he was a quiet kid and spent a lot of time playing video games. He spent all his allowance on the games. If he wasn't at school or with his friends at the club, he was home playing one of the games. They had changed a lot since he first started playing them, they were much more violent, and the language had gotten pretty bad. But he still had an awful lot of fun playing the games.

Art was wondering what might happen if he were to actually be in the game and not be controlled by someone. He had seen what happened with the others when they had touched the Travel Diamond and had heard their stories. He had seen them vanish and then reappear, then tell what had happened to them while they were gone. Art wanted to do it! He wanted to touch the diamond and have a real adventure in a video game.

The boys were at the club house playing Monopoly, when Art asked Charlie if he could touch the diamond.

Charlie smiled and said, "Sure, Art. You know the rules. Where are you thinking of going?"

Art looked down at the table and all the game pieces and then said, "I want to be a part of a video game. I want to actually be in the game with the other characters and see if I can win the game that way. I'm pretty good at the games now, and I have gotten to the highest levels of them all. But I want to actually be in the game and fight with a sword or spear. I'd like to ride the horses and fight the monsters. I want to save the princess myself, not direct the knight to save her. I want to do it!"

Bill grinned as did Charlie, Jimmie and Walt. It was the first time they had heard Art speak up about something for himself. He was always there for them or if they did something for someone else.

"Go for it, Art!" shouted Bill as he pounded on Art's back.

"Yeah!" said Charlie as he grinned at Art.

The others all encouraged Art to go for his adventure as Charlie hurried over to

the cabinet and took out the small wooden box that held the Travel Diamond. Charlie placed the box down on the table in front of Art and opened the lid.

"Now, Art," Charlie said, "Think of the game that you want to win and where you want to appear in the game. Remember the rules, then touch the diamond."

Art closed his eyes for a moment to think of the game he wanted to win himself and the character he wanted to be. Then he smiled at the other boys and took a deep breath, then touched the diamond.

Art found himself on a powerful black charger and he was dressed in shining armor. He had a long two-edged sword strapped to his waist and a long sharp lance in his right hand. He was in a large field surrounded by trees on all sides but one. Facing him at the one empty side was a dragon of immense size. Behind the dragon and tied to an iron rod that had been pounded into the ground was a beautiful young princess.

"Save me, Sir Art!" cried the princess, "Save me from being eaten by the dragon."

Art looked at the dragon. It stood larger than he and his charger. It had a look on its reptilian face that said that it could not be defeated by anything. The dragon roared and flame poured from its fanged mouth that burned the green grass that grew in the field.

"Yield the princess, evil dragon and live for another day, or face me now and die!" cried out Art the handsome knight.

"I shall not be the one to die today, little human," returned the dragon as flame rolled around its long white fangs. "Come and try to take my next meal from me and we shall see who dies today."

The dragon flapped its powerful wings and took to the air as Art spurred his charger and lowered his lance as he started his charge toward the dragon.

The dragon rose too high for the lance to do its work. Art charged under the flying creature and quickly turned around to face the dragon again. The dragon was higher in the air when it turned to face Art

again. It started down with flame flowing from its terrible mouth. Art knew that he could not strike the flaming creature as he was, so he threw his lance with all his strength and struck the dragon in the chest as it flew over him.

The dragon sucked in all the flame with which it had intended to kill the knight as the lance struck its chest. Back up into the sky the dragon flew as it pulled at the lance to remove it from its body. The lance broke off at the scales of the dragon's chest and the creature screamed in pain as it turned to continue the battle.

Art pulled out his sharp two-edged sword as he pulled his charger to a halt to wait for the dragon's next move.

The dragon stumbled as it landed, blood flowing from the wound the lance had made in its chest.

The dragon forced a bit of smoke from its fang lined mouth, then spoke in its gruff painfilled voice, "You have injured me, human, and your lance has taken my flame. But I am still more powerful than you and your horse. My jaws will tear you to shreds, even in your shiny metal suit. Come to me and feel the power of a dragon's jaws."

The dragon gave a flameless roar as he charged forward toward Art and his black charger.

Art raised his sword as the horse charged toward the dragon. At the last moment the charger swerved to one side and Art swung his sword to slice the dragon under the right wing from the neck to the tail.

The dragon screamed the most horrible scream ever heard as it tumbled to the ground and tried to turn around to attack Art again.

Art had already turned and was slicing off the right wing near the root as he ran the charger past the dragon again. Another scream and the dragon fell to the ground and hopped feebly in the tall grass.

"End my pain, human," it said weakly, "You have won."

Art was at the side of the dragon when it had spoken its last. He raised his blade

and with one swing removed the dragon's head.

"You have defeated the dragon!" cried out the princess, "How wonderful you are. Now free me and all I possess is yours."

Art rode over to the princess and cut the ropes that tied her to the iron rod. Then he pulled her up behind him on the horse and they rode off to a castle that was on a hill behind the woods that surrounded the field.

There was a celebration held that night in Art's honor and he was given half of the king's kingdom and the princess as his bride.

It was the next day that Art was presented with his next challenge as he and his princess were eating breakfast. She told him of a great hoard of gold that was hidden in a mountain that was a dormant volcano. If he could find the gold it would make her father, the richest king ever.

The treasure had been collected by pirates over many years and was in a tunnel deep in the side of the mountain according to a partial map that the king had. But the map didn't show just where the tunnel was on the mountain. When the map was given to Art, he studied it as he rode toward the mountain. He saw the landmarks that were on the map and rode toward the landmarks. It wasn't long before Art saw the partly covered hole in the mountain and pushed the branches aside and looked inside.

The darkness was deep and there was a strange sort of roaring noise that he could hear coming from the hole. With a torch that he made he started walking down into the tunnel. The ground was rough and covered with stones. It shook some as he walked, the stones would roll down the tunnel to collect along the walls.

Down and down, he walked into the tunnel with his sword drawn ready for anything. The warm air started to flow up and out of the tunnel the further down the tunnel he walked. The torch flickered and blew as he walked. Soon, he had to put the sword away so he could cover the torch with his hand to keep it from blow-

ing out. The noise grew louder and the air warmer the further down he walked until he came to a side opening. He had found the gold.

There in the pile of gold and other treasure was a small wooden box that looked familiar to him. He went to pick up the box as, suddenly, the whole tunnel started to shake violently the rocks and dirt fell everywhere.

"Got to go!" he said as he grabbed the box and started for the tunnel to escape the cave.

As he ran and looked behind him, he saw a bright red glow that changed its shape as it grew larger. It was the start of the eruption of an awakening volcano.

Art broke into a run toward the opening of the tunnel. The many rocks that covered the floor of the tunnel were no help as he stumbled and bumped against the walls of the tunnel. Three times he fell and had to pick up the torch. Art looked around once more as the sound of the flowing volcano lava rushed up the tunnel toward the opening. The heat and the rushing hot air were almost overwhelming as he approached the opening of the tunnel.

That was when he slipped, once more, on a round stone and fell, dropping the torch and the wooden box. He didn't need the torch anymore, for he could see the tunnel opening, but he wanted the wooden box.

The box had broken open, he could see the Travel Diamond laying in the bottom, it had fallen out of the silver circle held by the golden wires.

As he lay on the floor of the tunnel Art looked quickly behind him and saw the red flowing lava was only a few yards away and moving rapidly toward him.

"No time," he shouted, "No time!" as he touched the diamond and vanished as the molten lava flowed over where he had been lying in the tunnel, then shot with great force out of the opening as a spray of burning stone.

Art suddenly found himself lying on the floor of the clubhouse with the other

members looking down at him with wonder on their faces.

"Wow, Art!" said Jimmy, "It looks like you were having a really good time. How come you're covered in dirt?"

Then the other questions started as Art got up and sat on his chair trying to explain everything that had happened to him.

Three sodas and PBJ sandwich later, Bill started looking around the clubhouse and then asked,

"Hey, guys, do you see the box with the diamond anywhere?"

The boys looked everywhere and never found the Travel Diamond again.

That night, as Art sat on his bed playing the video game that he had chosen to go to with the Travel Diamond, he followed, as closely as he could, what he had done while there in the game. At last, he got to the part where he was looking for the gold in the tunnel and the volcano erupted.

He used his controller and rushed his character up the tunnel. He watched as the figure ran, carrying the torch and the wood box containing the Travel Diamond. He saw the figure fall for the last time as the lava rushed up to it. He moved the control to get the figure out of the tunnel and did it, just as the lava flowed over the fallen torch and the wooden box.

There was a bright flash of light, and the game went black.

Art tried and tried but couldn't get the game to start again.

Art knew what had happened to the game. The magic of the Travel Diamond being destroyed by the lava had burned out the game.

"Oh well," Art said to himself, "It wasn't that good of a game anyway."

He threw it away.

The End

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.

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Currant Creek Characters - part XXVI
Whisler and Scott - part XXVII

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher



The old shed-like structures on the far right are most likely the remains of the structures on the Soda Springs Ranch owned by Sikka Scott. The white building on the left could also be Scott's second generation house.

Continuing down Currant Creek, the next early homesteader was John T. Whisler, often spelled Whistler or Wisler. Not a lot is known about Whisler. Whisler's father, Samuel Whistler was born in Pennsylvania in May of 1811 and he died in Iowa in November 1876. Samuel married Elizabeth R. Pike (born in 1814) in Ohio on October 9, 1834, and they had six or seven children, all born in Ohio: Hugh 1836-1840; William Lancelot, Sr. 1838-1922; John T. 1842-1902; Mary W. or A. 1843-1918, maybe 1920; Matilda J. 1846-1918; William Lancelot 1846; and Robert M. 1848-1902. The 1856 Iowa census lists the family living in Edna, Iowa. Samuel is 45, Elizabeth is 42, John T. is 15; Mary A. is 13, Matilda is 11, William L. is 11 and Robert is 8. The 1860 U.S. census has John T. 19 years and a farm laborer living in Iowa with his sister Matilda 15 years and brother Robert 12 years. They are living with John Elms 30 years, a farm laborer and Olive Norman 23 years, also a farm laborer. By 1870 though, the US census lists John Whistler 28 years, single, a miner living in Park County Territory by himself; with family #126*. He was undoubtedly lured by the glitter of Colorado gold. In the meantime, Sikka A. Scott was born December 23, 1818, in Norway and Abraham "Abe" Collinson was born in 1812, also in Norway. The couple married either in Norway or the US, although there is no record of such. Records do show that Abe emigrated to the US in 1837, apparently with

Sikka, and they settled in Rhode Island. The couple had two children: Martha Sophia born in May of 1842 or 1843, and Olivia Matilda born February 2, 1847. Abe became naturalized in 1847. The 1850 census has the family living in RI where Abe 38 is a machinist, Sikka is 33, Martha is 7 and Olivia Matilda is 3. Living with them is Jens C. Thune 26, also a machinist. In 1851 or 1852, Sikka left Abe in RI and moved to Madison, Wisconsin. The 1860 census lists Sikka 42 living with Abraham Scott 33, who is a master jeweler. Scott was born in Norway in 1827. Also in the household are Martha S. Collinson 17, a teacher and Matilda Collinson 13. The records do not show whether Sikka married Scott or not, but the 1860 census shows Abe still living in RI. Abe is now 48 and a gas pipe fitter. He is living with John Land 36 who was born in Denmark, Mary Land 27 born in Massachusetts, and their son Albert J. five months old. In 1880 Abe is still in RI but divorced; he died there in 1882. In 1860 or 1861, Abraham and Sikka Scott left Wisconsin and crossed the plains by oxen wagon train with their two daughters to Denver, Colorado. The trip across the plains was quite a hardship and the group met several parties of hostile Indians and were once even threatened by massacre. The Scott's started a store in 1861 on Blake Street in Denver, then the heart of the business district. They sold dress goods on one side of the store and on the other side Abraham, who was a master

jeweler, designed and made jewelry from gold taken from the mines in Fairplay and Central City. Sometime around 1868, the Scott's came to the Cañon City area and purchased a ranch called the Soda Springs Ranch south-east of Guffey. This was presumably the 160 acre cash sale homestead dated 1885, which did include the soda springs outside of Guffey, in the name of Sikka A. Scott. The old 1879 survey map shows a house on that homestead property. Sometime around this time the Scott's also purchased seven acres of land in South Cañon between Prospect Street, now 4th Street, and the south end of 7th Street and constructed a house. The land remained in the family until sold around 1970. The 1870 census has the Scott's in Park County, family #90, close to John Whisler. Sikka is 50 and the spouse keeping house; Abe is 42 and is a jeweler; daughters Martha, now Scott, is 27 and keeping house and Matilda Scott is 23. Perhaps, Abraham Scott adopted both of Sikka's daughters from Abe Collinson. In 1870 or 1871, Martha Sophia 27 married Charles William Lowe and they moved eight miles southeast of Fairplay and have three children: Mary Matilda 1872-1925; Byron Augustus 1881-1965; and Harold "Harry" 1885-1953. Harry was born in Cañon City. Charles William Lowe was born in 1824 in Auburn, New York and came to Colorado in 1857 during the Pike's Peak gold rush. Lowe panned gold in the South Platte River and owned several mines in South Park. Like many miners, Lowe

spent the harsh South Park winters in Cañon City. Lowe homesteaded land near 9th and Macon Streets in Cañon City and built a house of stone quarried near the hogback. Mortar for the building was mixed in the Arkansas River and carried to the site. The September 15, 1860 *Cañon City Times* stated that "CW Lowe is erecting a stone building worth \$1500." In Territorial Days, Lowe was an internal revenue collector and later served as a Park County Commissioner and Sheriff. On January 25, 1875, Olivia Matilda, 28 of Currant Creek married William Henry Scott of Currant Creek in Fremont County; they were wed by John H. Merritt in Cañon City. Their son Oscar Scott was born in November 1875. There is no other record of William Henry, though by February 2, 1877, now Matilda Olivia, or MO, 30 married John T. Whisler 35 at Scott's Ranch.

To be continued...

**The census enumerator followed a set pattern or map and listed each separate dwelling-house# and family# in the order of visitation. For the 1870 census in Park County, it looks like they started in Fairplay and headed south, probably along Highway 9 and when they hit the Fremont County line, they headed back up toward Fairplay. The Scott dwelling is #90 and family #55. Whisler is dwelling #126 and family #76. It would appear Scott was recorded on the way south and Whisler on the way back north.*

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Fitness ON the Mountain
Just who is in charge here?

by Lori Martin

I am always amazed by the way God works in my life. Last month I shared about an upcoming situation that had the potential to disrupt a schedule that I had worked hard to design and build upon. My health, my wellness, my fitness routine and possibly even my emotional well being were at risk. Last month's message was meant to encourage us all to have a plan in place that could be implemented to preserve those precious wellness goals when unexpected events arise. We all go through trying times, whether the challenge is our own or that of a loved one. I don't know anyone who can say they haven't felt the effects of exhaustion, depression or in my case, a general sense of upheaval. How we deal with the accompanying stress has the potential to make a negative situation better, worse or stagnant. In my situation, I was feeling ferociously stubborn until I decided to focus on doing whatever it takes to reduce stress and/or find healthier ways to deal with it.

Boundaries
Creating boundaries is an aspect of reducing stress that, for some, is difficult to grasp. A boundary is not a punishment for the people in your life that cause you stress. A boundary should be designed to protect you from the stress others could potentially cause you.

Self-care
Self-care is also an important part of reducing stress. Self-care can be defined in a variety of ways and it doesn't have to be extravagant or expensive. Self-care for one person is rarely the same for another. The simple act of scribbling in a journal daily helped me reduce stress and redirected my focus to a better mindset.

Mindset
For myself, it was important that I acknowledge that changing my mindset is not the same as *giving in* to a situation. Giving in keeps you stagnant, can build animosity and has the potential to take control. We already struggle with our health and wellness goals. We don't need to throw another log on that fire! Changing our mindset gives us the power and confidence to do what we need to do, what we believe is right. Changing our mindset and sticking to our healthy routines allows us to chip away at the problem/s life throws at us. It puts us back in control and most importantly, reduces stress.

"Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create."
— Roy T. Bennett,
The Light in the Heart

Exercise
After being confronted with this inevitable situation I began feeling less motivated to exercise. I was letting the negativity beat me down. I had to nip that in the bud, right away. It wasn't until I made a conscience effort to *up my game* that things started to turn for the better. The upcoming situation wasn't going to change but I was more in control of me. Until I found my groove, my mind seemed to muster up a lot of questions regarding this particular situation. In my exhaustion, I was transported back 25 years: I had been fielding balls for my son

while his Dad pitched to him. I seemed to be playing every position, short stop, left field... wait, right field. The balls were coming fast and furious. Finally, I heard it! He nailed it...that ball was going to make it over the centerfield fence. It was a great workout and it was fun until I heard "you got it Mom, climb the fence," as if that were something every 40 something Mom would do. Thank goodness I had hit my energy limit and did not attempt that move. All those *what if's* were wearing me down. Unlike fielding those balls, the *what if's* were not fun nor were they healthy for me. Here is where I received an unexpected surprise, synchronicity, for sure, things falling into place. God's way of saying, "You GOT this, Lori!" Enter two local athletes and business men, Thom Seehafer, Executive Director and Founder of the non-profit Colorado Phoenix Project and Jon Husby PGA Professional and Head Pro at Shining Mountain Golf Course.

Part 1
Thom Seehafer, makes social media posts about a new program to provide "RUCK Sacks" for foster kids. What is a RUCK sack?
RUCK sacks were issued to our military troops to hold everything they owned. All their gear, their necessities and their personal possessions were in those RUCK sacks. A RUCK sack was heavy and was carried many miles as the troops moved to new locations. I instantly, see the correlation and importance of the RUCK sack to our community's foster children. My mind instantly diverted from dwelling on my problems to taking action.
1. Buy sturdy backpack
2. Fill with heavy things (books)
3. Add weighted backpack during walks
This is exactly what my body and my mind needed. I still wasn't seeing the bigger picture, though.

Part 2
Then came a random message from Jon Husby about a new program being offered at Shining Mountain GC to introduce women to golf. I don't know if I'm going to be very good but, I'm going to sign-up. I hear this class is filling up quickly.

Part 3
Meanwhile, I still hadn't come up with a topic for September's *Fitness On the Mountain* article. At about this point, I notice I'm bit focused on my own issues. Why not merge my situation and help both Jon and Thom get the word out about their programs? Interviews with two of Teller County's most passionate providers of health, wellness and fitness were booked. Both have similar interests in our community why not use this article to:
1. Showcase some great programs for kids and adults available here in our own community.
2. Share my story to help anyone who might find themselves in a similar situation.



Winter military RUCK sack march.

"Going from being worried about what might happen to being excited about what might happen is only a mindset shift away."
— Cory Allen

ation. Both Thom and Jon have many programs going on all the time but, here is a summary of some of my favorites.

Thom Seehafer
As is Thom's nature, Colorado Phoenix Project, helps "at risk" individuals in many ways. It's an anti-bullying campaign with a fitness component and a mentoring component. Upcoming and ongoing events to look out for are:

FREE Self Defense Seminar For women
Thom is partnering with Martial Arts Instructor Royce Barber to teach us how to not to be victims. Personally, I think any parent with teenage daughters should call for reservations today.

Save A Life Buy a Ruck
R = Rejuvenated
U = Unconventional
C = Consistent
K = Knowledge

You can order your own personal RUCK sack from Thom at Colorado Phoenix Project or you can donate any dollar amount towards a fully loaded RUCK for a foster child. Businesses are encouraged to consider signing up as a sponsor of a fully filled RUCK with your business logo.

What the R.U.C.K. Fun Run
If you enjoy doing marathons you will need to start training for this one now and you'll want to find yourself your own RUCK sack or purchase one of the heavy duty RUCKS mentioned above. Contact: Thom Seehafer 719-930-6365 for more info or follow Colorado Phoenix Project on Facebook. Volunteers are needed and

appreciated.
Jon Husby
Father of two young kids, Jon Husby also has great passion for helping children as well as adults, and has a number of programs to do it:

Patriot to Pros
A veteran, himself, Jon has worked passionately, to bring this amazing program to Colorado Springs. Patriot to Pros introduces veterans to a career in golf as a PGA professional.

PGA Reach & PGA Hope
PGA Reach funds programs like Patriot to Pros and PGA Hope. PGA Hope is a FREE program to help "service members connect over a game that can be played no matter what the disability."


Donations
Jon will be running in the TCS New York City Marathon to raise money for the PGA Reach program. For more information or to make a donation go to <https://p2p.onecause.com/2023-tesnyc-marathon/team/jon-husby-pga>

Golf in Schools
As a PGA professional Jon and Shining Mountain Golf Course have partnered with Colorado PGA. A total of 24 students (4th & 5th graders) at Columbine Elementary School will receive the opportunity to attend 3-4 golf sessions at school. After the *in-school* sessions have been completed they've earned the opportunity to play at our beautiful Shining Mountain G.C. in Woodland Park.

Ladies Sip and Chip
On Sundays, beginning September 10 from 4-5:30 p.m. registrants will receive a series of 4 lessons "designed to get you ON THE COURSE." As the name implies there will be Sip (aka wine) for the over 21 participants and goodie bags for all. Contact: Jon: jusby@uccs.edu for more info. Whether you're going through hard times right now, just looking for some great activities or your heart is being led to help others, I hope you find something in my story that makes a difference.

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Blues on the Mesa festival returns for third year!

by Amy Whitesell

A Music Company Inc. announces the return of Blues on the Mesa for the third season after an overwhelming amount of support from Colorado business sponsors and attendees in 2021 and 2022.

Hosting the event since its inception is the title sponsor, Gold Hill Mesa, 142 Raven Mine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80905. Gold Hill Mesa has worked closely with A Music Company Inc. for over a decade in the production of its annual summer concert series as well as special events.

The talent lineup features regional and national talent. Opening the festival, from Evergreen, Colorado, is piano player extraordinaire Scott "Shack" Hackler, a 2019 International Blues Challenge finalist and 2018 and 2022 Colorado Blues Challenge Solo/Duo Champion.

Next on stage is the Austin Young Band. Austin began playing guitar and singing in front of Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak region crowds since he was 13. Nowadays, the 24 year old is performing on blues festival stages with what could only be called



Damon Fowler

the top blues artists on today's scene.

Deborah Stafford & the Night Stalkers is an 8-piece show band, playing a mixture of danceable Blues, Roots Rock, and Soul with a mixture of great originals and recognizable covers. This Longmont, Colorado band won the Colorado Blues Society's Blues Challenge for the second year in a row and have just returned from Memphis and the 2023 International Blues Challenge.

The first national recording artist and



Tim "Too Slim" Langford

headliner is Too Slim & The Taildraggers. Tim "Too Slim" Langford is a monster guitarist and unabashed blues rocker whose influences run the gamut from Lightnin' Hopkins, Freddy King, Duane Allman, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Robin Trower. He is a prolific singer/songwriter whose songs have now yielded an impressive 14 studio albums, 2 solo albums and several live CDs on the Vizztone and his



Deborah Stafford & the Night Stalkers



Scott "Shack" Hackler

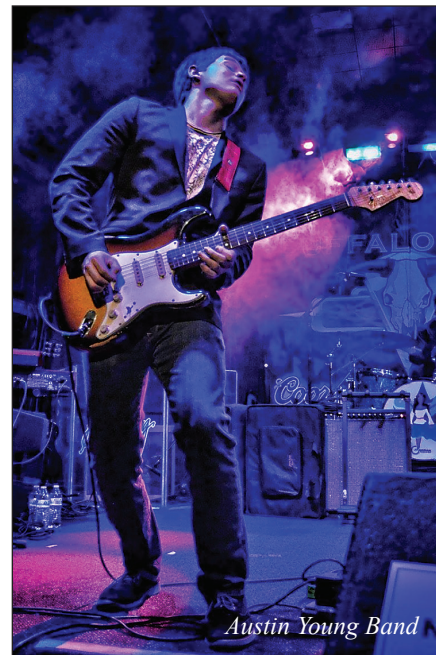


Jason Ricci

own Underworld Records labels.

Damon Fowler with Special Guest Jason Ricci closes out Blues on the Mesa. Florida's Gulf Coast blues sensation Damon Fowler is a masterful singer, guitar player and songwriter. He has gained the respect of his peers given his featured slot in Butch Truck's Freight Train band and his side gig as guitarist in the Dickey Betts Band. Critics have compared Fowler's guitar work to Johnny Winter and Jeff Beck, while his slide guitar is reminiscent of the late Duane Allman. Joining Damon on stage is Jason Ricci, an award winning and decorated American singer and harmonica player. Ricci has appeared as a guest harmonica player on albums with Johnny Winter, Ana Popovic, Joe Louis Walker, Cedric Burnside, Walter Trout, Mike Zito, JP Soars, Nick Moss, Peter Karp, Nick Curran, The Mannish Boys, Too Slim and The Tail Draggers, Walter Trout and many, many more. Ricci has toured with his own band, Jason Ricci and the Bad Kind. Simply stated, Jason Ricci is one of the most influential, recorded, celebrated, interviewed and famous harmonica players working in the world today.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.bluesonthemesa.org> or contact A Music Company Inc. at 719-237-9953.



Austin Young Band

Blues on the Mesa takes place Saturday, September 30, 2023 with gates opening at 11 a.m. and music ends at 6:30 p.m. There will be a VIP Party inside the community room at Gold Hill Mesa following the festival (21+ only) where attendees will enjoy an intimate experience meeting the artists, up close and personal! This is a wonderful time for autographs and photo opportunities. Amazing local food will be catered complimentary! There will be a cash bar and upbeat, live music by Scott "Shack" Hackler! Tickets start at \$40 for general admission and limited VIP Tickets are \$80.

A portion of all proceeds will benefit the Pikes Peak Blues Community; a 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization supporting Blues & American Roots music in the Pikes Peak Region.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit <http://www.bluesonthemesa.org> or contact A Music Company Inc. at 719-237-9953.



Panning for Good Exploring Community Partnership Family Resource Center

by Dr. Bec

Have you ever wondered while driving east on 24 through Woodland Park, "What has that big green, used to be bank, by City Market been turned into? I decided to check it out. What an incredible discovery! The Community Partnership Family Resource Center (CPFRC) is an amazing place for members of our community to gather, grow and connect with each other! This community center is a hub of positive energy and meaningful activities.

Fresh out of yoga class at CPFRC, glowing and happy, Susy Branham and Jan Mummery radiated an inspiring combination of joy and peace. Susy enthusiastically explained, "This is a great class and yoga is the best thing to strengthen you as you age. It creates space between my bones and joints and helps with balance and flexibility." Jan shared, "I've been going to yoga classes since 1970 and this is the finest yoga class I've attended, Leah Wilson-Felis is a wonderful instructor! She integrates different types of yoga and the class helps me feel peaceful and clears my mind."

The center was organized in 1992 by community leaders to be "an organization dedicated to providing essential services for families and children, strong leadership, collaboration among multiple agencies, and information sharing opportunities within Teller County." This original purpose continues to guide the work at the center and their support options are impressive. Known as a one-stop-shop, CPFRC staff organizes their work using a wrap-around approach to help families access resources, community information, social connections, and/or support during difficult times. They embrace and strengthen all types of families (including grandparents with caregiver responsibilities) in a loving, all-encompassing way that addresses expressed needs. Community members can work with a family advocate to meet family goals, access programs, and learn about community resources. Included in this support when needed, is a food pantry with food boxes that contain three days of breakfast, lunch and dinner. Electricity assistance through Energy Outreach Colorado and a Tel-ehealth location where there are private rooms and equipment available for any virtual appointments are also possibilities. Call 719-686-0705 for details.

Cory Gorton, Vice President of Operations at CPFRC has a friendly face that beams with joyful purpose and a sharp mind full of creative ideas and conviction. Cory shared her heart's wish for CPFRC. It is, "That every day, families in our community will be provided high functioning support at the center and that each family and family member will feel seen, heard and welcomed with open arms." She also mentioned the many partnerships CPFRC has with schools, businesses, other food pantries and faith-based organizations throughout Teller County.

Prior to 2021, parts and programs currently associated with CPFRC were housed in a variety of locations, which in some ways limited visibility and access to resources and programs available. Now, the center can easily be seen from Highway 24. It is a green three-story building renovated to serve the community. On the main level is the reception desk and a large board room with a beautiful table and digital display (this room can be rented to community groups). The food pantry is intriguingly located inside the old bank vault and is connected to the Family Café which includes an expansive kitchen, tables for eating and chatting, Wi-Fi, coffee and a Kid's Corner. Downstairs is a large, open versatile playroom where a variety of classes take place and is where the Pearson Vue testing center and Pikes Peak Work Force Center are located. Upstairs,

staff offices surround an inviting communal area where collaboration can happen easily and comfortably. Almost all areas in the center are bathed in natural light and the overwhelming feeling in the building is one of hope, camaraderie, positive energy and goodwill.

Currently, CPFRC offers over 20 different programs and services that strengthen families and connect people to resources. <https://cpteller.org/about/>. CPFRC Enrichment Educator Mathilde Fitzgerald shared how she feels when she sees successes. "Seeing students pass the GED test and overcome learning gaps associated with COVID or struggles within the typical educational system has brought me immense joy, the best joy!"

Programs at the center are categorized into three groups, For the Kids, For the Family and For the Community. Below are options available, most are free, some have a fee. To access this information and more, pick up a flyer at the center or visit the website at <https://cpteller.org>.

For the kids:

- Parents as Teachers: Parents learn about child development (pregnancy to kindergarten) and learn tips to build strong relationships with their children.
- **Playgroup:** Fun, educational interactions for child and caregiver, ages 5 and under.
- **Vroom:** Help young children grow strong brains during times already being spent together.



Left to right: Susy Branham and Jan Mummery feeling great after a yoga class at CPFRC.

For the family:

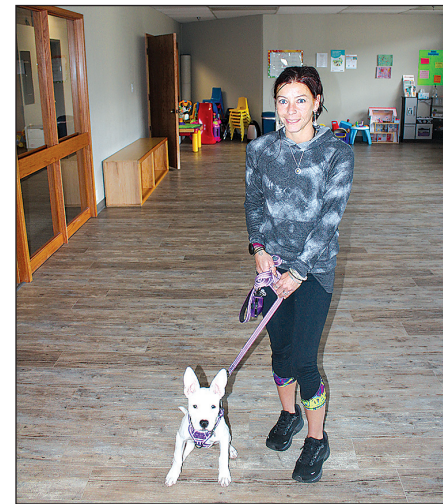
- **Caregiver Support Groups:** Parents and caregivers discuss and receive support as they navigate caring for children.
- **Cooking and Nutrition Classes:** Meal prep, grocery shopping, food budgeting, and nutrition.
- **Crossroads Co-parenting Seminar:** Support establishing a positive and cooperative co-parenting relationship along with child development and well-being supports. Registration Fee.
- **Family Café:** Connect with others, enjoy coffee, Wi-Fi and a Kid's Corner.
- **Family Empowerment:** Support family goals with a family advocate.
- **Practical & Positive Parenting Workshop:** A nurturing and active approach to parenting with supportive peers.
- **Wraparound:** Promote youth voice and choice with the support of a family advocate in a youth-focused process. Through a team approach and the utilization of natural supports, take positive steps to reach your family goals.

For the community:

- **Career Center:** The Pikes Peak



Community Partnership Family Resource Center is located at 701 Gold Hill Place in Woodland Park. Cover: Liz Olson volunteer receptionist at CPFRC.



Mathilde Fitzgerald CPFRC enrichment educator in the playroom with service dog Ghost.

- Workforce Center will help with job searching, resume assistance, and unemployment applications. Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-4 p.m.
- **Community Gardens:** Learn how to garden at high altitude, grow fresh produce and connect with other local gardeners. Registration fee.
- **Financial Health:** Stabilize economic situations through simple everyday life choices.
- **GED Classes:** Earn your GED with positive support every step of the way. Small classes and on-site testing. 16+ and registration fee.
- **Parent Advisory Committee:** Advocate for families, contribute perspectives and provide feedback.
- **Pearson VUE Testing Site:** Schedule certification or licensure exam at the only testing center in Teller County.
- **Yoga Classes:** For all levels, ages 16+. Mondays from 10-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. 20-person limit, first come, first served.

Growth and accessibility

Since 2021, CPFRC services and programs have been housed at 710 Gold Hill Place. The number of individuals served continues to grow at a rapid pace. During 2021-2022, the goal was to serve 1,000 individuals, but the center ended up having 12,081 individuals access services with the most growth happening during the first six months of being in the new building.

Funding

CPFRC is 100% non-profit and is supported through donations, federal and state grants and some pass-through funding through the Family Resource Center Association based out of Colorado. High

quality, credible programming is a priority at CPFRC. Programs are specifically designed to provide evidence-based data leading to meaningful analysis of the impact of the classes on participants which leads to continuous improvement.

Staff members

The staff at CPFRC are community members themselves and in Cory's words, "Are advocates and facilitators of life." They are passionate about supporting our community and the people in it. They also have a variety of life experiences that are beneficial to their work. The staff are not licensed social workers or counselors.

How can I support CPFRC?

Community members can help finish ongoing renovations to the center by participating in CPFRC's Capital Campaign Building Project. Support options include donating specific rooms, a Donor Pyramid, helping with fundraising or making a one-time or monthly donation. You will notice CPFRC is also a tax credit enterprise zone. <https://cpteller.org/capital-campaign/>. Volunteer opportunities are also an option. Liz Olsen currently volunteers as a welcoming receptionist. CPFRC is an incredible asset to Teller County, a remarkable treasure that's now easy to find!

CPFRC is located at 701 Gold Hill Place, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Phone: 719-686-0705, email: office@cpteller.org, website: www.cpteller.org. Office hours: 9-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Quote:

Helping a person will not necessarily change the world, but it will change the world for that person. thatonerule.com

Joke:

You can sleep on bunk beds, which is actually a misnomer because they're the real deal.

Challenge:

How great it is to live in a caring community with numerous resources and warm-hearted people. The challenge is to notice or be one of those thoughtful people and submit what you experienced to the *Monkey See, Monkey Do, You Can Kindle Kindness, Too!* section of *Ute Country News* by sending an email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or stop by Shipping Plus and tell your story to Kathy and Jeff.

Rebecca Frazier, PhD is an author, speaker and educational consultant who enjoys finding and writing about what's good in the world. email: hello@coachhappy.com





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CORE Electric Cooperative Taps technology to mitigate wildfire risk

by Amber King

T.J. Havens, CORE Electric Cooperative (CORE)'s Conifer District Manager, has wildfire on his mind every day. "When you cover 5,000 square miles and have over 157,000 distribution poles, wildfire mitigation is extremely important."

Due to the Conifer area's high wildfire risk, Havens and his crews focus on mitigation efforts year-round, including patrolling CORE's distribution lines through rugged terrain and on foot.

The same is true for CORE's other district offices in Woodland Park, Sedalia and Bennett. With each district's unique risks, CORE's wildfire mitigation program, CORE PROTECT, is a major effort for the electric distribution utility and at CORE, it's personal.

"I live in a high-risk area, many of our employees do, and obviously many of our members live in these high-risk areas, so we want to do everything we can to make sure that a fire is not started, and especially not started as a result of our equipment," said Pam Feuerstein, CORE's Chief Operating Officer.

From boots-on-the-ground pole inspections to the newest artificial intelligence technology platforms, CORE uses many tools to mitigate the risk of ignition from its equipment. Key elements of the CORE PROTECT program include:

Technology solutions

CORE is piloting several new technology solutions that make CORE more agile and efficient in identifying and managing risk factors.

- Drones flown by FAA-licensed contractors inspect lines and poles to give crews a better visual of potential fire hazards that wouldn't be seen from ground. Field personnel then prioritize repairs and quickly address them.

- 360-degree fire watch cameras, a pilot project with Pano AI, take multiple images per minute from towers in the field, scanning the landscape for smoke plumes. If the system identifies a smoke plume, CORE and local emergency management authorities are immediately contacted to investigate.
- Artificial intelligence satellite technology, using the Overstory platform, scans satellite imagery along CORE's right-of-ways. AI analyzes the images for potential vegetation encroachment and hazard trees to help prioritize vegetation management more efficiently and at scale.
- Smart fault indicators relay faults on CORE's powerlines back to control centers instantly so issues such as branches falling into powerlines and creating potential ignition points can be addressed.

Operations optimization

Enhanced operation and maintenance programs take already robust processes to the next level.

- System inspections of the overhead distribution system on a routine basis, both from the ground and with the help of drone technology, to identify maintenance issues that pose a risk to fire safety and reliability. All issues are prioritized and repaired according to relative risk, addressing the most hazardous conditions as quickly as possible. CORE also patrols the high-voltage transmission system even more frequently, primarily using drone and LiDAR technology, and repairs any issues found with the highest urgency.
- System "hardening" through line rebuilds in high-risk areas, including undergrounding of lines where site



conditions allow. Stronger, taller poles designed to withstand high wind and snow conditions, 10-foot fiberglass cross-arms designed for better strength and greater spacing between lines, and cover-up of energized parts that could create a spark if contacted by wildlife or vegetation are all equipment upgrades prioritized in high-risk areas.

- Advanced weather monitoring subscriptions provide daily forecasts of wind speed, lightning, fire danger and more. CORE's System Operator sends notifications to employees and contractors when we have red flag warnings or elevated fire danger exists within CORE's service territory.
- Alternate settings are more sensitive circuit protection settings that can be used during high wind, red flag warnings and other elevated fire risk conditions. These settings allow the devices protecting the line to trip the instant there is a fault in the line, like if a tree was to fall into powerlines.

How residents can stay safe

While CORE focuses on wildfire miti-

gation efforts, Colorado's Department of Regulatory Agencies offers these tips for residents to protect their property in case of wildfire:

- Use fire-resistant materials in the structure of your home, especially the roof, which is most vulnerable.
- Clear a safety zone around your home out to 30 feet and selectively remove trees, leaves, brush and pine needles. Create a zone of at least 100 feet of non-continuous fuels.
- Be sure propane or fuel tanks are at least 30 feet away from all structures.
- If you do not have access to a community water system or water hydrant, consider a water storage tank. Make sure your garden hoses reach all areas of the property and keep them visible and inaccessible areas.
- Be sure your entrance road is accessible so emergency responders are not delayed. The street address should be easily visible from the entrance to the property.

More information about CORE PROTECT can be found at <https://core.coop/wildfire-mitigation/>

\$2 million for youth outdoor programs available

by Travis Duncan

From August 21 - September 29, 2023, organizations helping instill a sense of wonder, excitement, and responsibility for the environment in Colorado youth can apply for financial support from the Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Program (OEGP), which will award \$2 million in Outdoor Equity Grants this December.

"Colorado is home to world-class outdoors areas, and we are making outdoor experiences more accessible for every Coloradan," said Governor Polis. "By helping more Coloradans spend healthy time outside, explore new interests, and learn about the outdoors, more children will thrive and access the fun and bright future they deserve."

The OEGP was created through HB21-1318 sponsored by Representatives Leslie Herod and David Ortiz and Senators Leroy Garcia and Sonya Jaquez Lewis, and works to increase access to outdoor opportunities for all Coloradans. Through funding from the Colorado Lottery, the OEGP has invested over \$3.1 million in grants supporting environmental learning opportunities, outdoor education, exposure to career pathways, public health, and outdoor fun for underserved youth and families.

"Colorado Parks and Wildlife is enthusiastic about supporting organizations across the state who are inspiring the next generation of outdoor stewards," said CPW Director Jeff Davis. "We've received a tremendous response to this program since it began, and are excited to continue to invest in youth education and outdoor experiences through Outdoor Equity Grants."

Nonprofits, government entities, school districts, for-profits, and federally recognized tribes that wish to increase outdoor access for



traditionally excluded youth (including youth from low-income and communities of color, LGBTQ+ youth, youth who are members of Tribal Nations with historical ties to Colorado, and youth with disabilities) can apply for grants up to \$100,000.

In order to continue to support quality outdoor experiences for youth Colorado youth, organizations who have previously received Outdoor Equity Grant funding may reapply this year. Organizations who have spent more than half of their previously-awarded funds, or who plan to do so by September 29, are eligible to apply.

"Though Colorado is known as a hub for outdoor experiences, our recreation and conservation spaces do not yet reflect our state's population," said Benilda Samuels, Outdoor Equity Grant Board member.

"Positive experiences in the outdoors are paramount to building a sense of belonging and responsibility for the environment in youth who have never been introduced to these opportunities. Outdoor Equity Grants support healing, health, and learning in the outdoors for a diverse group of tomorrow's conservation leaders, so that they can fully engage in the stewardship of our state's lands, waters, and wildlife."

"We encourage all organizations whose mission includes increasing access to the outdoors for youth to apply and help Colorado continue to build a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible outdoors for all," said Colorado Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Dan Gibbs.

OEGP Board members, who were appointed for their experience with outdoor

recreation, equity, and engaging the communities served with grant funds, will accept and review grant proposals from organizations that support outdoor activities and learning for Colorado youth; show cultural competence in working with a target population of the OEGP; demonstrate a commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion; and propose to increase the capacity of the communities they serve in the outdoors and conservation. Organizations who show a deep commitment to and understanding of the youth they serve and who will help cultivate in youth a responsibility for the outdoors will be awarded grants on a competitive basis.

The OEGP Board is committed to providing funding to organizations that have traditionally been unable to apply for grant programs due to organizational barriers, and encourages organizations of all sizes and with diverse missions to apply. The board will provide applicant guidance through a virtual Q&A session for applicants on Thursday, August 31 at 10 a.m. The link to register for the Q&A session can be found on the OEGP website.

The Outdoor Equity Grant Program accepts applications for grants each fall. Last year, it distributed \$3.1 million in funding to 69 organizations across the state. This year, the program will award approximately \$2 million in grants. Beginning in 2024, the program will distribute approximately \$2.75 million annually in Outdoor Equity Grants.

Groups can apply from August 21 - September 29, 2023. Find out more on the Outdoor Equity Grant Program website: <https://cpw.info/outdoorequitygrant>.

~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

- **NAMI Colorado:** <http://www.namicolorado.org/>
- **Suicide prevention:** <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> or dial 988

CAÑON CITY

- LIBRARY**
- 6 **FREE Legal Self-Help clinic** 2-5 p.m. Reserve your spot 719-269-9020.
- 15 **Nature's Educators** 4-5 p.m.
- **Adult literacy program.** We have tutors available to help for FREE!
- **B.O.O.K. Babies** on our Knees Monday 10:30 a.m.
- **Break out box** 2nd Friday each month 3-4 p.m.
- **Cañon City Garden Club** meets 4th Saturday each month 1-2:30 p.m.
- **Chess Club** Wednesday 2 p.m.
- **Creative Crafting** (different craft each month) 3rd Friday each month 3-4 p.m.
- **Cribbage Club** Fridays 10 a.m. All ages welcome!
- **Junk/Art Journaling Club** meets 3rd Tues of each month 10-12 p.m.
- **Lego Club** 1st Friday each month 3-4 p.m.
- **Metaphysical Group** every 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. All at 516 Macon Ave. FMI 719-269-9020 www.ccp.lilb.co.us

COLORADO SPRINGS

- PIKES PEAK CENTER**
- 5 **Into the Spider-Verse** live in concert at the Pikes Peak Center.
- 8 **Little River Band** at Pikes Peak Center.
- CRIPPLE CREEK**
- 7 **American Legion Post 171** meets the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 400 Carr St., Food and refreshments at 5 p.m.

- 8 **The regular meeting of the Gold Camp Victorian Society** will be 2-4 p.m. at the Cripple Creek Heritage Center on Hwy 67. New members welcome. Final plans for Mt. Pisgah Speaks. FMI www.goldcampvictoriansociety.org
- 11 **GED classes** 1-3 p.m. New students (min age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registra-

- tion fee. Contact Katy@cpteller.org or 719-686-0705.
- 16, 17 **Mt. Pisgah Speaks** cemetery re-enactments. Groups leave from ticket booth at Cripple Creek District Museum. For reservations and times visit www.goldcampvictoriansociety.org.
- 29-Oct 1 **CCV Yoga Festival.** FMI <https://www.visitcos.com/events/cripple-creek-victor-yoga-festival/>

- ASPEN MINE CENTER**
- 29 **Commodities distribution** 9-1 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. for seniors. FMI 719-689-3584 x124.
- CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT MUSEUM**
- 2 **Collective Groove** (high energy dance music) 2-6 p.m. at Cripple Creek District Museum, as part of the Music at the Depot Concert series.
- 30 **High Lonesome** (bluegrass) 2-6 p.m. at Cripple Creek District Museum, the conclusion of the Music at the Depot series. FMI 719-689-9540.

DIVIDE

- 9 **A Mountain of Memories – Midland Days Symposium.** Register by Sept 4. FMI page 7.
- 11, 25 **Little Chapel Food Pantry & Pet Food Pantry** distribution 2-5 p.m. FMI 719-322-7610.

- COLORADO WOLF AND WILDLIFE CENTER**
- 1 **Full Moon Feeding Tour** 6 p.m. \$25 for 12 years and up; \$15 children ages 3-11.
- 2 **Full Moon Tour** 6 p.m. \$35 for 12 years and up; \$15 children 8-11.
- 3 **Full Moon Feeding Tour** 6 p.m. \$25 for 12 years and up; \$15 children ages 3-11.

- TELLER SENIOR COALITON**
- 1, 15, 29 **Teller Senior Coalition BINGO** 10-11:30 a.m. at Little Chapel Church 69 CR 5. RSVP 719-687-3330 ext. 6. Call to set up a ride 719-687-0256.

FLORENCE

- 5 **Entries due for Blue Spruce Gallery's 13th Annual Miniature Artwork show.** See

- page 16.
- 8 & 9 **Fall Junktique** 9-5 p.m. on 3 blocks of Main St. Flea market with eclectic mix of crats, rustic, metal, antiques, vintage, household, furniture, etc. FMI Trending on Main 630-292-2472
- 9 **The 10th Annual Tour de Coal Towns bike ride.** Registration \$20 for each adult. Please register and sign the release paper visit www.florence-pioneermuseum.com. Join the fun for a nice day of bike riding in the coal towns west of Florence with a lunch at Pioneer Park supplied by Holcim of Portland.

- 9 **Cash prize awards and reception** at Blue Spruce Gallery see page 16.
- 15, 16 & 17 **The 95th Annual Pioneer Days.**
- 15 **Enjoy poetry and music** at the Bell Tower 2 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. the Florence Elks Lodge #611 will introduce royalty. 7 p.m. is the dance at the Elks.
- 16 **The parade** is at 10 a.m. Saturday. Visit Pioneer Park for a celebration after the parade with grub, goodies, games, vendors and music. At 7 p.m. go to the Bell Tower for poetry and music or to the Elks Lodge #611 for the dance. The tractor pull is at Pathfinder Park Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

FLORISSANT

- GRANGE**
- 9 **Craft classes:** Pine Needle Baskets 9-12 p.m. Needle Felting 10-12 p.m. Paint With Me 11-1 p.m. Each Craft Class is a donation to the Grange. Call/text 719-510-2325 to reserve your spot in the class and for more info on materials you may need to bring.
- **Quilt of Valor** quilting group meets every Tuesday 9-12 p.m. All are welcome to join us in making beautiful quilts of valor for our Veterans.
- **Every Thursday** join us for pot-luck and music 6 p.m. Come meet your neighbors and listen to some good music.

- LIBRARY**
- 7, 28 **Homeschool Book Club** 1-2 p.m. Bring your homeschoolers in for a twice monthly book club! In September we're reading *The Iceberg* by J.K. Rowling.
- 8 **Tarot Club** 3 p.m. Teens and up are welcome to join this group and learn all things tarot. September's theme is harvest energies.

- 13 **Florissant Bookworms Book Club** 10:30-12 p.m.
- 14 **Free Legal Clinic** 2-5 p.m. at Florissant Library. Call 719-748-3939 to sign-up.
- 15 **Friends at the Table Cook-book Club**, theme is "meat-less" Bring a dish to share! 11:30-1 p.m.

- 19 **Read Amok Book Club** themed "feminism" Bring a book to share! 11-12:30 p.m.
- 21 **Homeschool Enrichment** 10-12 p.m. Parent-led social and educational enrichment time for homeschoolers. Meets monthly on the third Thursday.
- 27 **Blood Drive** 11:30-3:45 p.m. use blood drive code 10054684 FMI vitalant.org
- 28 **Speech Bubble Book Club** 1 p.m. Read and share in the love of comic books, graphic novels and manga!
- **Tuesdays Tai Chi** 10-11 a.m. Come relax with us!
- **Thursdays Yarnia!** 10-12 p.m. Craft and share your knitting and crocheting love with others!

- **The second and fourth Tuesday** of each month join us for Hooks and Needles, an additional club for crafting! 10-12 p.m.
- **The third Wednesday** of each month join us for Crafting Together, a club where we finish our abandoned art projects. 10-11:30 a.m.
- **The fourth Saturday** of each month, join us from 10-11:30 a.m. for our Adult Social Circle! Meet and make friends with ease.

- **Fridays** Storytime with Ms. Beth at 10 a.m. followed by Reading with Charlie the dog!
- **Friday Family Fun** Fridays 2-4 p.m. with the second and third Fridays each month from 10-5-748-3939

GREEN MOUNTAIN FALLS

- 9 **Music Workshop** 8-6:30 p.m. The Forte' Handbell Quartet is hosting a workshop on the art of Handbell Ringing. No musical experience required. Adults and youth (5th grade and up). \$75 includes two catered meals. Register: www.wildwooduce.org/handbell.
- 10 **Forte' in Concert** 4 p.m. Enjoy a musical afternoon in the mountains! See the Forte' Handbell Quartet, recently returned from their "Into the West" multi-state-tour, in

concert at the historic Church in the Wildwood. No tickets required.

GUFFEY

- 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 crochect, knit, and talk away.
- 25 **Guffey Literary Society** 1-3 p.m. Book choice for September is *Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig. 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 more. FMI 719-689-9280 or Guffeylib@parkco.us
- 17, 24 **Sun Mountain Yoga** Sundays 11:30-1 p.m. at Guffey Charter School. FMI Facebook.com/sunmountainyoga or yoga@renerudolph.com.

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 **JCCA** will host a community all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 7:30-11 a.m. at the Jefferson Community Building. Price is \$10 for adults. All proceeds benefit the operation and maintenance of the historic buildings in Jefferson. Please come and join us! A big thank you to all our peach buyers who supported our fundraiser this year!

VICTOR

- 2 **Free Bird Walk and Identification** 8:30-9:30 a.m., presentation 10:30-11:30 a.m. see page 6.
- 29-Oct 1 **CCV Yoga Festival.** FMI <https://www.visitcos.com/events/cripple-creek-victor-yoga-festival/>
- **Gold Camp Adventure Tours** Saturdays FMI visit Victor-Museum.com or 719-689-5509 for dates/times.
- **Victor Lowell Thomas Mu-**

- seum open 9:30-5:30 p.m. FMI VictorMuseum.com or 719-689-5509.
- **Spirits of Sunnyside Cemetery** Walking Tours available 1st and 3rd Saturdays, weather permitting. FMI VictorMuseum.com.
- **Stranger Side of Victor History** 1st and 3rd Saturdays FMI VictorMuseum.com.

THE 23RD ANNUAL VICTOR CELEBRATES THE ARTS WEEKEND

- 2 **"Plein Air"** art demonstrations. Gallery at the Elks open 9-5 p.m. Awards presentation 7 p.m. at Pinnacle Plaza, N 3rd St.
- 3 **Brush Rush** 9-noon, the historic site will be revealed at 9 a.m. on the patio of the Elks Lodge. Gallery at the Elks Lodge 9-5 p.m.
- 4 **Quick Draw** 9-noon. Artists gather in Wallace Park (Victor & 2nd St) to paint live models and props. Gallery at the Elks Lodge 9-1 p.m. Art checkout 1:30-3 p.m.

WOODLAND PARK

- 9 **Car Show Pancake Breakfast** at WP Senior Center located at the SE corner of Pine St and Lake Ave, 8-11 a.m. For a breakfast guaranteed to keep you going throughout the Car Show day fill up with all you can eat fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit and the best biscuits and gravy around! Your hometown seniors will be flipping pancakes and scrambling eggs to be served with juice and coffee or hot tea for only \$8, kids 6 and under eat for \$2. Our open to the public event helps support the programs and activities of the WP Senior Center. We appreciate the support of each of you!
- 22 **Cowboy style jam meet** and greet 6-10 p.m. at Ute Pass Cultural Center, public welcome!
- 23 **A Cowboy's Legacy:** In the Shadow of Pikes Peak outdoor western festival with vendors, historical buildings, tours, workshops, food truck and outdoor entertainment 10-4 p.m. at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. The event features nationally acclaimed western singers, storytellers, a Top Gun Pilot, and a Native American Welcome Ceremony 6 p.m.

continued on next page

continued from page 22

- 24 **Cowboy Church** 10 a.m. Jack Blease Trail Boss Ministry and our performers, public welcome at Ute Pass Cultural Center.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- 5 **Crossroads Co-Parenting Seminar** 4:30-8:30 p.m. Teller County court approved parenting and divorce class. \$35 Pre-registration fee required. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org
- 6 **GED Orientation** 5-7 p.m. Improve your education and employment opportunities by earning your GED. We will help you every step of the way, from enrollment to graduation, with our small classes and on-site testing center. New students (min age 16) may join GED classes after completing orientation and \$40 registration fee. Contact Katy@cpteller.org.
- 12 **Circle of Fathers** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dads are often left out of the conversation. Join a father-led group where your

opinions, ideas, and point of view are heard. Meal and childcare provided. Second Tuesday of each month. FMI Taylr@cpteller.org

- 12-Dec 5 **Nurturing Families** 5:15-7:45 p.m. A nurturing and active approach to parenting in a supportive peer environment. Support for every step of your child's physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Meal and childcare provided. Contact Michelle@cpteller.org.
- **Career Center** 12-4 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays. Pikes Peak Workforce Center can help with job searching, resume assistance and unemployment applications. Walk-ins welcome. FMI Erim@cpteller.org.
- **Family Café** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Mon through Thurs. Enjoy coffee, Free Wifi, a Kid's Corner and a space to congregate free of charge for parents and caregivers in our community to connect.

- **FREE Yoga with Leah** Mondays 10-11 a.m. (No yoga Sept 4 or 11). First come, first served, doors lock at 10 a.m. Bring your own mat and props. All levels welcome.

- FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.
- **FREE Yoga with Leah** Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. First come, first served, doors lock at 5 p.m. Bring your own mat and props. All levels welcome. FMI Michelle@cpteller.org.
- **Pearson VUE Testing Center** Mondays 10-4 p.m. Schedule your certification or licensure exam at www.pearsonvue.com. Fees vary. FMI Katy@cpteller.org.
- **Playgroup** 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays. Rotating fieldtrip locations. Walk-ins welcome. Parents and caregivers with children ages 5 & under. Older siblings are welcome. FMI Jackie@cpteller.org. All programs at Community Partnership 701 Gold Hill Place unless otherwise noted. FMI 719-686-0705.

LIBRARY

- 1 **Coffee Chats** 10 a.m. Join us for coffee and conversation. Meet new friends in Woodland Park.
- 5 **Woodland Park Book Club** 10:30 a.m.
- 5 **AARP Smart Drivers Course** 1-5 p.m. Brush up on your driving skills and knowledge.

- Call to reserve a spot! \$20 for AARP Members and \$25 for non-members.
- 6 **Teen Craft Day** 3:45-5:30 p.m.
- 6 **Family Art Day** 11-5 p.m. in the Children's Activity Room.
- 6 **Evening Adult Fiction Book Club** 5 p.m.
- 7 **Trailblazers Meeting** at 5 p.m. Meet with local hikers, plan hikes and share resources!

- 13 **Intro to the art of Native American Loom Beading** 2-5 p.m. Call to reserve a spot! Cost is \$5
- 13 **Community Discussions** from 5-6 p.m. September's theme is Separation of Church and State. Bring your thoughts, bridge the divide, and share with members of the community.
- 14 **Reader's Circle Book Club** 10:30 a.m. in the Large Meeting Room.
- 14 **Teddy Bear Picnic** 10-12 p.m. Today's the day the Teddy Bears have their picnic! Come have snacks, do crafts, hear a special story, and listen to Colorado Wildlife give a kid-friendly talk about bear safety!
- 20 **Fiber Arts Club** 1 p.m. Come make and share your fiber art! Knitting, crocheting,

- weaving, bracelet making, whatever you like!
- 20 **Family Art Day** 11-5 p.m. in the Children's Activity Room
- 20 **Teen Craft Day** 3:45-5:30 p.m. in the Teen Room.
- 28 **Tarot Club** 3 p.m. Teens and up are welcome to join this group and learn all things tarot. September's theme is Practices.
- **ASL Class** every Wednesday at 5 p.m. Come learn the basics

- of American Sign Language!
- **Tuesday Books and Babies** 10 a.m. a special storytime for babies and toddlers.
- **Tuesdays** is Magic the Gathering from 4-6 p.m.
- **Thursdays Preschool Storytime** 10 a.m.
- **Thursdays Tai Chi** at 5 p.m.
- **Fridays Tai Chi** at 10 a.m. FMI 719-687-9281.



Happy Fall Y'all




Baylee

Spread the Word
Pet Food Distributions for September 2023
Monday September 11
Monday September 25
2 - 5 p.m.
at the Little Chapel of the Hills, Divide, CO
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Autum at Mueller State Park

As the days get shorter and the warmth of summer gives way to cooler nights, celebrate fall at Mueller State Park with one of our Naturalist programs, as the forest turns from green to golden!

September at Mueller usually brings beautiful days and cooler nights, which start the changes in nature from summer to autumn. The shorter days cause the trees to begin their transformation into their magnificent display of color. Aspen trees make the hillsides glow with gold! Mueller is one of the best spots to see the show! Come out to camp or hike and dive into the beauty of fall colors.

Naturalist programs can help you to look, learn and enjoy the surroundings. Evening amphitheater programs will continue on weekends and guided hikes are available. Special programs this month include Native Bees of Colorado program, a glimpse at some of the 950 species of bees in Colorado. Also on the schedule are a dark sky hike, a moon hike, and programs on elk, bats and cats! Perhaps the last outdoor fly fishing and archery classes are planned for the season.

Mueller is open to guided school field trips! Bring your students to the park for an educational experience they will not forget!

The peak of colors is usually during the end of September or early October. It

depends on many factors like temperature and moisture.

All activities are free; a park pass for your vehicle is the only cost (\$10 day pass or \$80 annual park pass).

Come on up to Mueller to soak up the sunshine, clear weather and fall colors before winter makes its way to the area! See a full list of programs below.

- 1 **Wapiti Nature Trail Hike** 3:30 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.
- 1 **Prowling Cats** 7:30 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 2 **Grouse Mountain* Leaf Peep Hike** 9 a.m.
- 2 **Peak View Salamander Search Hike** 3:30 p.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.
- 2 **Star Party!** 8 p.m. meet at the Visitor Center.
- 3 **Tracks Table** 9-11 a.m. at Camper Services.
- 4 **Fly Fishing Clinic** 10 a.m. meet at Dragonfly Pond.
- 5 **Bird Walk** 8:30 a.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.
- 6 **Owl Pellets** 2 p.m. meet at the Visitor Center.
- 8 **All About Mining** 7:30 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 9 **Archery for beginners** 10 a.m. meet at Dragonfly Pond.

- 9 **Peak View Pond Micro-Hike** 2:30 p.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.
- 9 **S'more Stories** 7 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 10 **Tracks Table** 9-11 a.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 13 **Cahill Leaf Peep Hike** 9 a.m. meet at Grouse Mountain TH.
- 14 **Wapiti* Guided Hike** 9 a.m.
- 14 **Elk Meadow* Hike** 3 p.m.
- 14 **All About Bats!** 7 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 15 **Outlook Ridge* Hike** 11 a.m.
- 15 **Hug A Tree** 2 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 15 **Geology of Colorado** 3 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 15 **Dark Sky Hike** 8 p.m. meet at Outlook Ridge TH.
- 16 **Fly Fishing Clinic** 10 a.m. meet at Dragonfly Pond.
- 16 **Ghosts of the Forest** 7:30 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 17 **Dynamite Cabin Hike** 9 a.m. meet at Grouse Mountain TH.
- 20 **Leaf Pressing Art & The Science of Color** 1 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.
- 21 **Prowling Cats** 7 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 22 **Grouse Mountain* Guided Hike** 2 p.m.
- 22 **Geology of Colorado** 4:30 p.m. meet

- at Camper Services.
- 22 **Bees of Colorado!** 7:30 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 23 **Cahill Leaf Peep Hike** 9 a.m. meet at School Pond TH.
- 23 **Outlook Ridge* Hike** 2:30 p.m.
- 23 **All About Mining** 7 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 24 **Leaf Pressing Art and the Science of Color** 1 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.
- 27 **Grouse Mountain* Guided Hike** 9 a.m.
- 28 **Wapiti Leaves Hike** 2:30 p.m. meet at Visitor Center.
- 28 **All About Bats!** 7 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 29 **Nature Crafts!** 2 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 29 **Peak View Salamander Search Hike** 3:30 p.m. meet at Elk Meadow TH.
- 29 **S'more Stories** 7 p.m. meet at the Amphitheater.
- 30 **Cahill Hike** 11 a.m. meet at Grouse Mountain TH.
- 30 **Geology of Colorado** 4 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- 30 **Moon Hike** 9 p.m. meet at Camper Services.
- *Indicates to meet at the Trail Head (TH) of the same name.
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