



# UTE COUNTRY NEWS

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April 2024

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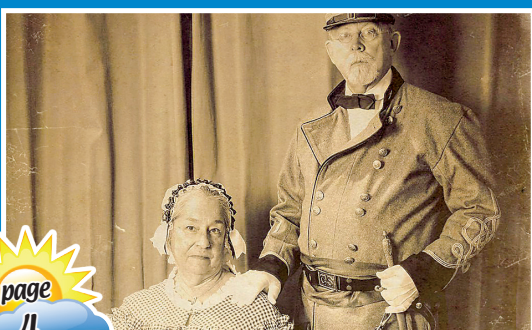
Vol. 16, No. 4

## Welcome to Ute Country

**"An election is coming.  
Universal peace is declared  
and the foxes have a sincere  
interest in prolonging the lives  
of the poultry."**

— T. S. Eliot

### PEEK INSIDE...



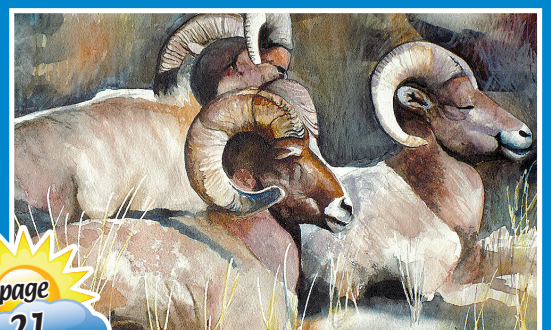
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Susan Marion's Watercolors




...where rustic charm meets modern comfort

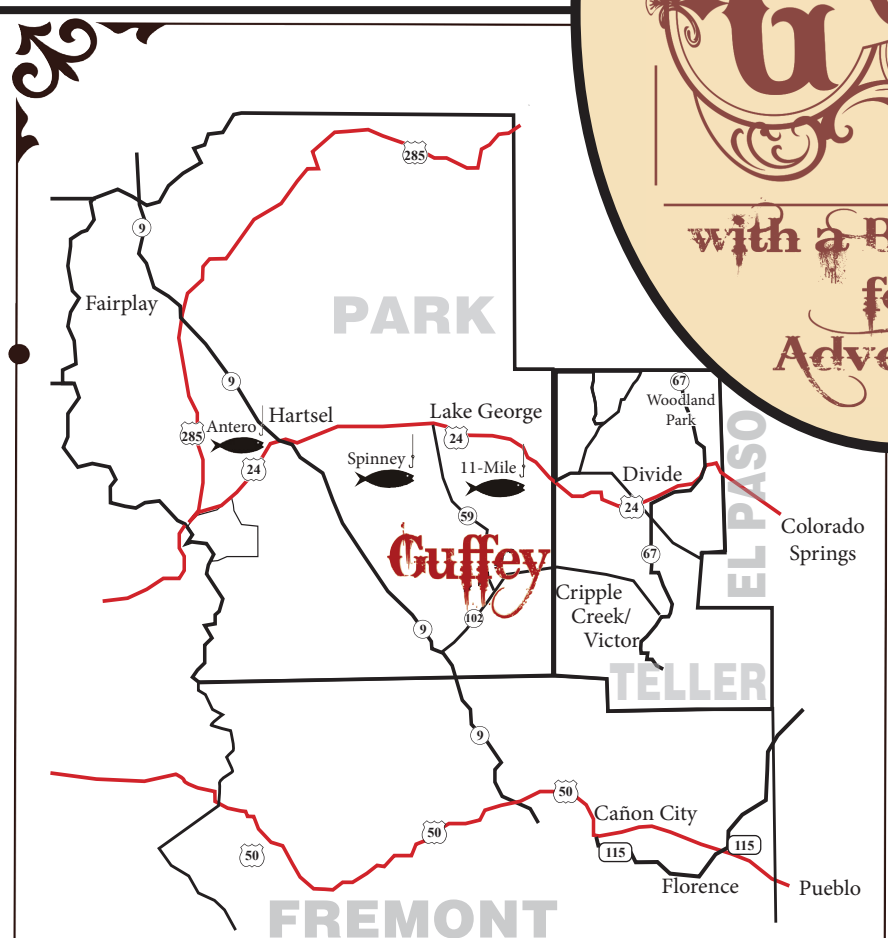
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**Sat Apr 20 Forever Wild**  
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## On Deck

Jeff took this photograph of a grey fox about 10 years ago in the month of April. We can tell it is a grey fox because the tip of the tail is black. Red, black and silver foxes have a white tip on their tails. This guy visited our backyard after a hefty spring snow. He brought his own lunch. He laid his rabbit down, looked all around him, then began pouncing face-first into the snow, like a playful pup. When he came up for air, the snow highlighted his beautiful black face! He surely had as much fun as we did watching him diving into the snow, legs up in the air. We watched for 20 minutes, after which he picked up his prey and trotted off to devour it. What a great experience, to watch this display of nature unfold!

Our April issue is full of opportunities! Home owners who may need a little financial help to make that much-needed repair might be interested in "Attention Homeowners." Youth seeking a role model will want to read about Easton Wasilewski earning his Eagle Scout badge. *Panning for Good* explores snow this month and can provide a list of meaningful words for snow. *Pharmgirl* shares the adventure of getting "A Motorhome for Mom." *Life Enhancing Journeys* offers an article to help you "Appreciate yourself." Given we just might get more snow in April, you may want to read "How to survive the next snowstorm." We also have a reader willing to share the foiled attempt to steal her money in "It's a Scam!" That is just a glimpse of all the good reads we offer this month — enjoy!

Keep those photos of your critters coming! Submit by email to [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com), drop in to scan the photo at Shipping Plus or snail mail them to us at POB 753 Divide, CO 80814.  
 If you have people skills and are seeking a part-time sales position, consider selling ads for our Ute Country News. Give us a call 719-686-7587, email [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com) or stop in Shipping Plus to learn more!  
 Thank you,  
 — Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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 First Class subscriptions are available for \$40 for 13 issues, or 6 issues for \$20.*



## A Look Inside the Artist Jasman Sparks, illustrator

by Mary Shell

In my quest to continue seeking out the hidden and little-known creatives in our community, I am once again amazed when I find a diamond in the rough. In this issue you will understand a little more what it takes to be an artist...tenacity, courage, hope and believing.

The extent of our imagination is limited only by what we can envisage, and vision is everything to an artist...to be able to create things and situations that never existed before. Artists are storytellers, no matter what medium they use.

I believe Jasman will become an awesome storyteller through her art. I'm going to keep an eye on this young upcoming artist and see where she goes.

**How long have you been creating art?**  
*I've loved to draw since I was little, but I started getting serious about my art when I was a teenager. I had the opportunity to take a Drawing 101 course at my hometown's university when I was 13 or 14, and it really ignited something in me. I haven't stopped since!*

**What style did you start with and how does it compare to your style now?**  
*I originally began by emulating animated cartoon and comic book art styles. I began drawing characters from the shows I liked, and my personal style developed in that direction until I was an adult. I do still take a lot of inspiration in my current style from that time in my life, but I've tried to work more traditional techniques into the way I create now.*

**What do you like about that style?**  
*The beautiful thing about animated shows is their ability to make emotional characters out of almost anything. Through the art of exaggeration, animators make us feel for what they give life to, from teacups to talking animals to princes and princesses that feel a little too real to be imagined. Like them, I hope I can give my artwork and my characters that magic.*

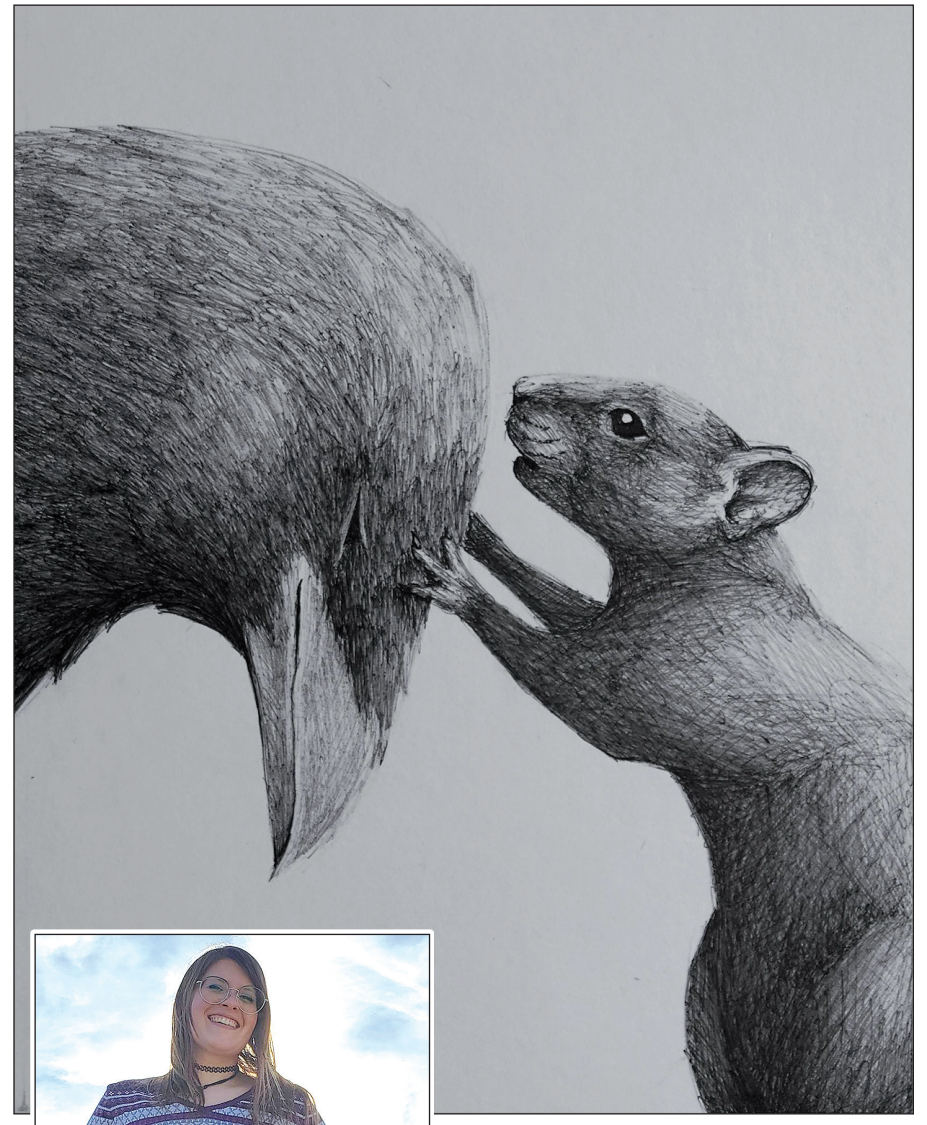
**What is your favorite medium?**  
*I'm in love with gouache paint these days. I'm still learning how best to use it, but it's such a forgiving and vibrant medium, and I feel like it's friendly for all skill levels.*

**Just starting off in the art world, what do you think would be the hardest problems to conquer?**  
*For me, the hardest thing about my artistic career is having to be brave enough to put myself out there. Art is so personal, and a constant learning process; I have to remind myself that a piece doesn't have to be perfect to be seen.*

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**  
*It sounds cheesy, but hopefully I'm surrounded by art over the next five years. Art I have made, art I have collected, art in galleries and in public. Art made by the community around me. I am just now breaking in to the art world, and I'm looking for my people. In five years, I hope I can be embedded in these communities that are such an inspiration to me.*

**Who inspires you to create?**  
*I've been lucky enough to see some real masterpieces in my life, and even though that list includes works from the likes of Picasso and Van Gogh, what sticks with me the most is work from the people I've shared studios and classrooms with. To watch new artists fall in love with what they do and go on to create pieces that take my breath away is an experience that keeps me creating, too.*

**What was the hardest project you**



*It's time for me to get serious about some bigger projects. In the short term, I am working to create a solid portfolio that expresses my style. Further out, I am looking to create and display for local galleries. The big dream is to someday illustrate children's books or fantasy novels.*

**What else would you like to say about yourself that the readers would like to read?**  
*If there's anything I can leave you with, it's this: encourage the artists in your life. The young ones, the old ones, the artists just getting started and the artists who have been creating for years all need your love and support to flourish. If you are an artist, remember that what you put out in the world is special and can never be replaced.*

**What medium would you like to try next?**  
*It's not a medium, per se, but I want to try my hand at painting expressively with a palette knife. I love the texture you can create with a good glob of oil paint, and I've so far missed out on applying the technique myself.*

**What's in the future for you?**  
*You can reach Jasman by emailing [sparksjas@live.com](mailto:sparksjas@live.com). You can also visit Jasman at the upcoming Holistic Arts Fair in Florence, CO. on May 11th. Reach Mary Shell at [www.MaryShellArt.com](http://www.MaryShellArt.com)*



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**Visits With History**  
**Civil War Medicine**  
by Jeanne Gripp



The presenters in their authentic garments.

Great strides were made in medicine during the 1861-1865 period. While they knew nothing of what caused most diseases, medical personnel did their best in fighting off infection and healing shattered lives. You will leave having a better idea what happened to soldiers once they were brought in from fighting for their respective countries, the tools that were used, and the care they received both in a field hospital and at one of the larger hospitals away from the battlefields. The presentation will last about 45 minutes, and there will be time (both during and afterwards) for questions. This presentation is open to all ages (kids like the "gory" stuff.) We hope to see you there.

On April 14th, Don and Paula Creamer will speak about Civil War Medicine. Both Don and Paula are members of Crip-

ple Creek's Gold Camp Victorian Society. Additionally, they are very active in American Civil War reenacting, portraying Union or Confederate as needed. While Don is not a real Surgeon, he does play one on the battlefield and is a member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons. Paula is a retired Registered Nurse, and that has more than prepared her for her role as a Civil War nurse.

The Cripple Creek District Museum invites you to learn more about Civil War Medicine on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 1 p.m. The talk will be held at the Golden Nugget Hotel, 119 N Fifth St, Cripple Creek. This program is presented as a public service of the Cripple Creek District Museum in partnership with the City of Cripple Creek. FMI please call 719-689-9540.

**Adopt Me** by Ark Valley Humane Society

**Jasper**  
Jasper is a handsome and loving 8-year-old male Alaskan husky mix. He has been spending time in a wonderful temporary foster home. They have nothing but great things to report about Jasper! Jasper loves to "sing" with them and has been getting along well with the other two big dogs in the home. He also lived with other dogs in his previous home and did great. Jasper can be avoidant around new people and is looking for a home with no kids or cats. Once you gain his trust, you'll get to see his goofy and loving side! We know whoever adopts Jasper will have endless days of love and goofy stories to tell. If you'd like to meet him, please give us a call 719-395-2737.

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



**PPHS announces April Chautauqua**

by Marianne Mogon  
photo by Sherry Skye Stuart

Pikes Peak Historical Society is thrilled to announce their April Chautauqua featuring Award-winning Colorado author, Sherry Skye Stuart who will be speaking on her newest book-in-progress, "Forgotten Female Felons." This Chautauqua will be April 21 at 2 p.m. at Lake George Charter School.

"Forgotten Female Felons" is a book of short fiction stories about the early women incarcerated in the Territorial, then Colorado State Prison, from 1872 to the early 1900s. The bones of the stories are based on facts, then woven with elements of history, culture, and human nature, specifically female.

rougher side that we learn from vicariously," she added.

"I have hope that each female felon left prison determined to put her prison experience behind her and welcomed home by her family and friends. I also believe that by explaining the social and cultural context of the times in which these women lived, that the reader will have a better understanding of their experiences. I hope I have managed, in some small way, to restore the dignity and worth of these women," she said.

Stuart has lived in the Rocky Mountains for over 50 years. Over 40 of those years were spent in Fremont County Colorado raising nine children and being active in the community. She is an author, writer,

artist, and yoga teacher and has authored four books on Local History: *The Early History of Penrose Colorado*, *The Forgotten Cemeteries of Beaver Creek*, *Pioneer Women of Beaver Creek*, and *San Juan Bautista Cemetery*.

She was the 3rd Place winner in the 2023 Women Writing the West LAURA Short Fiction Contest, for her story "Mayfield," one of the female felons in her upcoming book.

Stuart has been a middle school librarian, curator of the Penrose History Exhibit, substitute teacher, and museum curator. She served on the Fremont County Heritage Board and the Florence Pioneer Museum-raising nine children and being active in the community. She is an author, writer,

and the Florence Historical Preservation Committee and she writes a local history column for *The Florence Reporter*.

Stuart holds two associate degrees from Pueblo Community College, Fremont Campus, in Library Science and Fine Arts (History) and is a Registered Yoga Teacher with Yoga Alliance and a Certified YIN yoga teacher.

Stuart will present the women of "Forgotten Female Felons" at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21 at Lake George Charter School, 38874 US Hwy 24, Lake George, CO. The Chautauqua's are presented to the public free of charge as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. No reservation is required. FMI: call 719-748-8259 or 719-748-3861.



Local author Sherry Skye Stuart to present "Forgotten Female Felons."

"This is a unique book about an overlooked piece of the American west. These women's stories are just as valid, real, and interesting as the explorers and soldiers, outlaws, and cowboys," said Stuart.

"All of us have thoughts and acts we keep secret, and the female felons are no different. How many of them played over and over in their minds the choices they had made, wishing for a second chance? These women are part of the tapestry of life that we all are part of the darker

**CRIPPLE CREEK**  
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**Cripple Creek Briefs**  
by Tracie Bennitt

The City of Cripple Creek is pleased to announce the addition of five new employees to the Cripple Creek team.

New officers joining the Cripple Creek Police Department are Scott Robben and Eric Broman. Kirk Pennock has joined the crew at public works as a heavy equipment operator and was kept really busy this last week. Walt Clary has taken over as Custodial Manager, overseeing the crews that keep the public buildings clean and maintained. Tracie Bennitt is the new Marketing and Events Director. She will be coordinating and overseeing activities in Cripple Creek and representing Cripple Creek at statewide meetings and events.

Current positions available are updated and posted at [www.cityofcripplecreek.com](http://www.cityofcripplecreek.com) under Human Resources — current job openings.

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## Victor Main Street is Accredited!

by Jon Zalewski

Victor Main Street has been designated as an Accredited Main Street America™ program for meeting rigorous performance standards. Each year, Main Street America and its partners announce the list of Accredited programs to recognize their exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach™.

“We are very proud to acknowledge this year’s 862 Accredited Main Street America programs, and their steadfast dedication to nurture economically and culturally vibrant downtown districts,” said Hannah White, Interim President and CEO of Main Street America. “The increase in the size and impact of our network speaks volumes to the power of the Main Street movement to respond to the needs of local communities and drive innovative solutions.”

In 2022, Main Street America programs generated \$6.2 billion in local reinvestment, helped open 7,657 net new businesses, facilitated the creation of 29,174 net new jobs, catalyzed the rehabilitation

of 10,688 historic buildings, and leveraged 1,528,535 volunteer hours. On average, for every dollar that a Main Street program spent to support their operations, it generated \$24.07 of new investment back into their downtown communities.

Collectively, 2 million people live or work within the boundaries of designated Main Street America districts. An estimated workforce of 1.1 million people contribute their skills and expertise to advancing the missions of these historic downtowns and commercial corridors.

Victor Main Street’s performance is annually evaluated by Colorado Main Street, which works in partnership with Main Street America to identify the local programs that meet rigorous national performance standards. To qualify for Accreditation status, communities must meet a set of rigorous standards that include commitments to building grassroots revitalization programs, fostering strong public-private partnerships, nurturing economic opportunity for small businesses and entrepreneurs, and actively preserving historic places, spaces, and cultural assets.

## Call for Entries: “Photo Show” at Blue Spruce

The Blue Spruce Gallery is hosting our 23rd Annual photography show during April, sponsored by Barbara Smith. This show accepts black and white, color, digital and altered photographs and is always a well-attended show. Deadline for work to be at the gallery is April 9, 2024. Entry fee is \$25 and entries are limited to three per artist. The show will open April 10, with a

public reception on Second Saturday, April 13 from 4-6 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded, as well as ribbons in several categories. Entry forms can be picked up at the Blue Spruce Gallery 205 West Main Street in Florence or downloaded from our website at [www.bluespruceart.com](http://www.bluespruceart.com). FMI 719-784-1339.

## Blessing Bags

by Angela Thelin  
photos by Angela Thelin

A big THANK YOU to our community for donations and to those individuals who recently helped put together Blessing Bags at Mountain View United Methodist Church in Woodland Park. Church members and ladies from the Ute Pass Social Club put together more than 200 bags (with goodies like personal



Contents of a Blessing Bag

hygiene items and small snacks) to donate to the Aspen Mine Center in Cripple Creek and the Springs Rescue Mission serving the Pikes Peak Region. Miscellaneous items like hats, gloves, t-shirts, socks, underwear, coffee, tea... and dog food were also donated! Both organizations were so thankful to receive them.



Ladies assembling Blessing Bags

## Adopt Me by TCRAS

### Tyson

Hello, my name is Tyson. I was found outside and brought into the shelter. I’m about 5 years old. I really enjoy my personal space and prefer to be the only cat in the home that allows me to adventure outside. I like to spend time around people, but I need a home that does not want me to be snuggled all the time. I am an independent boy who wants a family. If you are interested in coming to the shelter, please call TCRAS at 719-686-7707 and they will let me know when you are stopping by. I look forward to meeting you!



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

## Junior Achievement Be a game changer

by Sherri Albertson

Too many young people leave school without critical life skills in financial literacy, work and career readiness and entrepreneurship. Junior Achievement (JA) is working on leveling the playing field, but we can’t do it alone.

Classroom volunteers are needed throughout the months of April and May for Gateway, Columbine and Summit Elementary schools, as well as Merit Academy and Lake George Charter School. JA offers school-based programs, led by community volunteers with specialized curriculum that is FREE for all students. Lessons correspond with Colorado edu-

cational standards and activities enable students to develop skills to experience the realities and opportunities of work and entrepreneurship.

For over 10 years, JA of Teller county has made a difference in the lives of our students supported by our community, providing both financial resources and volunteers. Local business people and service club members, plus retired teachers, parents and neighbors are all involved! YOU can inspire local students and build a brighter future for Teller County’s youth. FMI contact Sherri 719-650-4089 or [sherri.albertson@ja.org](mailto:sherri.albertson@ja.org).



Here are 5th graders from Columbine Elementary participating in JA in a Day.

## It’s a scam!

by Annie Valades

I don’t want to see any of my friends and acquaintances be taken on something that just about happened to me just now:

I got a call from a man stating he was from Black Hills Energy. It came up on my phone as legitimate, and the phone number matched their customer service number.

He said my account was past due, and I knew it wasn’t, and he asked how I paid. I told him through my bank account but gave him no numbers. He wanted a confirmation number, and I said there was none, but it showed the date and amount paid. He then said, “We sent you a letter that we are using a different accounting service, and you needed to go into the nearest location to switch over payments to that new system,” and because I didn’t, my payments had been frozen in the old system. So, my electricity was due to be



shut off today unless I paid three months’ worth of payments, and then Black Hills Energy would send me a check to reimburse me for those three months. I pulled up my account online, and it showed a zero balance. I told him so. I said I would call the company directly to

take care of this. He then said to check the number on my phone and verify that he was from Customer Service (and it came across as “Black Hills Energy” with the customer service number) and proceeded to give me his “badge number.”

He said he could take care of it for me. I refused and called the customer service number, and they confirmed that I had a zero balance and that our electricity service was in no danger of being disconnected.

The other thing that raised flags was his

accent, which sounded African. I don’t want to be prejudiced, but it harkened to stories of scams on news programs in the past. He was so convincing and with the name “Black Hills Energy” coming up on the phone and it appearing to come from the customer service department, I can see where people will fall for this immediately. I didn’t want it to happen to any of you or yours.

Please share this with family and friends who may have Black Hills Energy.

**Editor’s note:** Thank you, Annie for sharing your story! It is interesting how the scammer could find a way for “Black Hills Energy” to appear on your caller ID with their customer service phone number. Readers, please be aware this technology exists. Whenever there are red flags, please hang up and call the company directly using the number you see on the last bill you paid.

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### Colorado has a new political party!

by Lindsay Breyer, Teller County Community Organizer

On January 25, 2024, the Secretary of State's office announced that the Colorado Forward Party is now recognized as a minor political party in Colorado. Our petition to become a minor party was signed by over 15,000 Colorado voters who recognize the need for better choices in our elections and who share our values:

- Character and integrity are more important than adhering to a party ideology or platform.
- Collaboration and compromise are needed if we are to solve the problems facing our communities.
- Elected officials must remain accountable to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them, rather than special interests and vocal extremists.
- Our leaders must approach everyone with grace and tolerance. We encourage all citizens to exercise their freedom in a manner that is respectful of others — especially when we disagree.
- Facts matter! Lies and conspiracy theories should have no place in our political system.
- The Forward Party expects candidates and elected officials to honor, respect and abide by the rule of law, and the precepts of the U.S. Constitution.
- Electoral reforms such as ranked choice voting, nonpartisan primaries, and independent redistricting commissions are needed to provide voters a greater say in who appears on their ballots, and more choices on those ballots.

We look forward to engaging with citizens across Colorado as we endeavor to facilitate change for the better. Please visit our website to learn more about the Colorado Forward Party, <https://www.coloradoforwardparty.com/>. Information regarding our local activities can be found on our Facebook page, Forward Party of Teller County.

The Colorado Forward Party will be holding its first Nominating Assembling on April 6 at 3 p.m. This will be a virtual (on-line) event. While we are still in the vetting process, we anticipate offering candidates for two US Congressional seats, one State House seat, one State Senate seat, and one County Commissioner seat. All are welcome to attend the assembly but only Forward Party Members will be allowed to vote. Becoming a member is free but there are some registration requirements. Details are available at [https://www.coloradoforwardparty.com/candidate\\_nominations\\_assembly](https://www.coloradoforwardparty.com/candidate_nominations_assembly)

When you RSVP for the event, you will receive a link to the event and additional instructions.

### Attention Homeowners

The Upper Arkansas Area Council of Government's "Home Repair Loan Program" offers low-interest loans to qualified homeowners. The loans help homeowners address health and safety issues and make needed repairs. We can help with leaking roofs, crumbling foundations or problems with heating, plumbing, or electrical systems and handicapped accessibility. Homeowners must own and occupy their home and meet income guidelines to qualify. FMI contact Shawn 719-275-4191.

UAACG's "Home Repair Loan Program" can help make your home more energy efficient and save you money. Homeowners who qualify for the program can get a low-interest loan to help improve the energy efficiency of their home, lower heating bills and save hundreds of dollars a year. Let us help make your house feel like a home again. We provide assistance with the bidding process and project oversight, as well as handle the paperwork for you. FMI 719-275-4191.

### Sand Gulch campground reopens

by Levi Spellman

The Royal Gorge Field Office reopened its Sand Gulch campground on March 1, 2024, following a project to expand site availability and improve the quality of the visitor experience.

The Shelf Road rock climbing area, of which the Sand Gulch campground is a part, has seen visitation increase by approximately 50% since reporting began in 2000.

"The Shelf Road area provides outstanding recreation experiences," said Kalem Lenard, Royal Gorge Field Office assistant field manager. "We're excited to be able to accommodate the growth and interest in this area while protecting resources and caring for the area."

The recent expansion doubled the number of available sites, added new picnic tables and fire rings, quadrupled on-site parking, and installed four new vault toilets. The Bank campground, also at the Shelf Road rock climbing area, had a similar renovation in 2019. Between the two campgrounds the BLM has invested more than \$1 million.


"When we charge a fee, the revenue generated stays within the management area where it was collected," said Keith Berger, Royal Gorge Field Office manager. "This project is an excellent example of what can be done with increased resources."

Reservations for the Sand Gulch campground can be made on [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

### Adopt Me

by SLV Animal Welfare Society

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Bugsy - Tracy Walker, Woodland Park, CO

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# Millie and her Dragon Millie and the Pirates

by Gilrund the Historian

Millie and Emerald were resting in the dragon's cave when the dragon mentioned that he thought he had a good reason to go looking for more treasure.

"I was following a pirate ship yesterday and they landed on a small island in the Western Sea." Emerald went on after a short pause, "I watched from up in the clouds and saw them hide three large chests in a cave on the side of a small mountain that made up most of the island. Then they stayed the night and left the next morning. Would you like to come with me when I go back? I intend to take as much of the treasure hidden in that cave as I can. You will be able to see how I actually gather my hoard. There might be something there that you would like to have for yourself."

Millie was quiet for a moment and then responded with a smile, "Yes, Emerald I would love to go with you as you gather your treasure. Perhaps, I could be of some small help to you."

Emerald smiled a dragon smile and said, "You have always been helpful to me, my precious Millie. We shall go in the morning. It is only a few hours flight to the island. Then we shall gather what we can and come home. It may take a few days to take all that I want. But we shall see when we get there, won't we?"

"It may take longer," replied Millie, "I have heard that pirates gather a good deal of loot over time. Perhaps these pirates have been stealing for a long time. Maybe we can fill the whole cave. Wouldn't that be grand? You could make your golden bed much larger and deeper."

"That would take a great deal of golden coins, my Millie," replied the dragon, "But it would be more comfortable for me."

The two went on talking about what they would do with the treasure for several hours until it was time for Emerald to go hunting for his meal. Millie started to clean and polish more of the treasure already in the dragon's cave. It was her duty being the caretaker of a dragon.

The next morning found Millie on Emerald's back as they flew toward the Western Sea and the pirate's treasure island.

It was near the noon hour when they first saw the island and Emerald started down to land in front of the cave.

Millie climbed down from his back and found a torch that had been left by the pirates. Emerald lit the torch with his dragon breath. They started into the cave that was large enough for a dragon to walk into.

It was only a few dozen yards, and they reached the treasure that was stored in a large cavern inside the island's small mountain.

"The pirates must have been working

for a long time, Emerald," said Millie as she gazed around at the treasure that filled the cavern, "Where do we start?"

Emerald was looking too. He was very pleased with what they had found. His dragon mind was figuring out what to take first and how long it would take to get it all to his cave in the mountains of Zorr.

Millie was walking around holding up the torch so that she could see more of the treasure. She ran her hands through the coins and jewels that were in the trunks and chests that she had opened.

Emerald had walked up to two of the trunks and carried them to the entrance of the cave.

"We will take these first and then come back for more later," said the dragon.

Millie watched as the dragon picked up two of the large trunks in his front claws then looked at Millie and said, "Take what you can hold and mount me, then we will go home."

Millie picked up a small chest that was filled mostly with jewels and a few coins, then climbed on the dragon's back. They rose quickly into the air as Emerald flapped his large wings, then started for home.

Two hours later they landed at their cave in the mountains of Zorr and the dragon took the two trunks into the cave to place them with the other treasure. Millie placed her chest of jewels next to the two trunks.

Emerald smiled at her as she turned to look at him and said, "My Millie, what you chose is yours. You don't have to place it with what I collect."

Millie grinned and said, "Thank You, Emerald. I can start my own hoard."

Millie picked up the chest and took it to the room in the cave where the dragon had placed a large soft bed for her. There was also a full-length mirror and a chest of drawers along with a nightstand next to the bed.

There were long candles on the nightstand and the chest of drawers. Millie had put a small rug next to her bed along with a box of more candles. It was quite dark in her room when the sun went down. The small hole in the ceiling of her room provided the only light when the sun was up.

The next four days were spent flying back and forth to the pirate's cave collecting treasure for Emerald's hoard.

On the fifth day Emerald gathered all that was left of the treasure and didn't have the strength to carry Millie too.

"Will you wait for me here, my Millie?" he said as he picked up the last of the treasure, "I will return in four hours for you."

Millie looked at Emerald with a question on her pretty face as she asked, "Could you leave a little of the treasure here so that I

could ride home with you? We could return in the morning for what's left."

The dragon thought about it for a moment, but his dragon greed was too much for him as he answered, "It's only for a few hours, Millie. You can place the little that is left in the sacks that we have brought. That will take up most of the time. I'll be back before you know it."

Millie wasn't happy with his answer, but waved goodbye as the dragon took to the air.

Millie did keep busy as she put the remaining gold and silver coins into the bags. She also put in the few remaining bits of jewelry in the bags,

then sat down with a coconut to eat as she waited for Emerald's return.

Millie was at the opening of the cave when she saw a ship come around the side of the island. The ship had a Jolly Roger flag flying from the top of the center mast.

"It's the pirates!" she cried, "What shall I do?"

Millie ran back into the cave and grabbed the coconut. Then she ran back out of the cave and up the side of the small mountain, then into the forest that grew on the top. She looked around for a good place to hide

as she ran toward the other side of the forest.

She stood hidden in the dark forest and watched as the pirates loaded the treasure that they had gotten in the last week into jolly boats and started for the island.

She could hear the captain calling for the men to row hard as they came to the island.

She watched as they carried the trunks and bags of treasure up the mountainside to the cave. Then their shouts of anger when they saw that some of their hidden treasure was gone.

The pirates ran all around at the entrance of the cave looking for anything that might tell them who had stolen their treasure. It was then that one of the pirates saw several impressions in the dirt at the front of the cave that told them that a dragon had found

their treasure. Also, there was a human that had been in the cave.

The pirates came out of the cave and started searching the mountainside for whomever the human might be.

Millie turned and ran as fast as she could across the top of the mountain through the forest, looking for a place that she could hide until Emerald came back.

As she started down the other side of the mountain, she remembered another thing that Emerald had taught her about her bonding with the dragon. She had the Dragon Mind Speech. She could call the dragon wherever he might be with her mind.

Millie stopped behind a large clump of trees and called Emerald with her mind and he answered her right away. Millie told him what had happened and that she was very frightened.

What if the pirates caught her! What would they do to her?

"Emerald, you have to come back and save me," She said in her mind.

"I'm coming, Millie. I'm coming!" the dragon re-

plied.

Millie stayed on the other side of the mountain, hidden in the forest and waited for her dragon.

It was quiet for a short time, but then she could hear the pirates calling to each other as they continued their search. The pirates' voices came closer and closer.

They had found Millie's footprints and could tell by their small size that they belonged to a woman. They were following them up on the other side of the mountain.

Soon the pirates came to the top of the mountain and lost the prints in the deep pine needles. The pirates scattered out in the forest looking for Millie.

Millie quietly moved further down the side of the mountain while staying in the forest, trying not to leave any footprints.

The pirates were moving quietly too. That's how they caught Millie as she came down to the lower edge of the forest. One of them suddenly jumped out from behind a tree and grabbed her as he shouted out to the others that he had her. Soon, she was facing the captain of the pirates, and he was not a very happy man.

"Well, well, my pretty. What have you done with our treasure?" he said with an evil look on his face. "We see that there has been a dragon here and I think that it has stolen the treasure. I suppose that you will be his next meal when he comes back for the little that is left. Isn't that so?"

Millie answered, "Yes, I think that it will eat me when it comes back. Will you not protect me, sir?"

The pirate captain laughed as did his crew. "Oh, yes." He continued, "We'll protect you from the dragon, but you are finely dressed, so, I think that we could get a large ransom for your return to your family. Is that not so? Take her back to the ship and lock her on the hold until we can get back to port. Then we will see how much she is worth to her family."

The pirates pulled Millie along as they walked around the island shore while they returned to their ship.

Just as they were about to put Millie into the jolly boat, the sky erupted with a loud dragon roar and Emerald the angry dragon flew down toward them.

The pirates jumped into the jolly boats without Millie as they started rowing as fast as they could toward their ship.

Millie had fallen down onto the sandy beach and watched as the pirates tried to escape from Emerald's wrath.

There was no escape. Soon the jolly boats were filled with dragon flame as the pirates jumped into the sea water trying to escape the dragon flame and swim to their ship. Most of them made it, but the captain's boat was burned as he shouted at his crew to row harder.

Emerald landed on the beach next to Millie and stood looking at the pirate ship as it pulled the anchor and sailed away.

Millie hugged Emerald's leg as she watched the pirate ship sail away.

"Thank you for coming back to help me," she said, "You didn't have time to get home. What did you do with the treasure?"

Emerald looked down at Millie and smiled as he replied, "There are things far more important than treasure, my Millie. You are far more valuable to me than a bit of gold and silver."

Millie hugged the dragon's leg even harder as Emerald continued, "I hid the treasure in a cave on the shore of the kingdom of Zorr. We can get it later."

Millie stood back from the dragon and looked at him very hard with her hands on her hips, "So, you saved the treasure first and then came to save me?"

Emerald looked as embarrassed as a dragon could as he nodded his head, "Yes."

"I thought that you loved me. I thought that I was important to you," growled Millie as she glared at the dragon, "but you had to save your treasure before you could save me!"

Emerald looked at Millie with a shy smile on his face and answered, "I am a dragon, Millie. I do what dragons do. I did save you from the pirates, didn't I?"

"Yes, you did, and it's a good thing that you did." Millie went on, "Who would shine that treasure that you so carefully hid in the cave if you hadn't? Who would clean and sharpen your claws and clean your fangs? Who would polish your scales if I were gone?"

Millie stopped for a moment as she wrapped her arms around one of the dragon's front legs, then with tears running down her face she softly said, "Who would love you as much as I do?"

Emerald was quiet for a moment as his great head came down and gently pressed Millie against his leg. Then he said, "It won't happen again, I promise, Millie, I promise. Dragons never break a promise."

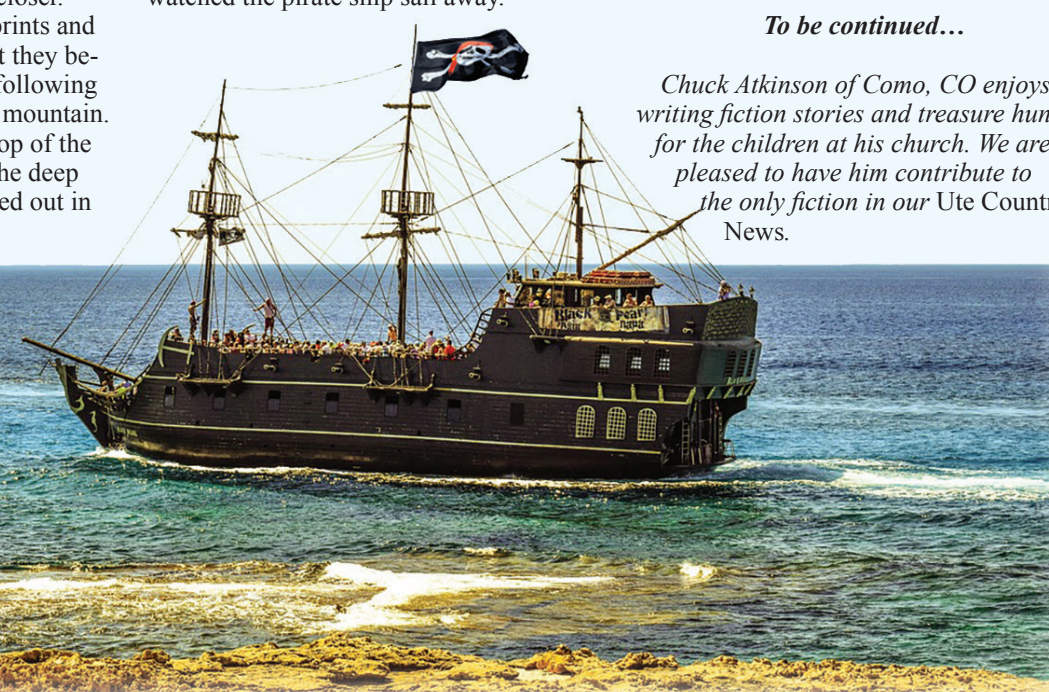
Millie climbed on Emerald's back, and they flew home and rested for a few days before they flew back to the shore of the kingdom of Zorr to gather up the treasure that the dragon had hidden in the cave.

It was several months before Emerald flew back to the island to see if the pirates had brought any more loot to hide in the mountain cave. Emerald took what was left of the pirate loot and left the cave empty.

The pirates hadn't come back. They had learned that you don't fool around with a dragon's lady.

To be continued...

Chuck Atkinson of Como, CO enjoys writing fiction stories and treasure hunts for the children at his church. We are pleased to have him contribute to the only fiction in our Ute Country News.



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Lunch will be provided!







## Pharmgirl A Motorhome for Mom

by Peggy Badgett

It started out as a normal day. For 10 hours, I checked prescriptions, gave flu shots, and answered the constantly jangling telephone in a small-town pharmacy, reheated my lunch five times and closed the gate 20 minutes after closing. Exhaustedly, I walked to my car and drove home. After parking in the driveway, I took a deep breath of the crisp fall air, threw my stuff on the kitchen table, grabbed a rake, and herded brittle maple leaves into a big pile. Then I jumped in it a few times. I laughed and buried myself under the gold and crimson, thinking the neighbors were probably wondering what the crazy lady was up to this time. I didn't care.

When my stomach began grumbling about its lack of dinner, I retreated inside to cook a microwave meal and resume my search for a camping van on the internet. I was getting tired of sleeping in my cramped SUV on adventures and needed something roomier when I traveled to visit my kids who were now spread from Alaska to Colorado to North Carolina. Most of the candidates were either too old or too expensive. Then a message popped up on my computer: Just listed. It was a charming little coach reminiscent of the ones my father had driven on family vacations. I summed up the courage to call the owner. He said tonight was my only chance to see it; multiple buyers were lining up. So, at seven in the evening, I headed north with a thermos of lukewarm coffee, a stale donut, and a bag of Mrs. Mikes potato chips.

After several hours of dodging traffic on the interstate, I took the exit he had recommended. My headlights became the only ones on desolate county backroads. I made turn after turn. Moonlit water shimmered just beyond a low metal bridge.

Scents of rich pine and loamy forest tickled my nose through the open window. I punched the radio search button, hoping to find a station not playing depressing country ballads. Suddenly, hazel eyes glowed in the ditch. Instinctively, my foot switched from the accelerator to the brake and my hands cranked the steering wheel. Thankfully the buck made a life-saving decision for both of us and stood motionless as I veered past. My heart pumping wildly, I slowed my speed and started creeping past mailboxes. The number I was looking for finally appeared. I turned onto the lane that led to an enormous pole shed bathed in blue halogen light.

### This adventure had potential to go very wrong. I was alone on a cold October night in a rural Wisconsin area I'd never ventured into before.

This adventure had potential to go very wrong. I was alone on a cold October night in a rural Wisconsin area I'd never ventured into before. No one knew of my mission, and it was too late to call anyone. The crime shows I'd been watching made my imagination run wild. What if the sellers were serial killers, luring unsuspecting women in with false advertisements or dealers in sex trafficking, although I



A customized "Stella" the camper painted by Peggy makes it to Colorado!

doubted there was a huge demand for gals my age. Would my quest become front page news after the grisly discovery of my dead body floating on a lake shore or buried in a shallow grave? Were my guardian angels tired of protecting me from decades of questionable decisions, and ready to let this be my last?

Butterflies danced in my stomach as I pulled up to the shed. I took a deep breath and sat in my car for a moment. Then a couple smiled and waved as they approached my car. They weren't carrying shotguns or tire irons but they had something even better in their arsenal. When I got out of my car, a huge fluffy dog lunged at me. He enthusiastically sniffed my crotch, put his gigantic paws on my shoulders, and tried to smother me with kisses. The wife dragged him away so I could view the motorhome without

being ravaged.

It might have been the full moon or the cool laid-back vibe of the vehicle which had an exterior just begging to be decorated. Maybe it was the test drive that had me reminiscing about family trips in an old rattling Winnebago. Whatever the reason, I handed them cash and said I'd return in a few days to pick it up. That little motor home belonged to me. On the long drive home, I eagerly plotted future adventures as I hummed an old Eagles song, "Take it Easy."

Peggy Badgett is an artist and writer. Her website is [pharmgirl.org](http://pharmgirl.org); she can be reached at [coloradopharmgirl@gmail.com](mailto:coloradopharmgirl@gmail.com). Her book, "The Rooster in the Drive Through: Tales of Life in The Rural Midwest" and her stenciled cards are available for sale at Shipping Plus in Divide.

## Easton Wasilewski earns Eagle Scout Award

by Dennis McIntyre

Easton Jace Wasilewski, age 16 of Woodland Park, has earned the Eagle Scout Award, the highest advancement rank within the Boy Scouts of America.

Wasilewski was recognized at Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremonies on March 10 at 2 p.m. at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.

A member of Troop 230, Wasilewski is one of approximately four percent of all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank.

Each candidate must earn 21 merit badges and successfully complete a significant service project benefiting his community, faith organization or school demonstrating leadership to earn his Eagle. Wasilewski chose to build a Gaga Ball pit for the playground at the Woodland Park Middle School as his service project.

Easton has served as Senior Patrol Leader for Troop 230, was recently inducted to the Order of the Arrow (Scouting's honor society) and is a staff member for the National Youth Leadership

Training program. Wasilewski joins other outstanding American citizens who have become Eagle Scouts, among them former president Gerald R. Ford, Jr., astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, cinematographer Steven Spielberg and the former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

Wasilewski is a sophomore at Woodland Park High School where he is a member of the varsity men's wrestling team and is active in the Woodland Park Sports Medicine Club.

### About the Boy Scouts of America

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations.

For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong value with fun. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and



Easton Wasilewski accepting his Eagle Scout award from Troup 230 Scout Master Jessica Godsoe.

develops personal fitness.

### Pathway to the Rockies Area Council

The Pathway to the Rockies Council of the Boy Scouts of America provides Scouting for nearly the whole of Southern Colorado.

The Pathway to the Rockies Council has more than 200 units scattered across its region including family Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops from boys and girls, co-ed Venturing crews, and career-oriented Exploring posts.

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## Manitou Springs Wine Walk Returns!

Join us on April 4, 5-9 p.m. as Mona's Wine Cellar, Swirl Wine Bar and Manitou Winery offer three 2-4 oz pours and light bites for paid attendees to enjoy.

Engage with passionate wine makers and skilled sommeliers, tasting carefully curated small pours from a diverse range of local and international vineyards, thoughtfully complemented by delectable light bites. All three venues are within 10 minute walking distance of each other.

"Our Wine Walk promises an experience where attendees can engage directly with local wine makers and sommeliers," says Jenna Gallas, event coordinator at Visit Manitou Springs. "This event showcases the essence of fine wine culture, offering an authentic and enriching journey through downtown Manitou Springs."

For the price of \$55 per person or \$100 for two, attendees will receive:

- Three 2-4 oz pours at each location
- Varieties of regional and international wines.

- Pours expertly paired with light bites.
- Insightful sommelier guidance on each wine pairing.

### Parking for this event:

- Free parking available after 6 p.m. in non-residential zones.
- Arriving between 5-5:30 p.m.? Enter your license plate number and select 30 minutes of free parking at the kiosk.
- Free parking in non-residential zones with ADA parking tags or plates.

FMI and to purchase tickets, visit [manitousprings.org/wine-walk-manitou-springs/](http://manitousprings.org/wine-walk-manitou-springs/)



## Park County Senior Coalition

by Flip Boettcher

The Park County Senior Coalition (PCSC) has been serving Park County seniors since 1977 and became a non-profit in 1984. The PCSC's mission is "to help seniors maintain the highest quality of life by remaining in their homes as long as they wish and are able" — there is no place like home.

Federal, state and foundation grants, as well as private donations support the PCSC programs, all of which are based on funding availability.

PCSC serves all of Park County including Alma, Bailey, Como, Fairplay, Grant, Guffey, Hartsel, Jefferson, Lake George, Shawnee, Tarryall, all unincorporated areas and even some Pine Junction and Florissant addresses.

Over 25% of Park County residents are 60 years and older. To be eligible for the coalition programs and services, one has to be 60 years and over and a Park County resident; there is no cost for these services and programs, but donations are accepted.

PCSC services include: Chore program — assistance with seasonal chores like snow removal, chimney sweeping, moving firewood and similar tasks; Transportation — mileage reimbursement for medical and grocery trips taken; Home-maker program — vouchers to assist clients in paying for house work, cleaning, laundry and cooking; Case Management

and Referrals — to provide care plans and connect clients with programs to help them safely age in place; Reassurance — regular check-in calls from a volunteer and find out about programs and resources that are available; Rural Area Meal Program — this provides a free monthly shelf-stable food box or frozen meals; first Wednesday of the month delivery to Como, Jefferson, Shawnee, Bailey, Crow Hill, third Wednesday of the month delivery to Hartsel, Guffey and Lake George, and fourth Wednesday of the month delivery to Fairplay and Alma.

The PCSC also puts on several special events throughout the year. Recent events include Fraud Protection, Chair Yoga, Monthly Senior Brunch, Stroke and CPR, Medicare 101 and more.

The coalition publishes a bi-monthly newsletter to connect with clients. One has to become a member of the PCSC to utilize these programs.

Things one can do to help the PCSC is donate money (\$25 per month provides six meals). One can volunteer their time to deliver food, provide transportation, provide homemaking needs, call a senior to check-in, help with the social events and more. Join the PCSC board or a committee. Commit to an annual donation to help expand their programs and number of seniors served.

For more information, to volunteer, become a member or make a donation contact the PCSC at 719-836-4295, [scopfpc@parkco.us](mailto:scopfpc@parkco.us), [www.parkcoseniors.org](http://www.parkcoseniors.org). The PCSC is located at 825 Clark Street, Suite C; PO Box 309, Fairplay, CO 80440. PCSC is open Monday-Thursday 7-4 p.m.

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Community Partnership, 701 Gold Hill Place, WP

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# Panning for Good

## Exploring snow

by Dr. Bec

What an incredible time to finalize an article on snow! On March 14th-15th, in Divide, we experienced extreme amounts of snow, about four feet of it, with more on the way. Snow often envelops our mountain world, but is there more to it than meets the eye? The limited extent of my snow knowledge includes infrequently checking a weather app, making ongoing guesstimates of probable snow-shoveling back pain levels, fuzzy recollections of past science classes and being fascinated by the fact that Inuit people have an expansive snow vocabulary.

The British Rail leadership during the winter of 1990-1991 were pretty clueless about snow as well when they were caught unprepared for a non-typical dry, powdery snow. The snow caused circuits to short out and jammed air vents and doors on the trains which caused delays up to 8 hours. This annoyed people being transported and resulted in the saying, "wrong type of snow" which became a national catch phrase for a lame excuse. If you're like me and don't want to get caught with your snow pants down here in snow country, let's investigate how snow is created and what factors cause it to fall and pack in different ways.

The miracle that is snow begins in the clouds when a water vapor droplet connects with a particle (sand, volcanic ash, sea salt) at the right temperature (typically around -4 to -14 degrees Fahrenheit — the Dendritic Growth Zone), and instantly freezes beginning the creation of a snowflake. Individual snowflakes always have six sides or points because when water (H2O) freezes, the hydrogen bonds in the molecule form a hexagonal shape. Sometimes, snowflakes can merge together making it is difficult to see six sides and can look more like "dendritic clumps."

Thirty-nine different kinds of solid precipitation and 35 different snow crystal shapes have been identified and can be found in this informative graphic by Andy Brunning here: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/snowflakes-all-fall-one-35-different-shapes-180953760/>.

Once snowflakes make it to the ground, changes in the snow continue to take place due to variations in air temperature, wind speed, humidity, sun angle, human interactions and other happenings within the natural world. Meteorologists, skiers and snowboarders have fitting and sometimes funny names for different types of

snow and snowpack. Some of these are listed in the table — see sidebar. After enjoying a quick dip into the ice bath of descriptive snow words, I decided to check in with and learn more from a talented, snow-loving family. Rob Vladimiroff began skiing at age 14 and has used his exceptional skills to help others ever since. Ski patroller of the year in Alaska and the youngest member of the rescue team at the World Extreme Ski Championships in 1991, Rob currently volunteers with the Teller County Search and Rescue Team. His wife Shauna Smith is both a skier and snowboarder. She and her five siblings were tutored by their dad, an avid skier. Shauna has been a ski instructor in Breckenridge for the past 10 years. She previously worked as an Adaptive Ski Instructor in Sun Valley, Idaho helping individuals with intellectual disabilities such as autism and Downs Syndrome learn to ski. She has also worked with The Special Olympics and Wounded Warriors.

What makes Rob, Shauna and their daughter Claire willing to experience plunging temperatures, sore muscles and bruising, howling wind and semi-frozen



Seriously... Mom! Where do I go potty?  
Chip, March 14th, 2024

extremities? Here are their thoughts:

**What is the draw of snow? What motivates you to be in it so often?**

**Rob:** "I loved skiing from the first day out and like to have a sport for every season. When you dress right and have the right equipment, the cold is not a problem. I also love everything steep. I hike up to Snow White and the 7 Dwarves area at Breckenridge because it's the steepest place and ski down it. Powder and Steeps!"

**Shauna:** "Winter can be a challenging time of year, skiing in the snow is something physical, exhilarating. It's a spiritual feeling, a sensation of flying and the challenge of doing something you don't normally do. It's also great to be outside with family and friends, it's a positive,



The meeting of Ice (the cat's name) and snow (notice the paw swipes).  
Cover: Divide snowfall and Dr. Bec on March 15th, 2024-about four feet fell in 36 hours. Freshies!

social experience!"

**Claire:** "I learn new stuff and I like to go really fast. You don't know what time it is, what day, month or year, you just... ZOOM!"

**What are your most and least favorite types of snow and why?**

**Rob:** Cold Smoke or Snorkel Powder when the powder is so deep and light that as you ski it flies into the air like an exploded pillow over and behind you and you can hardly breathe.

**Shauna:** "When I had 4 feet of fresh powder (Freshies) at Snowbird it was like surfing in butter, there's nothing like snowboarding on fresh powder. Corn snow is also amazing in the spring, it's slower, but you have more control, can wear less clothing and then there's the blue sky and warm air. I also like Corduroy, that first run of the day on freshly groomed snow with the rhythmic clicking of the skis or snowboard when you go as fast as you can over the ridges."

**Rob:** With Breakable Crust, you may ski 5-10 turns and stay on top of the crust, and then, your skis can break through the crust and dive under which is very dangerous and can lead to awkward falls and knee injuries. Similarly, Shauna doesn't like Dust on Crust because, "It's difficult to turn when you hit the bottom of the crust."

Exhilarating and dangerous, snow runs the gamut. Immersing myself in snow details has been captivating. I hope you feel the same!

**Jokes:**

**Q:** Why is Frosty never late?  
**A:** Because time waits for snowman.

**Q:** What did one snowflake say to another?  
**A:** You're one of a kind!

**Quotes:**

"For snowflakes to be identical, they would have to be born of the same particles, formed at the same altitude, pass through air of identical temperature and humidity, and bump the same number of crystals on the float to the ground."

— Jerry Dennis

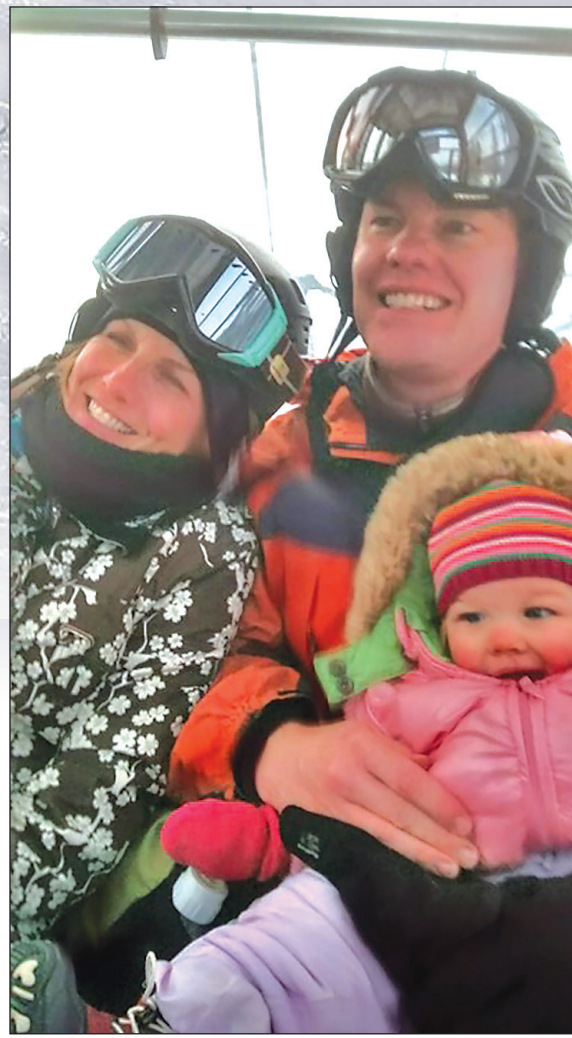
"Snow: a world washed clean like grace in action."

— Joy Lenton

**Challenge:**

Using this article and/or some of the links, visit a snowy area or two and see if you can discover and identify different types of snow.

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



Shauna Smith, Rob Vladimiroff and daughter Claire enjoying family time thanks to snow.  
Photo provided by Shauna Smith

Bulletproof snow at top of mountain with few tracks visible, then turns are more visible further down the mountain in the softer, more powdery snow. Photo and skiing by Rob Vladimiroff

### Wait... Snow isn't Just One Thing?

<https://localfreshies.com/chionophiles-types-of-snow-for-skiing-snowboarding/>  
All mountain ranges can experience any type of snow, but some snow is typical in certain regions as noted.

Snow or Snowpack Name	Descriptors and Notes
<b>Continental Snowpack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low moisture content, shallow depth, low quantity</li> <li>Typically found along the eastern front of the Rocky Mountains</li> <li>Watch out for rocks, tree branches, obstacles just beneath the surface</li> <li>Easy to ski through</li> </ul>
<b>Maritime Snowpack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High moisture content, deep, high quantities</li> <li>Typically found on the west coast near the Pacific Ocean</li> <li>Can feel like surfing on a mountain</li> <li>Less obstacles lurking</li> <li>Difficult to climb out of</li> </ul>
<b>Intermountain Snowpack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium moisture, not very dry or extremely wet, drier than on coast</li> <li>High quantity, not usually as high as Maritime</li> <li>Enough volume to where you float above the surface, but dry enough to ski through easily</li> <li>Hard to predict where Intermountain Snowpack will be, it is subject to elevation and micro-climates</li> </ul>
<b>Freshies (Powder)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pristine, fresh snowfall</li> <li>Powdery and perfect. The joy of going where no one has gone before!</li> </ul>
<b>Chunder or Chowder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uneven and bumpy</li> <li>What's left on the day of a storm after earlier skiers have enjoyed the fresh powder</li> <li>Typically found in snow with higher moisture content</li> </ul>
<b>Packed Powder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snow packed down by skiing or grooming</li> <li>This term can be over-used and not descriptive enough to effectively describe conditions</li> <li>When the snowpack is of the Continental type, packed powder is soft and carveable</li> <li>When the snowpack is of the Maritime type, skiing conditions are highly variable, could be hard or soft</li> </ul>
<b>Corduroy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snow that has been groomed in a corduroy pattern with ridges at regular intervals going down the mountain</li> <li>Softer snow can be found after morning grooming</li> </ul>
<b>Transitional... or "Crud"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powder gets "cooked" into a soupy mess</li> <li>Sticky and heavy</li> <li>Happens after the sun has been out for a while</li> <li>Wait to ski until "Corn" forms</li> </ul>
<b>Corn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little globules of snow that look like frozen corn kernels</li> <li>Typically happens in the spring when there are multiple warm days in a row with clear, freezing conditions at night</li> </ul>
<b>Hard Pack</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old, firm snow</li> <li>Easy to slide if technique is off</li> </ul>
A few more snow nicknames from: <a href="https://www.thoughtco.com/types-of-snow-3010035">https://www.thoughtco.com/types-of-snow-3010035</a>	
<b>Bulletproof</b>	• White, but densely packed, hard to carve into
<b>Snorkel Powder   Chokeable</b>	• Powder is so light, fine and deep you could choke on it
<b>Cauliflower</b>	• Snow found near the base of the snow gun, lumpy and ungroomed
<b>Cold Smoke</b>	• The airy trail of powder that follows skiers in fresh powder
<b>Blue</b>	• Clear ice, the ground is visible underneath it
<b>Colorado Super Chunk</b>	• Heavy, wet snow about two days after a spring storm
<b>Breakable Crust</b>	• Top is frozen solid but underneath there is soft powder
<b>Dust on Crust</b>	• A light covering of loose snow on top of the snow that has a hard, icy layer
<b>Poo Ice   Smud   Snirt</b>	• Packed, dirty snow   Brown or muddy snow   Snow covered in dirt
<b>Salt on Formica</b>	• Looks and feels like loose white salt granules sliding on top of a hard surface
<b>Watermelon</b>	• A reddish/pink snow that smells like watermelon, caused by red-green algae

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# How to survive the next snowstorm

by Kathy Hansen

We had a significant snowstorm March 14-16, 2024, here in Colorado. Folks who have lived up here since the early 1980s said it was the biggest that they've ever seen. We've been here 23 years and can remember getting 5 feet of snow in 2 days, but that was in May when the Earth is warm, the days are longer and Mother Earth sucks that moisture up as if she were slurping through a straw. However, this storm came before Vernal Equinox, so more darkness than daylight. My, what a difference that sunshine makes!

Did you know that two people died during this storm? One was a heart attack while shoveling snow and one was from a pulmonary embolism that burst due to the strain of shoveling snow. We heard there were two that survived heart attacks exacerbated by shoveling.

This hits home for me. My brother, Bob-

by died in November 2014 from a heart attack after shoveling snow. I thought about that many times during the three days of shoveling. My husband, Jeff, thought about it, too. This became one of our primary motivators to take care of ourselves via proper hydration and frequent breaks.

Let's take a closer look at what you can do to survive the next storm.

### Plan ahead:

#### ■ Groceries

When we get a few days warning that the snow is coming, please get enough groceries to last 5 days or more (we know one family that was unable to leave their home for 8 days).

#### ■ Water

Be sure to include water because if electricity goes out like it did in Crip-

ple Creek, Victor and Cañon City for 30 hours (per one report) your pump may not function. Have enough water on hand for drinking (think coffee, tea), hygiene, cleaning dishes and flushing the toilet.

#### ■ Pet food

Be sure that you have enough food for your pets.

#### ■ Medications

Do you or your pets have enough medicine to last 5-7 days?

#### ■ Wood box or generator

Be sure to fill the wood box if you have a wood stove or fill up on pellets for a pellet stove. If your electricity goes out this may be how you stay warm. If your stove has a flat top, you can use it to cook. If you have a generator, do you have it fueled up,

stabilizer for the fuel or have it connected?

### Before shoveling

- Avoid eating a large meal, drinking alcohol or smoking immediately before or after shoveling because blood is diverted away from your heart from these activities, and can cause extra stress on your cardiovascular system.
- Warm up! March in place or walk briskly for 5 minutes before you begin shoveling. Warming those muscles beforehand is essential.
- Dress in layers. When you feel yourself sweating, it may be time for a break or to remove a layer. Avoid getting too sweaty, especially in the cold. A hat will prevent heat loss from your head. A face mask may help to warm the air you are taking into your lungs.

### While shoveling

- Hydration. Hold off on the caffeine until after you are done shoveling because caffeine causes a short, but dramatic increase in blood pressure, even if you do not have high blood pressure. This is a great time to hit the water bottle, both before and after shoveling.
- Because you are using mostly your upper body, blood can easily pool in your legs, meaning oxygenated blood is NOT getting to your heart. Walking can improve blood flow and lower blood pressure, but it does increase your heart rate. Consider working at a slow steady pace as opposed to going as fast as you can.
- Be mindful of your breathing. We tend to hold our breath while shoveling. Be sure to inhale full breaths and release completely.
- To avoid back injury, tighten the abdominal core and lift with your legs and arms.
- Pushing or sweeping snow is easier on the heart, although when you wake up to 3 feet of snow, that is not possible. When you cannot avoid lifting snow, be careful to load your shovel with a manageable weight that does not cause strain.
- Cover your mouth to avoid breathing in cold air because cold air constricts blood vessels.
- Take frequent breaks. Let's face it; getting 3-4 feet of snow was enough to disable half the Teller County Fleet of snow removal vehicles. Do you think you are stronger than a fleet vehicle? Testing that question could be deadly. Like Cora Tomsy said, "I'd rather have an alive, wimpy husband than a dead, macho one." We placed chairs inside the garage next to our water bottles, making the breaks rather inviting.
- Crank the tunes! Physical labor is always more enjoyable with a favorite ditty playing.

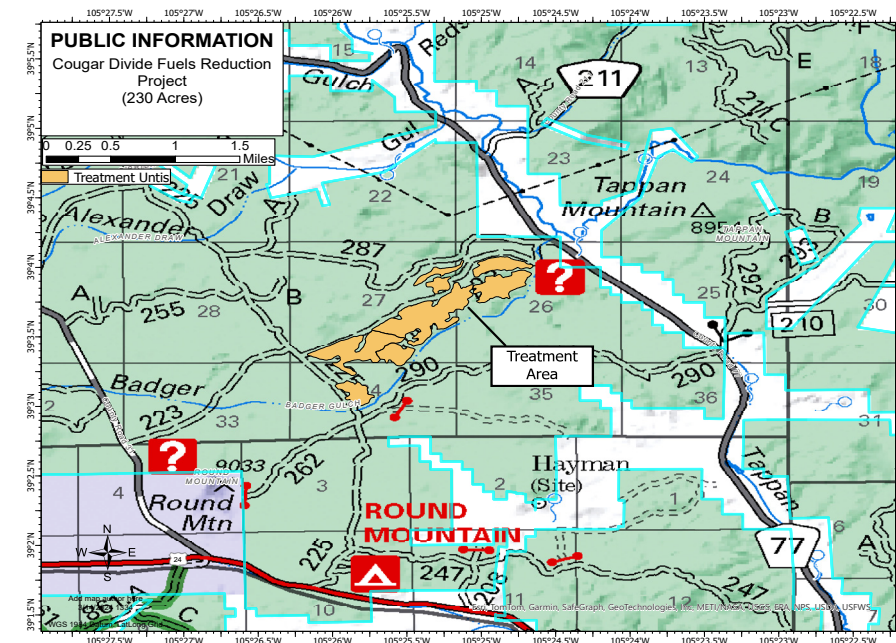
### Know when to seek help

- If you notice ANY of these symptoms, do not wait! Call 911:
- Chest discomfort, tightness or pressure
  - Chest pain that radiates to your back, shoulders, jaw, neck or arms
  - Shortness of breath
  - Dizziness, lightheadedness
  - Nausea
  - Significant sweating

Shoveling snow is very demanding on your body and causes your heart rate and blood pressure to increase. Dr. Barry Franklin is director of preventative cardiology and cardiac rehabilitation at Beaumont Health, Royal Oak, Michigan. He said, "... the strain of heavy snow shoveling may be as or even more demanding on the heart than taking a treadmill test, according to research we have conducted." He continued, "If you have known or suspected heart disease or risk factors for heart disease, get someone else to do your snow removal for you! If you must shovel the snow, start gradually and pace yourself."

# Cougar Divide Fuels Reduction Project

by Josh Cowden



The South Park Ranger District on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands will implement the Cougar Divide Fuels Reduction Project in support of the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 10-year Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The specific area of this project is approximately 230 acres of National Forest lands along Forest Road 223 west of County Road 77, about seven miles north of Lake George in Park County, Colorado. The project is expected to last approximately two months.

The primary goal of the project is to reduce the intensity of fire behavior and increase the likelihood of successful fire suppression during critical conditions adjacent to private lands and along potential control lines. Another important goal is increasing the resistance to epidemic levels of mountain pine beetle and other

pests. All thinning will be mechanized. Many of these areas will be prescribed burned in the future to reduce surface fuel loading and reduce fire intensity.

"This work will aid in reducing the intensity of fires and create healthier forest conditions across an important area of the district," said South Park District Ranger Josh Voorhis. "Mechanical thinning sustains healthy forest ecosystems while also protecting the lives and properties located within our communities."

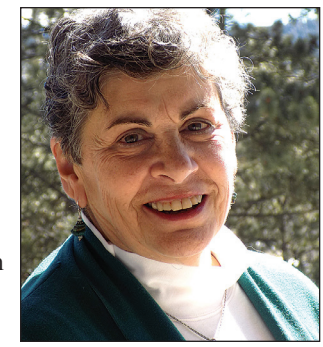
Currently, all material including slash is planned for chipping and removal. Small areas of National Forest will not be accessible during actual operations.

For additional questions, please contact the South Park Ranger District at 719-836-2031. Follow us on Facebook and X #HLK-GeoMitigation for the latest information.

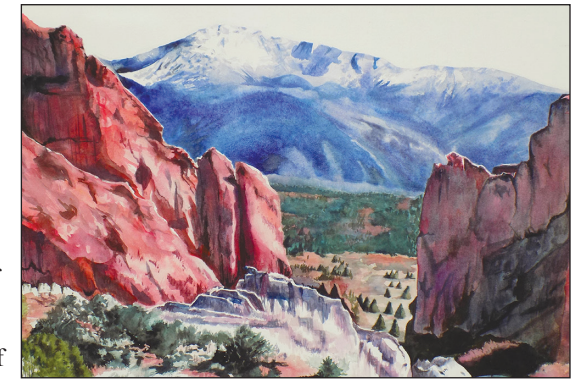
# Susan Marion's Watercolors on exhibit to support Garden of the Gods

Florissant's award-winning artist, Susan Marion will display her watercolor paintings in a one-person exhibit April 1-30 at Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, which is open 9-5 p.m. daily. Located in the Red Rocks Room gallery, the exhibit will feature 28 original paintings of various sizes and prices. Sue's range of subjects will showcase the exhibit's theme "Life in the Garden" including landscapes, flowers, wildlife and birds found at Garden of the Gods. This exhibit will also display paintings of Native American dancers at powwows hosted by the Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, adjacent to Garden of the Gods. Susan is donating 30% of each sale to Garden of the Gods Foundation, which supports the preservation and maintenance of the park. FMI Sue at bobapac@aol.com with questions.

Sue Marion, a Florissant resident for 13 years, is a lifelong artist who has been exhibiting and selling watercolor paintings for the past 25 years. She is a longtime member of the Mountain Artists, and an award-winning member of Pikes Peak Watercolor Society and Colorado Watercolor Society. Sue also exhibits in shows at the Manitou Arts Center, Florence Arts Council, Fremont Center for the Arts and in juried national exhibitions.



Susan Marion (top), Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak (center), Yucca (bottom), Three rams (cover).



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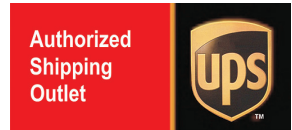
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